



# The Engagement Plot

*Krista Phillips*

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**The Engagement Plot** Krista Phillips

**Can Hanna and Will Find True Love Amid the Bright Lights of Reality TV?**

*Perfect for the fans of The Bachelor and The Bachelorette!*

Six months ago, William stole Hanna's heart and shattered it in front of millions of people on a reality TV dating show. And now the big-wig CEO is back on Hanna's home turf in Minnesota and wants her to forgive him? Fat chance of that. But life is swirling around faster than snow in a blizzard, and despite her objections, teaming up with William seems like the only option to rescue her reputation.

William has never regretted anything more than the day he gave that ill-fated interview for the reality show, The Price of Love. But while he can't change the past, he's determined to fix the future. He just needs to convince Hanna to forgive him—and pretend to be engaged with him. Simple, right?

When the media erupts with even worse accusations, teaming up and pretending to be engaged seems to be the only way to salvage their reputations. Despite the media frenzy that swirls around them, an attraction neither of them can fight off begins to surface. Could this love run deeper than a scandal, or will old wounds tear them apart once and for all? When all seems lost, it's only with help from above that Hanna and Will may find their happily-ever-after.

## The Engagement Plot Details

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Author : Krista Phillips

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# From Reader Review The Engagement Plot for online ebook

**Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

If you read the blurb above for this book I probably know what you are thinking about this book. A light, fluffy, brain candy sort of book picking up on the "Bachelor" reality TV show. Right? Because that's kind of what the blurb would have you think. But. I'm here to tell you that this book is more than that. In fact, the story picks up months after the reality TV portion happened. Yes, Hanna does do some remembering of certain moments and there are certainly some very "in the public eye" situations, but I loved the very personal sort of feeling I had while reading this book.

These characters, Hanna and William, have depth. As you get to know them better, you can easily see their strengths and weaknesses. They both do a lot of growing and learning throughout this book. It's a process and one I enjoyed very much. There was an obvious attraction given the history between William and Hannah and though they both try to squelch it, it just won't go away. That leads to some sparky situations full of tension. Yup, that was good stuff too.

This book has very obvious Christian elements. There is nothing overly preachy but it is there. I thought the whole book was well done and had a good balance of both the lighthearted, fun moments and the more serious, soul searching moments. I enjoyed it from beginning to end! I'm looking forward to reading more by this author.

Content: kissing, Christian elements

- I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are my own.

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**??Trea says**

**FTC DISCLAIMER: I RECEIVED AN E-ARC FROM THE PUBLISHER THROUGH NET GALLEY. I VOLUNTARILY OFFER MY HONEST REVIEW OF THE BOOK, THOUGH IT IS NOT EXPECTED OF ME! RECEIPT OF THIS BOOK IN THIS MANNER DOES NOT AFFECT MY OPINION OF THE BOOK OR THE CONTENT OF MY REVIEW!**

Normally, I enjoy reading a romance that is a homage to shows like *The Bachelor* or *The Bachelorette*, but I have to say I didn't really enjoy this one.

I absolutely hated the deception! With Hanna being a "Christian" woman, her reputation should not have been her entire focus! Actions speak louder than words, I always say, and her actions were not saying anything good about Hanna! Will was just as bad with his innuendo and selfish nature, almost as if he felt he deserved to have Hanna just fall at his feet! I couldn't understand them together, and didn't see much romance or wooing between the two of them.

For me, this book really dragged, taking entirely too long to get through. Thankfully, it was a standalone romance and not a series, but even then I wouldn't recommend or purchase a copy of this book for myself.

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## **Iola says**

There were parts of *The Engagement Plot* which were excellent. I loved the writing, which was witty and original. I loved the dialogue, which was the perfect blend of clever and snarky, and allowed the personalities of the characters to shine. The plot sounded kitschy at first, but it soon convinced me: a couple who met and fell in love on a cheesy reality TV show, then broke up following gutter innuendo in a TV interview (as an aside, why do we call it reality TV? It's nothing like reality).

