



## **Boda entre extraños**

*Lisa Kleypas*

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Nueva Orleans, a comienzos del siglo XIX. Lysette Kersaint, una resuelta criolla que huye de un padrastro que la maltrata y de un matrimonio de conveniencia, encuentra protección en la casa de Maximilien Vallerand, un notorio libertino que, según se rumorea, asesinó a su adúltera esposa. La atracción entre Max y Lysette no tarda en nacer, pero deberán enfrentarse a los misterios que encierra el pasado de Max.

## **Boda entre extraños Details**

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## From Reader Review Boda entre extraños for online ebook

### **kris says**

Lysette escapes her gross fiance and ends up Max's place. Max wants desperately to destroy Lysette's fiance, so clearly ruining Lysette is the answer. She gets sick, they get married, and we're 35% of the way into this thing. The remaining 65% is made up of: 1. Political conversations. 2. LOTS OF SEX. 3. Lysette winning everyone over with her perfection. 4. LOTS OF SEX. 5. Solving the mystery of who killed Max's first wife, kind of.

1. I really enjoyed the fact that Max and Lysette actually seem to like one another! There isn't any unnecessary drama; yes, there are conflicts but they overcome those with good old fashioned arguments followed by the LOTS OF SEX thing. (There's this whole subplotty bit about how Lysette is not going to have sex with Max until she gets to know him better. So he kisses her face off one time and she's like "OK LET'S DO THIS". So that's a thing.)
2. I SKIMMED ALL OF THE POLITICS I APOLOGIZE FOR NOTHING I AM SURE THEY ARE FASCINATING BUT NOT WHAT I CAME FOR.
3. ALSO SKIMMED ALL OF THE MYSTERY BITS BECAUSE I CALLED THE VILLAIN SO FAST.
4. I don't know if this is a relic-of-the-times thing, but OH MAN do I hate heroines who are just SO GREAT that everyone falls all over themselves to love her. EVERYONE LOVES HER (except the villain obvs) and it drives me up a wall! WHY?? She's spunky but sweet but kind but sexy but brave but smart but sassy but AWESOME SO AWESOME. Gag me.
5. Totally forgot during the mind-fog that was the last 2/3s of this thing but Max is a total asshole at the beginning and his mom totes hand waves his evil plot. So great.

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### **Moni Lareva says**

Me ha sorprendido lo bien armada que está la historia, es decir, en ningún momento piensas en la pobre protagonista y en el maravilloso caballero que la rescata sino que es una unión de fuerzas y voluntades donde el amor viene despacio pero con buena letra.

Lo único malo que le veo a la novela es que es bastante predecible.

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### **Beth F. says**

The thing that stands out most about this book is that the hero and heroine actually *liked* each other throughout the vast majority of the book. Amazing, isn't it?!

Her: Lysette Kersaint, lifelong Natchez resident, is 20 and has a nasty stepfather who has squandered all his money and wants to marry her off to an older, wealthy man who disgusts Lysette.

Him: Max is 35, a widower from New Orleans who is suspected of murdering his first wife, who coincidentally had been having an affair with Lysette's fiance at the time of her murder. What a co-inky-dink!

Right before she was to be handed off to her hated fiance, Lysette ran away from her family but was caught stealing a boat by Max's teenage twin sons. They decide to bring her home to their father. Can you see where this is going? When Max learns that Lysette is engaged to the man he hates, he decides to get even by "ruining" Lysette.

However, before he is able to get down to the business of seducing her, Lysette gets sick. Very sick. She is unconscious for three weeks. Everybody thinks she's going to die. But Max decides that isn't going to happen on his watch and he spends most of his time nursing her back to health. When Lysette regains consciousness, she realizes that she is naked in a bed and in a room alone with a man she barely knows who is washing her back. Uh-oh.

Once she is healthy again, the unwanted fiance business pops up again. Lysette's family arrive en force at Max's home and demand she leave with them at once before it is too late and the fiance changes his mind about marrying her. However, Max realizes he's become quite attached to Lysette after nursing her back to health. He tells her family to screw off and then proposes to her himself. She agrees on one condition: no hanky panky until they know each other a little bit better.

That condition built in a fair amount of sexual tension at first. Except then Lysette gave in a little too quickly and the sex turned cute, rather than hot. And even though they didn't start saying "I love you" until the very end, the relationship itself was actually very strong throughout the entire rest of the book. They were supportive of each other. Attracted to each other. Loving to each other. And they actually liked talking to each other and being together.

