



## The Kept Woman

*Susan Donovan*

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Now, with scheming opponents itching to bring Jack down, Sam's ex returning to stir up trouble, one stubborn pre-schooler, two squabbling teenagers, a crazy dog, and some out-of-this-world sex, Jack and Sam are discovering that playing make-believe can be complicated--but not nearly as much as falling in love...

## **The Kept Woman Details**

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Author : Susan Donovan

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Humor, Funny, Adult, Family, M F Romance

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## From Reader Review The Kept Woman for online ebook

### Anita says

Funny, sexy and just plain wonderful. I really needed a feel good book this week and this one was just perfect. Both the hero, Jack Tolliver, and the heroine, Samantha Monroe, were great together as they found their way from a contract farce to true love.

When Sam tells her best friends after one to many margaritas that she would love to be a "Kept Woman" her life changes forever. Friend Kara is looking for a way to humanize her soon to be candidate for the US Senate, womanizer, rich, bad boy, former football player, Jack Tolliver. It's a tall order and Kara thinks that Sam may just be the answer she is looking for. A divorced mother of three, hairstylist Sam is swimming in a mountain of debt and responsibilities. Jack and Sam enter into a contract where she will be his fiancée until the primary and then she will fade from the scene. In exchange Sam walks away with enough to keep her and her children well for years to come. What can possibly go wrong?

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### Shawna says

4 stars – Contemporary Romance

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### Stephanie says

I think I may have found a new favorite in Ms. Donovan. She manages to weave a great tale around characters that, as a reader I feel I could like in real life.

Sam is a divorced mother of three just trying to keep her head above water. She has bills to pay, a 60 hour a week job, two tweens, a toddler, and very little time for herself. You can feel her pain.

Jack is your typical pretty boy former athlete politician. He goes through women like most go through under ware. He has really never had to work for anything, at least it seems that way on the outside.

Jack needs to get elected to the senate for the state of Indiana. His current image of a playboy is not conducive to getting him to DC. Sam on the other hand feels like if she could just find someone to foot the bill for her, her life would be better for her and her children. Jack's campaign manager con-cocks a plan to get Jack the senate seat while helping out a friend in need. This is where the fun begins.

The premise of the story requires the reader to suspend reality a bit, but that's okay because we read these books to escape reality for a while, right?

When these two finally met, Jack realizes the Sam is real and maybe what he has needed all this time. Sam gets to see a side of Jack that is a lot deeper than she first thought. For me I like both Sam and Jack and the goofy cast of characters right of the bat. I was hard for me to put this book down. Very enjoyable read. Some compare Donovan to Jennifer Crusie, but I don't think so. I like Donovan much better.

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### **Mareli says**

Light and fun but well written. The story is a bit unreal, you know the hairstylist with three children and the ex-football player, a bit of bad boy and womanizer, it seems strange ;)

But really it was a good story, full of good characters. I liked it very much.

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### **Dianne says**

This is what I consider one of my "comfort reads", a book I read just because I love it so much and one that I pull out anytime nothing else would seem to do.

The story is excellent with just a touch of "pop-corn" read to it. The characters are well developed and they grow even in the short time this book allows us.

The premise may not be a new one, but it is handled perfectly, giving us laughter and even some tears.

When a comment is made in passing (and jokingly) in front of her friends about becoming a "kept woman", the comment is soon passed on to a womanizing politician who could use a ready made girlfriend/fiance with a family in tow.

Of course because this is a romance it doesn't hurt that they are both gorgeous and sexually attracted to each other! While fighting off Jacks overbearing mother, the paparazzo and various others who would like to be in Jack's bed both figuratively and literally and while trying to keep this relationship to a business deal...things change, feelings change, people change. And thankfully they all change for the better.

While the idea that a woman could become kept in the loosest non-sexual sense of the word, may rankle a few readers, I would go for it anyway since things all even out in the end and truth and justice will prevail.

Ms Donovan is one of my very favorite contemporary romance authors. She consistently write good comedy, lovely romantic scenes, excellent characters that you could just see yourself being friends with and she always keeps you on your toes with her plots.

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### **Shannon C. says**

2.5 stars: Humorous romantic comedy--light beach read

I deduct some stars due to the predictability of the storyline and I wasn't a fan of the lead guy (cheater/womanizer and coniving politician). However romance left you feeling good after reading it and the hero was sexy/hot, bad points aside. I also liked the interactions with the kids and friends.

This book was similar in style (but not quite as good) to books by Julie James, Susan Elizabeth Phillips,

Jennifer Crusie, and Erin McCarthy.

