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New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Crusie brings humor and storytelling magic to this modern-day romance of a match made anywhere but in heaven--but destined for a fairy-tale ending.

Daisy Flattery is a free spirit with a soft spot for strays and a weakness for a good story. Why else would she agree to the outrageous charade offered by her buttoned-down workaholic neighbor, Linc Blaise? The history professor needs to have a fiancée in order to capture his dream job, and Daisy is game to play the role. But something funny happens on their way to the altar that changes everything. Now, with the midnight hour approaching, will Daisy lose her prince, or will opposites not only attract but live happily ever after?

The Cinderella Deal Details

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Author : Jennifer Crusie

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From Reader Review The Cinderella Deal for online ebook

Mayda says

Linc is in a spot of trouble, and he needs his neighbor Daisy's help. They have a prickly relationship at best, but when Linc needs someone to pretend to be his fiancée, and Daisy needs to earn some real money, her art work not bringing in enough to live on, she agrees to his request. The dean at the college where Linc hopes to teach is enchanted by Daisy, but soon things escalate out of hand. Now it seems Linc really needs a wife to have any chance at being a full professor. Well, it's not hard to guess from the beginning how things will end. Still, this story is a quick and entertaining tale and the characters are delightful. There is not much substance in this tale, just a bit of consciousness raising, but if you are in the mood for something light and fluffy, this is it.

Quirky Omega says

What a cute book! And so relatable.

I am once again absolutely flummoxed why Jennifer Crusie gets such average ratings. Such is the unfairness of life.

The Cinderella Deal is pretty close to the actual fairy tale and yet, it is not. Daisy isn't an ordinary, suffering soul. And Linc's not the perfect and good saviour. They are polar opposites yet when they are put together, they're the cosiest and most perfect union. At the risk of sounding cheesy, my heart is still fluttering.

Daisy is the quintessential artist who lives totally free of any kind of mandates of society. Be it her clothes, her furniture or her behaviour. She's quirky and disorganised but she's kind hearted and loving. Linc is applying for a job at the university in Prescott. He's always sharply dressed, lives a completely disciplined and organised life. Both are far from each other's type. But Linc's got himself into a situation at the university and he needs a wife pronto to secure the job he wishes to have. After a lot of hesitation, he and Daisy decide to put up the temporary show of being a couple. But the temporary turns into not so temporary and soon they both secretly wish that their fake marriage becomes real.

I am glad Daisy wasn't shown to be the annoying, frivolous type of heroine who acts chirpy and lost, and cute just for the sake of it. She has her own logic that is believable. Her stories, her feelings are so true that as a reader, one gets heavily invested in how her life turns out to be.

Even Linc, who is often disapproving of how different and odd Daisy is according to his own standards of life, is never someone you hate. I completely understood his exasperation. This is the beauty of Jennifer Crusie's writing. No one is the villain and no one is perfect. The perfect relationship arises when both the partners' compromise and respect each other.

And the writing itself! Très bien! The story is always moving at a uniform pace, never slowing down too

much. The characters themselves show gradual development that is easy to keep up with. And each character is memorable. I have the problem of forgetting names but the book has a limited number of people and each is cleverly sketched out.

You should totally read it.

Jane Stewart says

3 ½ stars. Fluffy, enjoyable, light romance. The characters were stereotypes but fun. It's a nice little escape.

STORY BRIEF:

Daisy is an artist; she paints pictures. She also tells stories at local libraries and book stores. She buys clothes and furniture at thrift shops. Her home is full of color. She adopts damaged dogs and cats. She's desperately in need of a thousand dollars for back rent and other necessities.

Linc is Daisy's neighbor. He drives a black Porsche which Daisy calls the nazimobile. His home is decorated in black and white. He is an English professor at the city college. He wants a teaching job at Prescott College which would give him time to finish writing a book. During the job interview Dr. Crawford (dean of humanities at Prescott College) makes it clear that Linc be married. Therefore, Linc tells Crawford he is engaged. Crawford insists on meeting Linc's fiancé. Linc hires Daisy to pose as his fiancé for 24 hours to meet Crawford. She agrees for \$1,000.

After Linc gets the job and starts working, he informs Crawford that he and Daisy broke up. This is unacceptable to Crawford who insists Linc get her back.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

I had one problem which is a pet peeve of mine. Soon into their relationship Linc was falling for Daisy and desired her sexually. But he refused to act on it or to show her that he cared. And Daisy did the same thing. She never let Linc know that she desired him. I saw no reason for them to "deny that they wanted each other" other than as a plot device. This went on for four months. If you don't mind that, it's a fun story.

