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Lovers in the Afternoon



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Re-read this classic romance by USA Today bestselling author Carole Mortimer

Accident prone Leonie's marriage to brooding Adam Faulkner was nothing like she dreamed it would be. So when her new boss is introduced as none other than her estranged husband, she's shocked! But then Mr Faulkner offers her an afternoon of passion...and the chance to rekindle forgotten desires is too tempting to resist...!

As lovers, Leonie and Adam are explosively compatible! Could their sinful afternoons together make their marriage explosive too?

Originally published in 1985

Lovers in the Afternoon Details

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From Reader Review Lovers in the Afternoon for online ebook

Leona says

loved this book!

Lemon says

An enjoyable, fun read. The first HP I have enjoyed in a while.

Azet says

"Lovers in the Afternoon" were such a charming pleasure that made me laugh and swoon many times. With its clumsy and adorable heroine and a arrogant and determined hero..with a crazy sex-maniac...this was one 5-STAR-like romantic movie.Loved it!

I was so surprised when i knew that Adam Faulkner (hero) and Leonie Smith (heroine) were actually married couple who seperated 8 months ago!

When they decide that being a married couple didn't suit them,they decide to become afternoon lovers!

Just love this plot!Love the way Adam fight for her and i love the heroines clumsyness..oh how i want to be friend with a woman like that!She made me laugh so many times!

Their romance were adorable and hot at the same time and the reasons their marriage didn't work out were understandable.How glad i was of their second-chance of love in this one!

Pravana says

[the hero's ONS with the heroine's sister, even though it was before the hero and heroine had even met. (hide spoiler)]

StMargarets says

A second chance story that proves not all HPs are cookie cutter. If you can dive in without spoilers, you'll find the clever first chapter invigorating with the punchline coming in the last sentence. This was a re-read for me and I got to anticipate my delight at that last line, rather then being surprised by it.

Not only is there a second chance story between an obviously smitten older H and the Lynne Graham-type heroine, there is a suspense plot line that begins about half way through the narrative. There is also a tom cat named Harvey who tom cats his way into a punchline in the epilogue and there's a gold fish named Moby

Dick, who really should hook up with César the goldfish from *The Spanish Groom*.

There is one spoiler you should know about before deciding to read. The h's sister was the H's personal assistant before the h/H ever met. The heroine has questions about the hero's involvement with her sister and that is one of (many) reasons for their breakup.

This is one my favorite CMs. It's quite a ride with a delightful heroine and a determined hero who has had to grow and change to win back the h.

Shari Kay says

WTH is this shite??

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

boogenhagen says

Re *Lovers in the Afternoon* - This is another one of CM's totally whacked plot books, but once again I adore it.

A. Because all the things that happen to the h are hilarious, she has a strange effect on electrical objects - elevators (lifts) mysteriously breakdown when she rides in them, potted plants attack her, she rarely goes out to nice restaurants because other diners are in danger of getting their faces shoved into their plates when she trips onto them, (maître d's everywhere tremble when she books a dinner reservation,) but for all the accidents that happen to her, she is remarkably good humored and self depreciating, she is a really nice person.

B. While the actual romance itself is pretty good, this book boasts the character of Harvey, the h's cat, who is the third greatest Cat Character in HPLandia - right after Marmalade from *Lace & Satin* with his superior OW tyrannizing skillz, and Oliver the Cat From Hell Who Only Eats Tastee Delights (and don't get it wrong or H's will be sorry) from *Not For Sale*.

Harvey is a true alley cat for all his upscale living accommodations, and since this is HPLandia and all kittens have good homes, (even those from a Kitty Lothario- Harvey is a sorta feline HP H.) We can only cheer at the heartwarming ending to Harvey's story as the proud dad of three kittens when he gets the H's father's pure bred Siamese preggers and the snooty father gives the butler a cigar.

So with a riotously funny h, a great cat and an H who sneakily plots to get his estranged wife back, LitA is a different but really great addition to HPlandia.

The story starts when the 23 year old h wakes up in bed with a man she met several hours before. She is a bit embarrassed and plots to sneak out. The sex was the best she has ever had, and she isn't a prude, but it was WHO she had it with that is disturbing her equilibrium.

The h's meeting with the man in the bed is described in flash back in all of it's accident laden glory. The h is

an interior designer and is hired by the 39 yr old president of an electronic company that she had decorated offices for. The H is a very handsome and rich industrialist and he recently bought the electronic company and liked her work.

She has all sorts of accidents on the way to the new job and when she gets there, she gets stuck in the lift for an hour and a half before she is rescued. The H takes her out to dinner, (with some protest from her,) where more little accidents occur. They wind up going back to his place and fall into bed.

