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## **The Divorce Party** Jennifer Hayward

"You threw your fifty-thousand-dollar engagement ring off the Brooklyn Bridge?"

Lilly shows up to her lavish divorce party with one goal in mind—to leave as quickly as possible minus a husband! Except he has other plans...and Riccardo De Campo isn't easy to say "no" to.

Forced back into Riccardo's glittering, gossip-fueled world, the price of perfection is still too high and Lilly's old insecurities resurface. An unexpected consequence of their reunion raises the stakes even higher, and the media's golden couple must finally confront the truth behind the headlines.

Congratulations to Jennifer Hayward, winner of Harlequin's 2012 So You Think You Can Write competition!

## **The Divorce Party Details**

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Author : Jennifer Hayward

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Contemporary

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# From Reader Review The Divorce Party for online ebook

## Victoria Parker says

Hayward's first outing is an absolute must-read where she takes a much-loved yet often-used trope and twists it brilliantly with unique characters and a 'Divorce Party' opening that knocks your socks off!

Punchy writing and awesome dialogue brings the characters alive until they leap from the page and then Lilly and Riccardo take you on an emotional roller coaster with such intense highs and lows, one moment you laugh out loud and in the next, your throat is thick and your heart aches for them. Even her secondaries are multi-dimensional as she creates the De Campo empire you'd love to be a part of. I guarantee you'll be rooting for the wonderfully feisty, yet vulnerable Lilly and fall in love with the delectable Riccardo, with his suave arrogance and sexy dominant streak. This guy certainly gives, 'The Divorce Party' a hot sizzle that made me instantly melt!

The cherry on the cake has to be Hayward's awesome story-telling ability that will leave you craving the next De Campo with baited breath. So I say, bring on the delicious Gabe. I'm oh-so-ready for him!

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## Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

So this was just not my Harlequin bag.

\*\*\**Spoilers*\*\*\*

\*\*\**Spoilers*\*\*\*

\*\*\**Spoilers*\*\*\*

The H?

I actually liked him a *little bit*...

...except for that whole kissing-another-woman-with-the-INTENT-to-sleep-with-her thing.

To, you know, PROVE to himself that the h didn't "control" him.

And because he was pouting at her "cold shoulder" instead of actually, I don't know, COMMUNICATING.

Now he doesn't actually go THROUGH with it, mind you...

...because he realizes he can't do that to the h...

But still.

Now, despite ^^THAT massive bomb, I still managed to dislike the h even more than our marginally unfaithful Knight in Less Than Shiny Armor.

She was whiny, self-absorbed, and quite simply:

Not to mention the fact that she was apparently banging some other dude during their year-long "hiatus," while the H stayed celibate.

Now, usually that wouldn't have bothered me, especially since she thought he cheated...

But something just felt off about it to me.

Plus, the whole book was mainly them arguing.

And the heroine feeling sorry for herself for being in the "spotlight" and struggling with anorexia.

Now, I'm not knocking the anorexia struggle by any means.

As I have mentioned in other reviews, I have struggled with an eating disorder - that in previous years manifested itself as anorexia - since I was 12 years old.

So homie has empathy.

But being that the h's sister was suffering from CANCER?

And the h seemed more preoccupied with her appearance...?

Yeah, just wasn't feeling it.

Find me at:

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## **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

Did I find it hard to even finish this book!!! Look, it's not exactly awful....in fact for a debut novel it's not that bad!!! It's just that the whole plot and main characters were just a bit tooooo ridiculous for me!!!

So here we have Lilly Anderson, is a poor and lovely looking heroine who falls in love and marries the gorgeous and sexy and ultra zillionaire Ricardo de Campo. She feels insecure, thinks she doesn't measure up

to his lofty standards and leaves him...and oh yes, she also thinks he sleeps with everyone woman in town!!!  
A year later, a divorce party is set up to celebrate he getting her freedom i.e. a divorce so she can marry the new man in her life...yes this new guy is nothing exciting...he doesn't throw sparks along her way...but he's sooooo steady and nice and nothing like her soon to be ex-husband!!!

Now, Ricardo de Campo is still in love with the heroine and despite paying her a load of money during their separation, just knows he can't get her back with his millions...yes, that's right, Lilly is no gold-digger!!!!  
Really!!!

Anyway, Ricardo devices a plot to keep Lilly....tells her he needs her to stay married for a bit longer for his dying father and she needs money for her sick sister...and says yes!!!!

I could not engage with these two characters. They were both so silly....how could two people actually have misunderstood each other was just beyond me!!!!

But I must admit that I will read the next book in the series...just to see where the secondary characters get up to!!!!

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### **Nas Dean says**

THE DIVORCE PARTY is an astounding romance from a debut author. It is a well-written tale that sparkles with emotion. Jennifer Hayward introduced us to this alluring but tortured hot hero, whom we fell in love with and a strong heroine, who wouldn't take less than her due. A must for all lovers of romance.

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### **? Sassy ~ Amy ? says**

Great Debut for a new author!

The descriptions in regards to the couples feelings & stresses was great! I felt the stress & anguish over the lack of communication this couple had, causing a separation leading to a divorce party.

I wished there was more to the story. More could have been embellished. I think I expected more because I felt the stress so much, I wished the storyline was thicker & explained a whole lot more. It ended too soon for me, although, there was an epilogue that sorted somethings out. It was a fast read, and I liked that! It's a great beach read, or a good wait in the pick up line at school read...

DO NOT get me wrong... I liked it, I just wish there was more... AND I would read more from this author!

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### **Lynn says**

Author did a wonderful job, the angst, the story, the history, I only had one complaint....

The book would have gotten a higher star rating as I did like it, but I had serious issues with the hero

## SPOILERS (maybe)

goes to another woman's apartment, kisses and fools around with her while having marital problems with the intent to sleep with her, but can't follow through with it and yet does not think he "cheated" sorry big boy... you doing anything in a sexual manner is cheating (the whole love honor and cherish, thing means you don't kiss another woman...you don't hold her hand or anything else and you sure as heck do not go to her apartment thinking that you will complete the cheating and then find you cannot and call it a win...ARGH!) I agree the degree of cheating may not be the same but I am sorry Mr President ....oral sex is SEX...and doing anything in a sexual manner...personal manner with someone other than your wife or fiancée is cheating... own it and perhaps forgiveness can begin... but pretending it was not cheating is daft and sets up the scenario that it will happen again as that person doesn't consider it cheating....

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### **Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says**

I have been curious about this book for some time now. The mixed reviews didn't help and only made me curiouser. Having read it, I think it was a good story, well written but floundered somewhat because of the H's characterization especially as you lose patience with her towards the end.

While his cheating issue is cleared up and turns he didn't go beyond kissing, her supposed reactive infidelity is never mentioned properly, just alluded to. So one can read whatever into it, whether she slept with the good doctor or not. But she went down in my eyes especially for her cop-out reactions.

Her overreacting and running off (again) was the pits. I didn't even understand why she reacted that way. Apparently they make a pact to get back together temporarily as he needed a solid married background for his CEOship as asked by his father and she needed money for her sister's leukemia treatment (which she doesn't share with him). Now towards the end, her father-in-law reveals that his being married or not was never an issue for his becoming the CEO and the H probably just wanted her back. So instead of being happy and flattered she reacts as if she has been mortally betrayed. She is pregnant at this point and in love with him and was about to confess her love to him but instead she takes off! I just didn't get the logic of this.

The poor guy was doing all he could and more to save their relationship and marriage with zero input from her imo. I quite liked the story till that point, but just gave up on her non-issues and I-am-silently-screaming-for-attention,,even if the poor H did not.

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### **StMargarets says**

The heroine left the hero because he was a workaholic and she thought he was cheating. The hero actually wanted to cheat, but couldn't go through with it. The heroine actually went out and got a boyfriend while still married to the hero (it's never spelled out if they had sex or not). So they both cheated in my book.

The story opens with the hero trying to get the heroine back by staging a "Divorce Party" where he announces they have reconciled. Heroine agrees because her sister needs expensive medical treatment (and she's still hot for the hero).

The H/h live together and eventually the heroine's anorexia is revealed and the pressure the hero is under from his father.

This one is a case of both sides, but the hero had more charm and he's the one who really wanted the marriage to work. So - team hero, I guess?

