



## Mistaken For A Mistress

*Jacqueline Baird*

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**Mistaken For A Mistress** Jacqueline Baird

Playing the part....

Rocco Andretti mistakenly believed that Marlene had been the late Paolo Rossi's mistress, and that she had borne Paolo a child. Rocco thought he could seduce Marlene into handing over everything Paolo had left to his son.

Marlene had promised Paolo she would fight to make sure little Paul received his rightful inheritance. So it suited her to play up to Rocco's conviction that she was willing to warm the bed of any man who asked.... For a while. She would string Rocco along only until she had proved he was double-dealing.

Rocco had got it wrong!

## Mistaken For A Mistress Details

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# From Reader Review Mistaken For A Mistress for online ebook

## Becky says

Leona's review hits most of my thoughts but..prob more 3.5 star for me. I did love the unique aspect of the woman having the financial smarts, and I also love books where 1) H thinks h is a bimbo and she's really educated and 2) people including H talk badly about h in front of her face thinking she doesn't understand the language.

So first 40% was exciting for me. But book went downhill and finished on a slump because

1) the whole boardroom scene, probably because it was told in narrative without much dialogue, and Rocco wasn't there, was somewhat anti-climactic.

2) Hard to figure out what was lovable about H. That he actually didn't try to kill a 4 year old? Not much else redeeming about his behavior. She even notes being saddened by his lack of loyalty to his friend. He never tells her the truth and continues to try to cheat this child. He lets her sell for 1/10 of the market price thinking she doesn't know what she's doing. can abide a hero who is pretty cruel, but an unethical one, especially with an innocent child being robbed? Nope.

3) heroine had some great qualities but the thing I can't get over is how she sold an asset that didn't belong to her for substantially lower than market price. The fact that she has money is irrelevant. The villa wasn't hers -she was a trustee. She breached her fiduciary duty to this helpless kid and it really bothered me given her knowledge.

4) she's been with a man once and didn't enjoy it? If she's a 26 year old successful professional and you are going to make her not be a virgin, why not make her a normal person too.

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## Zubee says

The 4 stars are for the h alone

She was amazing; well educated, confident, wealthy, self-made to a large extent and she certainly didn't need anyone to look after her.

h's little brother, the plot moppet is very sweet and lively

H, for all that he is a geologist (interesting career), has black hair and oodles of sex appeal; he is unashamedly masculine and in fact the opening scene, to me, is like a role reversal, where h sees H and is instantly, madly attracted, is ultimately the equivalent to the 'blonde bimbo' stereotype; he is not as wise or smart as he tries to come across from the beginning; h runs rings around everyone ..

But her attraction does not take anything away from her personal appeal and brains; in fact, given that she is so wildly attracted to him, I was pleased to see that she was not afflicted with treacherous body syndrome by sleeping with him right from the beginning.

JB did a fine balancing act; while there was a role reversal with h being the financial whiz tycoon and being powerful on her own, the H was no slouch; he had a good career and was independently wealthy but wasn't too much on office work. IMHO, when having shades of role reversal, its rather easy for an author to mix-up the male/female dynamics but JB balanced this very well.

And yet, at the end, the h is very cautious while the H is grovelling and its very. very clear that any shenanigans on his part and he will be out the door ... if he didn't have such an interesting career, he would have made a great gigolo!

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## Modesty\_b says

the only thought i had while reading this was that it should have been made into a movie... loved it too much and the unfolding of the story perfect..

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## Suganya says

WOW!!What a great heroine.Usually among harlequin presents,it is difficult to find a book with a heroine who knows what she is doing(usually they will be doormat:( ) but baird had made this book enjoyable by giving us a strong heroine who clearly plays the strings of Hero..Would love more book like this among harlequins..

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## Tia says

Would of loved more of an ending to this novel but never the less it was pretty damn amazing. I loved the strong heroine, she was amazing and everything you could ever want in a heroine. The hero actually annoyed me for a while, his arrogance drove me up the wall, as they say. I loved how the novel turned out and the story was weaved, it was GREAT!

