



The Secret Baby Scandal: The Count's Secret Child / The Sandoval Baby

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The Count's Secret Child by Jennie Lucas

Theo St. Raphael summoning Carrie to his castle means only one thing to her--he's finally ready to accept their baby son. So as she walks up the grand steps, the last thing she expects is to discover that all Theo wants is her back in his bed--and a paternity test.

The Sandoval Baby by Kate Hewitt

For Rafe Sandoval, discovering he has a three-year-old son by his late ex-wife is a shock. Max's nanny, quiet, beguiling Freya Clark, is a godsend. One night, the growing tension between them turns to passion, and soon Rafe discovers he's to be a father again... This child will have two parents from the start--and Rafe wants marriage.

The Secret Baby Scandal: The Count's Secret Child / The Sandoval Baby Details

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From Reader Review The Secret Baby Scandal: The Count's Secret Child / The Sandoval Baby for online ebook

StMargarets says

Location: A room at Goodreads headquarters. All characters are seated at a table.

Characters:

Reviewer #1 – has a checklist and rubber stamps with Acronyms like DNF, WTF, etc. .

Reviewer #2 – has a half-full bottle of Captain Morgan Rum

Reviewer #3 – has a cast iron skillet

Applicant sitting across from the panel – hero from The Count's Secret Baby

#1 – So you think you deserve this year's Prize Ass award? *points to a gleaming statuette of a donkey's hindquarters. *

Hero – I do, I think –

#1 – Hold up right there. We'll follow the checklist. *glares *

Hero – *glares back *

#1 – According to your application you seduced the virgin heroine, had sex with her for two weeks, and then dumped her when she said "I love you."

Hero – In my defense, my parents divor-

#1 – Answer yes or no.

Hero – Yes.

#1 – When heroine tried to contact you to tell you she was pregnant, you refused to take her calls or read her letters.

Hero – How was I supposed to know? I just thought she was being clingy. Besides, I was busy boning a bunch other ladies trying to forget the h.

#1 - *checks jilting and OW box * So you only meet again a year later when you decide you want a booty call. You had your bodyguard fly her from Seattle to your castle in France? You didn't know about the baby?

Hero – Right.

#1 – So the first time you see the heroine, she has her son with her.

Hero – yeah – I didn't really notice. I was too busy kissing her and trying to get her to bed.

#2 – What did you do with the baby while this was going on?

Hero *shrugs * I dunno. He was on the floor in that carrier thing.

* Reviewers exchange significant glances*

#3 And the heroine? Did she go to bed with you that night?

Hero – No. It took an entire day. And it was only after we had the DNA test done, and I took her to a Michelin starred restaurant, and then gave her a credit card to shop while I got the results in secret. I told her it would take a week and that she had to stay with me for that time.

#2 - So you lied? *fingers skillet *

#1 - * Checks lying liars who lie box *

#3 – How did you convince her to stay for a week?

Hero – I threatened her family with financial ruin.

#3 – Did her father have a heart attack/stroke when he heard the news?

Hero – No, her family never knew I threatened them.

#3 – Did you threaten to put her gambling brother in jail for losing the loan you gave him?

Hero – No. There were no loans. I really didn't know her family.

#3 – You didn't hold a mortgage on their house? You didn't buy any businesses to have leverage?

Hero – No.

#1 - * mutters * We don't hand out Prize Ass statuettes for *average*.

#3 – So how did you get the h in bed?

Hero – I cooked her dinner – well I burned it –

#1 – Where was the housekeeper/cook?

Hero – I had no servants at the castle for the week. I wanted privacy for my booty call.

#2 – What did you do with the baby? Like during the Michelin dinner and then for a night of sex?

Hero - *shrugs * I don't know. It didn't come up.

#2 - *Looks at her fellow reviewers and they all nod. * Look. So far you haven't shown yourself to be Prize Ass worthy, but you son is certainly in the running for the Comatose Baby award. *Gestures to a gleaming statuette of Benadryl. *

Hero - *blankly * Benadryl?

#1 – It's what terrible parents give their children if they want them to sleep or otherwise not bother them.

Now. Moving on. The heroine is having sex with you. You know the kid is yours although the heroine doesn't know this. What's next?

Hero – I ask her to marry me, but she refuses because I don't love her. But I quickly realize all I have to do is lie and tell her I love her even when I don't.

#1 – You said “I love you” and you didn't mean it. Not even in your thoughts?

Hero – Yes.

#1 - * checks lying liars who lie about feelings box *

Hero - But I felt guilty.

#1 – How long did this last?

Hero – Two days. I took her to Paris and had the lab people tell her the DNA results and I pretended to hear them for the first time. The heroine was so happy and told me she loved me over and over again. I finally cracked and told her I didn't love her. I told her that her happiness was most important to me and that I knew she wouldn't be happy if she was married to someone who didn't love her like she deserved.

#3 – That's fairly brutal – but you talked about her happiness? That's not Prize Ass behavior.

Hero - *hopefully* I didn't come to my senses until they left for the airport. But I caught up with them.

