



The Arrangement

Nicolette Hugo

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Nell Harper's got her life all figured out:

Build a successful law career, find Mr. Right, then have 2.3 kids and a white picket fence. Everything is going to plan until a handsome stranger stops her from stepping in front of a speeding car.

Vincent Mason, rising politician, not only rescues Nell from death but from her safe but predictable life as he introduces her to the darker pleasures of domination and submission. What starts as a six month arrangement of sexual liberation turns into a deeper emotional exploration and Nell soon finds herself letting go of preconceived ideas of love and lust.

But can Nell trust Vincent enough to truly surrender herself?

And can she trust herself enough to listen to what her heart truly wants?

The Arrangement Details

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Author : Nicolette Hugo

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From Reader Review The Arrangement for online ebook

AusRomToday says

The Arrangement features a relationship built on dominance and submission, some reasonably intense sex scenes, and the obvious power exchange that you'd expect in a D/s relationship. Now, before you roll your eyes or scroll past to the next novel, understand that this is not your average BDSM novel. BDSM erotica and erotic romance has copped an undue amount of flack over the past few years and whilst there is a lot of mediocre BDSM writings out there, Nicolette Hugo's writing is quite the opposite.

Most importantly, the heroine, Nell, is no shrinking virginal violet. Quite the opposite, Nell is a well established woman in and of her own right. She is goal-oriented, astute, and aware of herself, her wants and her needs.

The hero, Vincent is not a power-hungry control freak. Phew, what a relief huh? Quite the opposite actually. Vincent is a man who though demanding and intense in their sexual relationship is at heart compassionate and caring.

Another key consideration, and something that Hugo delivers well and without reservation is the topic of consent. Consent is mutual and expressly communicated to the reader. At no point do we feel that Nell is being pushed around or entering into situations blindly. Even in situations whereby Nell is uncertain, we see her being respectfully and genuinely guided by Vincent.

Hugo's writing stands out from the crowd because she offers a strong storyline, strong characters, and an insider's view of the complexities of BDSM relationships. Yes, it's a BDSM relationship. Yes, these relationships are complex and difficult to navigate. But tell me what relationship isn't... What good BDSM writing does, and Hugo offers good BDSM writing, is show that for all intents and purposes, they're perfectly normal people engaging in a perfectly normal, albeit perhaps non-mainstream, sexual lifestyle and that is what romance, and importantly the romance genre, is all about.

Carly Odonoghue says

The Arrangement by Nicolette Hugo was recommended to me by a friend so I thought why not give it a go. All I can say is 'Wow!' how come I haven't heard of Nicolette Hugo before now.

It's no secret that I'm a fan of BDSM books and for me this one stood out miles ahead of the rest. Why? Because it was real. No billionaires, no helicopters and no fancy mansions. Both Vincent and Nell had normal down to earth jobs and for me this refreshing to read a BDSM book with normal people that are lovable and easy to relate to. The characters have an instant deep emotional connection that is visible from the start. At one point when Nell told Vincent she loved him I shouted out loud 'say it back you idiot!' half scaring my husband to death with my outburst.

I love Ms Hugo's style of writing, it's clear, eloquent and articulate and I love the way the emotion is shown throughout the whole story especially through the sex scenes.

This book is an intense realistic read with a well-executed storyline that will leave the reader wanting more and pining for the next book by Nicolette Hugo. Now go! Read it!

Albert says

The Arrangement by Nicolette Hugo is erotica done right. Which is saying that while sex and pleasure are predominant themes, Hugo does an outstanding job of creating real life characters. People that you can pass on the street, talk to on the job and shop next to at the grocery store. All the time never realizing how deep and powerful their emotional and sensual lives are.

Nell Harper is a successful lawyer with a career on the fast track when a chance meeting opens her up to a world she only heard about. Vincent Mason reaches out and pulls the young woman out of the way of a speeding car she is too engrossed to notice. There is an immediate and strong attraction. Vincent is a fire fighter with a budding political career. But there is more to Vincent than what meets the eye. Vincent is a Dominant and his taste in sexual partners aren't what Nell thinks she is. But she is curious and the chance to explore sex as a submissive to Vincent's Dominant is too good to resist. Vincent writes up a contract between them and they agree to the arrangement.

