



The Trouble With Harry

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1. He is Plum's new husband. Not normally a problem, but when you consider that Harry advertised for a wife, and Plum was set to marry his secretary, there was cause for a bit of confusion. 2. He has a title. Plum has spent the last twenty years hiding from the ton, and now Harry wants her to shine in society? Horrors! 3. He doesn't know about her shocking secret. How is she going to explain about the dead husband who isn't a husband . . . and who now seems to be alive again? 4. He's fallen in love with her. And yet, the maddening man refuses to confide in her. For Plum knows the real trouble with Harry is that he's stolen her heart.

The Trouble With Harry Details

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Pam says

This book is Absolutely wonderful!!! I love the humor and the way Katie writes. Her sex scenes are just enough. All through the book Harry (H) and Plum (h) talk to each other about what they want to do to each other from the sex guide, that Plum wrote, but...Harry doesn't know that until the end. The positions have crazy names but we...the reader never get any details how to do them....your imaginations have to step in. LOL

The children (5 of them) and their antics are so funny. Plum is always telling Harry what the children "did" when they went to ie. the fruitery and made all the fruit roll around on the glass place and now the children will be paying for it out of their allowances their father gives them. She is always trying to keep the children in line. I could just picture her getting ready to pull her hair out.

One of the scenes was so funny....Nick (Harry's Godson who is dressed as a beggar in disguise) rescues the children in the Serpentine....only to find out what needed rescuing was little white mice sitting on the boats the children were sailing and started to sink. Sooo funny when he says, "Mice? I jumped into the water fully clothed to rescue mice?"

"No one asked you to," Thom (Plum's niece she's raised since she was 15..now 20)said indignantly.

"I distinctly heard you say, 'Save them, they're drowning.' If that isn't asking me to save them--"

"Them being the mice," Thom interrupted.

"I didn't know you were screaming about the mice. I thought you meant the children were drowning. it was a logical mistake, considering the evidence."

I giggled out loud through this whole book. At the end when Plum gives birth she tells Harry, "You can't imagine the sort of pain you feel in labor. It's indescribable, it's absolutely indescribable, it's so bad you want to set your hair on fire just to distract yourself from the consuming, absolute horribleness of it all....." Then she tells Harry, "If you impregnate me again, I will take your scrotum, pull it over your head, and --" LOL.....soooo good.

Patti says

This book was a lot of fun!

Pamela Shropshire says

This is the 3rd book in the Noble series. I have a distinct weakness for the marriage of convenience trope and this one was spectacular.

Harry needs a mother for his five hellion children and a wife for his bed, so he places an advertisement.

Frederica Pelham, better known as Plum, is in grave financial difficulties. 20 years ago, she married Charles de Spenser, only to find out within 6 weeks that he was already married with a family, and that he perpetrated the fraud upon her because he knew she would never agree to be his mistress. Her family has cut her because of the scandal. Now she is the guardian of her orphaned niece, Thomasine, or Thom, and she's

down to her last few shillings. The marriage advertisement is an answer to prayer.

Harry deliberately fails to inform her he has five children. She deliberately fails to inform him of her scandalous past and the fact that she is the author of the Guide to Connubial Calisthenics, aka Vyvyan Le Blue.

There are so many LOL scenes in this book. The Stuart Little-esque scene with the sailing mice in Hyde Park, the bull in the hallway, the snake in the carriage . . . Plus, Juan the butler! OMG, he reminds me so much of John Turturro's portrayal of the butler in Mr. Deeds.

If you're a fan of slapstick comedies like Bringing Up Baby (K Hepburn & C Grant) or Arsenic and Old Lace, you'll find this book entertaining!

4.5 stars, rounded up to 5.

Marielle says

Sadly this wasn't for me.

It started out quite refreshingly hilarious, the widower advertising for a wife. I started to get a little worried when the heroine had apparently written a quite scandalous sex-book, but I hoped to take it in stride. This was just too slapstick-y for me.