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## Vintage says

Following up *Ruthless Asshole Billionaire: Inexperienced and Downtrodden Mistress* with this one was probably a mistake. Okay, no probably about it. HP and I may have to part ways as one of us needs to change, and I don't think it's going to be the slut-shamin angst train.

Premise is the heroine has taken on raising her little brother, the product of an affair between her mother and a married Italian Count. The H thinks she was the mistress and is not a gentleman in his approach. His father has sent him to handle the inheritance of not only a family villa but some shares in the business. The H is there to essentially scam what he believes is a stupid but greedy slut. Charming!

I loved it and rubbed my hands together with glee when I read that not only was the heroine a financial whiz with a million of her own, but she pretended not to know Italian and listened to the the evil H and evil wannabe OW plot against her right in front of her. Some not nice words were tossed around like slut, gold-digger, trash. But the road got rocky and the earth got shaky when he starts to pull out the Rico Suave moves. I mean she KNOWS he is going to try and seduce what he thinks is a country bumpkin. Whispering, *Stay strong. Stay strong!!!* but I am afraid it's not going to do any good.

She and her half-brother end up in Italy where she continues her masquerade for as long as possible. Proving the time old adage that **Boys are dumb**, the evil widowed Countess is the only that figures out she is not the ex-mistress but her daughter. In true HP doormat style, the heroine feels bad for lying to the hero despite all the rotten things he has said and planned to do. At least she slaps him when he tosses out maybe the man

went from mother to daughter.

The best sex ever happens which triggers love on the heroine's side, but she still can't trust him. Especially when she hears him arguing in Italian with his father that she's been duped to undersell the villa back to the Countess, but then doesn't follow up on protecting her. He still doesn't know she speaks Italian or is whiz kid.

An epic shareholder's meeting was ...epic as evil doers are done in right and left. However, the H stamps back in with more evil and terrible epithets about her nasty, greedy ways.

There is a HEA and somewhat of a grovel, but I simply can not buy a happy ending for these two as up until the last moment he accuses her of everything despite knowing what a ratfink his father and the widow were. For every compliment or ravishment he gives, he takes away with a demeaning remark.

Oodles of passion, banter, and an exciting subplot, but when you get more satisfaction out of a shareholders' meeting than the romance, you got problems in HP.

Almost a three star, but come on.

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## **Leona says**

Not sure what all the hype is about.

The heroine was an extremely brilliant and successful financier who used her skills to successfully negotiate her brother's inheritance. But that's where her success stops, because she was lacking in everything else in life that really matters. I couldn't get past the fact that for someone who is so smart she could:

- 1) fall into bed with a man who boasts about being able to get her there
- 2) continue to sleep with the same man who blatantly sets out to cheat her
- 3) excuse him when he tries to rape her - oh, wait those female parts coming to life stop it from being rape (only to her)
- 4) conveniently dismisses her because he got what he wanted
- 5) lies to him (in the end) (view spoiler)

Not exactly sure what the author expected with this juicy tidbit other than to paint the heroine with the same stroke of immorality as the rest of them. In that case, it definitely worked.

The hero was a stupid shallow bag of rocks who ended up a puppet to his manipulative father. (view spoiler) Other than looks and prowess in bed, there really wasn't anything to love. Which begs the question how a very intelligent woman could fall in love with him. I kept waiting for the hero to do something that would redeem him. Instead the heroine follows him right down the integrity drain.

Don't get me wrong, it's not a bad book. It's well written. The story is laid out in a way that immediately engages the reader and builds suspense all the way to the end. I just happen to like my heroes to have a little more between the ears and heroines who have integrity as well as smarts. After all, women have been plowing their way through successful careers for almost a century. No new news there.

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## MissKitty says

I liked that 5e heroine was so kick-ass! She was a financial whiz and could speak multiple languages.

I also liked that she was the business tycoon in this story and the Hero was a geologist.

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## iamGamz says

### 3.5 Drama, Drama, Drama! Stars

*"Please, Rocco," he mimicked savagely. 'What pity did you show to the Contessa? I was right about you the first time I saw you. You are a devious, lying, mercenary little bitch.'"*

#### *The Contessa*

Another wonderful vintage HP book from Jacqueline Baird.

