



Bridal Pact

Leora Gonzales

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Poppy is bored to tears with her dead-end job and dull life, so when a species of alien warlords arrives on Earth, seeking women to help repopulate their race, why wouldn't she sign up? She doesn't care who she's matched with—until she meets him. Sexy, long-haired and leather-pants-wearing Wheaton.

Diplomat Wheaton expected a cultured Earthling to help in his mission, not some crazy-haired woman named after a flower and whose speech baffles his translator. Pardon my French? Knock it off? But Wheaton is soon smitten and eager to turn Poppy's good-morning kisses into an all-day affair. Doing the nasty? Bring it on!

But Poppy must do battle with the slimy councilor Demascus, and an extremist group opposed to the Pact. And that's before a glitch in the Bridal Pact program makes all existing matches invalid, and glossy Hannah, the perfect politician's wife, arrives on board. Her match: Wheaton.

Reader Advisory: This story has graphic sexual language and scenes—no closed bedroom doors (or other rooms) here!

An adult science fiction romance from Ellora's Cave

Bridal Pact Details

Date : Published August 21st 2015 by Ellora's Cave Publishing Inc

ISBN :

Author : Leora Gonzales

Format : Kindle Edition 286 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Aliens, Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Space

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From Reader Review Bridal Pact for online ebook

Claudia says

The Bridal Pact was a 2.5 star book for me.

I was first introduced to the series and this author through the Alien anthology. The short story even though was a ménage (I skipped most of those pages) got me interested in the couple. I hoped for a better storyline than the ménage.

It was a typical "Mars needs women" story that didn't surprise me even a bit.

The heroine -Poppy (?!)- was the average Jane/ girl next door without much natural beauty but some spunk who gets a hunk of an alien. That seems to be the norm: chubby woman gets the hubby, skinny woman is the bad character. Stereotype much???

Her attitude and expressions made me consider her a little immature. But hey she was liked by all the Warriors (eye roll again).

The alien, Wheaton didn't impress me. A warrior who didn't show his worth. There was not much to endear him to me. No redeeming qualities except in bed (?!). He jumped way to fast to sample another woman on the basis that he could be wrong about the first one. Logical, not so much when love is full of illogical actions. Cue my eyes rolling because that was a weak plot.

The other woman made no sense. Her attitude and presence just created an artificial problem and her jump in another's warrior's arms was as sudden as her appearance.

The bad guy was predictable and didn't add enough action or angst. That was all created by the women and their lack of thought process. They were asked to sign the papers to cancel their marriages and they complied. Even worse, most of them took some pills without questioning and lost their babies. Stupid much? That action added to an already weak plot because a sane mother never takes pills that could harm her baby if she doesn't know their usefulness.

So, in the end one of Poppy's potential matched saved her and the day. The same suitor who will become her sister's matched husband. Huh !?!?

When genetics are involved in the romance if it's not well written becomes somethings else. In this case this genetic match didn't work for me because the characters became stupid and guided by what, if not feelings? Still unsure.

Considering that this is the first book of the author I give her points for her imagination. I wish the delivery was better.

I am not sure how and if I can recommend the book because there was nothing outstanding coming through. It was an ok read. Both characters didn't have enough qualities to be memorable or be compared with better one on the market.

Sheridan says

Can we talk about how absolutely amazing this book is. I love the idea of aliens to the rescue and all Earth has to do is give up a couple thousand women. hehe

Just playing, but a bridal pact is a great plot device. The only downside to this book is I wish it were longer. :)

I cannot wait for more in this series. I cannot wait for Pixie's story and a revisit to Hannah, Poppy and Val's stories.

I love the idea of different warrior classes, but they're all warriors.

Amazing book, hilarious female characters, steamy love scenes, action packed, tension up the wazoo, slimy villain. I loved every piece of this book.