When the h wakes up and recounts the evening's activities and then tries to sneak out, CM drops the bombshell, the man in the bed is the h's estranged husband. He has decided that he was a lousy husband and he wants to take the h's advice that she gave him when she walked out on him. They should have been lovers and not married.

The h is very dubious about his lover proposition. The marriage did not work for several reasons. One the sex was really bad, the h had an imperforate hymen and the H had to order her to the doctor to have surgery after the honeymoon was a disaster. This embarrassment for the h, coupled with the H's demands and extensive prior physical experience, made the h extremely resentful of his manipulation - even tho she really loved him.

The h and H had almost no communication about anything either. They married after knowing each other for about a week, she was 21 and not prepared for the lifestyle he lived or the work schedule he kept. They also lived with the H's father in a huge house with a separate apartment for the two of them.

She tried to cook and go housewifely things, but he and his dad made her so nervous, a lot of her attempts ended up in disaster. The H demanded that they eat with his father, as his dad had a cook and staff, and the father was so contemptuous and dismissive of the h, that every night was a misery around him.

The final straw of the break-up occurs when the h finds out that the H slept with her sister, the h thinks the H is in love with the sister and married the h as a second best substitute. She figures the sister loves him back but can't leave her current husband because they just had a child together, so the h walks out and starts her career and her life over with Harvey and a goldfish named Moby Dick (so Harvey wouldn't eat him.)

Eight months later the H arranges to buy the company where the h had done work at, He figured it was the only way he could get her to see him again, as he knew she wouldn't go anywhere he invited her to and he did not want to meet her at the sister's house. He also moved into an apartment of his own and he is very reassuring that he doesn't love the sister and the sister isn't going to leave her husband for him.

The H begins a very inspired courtship of the h. He starts by recreating their honeymoon with a luxury bridal suite and a hot tub. He says he would have taken her back to the Caribbean, but he couldn't figure out how to get her out of the country. He takes her roller skating. He also abashedly explains that he set a detective on her, he wanted to hurry the divorce along and thought that if he had evidence of adultery, he wouldn't have to wait three years to start pursuing her again.

The h is rather peeved about that and sharply questions him about his own faithfulness, but he denies any involvement with OW. He explains that since she did not seem to be seeing anyone seriously, he just decided to move the h pursuit timetable up and hope for the best. He gives her a really nice eternity ring and when he takes the h to dinner at his father's house, he realizes how horrible the father was to the h. He apologizes for not realizing just how rotten the father was and does an excellent job of telling his father off.

He works really, really hard to make the h feel like part of a couple who talks and shares. The h is thrilled that the H is not doing his dictator and servant behavior and she is falling in love all over again. The only dark spot she has is that she keeps getting these very abusive and frightening sexually deviant phone calls every Friday night. The H answers one and has a conniption fit. He decides to get an investigator involved to figure out who keeps calling, even after she changed her number several times.

The h also finds out from her sister that the sex with the H really was a one-night stand. The sister's hubby had been having an affair, so to build her confidence back up, the sister slept with the H when he was her boss. (I have to say, I had some dubious thoughts about this explanation - the sister took back a cheating husband over the H? Really - that is so not an HPlania thing to do.) The husband was successfully corralled back into the marriage and then they started a baby on their make-up trip, so that is the sister sorted.

The h and H are getting along famously and enjoying the little loverly romps in various places, when the h gets another obscene phone call. This time it is in the middle of a weekend afternoon and the H is at a meeting. The h is scared and lets one of her co-workers in when he comes knocking on her door right after the call ended. Turns out it is the co-worker who has been calling. His wife is cheating on him and he is very mentally unbalanced and he threatens the h with rape.

Harvey is in his traveling basket, as the h was escaping to the H's apartment, so when the evil coworker gets upset at Harvey's complaints, the h lets Harvey escape to his wanderings out the window. She throws the cat carrier at the evil coworker and goes out the window herself. She winds up standing on a narrow ledge for several hours because she is afraid evil scary guy is waiting inside for her. There are some tense moments when Harvey gets mad 'cause she is blocking his personal cat highway to get inside, and he almost knocks them off the ledge.

Finally the H shows up, they caught the evil scary guy and the H bullies her off the ledge. The h is a bit understandably hysterical, and after some rather funny verbal exchanges where the h lays down the law about how things are going to be from now on, the h declares the H will be her husband again, with no more of this lover nonsense.

The H explains that he really had planned to ask her to be his wife again, after he thought enough time had passed and they worked their problems out, he just wanted her badly and wanted to make up for all the heartache she had from the first time they were together. He also tells her her loves her - he never said it the whole time they were married.

It is HEA's all around and for a final epilogue we find the h is preggers, but she is only having one - it was conceived in a hotel room. Harvey gets his aforementioned HEA and it is love and kitteh's ruling once again in HPlania.

