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Carole Mortimer

After the Loving



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Read this classic romance by USA Today bestselling author Carole Mortimer, now available for the first time in e-book!

Marrying his pregnant mistress!

Bryna Fairchild isn't supposed to get emotionally involved with brooding millionaire Raff Gallagher. Their affair is only meant to be temporary—Raff is a notorious bachelor who doesn't do commitment. But discovering that she's expecting his baby is bound to change things between them...

Raff is a man who always gets what he wants. And six months ago he wanted Bryna as his mistress. Now what Raff wants is to claim his heir...and to do so he's determined to make Bryna his wife!

Originally published in 1987

After the Loving Details

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From Reader Review After the Loving for online ebook

Poonam says

3.5 stars

IamGamz says

The title of this book brought back memories of my parents playing Englebert Humperdinck's "After the Loving" and the "ewwww" factor for us kids.

Sruthi says

3.5

Raff and Bryne are having an affair , and she decides to end it , guess why ? Because she thinks Raff will do it anyway , oh not just that she also knows that she is pregnant with his child . Stupid enough ? Isnt she ? She made a fool of herself during a whole lot of book successfully , unfortunately .

Raff is a widower , with two kids 21 and 18 each of them (I dont intend to call them kids though) . Bryne is 25 , gosh this age difference is something I felt weird . Raff's son was flirting with Bryne and imagine a 21 year Boy-Man with a new born baby , they would look like Father Son more than siblings . lol

There was this OM , who rifts them apart with misunderstandings and accusations , playing silently being a friend and good wisher to each of them . I will not reveal who he is or why he did so , that is the main twist after all .

I am loving Mortimer's HP's . She is my favorite HP writer as far as the books I read so far , I just hope I dont regret my words after reading her other books ;)

Pea says

[I didn't think making the heroine 22 and having a successful modeling agency...with no schooling or other professional help... was believable. Also, I didn't like that the hero has 2

Hasmidah says

one of my fav

Pravana says

An author I have always loved

Being too lazy to type out a review, borrowing these shelves

Apr 10, 2015 Jasbell76 rated it it was ok

Shelves: faithful-hero, faithful-heroine, hero-kind-decent, hero-thinks-heroine-cheated-him, hero-pushes-marriage, hero-thinks-heroine-is-dishonest, hero-one-and-only-lover, heroine-thinks-was-sterile, heroine-inexperienced, heroine-gets-pregnant, contemporary-romance, virgin-heroine, english-hero, heroine-thinks-hero-is-dishonest, heroine-is-career-woman, english-heroine, beautiful-heroine, widower, 2015-hp-challenge, mistress-heroine, marriage-of-convenience, heroine-falsely-accused, possessive-hero, hero-falsely-accused, tortured-heroine, heroine-i-want-to-smack, older-hero, young-heroine, no-cheating, jealous-hero, villain-other-man, misunderstanding, miscommunication, locale-in-england, virgin-heroine-believable, hero-i-like, no-sex-with-om-or-ow-safe, rich-hero

Leona says

I loved it.. fast, fun and riveting. Mortimer at her very best.

Azet says

This book is a beautiful written love-story that really touched my heart. Carole never disappoint me.

Bryna Fairchild and Raff Gallaghair are a perfect couple and i just love how the author displayed both of their feelings so well even if it was through only the heroines POV. And i also love how the heroine didn't get so crazily jealous as the other heroines with just another female flirting with the hero.

Bryna thinks Raff only want a affair without commitment to her, but when i got to know Raff i knew that she were wrong. As a reader i could easily see how much besotted he was and after their marriage did i realize that he was a slave to her.

She hurt him and broke his heart many times, and nearly destroyed him just to hide her love, thinking he doesn't love her back... and gosh how my heart cried for him. But in the end everything was clear to them and i was mildly surprised as to the reason the person tried to destroy everything between Raff and Bryna.

Vintage says

*So I sing you to sleep
After the lovin'
With a song I just wrote yesterday
And I hope you can hear
What the words and the music have to say.*

*It's so hard to explain
Everything that I'm feelin'
Face to face I just seem to go dry.
'Cause I love you so much
That the sound of your voice can get me high.
Thanks for takin' me (Thanks for takin' me)
On a one way trip to the sun (On a one way trip to the sun)
And thanks for turnin' me (Turnin' me)
Into a someone. (Someone)
So I sing you to sleep
After the lovin'
I brush back the hair from your eyes.
And the love on your face
Is so real that it makes me want to cry.
And I know that my song
Isn't sayin' anything new.
Oh, but after the lovin'
I'm still in love with you.*

Yes, I had to do that.

What we have is a May-December romance with a huge dose of failure to communicate.

Jasbell76 says

Other shelves: betta-hero, evil-other-man (hero's "best-friend"), former-model-heroine.

