



## The Desert King's Blackmailed Bride

*Lynne Graham*

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*With this ring...*

When naive Polly Dixon lands in the desert kingdom of Dharia clutching an ornate ring—the only link to her hidden past—she never expected to be arrested and deposited at the feet of the country's formidable ruler!

*I thee blackmail!*

King Rashad is suspicious of desirable Polly, but her possession of the ring has caught the imagination of his country. They believe that Polly is the bride he's been waiting for, so Rashad begins a fiery sensual onslaught to melt away Polly's resolve and have her begging to walk down the aisle!

## **The Desert King's Blackmailed Bride Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2017 by Harlequin Presents

ISBN :

Author : Lynne Graham

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Category Romance, Harlequin, Harlequin Presents, Romance



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## **From Reader Review The Desert King's Blackmailed Bride for online ebook**

### **IamGamz says**

Lynne Graham is one of my favorite HP authors and this book is a great example of why I love her work.

Rashad is such a wonderfully, damaged character. He's not an a-hole, he's just needs control because he learned from childhood that this is the best way to survive.

He meets Polly when she enters his country with an Opal ring that belonged to his family and had been lost for years. The circumstances causes Polly to become a hero to his people and as King, he has to listen to the needs and wants of his people. In his zeal to do the right thing for his country, he proposes to Polly.

Having had a very bad marriage when he was younger, this was a huge sacrifice that he is making.

Polly, sweet, innocent Polly only travelled to Rashad's country to find her unknown father. Since she never knew her mother, she was looking for a familial connection. Getting arrested and held in the country's castle by its king was not part of her vacation plans. And then he proposed.

What I loved most about this book was Polly's straight talk. Without her directness Rashad would have stayed locked in himself. He was so terrified of being a husband again and changing habits ingrained from childhood that another approach would have sent him deeper into himself. And when he finally opened up - it was glorious!

Polly became his strength. She became the one person he knew he could trust his true self to and who would love him unconditionally. And that is a beautiful thing.

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### **Jenny says**

Good marriage of convenience story. Hero is a widower and his first marriage was not a good experience for him so he is not sure how to be good husband material. I loved his jealousy and possessiveness. Polly is virginal and fierce. I liked how open and honest she was with her husband. Can't wait for heroine's sister and hero's best friend story though I know I will not like it cause Ellie is super feisty.

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### **JennyG says**

Reminiscent of Arabian Courtship by LG, but AC was much better in my humble opinion. This is more of a 3.5 star read because I had to skim a couple of pages of unnecessary inner thinking.

P.S. I'll keep the 4 star rating IF I still remember this at the end of this month. If not, I'll have to go down to 3 stars.

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## **Danielle says**

3.5 - 4 stars.

Okay, first of all I was debating what star rating because I was kind of on the fence with this one. On one hand, I really enjoyed the set up of the story and was really intrigued with the long lost sister, the rings, and possibly revelation of the girls' fathers. It added just a level of mystery to this Lynne Graham miniseries. It was interesting and different for Presents. And I really like that part of the book. But on the other hand, the romance between Polly and Rashad was kind of underwhelming. The pieces and elements were there typical of Lynne Graham were there, but the edgy, emotional stuff wasn't. It just felt very weak and not as big of an emotional pay off as I would have liked. It needed to go there more on the emotional content. More angst. More friction. Just more pain. Just have it more so I felt more invested in the love story.

I will say that the love scenes were pretty steamy and showed off their chemistry. And I really enjoyed that aspect of the story. Their first time during their honeymoon was beautiful and romantic with that extra topping of steam. I just wish it felt more emotional than just the physical aspect of their relationship. In fact I wish all their love scenes had more emotional content because it really felt like all that was between them was lust and nothing more. In fact that was the only basis for their relationship because there wasn't a lot of exploration on the emotional side. It didn't make the love scenes less hot just less meaningful in my opinion.

Like I said there were many different threads that the story could have gone on and explored in depth, but instead it was either bypassed too quickly or not at. For example, the fact that Polly was a people pleaser. There was so much potential there and how she handled her marriage. It could cause deep emotional hurt because she was just trying to please him to the determinant of her own feelings. This could have played a huge part in the plot, but in reality to me she didn't seem like a people pleaser. Like at all. I also thought there would be more done with the sister in law and her causing trouble more throughout the book instead of just here and there. I also thought it might be addressed more about him only wanting her to produce an heir. Stuff like that to add to a more emotional story. It was kind of a let down that these threads weren't used more than they were. It would have made the story more intense and so much stronger in my opinion. Just more emotional raw.

