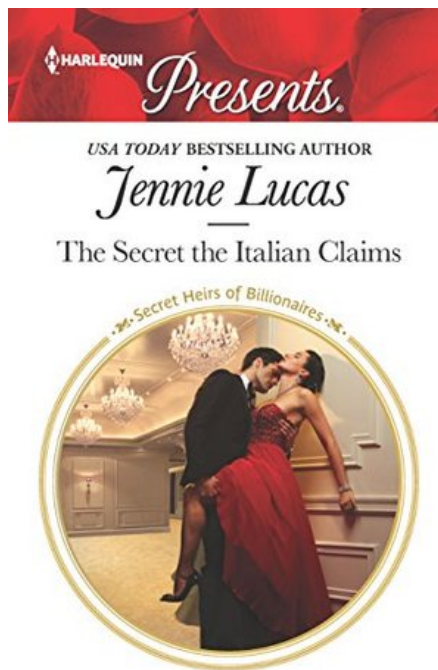




The Secret the Italian Claims

Jennie Lucas

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The Secret the Italian Claims Jennie Lucas
She kept his child hidden...

Now he'll claim them both!

Cristiano Moretti is furious that Hallie hid the consequences of their hot night together! He will not inflict his own childhood abandonment on his son, so he demands that Hallie marry him. Soon they realize the passion between them is as powerful as ever...but when all Hallie wants is a real family, will Cristiano's seduction be enough to secure his legacy?

The Secret the Italian Claims Details

Date : Published July 1st 2018 by Harlequin Presents

ISBN :

Author : Jennie Lucas

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Category Romance, Harlequin

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From Reader Review The Secret the Italian Claims for online ebook

Julie Henke says

Well, I love Jennie Lucas books and met her at a conference and was not disappointed. She writes lovely books, she is a lovely person. At one of the lowest points of my life I read The Christmas love-child and immediately wrote Jennie. People may mock me, yet romance novels can alter the course of your life. This is the first in a trilogy and pay particular attention to the dedication. It is dedicated to me! Happy reading.

Ivy H says

This is how I normally react whenever there's a new novel by this author:

That's because I'm a big fan of hers since I love her style of writing, her main characters, the great angst and the beautiful emotional route towards the MC's HEA. But, when it was time to write this review, I was feeling kinda bad and didn't want to have to write about how slightly disappointed I was. You know how it is:

The story starts up with the heroine Hallie having a conversation with her 2 bff's where she's telling them about her current homeless situation and how much she hates the H. This is the heroine:

Then they all decide to go visit the H Cristiano at his hotel, because Hallie's smarter friend Tess thinks it time that the rat bastard starts to pay child support for the heroine's adorable baby Jack. Cristiano is a cold, mean, selfish asshole. This is Cristiano:

When Hallie sees him, he's dressed in a tux, surrounded by his bodyguards and walking out happily to attend some glam gala with his current airheaded bimbo supermodel woman of the hour. At that point, I just got fed the F up. I hate when a heroine has been suffering to raise her baby all alone and this slimy bastard has been moving on with other women. I wanted something nasty to happen to him at this point, especially after his current penis polisher had the audacity to look at the heroine as if she was crap on the sidewalk:

The next encounter between the MC's underscores that my initial opinion of Cristiano was on target. He's condescending, rude, insulting and sneers at the heroine while simultaneously getting a boner and wanting to bang her ! Hell, the good news at this point: it was an entertaining trainwreck and at least I was enjoying it a bit - just for the OTT drama that seemed to be reminiscent of the vintage old school Harlequins. My attitude to Cristiano at this juncture was:

Then Hallie made me want to laugh and pity her at the same time, because she becomes a bit of an emotional wreck during this reunion scene with her former lover (the guy she'd claimed to be over)

Fortunately, Cristiano started to redeem himself but it was **only** after he found out about the baby. But then again, Jack was a cuddly, chubby bundle of joy so it's not surprising that he was able melt the rat bastard's cold heart. The thing that bothered me about this storyline was the fact that Cristiano would've happily gone on banging his penis polishing bimbo supermodels/actresses/airheads etc. He was attracted to Hallie but the main draw was the baby Jack. Cristiano only suffered from a minor conscience attack when he thought about the way he had treated the heroine. The other thing that was portrayed a bit hastily was the flashback descriptive scene where the MC's met for the first time and had sex. They actually ended up having sex **immediately** after meeting ! I am not exaggerating. I wished they could've known each other for at least a few days. Lol. It's just that I am not too fond of a heroine who gives it up **immediately** like that. I can understand the point the author is trying to convey (that the heroine was deeply infatuated with him since she'd been cleaning his suite and mooning over his photographs for a long time) but I still prefer a heroine to have a little bit more discretion. That's just a personal nitpicky thing with me. The H was all about the sex and how much he wanted to bang Hallie:

Cristiano did become a slightly better person as the story progressed and I was enjoying the story a bit more. Then towards the end the author introduced a plot twist that was vaguely reminiscent of something used in *Sensible Housekeeper*, *Scandalously Pregnant* : the author creates a situation where the H goes ballistic because the heroine gets involved with his parental conflict issues. In this novel, Cristiano is filled with hate for his father, whom he blames for abandoning his pregnant mother. In *Sensible Housekeeper*, *Scandalously Pregnant*, that H had a conflict with his mother because she had failed to inform him of his father's identity. I kinda wished that the author had not re-used a similar plot device. What saved the story for me was the wonderful **public** grovelling scene where Cristiano declared his undying love for Hallie over the PA system in a filled nightclub ! However, the lack of an epilogue detracted from my overall enjoyment of the novel. That's because epilogues have gone a long way (in the past) to raising my rating for a novel. A fabulous and emotional epilogue can convince me that a horrible H has redeemed himself and truly going to be the best husband, lover and father. That happened in *Imprisoned by the Greek's Ring*. I could've probably increased this rating to 4 stars if there had been a beautiful epilogue to convince my cynical soul that Cristiano deserves to be forgiven. His grovelling scene helped but an epilogue would've been the cherry on the sundae.

In the final analysis, I must say that this novel has not altered my appreciation for Jennie Lucas as a fav HP author of mine. I've loved her novels and every author is entitled to produce one book that may not make me sigh with wonder at the splendor of the MC's love story. I am looking forward to the next 2 novels in the series, especially the one with Lola.

Fran says

I struggled to finish this book because I had a hard time liking either MC! They were both selfish, immature

and just plain loathsome and annoying!.

Hero owns the hotel where heroine works as a maid. As they first meet, they are instantly attracted and have sex (h was a virgin) but Hero kicks her out afterwards and then fires her. Without any support system (no family) and broke, heroine finds herself pregnant and struggling to survive. With the help & encouragement of two friends, they force her to tell H about the baby so that she can get monetary support. When Hero finally earns he is a father, he offers marriage and more angst continues....

Jenny says

I really liked this story. I love the secret baby trope and the forced marriage theme. I loved that hero was cold and dark and that a sweet innocent heroine managed to break down his walls, reform him and melt his black heart. Love scenes were passionate. I really wish there was an epilogue though! I'm so excited that heroine's friends Tess and Lola are getting their own stories!

Shevaun Morvan says

Pollyanna on steroids

I was excited for this book. The premise was great but the h was the worst part. I get it she is young and virginal but honestly in this day and age and after supposedly living in new York for 5 years no one is that naive. The heroine acts like she fell off the turnip truck. Yes some innocence is required but the way she kept going on about her shack in the backwoods of West Virginia was really annoying. If it's so great go back there and marry a local and never bother us again.

Rosaline says

This was a decent read. The characters were a bit childish and were always fighting, but it was definitely realistic to me because they were two completely different people with different views on life and marriage. Somehow they got past that and the heroine won in the end and changed the hero's mind, of course. HEA!

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

Review Posted at HarlequinJunkie.com

Without a job or much money to her name, Hallie has no way of taking care of herself or her baby. Going to the child's father is something she doesn't want to do, yet, it seems she doesn't have much of a choice. However, when Cristiano realizes the secret she's hiding, will he do what's right by his child or will Hallie make things difficult for him? [Read More](#)

suman says

3.5 stars

lily waheed says

loved the h and her adorable baby boy ♥ but i hated the H ! he was an ass ! yes and a jerk he doesn't deserve them ! ?
can't wait for Hallie's friends especially Tess

Vashti says

Review pending.