A story that has a crazy Italian Contessa and her secret lover trying to cheat a 3 year old out of his inheritance. A sister determined to fight back for all she is worth. A clueless geologist in serious lust for the woman he sees as a stupid, gold digging bimbo.

Rocco and Marlene's love/hate relationship sparked and crackled with sexual tension. I loved the sexual chemistry that zinged between them. Marlene is a wonderful character; she is smart, successful and a great actress. While Rocco is a guy who wants to believe that he's got things in control, but who is completely clueless about what us really going on around him.

It has everything you need to create a fabulous story: drama, intrigue and a whole lot of dirty secrets! All the characters were interesting and I hated or loved them. The Contessa was my favorite "love to hate" character. She was one crazy mama!

This was such an enjoyable read. I can wholeheartedly recommend it as a **Must Read** .

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## Caro says

Novela horrible que compré sólo por ser de Jacqueline Baird y me decepcionó sobremanera.

Protagonistas chatos, sin química, historia con un personaje infumable (el niño) que venía a ser el que obligaba a que la heroína hiciera cosas que no quería, como bañarse semidesnuda en una piscina porque el nenito quería y quedarse en una casa donde la tratan de puta abiertamente, héroe incluido.

Escena de casi violación y arrojé este libro al carajo. La vida tiene demasiadas penurias como para amargarse también con personajes desastrosos.

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## boogenhagen says

Re Mistaken for a Mistress- Jacqueline Baird gives us a truly unforgettable heroine paired with a dumber than rock and highly insulting, but very handsome H who does at least have great child care skills in this most entertaining HPlandia outing.

The story starts with the 26 yr old non-unicorn grooming h working in her family business herb garden. The h is actually a high finance whiz with money and has built her own fortune, but to her great grief and sadness the last three years have been marred by the death of first her beloved mother, then her mother's Italian lover.

The backstory here is that her mother met her Italian True Love 27 years earlier, they had a brief affair while he was opening an English branch of his company. Then the Italian got married and broke things off with the h's mum.

The mum married a cousin and kept the family garden business going as an herbary until her still married Italian lover came back 19 years later and the two of them reconnected. The Italian was firmly estranged from his Catholic wife and daughter and because they lived in Italy, there was no divorce.

The h's mother and her lover had a child, the h's little brother, that she is the guardian of now that both of them have passed. The h recently learned that she too is the daughter of the Italian, tho JB doesn't reveal that information until much later in the story.

The h found out about her parentage when the Italian lover left a letter prior to his death, asking the h to investigate who was driving down the share price of his company and also asking her to take her little brother to Italy for two months of the year, in order to teach him about his Italian heritage.

To facilitate that, the h's father has also left his Amalfi villa to the little boy on the condition that the h accede to his visitation wishes. When the h is in the garden, working, she notices a couple approaching.

Due to her fluency in the Italian language, she has no problem quickly discerning that the young woman is her father's other daughter and that the very handsome man accompanying her is probably a lawyer for her late father's estate.

She gets an earful when the young woman disdainfully dismisses her as the harlot mistress and her brother as an ill-conceived bastard. The man with the woman agrees wholeheartedly and quickly assures the woman that he will deal with the harlot h, even going so far as to agree that the h and her brother should be dropped off a cliff and that if necessary, he will seduce her himself if he can't prove her an unfit mother and get custody of the child.

The woman and the man want the h to give away the company shares she inherited from her mother and the shares she manages on her brother's behalf, they also want to cheat her out of her father's Amalfi villa.

To foil them and because the h is righteously irked, when the H nastily assumes she is a tart and berates her verbally to her face before propositioning her, the h decides it is full out war. Tho her knees are weak in the face of the handsome man, the h pretends she knows no Italian, is really the mistress and that the little boy is her child.

This sets off a very amusing deception as the H tries to bully the h at the same time as he tries to seduce her. After a forced participation dinner with the H, the h and her brother go to the Amalfi villa, with the H patronizing her on how to act with her father's late wife all the way.