Spuffed says

I really enjoyed this book and I devour many, many Mars Needs Women books. This one was Kindle Unlimited for me but no longer is. As someone who reads a lot and needs less expensive books or free ones, I don't think I would pay the \$7.55 price that Amazon is currently showing. The second book which I am interested in reading is currently \$6.15 and for me, it's just not worth it for only 280 pages. I wish I could afford it but it is what it is. Maybe I'll be able to catch it on sale or something:)

Anyhow, back to the review:

Quick Rundown: Chick who lives a super normal boring life (kind of like me,lol) finds an opportunity stemming out of a fanciful but possible situation-- waking up one day to find the skies filled with alien ships and no knowledge if our planet is about to be overrun or just destroyed. Very realistic human responses occur, the president (I imagined Obama) lets us know what the score is. These aliens need chicks and will trade medical and tech advances for trade...as well as a substantial dollar amount to sign up for the "mate matching" program for possible brides. Despite having a very close relationship to her sister and her only relative, Chick takes a chance hoping for a situation that will bring her some meaning and happiness and if not, well then, at least a huge handful of cash. Ah, but of course, things aren't always that simple and are awarded with a nice scifi romance/mini adventure.

Characterization: This was very well done for the most part. I really enjoyed the "realness" of the Chick in this book. For me, she came off as "everywoman". She was a bit quirky, realistic and someone I would be friends with. I didn't find her particularly hilarious but then I'm not prone to LOL'ing when reading. The Dude was okay for me. But I didn't find him terribly endearing bc of all the time spent away from the Chick, some of which he could have avoided if he had a backbone. The secondary characters were all very well done and again, I'd love to read the sister's story but the price is too high for my poor ass:) The Big Bad was completely predictable but I don't think the author really even tried to keep it from us.

Plot: This is nothing terribly new in the genre but I did find the progression of the alien's arrival to their request for brides a new take. And the consequences was very interesting in itself. The Big Bad was all pretty predictable but I still enjoyed that conflict.

Overall: I did enjoy this book but like I have already said several times, there are similar and equally well done books with the same theme that were more cost effective.

Leyla says

For the first Leora Gonzales book I've read... I FREAKING LOVED IT!

Back to serious mode. I sincerely had a great ride with this one. Same good, entertaining, smooth feelings I experiment, or as close as to when I read a Laurann Dohner book. In my opinion at least... That interesting taste. Sexiness fused with humor and world building. Really good stuff!

Mars-needs-women/ Scifi/Erotic-romance/Series with definite potential

Poppy is bored and kind of depressed with her life. She has a lovely sister, a job, a comfy home and a routine, but it just isn't enough... So when aliens arrive her world changes. Spiked by curiosity and determination, she decides that she needs to take a new route. Aliens came in peace and need to females, so she signs up for an adventure and high hopes for happiness.

-Amazing heroine POV. Truly loved the way she chained me to her experiences and made me want to discover what would happen. Good personality and background. Though simple in many points, she's so reachable and open that you can't help being entertained and falling for Poppy.

I was swoon by her relationship with her sister. It was interesting, funny and endearing. Very well done, because it made me care for them. I was truly compelled by their love to each other and the way they relate. Their dialogues, were an ingredient that played a big role in the presentation and build up of the characters. Some authors forget how important dialogues are, how they convey the characters personalities, but also the world they live in.

-Rich world building.

The alien world build up was strong. The society, their ranks and social traits, alluring. Along with the social structure and the alien elitism. The impact and change caused by the alien's arrival on earth, was very vivid. The human reaction, even if it was in just a portion of the globe, was detailed and comical. The politics, news and occurrences, making the story believable and relatable.

-Adored secondary characters. They all have a story to be told, a role and their involvement with the hero and heroin matters. It made the story tons of fun.

-The plot pulled through and I was definitely hooked till the end.

-Romance ingredients...Hum... Sexual tension... And sex! etc, etc, etc. 8/10 points!

-Some of the action scenes lacked a little tension and the sense of danger.