#3 – Did you parade another woman in front of her? Did you put a gossip item in the newspaper to humiliate her? Did you send a trusted servant to tell her of your true love who is now available again?

Hero - *miserably* No.

#3 - * sighs and runs a finger down Captain Morgan's face * The Captain only comes out for Prize Asses.

#1 - I'm sorry, but you are an average ass. Your heroine is also an average doormat. *Glances at the Diamond Doormat pendant that had been bestowed on a disproportionate number of Lillian Peake heroines.
* She actually used your credit card to shop.

Hero – She thought she was getting back at me for spending a thousand dollars.

*All three reviewers and the hero smile knowingly. *

#2 – Your son, though. He is in the running for Comatose Baby.

#1 - *stamps the application with two stars* Well, that's it then. Next! Kate Hewitt's The Sandoval Baby.

And now for something completely different. Kate H's secret baby story is about the nanny and the father of the secret baby. The nanny heroine has been taking care of the H's son for the first three years of his life. His ex-wife kept the baby a secret from him because of vindictiveness. When the ex wife dies in a car wreck, the

hero finds out he has a son.

He wants to take his son back to Spain and enlist a new nanny, but he quickly sees the the boy has bonded with the h, and he'll have to put up with her until he can find a new one. The heroine thinks she's infertile and the H's son is the only chance she'll have to mother someone, so she is emotionally involved. She tries to hide it, though and the hero thinks that she is duplicitous just like all women. (Besides his wife lying about not being on birth control - his mother married his step father pregnant with another man's baby and tried to pass him off as his son)

When the son has night terrors and the H/h are upset by his trauma - they have unprotected sex. The H is cold the next day and the heroine feels guilty. She tells him she is infertile and he has nothing to worry about.

Three weeks later, the h is throwing up and the hero drags her to the doctor. She is pregnant. She's not infertile. She had a forced illegal abortion when she was 18 and had a lot of scarring. (Mentally and physically) She's spent the last ten years punishing herself for having sex with an unmarried man and for the abortion. Now she thinks the hero will abandon her - or take her baby as punishment. Instead, he realizes where he was at fault in his marriage and that he loves the heroine. Declarations of love. HEA.

This one brought up lots of heavy duty issues and then resolved them a little too glibly for my tastes. I didn't see romantic love at the end. Just two wounded people deciding to show compassion for one another. That's lovely - but the romance felt forced and incomplete. This one was crying out for another few chapters or a strong epilogue.

3 stars.

RomanceLover99 says

Classic example of what happens when shorter novellas are written by authors who are used to writing longer books.....You end up with 2 books that call completely flat. There's no character development and the hero and heroine in both books lack chemistry not do they have enough scenes together to be convincing that they love each other. I was sadly disappointed in both books and wouldn't recommend this. I'm a huge Jennie Lucas fan and was so disappointed when I read her book in particular. Save your time and your money and skip this.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Ummm...What was that?

I should have listened to St.Margarets but then bad reviews are such a turn on! ;)

(This goes for the French guy. The Spanish one comes later.)

Okay read the other one too. Review at <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Jenny says

Jennie Lucas can do no wrong. Her stories warm my heart and make me swoon! This was a short story but I still adored this couple and their chemistry!

Lakisha says

The Count's Secret Child - Theo was smug, overbearing and annoying and I wondered what had possessed sweet Carrie to fall for him. I guess riches can turn a person's head. It was interesting to learn what had brought them together and torn them apart. It made me want to smack Theo even more. I did appreciate that Carrie stood her ground and thought about her child's needs before her own.

The Sandoval Baby - This story was a little more intense and a little rushed I felt but otherwise it flowed rather well. I felt bad for Rafe who learned 3 years later that he had a son due to the machinations of his ex-wife. I also felt bad for Freya who had raised the boy as her own only to have the natural father come back demanding his child back. The chemistry between Rafe and Freya was quick to burn and things progressed a little too fast before settling down with a predictable twist.

Would I recommend this? Both were solidly written and can be enjoyed.

Debbie DiFiore says

Hero was just a pig in the first story. He was thinking about all his conquests both workwise and women while she was gone but they never satisfied them. Right there my friends I was ready to dnf. But I continued and she hooked right up with him the second day. I did tear up when he told her that he lied about loving her and she got in the car with the cousin. It was heartbreaking. I thought she was stupid though to believe him in the first place. I liked that he came to his senses and went after her and there was an HEA.

I liked the second book and put the review on it's Goodreads page before I saw this. It wasn't great but it was good.

Lenore Kosinski says

3.5 stars -- it's sometimes hard in these shorter stories to believe the development of love in such a short amount of time. Enjoyed the Sandoval Baby more I think....Rafe actually owned up to some guilt, which was refreshing.

