



The Bridal Veil

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Emily Cannon is not the mail-order bride Luck Becker expected: plain and tall, Emily has taken someone else's place as Luke's bride. And she is far from the woman Luke thought he wanted. Arriving in Oregon with nothing but the gown and veil her sister had intended to wear, Emily had nowhere to go and is in more desperate straits than she can ever let on. But Luke needs a mother for his eleven-year-old daughter, and despite his anger at the deception, he can't turn this proud, yet vulnerable, woman away. He's determined to keep this a marriage in name only--unless Emily's quiet grace and tender understanding can tempt him to open his heart...

The Bridal Veil Details

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From Reader Review The Bridal Veil for online ebook

Ida says

Emily Cannon decides to take a chance and do something risky for the first time in her very proper life. After her (beautiful) sister's death, Emily decides to take her place as a mailorder bride. As you can guess the groom, Luke, is surprised to find Emily in her sister's place. He decides to take her as his bride anyway but makes it clear that he will never love her (major eyeroll here), he only needs her to fend off the husband-hunters in town and to straighten out his difficult daughter.

It takes them about twelve hours to fall in love with each other. This is not a slowburner, which I love, no this is more like instalove. Honestly. She sees him by the pump in the yard and suddenly she feels all tingly or whatever.

While he stands by the pump he looks up and sees her through her window in her underwear and he is struck by the sudden realization that o-m-g, my loins ache for her with her golden-in-the-sun-hair-and-totally-willow-graceful-frame.

Then there is the horrible ex-motherinlaw, Cora. A bigger bitch you have to search for. It enraged me that no one stood up to her. They all bowed down to her demands and let her get away with anything. She had turned Luke's house into a shrine for her dead daughter. Cora, was more like a caricature than a real character. She had one side to her and one side only. Her meanness and evilness was over the top, the twisting the mustache while laughing or rubbing hands together while laughing, kind of evil. Her every plot was as subtle as a bonfire.

(view spoiler)

Luke is a doormat. He let's Cora walk all over him. It's infuriating how he never tells her off, I mean, not really. Every confrontation with Cora leaves much to be desired. And he is beyond dumb. He knows who Cora is, he knows what she's done time and time again and yet he falls for her obvious lies. Come one, you know that saying, "fool me once, shame on you..."

I can't remember how many times Emily realizes she loves Luke or have feelings for him only to promptly forget it and realize it on the next page again, and again. It's almost like the writer forgot she had already made Emily realize this, so she realizes the same thing over and over.

The only character I liked was Rose. I could feel her pain and the struggle she had with being caught in the middle and used as a pawn. I felt sorry for her that Luke didn't stand up for her more. I felt sorry that during the story Cora had free reign to more or less emotionally abuse poor Rose.

I did not like this story. It felt clunky and had no suspense whatsoever. Nothing really happened during the 312 pages. I'm not even really sure how much time passed in the story.

While Harrington seems to have done proper research on the timeperiod there were some words that felt too modern and clashed with the rest (not many, just a couple), but overall it was written okay.

I do not recommend this book.

Linda says

3.5 stars

THE BRIDAL VEIL was the third book I have read by Alexis Harrington. Her earlier writing style is similar to Carolyn Davidson, Millie Criswell and Mary Burton's older historical romances. These authors followed a formula and I found that my enjoyment of their stories was dependent upon the mood I was in at that particular time. Sometimes a romance was good and, at other times, I found a book to be a clunker.

Emily Cannon left Chicago for Oregon when her sister Alyssa had died in an accident and she had lost her job as a 'teacher of etiquette and fine needlework'. She was taking a chance by following up with Alyssa's pursuit as a mail-order bride to one Luke Becker: a widower with a daughter and a farmer.

Emily was the opposite of Alyssa in many ways. Plain in appearance, tall, extremely thin and reserved, she came across as prudish in many ways. When Luke and Emily first met, and after hearing of what happened in Chicago, Luke was ready to turn tail and run. Except Emily had no where to go and very little money. And Luke needed a mother for his daughter, Rose. They agreed to a marriage of convenience.

The title to the book comes from Emily's childlike belief that her grandmother's bridal veil, which she brought with her but had not worn at her wedding ceremony, had special powers that would transform her into a graceful and beautiful woman.

Our heroine had her work cut out for her. Besides trying to earn some respect from Rose and appreciation from Luke, she had to put up with Luke's former mother-in-law and live-in cook and housekeeper: the crotchety and rude Cora. Her daughter had passed away three years ago but the mother continued to live in the past. Her continued reminders of the home she made into a shrine wore down Luke and Rose. You sensed from the beginning that Luke's previous marriage may not have been everything the author initially indicated.

Ever so slowly, Emily changed in front of Luke. Instead of appearing as rail-thin, he saw her as willowy. She had an innocent shyness but he also saw a strength and purpose. Rose even started to warm up to her and Luke witnessed improvements with his daughter's attitude.

The author did not make the mistake of showing the adjustments they had to make, for their relationship to succeed, seem too easy. Some of the townspeople and the dastardly Cora did their utmost best to make their lives miserable. In this respect, the romance was very predictable but I enjoyed seeing Emily blossom from her lifelong shell. And I liked watching Luke soak up the gift of Emily entering his life.

Lauren says

4.5 stars

I love the love/hate relationship romances of mail order bride books. I think I like when each of the people realize how much they mean to one another and exactly what they can offer each other that no one else could. Emily was a great heroine character and stood up for what she believed in without being snide about it. I also loved the antagonism Cora brought to the table making Emily and Luke's relationship so much better.