-The hero was the only one who felt like a one dimensional character. Stiff kind of off. Sexy and with valid insecurities, but still off.

-The author's style was easy going, logical and truly fun to read. Loved how she describes events and transmits the character's feelings. In a way that intrigue me and spike my interest.

Thoughts...

*Will read a sequel.

*I hoped Poppy's sister gets her own book.

*And really hope previous (view spoiler)

I definitely recommend! Read this!

4 Stars

I bid you farewell and may future reads be fab!

Clara says

Great story, clunky writing. Which was too bad because the premise and characters were awesome!! But I ended up skimming a LOT just to get to the point.

Hayley says

This book reminded me very much of Brides of the Kindred series by Evangeline Anderson, except more of a discount version. Though, I honestly don't know which came first.

Honestly, I liked this story. The whole 'mars needs women' trope isn't something that annoys me as much as I thought it would. I like the matching-of-an-odd-couple-and-them-finding-ways-to-make-it-work cliché. I also liked that when Poppy was upset, she sorted it out with Wheaton and didn't spend the entire book being pissy about it. They had problems but they discussed them and moved on. I also liked that there were no irritating misunderstandings, love triangles or lots of time spent denying feelings.

What did bug me and cause me to drop the rating from 3 stars to 2 is that there were a couple of problems with pacing. The beginning is so slow. She wakes up, watches tv, goes to the store, visits her sister, makes dinner, watches a movie, goes home, watches another movie, makes more food . . . it takes forever for this story to get going. Then she fills in a form and boom! She's on the ship within like 24 hours.

The author also jumps in time a lot . . . 'two weeks later . . .' or 'for the next few days . . .' this happens a lot. I know it's not realistic to show every single day but it happens too much for me to really become invested in the characters. I want to know what happened in those two weeks, you know? Character A is suddenly best friends with Characters B and C but how did it happen? This also brings me to the point that there's a lot of tell and not show. Although I'm glad that the attraction between Wheaton and Poppy is instant but that it's not necessarily insta-love, I don't really believe in the feelings that develops between them. We're just told, 'and Wheaton told me of his upbringing' or 'we watched lots of movies'. I feel like I've been shortchanged.

There are also a couple of continuity errors that made aspects of the plot seem silly. The biggest one of these is that (view spoiler)

All in all, I found this to be entertaining enough to finish, I don't think I'll be reading the rest of the series, though.

Ann says

Entertaining Book but Cursing Was Seriously Overdone

This easily could have been a four or five star book; I felt like giving it zero or one star, except that the writing mechanics were good. The problem was that there was so much cursing that it became tiresome very quickly.

I am not a prude. I have been known to use four letter words, including the dreaded (by some people) "F" bomb. I have friends and family who swear, I read books with swearing, and I normally I don't get upset

when I hear or read swearing. However, I have never, in my entire long reading experience, seen so much cursing in one book. Page, after page, after page, ad infinitum. I swear (pun intended) that if just three quarters of the cursing had been removed, the book would have been a novella.

I liked the plot and world building. The villain was suitably obnoxious, creepy and villainous. The hero and his friends were engaging characters. Secondary female characters were also engaging. The heroine and her sister were actually nice, once one washed their mouths out with soap. Oh, wait, no one did that.

I was so disappointed that the excessive swearing ruined this otherwise delightful story for me. Maybe it's an age thing because I'm a senior citizen. Maybe a younger reading audience actually likes the cussing, or at least isn't bothered by it.

The book has sex scenes, which should be no surprise to aficionados of this genre. I mention that, because for some weird reason, the clean romance brigade often seems to gravitate towards this genre and then gets upset when the books aren't clean reads.

I don't know if the author reads her reviews, but if she does, I hope she doesn't mind that I have a suggestion. By all means, leave in some swearing, including the "F" bomb, but cut back on the amount. Doing so should still keep your younger readers happy, while expanding your audience to include old dinosaurs like me.