I must admit I haven't been able to finish. So if I missed the story taking another turn, please tell me.

null says

A singularly great and affectionate parody of regency romance, this book reworks the guidelines of conventional romance lit. Spectacular humor as well.

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

Katie MacAlister

WARNING: Don't eat or drink while reading this crazy, mixed up, Brady Bunch on steroids MISadventure!

Frederica Pelham, Plum, was ruined her first Season, when she married the deceitful Charles de Spencer. For 6 weeks, Plum lived in his bed and then learned that his was already married. She was called his whore, banished from her family and she never did anything wrong. Plum did learn about passion, so she wrote the scandalous book, Guide of Connubial Calisthenics, under the pen name of Vyvyan LaBlue and was able to support herself and her niece, Thom. Now she is 40, near poverty and has no rent money, when her dearest friend, Del, talks her into answering the advertisement for a wife. Plum decides what does she have to lose and she still wants a child of her own!

Harry Haversham, the Marquis of Rosse, is a widow with 5 hellions, India, Digger (his heir apparent), twins

Anne and Andrew and last, but not least McTavish. His staff is full of kooky and quirky characters, like the flamboyant butler, Juan. He needs a zoo keeper or a wife for his clan and with the help of his trusted man of affairs, Temple, an advertisement is put in the local paper. Harry just needs to interview Temple's top choices, easy right!

Harry loves Plum's body and Plum loves having a roof over her and her niece's heads, so they agree to tie the knot, after a 5 minute interview. He never tells her about his family and she never tells him about Charles or her book. On their wedding night, they are so close to ripping the clothes off one another, when McTavish runs in to the room with his dead animal and then all Hades breaks loose, as each hellion interrupts them, one by one. Poor Harry never gets his wedding night and Plum just gets a headache. Plum is shocked the next morning, when all 5 kids, are watching her wake up and she decides she will be the best mom and wife in the world.

This whole family is one accident after another, animals, large and small, wander through the house, mashed potatoes fly at dinner and Harry hides in office, with government business. Plum does tell him about Charles and he is very understanding and says his title will protect her. Harry and Plum have an amazing "Calisthenics" relationship, but he does NOT want anymore children, but Plum will just keep him busy with their "Calisthenics!" Harry packs up his clan and they head out to London for his government work and Plum prays her scandalous past would bite Harry in the bootie. In London, a mysterious nemesis of Harry is afoot and causing all kinds of mischief and danger. Poor Plum's past comes back and threatens her new family, and this mother bear will protect all her cubs, even to her own death. How can Plum make Harry understand that not all women die in childbirth? Can Harry's title protect Plum's past? Will Plum be unmasked as Vyvyan LaBlue? Can Harry discover who wants his family hurt or dead? Will Plum and Harry's love be enough to save them all? How long will it take for Vyvyan LaBlue's next book?

This book had me ROF and hyperventilating with laughter. Ms. MacAlister writes one outrageous situations after another. Her cast of hellions were such troublemaking, energetic and loveable kids. Plum is such a great and understanding mom and she always leads with her heart. Poor Harry was so burned out and Plum is his little energize bunny. The book of Calisthenics had positions like, "Bull elephant at Hadrian wall" and "Acolyte worshipping the High Priest," I have to ask, where can I get one from? All her characters are special to her, no matter how small or large, they are. This tale she weaved made me laugh, cry, SNAUGH, cough up my spleen (I didn't need it anyway), get that tingling feeling that makes my toes curl, stab my Kindle, throw pillows at imaginary foes and just have an absolutely freaky fantastic Friday night. Ms. MacAlister receives my highest score of 5 fingers up and 10 toes and I am throwing in my slightly moldy pompoms, too!

NetGalley ARC given for my honest review.

Laura V. says

EL (verdadero) **PROBLEMA CON HARRY** (y Plum)

(con spoilers)

■ **Harry:** Viudo, de cuarenta y cinco años, padre de cinco niños de edades comprendidas entre doce y cuatro años. Título de nobleza. Ex espía de la corona (?). Busca desesperadamente una esposa para imponer disciplina que hace falta a sus hijos y que ocupe el papel de madre que les hacen falta. Extraña de igual modo, la intimidad conyugal.