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### **Sandra says**

Very enjoyable "reunited lovers" romance! I really liked the New York City setting. I'm looking forward to reading Gabe and Matteo's stories!

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### **Jenny says**

I don't know what's wrong with these new Harlequin authors. This book has another cheating heroine and that's disgusting as far as I'm concerned.

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### **Desere says**

Falling in love with that one special person that makes you feel secure, special and like the most beautiful woman in the world is something that yes happens to most of us but it does not always last and when the feeling fades what are you left with?

Emptiness that can drive you to the lowest point of your life with no way of getting back up, and you find yourself fighting to keep your head above water all the while knowing that the only thing that can save you is the one thing you cannot have. For if it did not work the first time how will it ever?

In the debut read from Jennifer Hayward this is the life of Lilly De Campo, once a lonely overweight farm girl turned perfect trophy wife to the man of her dreams I-will-make-you-remember-my-every-burning-touch-Riccardo, she has it all until her perfect marriage falls apart and scandal hits to the point where she runs away from it all in order to survive.

But in Riccardo's books divorce is never an option and he will do whatever he needs to get his wife back into his bed and keep her there even if he needs to pry on her every weakness. Under the pretence of giving her the divorce she so badly craves he invites her to their own divorce party and puts his plan into action, and it all comes into play very nicely, only at the end of it all the questions, insecurities and anger of betrayal still remain and Lilly is ready to run yet again, the real question is will Riccardo let her go again or will he this time around be there when she needs him the most?

The character of Lilly was absolutely terrific, she has been knocked down yet she gets back up and calmly says "Life you hit like a girl and am not staying down". A real trooper and totally awesome worthy heroine, that I simply adored. I loved that the author worked into her personality the pressure that it takes to keep up the image of being the perfect trophy wife and ties that in with a problem so many woman today need to face up to, but sadly do not always survive.

The character of Riccardo was definitely the kind of hero every woman wants, he is strong, confident, sex on legs and ruthless in getting his way, now you can say you want someone far nicer but we all know deep down this is the kind of badboy we all crave to be with!

Him holding back so many emotions due to the pressure of his work and ties to his family and the duties he has to uphold made him even more attractive to me as reader, for that is the very reasoning behind his actions, and made him the kind of hero you just want to grab onto and solve all his faults. Yes, at some stage I did want to hit the man and yell "Catch a wake-up" but the deeper the author delved into his background the more clear it all became and I fell for this hero hook, line and sinker!

The backdrop settings were so perfectly incorporated by the author and described with perfection to the point where I actually thought I was at the glamorous parties. The dialogue was a very feisty one and full of passion. The confrontations between Riccardo and Lilly were all fire and ice and I was completely addicted to every word, I simply could not stop reading and wanted it to go on and on, yes it was that good!

The level of intensity used by the author for the scenes and words of confrontation and also the heat when passion hits was simply incredible and left me breathless, and when the truth revealing emotions were brought to life it left me in tears!

Not wanting to reveal it all and spoil the read I will only add that everything about this read was simply addictive, from the alcohol induced car race to get to bed to the fuchsia yoga pants coming off, the read had it all to keep me entertained at all times and begging for more.

I am taking away a message of the perfect image we try to uphold to the world when the pressure is on, is the one thing that can cause us to lose everything we have and you will be left with nothing, instead stand up, talk to those around you for when they love you they will understand and support you no matter the outcome of what the world thinks.

I highly recommend this read, it was a passionate, sexy, emotionally packed, sensual, romance at it's best read with a powerful message that will stay with me for as long as I live. I am 100% confident this read will go into the best sellers list within days of it's release! A little bonus for my fellow race-car drivers fans, this read has more than one and fast cars are not limited at all!

I am entranced by this author's work and will definitely be waiting with anticipation for the books on the next two De Campo brothers, Jennifer get to writing now please!

5/5 star

" Him racing to her rescue is all she ever wanted"

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## Melanie♥ says

This one missed the mark for me. I definitely did not like the fact that the heroine was with someone else while separated but still married to the hero. In a bit of a turn-around, the hero remained faithful to her. Other than asking the h is she was sure he was the father of her baby, the subject of her boyfriend was completely ignored.

