



A Night in the Palace

Carole Mortimer

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When school teacher Lily Barton flies to Rome at Christmas to see her brother, the last thing she expects is to be kidnapped by the demanding and sinfully attractive Count Scarletti! Captivated by his glare, will she defy his demands?

Dmitri Scarletti's sister has run off with Lily's brother and until he finds them, he's holding Lily hostage. But soon Lily's fiery nature incites a white-hot heat that even the Count can't resist. He has one night beneath the mistletoe to fulfill his every desire, for in the morning he'll be forced to let her go... Won't he?

A Night in the Palace Details

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From Reader Review A Night in the Palace for online ebook

Sarah says

"Chapter 4, and he has announced he's keeping her hostage, basically, until her brother returns his sister ... whom the brother eloped with ... did you follow that?"

Yeah, that described the whole book in a sentence. Oh, and they fell in love. Of course they did. In two days.

I'm not saying that true love/love like that doesn't happen, but two days? And he's chasing around the world for her? That just doesn't seem true.

"I have never seen hair quite this colour before. Like sunlight caught in moonbeams."

I love the descriptions though.

So, the story was good, but it was the same thing. Yes, I know. I'm reading a romance novel. A Harlequin Presents at that, but I would LOVE a story that is more unique, not the same formula over and over!

T says

When Lily finds herself in Italy over Christmas, staring down her brother's boss with her brother nowhere in sight, she has no idea what's going on. Turns out that their siblings have run off and are eloping, and Dmitri is determined to stop it.

The premise of this is really interesting. You've got two characters brought together because of the problems of their siblings, and you can really see why there is an attraction there between the two of them. Neither are really what the other expected, which works great in this story. Unfortunately, what didn't work for me was the central conflict.

Felix, Lily's brother and Dmitri's PA, has run off with Claudia, Dmitri's sister. Dmitri is understandably upset about it, and Lily isn't, and then she is, and then she isn't. It's really hard for the reader to know who's side to be on, particularly with Dmitri's description of his sister. The problem was that these side characters are very important to the story, but they're not actually in it.

Usually, in novels where the hero and heroine are stuck together, it's due to outside forces. In this case the novel is driven by the behaviour of two side characters, who are not fully fleshed out at all, and we get very differing information on them throughout the book, which leads the ending to be quite iffy (and certainly rushed) because the conflict isn't actually resolved.

Tia says

I didn't find this novel amusing at all. In fact I found it brief, rushed and slightly annoying as I read most of it. The ending was cut short and is supposed to be romantic but I found it lacking.

Amy says

Lily and the Count's respective siblings went off and eloped with each other. The Count held Lily "prisoner" in his Roman palace and this set off a whole bunch of squabbling between the two of them. They bickered with each other constantly throughout the story. And then, of course, she "fell in love" with him after only one night of sex. The only thing good about this story was the pace. It's a fast read.

Tanya Mayes says

Good read. Enjoyed the quick tour of Rome I wanted them to do more. I loved the ending.

RomLibrary says

He kidnaps her and holds her captive over christmas because her brother has run off with his sister. When school teacher Lily Barton flies to Rome at Christmas to see her brother, the last thing she expects is to be kidnapped by the demanding and sinfully attractive Count Scarletti! Captivated by his glare, will she defy his demands?

Dmitri Scarletti's sister has run off with Lily's brother and until he finds them, he's holding Lily hostage. But soon Lily's fiery nature incites a white-hot heat that even the Count can't resist. He has one night beneath the mistletoe to fulfill his every desire, for in the morning he'll be forced to let her go... Won't he?

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: A Christmas Surrender
Category: Classic Romance

Mudpie says

insta-lust and insta-love during the magical Christmas eve and day...must be the Trevi Fountain wish right on the stroke of midnight Christmas hehe...

Debbie Benson says

It is well written although the ending is rushed. Lily flies to Rome to spend Christmas with her brother. She is surprised when her flight is upgraded and even more when she arrives at Count Scarletti's house.

Apparently her brother has eloped with the Count's younger sister. Dmitri originally planned to keep Lily near until Felix and Claudia are found. After getting to know Lily he changes his plans. The attraction to each other leads to them going to bed together. The morning after, Dmitri finds out his sister married Felix in Las Vegas and loses his temper. This causes Lily to leave upset but not before giving him some home truths. They are both miserable for two weeks until Dmitri goes to London to see Lily and propose to her. Apparently in their short time together, they fell in love with each other.

Lenore Kosinski says

THat's what I was waiting for.... Exactly what I needed from a Presents novel. The heroine was sassy, intelligent, strong, independent...LOVED Lily. And actually Dimitri wasn't bad either -- the hero's always have their moments of being bad guys in these books, and Dimitri's was mostly due to temper and irrationality. But he actually thought back on his actions and apologized and there wasn't a HUGE amount of bad communication moments. And they had great chemistry together. So that satisfied my Harlequin fix....only took me 3 books to find a good one. *rolls eyes*
