



The Escort

Maryn Sinclair

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An unfortunate fluke of timing puts Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Harte in the wrong place at the wrong time, and it costs him his career. Caught in an Iraqi ambush while on a rescue operation, he's hit by shrapnel that damages the visual cortex of his brain. With family wealth, nothing is beyond his grasp, including the women he pays to share his nights. That suits him just fine, until he hires Annie Claire Townsend to accompany him on a weekend mission to help the two damaged soldiers he saved in the same attack that took his sight.

Taking a job as an escort is nothing Annie ever considered until medical bills from her daughter's illness buried her in debt. How could she refuse the ten thousand dollar fee? She has no idea her client is blind until she meets him, and his focus is off. Way off. Nothing about Daniel Harte elicits pity. He's roguishly handsome, assertive, and the sexiest man she's ever met. She can no more resist him than she could stop breathing. But Annie has secrets she can't confide to anyone, especially the man she's falling in love with.

The Escort Details

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From Reader Review The Escort for online ebook

Ellis Vidler says

Maryn Sinclair's characters will draw you in right away. Daniel is a hero to die for--handsome, sexy, determined, and ____ (you'll have to read it to see what else. ;) Annie is a girl-next-door type who does something desperate and gets much more than she bargained for. It's touching and tender and HOT. Ms. Sinclair is an excellent writer, very smooth, and a pleasure to read. I really loved it. Highly recommended!

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

\$5 on Nook 01/28/2012

Rustye says

I loved this book which is the second book for Ms. Sinclair! A wonderful, steamy hot romance with great, believable characters dealing with a multitude of problems. Can't wait for Ms Sinclair's next book!

Hannah says

[and there decision to just get married! after like knowing each other for 2 weeks, and with Annie having all kind of trust issues, was just like the author wanted to finish the book and didn't feel comfortable finishing it with them in a growing relationship or something (hide spoiler)]

Rosemarie Pinks says

It was a great story.

I usually stir clear of military themed stories, but this has a little bit of everything thing going for it. Romance, human interest, physical and mental health of our veterans and sexy love scenes. And the characters are written in a way that you can't help but care what happens to them and their future together.....Great job! It really kept me interested to the end.

Angie says

Quickie Thoughts

This one was good but not very memorable. I liked it and thought the relationship developed realistically and sweetly, but there ended up being way more military talk than I was expecting. Also it got pretty drawn out

in the last third, which made me bored with it.

? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

I'm a sucker for romances that have a *Pretty Woman* vibe to them, as well as for physically damaged characters, and *The Escort* fits the bill on both counts. The hero is blind, although quite independent and self-sufficient, as well as lucky enough to be sufficiently wealthy to afford great assistants. The heroine has just started working for an escort service, and while she's instituted a no-sex policy and isn't officially a prostitute, she breaks her rule in pretty short order, leaving some room for interpretation on that account. While the story did have a few downsides to it, overall, it was a nice, easy, feel-good read that I generally enjoyed.

Thanks to inheriting a fortune from his mother's side of the family, Daniel is a wealthy man, but because his father was a career military man who expected his oldest son to follow in his footsteps, Daniel went into the army, where he worked his way up to a commanding officer. He was badly wounded in Iraq, along with two of his comrades he was trying to save, while the others in his unit were killed. As a result he lost his eyesight due to a blow to the head. He's a very strong-willed man, who's learned to make the best of a bad situation, and now he's trying to use his money and influence to help others like himself who aren't as fortunate. More than anything he wants to help the two men he rescued, whom he's recently found out are having a hard time readjusting to life stateside. One is an alcoholic, while the other one has attempted suicide on multiple occasions. Daniel wants to show them how he's carved out a new life for himself, in hopes that they'll be inspired by him, as well as to pay for their stays in treatment centers. But in order to accomplish that he wants to seem as normal as possible, so he hires Annie to be his pretend girlfriend for the weekend he's going to spend with the guys and their wives.

After a failed marriage and a bitter separation, Daniel doesn't think he'll get married again, and his blindness makes it hard for him to get out and meet women anyway. He's hired a number of women from the escort service, some for companionship, some for sex, but with Annie, it's all different. With the help of his assistant, Daniel hired her not just for her beauty, but also her classiness and intelligence. She turns out to be even more than he expected, handling a number of challenging situations with grace and dignity, and despite her no sex rule, she turns out to be a willing bed partner as well. Daniel has that take-charge military demeanor, but it isn't over the top. He's a kind-hearted man who wants to help others. I liked how Annie thought of him as a collector of misfits, as he tends to surround himself with lost souls, making it his mission to give them a new purpose in life. Despite his wife trying to turn their daughter against him, he's always taken the high road, and he's good with kids. He's a consummate seducer, who's so sexy, charming and persuasive, he could talk his way into a nun's bed. He's one of those rare over-40 romance heroes, although that isn't something we find out until the end of the story. Overall, I really liked Daniel. I just wish I'd been inside his head a little more to understand better how and why he fell so hard for Annie so fast after thinking he would never have a serious relationship like that again.