When we get to the villa the h is perturbed by how ugly and sterile and modern it is, nothing like the warm family home she had envisioned and since her brother is a rambunctious little five year old, the h also worries about the lack of safety features for a small child.

The father's Witch Wife, his daughter - who has probably been the H's lover, the H and the H's father all show up and proceed to bleat in Italian about how they will flash a low price in front the h for the villa and cheat her brother out of his rightful due.

The h, who is far more interested in preserving the company and it's name for her brother, takes a look at the entire situation and the lack of suitability of the villa's amenities for a small child and makes her choice.

Because there is a five year term of the h and her brother visiting and being subjected to the nastiness of the Witch Wife and Daughter in the meantime, the h allows the H's father and Witch Wife to buy the villa at seriously lowball price.

The h decides that her brother doesn't need the money, the h has more than enough for both of them and that the company is more important. She also learns that the Witch Wife destroyed the original villa and replaced it with the modern monstrosity. The h knows that her late Italian father spent most of his time in Naples when he wasn't in England and the h will take her brother there to teach him about his parentage.

To her great surprise, the H is very good with the little boy. Tho her mistrust comes to the fore when her deception about being the mistress is revealed and the H takes her brother down the rocky unsafe stairway to the beach. The H gets offended when the h doesn't trust him and makes it obvious, but he is soon going to be called to account.

The H and h hook up right after the Witch Wife and his father leave the villa. The H knows the truth about the h being the little boy's sister and not the mistress, but he has no clue that the Italian, who also served as a substitute father for him when he was young, is also the h's father.

The H is 37 to the h's 26 and after they have their first passion moment, the H starts in on berating the h for lying to him. In a beautiful, epic smackdown moment, the h repeats his original remarks from the garden conversation, then does her own berating of the H for both his seduction and for his willingness to drop the h and her brother off a cliff, (which given the location could be a real possibility.)

The H makes another protest because neither the h nor the Italian ever mentioned their relationship when he came upon them in a restaurant about a year before the Italian's death and pouts that the h never even glanced at him then and he was jealous.

The h then goes on to icily explain that they were at that restaurant after identifying her mother's body in the London Morgue, (she was killed after being hit by a drunk driver,) and that he certainly had his hands full with the redhead that was climbing all over him.

A very abashed and humbled H explains that he was just humoring the Italian Witch Daughter and he explains that he isn't really a lawyer. He is a geologist and not very close to his father. His father cheated many times on his wife, the H's mother and it was the h's father that helped him understand the situation, and



to try and fill the void of his continually womanizing, absent father.

The H agreed to meet the h and talk her out of her brother's inheritance as a last ditch attempt to establish a bond with his father, his mother recently died and left the H her fortune, cutting his father out. Then the H does a really sincere apology and the h believes him.

But the H's failure to speak up for her interests or tell her about the scam, when his father and the Witch Wife are gloating over practically stealing the villa from her, make the h not trust him. She is fine with being his lover, he makes her lurve mojo motor roar, but she is not convinced he won't try to mess up her takeover plans for her father's company.

The h is right to be concerned, after the sale of the villa to the Witch Wife, the h and little brother move to the H's house. The H knows there is a shareholder meeting coming up and that his father is to be there, but he tells the h she can handle things on her own, he has take off on business of his own for a few days, and they will celebrate when he gets back.

The h, with the help of her father's BFF and silent partner, gets enough shares to control the outcome of the meeting, then she is ready to strike. The h goes to the meeting. Dressed for success, the h announces that the Witch Wife and the H's father have been spreading rumors around to drive the share value down after the Witch Wife told everyone the company was going bankrupt and should be sold to the H's father and renamed after him.

The h's proof of the staged devaluation and the fact that she holds controlling interest is enough to get the H's father and the Witch Wife kicked out and then a big meeting in the Ladies room really stirs things up. The Witch Wife corners the h in the bathroom and explains that she fell in love with the H's married father many years earlier.