Ana says

– The Bridal Veil is a romance that starts out with a dark tone but don't worry, it doesn't stay that way. Emily has lied to her soon-to-be husband, Luke is hiding his own secrets, then there's a cranky, argumentative mother-in-law and a motherless daughter and that's in the first three chapters. Harrington has taken a simple mail-order bride theme and with a few unexpected plot twists makes it fresh and new again. Her characters portray a depth and emotion that will touch the reader and keep the pages a' turning.

I'm a long-time fan of Alexis Harrington's work and I was thrilled to hear that she'd republished her back list in ebook format. Her books are ones that should not be missed. ~ Ana, www.ireadromance.com

Lorka says

I love mail-order bride stories!!! It did start to irritate me though how often the heroine was referred to as tall, blond and plain. Over and over. But I think what really kept this book from being a 5-star keeper for me was the mother-in-law Cora. What a poisonous little witch! I spent a lot of time being frustrated with the hero for not putting Cora in her place and letting her be so hateful to everyone. I don't believe the man of the house back then would let that fly. So he came off as a weak hero for me :(And honestly, his wife forgave him way way too easily at the end.

Nefise says

3.5 stars...

I had big expectation for this book but I couldn't find it. It was a classic way American Historical Romance so it was good. Yet, events were slow and mundane, there wasn't enough dialogs or interaction between protagonists. So when their attraction started to show, it didn't affect me much.

Also I couldn't understand that while hero found heroine very plain (he was quite outspoken about it), how he changed his mind. Okay, there was some hint but I didn't think they were enough. Another complain is about hero's love for his ex-wife but we learned different things later and it was clear that there was not love or I couldn't read somethings prove that.

I gave the point according my liking, instead of writing because writing was good and it would be solid 4 stars despite my some complaints.

Cherise says

Really enjoyed this one. Always love and arranged marriage romance this one is quite well done. There is no unreasonable behavior among the protagonists that makes you want to throw the book and grind your back teeth, one understands how the h and H thinks and this I contribute to the author's talent. The storyline is engaging and both h and H are lovable character own issues. Though some readers here think there isn't enough grovelling, I actually think the made up dialog pretty good and breathed a sigh of relief for not having the book end in a rushed manner that somehow left me flat (which had happened a lot in the past).

This is not my first read by this author and it is looking like I am steadily going through all her books now. They don't have the H panting after the h and feature tons of bed scenes, but when they happen, they are

tastefully done and well placed, that makes one believe that it is not just lust.

Emmly Jane says

Great characters and nice story. The way the mother-in-law manipulated the little girl (hero's daughter) was a bit disturbing to me though. Still, I'd still recommend to anyone who enjoys historical romances. Enjoy!
~~Emmly Jane

Mamatha Madhavan says

2.5 ?

Ashley says

Eh, I enjoyed the book but it left a lot unsaid and I was becoming annoyed with how Emily was always described as plain and too tall like she was ugly or something. I also feel like the veil wasn't that important in the story it was mentioned like four times it wasn't a big deal honestly and the last page rapped it up by saying all she needed was love not the veil.

Regina says

I love mail order bride themes! The story was well paced and all the family characters were very interesting and well developed. This one was different because it involved a bitter, domineering, and interfering mother-in-law. Emily's insecurities about her plainness and height were well written, and Luke's grief and general dissatisfaction with his home life were realistic. A very good read and entertaining tale. 3.8 stars

Delirious Disquisitions says

2.5 Stars. I honestly don't know why I read this. It's so far from the stories that I usually read. It's a very simple story of a mail order bride settling in, getting to know, and love her new family. It's very stereotypical and a little contrived. But it's well written with interesting characters. And sometimes you just need to read things that are simple and predictable.

Ridley says

There's a lot to love in this story of a tall, plain finishing school teacher who goes west as a mail-order bride for an Oregon farmer. Emily is a compelling mix of insecurity and strength. She recognizes that she's no beauty while at the same time holds her head up and demands people treat her with respect. Though initially reluctant to marry her, Luke can't help becoming her champion, and in the process of defending her from his

vicious mother-in-law he finds the strength to fight his way out of the corner he'd been pinned in since his first wife had died. Luke and Emily form a team where each shores up the other, and it was lovely to watch their love bloom slowly through lots of small actions and little conversations.

Unfortunately, the secondary characters dragged this one down for me. Luke's 11 year old daughter Rose plays a pivotal role, and that went the way most child characters tend to in romance. She begins the book a sullen, bratty, child prone to attention-grabbing stunts like petty thievery. One or two heartfelt talks with Emily later, and that's history. Despite her father remarrying, her grandmother using her as a pawn in a war with her father, and a number of domestic upheavals, she doesn't act out again. Considering that an 11 year old in a perfectly stable home will still act out just to remind you they're present, Rose's character arc didn't ring true to me. She wasn't a person so much as a prop. She was there to make initially cold and gruff Luke look like a softie, to add tension as a pawn in Luke's mother-in-law's mind games, and to make Emily look like a hyper-competent stepmom. It lacked subtlety.

Throw in some over-explanatory prose, some frustrating loose ends, and a fairly pointless epilogue, and what could've been a great story of two people finding a love they never expected to have becomes a merely ok read. It's perfectly entertaining and had me a bit choked up in parts, but it wasn't Harrington's best.

Lisa Kay says

★★★★? I enjoyed this one. It took awhile to get going, but it had a nice story and characters to it. I love a good mail-order bride tale.

Mo says

3.5 stars....

It dragged a bit for me in the beginning but I ended up enjoying it.

Will check out more from this author.