Nell will give herself to Vincent as his sexual submissive for six months. Together they will explore the darker and more satisfying sides of their sexual selves. But what Nell is not prepared for are the emotional exploration that they share. To be Vincent's submissive, to give so totally to him, she must learn to trust the man more than she has ever allowed herself to trust anyone. Subjecting herself to the physical pain of their relationship is one thing, but to allow herself to be emotionally vulnerable is something she is woefully prepared to do.

The comes that night, when in the throes of pleasure and pain, she blurts out, "I love you..." and everything changes in an instant.

Nicolette Hugo writes exciting sensual novels of sex and bondage. She doesn't shy away from the lifestyle and writes BDSM with a graceful brutality that will make you wince and then beg for more. Yet the sex, as beautiful as it is written, pales when compared to the characters she creates. I cannot stop singing the praises to this author and the characters she creates. They are not celluloid billionaires and horny secretaries with super jets and super fast cars and the most expensive dining restaurants. They are not ships that pass in the night but they collide with all the power and drama that comes with relationships that can be at times very messy. Hugo wields the sex hammer with deft and grace but she is equally skilled with the emotions of love. The fear. The insecurity. The great leap of faith that is love. Something that is far more frightening and painful than the crack and sting of a whip. Hugo understand that and respects it.

If you were to remove the sex from this novel it would still stand as a true romantic tale between two people who; like all of us often do, sometimes fail to communicate. Fail to trust. Fail to believe, but want so much to do so. The Arrangement is a love story. With a lot of sex.

Gkaur says

This ARC was given to me by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review, Thank you!

This book definitely isn't your "typcial" BDSM erotica. I found it had a lot more emotions and soul than the

average erotica. Don't get me wrong there is plenty of steamy scenes to please readers. But, those scenes also are crucial to character development. Seriously the way each emotion is described in a scene by Nicolette is amazing!

The story itself starts toward the end of "the Arrangement", which threw me off because there was no build-up except for how Nell and Vincent met. Usually I need some sort of back story...but, when you keep reading you realize that is deliberate because the author is just zeroing in on this crucial part of their relationship. That crucial point where lines begin to blur and "friends with benefits" starts turning into something more.

Recommendation:

This definitely better written than most BDSM books. It is a quick intense read. If you are looking for a book to satisfy the BDSM itch with plenty of feels, this is it! ;)

Christy says

Really liked it. Focus was on the thoughts and emotions more than just one gratuitous sex scene after another. Don't get me wrong, I like my porn, this was just a nice change.

Jennifer says

Nicolette Hugo is a brand new author to me who came highly recommended. I jumped into The Arrangement knowing it had a BDSM focus and anyone venturing in should know this too. The plot centers around Nell Harper, a successful attorney who has a chance meeting with Vincent Mason, a politician on the rise in Sydney. Vincent brings out the submissive Nell never knew was in her, and at the outset of the book, they have agreed to a six month live-in arrangement. No one could accuse Vincent of lacking in intensity and focus. He seems to be the perfect match for Nell, but the hardship comes when she realizes this arrangement is delving into territory Vincent may not comfortable with. Nell won't settle for less than love and how we get there is the delicious torment of The Arrangement.

For starters, throw off any pre-conceived notions you have about BDSM in mainstream erotic romance. Vincent Mason may be well-off, but he's not living in a penthouse with a helipad. Nell Harper is a successful, smart, and accomplished. She's no shrinking violet and can negotiate what she needs without hesitation. The Arrangement was unique for me in that we don't see the early moments, the budding relationship between Vincent and Nell. It begins with their formal 6 month arrangement. This was a great choice, as new relationships can often be fraught with an intensity and obsessiveness that clouds reason. By the time these two enter into a live-in relationship, it clear that Dom and sub are comfortable in their roles and want to be there. What also sets The Arrangement apart is its character driven focus and its beautiful prose. We are inside Nell's head for the vast majority of the story, and through her, we examine what it means to submit, the whys of masochism, the beauty and comfort in non-sexual service to someone you care for. If you are at all interested in the psychology of submission, I think you will enjoy and possibly identify with Nell as a character. All of the intimate scenes are erotic and beautiful, even at their dirtiest. Some were downright mesmerizing. Vincent is a sadist, so his tastes run beyond mild kink. Readers should be prepared for edgier play, but not extreme scenarios. In the end, Nell needs and craves love and a permanence she doesn't know if Vincent can provide. I wanted to yell at these two to communicate! The interplay between

them, even the non-sexual scenes, is deliciously poetic. Hugo has a distinct way with words that draws emotion out of you and I found myself highlighting passages that I don't want to leave for good. *The Arrangement* is a brilliant first book and this only means that more great things are to come. I can't wait to dig into *Exhibition*, her next installment.

I received this book for free from Author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Posted at www.underthecoversbookblog.com

Roz ~ My Written Romance says

Note: I was provided with an advance reader copy by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Any and all opinions expressed in this review are mine alone. I received no financial incentives to review this book.

Before I get started, *The Arrangement* features themes of dominance and submission, in addition to some fairly graphic and intense sex scenes. If this isn't up your alley, it's probably best to step away. If you're OK with this type of thing, read on, because it was AWESOME!

Here is what I thought of *The Arrangement*:

Nell is no ethereal virginal pixie, she's a strong, educated and intelligent woman with a healthy respect for her own sexuality and desires. Of course, she doubts her course on occasion, however I liked that. To me, it shows that she considers things and doesn't blindly accept a fate she's not sure of.

Vincent – he may not be able to completely express himself in the way most people would, but he is not emotionally constipated. He simply shows his feelings in a way he is sure of.

From what I can see, this type of relationship only works when both parties are full and willing participants. There can be no room for fear and mistrust. Otherwise, it descends into sketchy territory. The physical chemistry between Nell and Vincent is completely incendiary – the heat fairly leaps from the page. But the highlight for me was in the emotional side of their connection – you never feel as if Nell is an unwilling or uneasy participant. If anything, she has more trust in Vincent than in herself at times.

The progression of the story is done beautifully – we see the last month of a six-month arrangement. The words and the setting knit together in such a way that I had total belief in the status of Nell and Vincent's relationship. No headless chicken rushing around here.

What I really loved about *The Arrangement* was that even though it was incredibly erotic, it never felt skeevy or voyeuristic. That, to me, is the mark of an intelligent author – Nicolette has taken something potentially confronting, and lent it an air of sensuality and respect.

The Arrangement was totally worth the sketchy looks I got from my seat mate on the train while reading it. I am most definitely keen to check out some more of Nicolette's work now.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

Nicolette Hugo is a brand new author to me who came highly recommended. I jumped into *The Arrangement* knowing it had a BDSM focus and anyone venturing in should know this too. The plot centers around Nell Harper, a successful attorney who has a chance meeting with Vincent Mason, a politician on the rise in Sydney. Vincent brings out the submissive Nell never knew was in her, and at the outset of the book, they have agreed to a six month live-in arrangement. No one could accuse Vincent of lacking in intensity and focus. He seems to be the perfect match for Nell, but the hardship comes when she realizes this arrangement is delving into territory Vincent may not comfortable with. Nell won't settle for less than love and how we get there is the delicious torment of *The Arrangement*.

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*Note: this is currently FREE!

Reviewed by Guest Reviewer Jennifer

*Review copy provided by author

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Heather 123 says

I felt this story lacked from the beginning. There was no character development, very little background and I didn't feel like I knew the characters. The story opens with how the two main characters meet but then it fast forwards 5 months to nearly the end of their contract. The author wants you to believe that Nell has strong

feelings for Vincent, that she completely trusts him and is falling in love with him. The problem I have with this is we don't feel that she cares for him, trusts him and is falling in love with him. Perhaps if the author had discussed more about how the contract was brought up and how Vincent initially established trust with Nell I might see her falling for him. But as it was there was none of that in the book. It fact, in almost felt like I was reading the second book in a series while skipping the first book.

The writing was good overall, the intimate scenes were very well written however I think there was something missing from the story.

** ARC received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review **

Babette Furstner says

I was given an advanced reader copy for an honest review. This was a 5/5 for me!!

The arrangement has a raw humanity and a raw sexuality. But be warned, Nicolette Hugo does not write to type so don't expect the standard erotic BDSM read. It's better... WAY BETTER... why, because it's about two peoples very nature. Vincent strips Nell of her barriers, her layers and reaches in and wants every bit of her.

I've read that you can tell in seconds if you are sexually compatible with someone, that's what I felt happened with Nell and Vincent. The chemistry was there right from the beginning and as consenting adults they set up time to explore it then planned to move on. The story really starts as their arrangement together is coming to an end. But somewhere in those deep waters that they played in, the balance of platonic adult fun is broken and what is slowly unfolding threatens to pull all the pins out of the life Nell has carefully planned. But more frightening, who she thinks she is.

Nell looks for signs from Vincent to guide her, but he's not like other men to read. In the end she has to make up her own mind and if she wants to win him, she has to choose for the right reason.

My favourite scene... the breath-play. It totally floored me..... the absolute surrender that Vincent demands of Nell, wow! Needless to say I have lined up for an advanced reader copy of *Exhibition!*

Lily Malone says

Just finished this book for the second time. I can't add much to my review below. Nicolette Hugo is an incredible writer and this story moved me every bit as much this read, as it did the first. Possibly more, because having known the story I could concentrate on the writing. Brilliant.

I bought *The Arrangement* on its release day and tonight on Twitter posted: "I'm about to start *The Arrangement* by Nicolette Hugo #amreading"...

It's now about 2 hours later (2.5 maybe), and here I sit to tell the world what I thought.

Well... my butt has not moved from the couch. I've been absolutely invested in Vincent and Nell and this bloody incredible book.

My knowledge of Dominant/Submissive only extends to a movie called *The Secretary* with James Spader and Maggie Gyllenhaal watched years ago, plus one book, the name of which I no longer remember but remember I liked.

So this is out of my comfort zone. I saw some excerpts of *The Arrangement* on various FB and blog interviews and I just knew this author's writing would be a style I'd adore. So I took a chance on a newbie

author. What can I say? Sometimes, a reader and writer just click.

Emotion crawled, flew and exploded off the page for me, between Vincent and Nell. It might not work like that for everyone, but that's what it was like for me.

I love Nell's commitment to Vincent. I loved the vulnerability of both characters.

I thought the description and use of Nell's first person POV was just perfect for the story being told.

Congratulations Nicolette Hugo. I thought *The Arrangement* was brilliant and I highly recommend it.

#FanForLife

Kristy Dean says

Wow loved it

This story is a strong BDSM. It shows the push and pull of a growing relationship. It talks about contracts and how she is learning the process of building trust. My heart is still being pulled and I want to read it again or read more. This book is not everyone's cup of tea, but it shows that there are different sides of the BDSM world and that everyone just wants to be respected for what their kinks are and excepted to try new things. I would read this again as well as other works by this author. Loved it and can't wait to read and review more. A slave to this authors writing.

Overview. (Might have spoilers). Nell is a strong woman raised in a good normal family but lost her dad about 10years ago. She seen how her mom stopped living. So she set goals to be a lawyer and partner and not fall in love until she was set in life. But Vincent offered her a contract to explore the BDSM lifestyle and still have her normal life. But what Nell found was love. She loved the pain and pleasure that Vincent brought her. But Nell could not figure out how to except the two parts of her life and how to fully trust Vincent with her heart. Nell fights and loses in a lot of ways until she finds it in her heart to love and Trust Vincent 100%.

Tequila says

OMG if you love BDSM erotica then for all that is good and holy YOU NEED TO READ THIS BOOK! Not later, but right now. An author friend who I dearly love shared this author's next book and I thought to myself well, if my friend supports her work, then I'll give it ago. I already had this on my Kindle, so I downloaded. One of the best book decisions of my life! I had no idea what to expect when I started this book, but once I got started, I could not(not that I really wanted to)put it down. I am now a loyal fan of Nicolette Hugo and can not wait to start the next book in this series!

