



Dark Illusion

Patricia Wilson

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I remove obstacles that stand in my way!

Nick Martella wouldn't allow Joanna's love for another man to cause him any problems. Joanna, of course, resisted his high-handed attitude, but it seemed that wherever she went, whatever she did, Nick was always one step ahead of her. It was hard enough to deal with him in England, but on the small Caribbean island Nick called home, Joanna found it even more difficult to outmaneuver him. It was, though, only when Joanna realized that she was not only fighting Nick's single-minded pursuit of her, but her own growing love for him, that her problems really began!

Dark Illusion Details

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Azet says

'Why did you come back?' she asked in a whisper, her throat hurting badly.

'For the same reason I always come back,' he grunted angrily, 'to see you, to touch you, to damned well hope!'

-Joanna and Nick

Knowing that this book are a favourite of many of my friends i have been wanting to read this book with great hopes,and this book being my first book by this author made it so much better. But WOW,what a perfect made Unforgettable love-story "Dark Illusion" are.Wilson`s writing language threw me in a cinema where i simply wished this book to be made a movie someday!

The Romance totally blew me away and i fell completely in love with the main-characters (they are both so handsome on the cover).Joanna was a very bright character where i also detected a great loneliness,a young woman who searched to belong,and find her beloved.What she didn`t know was that he always had been right under her nose..watching her..hoping for her..chasing after her..and loving her as no man can love a woman.

Nick Martella-the half American-Italian Tycoon-are a hero to die for.God..Oh My God how i fell for him..and he is now one of my favourite heroes ever.He was an all kind of hero wrapped in one,Alpha-hero as a Iresitible,Dangerous,Sexy Swoon-worthy and Romantic lover ALL woman wish for,even me!(dreamy sigh)

His obsessive and stubborn pursuit of her..and his jealous and possessive rage..LOVED IT!His romantic words,OH THEY WERE TO DIE FOR!

Nick`s words: (swoon)

'You will not die, Joanna,' he said silkily, 'unless it is the small death that lovers die in each other's arms. And I intend to be your lover'

or when he said:

'Then why are you crying? Why do you melt against me every time I touch you? Dio, you torture me, you torture both of us. I will give up every woman for a lifetime to have you for just one night!'

OMG CAN HE POSSIBLY BE MORE..MORE GAAHH!

Wilson didn`t write him off as a Typical Arrogant cold incapable of or untrustworthy of others.She described him in more depth to as who he was,why did what he did,and of his feelings.It made him more alive in my eyes,and Joanna was a truly captivating heroine who finally fought for him-in the right way.She had a backbone and she was very brave to love a man like Nick-but aren`t all the heroines of hplandia..

With addicted eyes i took in everything of them together,their conversations,their feelings,arguments,angst,the love-scenes and OH the scene where they made love on the beach was sooo hot and beautiful at the same time.Patricia Wilson,ya made a HIT out of this one!

"Dark Illusion" are a truly severe, amazing and sexy love-story with a hero and heroine i will never forget. I still think of them very much now after finishing this book two hours ago. Perfectly made love-story Wilson, i will certainly read more books by you..!

Booked says

You literally get swept away and have the rug pulled under you. Nick is a swoon worthy hero. This book is about plotting and the irresistible chase. Having his personal chef in his restaurant whip you up this glorious dreamy castle dessert is simply magical.

Kaycee ♥? says

I pulled this one off the pile as part of my old/vintage HP Presents binge because I knew I got something good/cathartic. And I wasn't disappointed. It was perfectly funny, perfectly angsty, perfectly swoony, and just enough drama. It managed to capture and held my attention from the moment I started reading it.

I adored Nick. And oh, did I mention I also love him? Seriously, his possessiveness and slightly domineering attitude knows no bounds. And he's surprisingly sweet at times. And I loved how honest he was to Joanna about his intentions.

"I'm here because you're here. Why the hell should I be here for anything else? I'm chasing you, I'm pursuing you, driving myself mad!"

Aside from Nick, I also liked Joanna's character. She's a very relatable heroine. And I really like how she stood her ground and did her absolute best to resist Nick. But despite that, the chemistry between them were palpable and I genuinely enjoyed every second of it! It was so fun to see them bicker and their verbal sparring... hilarious! The romance and steam generally build up from all that.

It also really helps that the secondary characters especially Colby and Joanna's dad were also likable and fit well into the story as a whole. And though it was not perfect, I found it to be an enjoyable read! I'm looking forward to read more books from the author especially if all her heroes were just like Nick!

Aou says

Classic Harveyland romance with
Another extra silly heroine

“Nick Martella had taken everything from her, almost isolated her. His niece had married Martin. He had bought a piece of the most beautiful island in the world where she had spent so many happy hours, and now he had taken her father. Hatred came flooding back, hatred that had been submerged for a while in shock and fear. He was surrounding her! She had the terrible feeling that she would have to fight him right out in the open at some point, and she shuddered at the thought.”

