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Kim Lawrence

A Cinderella for the Desert King



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Saved by a vow...

Crowned as his queen!

To escape desert bandits, Abby Foster pledged herself to a mysterious stranger—sealing the deal with a searing kiss! Months later, she discovers she’s *still* married. And her “husband,” who is now heir to the throne, summons her to his side! But being swept into Zain’s world of glamour—and exquisite pleasure—is overwhelming for shy Abby. Can this innocent Cinderella ever become this powerful sheikh’s queen?

A Cinderella for the Desert King (Harlequin Presents) Details

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From Reader Review A Cinderella for the Desert King (Harlequin Presents) for online ebook

lily waheed says

a hot sexy sheikh and a funny and sweet model , so enjoyable, it just needed an epilogue with a baby .

Brenda says

I won't go into story details as my GR friend Carmen (Ivy-H) has already written a beautiful, detailed review, so please read her review for the details.

I have to say I absolutely loved the MCs -- hot, sexy alpha Zain and sweet, quirky and spunky Abby. They had awesome chemistry, however, I totally agree with Carmen the author concentrated a bit too much on monotonous and inconsequential stuff instead of giving us more scenes between this awesome pair.

There was too much detailing about surroundings, checking out rooms, checking out outfits, step-by-step description of dressing-up or donning make-up, etc, Instead of these, if she were to have added a few intimate and bonding scenes between the two in the four week leap she'd shown, soon after they made love for the first time, which was almost toward the end of the book, it would have been more enjoyable. Everything was so rushed from the moment they make love that before we even start savoring their intimacy we are at the end. Add to it, there was no epilogue. Also, there was very little dialogues and lots of internal monologues causing delayed action-reactions and replies that at times I had to go back to what was the character responding/reacting or mutter to myself "Oh, get on with it."

Having said that, I still liked the few moments Abby and Zain shared after he'd rescued her from the bandits before he left her at the British embassy for her to return to her home. Here again, the author could have made those few moments leave a lasting impression on both that they couldn't help think of each other during the separation, but that didn't happen. Ten months later Abby is trying to get an annulment to the marriage that the two were forced to undergo because of the bandits when she hears that Zain is in the hospital because of an accident and goes to see him and ends up agreeing to stay married to him so that he can avoid marrying his brother's widow, Kayla, a conniving gold-digger with whom Zain had been involved for few months before the marriage.

Abby was cute and funny. Liked her reaction to the bodyguards. And, I loved how she handled Kayla when she arranged to have Abby see her earring on Zain's bed hoping she'd suspect him of infidelity. I also liked how she refused to listen to him and leave as he demanded when she'd gone to him after hearing him scream in his sleep, which then led to them making love. I liked Zain's fear and protectiveness at that scene when he thought she would go over the railings. I also loved his entry on his stallion, riding in to rescue her from the bandits and also at the end where he chases after her to stop her from leaving him. The two of them is what made the book an enjoyable read.

Esther says

Adored this hero and heroine.

Hero was Alpha but also wonderful with the heroine. Heroine was strong, spunky and quirky . There interaction was perfection, as well as there dialogue. Great chemistry and sexual tension.

Good plot and story line. Nice pacing.

Really enjoyed this read and GR friends reviews were right on with this one.

Rebeccastump says

Good book

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

Review Posted at HarlequinJunkie.com

When Abby finds herself kidnapped by desert bandits, she's lucky that the mysterious Zain comes to her rescue. Unfortunately though, the only way to escape her captors is to marry him. Once she's free, they go their separate ways until Abby discovers she's still married to the powerful sheikh who is now heir to the throne. Summoned to be Zain's queen, she finds herself overwhelmed by the glitz and glamour of his world and she's not sure she wants to stay forever. Will Zain be able to prove to Abby that she's the woman he wants forever or will she walk away before he breaks her heart? [Read More](#)

Jenny says

Note to self: no babies epilogue :(

Tonya Warner says

Abby Foster vowed to never again let a man fool her. Working as a model to replace the funds her ex-boyfriend swindled from them, she finds herself in the desert, kidnapped and up for sale.

Zain finds the only way to save the beautiful redhead is to pay the bride's price for her. Having her as his wife is suppose to be a temporary thing, but he finds that his wife will come in handy as he struggles to bring the country he is now the king of in to the present.

Very nice.

lily waheed says

hot sexy sheikh and a funny model , so enjoyable , it just needed an epilogue with a baby .

Geraldine Sadiku says

Superb read.

Jebe says

This could have been a 4 or 5 star book. The MCs were so likable, the initial meeting was intriguing, the whole set up was perfect for a great romantic tale. Unfortunately, the story execution was way below par. Several reviewers have mentioned the same things that I had problems with: the lack of dialogue and interaction together; when there was dialogue, it was rife with paragraphs of inner monologues, especially repetitive lusting, during the conversation. So much so that when someone eventually spoke I had to scan back to see what they were even talking about; plus, the over wordy information dump at the beginning almost drove me away.

It's a shame, too, because this really did have the makings of an awesome 5 star read. Too bad the weird dialogue with inner thoughts was really confusing, there were a few times when someone finally spoke that I wasn't even sure who was speaking. ? If the MCs scenes and dialogue had been edited, there would've been more room for interaction between the two. As it was, by my count, they had only 6-7 real scenes together. I would've rather that the lustful thoughts were glossed over to make room for more scenes with the two interacting.

