



## Mansion for My Love

*Robyn Donald*

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*"He's not a good man to fall in love with!"*

Faine had not ignored the warning, but even without his wealth, charm and good looks, Burke Harding had a magnetism,

His determined pursuit and assault on her heart soon overcame her wavering resistance. She agreed to marry him, but some deep instinct of self-preservation kept her from revealing her love--and in time her decision was vindicated.

"I carefully avoided telling you that I love you," he told her when Faine discovered she was a stand-in for the woman he really loved--but could not have.

## Mansion for My Love Details

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# From Reader Review Mansion for My Love for online ebook

## Booklover says

Robyn Donald is one author who writes mean heroes, most of her books have mean rude selfish first class MCP and Burke is no exception he falls in all these category infact he is has no moral/ethics he is a slimy pathetic diplorable dirtbag(feeling much better my pentup anger is out Phew!!!!)

okay so here is my review

Faine fell in love with Burke. so when Burke proposes she says yes n they get married. Burke has his own motive to get married to Faine, Faine was warned that Burke is not a man to fall in love with but she went ahead n the truth comes out on wedding day itself he was using her and the marriage to cover up the fact that he was in love with his brother's wife! Libby but for grandma's sake n cover up he marries Faine

I guess my problem with the story is that Libby and Burke believed they were in love with each other. Burke married Faine though. Libby was married to Burke's brother, Gavin. Both Libby and Burke thought Gavin didn't know about each other's feelings? Um . . . even grandma could sense something there. I think grandma was happy when Burke married Faine she seemed to really like her and Faine liked Elled, grandma. So of course Burke uses that as a means to keep Faine at his side. He wants to continue to have this marriage and he will hold up his vows. Soon Gavin dies and all bets are off?! Faine tells Burke to go and of course he does so. He thinks to try his luck at Libby. My problem is what about what grandma thinks now? They were all concerned before but now they don't care because it meshes with what Burke and Libby want? Burke goes to Libby they try to have Sex i guess they went till kisses n foreplay but they don't do the deed was Burke- Libby realise they are not in love it was never love and Burke comes back to Faine n tells her these details n I Love U and all is forgiven

Burke was terrible to Faine, I found it so painful to read I wanted her to tell Burke to "GET LOST!"

Faine should have tried her luck with the other guy that she had been dating before and then I would have felt better about the ending. Yet she doesn't and Burke shows up. All is forgiven in a few short pages. Where is the groveling???? I liked Faine and I liked some of the other aspects of this story but I'm not sure about the ending.

I cannot recommend this book

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## Vintage says

Oh dear. Just re-read the reviews, and I fear for my sanity.

## Review

Well, this is what justifiable homicide was made for.

Libby, dear sweet Libby the H's sister-in-law, is so wonderful that the H Burke, dear sweet fucking, disloyal

Burke, calls her “gallant and loyal” to the the heroine. Spare me from creatures that bat their eyelashes and cling to the H’s strength and never cross the line of adultery, but the whole wide world knows about their *sacrifice*. Gavin, her paraplegic husband, was bitter? He was a paraplegic with a wife making goo goo eyes at his brother who reciprocated because poor Libby...blah blah blah.

4 stars for writing and a real story. A negative million stars for romance as the H murders the concept of love again and again. It’s not enough to fall for his brother’s wife, but everybody knows about it from the worrying grandmother, the suspicious husband/brother, the maid. Everybody except for the heroine who will be the beard for his unrequited love. The scene where she finds out is very well played out which makes it all the more sickening. Compounding that is the H’s insistence that in some way the heroine owes him a happy marriage to complete his life. Not a nice guy.

Fortunately or unfortunately depending how you look at it, Robyn Donald’s writing is excellent. Pity the contemporary HP writers condemned to vacuous and ridiculous titles with “Virgin”, “Tycoon”, “Mistress” etc tossed around with slick, superficial plotting and dialogue. RD has Shakespeare in the title and the book.

The H finally confesses his love to the heroine, and I don’t really care if he means it or not. Yes, he’s good looking, witty, wealthy and charismatic, but he has to be. He is a rotten character and a rotten person, and the heroine chose poorly.

Three stars is all I can give it, but it is so well-written and fleshed out which makes it all the more a horror show.

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### **Fre06 Begum says**

What a doormat Faine was she actually made me more angry then Burke and trust me I really did dislike that guy!