So what gives? If the hero/heroine are already happily in love halfway through the book, what's going on? Essentially, it turns into a whodunit to figure out who murdered Max's first wife, especially after a second body turns up.

Not a bad book overall and it proved an adequate study break from the professional license I spent most of the weekend studying for, but it doesn't have that "stays with you" feel about it either. I'll probably have forgotten whodunit by next week. So three stars it is.

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### **Niyura says**

3 sobre 5

Ha estado bien, la primera mitad la he devorado pero la otra parte me ha aburrido mucho.  
También quiero añadir que no es un buen libro para comenzar con esta autora.

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### **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

**Posted on Under the Covers**

Lysette Kersaint is being abused by her stepfather and her futures lies with a man whom she despises. In a desperate attempt to escape her fate, she flees...right into the arms of Maximilien Vallerand, where he takes in her to protect her. Little does she know that Max has his own plans for her.

As a loyal fan of Lisa Kleypas, I decided to go back to her earlier works and see what her writing was like then. Though **WHEN STRANGERS MARRY** has the same eloquent writing as her work now, I don't think this book possessed the same magic that some of her more recent titles have. I felt as if some of the scenes were cut at odd times and the hero, Max didn't particularly shine for me. He's a lovely character, but not the type of hero that I'm used to with Kleypas.

I find reviewing this title very hard because I liked the book. It had all the right parts for an enjoyable book – good pacing, intriguing plot, solid characters and stellar writing – but I just didn't particularly feel it, if you know what I mean.

I will definitely be giving the next book a shot, hoping that Kleypas can make me laugh and cry and fall in love with her books, as she always does.

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### **Bekah says**

In an attempt to escape marriage to a man she despises, Lysette Kersaint flees right into the arms of Maximilien Vallerand, a man who is rumoured to have strangled his first wife. A man who strikes fear into everyone's hearts. Soon Lysette finds herself the pawn in a game of revenge.

First, let me just say that so far out of the five books from the beginning of LK's career, this is my least favorite. It was an average read for me with spots of unnecessary filler. I hate filler. I didn't find anything that sparkled or that was remarkable about this book, but there were a few things that I didn't like that stood out.

Our hero, Max is thirty-five to our heroine's 18. I don't have a problem with that at all. I usually find age differences a great read. My one problem with it in this book was that Max had 15 year old twin boys. Their step mother would be three years older than them. Ok, fine...but then when Lysette is sorta cast in the mothering role, I have a problem with that. She's only three years older than them. I'm eight years older than my little brother and I rarely mother him. Rarely. So that was a huge stretch. I thought Max was going to be a little bit more exciting a hero for me than he was. I loved the whole dark, dangerous, angst vibe he had going on, but it never flushed out for me. He wasn't boring by any means, but I didn't feel he lived up to his whole potential. What I did love about him was the way he fell in love with Lysette and totally doted on her and spoiled her rotten. Anything she wanted was hers. That is how it should be in the world. Kudos to him for that. On the Kleypas hero scale though overall he gets a 3.75/10

The romance was also lacking in this one. I think this might in part have to do with the way the age difference was handled. Though in this book, I did see it expressed more on the heroines part. She was sort of his saving grace. She calmed him, centered him, and was his biggest cheerleader. That's how it should be as well. The moments where she gave him her undying devotion, love, loyalty and trust were special and like water to a dehydrated man. Those were romantic. However, I just did not feel as though there was a lot of chemistry between them. It took awhile for them to become full partners. I will give it a 3.5/10 on the romance/sigh factor scale.

The steam was probably the best part of this book. It wasn't the best I've read by LK by any means, but in terms of the best thing this book had going for it, the steam was slightly above average. I was sufficiently happy with it and feel good about giving it a 4/10 on the steam scale.

I'm curious to see what the Vallerand book #2 will be about. I was sort of intrigued by Max's son Justin. I think there is some potential for a good hero there.

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### **Ms. Smartarse says**

Lisa Kleypas is one of my all time favorite historical romance authors, most notably for her Gamblers of Craven's and Wallflower series. It's not because of their historical accuracy, as some of her characters seem more like modern heroines dressed in regency garb. But rather, the general feeling of giddiness they cause, making me anxiously root for the heroes to find themselves in each others' bed(s) ASAP.