Also I wanted to believe he was head over heels for her, but I just couldn't. Yes, he did things for her. Yes, he opened up to her about his marriage that no one else knew about, but I just felt like I needed something more on his part. I needed more wooing or a romantic gesture. Something to show that he cared for her more beyond the passion between them. I just didn't think he was in love with her. I needed to believe it.

I did really like the fact that the identity of her father came early on. That was the reason she was coming to Rashad's country in the first place so I was glad that it was answered pretty quickly. And I also really like the fact that she got to know about that side of her family. In fact it was sweet and cute and just overall adorable. I wish I felt that about the romance.

Overall I liked the story and the characters. It was the romance that I felt kind of blah about. There was no rawness. No intensity to their romance. There was not really a lot depth between them. It lacked that edge

that was desperately needed. There was so much potential with the threads that were presented but it didn't happen. That would have given it some oomph to the story if those threads were utilized more than they were. I think that if there was more angst or I felt more of that friction between them that would help. And overall I really just needed more emotional content going on in the story than there actually was.

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### **Ivy H says**

I LOVED this novel ! Polly was my fav among the three sisters in the series and Rashad was an absolute gentleman alpha of a hero. I adore the strong, silent type. Sometimes less huffing and puffing is sexy in a man.

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### **JennyG says**

Reminiscent of Arabian Courtship by LG, but AC was much better in my humble opinion. This is more of a 3.5 star read because I had to skim a couple of pages of unnecessary inner thinking.

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### **Vashti says**

3.5 stars!

My second foray in as many days into the world of LG romances. This time around the location is in a fictional Arabian desert kingdom where our stalwart hero is the King. Our heroine is the eldest sister and upon her estranged mother's death, she and her other sister find out that there is another younger sister whose whereabouts are unknown. Sounds like familiar territory here!

Anyways, the heroine sets off to said fictional desert kingdom and promptly gets taken to a holding room at the airport because somehow, it was made known that she is in possession of some sacred ring that was presumed missing or stolen many years ago. It seems that long, long ago, a foreign princess came to this desert kingdom and gave the King said ring and all was happy and prosperous. That is until the present King's father was in power and he and his entire family were murdered and the hero was spared and sent to live in the desert with an uncle who was the ruling sheikh of his tribe.

This is where it gets interesting, the heroine is brought to the royal palace to meet the King. Lust at first sight for him, he is in a quandary, see he has to marry and provide an heir since his first wife died and childless. What is the poor heroine to do, but marry him of course.

What I did not like in this romance was the hero constantly having thoughts of the dead ex, seems like she was his first cousin too! He felt guilty at her death and did not want to destroy her memory of others. He was in a rage when the unsuspecting heroine wore his dead wife's parure of Amber jewelry, it was her favorite piece and he could picture her wearing it many times.

I did not feel his love for this heroine, I felt that the dead wife was too much in this book, her presence was felt by this reader way to much and that is a no no for me. Even at the end when love was declared and pregnancy was announced, I still did not feel the love.

The next story up is with the sister of the heroine and the best friend of the hero. His name is Rio and I swear, the song Rio by Duran, Duran was in my head whenever his name appeared.

The story started out as a strong 4, but when the dead wife came into the picture, weak 3.5 stars for me.

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### **Fatimama says**

Hero is a Desert King and not a manwhore, quite a sensitive soul too. Heroine is actually quite good, she's not a shrew and not a doormat either. I liked this LG HP. The point of angst is the Hero was married before when he was very young and his first wife died. The heroine was kinda jealous but it all got resolved when Hero confessed he wasn't in love and it was an unhappy marriage

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### **Jacqueline says**

Sweet story. Nothing OTT. So that is going to hold it back from more stars from me. When I read HPs I like to read about alpha asshats, gobs of angst etc. Here not so much. He was a nice guy. His only real problem was he was a bit clueless. He was just so reasonable when he saw the error of his ways and he saw them early and often. She was sweet and when she had a problem, she explained it at once to him in a rational manner. So nice in real life not so fun in HPlandia.

Now other pet peeve. Books that take place in some made up middle eastern country. First of all I have never liked made up countries just so you can have a story about a prince. Secondly, it is difficult to suspend my disbelief when I know that that part of the world is in a turmoil right now. I just don't like sheikh books, at least modern ones because they have to ignore so much of the real world and they do.

I know, I know. HPs are in no way real but at least if they are not kings of made up countries I can pretend a little easier...

