



Bride by Mail

Katy Madison

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"27-year-old fur trader seeks wife and helpmate."

Expecting a plain, dependable woman to reply to his advert, what Jack Trudeau actually gets is pampered fashion plate Olivia Hansson. There's no denying she's pretty, but patently ill-equipped for life in his simple log cabin -with its one bed- in the wild Rocky Mountains.

Olivia must make a success of her new life. But how to convince her skeptical husband that she is capable? She doesn't cook and only knows how to grow flowers, not practical vegetables! Undaunted, Olivia sets out to win his grudging admiration&and his closely protected heart.

Wild West Weddings

Mail-order brides for three hard-working, hard-living men!

Bride by Mail Details

Date : Published May 20th 2014 by Harlequin (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9780373297870

Author : Katy Madison

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Westerns, Historical, Category Romance, Harlequin, Mail Order Brides, Harlequin Historical

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Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: Wild West Weddings

Ruth Kiger says

I enjoy the mail order bride books, but this one sent a girl from the East to the wilderness. It was okay, but too far out in the wilderness for me to relate. Very few characters in the book. Just three stars. :(

Genieve Ong says

When I first read that the hero is a widow I was in dismay then as he describe his first wife as "The Wife of His HEART" (does he even have a heart?) I was shaken ... I mean it can happen that he might fall in love before and beside it only means he is capable of loving? (perhaps)So I should give it a chance after all 2 of my favorites "The Bride" and "To Sir Philip With Love" have widow hero and I still love them anyway... But in this book's case knowing that the hero was perhaps in love with his first wife before the heroine made me feel so down and jealous for the heroine.. it's like she is already beaten by a dead wife towards the hero's affection and it would definitely hinder the development of their relationship...

In the end I still continue hoping it would get better.... but nope he already judge the heroine harshly He didn't give her too much chance to prove herself.. he is annoying beyond annoying and it took him all the chapters to admit his feeling and even almost at the end he still pushes her away from him.... grrrrr what a FTFRSRT7f6@R%#&&@! Sorry my feelings for the hero is so harsh just as he is harsh to the heroine... arrrrrrghhhhh

Tracy says

I picked up this book because I love anything to do with historical books about Brides by Mail. I had no idea this was a Harlequin Romance. I hardly read romance books anymore because ¾ of the book is the couple not understanding or communicating with each other about wanting to be with one another and the rest of the book is about sex. I skimmed through 80% of the book because of the stuff I hate about romance books. Sigh.

Linda says

A pretty HOT historical romance from Harlequin. A good first Historical from this author.

Hot Reading Mom says

Entertaining read! Although the story has quite typical for the mail order genre. There is sex in the book and quite natural in the relationship.

Harlequin Books says

"This delightful tale about a fur trapper and a lady, and how mismatched they are, is Madison's debut novel with Harlequin — the first of her Wild West Weddings series about mail-order brides for three hardworking, hard-living men! It's funny, charming, realistic and full of sexual tension — a treat for all western fans (RT Book Reviews)!" 4 stars
Miniseries: Wild West Weddings

Shelley Casey says

I found it to be a good summer beach read. Enjoyable story, entertaining characters set against unsettled Colorado background. Fun read.

ReadingWench says

I enjoyed this book. It is a bit different than the usual mail order bride books. I enjoyed the characters and plot. I look forward to the next book in the series.

T says

Step back and put your mind in the timeframe this story is wrote for. Without doing that, I would have been very frustrated by the characters due to their inability to communicate with each other. If you are looking for a story that is about a whimsical romance, don't read this. There are real issues about frontier/pioneer living. Both people were willing to make compromises and do what was right by each other, regardless if the marriage is to be a success. The book left a few questions unanswered. (Who was Jack writing? Did the squaw help Oliva? How did Oliva get the doctor to help Anatonga?)

Racquel says

Enjoyable but so much potential wasted!

Susan says

After several months of exchanging letters, Olivia has finally arrived in Denver, ready to marry Jack. The letters he wrote describing the beauty of where he lives touched her heart and made her long for something she hadn't had in years - a place to belong. Things don't go quite as she hoped, as Jack's first reaction to her seems to be dismay.