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### **Lu Bielefeld \*read.laugh.love\* says**

#asshole

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### **Alexis-Morgan Roark says**

I can't decide if I like this or not. There was angst. There was definite emotional cheating AND physical cheating in the form of kissing-she sees them and hears them on her wedding day no less! Then after the heroine leaves his butt-good for her!-they unsuccessfully try to consummate the relationship but he can't do it 'cause he finally realizes he loves her.

But he tried to, you know? Jerk! Tormented but still a jerk!

But I am torn by how we got there. The behavior of the characters was pretty revealing...too revealing, maybe? I don't know. I'll have to read it again.

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## Margo says

This is one of the absolute worst H's I have ever read. The more we learned about him, the more monstrous he became. Everything he said was a poison dart -- sometimes intentional, sometimes not.

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## Naksed says

Almost exactly like Diane Palmer's horrible Fit for a King except, incredibly, DP's hero was better. At least, he was honest from Day One to the heroine that he was in unrequited love with his sister-in-law and theirs would be a marriage of convenience only.

Here, the pathetic excuse for a human being "hero" unscrupulously and despicably manipulated a weak, orphaned, destitute, and naive heroine into marriage and she found out ON HER WEDDING DAY that he was in love with his sister-in-law when she caught them in a passionate embrace.

If you think he felt bad even for a nanosecond, then you, my friend, have failed the HPlandia reader's license test and must go back to review the HPlandia Manual, especially Chapter 8 entitled "*Arrogant Stinky Schmucks (A.S.S.) and the spineless leaky jellyblobs who love them.*"

After this idiot doormat finally leaves him, he goes to bed with the sis-in-law and when the experience amounts to disappointment, he goes back to his jelly-spined wife with an absolute cock-and-bull story that he couldn't perform at the last minute because as he was staring at the naked, ready body of his brother's wife that he had lusted for, fetishized, and obsessed over for years, that's when he had his Eureka moment that it was really his wife he wanted after all.

Excuse me while I go throw up for the next 48 hours.

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## Aayesha Khatri says

Aand I'm done. I cannot respect a heroine who uses other men to make the hero jealous, kissing them ardently in front of the hero. I didn't give it a chance, I know, but what's the point if I can't bear the heroine.

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## StMargarets says

How to rate this angst-fest? I'll show you:

5 stars for the beautiful writing - the descriptions of the house/bedsit/beach/city in New Zealand are exquisite and set the angsty tone.

5 stars for the angst - heroine is hurting when she discovers her groom kissing his sister-in-law on their wedding day

5 stars for the rage-inducing behavior of the hero post cheating kiss. "Make me love you and not her." LOL - make me not murder you and bury the body under that mansion you bought me.

5 stars for showing the frailties of human nature - hero is afraid of intimacy, so he wraps his "love" for his pitiful sister-in-law around him so he won't feel what he really feels for the heroine and thus be vulnerable

5 stars for a heroine who holds on to her virginity and her dignity their entire courtship and many months of their marriage.

1 star for the heroine taking him back so quickly with only one "I'm sorry."

1 star for the heroine not going to a lawyer the day after their wedding

1 star for the sister in law not apologizing to the heroine for seeking out her groom and kissing him right after the wedding ceremony and then agreeing to have an affair with him while he was still married to the h. RD arranged that scene and sis-in-law should have groveled to the heroine. I HATED her. She should have divorced the hero's slimy brother and moved on.

1 star for the hero pursuing the heroine in very long drawn out courtship and then making it her fault she was upset to find out he was in love with another woman

1 star for the hero being such a wimp about his own feelings (Yes, it contradicts the five stars for human frailty. I admire RD for bring it up, but I don't have to like the hero)

So, I found this to be a mixed bag of highs and lows. It starts out very slowly with a courtship that doesn't feel quite right. RD does a great job showing just how reluctant our heroine is and just how entitled our hero is. It lulls the reader into a hope that the marriage will work out and the heroine will be happy - and then - wham. Let's pour on the angst and conflict.

\*happy sigh\* I will never have these character's problems.

Boogenhagen has all the spoilers in her excellent review!

Triggers: dubious consent/rape, discussions of rape from the stone age

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## **boogenhagen says**

Re Mansion for My Love - Robyn Donald's eighth HP is that nightmare trope that is all too common in early HPlandia - the H marries the h despite being in love with another woman.

In most HPlandia cases, the H is really NOT in love with the other woman, it is just a stick used to drive the plot. However, RD's usual nematode H is not afraid to go there, and yes, he REALLY does love the other woman. But in true to life callous idiot male style, he figures an h in the hand is better than upsetting his grandma and snaffling his semi-paralyzed, angry younger brother's wife - which happens to be the lady the H

is in love with.