However, if you're willing to overlook those complaints then the two MCs really are nice and there is a bit of a story there to enjoy, YMMV.

Ivy H says

3.5 stars

This was better than I'd expected, but it could've been improved by an epilogue and certain parts of the first chapter could've been edited out. The author does tend to spend a little too much time on stuff that's a bit monotonous and the dialogue between the MC's could've been improved. However, I did enjoy this novel because both MC's were likable and the storyline itself was very interesting. The H Zain, is the second son (the spare) of the king of Aarifa. His older half brother Khalid has just married a gold digger called Kayla; this hagwhore had been the H's lover but when he'd failed to propose marriage to her, she'd sunk her claws into Khalid. Zain didn't have any special feelings for Kayla so he's relieved that she's out of his life and it's on the day of her wedding to his brother that he encounters the heroine Abby. The heroine is a 22 yr old

English model who has been kidnapped by desert bandits along the border of Aarifa. Zain rides up in time to save her; he's only able to do this by marrying her ! The marriage remains a secret to the public for the entire 10 months that the MC's spend apart, but one employee at the British embassy knows about it.

The heroine spends the entire next 10 months thinking about the time spent with the H and both MC's are celibate during this period. Then they're forced into each other's lives again when the H's older kills himself and almost killed the H. Khalid, the hero's brother, was in the final stages of terminal cancer and he was so full of hate and envy for Zain, that he didn't want the H to become the next heir after his death. Khalid deliberately drove himself off a cliff but the H was able to jump out of the car in time. Abby is brought to his side immediately when he's in hospital recovering from his injuries. Zain has a big problem because the customs of Aarifa dictate that he marry his dead brother's widow, in order to ensure the succession ! That specific custom made me want to puke but I shall take a gravol and move on with the review. Zain didn't want to marry the hagwhore Kayla so he told the advisors to summon the heroine to his side because she's his legal wife.

Abby agrees to help him out in exchange for his purchasing a holiday bungalow for his elderly grandparents. This part of the story lagged a little bit and I did wish that the author had vamped up the romance to a higher degree. I think (as mentioned previously) that this author spent a too much time on minor details and characters in the story and was left with less word space to allocate to the more important romantic storyline between the MC's. The MC's consummate their relationship towards the final quarter of the story but the hagwhore Kayla tries to create trouble because she still intends to be the next queen of Aarifa. Kayla makes her maid put her earring in Zain's bedchamber while the heroine is away for a few days visiting her grandparents. Fortunately, Abby doesn't fall for this obvious manoeuvre because she knows that Zain despises Kayla:

Abby's brows lifted as she dropped the earring onto the woman's palm. 'Find out what? That you are totally desperate and wouldn't know a moral scruple if it bit you?'

Kayla's triumphant smile faltered as her lips compressed in a petulant pout, but she recovered quickly and threw out a fresh taunt. 'You probably don't know, but I had a relationship with Zain before you were married.'

Kim Lawrence. A Cinderella for the Desert King (Kindle Locations 2128-2131). HarlequinUKLtd. Kindle Edition.

The hagwhore tries to spin more lies but Abby doesn't buy it:

'If you expect me to believe that you slept with my husband last night, forget it... Zain has too much...' her lips quivered and her eyes misted '...too much respect for me to act that way.'

She clung tight to this; she might not have his love but by his actions Zain had proved time and time again that it wasn't just words—he did respect her.

Kim Lawrence. A Cinderella for the Desert King (Kindle Locations 2134-2136). HarlequinUKLtd. Kindle Edition.

The heroine definitely put that bitch in her place:

The heroine does become pull a stupid stunt because she suddenly decides to become a martyr and save her husband from the bad publicity polls due to his marriage to a foreign model. She decides to run off and leave him but he rides up on his black stallion and stops the car in which she's travelling to the airport. It's all done in a dramatic, romantic fashion with the all conquering alpha H jumping off his stallion to retrieve his runaway wife:

‘Just like old times,’ he said, walking towards her with long, purposeful strides. She shook her head. He was standing almost toe to toe with her and looking at her in a way that made Abby’s head spin as she looked up into his dark, lean, beautiful face, her heart lurching wildly in hope.

‘What is this about, Zain...?’

‘This.’ He took her by the shoulders and dragged her into him, covering her mouth with his. The kiss went on and on.

Kim Lawrence. A Cinderella for the Desert King (Kindle Locations 2189-2193). HarlequinUKLtd. Kindle Edition.

That was a lovely scene ! And, the extra good news was that the most recent polls had shown that the Aarifan public were in favour of the H's marriage to Abby. I did wish that Kayla had been pensioned off to live somewhere else in the country. The fact that that viper was still going to be roaming around the palace trying to cause trouble did unsettle me a little. I also wished the author had included a romantic epilogue. This did blow me away but I think my rating is based largely on how much I liked **both** main characters. I do hope that the author, in the future, will focus a little more on the MC's romance and less on extraneous stuff like all the details in the first chapter; I could've done without reading all that stuff about the heroine's co workers while they were stranded in the desert. The story does end on a good note for the H because his father decides to abdicate and allow him to be the king, so of course the nasty bitch Kayla will be dying in the agonies of envy while Abby swans it around as the new queen !

This is the heroine, Abby:

This is the H, Zain:
