



The Honeymoon Prize

Melissa McClone

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He needs a wife...

Single bodyguard Nick Calhoun has been given an ultimatum by his boss—find a wife or lose his cushy, high-paying job. Clients' wives are hitting on him and putting Nick, and his boss, in hot water. But monogamy? He's never been a white picket fence kind of guy, and he's not about to embrace the happily married lifestyle now. He needs a wife who doesn't care about his steamy, extra-curricular love life...and he knows just the woman to fit the bill.

She needs a home...

Adalaide Sinclair spent years caring for her ill grandmother. Upon Grammy's death, she's stunned to find herself evicted from the only home she's ever known and labeled a thief by her inheritance-hungry family. Addie needs to find a place to live and a job—fast. So when her childhood friend, Nick, proposes a no-sex marriage of convenience, she puts her dreams of true love and happily-ever-after on hold. Finding Prince Charming can wait a little longer, right?

But will their friendship survive the honeymoon?

When Nick and Addie unexpectedly win a dream honeymoon, they decide to go their separate ways during the ten-day vacation. Too bad a camera crew is waiting for them at the tropical paradise. Acting like a head-over-heels bride and groom for reality TV wreaks havoc on their no-sex agreement...and blurs the line between fantasy and reality. Will Nick and Addie remain married in name only, or will a romantic honeymoon for show turn them into true newlyweds?

Holiday Honeymoon Series

Book 1: The Bride Who Wouldn't by Carol Marinelli

Book 2: Second Chance Honeymoon by Ally Blake

Book 3: The Honeymoon Prize

The Honeymoon Prize Details

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From Reader Review The Honeymoon Prize for online ebook

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

The Honeymoon Prize by Melissa McClone is book three in The Honeymoon series. I love Melissa McClone's books and this is a cute and sweet little friends to lovers story that is sure to leave you with a smile on your face and all the warm fuzzies you can handle in your tummy.

Adelaide Sinclair or Addie was basically abandoned by her mother on her Grandmother's doorstep when she was little and that's where she grew up. So when she was in her first year of college and her Grandmother became ill, it was with no hesitation that she gave up school to care for her Grandmother. And that's what she did for ten years until her Grandmother passed. But then, after all she sacrificed, her mother swooped in and claimed the property leaving her homeless and with nothing.

Nick Cahill is a player. He does not do relationships or commitments. After high school he enlisted where he became a green beret. The one time he did attempt commitment, it turned out to all be a lie while he was deployed which just reinforced his beliefs that relationships don't last.

Friendships, though, do last. He and Addie have been best friends since Kindergarten. It was in Kindergarten when he proposed to her the first time. But their relationship never did cross the line from friendship to anything more. Now, his friend needs him. Nick's job is pressuring him to get married. Addie is homeless with no money and needs some stability. So he suggests a marriage of convenience, a marriage based on friendship, no sex. They will stay married for five years giving her time to get her life together and making Nick's boss happy. Then they will divorce as friends.

Nick and Addie's friend Emily entered them into a honeymoon contest which they won. Ten days on the beautiful Starfish Island. What Emily didn't tell them is that they would be followed around constantly by a video crew, videoing their honeymoon for a reality TV show. So they are forced to act as honeymooners that are truly in love.

“She needed to stop thinking about kissing. Honeymoon in name only, remember? She couldn’t lose herself in a fantasy.”

“This was a business arrangement. Addie couldn’t let herself forget that. But was this how she wanted to spend the next five years?”

Ten days in the most beautiful setting imaginable, forced to act the parts of real honeymooners. It doesn't take long for feelings to surface. But are these feelings a product of the atmosphere or were they there all along? Is there a future for Nick and Addie or will the act end as soon as the cameras disappear?

This is a short and sweet friends to lovers story. Melissa's books always leave me with such a happy feeling and this one was no exception. I always know just where to go when I need my warm and fuzzies.

Ginny Gallagher says

The Honeymoon Prize is book three in the Honeymoon series by Melissa McClone. It works great as a stand alone and is a complete story with no cliffhangers. It's the perfect book to escape for an afternoon with and at only 135 pages it's a quick read that offers romance, friendship, new beginnings, and humor.

Adalaide has been through a lot over the last couple of years and has lost even more. Nick has his dream job but in order to keep it he needs a wife. The two have been best friends since childhood and when they both need the security that marriage can offer they agree to help each other out. Can the two remain friends or will marriage destroy the one thing they have worked so hard to hold onto?

The Honeymoon Prize offers likable characters and a storyline that held my interest. It made me smile, laugh, and heck I even let a romantic sigh or two escape. The book is set in a tropical paradise that makes you wish for a fruity drink and a beach vacation. This is a perfect book for when you just want to escape for an afternoon.

My recommendation: Grab a copy, head to the beach (or buy one of those kiddie pools and stick your feet in it), turn on some beach tunes, make a pitcher of fruity drinks, and enjoy.

My Book Source: Publisher

***FTC Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. This review was originally posted on Gin's Book Notes

Alexa says

I don't ask much from my romance novels: they must have a plausible story, there must be romance, and a happy ever after. That usually earns them 3 stars automatically.

This one had all three things, but I still didn't like it. First of all my galley was not formatted correctly; there were no page breaks, no paragraph breaks. Everything was one huge block of text.

If you are going to give out free copies could you please make sure they are formatted correctly? Pretty please? They are still going to be read and give you publicity!

Since there were no paragraph breaks, I had to be extra conscious of the punctuation. And the punctuation was atrocious! I'm not saying I'm the best at it. I'm not, I'm actually terrible. Imagine how bad it had to be for me to even consider talking about it.

And there was too much telling, and not enough showing.

"I can't believe you entered us into a honeymoon contest and we won an all-expenses-paid, ten-day-long tropical getaway"

And I can believe you are telling all that to your best friend. She knows. She was the one who entered you in the contest after all, wasn't she?

"Says the guy who looks like a model for a Nautica photo shoot in your polo shirt and shorts"

Again, I assume he knows what he's wearing. Just saying he looks like a model is enough.

To be honest this book was just meh. I won't bother with any more in the series.

I got a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Carolyn Reilly says

The Honeymoon Prize is book three in the Honeymoon series by Melissa McClone and can be read as a stand alone.

Childhood best friends Adalaide and Nick both have serious problems.

Adalaide has been through a lot the last couple of years and is now homeless and destitute.

As a single handsome bodyguard, Nick is getting too much attention from his female clients, upsetting their husbands and jeopardizing his dream job.

The solution: They are getting married -in name only - to help each other out.

Both are looking forward to their tropical island vacation, they thought they won as a honeymoon prize.

They don't realize they're gonna star in a reality TV show until it's too late. Having to act like real newlyweds in front of the cameras tests their feelings for each other and puts their friendship in jeopardy.

This is a light and very enjoyable book with an interesting storyline, likeable, well-developed characters and great attention to detail. The setting is a tropical paradise and Melissa McClone's description of the island had me longing for a beach vacation.

A short sweet story that put a smile on my face turning the pages!

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Melody Cox says

This was a fair book and I liked the characters. I was just hoping for more couple time together after

realizing they loved each other.

Jennifer says

Maybe 2.5

It was cheesy. If you are looking for a light, predictable, unrealistic , HEA this if for you.

Characters were ok, I couldn't tell you much about them. Friends from childhood, marriage of convenience to HEA in less than a week.

Story line unrealistic, more like something a young girl would dream about, Prince Charming, love on the beach...

Misty says

This had a lot of flaws, which I'd normally be happy to go over in detail, but honestly? It's main flaw is preventing me from doing so, and that is overwhelming blandness. I'd literally forgotten I even read this until I opened up my kindle today and saw that it was still front and center -- and it's only been like, three weeks. Being free is no excuse for being bad, and *nothing* is an excuse for being boring.

Stephanie says

Nothing was holding my interest and I wanted something cute and quick and this was just what I needed. It was a good fake relationship story with likable characters and no graphic scenes. The ending got a little too cheesy, but overall I enjoyed it.

SheLove2Read says

Friends-to-lovers marriage of convenience story. I was looking for something to pass the time and I have to say, I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

3.5 stars

Kate Olson says

Super sweet and super short HEA romance. I'll definitely be looking for more by this author!

Donna says

Not quite

This was recommended as clean. Maybe to some, it is. There were no bedroom scenes. There was a lot of lust with borderline descriptions. So... Clean? Not enough for me. And while I'm up here on my soapbox, why are the men often OVER experienced!? This guy was an admitted man whore who constantly talked suggestively. She deserved better. All women do.

Lillian Cummings says

Addie & Nick have been best friends forever and they both can only see one way out of their problems get married but in name only. But it doesn't turn out the way they both wanted. The honeymoon is a all expense paid trip in Fiji and they both need a break but there is a catch it is going to be filmed. How can they pretend that they are deeply in love with each other when they don't know how to express what they both fell for each other?

Can Nick tell her that he has loved her forever and he knows that it is too late for them but he is still willing to be her best friend if she doesn't want anything romantic. Can Addie keep on pretending to only want to be his friend or is this the time for them both to be honest before they lose the one thing that they both want & need?

A great funny story

Denise Stout says

I received an ARC in exchange for my honest opinion

I loved this story of Addie and Nick. They've been best friends for years--heck, they were even "pretend engaged" as kids--they know each other and each other's family secrets, but in knowing each other's secrets, they've unknowingly let their friendship keep them from having any other lasting relationship.

When Addie's in real trouble--no home, no job--Nick comes up with a great plan: marriage of convenience. And, they've won a free honeymoon in Fiji! Unbeknownst to them, Addie's BFF girlfriend entered them in a Honeymoon contest which is really a reality show. Addie and Nick make the most of it until playing a newlywed couple starts feeling too real. And, they must both figure out how they feel about one another. And learn to trust each other in a way neither has ever trusted anyone else. Playing house is fun, but will the friendship survive?

Fortunately, a little family drama leads to a real proposal for a real marriage--the greatest prize they could win!

Elle Markov says

Nick Calhoun and Adalaide "Addie" Sinclaire have been best friends since they were five years old; through all their ups and downs, the only thing that has remained constant is their friendship. So, when Nick needs a wife of convenience for work, who better to ask than the best friend he's had an on-again off-again crush on, he refuses to act on for the sake of their friendship. Because, nothing can go wrong there right.

Addie is down on her luck, after dropping out of college to take care of her grandmother and then getting kicked out of the family home by her never present greedy relatives, she is now sans family, job and a place to live. When best friend Nick offers her the deal of a lifetime; money to go back to school and a place to live, all for just two little words, how can she say no. It's not like her on-again off-again crush on Nick will be a problem, right?

Well, thanks to a meddlesome friend these two have won an incredible honeymoon vacation prize, there is just one tiny, itty, bitty detail said friend forgot to mention [drum roll please], they are going to be filmed their entire honeymoon for a reality TV show; don't know about you, but this friend is off my Christmas list.

How hard can ten days in paradise be for these two "friends" be when they have to act like they're over the moon in love with each other? Read the book and find out just how good these two are at acting like they're in love.

Rating 4 out of 5

Read@Book

Dianna says

Addie and Nick became best friends in kindergarten and twenty-two years later they got married. Yippee for them, right? Well, it's complicated.

You see, Addie is a sweetie. She quit college in her first year to care for her grandmother. Nine years later gran's dead and Addie is homeless and broke. Her mother and aunt have swooped in and snatched up gran's property and are currently chewing it in their beastly maws and rending it with their witchy talons. Addie can't afford a lawyer, and anyway: nice girls don't go to court.

Nick to the rescue! In the nine years since almost kissing Addie a couple of times, Nick's been super busy. He did the sexy army stuff. You know, the job that's better than being a SEAL. Then he went into the bodyguard business and it's all so glamourous and Nick earns a six-figure income. Whoop de doo, Nick.

Nick has a problem: he's just too damn pretty. Male clients won't hire him because their WAGs go all gooey when Nick's around. Nick's boss has suggested that it might be better if Nick got married, but Nick wants to play the field! And, he almost got married one time to a bar lush who said she was up the duff with his spawn, and Nick sent her his pay for baby vitamins but then he got home and she was the wrong amount preggers, and she was having sexy times with other men. Plus, Nick doesn't trust relationships because his parents had an ugly divorce.

So he proposes marriage in name only (mino) to Addie. They'll convince all their friends and Nick's boss

that they're in love, and Nick will support Addie, and Addie will turn a blind eye to Nick's sexy shenanigans. This will go on for five years. I don't know why it will be five years. Perhaps on Nick's 32nd birthday his hairline will recede, his abs will liquefy into a beer belly, and a snarled and tangled moustache will take up residence on his face.

Addie, who is such a good person, is sad and anxious about the marriage. Is she doing the right thing? All the lies! All the women Nick will sleep with!

Still, they get married and jet off to Fiji, for the ten-day luxury honeymoon Addie's friend (and Nick has done her too, but it was years ago) Emily won by forging their names on a contest application.

'Hey,' Nick says to Emily, 'some of that paperwork mentioned signing releases, what's up with that?' 'Nothing,' says Emily, looking shady. 'I gotta go, have fun being romantic and sexy in Fiji! You kids are such a cute couple!'

In Fiji, Nick and Addie learn the extent of Emily's perfidy. This contest is to be on a reality TV show about a couple having a honeymoon in Fiji. They are going to have to pretend to be all over each other for the cameras. And just maybe, being all over each other will awaken their long suppressed desires for each other, and then they'll be in love?

Before I get into what I didn't like about this book, I'll mention that it's a coitus-free zone. There are lip locks, and there is much checking out of unclothed body parts, but no bedroom action results in sexy times. I did not know this would be the case going in. I'm not mad, I'm just disappointed.

The book is also a bit spotty when it comes to editing. Addie's mixed feelings about the mino get really repetitive really fast. And there are enough typos for me to start noticing, and odd things, like how Nick refers to his place as a townhome (twice) in the beginning, and a townhouse at the end. Again, these aren't deal breakers for me. If it's clear that a character is going to spend pages thinking the same thought, it's no big deal to skip it.

What got me fired up though, is the way McCclone sticks signs on her plot holes, and then digs them just a little bit deeper. Three examples:

There is simply no way a wedding ring is any barrier to bored rich WAGs coming onto Nick. They're not looking to marry him, they're looking to score. This whole five-year plan is nuts, right? Addie takes a moment to think so, and hangs her sign. At the airport, Nick picks up the shovel. He is delighted when women start eyeing his wedding ring and then giving him their numbers. This is great! Nick thinks. He's going to get even more lady action now than ever before! (But umm, isn't this exactly what he was trying to avoid in the workplace? Is the airport so different from his workplace? Crickets ...)

Is it a good idea for someone in the personal security industry, someone who is supposed to be in the background and discreet, to have his face splashed all over TV? Nick thinks maybe not. But Addie wants to stay in Fiji, and that's more important than any repercussions to the career he just mino'd to save? (Crickets ...)

The reality TV show doesn't go for night vision, long range cameras, hidden mics. It doesn't set up any potential conflicts, dig into backgrounds, or send producers in to manipulate Addie and Nick into saying something that will bite them later. Instead, the show just wants to film Nick and Addie snorkelling and snogging. Won't that be a boring show? Addie wonders at one stage. Yes it will, Addie. So how has it ended

being referenced at the end as wildly successful? (Crickets ...)

Still, there are some good points, and I've gone with three stars rather than two. Addie and Nick's friendship to attraction to love transformations are entertaining and well matched. Addie, who I'd worried might be all glum and defeatist, does start standing up for what she wants. Nick, who I'd worried would be the typical man whore, redeemed himself by being a kind and unselfish friend to Addie. They are cute together, and manage to stay cute throughout the story without making me want to strangle them. I am also hugely envious of Addie's Fiji experience, and I want a resort where you get a mother who gives you hugs and pampers you to exist in the real world. It sounds so much more lovely than a boring old butler.
