

Bella and the Merciless Sheikh

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Sheikh Zafiq Al-Rashid is furious when his week of solitude is interrupted by Bella Balfour, lost in the desert! While his fierce honor demands he rescue her, the willful heiress is a little less grateful than he'd expected. Zafiq is tempted to leave the spoiled socialite wandering the wilderness...but where would be the challenge in that?

He's powerful enough to tame the rebellious beauty. However, when they depart from the seclusion of the oasis, will Zafiq leave the memory of the fiery passion behind or announce to his kingdom that he is taking a queen?

Bella and the Merciless Sheikh Details

Date : Published (first published April 1st 2009)


ISBN :

Author : Sarah Morgan

Format : Kindle Edition 187 pages

Genre : Category Romance, Harlequin, Romance, Harlequin Presents, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Bella and the Merciless Sheikh for online ebook

Riverina Romantics says

4.5 Hearts

I LURVED this book.

I've mentioned it to the point of being a broken record...but I LOVE Sheikh books. Seriously these men are my favourite heros. Always confident, always dominant, always with those sexy dark features I dream about.

I love how I can pick up a Sheikh story and almost always have the plot lines I crave - Sexy heroine makes the gruff Sheikh who doesn't believe in romance, fall to his knees. *sigh* DAMN I LOVE IT!!

Bella and the Merciless Sheikh would have to be one of my favourite Sheikh stories.

And that says a lot seeing as though Bella had a rather large pole stuck firmly up her ass. Can't blame her though, she was smokin, had grown up with continuous attention - so she played on her looks at the start. She really grew and developed through this story though. She turned from little attention whore, to hardworking, down to earth, huge hearted Bella.

Zafiq...well I ain't gunna *squee* and *sigh* and *gush* If you're aware of my Sheikh fetish you should have already pictured me doing this. Zafiq made my belly do flips. He definitely made the 'Men to picture while having sex with my husband list' - Not that I've ever put that list to use yet.....

Anyway, he was a honey. And I lurved how he fell for Bella and even more how he tried to fight it.

A great, smooth, easy to read story that made me want to go to bed early to...daydream.

Fiordiligi says

I usually like Sarah Morgan but this novel featured a heroine I just couldn't stomach. Her favourite activities seem to be doing her make-up, dressing up and going to parties. It was pretty obvious which angle the author wanted to take by first putting Bella as a vapid Paris-Hilton wannabe in scene who slowly, as the story evolves, shows her deeper sides. However, I just couldn't read one more line about Bella needing a hairdo in the middle of the desert. DNF

KC 2.0 says

4.5 stars

My favorite book by Sarah Morgan! It's romantic, funny, sweet-sexy, and features a heroine and hero who

are perfect archetypes of the genre: sexy, brooding sheik and beautiful, spirited blond. Bella and Zafiq find true love, but it's also a coming-of-age story for Bella.

Zafiq, the "merciless sheik", is a serious and proud man who tries his hardest to resist the impish and beautiful Bella. As the ruler of his country, Zafiq shoulders much responsibility, and responsible isn't a word one would attribute to Bella—at least not until one digs deeper. Bella, despite being a wealthy socialite, is more than just a pretty party girl. She seems to have everything, but is in short supply of self-esteem and a solid sense of identity.

Despite being an underdog of sorts, Bella wins Zafiq's heart (and mine as well) without trying just by being herself. Zafiq initially thinks Bella is spoiled and shallow, but comes to appreciate her fun-loving and compassionate nature. Bella had me laughing out loud several times with her witty sense of humor. She also had me cheering for her bravery during an exciting, yet dangerous horse race which, if she won, would prevent this disaster from happening. (view spoiler) How loving and generous is that?

Chitra *CJ* says

"Bella and the Merciless Sheikh" is the story of Bella and Zafiq.

Bella is the wildest of the Balfour daughters- also known as "Bad Bella", who has lived a glamorous life filled with glitz and all the attention. Things go downhill, when she unexpectedly reveals a secret that leads to the Balfour scandal, and her father pushes her to go to a remote desert island to recuperate!

It is there she meets Sheikh Zafiq, who is on his annual retreat- and between annoying complaints and dry humor, sparks fly!