Her daughter is actually the daughter of the H's father and that the Witch Wife and the H's father drugged the Italian to make him think he was the one who got the Witch Wife pregnant so he would be forced to marry the crazy woman.

The H's father was envious of the wealth that the h's father built up and they came up with the plan to drive the Italian's company value down and scoop it up for next to nothing. The Crazy Witch Wife believed the H's father would marry her, if he had an undervalued company to make a fortune of his own.

The fallout from all of this was that the h's mum and the Italian had already met and created the h. When the h's mum wrote to him to tell him, the Italian never got the letters, the H's father destroyed them and pushed him to marry the Witch Wife instead.

The Witch Wife took great pleasure in ignoring and refusing to be around the h's father - she took multiple lovers and also continued her affair with the H's father.

The h is sickened and repulsed by the depths of such depravity for such a long time, it reminds her of a Fellini movie. Then the h gets another jolt as she remembers that the H may have actually slept with his own sister, the height of Federico Fellini film madness.

The h anxiously awaits the H's return, she wants to explain the whole situation and see where they can go from there. But the H that returns is a cold, obnoxious, rat fink blobfish and he accuses the h of destroying the sweet little Witch Wife out of spite and vengeance. He is quite ugly about it and a forced seduction scene

ensues that the h ends up participating in.

The h and her brother leave for home and England the next day, with the H trailing a stream of invective's on the way. Six week later the h is at home in her garden. She is preggers and deciding to never tell the H about it until Hell freezes over, the H shows up and drops to his knees to plead for a second chance.

The H only heard his father's highly exaggerated account of what happened at the board meeting, in his rage that the h managed to so completely deceive him and also because of his own stupidity for so many years, he lashed out at the h.

He claims he loves her madly and he found out the truth when he ran into the h's father's silent partner, who told him the whole story. He now hates his father, is angry that he never knew that the Witch Daughter was his sister and is very glad that he never slept with the girl.

The H is ashamed of himself and his family and his defense of such amoral and unscrupulous people. He wants to marry the h, he has arranged to teach geology in London, and he will even take her last name, as his father's is not worth enough to spit on.

The h holds out for about ten seconds and then tells him she loves him back. They go off to have a boudoir moment and then the h reveals her pregnancy. The H shrewdly asks if she was going to ever tell him about the baby and the h says yes, she justifies it in her mind that since the H showed up and groveled, Hell truly has frozen over and we can call that an HEA.

I like this book a lot, tho the H is definitely no prize in the HP super H stakes. The h and her backbone is the highlight of the story and joy to read about, tho I have to take off a star for her Treacherous Body Syndrome and her truly terrible taste in men, tho she holds the H off for as long as she can.

But at least the h recognizes her bad taste and she has the money and the will to dump the H in the future if he cheats or treats her badly. She runs rings all around the H for most of the story, but given his truly atrocious behavior for a lot of it, I was cheering her on as she was doing it and calling this story a very good HPlandia outing.

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## **Vanessa says**

Rocco Andretti comes to Marlene to offer a deal on what was left to her and her “son” from the late Paulo. Rocco immediately jumps to conclusions about Marlene, and she doesn’t correct him on his assumptions. Why bother? She heard what he and the OW were saying about her, even though he believed that she couldn’t speak his language. Rocco despite his lust for Marlene and his belief that she was the mistress of an older man is not very nice to Marlene and he continually defends the nasty OW and her mother against Marlene.

I liked the by-play between these two as well as some of the snappy dialogue. But I LOVED the fact that Marlene was a strong character and she pretty much stuck to her guns and was able to triumph over the baddies in the end, without any assistance from Rocco.

He had acted like he was willing to get her a good deal, but then when he noted that she fell for the rotten deal offered to her he kept his mouth shut. Marlene knew he knew about this rotten deal as she heard him

discussing it w/ some of the other players in Italian – before he knew she spoke it IIRC. She waited for him to speak up and warn her, but Rocco dropped the ball. This bothered me because rather than telling him this for her lack of trust in him she uses her one r/s experience as the reason. I wasn't buying that. Perhaps that played a part, but Rocco, all on his own, proved that he couldn't be fully trusted. Just the fact that she is a strong h is worth putting up w/ some of the lip from him. She does whack him once pretty hard but he really did deserve it – I know he believed something different of her and she allowed him, but really he talks about manners and yet he seemed to have left his somewhere else.