■ **Plum:** Federicka de nombre, de unos cuarenta años, pobre, que vive de la asignación de su sobrina para pasar el día. Arrastra escándalo acontecido hace veinte años. Anhela ser madre y asegurar algún futuro a Thom (la sobrina/20 años).

Harry y Plum, se conocen un par de días antes de casarse. Comparten un par de palabras y ambos quedan convencidos de que hacen bien en casarse con el otro.

Harry y Plum quedan enamorados a primera vista. Lo que más desean es arrancarse la ropa con los dientes y saltar al cuello del otro. Pero las frecuentes intervenciones de los hijos de Harry impiden la consumación del matrimonio.

Bien, MI problema es este:

1. **Los hijos:** Continuamente están llamando la atención y pidiendo a gritos un poco de compañía. Se han vuelto salvajes y continuamente están metidos en travesuras.

Plum sabe que, para ver realizado su deseo de ser madre, primero debe ganarse a los hijos. Pero estos no son fáciles, y en ningún momento vemos que Plum se haya ganado de verdad la confianza de los críos. Como dice luego, Plum soborna a los muchachitos consintiendo cada capricho para que fingieran "comportarse bien" frente a Harry y así este, viera lo bien que Plum lo hace y la "dejara" tener uno propio.

Harry no desea tener más hijos, pero lo menos desea es que Plum, *su adorable* Plum, pase por el traumático suceso del parto en el que su anterior esposa falleció luego de parir a su último hijo. Dicho de otra forma, está cagado hasta las patas y no quiere que Plum se muera.

Pero Plum malinterpreta esto que Harry le dice y aclara, y piensa que lo de verdad Harry cree, es que como la ve tan incompetente con los hijos que ya tiene, no sea lo suficientemente buena para tener otro más.

(Es agotador estar en la cabeza de Plum)

2. **Los sirvientes:** En los libros anteriores, había una constante muy sonada, esto era empleados muy particulares que se volvían entrañables con el tiempo. Acá, como figura repetida, solo tenemos a Juan ,el mayordomo español, de habla muy florida y ademanes muy dramáticos que continuamente declara su amor a la patrona. Lejos de ser gracioso, es soso. Plano. Al menos los otros gozaban de un poco de personalidad, pero Juan solo está ahí para ocupar espacio.

3. **La gracia:** Si algo he visto, es que la autora se caracteriza de hacer libros divertidos y aunque resulten malos (como el primero de esta serie) no puedes evitar reírte. Pero aquí le faltó esa parte para compensar los fallos. No es gracioso, es aburrido, largo, denso, pensé en dejarlo pero me faltaba muy poco.

4. **La muy obvia adoración de Harry por Plum y viceversa:** A los ojos de cada uno, el otro es perfecto y lo saben desde el comienzo. Son increíblemente cursis, increíblemente empalagosos. Pesados, densos, bañados en una pegajosa capa de cursilería. Están tan absortos en el otro que en un par de ocasiones, sus sirvientes quieren comunicarle alguno de los incidentes (graves) de los niños y ellos los ignoran por mirarse a los ojos con amor. Se supone que sería gracioso, PERO NO LO ES. ES ABSURDO. Hasta Gillian (del primer libro) era capaz de sostener tres conversaciones al mismo tiempo sin perder el hilo, ESO era gracioso.

5. **Thom:** LA Sobrina de Plum, es todo menos convencional. Insiste en usar pantalones, corretear detrás de sus animales y lo que menos quiere es casarse. Plum no entiende esto, y le niega la libertad de ser ella misma. Lo que resulta ironica siendo Plum la escritora del libro "más escandaloso de Inglaterra". Si Plum se hubiera dejado llevar por las convenciones sociales Thom no estaría con ella, pero cuando tiene la

posibilidad de asegurarle un futuro a Thom, uno que Thom sí desea, se vuelve obtusa. Es tan hipócrita.