And a determined hero

“One thing is for sure, though: after today I'll never see you again! Forget the mad idea about me, Mr Martella, because I'd rather die!”

'You will not die, Joanna,' he said silkily, 'unless it is the small death that lovers die in each other's arms. And I intend to be your lover. In two months I will be back.’

At least she had an intelligent friend

“He kidnapped you? Listen, we'll get the police!”

'No! Oh, no. I couldn't face that,' Joanna said quickly. 'After all, I went there of my own free will. I—I just didn't know how it would end.'

'You can visit people without then being kept against your will,' Eileen stated indignantly.”

She didn't want Nick but feel like that?

“Joanna felt the sharp stab of some small pain as he turned and held out his hand to a woman who was obviously his companion for the evening.”

(...)

“The deep sadness she had felt when Martin had married was nothing like this. This was turbulent, outside her understanding.”

Hero was obsessed but seemed commitment phobic

“You must be content with your feline companion,' Joanna snapped spitefully, and he looked across at Celine critically, assessing her openly.

'Celine? She's decorative, willing and very easy to please. I am not, however, content with her. I doubt if I would ever be content with a woman.”

He redefined “possessiveness”

“You'll get my germs,' she said shakily when he drew back and looked at her with amusement. He had felt her trembling response and she knew it.

‘So? I want everything you've got. If you have a cold, it's mine.”

Their logic was totally different from mine

“Should she talk to him, tell him she could never go to him because she loved him?”

Anyway I liked it. I'll look for other books of PW.

Kiki says

Wtf is this thing with "I love you but you have to say it first to prove your love for me"?!

Why can't a guy just tell the girl they love her without bullying them into bed! Yeah bud, that's gonna make her fall in love with you over the other guy in a heartbeat!!! NOT!

Lemon says

Sigh-wothily romantic. Nobody does stalkerific heroes like Patricia Wilson and this one certainly doesn't disappoint.

Chantal ♥? says

Omg this is by far the best story of Patricia Wilson.

The guy loves her and wants her so bad you feel the tension.

I don't know how she held out so long. He would have had me in two seconds flat with his smooth ways.

Omg the things he says to her!

Swoon worthiness to the max!

Loved it and recommend it!

Jenny says

Super romantic angst book which reminded me of those Vintage Harlequins I used to love so much. Swoon worthy, stalker, jealous, possessive hero and sweet classy heroine were perfect for each other!

Aisha says

I LOVE NICK MARTELLA

Dianna says

Joanna's life plan included marriage to Martin, her friend since childhood. But then Martin instead went and proposed Rina, 19.

For inexplicable reasons, Rina is getting married from Joanna's stepfather's stately home, and with one exception everyone is either ignoring Joanna's prior claim to Martin, or is selfishly ignorant of it (i.e. Joanna's mother).

Rina's uncle Nick, however, is all about giving Joanna the disapproving 'behave yourself' glares best associated with the type of hero I love to hate and Wilson's heroines invariably fall for. Joanna doesn't like Nick. She doesn't like him in the sense that she can't articulate her fear. She (maybe) wants to climb all over him, but certainly knows that doing so will result in pain and humiliation. He's a business associate of her stepfather, and for posh English reasons, is frequently invited to hang out at the stately home, and is mentally counting down the years until it isn't too gross to climb on Joanna.

Nick has arrived in a helicopter, trailed by Joanna's author dad. Joanna's selfish mother divorced author dad

because he wasn't posh, and married an upper class twit owner of a stately home. Author dad went off to live on a tropical island, and Joanna visited him on holidays. Any happy reunion between father and daughter is pushed aside because Nick wants to lecture Joanna on her Duties to the Bride.

And BTW, he is going to have sex on her. Very soon. Rina has agreed to get married at the stately home of some twit she's never met because uncle Nick is paying for the wedding. Further, this whole thing (orchestrating the marriage on Joanna's turf, bringing her father, ordering her around, and playing on her humiliation over the loss of Martin) is clearly Nick's head game strategy. If he can get her off balance, she's bound to fall into his bed!

Nick is upfront about his desire for sex with Joanna. He's rich. He has a vaguely aristo Italian family and upper-crust New York family, but he's also made his own pots of money by being all energetic and dynamic in business, and probably ruthlessly unpleasant. He's gorgeous and could have any woman he wants! He's clearly jealous of Martin. He's wanted Joanna since he first set eyes on her when she was 17, and perhaps he also has/had positive emotional feels for Joanna beyond a disinclination to seduce a teenager. It's a bit hard to tell, but Wilson likes the 'loved her and waited for her to grow up' hero, so he's potentially one of those.