If Rocco was such good friends w/ Paulo then wouldn't he have known that Paulo had tried to break w/ his wife? Of course Marlene made assumptions about Rocco as well. She thought he was a lawyer when he was a geologist and he didn't bother to correct her either. Yep she used his assumption for her own gain as well. And really as he spouts off she lied to him – by omission sometimes as well – she never points out that he lied to her as well. He does apologize nicely though when they are sorting out some of the mess WAY before the end of the story. Then she further implements her promise to Paulo and of course Rocco hears about it and sees her w/ Older Man, and thinks the worst of her of course. Why is he back to that when they already established she had only one lover before him, and she was never w/ Paulo that way? Then he gets trusts a known cheater (in business and marriage).

He won't let her explain and proceeds to use her in what pretty much begins w/ rape, but then she feels it really wasn't as she got more involved as well. Instead it was more like a one-night stand by her definition. Then Rocco is all cold towards her and she leaves as he wanted her too. Did not like the way he called her the same name that his father called her and he said it several times. She wasn't willing to just take a few simple words that meant a lot to her and forget everything else. She has to be convinced by him. I don't believe she would have told him what she claimed she would in the end though.

In the end it was an enjoyable lovely read, one that I would place on my keeper shelf. I really liked a strong heroine who knew what she needed to do and was not outsmarted in business nor even blackmailed in to doing something; it was a nice change.

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## **StMargarets says**

I was on the waitlist for so long at Open Library that I forgot what this was supposed to be about. And I'm glad I didn't have a clue going into it because it was so much fun to follow along as the heroine fought for her three year-old half-brother's inheritance with all the considerable weapons she had at her disposal.

The heroine's mother was the mistress of an unhappily married Italian tycoon who turned his back on Italy and lived with the heroine and her mother on an herb farm in England. The heroine's mother died when her half-brother was only a year old. Then two years later, the Italian tycoon died, leaving his villa to the little boy and shares in his business to the heroine's mother. Since the mother is dead, the shares have passed to the heroine who has the same name.

The hero, the son of the Italian tycoon's lawyer, shows up with the tycoon's legitimate daughter. They're there to offer the h money for the villa and shares of the business if she and her brother will go away. They think the heroine is her mother and that she is a "peasant" golddigger who will be easy to swindle. Heroine knows all this because they speak in Italian in front of her and the heroine is fluent.

They also don't know that the heroine has given up her job in the city as a financial analyst and is no way intimidated by boardrooms or big business. She plays the dumb golddigger role to the hilt, even though she is feeling pangs of attraction to the hero.

I won't get into all the details as the heroine discovers just what she is dealing with in Italy, but the misunderstandings are very entertaining as are the twists and turns with the backstories of all of these characters. Heroine plays them all very well - except she does finally succumb to the tacky hero's "charm." They spend a week together playing house until the black moment.

I do have to give this heroine credit - she resisted the hero until pg. 120. That is iron control compared the current crop of heroines out there.

This is a fun one if you like watching a competent, fearless woman taking on an entire family without getting paranoid or shrill. Her taste in men isn't the best, but she seems happy with the dimbulb hero.

Additional info:

Heroine was not a virgin, but she was inexperienced. There is a dubious consent sex scene at the black moment that the hero calls "almost rape" as expresses his regret. Heroine doesn't see it that.

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### **Diane says**

i liked the heroine but the hero was a d\*\*k, the epitome of nastiness and duplicity. would have liked to have seen him kicked to the curb

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### **Jacqueline says**

Decent read. At least here the heroine had a career and was wealthy from her own efforts. goofy little mistaken identity story as the heroine pretends to be her baby brother's mother in order not to lose him to his late father's family. She does have fun playing the bimbo gold digger and that was kind of fun and different to read.

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