



Married: The Virgin Widow

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Her hands bound by blackmail and duty, Laura Penrose was forced to marry her sweetheart's ruthless cousin. Now a widow, her sweetheart has returned.

Ford Barrett, Lord Kingsfold, believes Laura betrayed him and has a debt to pay—she owes him a wedding... and a wedding night!

Laura sacrificed herself once out of duty—she won't be taken again for revenge. But this new, dark, dangerous Ford discards her pleas.... Can she tell him she never wronged him, before he discovers her more innocent secret?

Married: The Virgin Widow Details

Date : Published January 17th 2011 by Harlequin Historical (first published June 30th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Deborah Hale

Format : Kindle Edition 284 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Category Romance, Harlequin

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Nikki says

I'm a sucker for those "forced to marry" scenarios in romance novels. I don't know why, but I've always loved them! This story's got a nice twist though!

Ford (love that name) and Laura were supposed to wed years ago. Laura ended up breaking off the engagement and married another man for the good of her family, but Ford never understood why she left him and fled to the Indies.

When her husband dies and leaves her penniless, Ford returns and forces her to get engaged to him. Of course, they end up falling in love again, but there are a lot of twists and turns that keep you interested throughout the way!

The hero in this book is one of those wounded, angry heroes that just oozes sexy everytime he shows up on the page. I've always loved Deborah Hale's heroes and this one was no exception!

Great read!!

Kelly Boyce says

This was a great start to Deborah Hale's Gentlemen of Fortune series. The characters intrigued you, the storyline moved at a perfect pace and I wanted to stay up late to finish it to find out how it ended. I was not disappointed. Now I'm anxious to start book 2!

Michelle says

I oh so enjoyed this one. I am often reading one of Deborah Hale's books standing up - in my kitchen cooking supper, watching my kids play - because once I start reading them they are hard to put down. This definitely falls into that category. Definitely worth a look - nice internal conflict, sustained right until the end. I've already started on the second book in this series and I suspect I'll be reading that one over my stove too:)

Ana Maria says

Bien, hasta ahí. Quizá sería 2 y media.

Es que muchos de los problemas se originan en secretos. ¿Por qué no aclararlos y listo?

Está bien, hay resentimientos y manipulaciones familiares.

Por la mitad bastante bien pero la actitud de Ford ante el último secreto me pareció excesiva. Y después todo se arregla en un pif-paf.

Este es el primer libro de la serie Caballeros de fortuna, que leí exactamente en el orden inverso. Se puede pero se pierden algunas cosas.

Rain ~miss kinky knickers~ says

What went wrong here?

This story had such a fabulous potential, and I hate to admit how disappointed it left me.

Both Ford and Laura are likable enough, it started just right, it has all the elements to make it an interesting read, the plot is good...

But, somewhere along the way it just became too complicated, too *love you/hate you/love you*, too indecisive, too... I have no idea whatsoever.

It simply left me completely detached, and unfortunately feeling it was executed quite poorly.

Julia Justiss says

Deb Hale always pens an enthralling story, and for those who long for different venues from the ubiquitous English-set Regency, this is a read for you! This series features three friends and business partners who set off to make their fortunes in exotic Singapore. Hale's evocative writing lets you see, taste and smell the fascinating city that draws in her heroes - and the heroines who capture the hearts of these rugged self-made men.

MARRIED features Laura Penrose, who to protect her family is forced to marry the cousin of the man she loves. Thinking she betrayed him, Ford Barrett sets out for Singapore, where he makes his fortune--and ends up inheriting the estate of the cousin Laura married. Now obliged to return to England to take up his duties as Lord Kingsfold, Ford wants revenge...and Laura.

Lisa says

Well for being a book about a theme I'm not crazy about, the big misunderstanding, I was pleasantly surprised that I enjoyed this one. Laura Penrose was forced to marry her sweethearts ruthless cousin, Cyrus and it forced Ford Barrett away to make his fortune abroad. Laura was engaged to Ford but abruptly ended their engagement via a letter and it broke Fords heart, and as he had creditors after him, he had to flee. Ford has now returned to claim his late cousins title and with the plan to extract revenge on Laura by forcing her to marry him and finally laying claim to her.

Ah, but of course, the love that Laura and Ford once shared re-flares almost instantly and they slowly start up a new relationship. Ford is very sweet to Lauras ailing mother and her two sisters and it helps break down a few barriers. Laura is holding a secret very close to her and eventually agrees to marry Ford to help her family, who is broke.