It took me 13 days to finish this book :(
It was just OK. Maybe it was my mood...
I will take a break of Carole Mortimer's vintage books for a while. I will continue reading Harlequins *_* but I will check out others I have in my to-read shelf.

Xx

FOTINI says

Very passionate moving!!!

boogenhagen says

Re After the Loving - Once again CM breaks some new ground in HPlania with this story of an h forced into marriage for the baby's sake. Up until this point, married for pregnerness has not been a major HP trope. This book is going to change all that, cause now you can hardly turn around without running into it. If they

aren't doing the seekrit baby deal, they are marrying cause the H will grab custody and it all started with this book.

The story opens with the 24 yr old h finding out she is preggers. She is overjoyed cause she thought she was infertile due to a childhood operation where the doctor's told her parents future motherhood was unlikely. The h isn't so happy that it also appears she is going to be a single parent, it seems her current and only lover is restless and looking for new pastures. Since she has lasted 3 months longer than any of his previous partners, she figures the last six months with him have been a gift and she is preparing to move on as she is sure the H won't want to be burdened with a baby.

The H is a 39 yr. old widower with two children aged 20 and 18. He owns half of London and has regularly switched his ladies out for new ones every three months or so. He married his late wife when he was 19 cause she got preggers and stayed married until her death, tho they both slept with other people as they weren't really into each other. He and the h met when she was having a business lunch with his best friend and he horned in on the h. Then he sent the h a dozen roses over three hours and showed up at the end of the deliveries at her office to take her out to dinner.

The h used to be a model and then decided to open her own agency at 22. She knew her looks wouldn't hold out forever and was very familiar with the modeling world since she started in it at 16. The h fell in love with the H and his aggressive pursuit of her. What really impressed her was that he did not sleep for 24 hours in order to travel to America to do a business deal and then rushed right back the same day to take her out.

The h had never had a lover before the H, she was nicknamed the Ice Queen. Because of her fertility issues, she felt she wasn't really a complete woman and so avoided intimate encounters. But the H's manly sweeping her off her feet made her succumb to his virile temptation. Plus he introduced her to his kids on their second date, and the h was so charmed by the kids' bluntness and arrogant charm, she just couldn't resist the H's package - even though the 20 yr old son made a pass at her.

The h winds up sleeping with the H after the meet the kids date and the h compliments herself and him by telling him she couldn't have picked a better first lover. Then she clarifies the ground rules for being his mistress. (A mistress is what she calls herself too, tho she supports herself and takes no gifts from him - I had to wonder what CM was implying here or if she was bowing down to the HP moral conventions of HP virgins don't have lovers.) She tells him she understands there is no commitment and lot lurve clubbing and the affair is on.

Now it is six months later and the h is preggers and meeting the H's 18 yr old daughter for lunch. The girl is bluntly rude for the most part. She wants the h to talk her father into letting her move out of his house, The h declines on the grounds that the H is in the process of replacing her. There is a bit about double standards between the H and what he wants his daughter to do in regards to lurving it up, and the daughter manages to imply that the h is the wrong kind of woman - (I guess CM needed to hammer home the lurve clubbing shaming.)

The h meets the H later that night as they are going to a party, the H has been increasingly distant over the last month and the h is anxiously waiting to be handed her congé. She decides not to tell the H about his impending fatherhood, especially when they get to the H's BFF party and the H is hanging all over another woman. The h decides to leave after the display the H makes of himself and his potential new bed warmer. The H's BFF wants to take her home, but the h declines as it is his party and she just wants to escape the humiliation.

The H decides to peel himself away from his new conquest to take the h home. They wind up boudoir bouncing and the next morning the h tells him she is done, she doesn't specifically bring up his behavior (in fact she never brings up his overly familiar behavior with OW at all, she takes it as a given and just what he will do,) and the H storms off. The h goes to her parents in Scotland who are delighted to be grandparents. The h lets them know that the affair with the H is over and things are going well with the parents being happy about the baby.

Then the H shows up and tells the h he called her doctor to chat about how her pregnancy was going. The h is flabbergasted that he went behind her back, he told her he recognized the signs and was waiting for her to clue him in. Since she did not, he wants to stop her from having a termination. The h explains that she did not think he would be interested. His kids are grown and she can't see him doing nappy duty.

The H replies that nothing is further from the truth, he wants the baby and she is going to marry him or he will go for custody.

(Can we all smack our heads here? This is the first time that threat is issued, but it won't be the last by a long shot - how many marriages have taken place in HPlania cause of an H threatening a custody suite that he would never win. Take notice readers, this is the birth of a major trope in the making. Without that threat over half of HPlania would not exist and this line of books would be a lot shorter.)

The H does agree to a platonic marriage, so the h agrees to marry him. (And all of this without ever consulting a lawyer - that won't happen until Sharon Kendrick's *Her Secret Pregnancy* fourteen years from now.)

