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They say she's Cynthia Dempsey, fiancée of media mogul Will Taylor. But try as she might, she can't recall their high-society life or the man sitting by her hospital bed. Though her body certainly remembers him. Even as she senses the distance between them, the electricity when they touch is undeniable.

Will can hardly believe Cynthia's transformation. Gone is the ice queen who betrayed him, and in her place is a woman who seems genuine and warm. But can he risk his heart again, not knowing what might happen when her memory returns?

What Lies Beneath Details

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From Reader Review What Lies Beneath for online ebook

Sara HarlequinJunkie says

My Blog: HarlequinJunkie Romance Reviews

What lies beneath is a fast paced emotionally satisfying read. This book had a unique spin on the “Amnesia trope” with the added dimension of “mistaken identity”.

Heroine wakes up in the hospital with no memory following a deadly plane crash and a series of facial reconstructive surgery to be greeted by her family and aloof fiancé Will all of whom are strangers to her.

Will takes Cynthia home to recuperate, where she discovers that Will had actually broken off the engagement before her trip and that he is no longer in love with her and hasn't been for a while however Will decides to support her during her on going recovery.

Cynthia is no longer the cold hard hearted bitch she used to be, she is warm and loving; Will realizes he actually likes spending time with this new Cynthia but is also afraid that her memory will return and she will revert back to being her old hurtful selfish self. He has been hurt before and wants to stir clear from all the resulting heartache.

There's more heartache and drama that follows and tares Will and Cynthia apart and threatens their HEA. All of which you will need to read the book to find out more about :)

What I liked about this story is that when Will and Cynthia decide to give their relationship another chance they don't fall into bed right away, they decide to start over, date and get to know each other all over again taking it a day at a time; As the story progresses you can see Will work through his feelings for Cynthia and start to fall in love again.

What Lies Beneath is an emotional read, with great characters and an engaging storyline. This was Andrea Laurence's first book and I have to say it was pretty impressive.

Saly says

This book has amnesia and a case of mistaken identity, the heroine's who is mistaken for the daughter of a wealthy guy. The hero is quite shocked to see the changes in her and disbelieving, after all she cheated on him and now she seems like such a nice person.

The heroine finds everything new and somehow the life they said was hers doesn't seem to fit or be her's, of course it isn't, these two fall in love, truth comes out, he thinks she tricked him, she goes away and then they get together. A decent read.

Roksana says

I like the storyline with the amnesia and mistaken identity....but I did not liked the reaction of the hero upon finding out the truth about the heroine that she was not his fiance...I wanted more emotion/remorse from him

that would satisfy me that he realised his error of judgement, but there was very little of it..he was mean and angry and would not listen to her explanations..that really ruined the book for me and knocked 3 stars! Heroine was kind and selfless and he just threw her out on the street without a care for her well being without any money and identity papers! And then the end was too convincing for him just turn up and all is forgiven! It does not work like that in my book!

Safe gang: Safe/No OW...some drama with OM but he was the lover of a dead fiancé of the Hero, so nothing to do with heroine....no mentioning of their sexual experiences, apart from hero being with his fiancé

LoveRomance says

Great new author for HQN! I really enjoyed this book -- no loose ends or awkward dialogue as I've often found with other new authors. Will definitely watch for other titles by Andrea Laurence.

Great twist on usual amnesia story line.

Jacqueline says

Amnesia story. This time the heroine is mistaken for someone else after a plane crash. This was a decent enough amnesia story for us aficionados. The heroine was super sweet and the hero here was really a bit of a non entity. He did have one fun ass hat moment.

Kay says

When I read the back cover synopsis for this book, I was instantly reminded of a book with a very similar plot, *The Other Laura* by Sheryl Lynn. I was intrigued, and just had to read this story. I'm so glad I did.

Adrienne's dream to be successful New York fashion designer is shattered. On her flight to return home to Wisconsin, she exchanges her seat with a woman who's irritated at having to sit by the window in coach. A sudden loud boom, and the next thing Adrienne remembers is waking in the hospital disoriented, not knowing her name, and having those around her calling her Cynthia. Following a series of facial reconstructive surgeries, newly implanted teeth, the woman in the hospital is a new woman in more ways than just the physical. This woman is caring and considerate, the woman known as Cynthia had been self serving and entitled. Watching the transformation is Cynthia's fiancé, Will. He finds himself enchanted with this new woman, and fights his bitter memories of the one who had betrayed him and he had come to despise. The new Cynthia is appalled at her past life, and vows to start fresh. She knows that it will be a long road to win Will's heart again, but she's determined to try. When her memories return, she is shocked to realize they do not belong to Cynthia.

This is Ms. Laurence's debut. She has a fresh, pleasing voice that breathes life into her characters. Will is a hero any woman will swoon for, and Adrienne is a heroine that is easy to relate to. I enjoyed very much the amnesia aspect to this story (my favourite theme) and thought it very well done. The epilogue hints at another romance in the bud, and I'm eagerly looking forward to reading Alex's story.

Melody Cox says

[This has a very interesting story-line with a major mistaken identity plot where the victims of a deadly plane crash are difficult to identify because of their massively severe injuries.