Rachael says

currently reading this as a special 3 book series (which includes the counts secret child , the sandoval baby and one other one) called blackmail and secrets 3 stories (harliquin)

reading the sandoval baby first (since it is first in the book)
seems to be an alright story if a lil rushed (and hard to believe a lil that Freya after 10 yrs of pushing men away would suddenly have a one night stand with one guy ... as hot as he is but maybe thats just me)

even though its a short story its good to see that there is still some detail there (we found out why shes hesitant in returning to spain and to men after 10 yrs) just up to the part where shes been to the dr to confirm a pregnancy (not a spoiler i promise as its in the title haha)
and shes had that heart to heart on the bench that night with that guy

will post more as i finish and start next one (and yes for me its a new thing to go back to modern human romances .. after being addicted to N/A and historicals and Paranormals!)

Ok so read the counts secret baby and was a good read but cant say i took a liking to the main Hero (if you could call him that) he came across as everything i disliked in a "hero"
arrogant , loved himself and thought he was the best thing since sliced bread and that evrry woman wanted him (maybe it was because he was french and french men are known to be like that i dunno)
but i loved how the heroine stood up to him and didnt fawn over him -- and was there for their baby .. and love and the HEA happened despite it

Michelle says

I'm in love with Theo St. Raphael <3 Carrie Powell is also a very likable heroine. I'm not very much interested with The Sandoval Baby short story though.

Tonya Warner says

Two stories for the price of one.

Really enjoyed The Count's Secret Baby by Jennie Lucas. Carrie wanted love, and Theo was incapable of love. When he first heard her say the words, he disappeared for a year, leaving Carrie alone and pregnant. Finding out he now has a son, he wants Carrie back, but by his rules.

The Sandoval Baby by Kate Hewitt, I did not enjoy. I swear I read the first half of the story in a longer book. Rafe finds out he has a three-year-old son his ex-wife had kept from him. After her death, he goes to bring his son home, but ends up with the nanny who has raised him as well, Freya.

Vintage says

I just can't do. The H is such a trouser snake he's practically smacking his lips, and the heroine says she won't succumb, but hey, we all know different as she just kissed him within seconds after walking into his evil French lair after monologuing how much she hates him.

I am just going to re-read StMargarets review again and would recommend that readers do the same. Far more entertaining and far less nauseating.

StMargarets review...

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

LoveRomance says

Both too short, too simplistic. Sandoval Baby more interesting than Count story, which was just way below even my Harlequin standards.

Vanessa says

Carrie's problem is that she really does see the best in people. She believes that after a year, the Comte de Castelnau has finally sent for her to see their three month old child. Nope he has a hunger for her and can't hold off any more. Theo St. Raphael is very surprised to discover they have a child, but he still wants Carrie. Theo had left the love struck Carrie and she hadn't had a chance to tell him about the bun. Apparently Theo left because Carrie broke the rules and the year apart was punishment!! She spoke of love, the nerve of her!! No more talk of that and they can resume their r/s. Oh if only these hs didn't lie to themselves and their Hs when they say I hate you. LOL! Really was funny because he did treat Carrie as a booty call and she even acknowledged it in her thoughts. You know Theo's problem stems from his past because it is the age old explanation, but it was enjoyable to see how Carrie and Theo would work things out. I hope you don't think he has hit a dry spell for the year that Carrie was otherwise occupied, because Theo didn't!!! Nope he went on w/ his conquests they just didn't satisfy him. She tries to be strong against him, but he issues threats....again. It really does make you wonder how great these guys can be if they have to threaten a woman to be w/ them. Theo believes he respects Carrie too much to lie to her and yet he did lie about the paternity test. He already KNEW the results before he faked hearing them for the first time!! He accuses Carrie of being selfish in regards to marrying him and putting the child's needs ahead of hers, BUT Theo is putting his wants ahead of hers! He wants her to marry him then she is there ALWAYS. Then he forces out a lie to get what he wants – yes he even admits to self, it's a lie! His guilt eats away at him and he sees things differently. Then he is extremely generous and very mean at the same time. Carrie in all her optimism sees it as love and HEA soon follows. Not a bad read.

Rafe had married a real POW. She died and he discovers she had kept a VERY big secret from him....a child he had always wanted one but she had denied him for years. Now he is meeting his child for the first time. Freya had been taking care of the child for the POW ex who was an awful mother. Freya had grown attached to the child and doesn't want to part w/ him to easily. She manages to convince Rafe to take her w/ him and the child, Max, back to Spain which also holds some secrets of her past. However, Max is worth it for Freya. There is the attraction and seems they get in quick! There are lingering doubts because of his ex, and Freya's secret doesn't help. He thinks she trapped him which is funny when you think about it because unless she knew he would do that, and she was "ripe" then it wouldn't pan out right, but then once bitten twice shy, huh? Her secret is bad, well for me it was. I didn't like it at all and I wanted some vindication from that couple too. It really sounded creepy what they had done as though they had done it several times before. However, I truly liked Rafe he was deeply hurt before and he isn't overly donkey about it w/ Freya either. In the end it was a sweet story that brought this book up to a four star read.

Diane says

i like both these authors but really prefer longer, more in-depth (ha ha for an HP) books

Pam says

Both stories are fandamtastic. I really like the story line wish they both were longer i wanted know more about the characters and their love story. Especially the second story The Sandoval Baby should have been a full length the story needed more time to develop. I will read these again i am sure.