Heather andrews says

Cristiano is not one to mess around when it comes to his woman's safety, "I'm not fine," Cristiano bit out, and got out of the vehicle. He looked back at her, his handsome face as implacable as granite. "Which apartment number?" Cristiano is like a caveman over some things, "soon," he whispered. "Very soon." Hallie sucked in her breath as if still in a trance. Taking a step, she nearly stumbled. He felt a surge of supremely masculine satisfaction." The man is just putty in his woman's hands, "Cristiano could not argue with her. He turned to the manager. "You heard the lady. Get her what she wants." I liked this book, I loved Cristiano even though he needed an attitude adjustment at times.

LadyTechie says

The Secret The Italian Claims is the start of a new trilogy by Jennie Lucas in the Secret Heirs of Billionaires miniseries. I received a free copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I admit that these can be a guilty pleasure for me. I know it is a bit formulaic but, Hallie and Christiano were both interesting and flawed with loss in their pasts. It is entertaining to see them work beyond the loss and pain and find each other as well as something neither of them knew they were missing. I will follow this miniseries as I saw something in this story that makes me think I might know who the father of one of Hallie's buddies' baby is and will need to read the next story to see if I caught it correctly.

Vintage says

Okay, but Jenni Lucas phoned this ONS, MOC, plot moppet story.

Hallie (my grandmother's name) is a virgin, but they have a one night stand.

Cristiano lusts for her body, but has her fired the next day.

Twelve months later, Hallie and her equally fertile and abandoned friends are there to get financial support for the heroine. She actually gets a check and is on her way out the door, when the H decides to follow her.

He still wants her and he definitely wants the plot moppet he refuses to hold. He lusts after her some more internally, strong-arms her into a marriage and a prenup. She actually had a few brain cells as she legally negotiates he spend at least one meal with them and learn to be a father. Then JL had to de-brain her so she never read the prenup. He's Sicilian and a bastard by choice if not birth, so you can probably figure the clauses she **should** have read. I literally had a moment where I wanted Lynne Graham to edit this part as no HP author handles prenups like she does. My favorite is when the h plays hardball on fidelity because she doesn't really want to get married. I think it was The Pertrakos Bride.

Anyhoo, it's rainbows and kittens and lotsa hot sex for these two as they manage to forget about the ONS, the abandonment and the firing. I nice vacation stay at a gorgeous hotel in Rome gets us all a little local color. The h goes from wearing her cute sundresses to lots of Audrey Hepburn black. It's Rome after all.

Cristiano finally caves and buys her a villa because she wants a home and a garden. She was thinking this...which I really, really want too.

But what she ended up with was this...

Halfway through the novel, bits and pieces of the original ONS/FIRE HER REAR charmer start to emerge as well as his backstory.

Hallie ends up crossing the line from sycophantic servant to a wife making demands, and it gets ugly.

Hey, they get their HEA when the H goes bonkers and declares his love publicly after the h sings her heart out. NOT A FAN of public declarations of love even in an HP. YUUUUUCCCCCKKKKKKK.

Did not care for Cristiano or Hallie much. I just finished Seduction & Sacrifice and am also reading Bound to the Sicilian's Bed so I may be on asshat overload.

A real love story about my Hallie. She and my grandfather were childhood sweethearts (sadly he was kind of worthless), but she married him despite her parents objections. She told me that when he was dying of cancer, they took all their love letters and burned them together. Sad and sweet.

Geraldine Sadiku says

Excellent read.

Esther says

ARC provided by NetGalley and Harlequin in exchange for an honestest review. Opinions are totally my own.

This pains me to rate this so low. I'm a JL fan and normally enjoy her characters and storyline.

But the hero and heroine in this book were so childish and unlikeable, it made this a chore to finish.

The synopsis of the book is the overall gist of the story. So I'd just like to make a few points on what was so disappointing.

I found the opening or first meeting of the two off putting. She's a maid at a hotel, had a crush/loved him. They meet as she's cleaning his room and have sex. The dialogue and thought process of both in that first meeting was ridiculous IMHO. The heroine was juvenile and came across like a middle school girl. The hero was an employee and just decided to have sex with the maid cleaning his room (he found her attractive of course). Sorry that's not hero material and the author did a poor job in the setup of this story. It was weak and one dimensional.

A pregnancy results with heroine not telling the hero. When they meet again the interaction between the two is pretty ugly, not even close to angst here. Neither character really develops or redeems themselves as the story progresses. The hero continues to be a jerk and the heroine's response and reactions are not quite adult in nature.

I will continue to read this author's books. These two characters just were a disappointment and believe this is an exception for this author and her HP.