Everyone tells her she's Cynthia Dempsey, ex-fiancée of media mogul Will Taylor. It doesn't feel right, doesn't sound right but no one will listen to her. They just

Paige says

I think I am probably the only one who did not see the twist from the beginning. WHAT LIES BENEATH was a story about second chances and growing from the past.

For months Will Taylor sat in the hospital with his fiancé's parents during Cynthia Dempsey's recovery from a plane crash that left her with facial reconstruction surgery and amnesia. With his plans to leave her because of her unfaithfulness on delay, he watches and waits for her true attitude to come crashing back, because the sweet, caring, and totally different person in that hospital bed cannot be his ex-fiancé.

When he takes her to their penthouse, he watches as she gazes around the unfamiliar settings. When she learns of her pas with Will and his intimate leaving schedule, she pleads for forgiveness and a chance to start over. Will agrees, but can't help having the past keep him cautious. As the days go by, Will feels his attraction to the woman who betrayed him growing. With the aid of his best friend, Alex, Will decides to wing it and see where it goes.

At her lost feeling, he encourages her to follow her heart, which leads her to fashion designing. Will begins 'dating' her again so they can learn about each other freely. She debuts her first fashion dress at her welcome back party thrown by her parents.

Neither had been happier until the night after great passion, Will notices she doesn't have the notorious tattoo that he hated so much. After some researching, he discovers she's not Cynthia, but Adrienne Lockhart, the seated passenger next to Cynthia when the plane went down.

Before he makes it home, 'Cynthia' finds a shirt from 'Adrienne Lockhart Designs' and her memories come rushing back. Will finds her on the floor and without listening to her trying to explain he throws her out, believing she purposely pretended to be Cynthia.

On her way to her true home, Cynthia's mother wishes her well and insists on keeping in contact. Once home she receives a call from a designer she meet at her party wanting to see more of her clothes and invites her to a fundraiser fashion show to debut her clothes.

After only a few weeks Will is ready to admit defeat and realizes Adrienne was as innocent as he was in the mix up. He pushed her away and is now ready to do whatever it takes to get her back. He receives an invite to the show and makes his plan.

Amazing for Adrienne, the show goes great and her career finally looks like it will take off. Her love life also looks that way when Will comes to her backstage room and pleads his case. With his devotion of love, he pops the question with a new engagement ring made just for her.

Widala says

This could've been a four stars read if not for how fast Adrienne forgive Will.

I mean, quoting from Adrienne's own words : He'd broken her heart. Sent her out the door like a pesky vacuum salesman without a dollar in her pocket. She couldn't allow herself to trust someone who could turn on her so quickly. And there was no hope for love without trust. So what did they have left?

Adrienne's non existing backbone apparently.

Because just as soon as Will throw her a bouquet of pink rose and a couple of apologetic line, she melt into a puddle of forgiveness.

And what's with the obligatory proposal? Unnecessary at that stage of relationship in my opinion.

The epilogue was the worst. It was written as an article covering Adrienne and Will wedding. It went on and on in a very painstakingly details of the dresses, the food, the decorations... which I just couldn't care less.

It would be better in my opinion if the last chapter was about Will's groveling and the epilogue was the proposal...

Tia says

Cynthia and Adrienne were on a plane together, when Cynthia wouldn't stop whining about her seat, Adrienne switched with her, only for the plane to crash and Adrienne to survive with amnesia. Everyone thought Adrienne was Cynthia including Cynthia's fiance Will Taylor but when he finds out she's not Cynthia but in fact Adrienne, he confronts her and says she's been lying the whole time. Adrienne has fallen in love with Will but she thought she was Cynthia, when her memory returns, her heart is shattered.

I've read a book very similar to this but I have to admit this was WAY better than the other one. It had so much emotional strength in it, the characters constantly evolved. I quite enjoyed it!

Susan says

Excellent book. This wasn't the usual amnesia story, as this combined amnesia and mistaken identity. I liked the way that Will stood by her, even though they had called off the engagement right before the plane crash. I think it said a lot about how good a person he was. That being said, he was also very cautious about the apparent change in her personality, since he had been betrayed by her before. Meanwhile, Cynthia was trying to remember the things that everyone was telling her, but none of it felt right. When she realized that her old life didn't fit anymore, she followed Will's advice and looked for something that did. I loved seeing her as she made her "new" life work for her. As the weeks went on, they got to know each other all over again and the feelings grew stronger. When the mix-up came out, Will thought she had known all along and said some really harsh things. After he had a chance to cool down, I really liked the way he made things right. There were some very emotional moments in this book that made it one of the best I've read.

Paula Legate says

Wow! This was a beautifully written love story, with a great plot, and some shocking twist along the way!

Cynthia wakes up in the hospital after a plane crash. She has had several surgeries including plastic surgery. She also has amnesia.

When she wakes up, her fiancé Will is there, along with her family. She doesn't know any of them. Once she is released from the hospital, she doesn't remember what she likes or dislikes. It was exciting to see Cynthia, and Will trying new things, and her appreciating and enjoying all the little things in life. Before the plane crash Will was going to break up with Cynthia because she was cheating on him. He won't leave her now, but he struggles to trust the new Cynthia again. He doesn't want to give his heart away again, but slowly day by day he falls in love with Cynthia.