This was a surprisingly good read and best in the series so far. The heroine had a very self-deprecating and infectious sense of humor, and she was honest, even if a little spoilt. I liked how she worked hard in the second half- and the sex scenes between her and the hero were hot! Sweet ending.

A refreshing change from the virgin heroine trope in this series.

Enjoyed it!

Safe

4/5

Claire says

Bad, scandalous Bella meets stick-in-the-mud sheik. I get her quirky sense of humor, even the sophomoric jokes (milkshake, anyone?), and her need to show that she's just one-misunderstood paparazzi target. But I wish that she ended up with a hero who's more deserving of her. Or at least fought for her love. She did all the transformation; he did nada.

Then, all he had to say was IwuvYOU and she succumbed. I would have said, "Heck! Prove it! Two nights ago, you thought I was only good enough to be your mistress."

This is one book where I want a rewrite. I want her to go back to her world and I want him to follow her and grovel real well.

Missy says

A nice entertaining read.

Yes, Bella is spoiled, childish, and somewhat annoying but she also highly entertaining. Watching her try to escape her forced desert retreat and her somewhat dim witted moves is amusing. Watching her clash with his royalness Zafiq is great.

Both Bella and Zafiq are not totally likable until the end when they discover LOVE but they are both totally entertaining to read about. A nice amusing romance.

Jenn - WebbWeaver Reviews says

A hot desert romance - enough to spice up anyone's day.

I enjoyed this book a lot. I had to laugh with the verbal sparring between Bella and Zafiq. They both had the funniest comebacks for each other!

As usual Sarah Morgan did a great job with an interesting, sexy and funny story.

Sandra says

Bella Balfour's father sent her to a desert retreat for a few weeks. She is a spoiled socialite and her father thinks a few weeks of quiet meditation on her life would do her good. But it is driving Bella crazy...she has no access to a phone, laptop, iPod. She is bored and wants out. So she sneaks away and goes to a nearby stable to temporarily "borrow" a horse so she can go into the city, then she'll send the horse back. But she gets lost in the desert.

Sheikh Zafiq Al-Rashid is riding his horse out into the desert for a week of peace and solitude. While he is riding he sees a woman passed out next to a horse (which he recognizes as Amira, his favorite mare). Furious, but knowing the woman needs help, he takes her to his tent. He's convinced she's a horse thief. Bella explains why she's also in the desert, for a week of meditation. He has no clue as to her identity. She tells him her name is Kate. Zafiq decides to keep her there with him. (He only has a week off for himself, away from all his duties as a Sheikh, and he doesn't want it spoiled by other people showing up.) They become very attracted to each other and begin to fall for each other. But what will happen when Zafiq discovers she isn't Kate but the infamous, scandalous Balfour daughter Bella.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Bella was so spoiled, wicked, feisty, and sarcastic at first. (Her antics made me laugh out loud at times.) It was nice to see her mature and grow up as the story progressed. She became a very lovable heroine. Bella was also affectionate and uninhibited, the opposite from cool, detached, and reserved Zafiq. They had great chemistry together. I enjoyed their banter. I really liked how Zafiq's staff and family took such a liking to Bella. She was so happy to finally be accepted for who she really was and not just as bad Bella Balfour, society heiress. (view spoiler) I also liked gorgeous Zafiq, he was a good hero.

This was a very sweet and sexy read by Sarah Morgan.

Katherine ??? says

Bella membenci pasir di sekelilingnya, tempat dia diperintahkan utk merenungi kesalahannya. Bella yg super aktif tidak akan membiarkan alam gersang mengungkung dirinya. Jadi Bella "meminjam" kuda paling cantik yg pernah dilihatnya.

Pemilik kuda tsb tidak berpendapat sama dgn Bella. Mengira kuda terbaiknya dicuri, Zafiq mengejar dan mendapatkan si pencuri adalah wanita cantik. Wanita yg tidak bisa diatur sama sekali dan selalu menantang dirinya. Tak ada cara lain utk mengekang si wanita ini selain menaklukkannya scr seksual.