Annie was married to a man who severely abused her, nearly killing her. She also had to deal with a gravely ill child, and with all the medical bills racking up, she needed some fast cash. A friend put her on to the escort service, and when Daniel offered her ten thousand dollars for one weekend, she simply couldn't pass it up. She's surprised by how much she likes him in such a short time, but then he's an easy man to like. In fact, his seductiveness proves irresistible, and since she hasn't been with a man since her divorce, she figures why not have a no-strings fling. When the weekend is over and he wants to keep seeing her, she isn't sure where things might go, but she bravely gives it a shot. Annie is a good mother and daughter, an overall nice girl who would be nearly impossible not to like. However, I really wish the author had explored her background of abuse a little more. Ms. Sinclair toys with the idea that it somehow made Annie a more submissive person or that it might have affected her in other ways, but then it doesn't really go anywhere. It's not much more than it happened, it's over now, the end. I honestly think Annie would have been a fuller, richer character if this side of her had been explored more in depth.

I also thought that Annie's abuse could have been great fodder for heightened conflict as well, which this story needed more of IMHO. Things are just a little too easy for our lovebirds. Daniel's legally still-married status only gets in the way for a few days until he can officially file for a divorce. Then Annie's ex appears, fresh out of prison, wanting to see his daughter. I thought perhaps he might try something, but nada. Apparently he's a changed man. Daniel's ex has words with him a couple of times, but it's little more than a token fuss. His daughter is the stereotypical sullen teenager, but falls into line with Daniel's military discipline pretty easily. So there really isn't a whole lot to stand in our couple's way or make their relationship stakes high. This is the main reason I marked off the star, but there was also some awkward wording and difficulties with knowing who was speaking in dialogue at times.

Otherwise, *The Escort* was a pretty enjoyable story. Even without the conflict it held my attention pretty well. I wasn't bored while reading it. Also I appreciated the author's use of Daniel's other senses, especially his penchant for touch. I love it when touch is an integral part of love scenes, and because of Daniel's disability, this story has that in spades. I feel like it helps to create a more sensual bond between the lovers, so this earned it a few extra points. *The Escort* may not have reached the heights of perfection for me, but it was a nice, gentle story that made for a pleasant reading experience.

Note: I've noticed this book is usually classified as erotic romance, but I personally thought it leaned more toward ultra-steamy, as the sex doesn't overwhelm the story, nor is there anything over-the-top kinky. One love scene involved the use of a special blindfold so that Annie could see what it was like for Daniel being blind. There are also a couple of very brief moments of anal play with fingers, but that's about it as far as sexual activities that are out of the ordinary.

~ Lei ~ Reading Is An Adventure ~ says

My 2nd from this author and I liked it a lot. Kinda reminded me of 'Scent of A Woman' if Chris O'Connell had been a woman. This was a second chance for both Daniel and Annie. Both characters had been damaged but together they were a whole.

Mary Joy says

This book is really an eye opener to those who are not disabled.

SirenBookReviews says

This story exceeded any and all expectations I had. From the blurb, I knew instantly I was hooked, but the actual story is even more amazing. It's both emotional and erotic. I never understood or knew before I actually read an erotic romance that it can have such an emotional impact on the reader. I learn more and more as I read them that they can indeed. The Escort is one of those books.

The characters are well developed and there are definitely layers of conflict for both Annie and Daniel. The secondary characters play such an important role in the story and this really is the kind of book that you can read over and over again and still fall in love with the characters each time.

This is my first time reading Maryn Sinclair, and I can't wait to find out other books this author may have, or will have in the future. Don't miss this tender, wonderful story if you enjoy contemporary erotic romances with lots of heart and heat.

Mavi Santacruz says

Very easy to read. light and quicky afternoon reading. It's very sweet, romantic and erotic. It also has its rough side to complement the story. I loved Daniel's humor and understood Annie's behavior. I'd recommend it.

Heather in FL says

This was a very interesting premise: Colonel wounded in Iraq lost his sight, but he's a hottie. He needs to visit the two guys he saved in Iraq while losing his sight, and so he needs someone to help him. He's used to hiring escorts to serve his sexual needs, but for this trip, he needs something more than just sex. Annie has become an escort (the no sex variety) because she needs money to pay off hospital bills from her daughter being sick. When she shows up for the trip, she says in no uncertain terms that there will be no sex. Yeah, that didn't last too long. Did I mention Daniel is hot? And apparently there is chemistry galore between them, and Annie finds herself fighting the attraction. Ultimately, she caves. But beyond fulfilling sexual needs, she also has the ability to adapt to the situations thrown at her in terms of the two young service men he's trying to save. And a lot really does get thrown at her. Before Daniel even knows he's slept with her (the first time he was drunk, doh!), he's already in awe of how capable and strong she is.

So anyway, beyond the burgeoning love between Annie and Daniel, there are lots of things thrown in the way that they either have to work through together or on their own. It was nice to see Annie open up and start to trust a man again (she'd been beaten and humiliated by her alcoholic ex-husband), and it was also nice to see Daniel find love for the first time (he'd been married, but was never in love). Nice HEA, not only for Annie and Daniel, but also a surprise pairing for her mom! That was kind of cute as well.

Maggie'may Reinders says

I was looking forward to reading this book. After completing it i found it to be just a bit mediocre. It was kind of just a book of stuff happening and not really having story to it.

Writing style: 2 stars

Book description/ Blurb: 4 stars

Story: 2 stars

Flow of the story: 2 stars

Character development: 2 stars

Heroine: 2 stars

Hero: 2 stars

Secondary characters: 1 stars

Tone/mood of the book: 2 stars

Emotion evoking: 2 stars

Originality: 1 stars

Enjoyment: 2 stars

Effect on me: 1 stars

Ellis Vidler says

Good story with likeable, well-developed characters. When I had to put it down, I kept thinking about Daniel's situation and hurrying to get back to it. The story intrigued me. It's a keeper.