This is an exciting Romance with powerful emotions, and suspense. I'm so thankful I took the time to read this book!

Joyfully Reviewed says

Cynthia Dempsey wakes up in the hospital surrounded by people she doesn't know. Apparently, she had been in a plane accident where only three people survived. After several surgeries, she is starting to look normal. However, nothing appears familiar to her. The people that visit her every day claiming to be her parents, the fiancé that sits beside her bed . . . nothing is familiar, not even her own name. Cynthia must figure out how to go on from this point with no point of reference to her past. A friend offers her advice about forgetting who you were, just be yourself, and so Cynthia determines to take that road.

Will Taylor, owner of his own newspaper, feels that he can't kick the cold, selfish Cynthia out of his life until she completely recovers even though she had betrayed him repeatedly, walked all over his heart, and was extremely spiteful and bitter to everyone else. He feels that she has been through enough by surviving the horrific plane crash and needs someone to lean on for a while. However, things just don't seem to be the same with Cynthia, and he's not just thinking physically. It's this inner quality that seems warmer, more compassionate and caring than before. Will is afraid to risk his heart again with Cynthia as he believes that once her memory returns, then so will the old Cynthia. Can he take the chance?

What Lies Beneath is a fascinating story showcasing the deeper side of a love. It delves past the exterior thereby linking Will and Cynthia in a different way than they had been before. Because for Will, the surface and the label point to the pain that he had endured at her hands and yet the inner core of Cynthia seems to have been renewed. Will struggles with the whole once bitten twice shy scenario, yet he still wants to get to know the new Cynthia in What Lies Beneath and to discover her hidden depths that he never knew existed before.

Both Will and Cynthia embark on a mystery to discover the truth in What Lies Beneath and that was just as intriguing as the whole plot of the story. I truly enjoyed watching Will and Cynthia fall in love, again. I also liked the whole premise of Will working from a point of pain and yet continually trying to overlook it because it was Cynthia who caused the pain for him in What Lies Beneath.

I thoroughly enjoyed What Lies Beneath and could absolutely understand Will's feelings of betrayal when the truth finally came out. Yes, I wanted to smack him and tell him to listen as well, but I knew that he was operating on a painful discovery. Will had approached the whole relationship from a point of pain and, for him, his own reality, but he did find that things weren't matching what he believed to be the truth. He was waiting for the old Cynthia to reappear and he teetered in the balance as he waited so that when the truth came out, he reacted instead of acting in accordance with the situation in What Lies Beneath.

I also felt for Cynthia as she knew things didn't feel right, but the truth was hidden beneath the surface and

she couldn't get to it...yet. But when she did, she had an emotional trauma as well, and she still only wanted to rest in the comfort of Will's arms while banking on what they had built already in *What Lies Beneath*. It was a clever little device to make it all click for her as well, and I applaud Andrea Laurence for the use of it.

I totally blame Ms. Laurence for making me tear-up just reading about the acceptance that Cynthia received from some secondary characters when the truth was finally revealed in *What Lies Beneath*. Yet, I completely understood their point in being there to help her through her darkest hours and getting to know the new Cynthia in *What Lies Beneath*. I joyfully recommend *What Lies Beneath*, if only to read a new spin on an old story. I am very glad that I took the risk on this new offer when *What Lies Beneath* came up for review.

Reviewed by Vanessa for Joyfully Reviewed

Fiona Marsden says

Say what you like about them, I just love amnesia stories. In this one we have it compounded with mistaken identity when failed fashion designer, Adrienne changes seats with Cynthia Dempsey on the plane. One plane crash later, some plastic surgery and a head injury further along, we have Cynthia Dempsey restored to her family, her fiancé and her trust fund lifestyle.

Cynthia doesn't feel comfortable in her skin, and from what is said, she wasn't a very nice person. In fact her fiancé seems to hate her despite the very obvious chemical reaction between them. Their engagement had been broken immediately before the crash and he's only sticking by her out of a sense of duty and with due regard for a business deal with Cynthia's father.

The developing relationship between Will and his rejuvenated fiancée is quite sweet with the whole Autumn in New York ambience. Both are striving in their professional life, Will to learn balance and Cynthia, rejecting her old career in advertising, finds herself designing clothing and doing it well.

All is complicated by Cynthia's former lover, Nigel and of course the bombshell that awaits when she recovers her memory.

I really enjoyed this story and am looking forward to reading the linked book *His Lovers Little Secret* (I think).

Christa Runge says

What Lies Beneath by Andrea Laurence

Cynthia Dempsey was in a horrific plane accident that left her in the hospital for several weeks. She had to have her whole face reconstructed. But the plane accident also left her with no memory. Even her fiancé Will Taylor, who ended their engagement before her accident is willing to give them another chance because Cynthia is now like another person. But will he be able to guard his heart when she gets her memory back?

This was Andrea Laurence's first book and I for one am so glad Harlequin Desire snatched her up so I can keep reading her stories.