Hemavathy DM Suppiah says

I liked this book until I found out that Leonie had left Adam because he slept with her sister. And apparently he did so to make her feel more "like a woman" when her husband was having affair. And both Adam, and Leonie's sister thought it was perfectly normal. And by the end of the book, bizarrely, Leonie thought so too. This just seemed such a lazy way to explain away their estrangement.

Booked says

I thought I missed out on something great but it felt weird. I know CM likes to dabble in the unusual circumstance that usually gives her books a certain flair. I just didn't like it this time. They are like this boring old married couple who wanted to bring kinky back so they pretend to be strangers just so they can feel what's it like to have affairs. Some couples do play pretend, but not to the extent of defining the whole relationship. Can you say dysfunctional? I know it's a 80's thing. I usually don't make it such an issue, but in this book it was for me.

Roub says

I loved the actual theme/background of the book but it was wrongly done. I was not convinced by the author's explanations of why the marriage broke down. leonie did not have any problem responding to adam now while last year she had been disgusted by his touch. what brought this trauma in her!?

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

I liked and disliked this book in equal measure as it had some very cute and truly hilarious moments but then also got very icksy because of a trope I strongly dislike. I wish the author had kept the klutzy h with her funny antics in a separate book and not mixed it with this ugly adultery-sister's-sloppy-seconds story. I so hate it when sisters share a man. But that's not all that's wrong with this book.

Their past and their doomed marriage are explained away in the most vague terms where you are left trying to decipher the truth about whether he had sex with the sister only before or also during the marriage, or even what she really saw and overheard before she ran as her own version of things completely change at the end. I feel the author was lazy with the basic plot line and so robbed us of a possibly better read.

Also while I like a determined H/husband going all out to get his estranged wife back, there were times in this book when he irritated me with his amused insensitivity and pig headed railroading of her to his way of thinking. And his repeating ad nauseum that they should never have gotten married in the first place but just had an affair was just that – nauseating.

'It was the way I always wanted it to be between us, before a marriage licence and a wedding ring fouled things up.'

So in the present he goes after her all cylinders firing to convince her to have an affair with him. And suspending all disbelief, one moment they are bitterly discussing his sleeping with her sister and next moment she is letting him undress her and getting in a Jacuzzi with him. I can't imagine such talk to be a mood setter!

Then there were unnecessary complications like her sexuality issues and even a stalker that just crowded the story. And 8 months doesn't seem like enough time for her to have settled into a career and have acquired such self-confidence.

I never like it when an author tackles (or doesn't tackle) angsty issues by bringing in 'humor' and preventing any meaningful conversations from happening as happens here.

And to top it all, at the end in true HP tradition, the h lays all the guilt and blame firmly at her own feet and

hurls a halo at his head (for gallantly 'loaning' his body to her sister when she needed some consoling!).

IamGamz says

Loved this book. A different twist on a romance. An estranged married couple become lovers because they are better as lovers than being married to each other. Loved the H - he won me over almost immediately. I will read this one again.

shms says

3.5'ish. Light hearted enjoyable read.

Marajean says

I love this book!

Leonie is a klutz who perpetually lives in that day we all have where we should just roll over and go back to bed because nothing good will happen.

Anything that can go wrong will go wrong for her.

She is requested at work to do the design of a new office building from the company that just took over, since they really liked some previous work she did.

A lot of bad stuff happens, including the perfectly good lift breaking down only when Leonie is in it. She makes a very bad impression on the boss, but he wants to take her out to dinner supposedly to talk business. So imagine her surprise when she wakes up in his bed!

Leonie had a bad marriage to an older man. He hated her clumsiness and the fact that bad karma follows her around. She also had to live with his father who made her feel completely worthless and found out her husband had slept with her married sister, so she wasn't in to one night stands at all, especially not with her almost ex-husband.

Leonie's husband Adam wants to get a divorce from her, but he doesn't want to leave her. Instead he wants to be her lover. They can't make it as a married couple, but he's determined they will make it as lovers.

So, what I love about this book. Adam doesn't want to lose Leonie so he's basically determined to get her any way he can. He's not a jerk. I know that's shocking, but he's really not. As he says, as a lover he finds all her little foibles delightful, and her husband is obviously an idiot.

They manage to work most of the stuff out because it wasn't just ONE thing that broke up their marriage, it was a LOT of things, and unlike other books, those other things aren't just glossed over. This book goes over

everything that broke them apart and fixes it.

This is also (view spoiler)

Tia says

This novel was all to light and silly for me. It wasn't very serious which kind of turned me off of the whole thing. However I did get some epic laughs from the content of the novel.