Diary of a Book Addict says

During author fostering week, Diary of a Book Addict was given the lovely Nicolette Hugo and like and good foster mama, the first thing I did when I found out my foster author was one click her books.

The weekend before Fostering Week I read *The Arrangement* and **WOW!** it was brilliant.

I'm not usually into BDSM books as after FSOG it seemed like everyone and their wife was releasing a book of this genre with what appeared to be very little knowledge on the subject matter... They all seemed very 'samey' to me (I'm not knocking them all, I'm just saying the ones I did read, I felt this way about).

However this wasn't the case with this book, It was obvious to see that the author knew what she was talking about. I even had to Google a term used in the book as it wasn't something I had ever heard before... I got the gist of it but wanted to know exactly what it was.

The other thing that I liked about this book was that there was very little outside interference... there were secondary characters but they played a very small part, The book was able to keep my attention just through the main two characters (which is strange for me... I'm a lover of secondary characters)

When Vincent saves Nell's life one evening they start a relationship. Vincent is a dominant and Nell wants to know what it would be like to fully submit to him, She's curious about the lifestyle and wants to experience submission at the fullest extent. This leads to a 6 month 'agreement' between Vincent and Nell where Nell will be Vincent's submissive with the last month being a 'live in' position. The arrangement will end with Nell and Vincent attending a hardcore BDSM party.

During the 6 month period Nell finds herself falling for Vincent but when she gets scared and says some things that hurt Vincent will she be able to redeem herself and what will happen when the 6 months is up?

There are lots of different levels to BDSM, its not a one size fits all and I think Nicolette captured this perfectly in the book... There was a scene that was quite extreme and made me cringe a little. This was not between the main characters but was an important part of the book as it shows just how different peoples tastes are and gives the reader different insights into this world.

The one thing that stuck with me after reading this book is how powerful words can be... The 'punishments' Nell received from Vincent were nothing compared to the devastation Vincent felt at Nell's words... Remember that old saying;

'Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me'? yeah? well, that's bullshit! Words can have more power than any physical pain and this is shown beautifully in Vincent's reaction.

I really enjoyed this book and am looking forward to starting the second book Exhibition: Unchained Vice

Tabatha says

I really felt like this read more like a diary than a novel with how fragmented it was. I found myself constantly saying "show me don't tell me," and the story overall lacked any real emotion between the characters. We are told how she feels, but not shown what made her feel this way. How are we to believe that they fell in love over the course of these six months when we miss out on key relationship building moments? We barely even skim the surface of their relationship. It starts out with Nell about to sign her first contract with Vincent for six months, but then it skips all the way to month six in the first chapter. Unfortunately, that's a huge chunk of their relationship building we don't get to see. Now I'm not saying we need a daily play by play or anything, but it would have been nice to watch the slow build of their relationship instead of just being told that Nell is in love with him after five months.

""Give up control and trust you.' The devil makes it sound so reasonable."

Given that we don't see much in the way of their relationship actually building, it made the story seem very surface level when the characters are more complex than that. I thought they were both interesting, so I think

a dual point of view would have helped make this better. Maybe the lack of connection between the characters was intentional by the author given Vincent's edict that things stick strictly to the agreement, but we as the readers like to hear what isn't being said by both characters with internal dialogue.

"When there is no pleasure for me...when he gives pain just for him...that's when I steal my pleasure from him. I have my own darkness."

Now I'm not saying this book was bad. I was just frustrated a lot of the time, because I felt like I was missing key parts I felt were necessary. Like I said, I liked both characters and the bits we get of their intimate times together were incredibly hot. That breath play scene was...intense and I loved it. It made me want to see more complete scenes with them than the fragmented ones we got. Overall, I'd say that this story has real potential. I wanted it to be longer, but I really wanted it to be from both points of view so we understand more about their relationship. The characters were complex, and they have an intensity in the bedroom that I found intriguing. I'm definitely going to give Nicolette another try in the future.

"I like his simple commands, submitting to them is easy, free from the struggle between the desire for his domination and the guilt of wanting it."

I received a review copy from the publisher/author via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

Check out this and more of my reviews on my blog Blending Perspectives Book Reviews