Of course, everyone has to start out *somewhere*, and generally not that well. After plowing through the books listed here on GR, it was inevitable that I stumble on one of her older works. According to the description blurb, this has been rewritten, but I still wouldn't call it "memorable enough" nor even entertaining enough. And... that's kind of the whole point for these types of books.

Unlike the above-mentioned novels, "*When Strangers Marry*" will not immortalize our heroes frolicking around in the romantic English countryside, but it does give them a decent amount of prancing within the "exotic" New Orleans' Creoles' society.

While the English and New York citizens of the female persuasion may find themselves in possession of a modicum of freedom, even if mostly for show, New Orleans has a law against such frivolities. Probably more than one. Starting with their father (or stepfather, as is the case) and continuing with their husband, even highborn women can never really hope to become more than glorified slaves.

Before you despair, remember that this *is* still Lisa Kleypas' brand of universe, so our lovely heroine is (obviously) quite the little rebel. And as any self respecting protagonist, she manages to instantly stumble her way into the arms of a hero, who is of course besotted enough to feel considerable reluctance in wanting to curb such "exuberance".

Since I'm mostly character-driven in my enjoyment of these romances, their little shortcomings just kept adding up, making for one exasperated reader (moi!):

- Lisette's stepfather is all about his debt and his lack of success in getting rid of it.
- Her older sister, ex-loving confidante, has now turned into the opposite due to a boring marriage (*say wha-?!*)
- Lisette's mother got the short end of the cliche pile: ex-great beauty (duh!), now an invalid due to too much pretending to be one (*karma's a bitch?*) . Bonus points, for her lack of soul, due to having sold it to the (evil underdog of the) devil.

Then there is the awkward world building, that has everyone and their bulldog speaking French. And what

better way to show this, than occasionally peppering dialogues with random French words like: Oui, mon mari , d'accord, bien-aime...

Rinse and repeat ad-nauseam until even the laziest reader finally picks them up.

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**Score: 2/5 stars**

If you're looking for a light and "steamy" read, this'll do nicely. If you're one of those fans, who prefer their bodice-ripping with a bit more substance... you can go ahead and lower your expectations, or else you'll be severely disappointed.

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**Colleen (NerdyWoman) Kayter says**

I really enjoyed this book. Set in New Orleans shortly after Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, it is unusual in that the torrid love affair (and the majority of the book) occurs after h/h are married (yeah, to each other).

The backcover description is actually a letter from Kleypas to readers indicating that it's a rewrite of her first novel, Only in Your Arms. I never read the original story but this one is well-paced with good plot twists and colorful characters.

And what's not to love about a hero who *adores* his wife!

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**Dinjolina says**

Oh this book...it was so nice!

This week I read an other romance i gave 5 stars...I guess that now i will not find any other good books in a long time since fate gave me these. :)

The heroine is grand and I will love her 'till the day I die!

But most of the background characters were to my liking also because they were very well written and just kind of jumped of the pages.

That's a rare on, isn't it?

Phillipe and Irene were a bit bah for me, but that was just because I find these kind of up tight people lacking in general. And yes Philip is kind of rebellious at times, but mostly he is boring.

But Justin? :gush: I liked him almost as much as his father!

I have a strange fetish for older men that have younger brides. Not in a Lolita fashion but more because of the imprint of Sense and Sensibility. I kind of loved Mariane's husband and never stopped to squeak in delight at the sight of such pairings.

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## **Autumn says**

3.5 stars

I have to admit i had many reservations about reading this book, even though am LK auto buyer.!

I was gladly surprised however, when i read this book.

As i often say, i love romance about married couples. How they make it work is always an appeal for me.

The book worked its charms in various aspects besides the romance.

For starters, the setting: "America" 1804. The setting is quite important in this book, since it takes part of the plot. I just love how Lisa manages to take us thru a time tunnel. Yes, she is about one of the few authors that can properly transport you to the time and setting the book takes place. LK is so thorough with her facts, so descriptive about the culture, dress code, culinary, and the socioeconomic factors, politics...is a world on its own. Her writing and developing of story and characters is very well crafted!

I was delighted to learn about the Creole culture, how the cultures mingled back in the days. The dialogues were often finished with creole/french words.. that was quite enchanting..