6. **Nick:** Lo MEJOR de este libro. Mi niño, este niño del primer libro, que no hablaba a raíz de un suceso traumático con su madrastra ahora es todo un hombre hecho y derecho del cual Gillian y Noble pueden estar muy orgullosos. Cuando Nick y Thom se conocen en circunstancias peculiares, pensé que sería el comienzo de un romance que compensara la pesadez del principal. Pero deja esa línea tirada y retoma a los tortolitos. Yo sé que Thom y Nick son perfectos pero nada vemos al respecto. Sería un romance muy divertido y lindo, pero se desperdicia al no desarrollarlo. Me decepciona tanto.

En fin, ni Harry ni Plum tienen más corazón que para el otro. Los niños jamás aprenden a convivir con Plum sin destrozar la casa con sus travesuras. Plum jamás se hace escuchar. Harry difícilmente sea el padre del año y me quedo con la terrible intriga de Nick y Thom y si algún día podré leerlo al completo.

Gillian será muy cabeza hueca, pero esa mujer hizo muchas más cosas de las que Plum jamás hará y cuidó mejor de Nick de lo que Plum con su cabeza de paja jamás podrá comprender con sus propios hijastros.

Reto A Contrareloj: *Libro con historia de "amor"*

Lakshmi C says

Let's start with what I didn't like -

Harry and Plum were entertaining at times but I could not take them seriously for long. Both were drama queens with no normal reactions. At all.

Plum is a ruined woman and Harry is a widowed father of five....active, enterprising children.

These two were obsessed with their problems, they waxed lyrical and needed no audience.

Plum is fixated on a scandal which happened ages ago but she won't forget it.

She isn't trying to find a way out either.

You do seem to have the habit of talking to yourself, Aunt Plum, so if I weren't here, you'd probably be right where you are, telling the room that you're going to marry Mr. Harris.

His lordship has found that a strict policy of unenlightenment is the best for all concerned.

Now is completely out of the question, wife. You killed me. I am dead. I am deceased. I am a former Harry.

What I liked :

Thom and her burglar

These two captured my attention and I really need their book. If they were the leads, this could have easily been a four star read.

Chemistry, banter, warmth, kindness, secrets - these two had it all. Fudgy brownie points.

But that would take all the enjoyment out of you attempting to sway me from my sinful path. You were going to try to sway me, weren't you?"

"Oh, yes," Thom said guiltily, dragging her mind away from the pleasing contemplation of his eyes. "Of course I am. It is my duty. Er ... I'm not quite sure how to begin. I've never had to sway a burglar before. How would you advise me to proceed?"

5 gifted kids

They were always involved in some risky project and they could handle most of the plot problems better than the adults.

Lots of laughs

Call it silly, slapstick, wacky - no matter what you label it, I laughed a lot. Result delivered.

Ariana says

I gave this book three stars but it's more like a 2.75 kind of book, to me at least. I read this book because someone on a FB group I'm part of posted an excerpt that I thought was amusing. I'd never read this author so I thought I'd give it a shot. There were moments, though few and far between, that I enjoyed the book. But mostly I just couldn't wait to finish, there is just something in me that can't leave a book unfinished no matter how much I dislike it. I found it all to be outlandish and silly. The heroine was extremely annoying and hero okay at best. Don't get me started on the ridiculous butler. Oh, and the children, were in no way wild but loveable, which I think the author was trying to make the reader think. The only characters I was at all interested in was Thom and Nick, but that was completely left unresolved. Is there a book for them? Oh, and the names of the "calisthenics." That was so irritating! But the thing that really got me was the scandal. I understand why the heroine is considered ruined, considering the time period. But I don't understand how it's her fault, unless she did it against her parent's wishes (not that we would know because we were never given any real background on how it came about). But if not and she did what was expected of her, marry a man and then go to his bed, how is it her fault when she finds out he lied? Shouldn't her father have looked into it? When the truth came out shouldn't he have called this guy out? If she married him and there are records and witnesses then how did she do anything wrong? I don't know, I'm just babbling now. It just bothered me. Not a great read for me but I know others found it funny and enjoyable.