The other aspect I loved about *The Engagement Plot* was that it was Christian romance with an emphasis on the Christian. Hanna is a devoted Christian—at least, she was until Will's TV interview destroyed her reputation and cost her her job. Now she's just mad at God. Will was raised in church but isn't a Christian, which doesn't give her as much angst as it should (and the whole should-she-shouldn't-she is one of her major conflicts). As far as bringing the Christian into Christian romance goes, *The Engagement Plot* is better than average.

Unfortunately, there were also some less good qualities. The cover isn't great—it portrays Hanna as a ditsy teen drama queen when she's anything but. The txtspk is trying to be hip, but is as dated as my first Nokia brick phone.

Worst, the whole Doug subplot was too obvious. The Doug/Hanna scenes felt contrived, which is never a good thing. I wondered if I'd overestimated Hanna's IQ and street savvy. So there are weaknesses and strengths in *The Engagement Plot*. Overall, it's a quick, fun read.

Thanks to Shiloh Run Press and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

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## **Karen says**

A fun contemporary romance between a couple who met on a reality TV dating show. Full of humor and some tender moments, as well as faith.

I enjoyed the funny and sometimes awkward situations the characters find themselves in as they try to iron out the difficulties that all began with a lie. The story demonstrates well how damaging a lie and gossip can be, how it can grow and hurt people until set right. Hanna has a lot to forgive, and eventually Will does too. Their relationship has a lot of ups and downs, allowing for some personal and spiritual growth along the way. Hanna's friend Carly is a good example of a true friend who speaks the truth in love, and encourages her to see the bigger picture, when she says, "Get over the fact that you made mistakes. It's not about you anyway. It's about bringing God glory." Wish we all had a friend like that in our corner to laugh with, bring us chocolate, and lovingly push us in the right direction.

Readers who enjoy contemporary romances with faith and humor will like this one. I have enjoyed all the ones I've read by this author.

(An e-book was provided by NetGalley and the publisher. All opinions are my own.)

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## Marlene says

I've done something I never ever do. In fact, I cannot remember doing it before. I'm giving up on a book. I strongly disliked it right from the beginning, and now at 40%, I'm throwing in the towel. I'm not happy about it, but the fact that I have so little reading time combined with the degree of unhappiness I have with this book has made the decision for me. I expected it to improve, and don't feel that it has. It probably will, given that several of my Goodreads friends have given this a good review, but I think I've given it enough of a chance.

*The Engagement Plot* (2017, Shiloh Run Press) by Krista Phillips is a contemporary "Christian" romance set in Embarrass, Minnesota, Nashville, Tennessee, and at the point I DNFed it, soon-to-be in New York City. I chose to read this book because Barbour preapproved it for me via NetGalley, and since I've felt so blessed with the many Barbour books I've read through NetGalley, I thought I'd try and support the publisher by reading it.

**Rating: I'm not going to give a rating because I haven't finished the book.** But based on the first 40%, I'd give it 3 stars. This is because I don't think it does the job as Christian fiction. The basic plot is interesting, and the writing quality is good, however.

**Plot:** Months ago, Hanna Knight, 27, was on a reality dating TV show and very publicly became engaged to William Preston, a CEO, with stars in her eyes. And she was very publicly shamed by said man by a deliberately misleading statement on a talk show. This wrung her heart, unrightfully damaged her reputation, and derailed her personal and professional life. Interesting plot for a contemporary romance, right? I agree. But then Mr. Former Fiance comes back into her life. She is then so extremely resentful and immature in her actions and her inner Christian that I decided, "40%? Enough is enough."

**Christian elements:** These are thoughts and prayers that come from "Holy Hannah."

"She'd have to play good Samaritan to some moron who didn't have enough sense to stay inside during a classic Northern Minnesota blizzard. Be nice, Hanna..."

"Please, Jesus, let this work."

"...with his dress pants and shiny, expensive-looking loafers, he looked like one who might worry about such stupid things."