Cerita bergulir ketika mereka di kota dan Bella ditempatkan di istal kuda. Dasar gadis kreatif, Bella sudah kepalang tanggung mencintai kuda² malah dgn senang hati mengurus kuda² terbaik milik si sheik tsb. Sampai Bella merencanakan menyamar mjd joki pengganti yg terluka parah. Dptkah Zafiq menghentikan kharisma Bella pd org² di sekitarnya atau ikutan semaput dgn pesona Bella? Sebaliknya Bella mendapatkan pandang pasir itu mengubah dirinya menjadi pasir isap yg mengisap dirinya, enggan melepaskan diri dari kekuatannya.

Lagi² author menunjukkan kepiawaiannya dan membuat saya melongo bgmn dua kepribadian yg bertabrakan bisa "dijodohkan" lumayan pas. Karakter Bella yg me-ledak² dipasangkan dgn karakter Zafiq yg penyendiri. Bagusnya di novel ini adalah perubahan karakter Bella dari si biang onar menjadi pahlawan pemberani, yang akhirnya memperoleh hadiah utama yg prestisius, si sheik tampan Zafiq. Sayangnya, gak ada usaha jungkir balik dari Zafiq utk mendptkan Bella, rasanya gak timbal balik saja.

Danielle says

Major plot spoilers ahead. You've been warned. Read at own risk.

10 stars!

WOW!!! That's my first reaction book. Just wow. It was so awesome. There was so many feels to this book I almost can't stand it. From the first page, I was hooked and pulled right into the story. I literally felt like I was in the story, apart of it. I felt gutted. My heart was wrenched in my chest for poor Bella. I could feel what she was going through like they were my emotions. I just felt so much for her all the way through. Her story captured me and again made me feel so much for her. I rooted for her the entire time. I wanted her to have happiness in her life. And I really enjoyed going on the romantic journey. This was one of those rare books that made me hurt right along with Bella and really feel her pain with her. I even teared up at certain points. I loved the feels in this book.

That wasn't the only thing I loved about this book, but I loved the whole thing about it. There wasn't a single thing wrong with it and I wouldn't change anything about it. It was just a really engaging and roller coaster ride all the way through. There just so many things I loved aside from the feels and the deep emotions I felt while reading this. I don't know if I can mention all of them.

I really enjoyed the pacing and the journey that I was lead on. It was entertaining and fun. Heart breaking

and interesting and just totally savor worthy. I took my time with this book so I could marinate in it. I wanted to draw it out as long as possible.

The beginning was brilliant with Bella being "exiled" to the desert after the big Balfour scandal exploded at the family charity ball. Bella was supposedly the cause of it and was shunned because of it and left alone in the desert as her punishment, and she hated it being used to a technological world in high society. She was used to be alone with her thoughts without any distractions. She didn't want to be alone with her thoughts otherwise she would have to focus on her pain. So she was looking to escape the desert and she did by borrowing a horse and escaping to the desert even the detriment to her own life that was when she met Zafiq, the sheikh and the horses owner. He rescued her from death.

Then let the fireworks begin. They were like oil and water, but had great chemistry to back it up. Boy did they have chemistry. Wow. But before they gave into their desires, there was lots of yummy tension as they went back and forth. It was really entertaining to watch and see the byplay between them. I loved how she ruffled his feathers and get under his skin. She stood up to him and didn't care two figs about him being a sheikh. And she did it on purpose to try to get what she wanted which was to go back to the city. But moreover she presented her flirty side as a defense mechanism not wanting to be vulnerable to him, which she was and was afraid to show him. She didn't want anymore hurt in her life.

They gave into their passion a little quicker than I anticipated, but it worked in this story. Their first time scene was full of passion and built up lust that just exploded. It was the first time that Bella felt a meaningful connection with someone. For the first time she didn't alone the world and she wanted to hold on to it tight. What touched me most about the scene was the aftermath and how much I could feel Bella's yearning for closeness with Zafiq and just how much she wanted it. I could really feel her need to be held close to keep that connection between them. She even made the first move to snuggle with him, and that's when his brutal rejection came pulling away from her and saying them making love was a mistake. As soon as that happened, I could feel her pain wafting off the pages. It broke my heart and made me want to hug her myself. She believed what her and Zafiq was species but her cut her to the quick and hid it as best she could. She was bruised and I could feel that. Heartbreaking.

