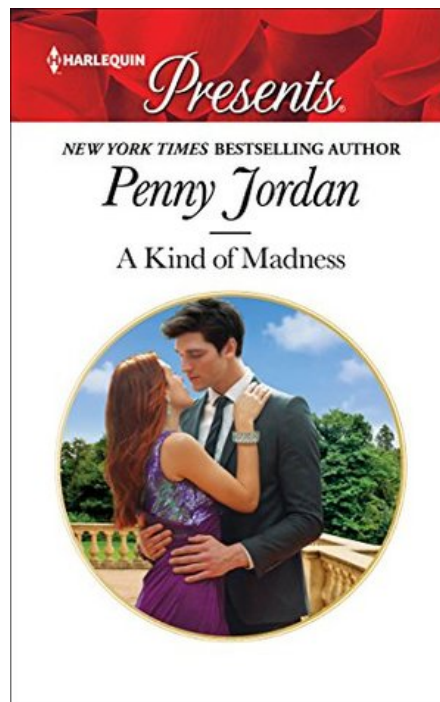




A Kind of Madness

Penny Jordan

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A Kind of Madness Penny Jordan

Read this classic romance by New York Times bestselling author Penny Jordan, now available for the first time in e-book!

Surrendering to his touch!

Elsbeth wants an orderly life, with no chaotic emotional displays. So, marrying wealthy, dependable lawyer Peter seems the perfect choice...until dashing Carter MacDonald walks into her life!

Carter could easily sweep a woman off her feet. But Elsbeth has always kept her feet firmly on solid ground. Until, suddenly, she starts to wonder what it might be like to put aside practicality and give in to the kind of passion Carter promises...

Originally published in 1990

A Kind of Madness Details

Date : Published July 1st 2017 by Harlequin Presents (first published May 1st 1992)

ISBN :

Author : Penny Jordan

Format : Kindle Edition 217 pages

Genre : Romance, Category Romance, Harlequin, Contemporary, Harlequin Presents

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From Reader Review A Kind of Madness for online ebook

Jenny says

I loved the angst and how blind heroine was. Her fiancé was such a jerk. Hero was so obviously smitten loved their HEA!

KC 2.0 says

[While waiting at a traffic intersection in her hometown, Elspeth turns to see Carter pulling up beside her in a flashy, red sports car at the same time he's flashing a

RomLibrary says

Elspeth returns to family's organic produce farm where she meets up with hero again. They look after farm together while her parents are on vacation. "Why are you marrying the man?"

It was a question Carter couldn't help but ask. "You've just admitted that he can't turn you on? And I know, from personal experience, that you're a passionate woman."

Cater Macdonald could easily sweep a woman off her feet - he oozed sex appeal. Elspeth, however, wanted an orderly life, one with no highs or lows, no chaotic emotional displays. Which was exactly what Peter, a wealthy lawyer, was offering her.

She and Peter were two of a kind - everyone said so. Suddenly, the thought of being two of a kind with Peter was oddly disturbing. Should she review her plans for the future.

RLA says

The heroine Elspeth is a conservative merchant banker and bona-fide career woman, she is currently in a relationship with the even more conservative Peter. She is about to go and spend a couple of weeks looking after her parent's small holding. Her parents are the opposite to her life, they are relaxed and rather liberal in their country way of life. The hero Carter is currently staying with her parents helping out their business and Elspeth, spurred on by Peter, seems to think he is trying to sabotage her parents business. She travels up to her parents home with the intention of confronting him, but nothing goes as planned. Carter seems to be very close to her parents and works very hard for them, he is also very charming and Elspeth feels out of her depth. She begins to realise that she isn't as happy with her 'city life' as she thought and that her relationship with Peter is not what she wants. And, despite her opinion of him, she is very drawn to Cater.

I enjoyed this book but found it a little frustrating at times. There is no doubt that Penny Jordan's writing is fantastic, but the story itself could have been made so much better. The heroine is written as ridiculously uptight, and I mean ridiculously! It was so apparent that it actually became humorous after a while, and not in a good way. The hero however is brilliant and I think this book would have benefited hugely from including his point of view. The ending also felt a little rushed.

But, this is an enjoyable and quick read.

Originally posted at <http://everyday-is-the-same.blogspot....>

Kelly Bird says

Not good

Way to much inner dialogue. hardly any real interaction between H and h. Heroine constantly repeating things over and over to herself. Wrapped up far to quickly

boogenhagen says

Re A Kind of Madness - PJ has another over-sensitive and easily hurt h in this one. In fact PJ comes right out and says exactly that in the first chapter and pairs her with an extrovert H for this little story of love among the organic vegetables.

The h is a career lady merchant banker in London when the book opens. She is rather upset because she has just been told she has to take a mandatory month off and use up some of her massive amount of leave. The h is worried because she doesn't really know what to do with herself and it is clear this is an h in inner turmoil.

Initially, the h gives the appearance of being an enormous, uptight prig. Her parents are bohemian extrovert farmers who now do organic vegetables for restaurants in Cheshire and the h is rather worried about them. They don't seem to be very organized about things, even tho their business is quite successful, and they are all together too fond and familiar with the h's stepcousin, the step son of her mother's sister, whom the h despises and is more than a bit jealous of.

The h's priggish conservatism hides a really introverted and tender heart. When she was a merchant banker in training, she invited a girl who she thought was a friend home for Christmas as her family keeps an open house and her friend had no where else to go. When they got back to work after the holiday, the girl made a laughingstock of the h and her family in the office, mocking the h's parents and their farm and their lifestyle.