"...some of the few in this world who hadn't turned their backs on her over the last six months." Really? Presumably Christian people in the community are being judgemental towards Hanna.

"You've apologized. I've accepted, and we'll get on with it. The good Lord expects nothing less of me." Great self-advice but I didn't feel her walk matched her talk.

**Is it clean/chaste?** Yes.

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**The bottom line:** The interesting premise was not enough to conquer my perception as an unsuccessful

attempt at a Christian book. I will not be trying another book by this author unless she has a book in an anthology that I want to read. Readers who enjoy modern, sassy main characters and who wouldn't be troubled about the lack of Christian example would enjoy this book more than I did. I will continue to read books published by Barbour because this book appears to be an outlier.

I received this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Dana Michael says**

The Engagement Plot had me laughing out loud throughout the entire book. It was exactly what I needed to read at the time. The old saying "laughter is good medicine" is so true. The banter between the hero and heroine was so fun and also being in their heads was too. I really enjoyed the book and I hope there are more to come in a series.

\*I was given a copy of the book by the author and was under no obligation to leave a review.

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### **Hannah says**

Lots of conflicting things in this little humorous romance. I think I'm just going to skip the star rating on this one. The opening was great, with her saving the guy's life and then realizing it's her least favorite man in the world.

Ultimately, though, it tried to be too many things at once. Romantic comedy, cautionary tale, lesson in forgiveness, etc, etc. There were so many little plot features that never got used, ones that got dropped in and left lying on the floor, until the plot grew cumbered with all these little unresolved bits of info. We even met fleeting characters who served no purpose except to come and go.

At first I liked Hanna okay, but pretty quickly I found her to be full of so many complex qualities that I never quite got to know her. I didn't understand her dad's meeting the guy who broke her heart publicly with open arms...what a betrayal that would feel like. Her dad doesn't need to cheapen her hurt just to be a decent host. The entire book, it's more and more of the same thing...poor guy. And when he gropes her in the kitchen one point, it's her fault for "asking for it" because she didn't have a bra on under her sweatshirt—even though he understood fully that she was still keeping herself for marriage (in all but kisses). He doesn't respect her enough to respect her boundaries.

Also, there were lots and lots of "sanitized swears"...either "okay" words substituted for taking God's name in vain, or with other words dashed out. I might have been easier on the "hero" because he isn't living a Christian life, but Hanna supposedly grew up in a conservative church.

Also, who still texts using 2 for to? Seriously?

The roller-coaster of great writing vs. slaps in the face of reality kept going back and forth. It was hard not to start skimming when things got particularly improbable. And the end was so abrupt...what happened next?

The heroine definitely got the short end of the stick with this dude and I really would have liked to see her kick him to the curb, unless there had been some huge repentance moment that fundamentally changed his

character more than he did change. Yes, there was some improvement, but not enough to bump him into hero status for me. No wonder I'm still single, if these are all the sort of guys that are left on the market.

Anyway, if you can suspend some reality and if you don't expect your heroes to be extra-heroic, it's probably a good light read to try out.

Thanks to the publisher for a free review copy. Favorable review not required.

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### **Victoria Bylin says**

A fun read with plenty of depth. I liked it a lot :)

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### **Maritza says**

Can Hanna and Will Find True Love Amid the Bright Lights of Reality TV?  
Perfect for the fans of The Bachelor and The Bachelorette!

Believe it or not I don't watch either show as I find it demeaning to watch... That being said I just started reading this ARC copy that I received from NetGalley to read and review and so far I am enjoying it. Had it classified as romance but is more christian fiction without being overly preachy. Will and Hanna meet on a reality television show and break up based on his careless statement on their romance. They meet up again and fake an engagement to help them with their career and personal beliefs. There was a lot of laughter along the way and a HEA. Hope she got to wear the dress in his parents closet.

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### **Mary Jackson \_TheMaryReader says**

Do you enjoy watching The Bachelor and The Bachelorette? Well this is something like that sort of. It is a book for reality TV fans. They are sure to fall in love with this book.