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## Sasha says

Wow. Debut author JENNIFER HAYWARD proves why her submission was chosen as the winner of Harlequin's 2012 So You Think You Can Write (SYTYCW) competition

Once I started reading THE DIVORCE PARTY, I simply could not put it down. Literally. I read this book in one day and was dying to read another by Ms Hayward.

Thank God she's planning to write sequels about relatives of the hero and heroine

Ok. What has me so excited you ask? Everything.

\*\*\*SPOILERS\*\*\*

There's the journey of two soul mates who weren't brave enough the first time around to share all of their secrets.

The heroine, Lilly Anderson, has an eating disorder. She has reached a good place in life, where she knows what to do to avoid succumbing to this potentially fatal habit, but it can be a difficult road to travel at times.

Ricardo De Campo, meanwhile, is a former race car driver who walked away from a winning season, one where he was poised to take home the championship, to take over as CEO of his family's business empire.

Ms Hayward brings Lilly and Ricardo to life through her deft touch with dialogue and description. You get insight into Lilly's thoughts and motivations in one scene, then you're given a glimpse into how Ricardo is handling things in another.

I love dual points of view. You get a much richer experience of a couple's journey toward HEA. :)

Did I mention the sexual chemistry between these two? Smoking!

Ricardo is drool-worthy and his wife is hot too. While they share some passionate kisses early on, a level of trust and complete honesty on both their parts is required before they consummate their relationship. But boy oh boy, was it worth the wait

Looking for a great book that won't take you forever to finish? Or perhaps that perfect gift for the Harlequin/Mills & Boon fan in your family?

Then THE DIVORCE PARTY is it.

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## **Fiona Marsden says**

4.5 stars When I read the first chapter of this book as part of the SYTYCW2012 competition, I knew straight away it was a winner. It had everything. When I read the entire book I was thrilled that it met my expectations. The minor changes made between competition and publication were well done and polished it off nicely.

We start at a glittering event in New York City (tick glamour) with Lilly attending her divorce party. Riccardo (tick hot hero) has said if she wants her divorce, she has to come and get it. Only it's not as simple as that she finds when face to face with Riccardo.

Their love match crashed and burned a year ago under the pressures of Riccardo's work, taking over the massive international company that is the De Campo heritage and Lilly's personal insecurities.

Now Riccardo has a deal for her and it means too much one on one time with her soon to be ex-husband. But if she wants the divorce, and the settlement that will be a lifesaver for her family, she has to play along.

The story itself is classic high stakes romance with Lilly and Riccardo circling warily around, still suffering the hurts of their failed marriage. Thrown together, they start to learn a whole lot more about each other and about what went on in the past. Things were not always what they seemed.

I absolutely loved Riccardo but at times I found Lilly's secrecy and insecurities a little frustrating which is why I couldn't quite give it the full five stars. I'm looking forward to the next in the De Campo series.

\*Spoilers regarding cheating\*

spoiler: (view spoiler)

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## **Nancy Crocker says**

Reviewed by Nancy Crocker

It was very hard to believe that this is a debut novel by Jennifer. I can see why she was the winner of Harlequin's 2012 So You Think You Can Write competition.

Lilly De Campo did not walk away from her marriage to Riccardo because she stopped loving him, she walked away to save herself. Constantly being judged by high society and scandal was taking a toll on her, so she did the only thing she knew to do ... Leave.

Riccardo De Campo admits he was wrong, but he never stopped loving his wife Lilly. And while he pretends to agree to a divorce, he really has a plan to get her back into his life ... forever. He gets her to agree to live together for six months and having everyone think they are back together permanently is a start. But a De

Campo does not divorce ever and he does not plan on being the first.

I loved both characters even though I struggled with what Riccardo had done to lose Lilly's trust. I loved the banter between these two and the exchanges had me raising my eyebrows in a good way. And the passion was so amazing. It was learning to adapt and change for the better to keep the one you truly love. And it was learning to communicate better with each other.

Jennifer has an amazing talent and she kept this reader highly entertained. She made the story believable and never lost focus on the main story line. This was a wonderful page turner of a read. I can't wait for the next book from this author and wish her nothing but continued success. I highly recommend this book.

5/5 star

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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