I noticed another reviewer was unhappy with Daisy being self-absorbed. An example given was Daisy moving Linc's furniture out to make room for hers. But after Linc discussed this with Daisy, she worked hard to recover and repaint her own furniture to make it more appealing to Linc. He also ended up liking where she put his furniture – a good place for his home office. They communicated over their differences, so I wasn't as troubled over this part of Daisy.

DATA:

Story length: 278 pages. Swearing language: mild. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: 2. Total number of sex scene pages: 5. Setting: current day unspecified city and Prescott, Ohio. Copyright: 1996. Genre: contemporary romance.

OTHER BOOKS:

I reviewed the following Jennifer Crusie books.

5 stars: Bet Me, Anyone But You, Welcome To Temptation

4 stars: Charlie All Night

3 ½ stars: The Cinderella Deal

3 stars: Crazy For You, Getting Rid Of Bradley

2 stars: Faking It, Fast Women, What The Lady Wants

1 star: Tell Me Lies

Jessie says

Daisy, a woman who has a messy apartment, messy clothes, and a messy life, is seriously in need of money. Her landlord came one day and found the cat Daisy just adopted. And he also came to tell her that she didn't pay her last month's rent. Lincoln, who was next to them, couldn't help but overhear her predicament and came up with a proposition. Daisy was to pretend to be his fiancée, so that he could land a job at Prescott. In exchange for helping her pay her rent (\$300), and add in a thousand bucks and *bam!* Linc landed himself a job at Prescott, *and* a fiancée. They agreed that after Daisy helped him get the job, they would part ways and never see each other again. So, they got on with their lives.

Then, Chickie, wife of the man who *insists* that Daisy is a great wife, and mentioned (once or twice, maybe more than that, it might've slipped out) what a lucky man Lincoln is, asked if Lincoln wanted to have his wedding in she and her husband's backyard. Lincoln flew back to get Daisy back, only to find her ex-boyfriend wanting to get back with her. Daisy, having lost *total* interest in Derek, agrees and they're off to Prescott—again. Daisy bonded with Lincoln's students and everybody in the neighborhood (not exaggerating) loves her. Including Lincoln. Well, you can pretty much guess the rest. :)

A word of advice: Never, I repeat *never*, read this book before a test. I have a test tomorrow and when I was doing last-minute revision, I kept thinking of this book. Argh. So freaking frustrating! I revised finish, picked up this book immediately where I left off, and was rewarded! Thank goodness my studying paid off, and I got to read such a great, *awesome* book! This book would never disappoint you, I assure you. (maybe not 100%, cause we might have our likes and dislikes, but if you crave a good romantic book, this is the book for you!) Pick this up like, right now!

Emma says

Adored this book, really romantic. I don't know how to explain it, but the style was different... somewhat old fashioned...profound!

I loved it.

I also love stories that start as a love/hate relationship.

Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says

Easy read - just what I needed. The characters did not rush into a romantic relationship. It actually took a while for them both to overcome prejudices about each other. H is uptight with a lot of baggage and expectations. h has baggage as well - but keeps trying to overcome. Side characters are great and I like how the h brings perspective and color into the H's life. She is just what he needs against his better judgement. h makes quite a few concessions but she grows from it. H comes to appreciate and love her. His life is richer for it. 3.5 rounded happy ending stars.

Tammy says

The Cinderella Deal is a straight-forward romance, minus the secondary characters and complicated mystery plots in Crusie's later books. She manages to take the old fake marriage trope and add her own clever spin to it.

Daisy and Linc are both likable and very typical of Crusie's characters (him/straight-laced and her/bohemian). Even the pets developed their own personalities.

The banter between Daisy and Linc was entertaining and the sexual tension between the two had me glued to this book from the get-go. I really appreciated the fact that Daisy's character painted "weird", strong and independent women from history in an unusual manner. I was so fascinated by the details of Daisy's paintings that I put the book down long enough to research Lizzie Borden.

This book was adorable and loads of fun - exactly what I needed during a stay-at-home, sick day. =) While this book is a little dated (written in the early 90's), I can't imagine why the author is so embarrassed by her earlier novels. I truly enjoyed this one more than her newer books. A total riveting read!

NOTE: Crusie just announced that this book is being re-released next year, so don't be a dumb ass like me and pay \$20+ for it on some obscure website unless you really, REALLY have to read it right now!