"When Strangers Marry" translated to me: "take a leap of faith"

The Heroine Lysette is a determined/hard headed creole girl whose fate changes drastically when she tries to escape an unwanted marriage, only to end up involved with one of the most notorious man in New Orleans with a very obscure past. I enjoyed her character, determination and maturity from a woman her age. She takes a leap of faith and gambles on a marriage that can make her or break her. Her train of thought was very interesting, because she is the one person who knows the least about him, yet is able to see past the prejudice and misguided notions in order to draw her own conclusions about this enigmatic male.

Max Vallerand. is this jaded man that has lived in the dark gloom for far too many years of his youth. He has a notorious reputation and a mean demeanor and he makes no secret of it. Which is perhaps why this book worked for me. Their dilemma was about confronting a sordid past, getting closure and being able to move on. All this happened while they were married Lysette was there with him as his wife to help him fight his demons. Even as the story developed they shared great intimacy from the very beginning because they were not afraid to express their opinions. Although Max was so terribly hurt and scarred by the notion of love, he treats Lysette with such care, respect for her opinions, her personality. He accepts her for who and how she is.

favorite dialog.

Max- "the best things are worth waiting for. Such as you"

Lysette: "As I recall, you didn't have to wait long for me at all"

Max: "I waited my entire life for you"

Lysette: "bien-aime"....

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### **Lelyana's Reviews says**

[image error]

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### **Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says**

[ The hero literally fainted and stayed out the whole climax.. (hide spoiler)]

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### **BRNTerri says**

In 2002, the Lisa Kleypas novel 'When Strangers Marry' came out. It was actually a rewritten version of her 1992 Avon novel 'Only In Your Arms.' A few changes were made. This review is going to tell you what the differences between the two versions were.

One change in the rewrite (When Strangers Marry) is a scene where the heroine Lysette doesn't want to have sex on her wedding night. That was OK with the hero Max. She asks him if he's going to visit his quadroon mistress that night and he says 'yes.' Then there is a little over two pages of dialog between the hero and his mistress. In the REWRITE, Lysette does not ask Max if he's going to see his mistress but instead asks him if he's going out. He tells her yes and the part where he visits his mistress is completely removed from the story.

Another change is during a scene in the original version (Only In Your Arms) when Lysette, Max and his twin sons are eating stolen watermelon. When she and Max are alone, she mentions his dead wife Corinne. That angers Max and he grabs Lysette by the shoulders, lifts her off the ground and tells her to never mention Corinne's name again. In the rewrite, the part where she mentions Corinne never happens.

The last change that was made was a scene in the original version where Lysette tells Bernard, Max's brother, who murdered Max's wife, Corinne, that someone is out to murder him because he murdered Corinne years before. Lysette tells Bernard to hide in their warehouse. Max meets him there and tells him to leave on a ship and to never, ever come back or he'd kill him.

In the rewritten version it was Lysette, NOT Max who goes to the warehouse to see Bernard. She gives him money and tells him she'd just spoken to a captain of a ship that's about to leave. She wants Bernard to be on that ship.

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### **Geo Marcovici says**

Mi-a placut cartea, nu ca nu m-as fi asteptat la asa ceva!

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

I don't know what to say about this book. Honestly, it annoyed me more than anything. I found the hero, Max, to be sexy and refreshing since he wasn't constantly ordering his new bride around, but he could also be dismissive and secretive. Overall, I understood his fear and reluctance with Lysette, but both characters suffered what I like to call Kleypasitis...to a severe degree. A lot of misunderstandings and miscommunications and deceit and manipulation and just...\*sigh\*. I couldn't help but note the parallels between this story and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, which itself is an homage to Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, but Bronte and du Maurier were both superior writers and were much more capable of pulling off the tortured love-unfulfilled longing-intrigue trifecta than Ms. Kleypas. Clearly, Kleypas tried, but failed to elicit from me any real interest or love for this story. I've read a lot of Kleypas' work lately, and I'm noticing a rather unappealing trait that is common among all of her heroines; their portrayal as strong and independent masks an almost bitter undercurrent of insecurity and misplaced pride. Any woman truly capable of strength and independence is also capable of recognizing the need to occasionally lean on others, to swallow her pride and ask for help, to communicate with those around her to gain a better understanding of her situation. Kleypas' heroines, on the other hand, are often volatile, unbending, and tempestuous. They remind me not of capable, intelligent women, but of spoiled, terrified children.

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It's a very depressing realization, as I truly enjoy Ms. Kleypas' writing in spite of her tendency to write truly irritating and insulting females.

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