(Later the h realizes that the girl came from a very broken home and her family ignored her in their rather glamorous lifestyle and the girl was probably massively envious of the h and her warm and loving family, but it really destroyed the h at the time.)

This embarrassed and humiliated the h and she soon armoured herself in the icy perfection of a high powered career woman persona. The h has an almost fiance, a lawyer who is as priggish and conservative as the h wants to be, with a domineering mother and the h has a very sterile relationship with him. They only see each other for lunch a few times a week and his mama is real critical of her and he is utterly non interested in anything that doesn't directly relate to or elevate him.

Lately the h has been getting strange yearnings for the family homestead in Cheshire, but the step-cousin is there and the h distinctly remembers not liking him when she first met him at 14 and he was 22. She worries, in large part because her almost fiance insists that it is so, that the step-cousin is trying to take advantage of her parents and they are so flighty that they wouldn't notice anything wrong until they are ruined.

PJ establishes almost immediately that this is an h who is really trying to fit as a square peg into a round hole. She loves her parents, but they are hazily vague about things and seem to give no thought to the future or security, things that are really important to the h, she is doesn't do well with impulsive changes to the routine.

Tho the h is rather envious that even after all these years, her parents are still fun and happy, very loving to each other and very spontaneous. It is also clear that her parents don't really understand their daughter and that they disapprove of her chosen lifestyle of City living and work. They don't like her almost fiance either.

(In fact I wondered if her parents were so into each other that she really was an afterthought, and combining that with her exactly opposite personality to them, it was no wonder the h felt totally lost and tried to find inner security by outwardly conforming to lifestyle that she was good at, tho it may not have satisfied her inner yearnings for a more relaxed life.)

The h has the quiet longing for a life in the country, but she also has a brain and she wants to be accepted by others. PJ doesn't say it, but I think she was pushed to be more outgoing and extroverted for most of her life and her parents did not understand that her basic personality is much more cautious and fragile than their own.

This h isn't much of a personal relationship risk taker, it seems every time she tries, she finds out later that people weren't really interested in her pov or how she thinks about things- even her parents don't seem to value her ideas. She tried to get her dad to get a computer for his accounting, since she gets called on to help them sort it out and they refused. Then later she finds out her mother let the H convince them to let him set a system up for them.

This is really clear as the h decides to go to her parents and they decide to leave on a cruise for the entire time the h has off. They leave the h's step-cousin in charge and the h finds out that her parents basically pity her and don't seem to have to much respect for her choices when the family rescue parrot, who is a huge mimic, repeats some of the h's parent's conversations about her.

The H, who is of course the step-cousin, gets along much better with the h's parents and the h is pretty convinced that her parents vastly prefer his extrovert bonhomie to her own more muted expressions of personality and she resents that a lot.

So the h gets home and finds that her parents are gone without even saying goodbye, the H is in charge of things and she can't even sleep in her own room because her parents have given it to the H. She is also uncomfortably aware of the H's stunning muscled arms and impeccable washboard abs - the H manages to get some roffie kisses in and goes shirtless a lot. Most of the book is the h doing her inner analysis to figure out what she really wants and getting into embarrassing situations, like skinny dipping in a silk shirt, every time the H seeks her out.

Eventually the h realizes that her almost fiance is too much a mama's boy and that his mama doesn't really like her when she asks him to come early to their planned visit to her family home and he blows the h off to attend his mother's dinner party. Where mama has arranged a meet up with a more suitable girl for her beloved lap dog son.

When the fiance refuses to put the h first, she dumps him and then proceeds to get drunk on elderberry wine because she is wildly attracted to the H and doesn't know what to do with that, is confused about how she wants live her life and there is a big thunderstorm brewing and she is terrified of them.

The H finds the h totally toasted and the inevitable patented PJ drunken lurve mojo takes over and the h winds up blooming with the H as the master gardener. The h is hung over and mortified the next morning

and has to go to the local village to find a hangover remedy. She runs into an old school friend who reminds her of the huge crush she had on the H when she first met him and the h realizes that she is in love with him and has probably been for a long time.

She goes back to the farm to confront the H about hurting her parent's business because she knows he went out and bought some fields her parents need to expand and she thinks he did it to compete with them. The H is angry, cause she left him after their big night of love and also angry cause he bought the land for her parents as they were on vacation for the auction.

There is no H POV in this until the very end where the H explains about the land and then tells the H he is there and her parents left them alone to give him a chance to court her. Apparently this H has been in love with her for yonks and has been waiting to stake his claim.

The h is overwhelmed and happy and since she loves him back, she asks for a repeat on their mystical blooming flower experience to see if it was as wonderful as she thinks it was. We get a nice tiny epilogue where the H and h are married on a big organic garden farm in Cheshire happily doing their blooming garden reenactment and yep, it is as good as the h always thinks it is.

This one was cute, in a very PJ sorta way. The h is almost irritating at first, until we get to learn more about her and then her actions are ruefully amusing but you kinda can't help feeling for her. PJ does a very nice coming of age story, mixed with a little romance in this one and if you have some patience with the h and her prim fussiness for the first few chapters, you are in for a fairly charming and sweet PJ HPlandia outing.

T. says

Eh. I really hated the Heroine, she was annoying. I don't understand why this book isn't linked to the original paperback A Kind of Madness by Penny Jordan from 1992.