Ami says

Just when I am ready to 'embrace' M/F contemporary romance again, I have to stumble into this BLAH story. At first I thought, "Hey, I used to like Jennifer Crusie's older stories, so this might work". Especially since this is supposed to be a revised version. Oh, how WRONG I was!!

How wrong? Let me count the ways.

Yes, I know the blurb says it will going to be one-of-those-fake-wife thing. I'm good with that ... if only I can find each of the character as likeable. But nope, not at all. I think Linc is a douchebag, an ass. He practically think that Daisy is 'plain' (*He needed a ... a wifely-looking woman. A Little House on the Prairie kind of woman*) but wants her appearance (at least her style) should look more academic wifey. The only reason he starts to notice Daisy is because he sees her in her slip and feel the impact of Daisy undressed. Oh, GOD!! No, not about Daisy's character, or her mind, but it's the state of her undressing. Sure, THAT will make me believe that he falls in love with her *hmp*

Daisy is no better. Okay, at first I think she's intriguing because she's not conventional. But then she thinks of Linc, and she likes him because he makes her feel safe and because "there's his body" (*Epecially stop thinking about how nice and solid he was with his arms around you and how gorgeous he looks with his shirt off*). WTF?!?

Then they got pretending to be married, which is a total bore ... it's so stupid and ridiculous. Let's see, Linc starts to like her because he thinks "*Daisy Blaise. My wife. My wife, the adult.*" Oh yes, there goes Daisy's

personality (which I realize is not even good to start with, considering she likes Lincoln for his body -- wait, maybe they do belong to one another) as she becomes (the boring) Daisy Blaise instead of Daisy Flattery.

I even feel mad for myself because I actually finish this. I know, I know, I try to at least see if there's some miracle in the end. Which there isn't. And there goes my time of reading this. Aaaaarcckkk!! Okay, I'm definitely getting cranky with M/F contemporary romance again. Maybe I should just dig some of urban fantasy/paranormals; with women that can fight demons or vampires.

PS: Why the cover for this new revision features a dog when the dog does not appear until about half the book is beyond me

Carrie says

ETA: (9/17/10) *I listened to this on audio narrated by Susan Boyce. The narrator has a nice, strong voice and does a fine job with the story. I usually listen to audiobooks while I occupy myself doing chores or walking. However, this time I simply listened to the last 2 hours of the book while sitting quietly with my eyes shut. It was a great way to experience the story, being immersed in it. Even knowing the ending, I felt the anxiety of both Linc and Daisy as they came to grips with their feelings while trying to understand what best to do about them. Linc turns out to be a great hero, and Daisy is equally wonderful.*

This book is different than the other lighthearted contemporaries I've read by Jennifer Crusie, although Bet Me had some serious moments. The Cinderella Deal is certainly humorous, even laugh-out-loud at times, but the humor is laced with poignancy. This story about two mismatched people trying to work things out could have been simply another zany tale of opposites attracting, clashing, and finally getting it right. But for Linc and Daisy, getting it right was at times a painful experience. Both struggle with who they think they are suppose to be, and who they think the other person is. I've read several fun books with the basic "pretend fiance/spouse" plot line, but I've never gotten so caught up in the characters or their feelings. This book may be a fairly short, easy read, but it certainly has depth.

Saly says

Loved the book, JC just has this very different style. The heroine is quite bohemian, she quit her teaching job to be an artist, lives in a mis-matched apartment with cats, wears weird loose clothes and is not the hero's type who likes blondes but she is his perfect fake fiancée and would help him get a teaching job at a college. Her transformation makes him want her but he knows she is a hurricane while he is all dull and boring, the heroine finds him stifling, he reminds her of her father who she can never impress, she does like his body though. Things happen and the hero suggests they get married for a year or so in return she gets financial stability to pursue her art. I loved how their marriage started out, both try to hide they have the hots for each other, the adjustment they had to go through and how Daisy transformed his life for the better without his knowing. They both had people around them who fit their "type" but what you think you want is not always what your heart wants. Daisy becomes a bit more adult yet she is still her open, friendly self and even manages to repair Linc's relationship with his mother. I loved the end when Daisy transformed herself into what Linc thought he wanted and he ended up hating it and hated thinking what he would have become, had she not come into his life.

Mela says

[April 1st, 2018: Cut-price on Amazon.]