AH says

Initial Thoughts: This book was a hoot! This book focuses on Harry and Plum. Harry, feeling lonely after the death of his wife 5 years earlier, advertises for a wife. Plum, ostracized by the ton after an unfortunate marriage to a bigamist, answers the ad and finds herself married to Harry, the Marquis Rosse. Both have a few secrets - he, his 5 hellion accident-prone children, and she - her past marriage and her very popular book *Guide to Connubial Calisthenics*. Lots of wacky situations, coitus interruptus (kids seems to know), and an eccentric cast of characters made this an entertaining read.

The Review:

Katie MacAlister writes the funniest historical romance.

The Trouble With Harry is the third book in her Noble series. You really don't have to read the previous books to enjoy **The Trouble With Harry**. Each book can be read as a stand alone book.

The Trouble With Harry focuses on Harry, the Marquis Rosse. Harry has been a widower for five years and decides that it's time he remarried. His five children run amok and they need a mother. Harry longs for companionship. Being the practical sort, Harry places an ad for a wife. Enter Plum, a woman with a scandalous past. Her previous marriage was a sham and she was ostracized by the ton. Plum has nothing to lose, so she applies to be Harry's wife. The two hit it off immediately and Harry arranges a quick marriage.

Harry has not told Plum about the children and she withholds the secrets of her past.

I enjoyed this book immensely. Harry and Plum were perfect together. There's some serious chemistry between these two, unfortunately five mischievous children have a way of interrupting those tender moments. Plum has a pretty interesting secret about her past. She's written a best selling scandalous book *Guide to Connubial Calisthenics*. I had to chuckle at some of the names of the "exercises:" *Heron Alighting Upon a Still Pond* and *Leda and the Swan* are some of the creative names. Just trying to visualize some of them made me giggle. The funny thing is, Harry has read the book and is waiting for an opportune moment to introduce Plum to some of the *ahem* exercises.

Plum takes everything in stride and jumps into her role as mother to the five hellions head first. The children are a force to be reckoned with. I loved all of their pranks. It's kind of hard to imagine livestock traipsing through a stately mansion, but the kids pulled it off. Harry takes a different approach to parenting. When the kids are in trouble, Harry hides in his office. The kids warm up to Plum quite quickly and Harry is amazed.

For added comic relief, the books in this series always seem to have a strange eccentric character (or two, or three.) This book has Juan who outdoes himself with his overly dramatic protection of Plum. For some reason, I kept picturing him in a toreador outfit. Oh, Noble's pirate butler Crouch makes an appearance as well.

The Trouble With Harry was a lot of fun to read. If you enjoy some slapstick comedy with your historical romance, then this book would be right for you. The series is being re-released by Sourcebooks Casablanca.

Thank you to NetGalley and Sourcebooks for a review copy of this book.

Review posted on Badass Book Reviews. Check it out!

Willow Brook says

Annoying characters (half way through I pretty much hated Harry's children and the heroine was an idiot), a very silly plot and choppy writing (repeatedly telling important developments instead of showing) made this book increasingly something I just wanted to be over. The humor was broad, generally missed its mark, and overpowered the weak mystery subplot, destroying any real interest I had in the story. I did finish the book and there were moments where the story was interesting, saving this from a one star rating.

Claudia says

Ha sido una lectura agradable, pero un poco extraña, Plum y su familia me han recordado a Los locos Adams, lo que no es malo, son divertidísimos; entiendo el estilo de la autora, y podría decir que me ha parecido muy simpático, pero creo que no es para mí. De cualquier forma, no descarto leer algún otro de sus libros a futuro.

Cyn says

Es del estilo de los dos libros anteriores, una historia romántica con tintes de comedia y un pequeño misterio, pero para mi el peor de los tres que he leído.