Interestingly, this book can be directly contrasted to its exact opposite, *Smoke in the Wind* which is RD's twentieth HP outing. In that book the H is with the h and dumps her to marry her cousin, whom he believes is his real true love.

In both instances, the h is told she is sloppy seconds and in both instances, the h gathers herself and her shattered heart up and carries on with dignity, class and a certain aloofness that ultimately will bring the H to his knees in remorse for his stupidity. (Well maybe not in *Smoke*, but I hate the H in that book and I am totally biased.)

While I have written and ranted copious amounts about *Smoke in the Wind*, my most hated HP ever, I really, really like this one and it is all because of the h, while I tolerate the H. Faine is the ultimate in cool, ladylike class and she is by far and away the best HPlandia h in all of the 1980's HP's written. (Venetia comes a close second in *Smoke*, but she marries the H when she shouldn't have and that was fatal in my eyes.)

The story starts with Faine, an orphaned diplomat's daughter, meeting the H as he comes into her library to borrow a book. We soon learn that the H is a hot shot self-made multi-millionaire and frequently seen in the company of all kinds of lovely ladies.

The h admits he packs a punch, but she has no illusions about her willingness to be served as an hors d'oeuvre on the lurvely lady buffet and while she is no slouch in the beauty stakes, she isn't a glamorous model type either. Her parent's died in the midst of their diplomatic duties and the h's fiancée soon dumped her afterwards, so the h is a bit standoffish in her dealings with the world, especially men, but she is also a genuinely nice person while not being a doormat.

So it is with a great deal of surprise that the h accepts a date with the H when he asks her out. The h had been out for a walk in the Auckland Domain and was feeding the ducks, when she happened upon a semi-charming young man in a wheelchair. It turns out the very bitter young man is the younger brother of the H and also has a model-type lovely wife, who seems to be in despair over the young man's anger at life.

The H is soon escorting the h about regularly, even putting another man who might be a better fit for the h into a very distant second place. The h knows she is wildly attracted physically to the H, but there is something going on underneath the very nice courtship that she just can't figure out. She keeps dreaming of masks and illusions, but the h isn't about to let vague fears rule her life.

When the H takes her to a lovely hidden house on the edge of the Domain, complete with statue of Persephone confronted by Hades, the H offers to buy the house if she will accept his proposal of marriage. After scuppering her date with the other man, introducing her to his very correct and old fashioned grandmother and thoroughly vetting the h's suitability for his life while roofie kissing the wits out of her, the h is sure the H doesn't love her.

But she is also fairly certain that the H will be a good husband, a good companion and the h is pretty sure that they the two of them have enough to build on to actually grow into a real and deep love. So being a true HPlandia h and a fearless RD one as well, the h takes the chance that the longings of her heart can be brought to bloom and agrees to marry the H. Then the real disaster strikes.

Hours after the wedding ceremony, the h sees the H and his brother's wife embracing in the garden and avowing true love forever. Finally the h's dreams and hidden reservations are understood, the h is to be used

as a stand-in for the H's unacceptable love for his crippled, bitter brother's wife.

(Thus we get to understand the title of the book, which is taken from Act III Scene II of Romeo and Juliet where Juliet says

Oh, I have bought the mansion of a love, but not possessed it, and though I am sold, not yet enjoyed.

Meaning that Faine was hoping for a real marriage based on mutual love and now, because of the H's feelings for his brother's wife, she may never actually experience her dream.)

The h's first reaction is to walk out, no one likes being made to realize that they are sloppy seconds. But the H's arguments that he will be faithful, his grandmother would be hurt and his challenge to the h to make her replace the OW in his affections prove to be greater than her shock and the two of them embark on a non-consummated marriage, tho the h very sensibly makes sure that any inadvertent lurve clubbings can't produce any progeny.

(A lot of reader's may find Faine's choice to stay to be hard to understand. But Faine is not a doormat, she truly believes that the H, Burke, means what he says when he says he will be faithful, and for what it is worth, I believed him too - he had too much character to sleep with his brother's wife while his brother is still around. Faine herself has much more character than Burke. She knows she took a risk and she feels she has only herself to blame for accepting a proposal she knew wasn't right. Still, she gave her word and made a commitment in good faith and she has to see it through and at least try to salvage this horrible mess.