They marry and the H is kinda surly, but at the wedding when the H sees the h dancing with his BFF, he really turns on the nasty and becomes Mr. Evil Crankypants. He accuses the h of cheating on him with his BFF. (Which honestly was kinda odd, the h and H were have a no strings affair, so how can you cheat on non-commitment?) She vehemently denies any such doings or goings on and we all start to realize that this H is insanely jealous.

Since the H and h marry at Christmas, there is a whole houseful of people and the H and h have to share a bedroom - the H tells her she can have her own room after the families all leave. He then proceeds to tell her that if she sleeps with anyone else over the course of their marriage, he will divorce her and take the child (starting yet another sub-trope,) and then possessively puts his hands on her body. The h reminds him that he isn't supposed to be touching her per their agreement, but the H arrogantly states he is touching his child.

The families leave, the daughter moves out with a dubious female flatmate and the H and h avoid each other for a while. The h decides to have lunch with the H's BFF and while they are discussing the affair accusation, the H shows up and loses his mind a bit. The h is actually afraid of the H for the first time in their relationship and they have another spat where the h tells the H off and she says how does he know the baby is actually his if she is so promiscuous. Then the H calms down a bit and we find out that the H knows it is his child and not the BFF's cause the BFF is sterile. The H and h reach a tentative truce and actually get to know each other with no lurve clubbing involved.

Things are going well between them and then the daughter invites them over for dinner. The h and H meet the daughter's roommate, who is a bit of a tart and hangs all over all the men except her actual date. Things get more tense when the BFF shows up, the daughter looks at the BFF as an honorary uncle and thought that he and the H were getting along again. Earlier in the day the h had found out from her employee friend that the H's assistant had been asking the friend all kinds of questions about the H and h when he took her out for

a date. The BFF also confirms that the H may have his assistant spying on the h when they are talking about the state of the BFF's and H's current relationship.

The h is shocked and appalled that the H would have an employee spy on her. She feels faint and the H takes her home where they have a semi-forced seduction scene. Then the h starts bleeding and the H rushes her to the hospital. The bleeding stops but the H is pretty panicked.

The h finally has had enough of the H and she tells him off, tells him she wouldn't have picked him for the father of her child except she thought she was infertile, and then tells him she is done and leaving. The H gets her to agree to stay in his house until after the baby is born, so that she has someone to look out for her while she is on bedrest.

The h and H resume their distance from each other, with the H getting thinner and paler every day. Until the daughter moves back in cause her flatmate tried it on with her boyfriend. The flatmate got totally rejected, but the daughter wants to move home. The h agrees to socialize with the H to keep up appearances in front of the daughter and then the daughter mentions that she saw the BFF and the H's spying assistant together.

The h almost faints again, but she gets the H alone and interrogates him on who told him she was having it off with his BFF. The H tells him it was his assistant who kept saying he had seen the BFF and h together in tons of restaurants all over London.

The h asks him how the assistant knew where they would be, London is a big place and unless there was a coordinated effort to locate the two or somebody was sharing schedules, there was just no way they could run into the assistant so much. The h explains that she thinks the BFF is trying to break them up.

Then the H confesses his love. He tells her that he loved her at first sight, but she only wanted an affair and it was a tremendous irony that he had the tables turned on him once he found his true love. He kept the h distant from his work and his kids cause he did not want to frighten her off. He acted like a mad person because he was sooo jealous of the BFF and couldn't stand for anyone else to be with the h. Especially since he felt he had so many negatives against him with his age, his kids and his first marriage that the h would soon tire of him and move on, and he just couldn't handle the thought of that.

The h admits she loves him back and then they plan the confrontation with the BFF. The BFF shows up and admits he tried to split them up. He and the H's dead wife were lovers and he was mad that she wouldn't leave the H cause the BFF couldn't give her kids. He feels the H ruined his great love cause the dead wife preferred the H over him at first and then after the kids, refused to leave the H because she was afraid she would lose her children. The BFF feels that no decent woman would want him as he is not fully a man, but the h almost losing the baby had made him ashamed of himself and he is now moving to America.

The h and H are sad that he felt that way but relieved he is going and they decide to celebrate their love with a bit of the club holding. The epilogue comes when the h delivers a baby boy and the H's new assistant means he has plenty of time to hang around and change nappies and the H and h are wildly in love for a big HEA.

CM does some great twists with this one and manages to establish a major trope for later stories. The thought of a man feeling inadequate because of his sterility and the much older H taking the usual HP h insecurity role are interesting fillips to the forced marriage trope and while the H is highly annoying in his jealous tantrums for the first eight chapters, CM pulls it all together in the end for a fairly enjoyable book.

Ashima says

Loved it!!

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

ok

Jenny says

Good story and a nice insecure possessive hero. The heroine was ok but her blindness about the other man made me want to scream!