Why aren't there more Swiss guys or Norwegians or ... There used to be heroes from many more countries than just Italy and Greece with the occasional Australian thrown in.

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### **Caro says**

No parece una novela de Lynne Graham, pero me gustó mucho.

Él es un héroe beta, pero me gusta leer variantes en el tema, así que eso no me cayó mal. Es una historia de amor un poco rebuscado, pero muy entretenida.

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### **StMargarets says**

Forced-by-circumstances-to-marry story. What kind of circumstances? The Lynne Graham kind. An international nanny hooked up with three different guys and gave birth to three girls. Two were raised by her mother, another went into foster care. On her deathbed mommy dearest willed each girl a ring with a name attached.

The heroine of the first story is a beautiful blonde virgin who has wasted her youth taking care of her bitter

grandmother and then trying to put her younger sister through medical school. Her ring is a man's opal with the name of a desert country inscribed.

Heroine journeys to that country and is promptly detained because of her name on her passport and the ring in her possession. Turns out the entire country has been waiting for the ring to return after it had been lost 25 years before in a palace coup that killed the hero's entire family.

The hero is now king and his people want him to marry the heroine. They marry and then the story got more interesting to me because the H/h don't know each other very well and they each have to overcome their hangups to have a good relationship. Hero has more hangups because he was married before and it was miserable.

LG works it all out - including providing the heroine with a set of lovely grandparents and her younger sister with a hunky Italian to argue with in the next story.

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### **Ishara Dasruth says**

Enjoyable first book in the trilogy. Polly was very likeable, not the usual doormat type. Rashad... dreamy hero! Overall, a great read!

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### **Vintage says**

Sweet as sugar and about as intellectually nutritional.

Beta hero, beta heroine, and beta romance.

Tiny h and her sister were left mysterious rings and the names of their fathers after she dies. Raised by a disapproving and distant grandmother, they never knew their mother. I don't think it was too much of a loss as she spent her time trying to develop a child-care business rather than get to know her daughters. All three of them from different men because somewhere, out there is a younger sister they never knew they had. Oh yes ma'am, the Tomb of Judgement has been opened.

Anyhoo, this sweet little heroine heads to the made-up sheikdom with what turns out to be the ancestral ring of power. Kind of. She meets up with the handsome 6' 4" ~~Greek tycoon~~ Sheikh who is happy to have the One Ring ~~to rule them all, One ring to find them; One ring to bring them all and in the darkness....~~ Turns out imaginary sheikdoms have social media issues as well as the western REAL world, and the populace of that fake kingdom want ~~Frodo~~ the h to marry the widowed king. It's fate or in this case Kismet.

Having been married and widowed at a very young age ~~Greek tycoon~~ Sheikh doesn't want to get married again. No, he doesn't want to sleaze it up (too many watchful eyes for that), but he does want some time to be free to be me and...me. He's shocked when ~~Frodo~~ the h agrees to marry him. She doesn't want to admit it, but she really, really likes 6' 4" ~~Greek tycoon~~ Sheikh's with six pack abs and movie star looks. I like a girl who has her priorities in order. Plus she can pay off her sister's school loans and learn how to paint. Practical too.

Sexual chemical combustion helps bring these two together in a big way. He can't believe how addicted he is to her, and she is just mighty fine with that. There are a few breaks in the road with the sourpuss sister of the dead wife, and the hero wallowing in guilt about what a babe he has now versus the rather sad young girl he married and that died too early.

We have our HEA and a hint of what's to come for the sassy little sister. (view spoiler)

All in all a very sweet read. Cleansed the palate of too many bad Doms with bad spanking technique, angsty dual, you-complete-me POV from young lovers, heroes who love their soul mates so, so, so much they are compelled to sleep with anything that moves and require massive doses of penicillin, heroines who martyr themselves with misplaced spines, more spineless tiny h's that forgive the most egregious sins.

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### **Rgreader says**

The Desert King's Blackmailed Bride began with intensity then went downhill into naval gazing about the past. Unfortunate turn since therapy should have been used to work that out so the hero & heroine can focus on the marriage.

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### **Shruthi says**

#### **FOUR AND HALF AMAZING STARS!**

I didn't think I would like this story after reading it's synopsis, but damn this was good.

Polly was an absolute sweetheart and I loved her. Rashad had his idiotic moments, but he was lovable too.

I loved her parents story, but certain parts of the story bore resemblance to LG's previous gems... And so, it lost it's half star.

Excited for the next book in the series.

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