Tho as we shall soon see, Faine has her own limits and is quite capable of sorting out a situation that she doesn't agree with. It is what makes Faine such a great h, she will tolerate a lot in the name of love, but when it gets right down to it, she doesn't take any garbage and she firmly puts Burke in his place when he tries it.)

After a dinner party where the H's brother is right snot to everyone, his wife is charmingly woebegone in her marital distress and the H looks like a bulldozer ran over him, the h allows her sense of compassion to overrule her brain and she sleeps with the H. Unicorns are no longer being groomed, but the whole thing went so well that the h believes their marriage has a real chance.

Until the next day, when the H's little brother manages to kill himself in his sports car when he swerves to avoid hitting a child. The little brother's death flings the whole situation into chaos. The H and his brother's wife are now free to find their love and the h, after a forced lurve club moment after the funeral with the H, dumps the H's hiney and takes herself to the far North and another library job.

Eventually the H tracks the h down and wants to resume their marriage. The h is none too sure about that, the H was a big sewer slurper for the most part and probably doesn't deserve a second chance. But the H reveals that tho he tried, he and the OW couldn't make the lurve club rise and the OW accused him of being in love with the h.

The OW is going back to England, cause the H realized that his feelings for her were more of the wounded cuddly kitten needing help variety than the deeper currents of real and abiding love. So the H does a pretty decent grovel for an HP H of the time as he begs a pretty shocked h to take him back.

The h is no fool despite being only 23, she recognizes real devotion and love when she sees it, so she happily agrees to resume the marriage for a highly believable HEA. RD gives us one of the very few epilogues of the 80's era, where we meet the OW and her new husband two years later as they come to New Zealand to visit



the H's grandmother.

The OW makes it very clear that any feelings the H and she had for each other were due more to the intense misery of the moment and bitterness of the H's younger brother over his circumstances and sheer propinquity. There is nothing left between them but the distant memory of affection in a difficult time. The H again does a very good speech about how the now preppers h is his whole world, in this one and the next. So the younger brother's memory is finally put to rest, everyone is coupled up and happy with their real true loves and we can close the book on a very well-wrought RD HEA.

There are a lot of bad marks for this book, and if you cannot handle the h being second best in the beginning, it is probably not for you. However, the H's redemption is exceedingly well done and the h, Faine, is one of the very best in HPlandia ever.

RD makes a continual habit of having really great h's paired with utter coprophagic slime pustule H's, Smoke in the Wind is a great example of how badly that can fail with an utterly unredeemed H. But she makes it work here with her redemption of Burke and the contrasts in the two books make them well worth the time spent reading them.

This book is also one of the best Vintage HP Trainwrecks ever, and love it or hate it, to be a devotee of Vintage HPlandia at all means you must read it. So for better or worse, give this book a look in and have yourself a total trainwrecky angsty outing in HPlandia.

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## Janie says

Mansion for my love:

Rating: 4.5 stars.

Read date: August 27, 2015

This is such an overdue review.

I absolutely loved this book! It made my chest ache and made me cry real and genuine tears.

I absolutely loved it that it mentions the Greek gods and that the heroine was a history buff. I love it!!! I love the heroine even more for this, "*She had wanted to be virgin on her wedding day, to wear her mother's white wedding dress without feeling a fraud.*"

We need more females like this heroine these days. What's the point of wearing a white dress on your wedding day if you're a tainted cesspool. If the girls these days wore a wedding dress that represented their sexual escapades it most certainly wouldn't be white. LMAO. The heroine is a virgin, but she does however have experience in dating and have kissed several men and has fallen in love before. I found this to be very realistic, you can't expect the heroine to be both unkissed and untouched, especially at her age. I found her to be very relatable.

I do wish that there were more hurtful moments, I just wanted to read a heart wrenching book. Yes it made me tear up, but it didn't really move me.

The emotions that this book brought up however was one of discontentment with living in this generation/era. If only I could have a time machine. T\_T \*sigh\*

So here's my usual rant.

I have a couple of issues with this book. Firstly, they went to a club? .. Well, let's hope it wasn't a rave, house music trash sort of club. Although I'm sure lots of youngins who read this book probably imagined that they did go to those trashy clubs. \*gag\* I hate clubbing culture that my generation seem to love and I especially hate promiscuity and drunkenness. *"Then he took her to a nightclub and they danced until two in the morning."*

The heroine at the very end also annoyed me. She took the hero back no questions asked. She even stopped him when he had tried to explain that he couldn't be intimate with his sister in law, because I guess he couldn't get it up. Oh and yes, that annoyed me too. The hero was stupid enough to not chase after the heroine straight away and instead decided to try and pursue a relationship with his sister in law, who he thought he was in love with. Stupid, stupid.