Now, there were many times I wanted to shake both of them and say "just talk to each other already" but the story moved along with bits and pieces of their battered past coming to light often enough that it helped with the flow. When all the secrets of the past are finally revealed, Ford naturally over reacts but thankfully Laura sticks to her guns and finds a happily ever after for both of them. Their is a sweet side story for one of Lauras sisters that was a cute bonus. I mainly read this one as I had picked up the next in this miniseries, Bought: The Penniless Lady and it was nice to get a quick glimpse of the next characters. Overall though, this is a good story about one of my least favorite story lines and well done with just enough steam that I look forward to more books by Deborah Hale. 3 1/2 stars

Patricia Solla says

An interesting historical story about a woman who to save her family has married the cousin of the man she loved but who left her. The cousin has died and the man returns to take his 'title'. Really finding out what happened and why is interesting. The storyline moves along quite nicely. There's plenty of interesting things to find out.

Alexandra says

I expected this to be a shallow historical romance novel . It was a far cry from being that . I was extremely surprised (in a pleasant manner) to see that it had depth both in the plot and in character development . It was really well thought and i loved the suspense .!

Michaela says

This book was rubbish. It felt so disjointed, one thing happened then another thing happened without any warning what so ever even though it related to what had just happened. It was slow and drawn out.

Kim says

I loved getting to know Ford and Laura. Their complicated past kept me turning the pages and hoping that they would finally find love together. Ford returns home with quite a chip on his shoulder, which I don't blame him, but Laura doesn't deserve his revenge. As facts get revealed, he is forced to rethink his plans. My heart went out to both of them. I can't wait to read the next in this series.

There is just something special about Deborah Hale's books for me. I really respond to her style and characters. My emotions run deeper, my attachment to her stories never ends. I reread her books whenever I need that connection. LOL I just finished this one and am already looking forward to reading it again! Definitely one I will recommend to everyone who will listen.

Nicole Laverdure says

I originally read this book in French!

The Virgin Widow written by Deborah Hale.

First part of this trilogy "Gentlemen of Fortune series"

This book tells the story of Ford Barrett and Laura Penrose.

Laura refuses to marry a man who refuses to marry her once.

It is a romantic thriller featuring two characters who find love

I loved this story and I will surely read the second part of his trilogy.

This author has well described the history of this story by adding some interesting historical details.

I have not been disappointed by this book and I recommend it if you like beautiful romantic stories.

Carol Storm says

MARRIED THE VIRGIN WIDOW is a classic Regency era romance. What makes it a classic in my opinion is not so much the great romance between Laura and Ford, but the way Deborah Hale captures the life of the entire community, just the way Jane Austen used to do. When Laura and Ford get together, it doesn't just mean happiness for them. The neighbors, the servants, the tenants, and the immediate family are all deeply involved in the outcome of the marriage. (Laura's two younger sisters are wonderful heroines, BTW, and I was really disappointed that one of them is already married!) Deborah Hale does an amazing job of creating a real look at what the marriage means to an entire community, not just to the lovable hero and heroine.

Ford is the kind of hero who means to punish the heroine at first, but soon ends up falling in love with her. Laura is the kind of noble, dignified, gentle and patient heroine who is able to disarm almost any form of anger with her natural goodness. Watching the two of them get together is a real treat, both when they are at social occasions and in their more intimate moments -- like when he rescues her from a sudden rain storm.

As an experienced author of romance, Deborah Hale is an expert at utilizing "The Big Misunderstanding" to keep the hero and heroine apart. The structure of this novel shifts most of the evil deeds into the past, yet through Deborah Hale's masterful plotting the evil villain Cyrus is a very chilling presence right up to the last page of the novel. The details of his Machiavellian machinations are both gripping and heart-rending, for the plots he laid before his death still cast a shadow over Laura and Ford. At times it was a little exasperating to see how stubborn they both are about hiding things from each other, but as Laura says at the end of the book, "I am sick of secrets."

I would definitely recommend this book to any readers of Regency or historical romance.

Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: Gentlemen of Fortune

Tarsis says

Yo empecé al revés. Leí de primero el segundo, luego el tercero y de último el primero. Pero lo bueno es que cada cosa ocurre en lugares distintos y casi paralelos y no influye mucho.

Ahora tocó el turno de Simon y Laura. Ellos estuvieron comprometidos hace siete años, pero ella rompió con él y se embarcó a la India, donde amasó una fortuna y una sed de venganza por su orgullo herido.

Sinceramente el inicio me disgustó un poco, porque aunque él hablaba de "venganza" era obvio que se derretía de amor por ella todavía. Lo mismo se aplica a Laura. Y aunque ambos trataban de tratarse con indiferencia, no lo lograron ni por un momento. Ahora, todo se pone muchísimo mejor cuando sabemos que ella esconde un as bajo la manga, también el hecho de su virginidad intacta, hay cosas que le ponen mucho "sabor" a la trama hasta el final..