I hope for something more (after Agnes and the Hitman, here is my review) but still, I have had a nice time.

It was funny.

And this was a romance with a little deeper view into human nature.

But to me, there was no space for a evolving love. I felt that first I had: "they don't like each other" and then: "they love each other but don't know it is mutual". And then they found out that it was mutual and we had happy ever after. You could tell, the story consist of three horizontal parallel lines, instead of one continuous (going up or/and going down).

One big plus for that it was about an ordinary people in they thirties. No millionaires, secret agents and so on.

And I am going to read yet another novel by Jennifer Crusie. Probably she will never be for me so good like Kristen Higgins, but still I think I will enjoy her romances.

Sara says

I loved, loved this book. There is the fairytale-y feeling, the romance is deep, there is humor, and two strays cats and a stray dog, what more can you ask?

The love-hate initial relationship is great and the development of the love story is even better. I would definitely recommend this book.

Susana says

1.5 stars

This is a story that i can't even complaint on how much it disappointed me...

I picked it up because i just wanted a nice, fast read to just "cleanse" my mind for the next "earth shattering" story that happened to come my way!

So yes, i just wanted something fluffy to read! Something that would just leave me with a stupid smile on my face, and that i would mostly forgot in the following week.... o_O

Instead i got a novel capable of rousing my inner feminist...not that she needs being roused much...but, *you know!*

Okay, this story, _how should i say this _ could have been written in the fifties, sixties.....top eighties!!!

That's how dated it feels!

But, no, apparently it was written in the end of the twentieth century, em 1996!!

I don't get it!! o_O Was this some sort of veiled attack on feminism?

The main characters are card board stereotypes, worst than most of the harlequin characters books that i read about two decades ago!!

Daisy our main character who is a free spirit, and who "as such", uses long dresses and a weird looking hat, is a painter...well she was a teacher who decided to quit her job to pursue her dream...

Years later, she is still trying to survive and things aren't looking good.

Now Daisy our free spirit through the course of the book will see how important it is to change her way of being...because she was just being childish...

She will have no problem getting married due to money difficulties..

Changing the way she dresses...

Basically *growing up*, until her way of thinking pretty much corresponds to her husband way of seeing things...

This is me reading this.........minus the noose ring...or the horns...or the fur...but the eye expression looks about right!!!

Then there was an ass, who could and SHOULD be arrested, due to sexual harassment, but which she endured up until the end.

Basically most of the woman that were presented here, were seen as weak flowers...and the ones that didn't, were just disagreeable b*****s!

The "good woman" in this book, is the little wife type who stays home, and who is kept by her husband. Of course she is the artsy type, and she has all the adjacent stereotypes that come with this role. But check this out:

She is so AMAZING, that she's even capable of predicting when she will get sick, so she takes care of all the bills, and of all the things that had to be done, in order for the poor little dark, brooding, sexy husband of hers won't have to overtire himself!!

Isn't she wonderful???

Then she has this amazing smile that makes all the men around her go insane..

As for the husband, he got a **really round, amazing body** to go with the deal...honestly, i lost track of the number of times that this word (round) appeared!

As for her, she got security with her marriage. Yay....

If none of the above gets on your nerves, then go ahead and read it! Its quite a fast read....

If however this troubles you..better skip this one!

Honestly, if this was a Cinderella Deal i would just continue keeping the wicked stepmother's company!!

Author Official Site

bookdepository.co.uk

Ezinwanyi says

3.75 stars

Jacob Proffitt says

Once I got past the premise, I found myself completely enjoying this book. I mean, I don't buy the whole pressure on Linc to be all Stepford and to go so far as to propose his deal with Daisy. It just didn't work for me.

Fortunately, I knew that was going to be weak going in. As fortunate, I found myself liking both Daisy and Linc and their mutual maturation through the course of the story—after subtracting about ten years from their stated ages . . . okay so the surrounding story wasn't very solid and I'm trying to justify liking it so dang much!

Was it the humor? The banter? That they eventually come to not only tolerate, but to actually appreciate their individual strengths and weaknesses? Probably all of that. Plus, it was a fast read with fun characters and a few laugh-out-loud moments.

It's an early Crusie, so it makes sense if some of the story doesn't hang together very well. Even so, her strength with wit and humor and simply charming characters stands out and I was completely along for the entire ride.

A note about Steamy: This was middle-road steam even if there was only one explicit scene and not a lot of extraneous kissing or fooling around. It was an *excellent* scene and went on for some pages...