It was a good romantic comedy, It's a feel good read. The first book that I have read by Phillips but not my last. The story line was very well thought out, and different.

I loved Hanna and rooted for her until the very end. You may like the outcome. Read it all the way to the end!

This is a 4 star read. I recommend this book to reality TV fans. And Romance fans.

The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher for A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own.

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### **Amy says**

The idea behind this book is fun and spunky, after all who doesn't love a reality TV show that brings two people together in true love? While I stopped watching shows like The Bachelor many years ago, I have read a few books that follow these same kind of lines. That one girl amongst the fake, who's ended up in the house for some valid reason or another. While the actual initial meeting is shared, the story doesn't really go

into the TV show events. Which I like. It can get a bit same old same old. Instead we pick up the relationship of Will & Hanna, some time later - after she has angrily ended it based on a TV interview Will does. She's back home in northern Minnesota, where it's knee deep in snow and trying to move on from the months of painful tabloid articles & letters from judgmental angry viewers.

Will is in trouble. As CEO of a major corporation, something isn't right. He believes sales to be tanking and he is under pressure from the board to take drastic measures. It takes the form of going to Minnesota, proposing to Hanna, and earning the company some positive - and free - publicity. He knows he made a massive mistake over his choice of words when answering the TV interviewer's question. He'd implied that things had gone much further than Hanna would ever have let them go. She unashamedly proclaimed during the show that she was a dedicated Christian, with a strict set of morals. She informed the viewers and Will there was a line she wouldn't cross. But now she won't even speak to him. Why did he say those things? Will she ever forgive him?

Interestingly - you expect them to already have been madly in love with each other, but I think the author quite rightly starts them out in the right place. There is plenty of mutual attraction, as you'd expect, but a huge lacking of devotion. The kind that leads a person to look beyond the mistakes we make in our relationships, to forgive easily and move past the small stuff. That essence of love is not there yet, and it sets us up in an accurate, more true reflection of where they both are on their journey.

Sometimes, it's a little too predictable, but overall the story is light, and simple. I need to read books like this once in a while. It's refreshing after a deeper more serious read. There's a fairly even pace and unfortunately I couldn't grasp more than an hour a day to read this. It truly is one of those you don't want to put down. Enjoyable read, engaging plot.

Thanks to Netgalley for the complimentary eARC, this is my honest review.

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### **Cara Putman says**

This was such a fun novel, with a great humorous plot and some deeper threads.

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### **Susan Snodgrass says**

"He didn't need God. He would keep his promise on his own. He 'was' William Preston. He fixed things. Give him a problem, he'd find a solution. No divine help needed."

Six months ago William Preston shattered Hanna Knight's heart on a reality show in front of millions of people. Her life has been a mess since then. Now William's in Hanna's home in Minnesota wanting forgiveness. Ha! But with her reputation in shambles, agreeing to William's plan seems the only sensible thing to do.

William has regretted the ill fated interview he gave on national TV for six months, but he can't change that now. But he CAN try his best to fix the future. If Hanna will let him, that is. All she has to do is agree to be



engaged to him. Easy, right?

This is Rom Com at its finest. I was engaged in the story (no pun intended) from the first page. Krista Phillips has scored a home run with this novel, in my opinion. Characters crafts so well that I feel like I'm sitting there with them in every scene. Emotions running so deep that my heart feels every one of them. This is Hallmark movie stuff, folks! Seriously.

Will Will and Hanna get past the surface of this mess to see what God is doing in their lives? Or will they only see these old wounds and pain and not allow the grace of God to change their lives? This is one for the keeper shelf!

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## **Julie Carpenter says**

Oh how I enjoyed my time spent while reading this novel. I started it right as I was leaving on a trip which entailed lots of driving. I laughed out loud, had some pretty big smiles, a few grumpy face moments and possibly a couple sighs. My hubby kept asking me for updates and what was happening in the plot to cause my many different moods. He'd smile and shake his head at me, I'd smile back and dive right back into this fun read.