Jack had certainly not expected the young woman in the fashionable clothing, who can't even look him in the eye. As they travel toward his home he discovers that she can't cook, knows nothing of growing food, and seems to be afraid to even touch him. He's bitterly disappointed and has no trouble letting it show.

Olivia sees his disappointment, and feels rejected already. She has grown up feeling that she doesn't meet anyone's expectations. Her parents died in a train wreck when she was a child and she was raised by an older woman who rarely had anything good to say to her. As an adult she worked in a cotton mill where she was also looked down on. Ever since writing to Jack she has dreamed of finally having someone who accepts her for who she is. If she wants to make her marriage work she has to learn a new way of life.

I felt bad for Olivia because she was way out of her depth. She had never experienced anything like the wilderness she was now going to be living in. She waffles back and forth between wanting to stay and make it work with Jack and wanting to leave because she can see he doesn't want her. She's also extremely innocent, and doesn't understand the feelings that Jack rouses in her. They scare her a bit and cause her to shrink away from him. It takes a near tragedy for her to see that she is stronger than she thinks she is. I liked seeing her start to display the strength she'll need to have the future she wants.

I was a bit frustrated with Jack. I got the impression that he hadn't been all that specific in his letters to Olivia about what he actually expected of her. I felt that he could have at least offered to teach her what she needed to know. Instead, all he can see is that she doesn't fit the preconceived picture he had in his mind of what the perfect wife would be. Jack spends a lot of time comparing her to his mother, who had left him and his father because she couldn't handle the life there, and to his late Indian wife, who had known exactly what needed to be done and how to do it. Added to that, he's really attracted to her, but afraid to get close because it will hurt when she leaves. So he blows hot and cold with her, as the attraction makes him want her to stay, but his fears cause him to push her away.

Things would have gone much more smoothly with them if they would have just talked to each other about what they were feeling. They were so busy protecting themselves that they couldn't see what needed to be done. The only times they really communicated in any way was when the attraction would take over. I did like Jack's patience and gentleness with Olivia and her innocence.

I liked the section where they were caring for Jack's former brother-in-law. It was a terrific demonstration of the things that could happen and how they would need to be dealt with. I loved seeing the progression that Olivia made from her fears at the beginning of it, to her courage and determination by the time Jack came back. I also liked seeing that Jack finally realized what an idiot he'd been. The plans they made for their future together were an excellent compromise to both their needs. The only thing that might have made it better would be an epilogue from a year or so later.

Lorka says

Oh dear. I only made it to page 135, about half-way thru it looks to be. I love mail-order bride stories, but this one had such an annoying hero in it that I couldn't take it anymore. He was just such a big baby, and not because he was a 'loner, mountain man type', he was just a ... jerk. I understood his point about being disappointed in receiving a bride that didn't know how to cook, garden, etc but she was not an idiot and he should have realized that she would just need to learn real quick-like. Not that big of a deal, everybody has to learn at some point. Next up... intimacy. The girl was an unwanted orphan-type that had never had anyone have "the talk" with her basically, so she was a very nervous, shy virgin-type. Every time this guy stopped hating her suddenly for a second and tried to touch her and she jerked away in virginal shyness, he would storm off pissed that 'she can't stand his touch and is disgusted by him'. He never once thought for a second... 'maybe she is shy, virginal, etc.' And between the two of them, they were constantly fretting about supposed things that were wrong, but they were just incorrect assumptions and misunderstandings. Annoying.

Clarke says

3.7 Stars. Public Library 10/17/14. Desperate city girl answers a bride by mail ad in the newspaper. After packing up her life and moving out west her new husband isn't what she was expecting. Can two propel from different world get along or will they fail before they try? Not a bad book good for an afternoon read if you're looking for an uncomplicated read.

Jennifer says

Pleasant but slow-moving story featuring a waif-like heroine. I usually love a mail order bride story, but I just couldn't get into this one. I may try it again one day.