I didn't quite get it. Nick is honest about what he wants, to a point. It's frustrating when I start interpreting some bad behaviour of the hero's as his internal struggle with the realisation that he's more emotionally invested in the heroine than he expected, or wanted, and is feeling guilty about his desire to have sex with her. I start feeling I'm giving him more leeway than he deserves. Maybe he really is struggling with feelings, but he's still being a jerk, and there's never much post-mortem of 'when I said/did that it was because I was fighting what I wanted, which was to tell you I loved you and would love you forever' to acknowledge it.

There's a particular scene where Nick is mean and Joanna is humiliated and it just feels manipulative, because Joanna is all caught up in what it means to be a 'good girl' and it's a real jerk move of a hero bent on seduction to, when he almost gets there, suddenly decide that he needs to deliver a savage and confusing diatribe on the heroine's character. Sure, it's a great way to sneak in some almost sexy times as a teaser, but it left some mucky emotional shadows.

He's not all bad. There are occasional hints that he does back off when Joanna makes it clear that he's frightening her. At one point she tells him that he's a threat, not a person, and he does reference that back to her later, so he clearly listened.

Wilson once again uses health and injury to demonstrate the development of caring: Joanna falls over and gets concussion, gets the flu and has an emotional breakdown when she receives some devastating news. Nick is increasingly present for these 'adventures.' I like the health and injury trope, but it did get a bit much in this book.

Jealousy over Martin continues as a theme. Joanna is 23, shy, and working as a fashion designer. Wonderfully, although this seems to disappear as the plot country hops and Nick and Joanna start getting closer, her job does resurface. Joanna does get some independence. Just not much.

While she quickly gets over Martin, it's not quite quick enough for Nick. Martin resurfaces as a point of conflict, which is frustrating since it becomes about Nick's reaction rather than Joanna's growth and independence.

In addition to being accident and virus prone, Joanna has a terrible relationship with her mother, which is far more important than what seems to be a fairly healthy relationship with author dad. It also doesn't prevent

her from deciding she has to sacrifice herself out of a sense of obligation when the opportunity arises. Plus, she gets to frame her sacrifice as an example of her fondness for the upper class twit.

Of course, all these men are disappointments, and it would have been satisfying if Joanna had told Martin to get bent and left the twit to his own fate. Compared to alpha Nick all the men are weak and ineffectual, which made me sad for Joanna, because it would have been nice for her to at least have an effective dad.

It's always very easy to sympathise with Wilson heroines, and it's mostly easy to assume the best of her heroes. Dark Illusion has a lot of Wilson's classic tropes - the guilt-ridden heroine tormented by the realisation of her own desire and her pain when it looks like she may end up doing something that will result in a moral and emotional loss. Plus, getting sick and falling over. Joanna's not as zany as other Wilson heroines, and I think she's only mildly tortured by jealousy, but she still gets her fair share of adventure. Joanna and Nick spend a fair chunk of the book apart, which is probably a good thing for Joanna since she needed to get a little more confidence and to break away from her misery over how awful her mother was.

Jasbell76 says

I will post a review of this book soon ;)

Leona says

Loved it.

StMargarets says

Stalkerific hero. A heroine who runs the gamut of emotions as she tries to know her own mind. There is a lot of movement in this novel. England, New York, an island in the Caribbean yet there seems to be plenty of time to develop secondary characters and create an actual relationship for the H/h. Hero is obsessed, but as the narrative goes on, he becomes more and more vulnerable and endearing. His grandmother was an interesting character as was his manservant.

Chitra *CJ* says

"Dark Illusion" is the story of Nick and Joanna.

If you like crazy-possessive- stalkery heroes in old school romances- this is the book for you! It features a hero who relentless pursues our heroine, is literally ready to buy and keep the world at her feet, and will do anything to get her.

The heroine is in "love" with om (Martin) when the book starts, however Martin gets married to the hero's niece Rina- and at the same time the heroine realizes how the hero always haunts her dreams.

It's an obvious May- December romance with loads of passion and the heroine literally running away- while the hero abandons his responsibilities to chase her. There's also a subplot involving his niece and her ex best

friend- but they only add to the angst and jealousy factor.

Safe (view spoiler)

4.5/5

Naksed says

The plot of *Dark Illusion* was a train wreck that I soon grow bored of. It had a good premise. The dark, brooding tycoon with stalkerrific tendencies. The typical willowy English girl trying to escape his clutches while fighting her own traitorous body. Various settings such as a gloomy ancestral English mansion, a glittering Manhattan, and the exotic beaches of St. Kitts with an ancient fort perched upon a cliff no less. All of these elements could have made for a delicious Harlequinny treat but the author messed up the recipe, turning it into a bland, overcooked mush. I think I will forget this indigestion in a couple of days.