A fun twist on the Bachelor/Bachelorette premise with all the twists and turns you might expect of a couple who met on a reality TV show and the aftermath of the show. The book starts several months after the show and a pretty epic blunder on the Bachelor's part. With a little bit of a hidden agenda, work pressure, longing of the hearts, relentless paparazzi, some behind the scenes intrigue and much more going on, the question is whether or not Hanna and Will can forgive each other and have closure or possibly move forward with their lives, happily and together.

There are many great moments throughout this book. Not just great moments between the couple but moments of individual, quiet reflection, growth and healing. These two characters were well developed. I wasn't quite sure when I started reading if I should expect that or, if this would be more of a lighthearted and fun fluff type read. I was very pleasantly surprised that it was fun and fluffy, but it was also full of depth and some great gems scattered throughout.

There's a theme here, probably a theme that may not be as noticeable as others but still one I believe the author wanted to be noticed...realizing that when mistakes (incidents, moments) happen, it isn't always just the other person's fault, that the old phrase 'it takes two to tango', definitely is true here. I loved seeing both of these characters realize that some of their choices (individual and as a couple) could have been handled a little differently and the outcomes of those choices would have been different (better) for them and those involved.

This is a Christian fiction book. There are plenty of moments of self-reflection and moments where the characters focus on Christ and his role in their lives. It wasn't over the top preachy, for those of you who don't like reading that. It is definitely a relevant part of the storyline and even helps guide the plot along in many scenes. Hanna goes on this reality TV show and chooses to guard her virtue and continue to live her values and beliefs, no matter the criticism that comes her way, even when she earns the nickname Holy Hanna. Let me just say she gets plenty of criticism throughout the book for her beliefs but I enjoyed how the author handled it. She shows the pretty intense people who are more judgmental towards Hanna, especially over something that didn't happen, as well as showing how Hanna handled it all. Lots of healing for sure

throughout this book, in many different aspects. It was great watching Hanna grow from the beginning of the book, where she is still very angry and hurt and holding on tightly to that. Then slowly throughout, realizing herself how holding onto those feelings has affected her and brought her to act in ways she wouldn't normally do. That's kind of vague but let's just say it might have to do with how she treats a certain person, namely a certain male, quite possibly a Bachelor... I'll let you piece that one together.

Will...what to say about Will. Lots of character growth, a great character arc for him. Yet, even from the beginning he was great! I loved the first scene where these two, Hanna and Will, are thrown back into each other's lives. Fun. Part of Will is torn because of his love for Hanna, the other for the havoc that has been wreaked on his professional life. How can he fix both and reconcile the differences, yet have the outcome that he wants, when all signs show it might be nigh on impossible? Pain from his past has him protecting his heart and life, somewhat more than he realizes. There's no future for him with Hanna unless he can fix that and allow for healing to occur. So another aspect of the Christian genre here, the need for healing and allowing Christ in his life (Hanna as well).

The chemistry and friendship between these two characters is very well written. Definitely lots of sparks and tension between them. Can they reconcile their differences and allow the love that each other feels bloom? Those late night kitchen excursions were pretty fun scenes. The ring, the dress, the business, the snow, the mud, the family moments...I just loved it!

Don't let the religious aspects throw you off from reading this one. It is definitely a fun storyline, several great characters and a fun adventure throughout the book. I highly recommend this one and suggest you snuggle in for the long haul, because I don't think you'll want to put it down. I probably wouldn't have put it down until I was finished, except I was at a wedding over the weekend so lots of fun and excitement that I ended up enjoying my reading time while in the car for the many hours of driving to and from the wedding.

Content: Clean. I think I've explained pretty well throughout the review the religious aspects of the book. Some scenes of kissing but nothing further.

I received a review copy from the publisher, Shiloh Run Press, via NetGalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

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## **Jerry says**

While this story has some serious flaws, the charm factor and writing style overpower any of those issues. Sure, it's not perfect, but it's very entertaining.

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