Bottom line, I recommend this book to those who can get past the quantity of swearing.

T00zday says

Kindle Unlimited read the first time, but I had to purchase it because a re-read is about to occur.
(Follow-up story in Alien anthology was really wonderful)

This book was great! Excellent bad guy setup of Alien elitists thinking humans were impure.
Side characters were enjoyable too. Rich world-building.
Heroine was enjoyable and level headed.

Totally Recommended! Can't wait for the next one.
Steamy with warm fuzzies
HFN

Only ONE unanswered plot point that I gritted my teeth over.
** SPOILER **
(Something the girls overheard at the beginning about other women they took reacting badly)

Check it out bish ;)

Rasa Ievkalne says

Wonderful lightweight read with quite laughable plot and so-so characters. First- Poppy is truly stupid MC. Her reactions were annoying and I had a strong wish to slap some sense into her quite often. Weathon was less than pleasant. I did not see the appeal of either of them and the supposed love story felt like sucked out of finger. Zero chemistry and constant dissonance of character reactions.

Secondly- there plot was borderline ridiculous. The main evil guy was glaringly stereotypical, down to him looking like evil and acting mega evil. Openly. So to make sure reader knows to hate him, lol.

When I stopped expecting decent story, I actually quite enjoyed the read and managed to get a few good laughs where none was intended.

Summer says

3.5

This book read a little different from other similar books in the genre. It was pretty slow at the beginning but I enjoyed the build up and going through the experience of First Contact with Poppy, most of these books skip right over that part.

Melody Oakerson says

To eternity and beyond.

I found this story to be funny and surprising and just plain fun. It's a combo of star trek warriors marry crazy human brides and the fun starts there. Two distinct cultures and sexes must find a way to become husband and wife without killing each other. Such a fun series!

namericanwordcat says

This is pretty typical Mars Needs Women fare. I enjoyed it for what it was plot holes and all.

Melanie says

Human brides hunky giant aliens...will they stay together... after mistakes are made...will love win.. or will they get torn apart... this author has done a really good job with this book. I recommend you read it.

Toni says

2.5 Stars.

I almost gave up at 40%, but I'm stubborn. It got somewhat better towards the end in concept, but not in execution. There was more time spent creating drama between the two main characters in the first three

quarters of the book, than there was on the kidnapping at the end. The whole thing was too obvious. Too cliché. Some of the initial drama was blamed on misunderstandings between alien and human, but it made me rather dislike the leading male.

****Spoiler alert (maybe...):

I see no reason a man should be in bed with another woman, no matter what they do there, when he's saying he loves you. Later, he refuses to spend time with the second woman, and even goes back to spending the night with woman #1...so if he truly wasn't 'required' to do so (supposed "council" decision), why would he be in bed with, or spend any extra time with, woman #2 at all ?

That would make sense if you read the book, I promise. The fact that there even is a woman #1 vs. woman #2, is enough said. But no, then we decide it's all a misunderstanding, and the women become friends. Oi.

*****End spoiler*****

On a side note, why is it okay to have a full-bodied woman and have her be beautiful, but that man better not lose his eight-pack abs? Where are the BBMan books? Just saying...

Anyhoo....

I read the description of the next two books, and that's enough to leave me satisfied with who ends up with who (not that it's not already obviously thrown in your face in book one, but it confirmed it), without having to read through the drama there is surely to be, in abundance, through the rest of the series.

Nancy says

Well all I can say is; if this is the first book by this author, she is one to watch and look out for her next book.

The story is not necessarily perfect but it kept my interest. I enjoyed the characters, even though I think some of the warriors did start to sound a bit the same. Given they are clones and raised pretty much all the same way, their similarities are understandable.

There are times that I wanted a bit more info but that is mainly to do with the warriors, the brides and the council...I'm just very curious.

There are some good hot scenes. Most of the book takes place on the warriors ship.