His view of them being a mistake didn't last long and they began a passionate and romantic journey in the desert and I loved it. It was just so good. They had their time together between romantic rides in the desert to times at the oasis to passionate encounters at night. I could see them falling in love and growing closer to one another. Bella no longer hated the desert and feared going back to her world again. I just love their romance develop and grow. It was sweet to see, though Zafiq did try to keep his distance from her. He refused to hold her after their lovemaking or outside the bedroom, which was all that she wanted, but didn't attempt or voice for fear of rejection which once again broke my heart for. I felt so bad for her. I wanted that for her. But there was romance and lots of passionate sexy times that were satisfying.

Then they returned to real life with real life getting between them and separating them for a month, but she did work for Zafiq not totally severing their connection. She worked with the horses doing back braking work, but was great about that was that it showed her growth and her strength coming through in spades. She grew up in those stables plus it renewed her love for horses. I loved seeing this side to her and how she fought when she was passionate about something. Plus it created yummy angst and tension for the couple which was really good. I wanted them back I each other's arms.

What was really great was there was a rush of adrenaline at this point in the story and not just from the anticipation in the romance but the plot point with the horses. It was really good and engaging adding a little spice an edge the story. It gave it an extra spark to the story which was awesome and just added so much

dimension to the story. It spiked my adrenaline for sure and it also gave Zafriq a wake up call when it came to her. It opened his eyes to so much as he became to understand her a little better and it made him go after what he wanted.

The whole story just really was well done. It had a little bit of everything that a romance fan would want. It was very emotional but also very passionate with the love scenes. It was very romantic at times. I loved it. Even though the story was very emotional and passionate, it was overwhelming or oppressing but instead it was a perfect balance with interesting plot lines along the way. It was a believable romance and it had a very nice pace to it. I loved it.

I could go on and on about it but I think I am running out of room. This will definitely be going in the favorite pile and one I will read over and over again. Great job Sarah Morgan. My praise knows no bounds with this book. I would have given this more stars if I could it was that good.

Highly recommend this book for all romance fan especially Present fans.

StMargarets says

I'm not a fan of Sheikh stories – or royalty stories. But I do love a misunderstood bad girl paired with a serious hero. And that is the romantic dynamic in this story.

Fans of Sheikh stories might not like the world-building in this one. There are the usual desert delights – sand, heat, starry skies, silky waters in the oasis. The set pieces are also typical -the tent at the oasis, the palace with stables and race course set just outside of a small city with beautiful architecture.

However, the people all have western attitudes toward women. The men who work the stables are friendly and respectful to the heroine and they confide in her – not the usual attitude toward women. The hero is a duty-bound ruler – but not hung up on a woman's place or her sexual history or producing heirs.

And that's why I liked this.

The heroine was not fighting the chauvinistic attitudes/ east vs west usually explored in a sheikh romance , she was fighting herself and then finally, fighting for herself. Everyone is foil for Bella – this is her story – her growth. The hero is her prize at the end of all of this. It's no coincidence that the mare is the most prized horse in the hero's stable, not the hero's stallion.

So recap – Bella has been banned to a yoga retreat in the desert by her father who "hates" her. The heroine has been a tabloid feature for the past ten years. First as the beautiful daughter from a notorious family and then as a top model. The Balfour Ball is the catalyst for 8 books in this series and this is the seventh. The heroine's dead mother's infidelity is revealed at the ball by her outspoken twin, hurting their youngest sister. Heroine is worried about both sisters and her relationship with them at the beginning of the story.

She is also bored at the yoga retreat and "borrows" the beautiful mare that is inexplicably left unguarded. The heroine heads toward the city and gets lost. The hero finds her as he is setting out on his five day solo retreat to the oasis. He tends to her and they are immediately attracted to each other. Hero fights his attraction, but the heroine really doesn't. They eventually have sex after swimming races in the pond, rides through the desert and lots of banter. They spend a happy four days together.