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### **Ana says**

Gostei imenso do livro. Foi uma leitura leve e divertida, com os seus pontos mais sérios mas, em geral, um romance tranquilo. Apesar disso, valeu a pena como leitura mais leve e aconselho para quem está à procura deste tipo de livros.

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### **Karla says**

Another good book by Susan Donovan. It took a little bit for this book to get going for me, but once it did, I really enjoyed it. Initially I was not a fan of Jack's but then he grew on me especially when he interacted with Sam's kids. He never knew what he was looking for until it was standing right in front of him and then he embraced it all, Samantha, her kids and her friends. A lot of feel good moments, and a sweet HEA.

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### **Emily says**

Samantha Monroe has had to fight tooth and nail for everything in life, with three children and a dead beat ex-husband in her wake, she can't resist when an offer to pretend she is the fiancee' of political candidate Jack Tolliver drops in her lap.

Jack has the reputation of being a bit of a playboy, which is not winning favors with the voters. Trying to clean up his image, he is willing to go along with the pretend romance to Samantha, but as he gets to know her and her children it becomes apparent that he wants more than pretend, he is looking for happily ever after.

Very fun read, it thought it was paced well and couldn't put it down.

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### **Crista says**

I've read Take a Chance On Me by this author and LOVED it, so I was very excited to read this book. I expected the same stuff that I got from TACOM...humor, emotionally tormented characters, and a decent plot line. This story gave me only 1 out of the 3. It was funny.

I laughed out loud at several of the scenes in this book....whether it was Sam's little toddler who was having difficulty potty training or her hilarious best friend, this book certainly had the humor. What it didn't have was likeable characters. Jack seemed like a overindulged playboy for much of the book, and I was never very sympathetic to Sam. Their romance was much more about sex and attraction than it was about emotional commitment...a big turn off for me personally.

I've recommended Take A Chance On Me to many, but I can't say the same for this one.

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### **Colleen says**

I would really give this one 4.5 stars. I liked this book so much better than *Take a Chance on Me*. Jack and Sam are great together and you will find yourself energized as their love story unfolds. It's a fairy tale come true!

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### **Tanya says**

Very Good!!!

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### **Hannah says**

This one just didn't do it for me. I knew from the back cover blurb that the premise (playboy politician gets a fake fiance to clean up his image) was silly, but I know of several authors who could have pulled it off with clever writing, endearing characters, and playful humor. Susan Donovan just wasn't up to the task.

The writing in this novel was passable, but far from perfect. Donovan did a lot of telling rather than showing, and I got tired of her fondness of exclamation points. The pacing of the love story was also a little wonky: Sam and Jack met, they were instantly attracted to each other, they hit it off, they had fun on their fake dates, they did the nookie, and BAM! they were both in love. Very little conflict, no real development, and no satisfying romance. Some of their interactions were sweet, but I had trouble believing in their undying love for each other.

The characters in *The Kept Woman* were either somewhat lacking in personality (as was the case with Sam and Jack) or they were 2-dimensional stereotypes: the black single mother, the bitchy blonde newscaster, the overbearing, snotty aristocratic mother, and the greasy, overweight lobbyist. They were all caricatures rather than characters. As for Sam's irresponsible, child-support-dodging, cocaine-addicted, homosexual ex-husband, he just made me uncomfortable. I don't know what Donovan was trying to say with this character, but my guess is that the message wasn't gay-friendly.

Over all, *The Kept Woman* left a bad taste in my mouth. I didn't find the romance story line swoon-worthy, and a few of the characters and plot points offended me. I might be willing to give Susan Donovan another try, but my first sampling of her works didn't impress me.

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### **ElaineY says**

This was one of the two Susan Donovans I brought with me on holiday to Thailand. The other was an older title, *Take A Chance On Me*. I liked both though I think most Contemp Romance fans are likely to rate the older book higher. It's just that I'm a sucker for Cinderella-type stories and this is what *The Kept Woman* is

even if the heroine gets her prince by agreeing to be "kept" by him temporarily.

I found this a fun book and just right for a holiday read. Donovan reminds me of Susan Andersen's and Rachel Gibson's romances. For some reason, I had the impression before that Susan Donovan wrote semi-erotic romances but I haven't the faintest idea where I got that from. Anyway, TKW is light and has that contemporary tone I enjoy. I've read some contemporary romances where the author still sounds like she's writing a historical romance.

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### **Michelle says**

The Kept Woman  
Susan Donovan  
Contemporary Romance  
372 pages  
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