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## **Julz says**

Did not like this story at all. The first half of the book was full of long descriptions of places and inner musings speckled with her inner voice telling her that there was something seriously wrong with this guy. I was either bored or thinking why is she so stupid to keep going out with the guy if she thinks he's shady. I spent the second half of the book totally insulted and disgusted.

When the story starts, the hero lives with his grandmother, his brother and sister in law. The hero's brother was crippled and was always nasty to the sister in law. The sister in law always carried this look of anguish and guilt and put up with the abuse she received from the brother.

About halfway through, the heroine caught the hero kissing his sister in law in the back yard on the H & h's wedding day. So we find out that he was in love with the sister in law and married the heroine because it would take temptation away for having an affair with his brother's wife. His response when the heroine caught him was to be a cold jerk about it and tell her she should've known he didn't love her anyway cause he was careful to never tell her. Since their reasons for getting married was the same (companionship and security), she shouldn't think anything of it and go about their lives. WTF!?!?! They then lived with him arrogantly waiting for her to throw herself at him and her not leaving him because, gasp!, she loved him so much. Made me sick. He ends up not waiting though and rapes her, even though she of course submits once he gets busy. Grrr!

The brother ends up getting killed in an accident, leaving the sister in law fancy free and hanging all over the hero in a crumbled heap. After the funeral, the heroine finally got a backbone and left, but only because now the hero could be happy with the sister in law and she wouldn't stay knowing she was second best. She only now feels this way!?!? Give me a break.

I hated this hero. I hated his physical description, his personality, his selfishness, and everything he stood for. I wouldn't have hated the heroine except she was just pathetic with the crap she put up with.

The hero did come to grovel at the end after realizing he didn't love the sister in law after all, but only had to

do so for about ten minutes before the heroine tossed herself in his arms. Yuck.

There was an epilogue where the sister in law comes for a visit with her new husband to bury old hatchets and to show how everyone was so much the happier for how things turned out. But it did nothing for me and I still hated everyone in the book (except the sister in law, actually.)

I usually secretly (ok, not so secretly) love these cheater books, and even look forward to getting all ticked off at the awful things the heroine has to deal with. But this one is just over the top with the a-hole behavior from the hero and the pathetic, lily livered heroine. You can read it but don't expect to enjoy it.

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### **LuvGirl says**

This was a surprisingly boring book. I was not expecting that from such a seemingly interesting plot line. The hero being in love with the OW was not dealt with sufficiently. It was rather blasé for being the main conflict in the story. Something vital was missing and it might have been the lack of depth in the story and the chemistry between the leads. I'm not sure, I can't put my finger on it, only to say I was bored out of my mind reading this book. Even the ending when they got back together and the hero explained why he didn't love the OW anymore and now loved the heroine to distraction was laughable. He just came off as being fickle where his love was concerned, and if I was the heroine, I wouldn't trust him with a ten foot pole. He seems like he's the type of guy that only wants what he can't have. I was not impressed with this vintage HP.

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### **Adanna says**

"When you kept silent it infuriated me. I think that was why I raped you after the funeral."

Nuff said.....

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### **Claire says**

Personally, if I were the heroine, my first reaction would be to slam the door on his sorry face when he comes a-knocking then play that Gloria Gaynor song "I Will Survive" for him, full blast, as he drives away... but then, I'd be the oddball HP heroine without a happy ending. So let me rethink this and rationalize why I would take him back:

First, because I have proven to him that I can walk out of the marriage and thrive well. To languish is just nonexistent in the vocabulary of any strong heroine. In exactly the same cool manner as the heroine when she walked out, I'd show him that I'm his Serene Highness. When asked by the hero if I'd be happy, I'd fake that megawatt smile even if it kills me, brush aside his phony concern and move on.

Second, because he groveled – on his knees, slobbering over my hand, confessing his stupidity, pleading as if there was no tomorrow, and begging for another chance. I'm not really a vindictive person and marriage after

all is for humans, not saints.

(And I've walked away once, I can walk away again -- for good.)

Lastly, because he had truly exorcised his fascination over the OW. His fixation over her stems more from the Forbidden Fruit complex than love. So once he was allowed to have the fruit compote and eat it too, he discovered that he was a steak-and-potatoes type of guy.

Angsty read. Antacid recommended.

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