When the hero returns to the palace, he is angry to discover who she really is. (view spoiler)

I love a story where the heroine wins minds and hearts by being herself. In this case, she had to find her true self before she could shine. It's pure fantasy, and really had nothing to do with the hero – he was just the catalyst and the reward. The hero is a good guy - not overly arrogant for being the big bad sheikh - he needs her to lighten up. She needs him for stability and love. A well-matched pair.

TashNz says

Oh my gosh! SM is going to be on my automatic buy. Where I'm from this is called Bella's Disgrace. I loved the story for two reasons, one it's involving a Sheikh (my fave books) and two because Bella isn't your usual heroine. Loved the series it was part of too.

Kaycee ♥? says

I love it when I find a book that so unexpectedly turns out to be awesome. I didn't expect to like it as much as I did considering I didn't like the previous books in the series. But I can honestly say that this book was by far the best book in this series. I won't go into details as I don't want to give anything away. But there are tears, sex, laughter, heartache, trust, bravery, love... Yeah,, it had it all. There are so many things about this book that I like. It was funny at times, painfully awkward at others. It was also heartwarming and sad. I swear, there was never a dull moment!

Zafiq is definitely my type of hero. I love, love Sheikh heroes (next to Greeks, of course!) He was the perfect combination of dark, broody, possessive and sexy as well with a mysterious side that you just can't wait to figure out. I enjoyed seeing him struggle to hold his defenses against Bella who has, despite his best effort, found her way into his heart. She awakens something in him, touches a part of him that he's long since forgotten or feel.

As for Bella, I adored her. She was a heroine after my own heart. She has just the right amount of backbone to stand up to him, but also just enough vulnerability to make you love her. Hiding behind her tough/rebel exterior is a heart needing love and someone to care and trust in her.

Both Bella and Zafiq had great chemistry and you could just tell they were meant to be together. There were so many incredible moments that I was completely lost in the story. I also enjoyed that it was told in both POV because there's nothing I love more than to be inside the hero's head. I honestly loved everything about this book.

Overall, Bella and the Merciless Sheikh was such a delightful read. And if you are looking for a fun and sexy

read with little amount of drama, you really can't go wrong with this one.

Mary says

[when she works in the stables and befriends others with her work ethic and attitude (hide spoiler)]

Samantha says

Bella Balfour is a bad girl socialite sent to the middle of the Arabian Desert by her father to get herself together. The lack of technology (cellphones, laptops, etc) is driving her stir-crazy. Her guardian at the retreat where Bella is forced to stay only has yoga and meditation on the agenda and Bella needs some action. Devising an escape plan, she steals a horse, unaware of who it belongs to and attempts to make it across desert to the city.

Her plans are derailed when she underestimates the distance to the city and she suffers a sun stroke. Lucky for her, Sheikh Zariq is taking his annual weekly retreat in the desert and stumbles upon her. Zariq is furious when he spots her worn down body and his beautiful prized horse. He believes she is a thief, trying to sell the creature.

Bella is slightly annoying in my opinion. Just picture a Paris Hilton type stuck in the desert, using her beauty and charm to try to get into the city. She comes across a little dimwitted for the first half of the book and the Sheikh comes across slightly arrogant and cold. Even after the first love scene, the compassion and tenderness is severely lacking. The flighty heroine and distant hero make them a bit unappealing.

Eventually, Zariq coerces Bella into endless nights of sex in the desert. She agrees and somehow they connect during the week long stay out there. Once they return to the city, Bella begs Zariq to allow her to work for him and prove that she is capable of being serious. Bella steps into her new role and tries to win the heart of the handsome sheikh.

Sarah Morgan books are well written and the story moves quickly. I just wished that I didn't have to wait until the end of the book to finally like Bella. Her progression to behaving like an adult is too slow. Zariq doesn't warm up until the end. Who wants to wait until the end to like the hero?

The scandal behind Bella's stay in the desert is quite entertaining. I wish it was brought to light earlier in the book. I want to know more about her family and who they really are. I will search for future books about Bella's sisters. I have questions I want answered but I guess they will be revealed in later books. Overall, this book is entertaining but fell flat in some areas.