Acepto que la novela romántica suele ir rápido en cuanto a enamoramientos y estos libros son rapidísimos, pero este ya ha sido lo máximo. Según se conocen ya hay atracción física, pero es que se dicen te amo unas 48 horas después cuando la noche de bodas ni la pasan juntos ???? Son súper empalagosos y eso se hace pesadísimo. Pero el mayor problema para mi ha sido la protagonista, no la soporto ????. Hubo un escándalo en su pasado que no fue culpa suya pero ha pagado las consecuencias, así que ahora tiene 40 años y su sueño es casarse y ser madre. Para casarse con Harry le oculta su pasado pero exige que él no tenga secretos (la noche de bodas ya empieza movidita) ? El pobre hombre tiene ya cinco hijos que son unos demonios pero ella asume que no quiere más hijos por que ella es mala madre y no sabe cuidarlos, no puede ser que simplemente no quiera más, así que se dedica a justificar cualquier burrada que hagan y a sobornarlos ? Eso sí, sueña con ser madre pero de primeras cuando se encuentra con los niños (entre 5 y 13 años) lo primero que piensa es que ella sabe cuidar bebés y ya está, que como va a cuidar de estos ???? ¡¿Pero esta se cree que los bebés son solo para mirarlos y que estén bonitos?! ¡¿Es que no crecen?! ? Que bueno, cuando descubre lo que es el parto también se asombra, culpa a quienes no la avisaron y dice que nunca más, ni ella ni su hija, que no tendrá hijos por que ya lo decide ella ?? ¡Es que no la soporto y punto!

No tengo nada mejor que decir del libro así que mejor lo dejo así. No volveré a leer esta serie, no ha cuajado conmigo ????

Carmen says

Creo que le daría 2,5 estrellas porque tiene algunos diálogos divertidos y una trama más o menos entretenida; de todas maneras no ha sido una buena lectura para mí. La acción iba muy, muy rápida; los detalles que hacen que una historia esté bien construída, brillaban por su ausencia; él y ella son unos buenos personajes a pesar de que todo se precipita, lo que es una pena. En conjunto se me ha quedado un mal sabor porque me parecía una historia más como un "quiero y no puedo" que otra cosa, y ya os digo que es una pena porque la premisa de la que parte me gustaba mucho: mujer en torno a cuarenta años, deshonrada y engañada, con más de un secreto, acepta casarse con un marqués con cinco hijos para solucionar todos sus problemas; dicho marqués también esconde algún que otro secreto.

Quizá la mejor parte se la lleven esas escenas sexuales divertidas y atrevidas que la autora crea alrededor de esta pareja y el uso de un libro que ha escrito la protagonista bajo seudónimo.

Una pena, la verdad

eyes.2c says

...a madcap romp!

Entertains, occasionally saucy, with a delightful, if somewhat wild cast.

Mind you I did think I'd fallen into the set of St Trinians with the antics of Harry's children. An out-of-control group of 'wild things', hell bent on wreaking havoc and careening all over the pages throughout chapters and definitely into Plum's heart, if not ours.

Harry, the Marquis of Rosse, and formerly a spy for the English Government and Plum (Lady Frederica

Pelham) are an arranged marriage. Arranged by themselves that is, to meet their specific and rather particular needs. Even that has it's humorous side. Harry needs a mother for his raggedy bunch of children. Tormentors and monsters to a fine degree. Plum needs a roof over her head and a home for herself and her rather delightful niece Thom. She desperately wants a husband and a family and finds herself with all in no short order.

Years ago Plum has been unknowingly married to a bigamist, and then scorned by polite society. To earn a living she took the nom de plume of Vyvyan La Blue and wrote a very shocking book, The Guide to Connubial Calisthenics. This was considered so obscene it was banned. I imagine it as equivalent to, if not more daring than, The Joy of Sex I it's day. Plum gave wonderful sounding titles to the various positions, like Gallant Knight at a Blind Maiden's Mercy.

What a hoot this story is. I particularly like Juan the hot headed Spanish butler.

Thom her niece is a gem and Nick the burglar is great. But Harry is a whirlwind of activity. Knowledgeable yet winning, he and Plum both get so much more than they bargained for.

With blackmailing, death attempts, the antics of the children and Plum's endeavouring to hide some of her past, all descends into mayhem that might or might not be sorted.

A NetGalley ARC
