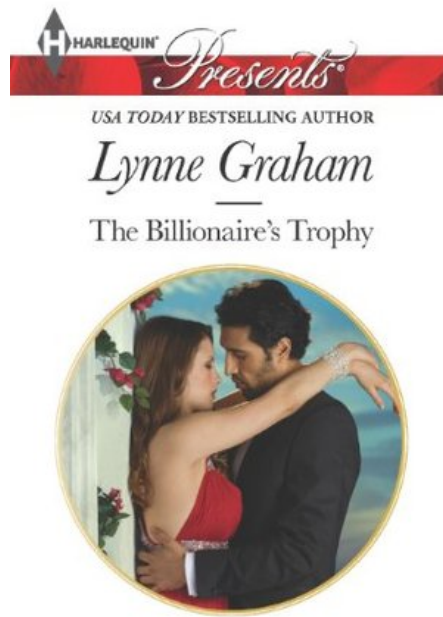




The Billionaire's Trophy

Lynne Graham

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On his arm...

What is his intern's photo doing on an escort website? Bastian Christou doesn't know if he's more surprised by her double life or her stunning photo – she's kept those curves well hidden! He has an ex-fiancée to keep at bay, and Emmie Marshall might just be the best armour money can buy.

And in his bed?

Emmie is outraged when Bastian, her uncompromising boss, confronts her. She had no idea her photo was online. But his cheque's been cashed and he's come to collect his prize... A weekend in Greece. With her. Alone. Their relationship might be fake, but Emmie's trepidation is all too real!

The Billionaire's Trophy Details

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From Reader Review The Billionaire's Trophy for online ebook

Aarann says

There was a lot to like about this one, but a lot to not like about it.

For one thing, I really liked Emmie... sort of. She was a little obnoxious with her sayings and had a somewhat judgmental attitude about Bastian (while not having a nearly enough judgmental attitude about her bitch-faced mother), but at the same time, she didn't let him walk all over her. She did get shoved into a corner about the escort thing, but that was more her mother's doing than Bastian's.

Bastian was the usual stock HP MMC. Commitment-phobic and untrusting of love due to parental #FAIL, ultra-handsome, ultra-rich. We've all read this character a million times. I liked the fact that he fessed up to his mistakes, even when he thought he'd done something different than what Emmie thought he'd done. That was actually a little different from the usual HP alpha I-don't-apologize male (not that Bastian didn't say that he never made apologies, but thankfully, his actions, at least in the second half of the book, belied that stance).

My biggest issue with this book, however, was the romance -- or lack thereof. I felt absolutely no chemistry or tension between Emmie and Bastian. Pretty much all of the tender getting-to-know-you parts of their relationship happened off page. Suddenly, a month or two had gone by and Emmie was feeling all soft and squishy about Bastian and, while Bastian had the usual I-feel-nothing-for-her, followed immediately by Oh-my-God-where-IS-she!!! panic, as far as what the reader could see, all we knew was that she was obnoxious and he was arrogant and they fought a lot and then he said something insensitive and she was suddenly in love with him. It was jarring and, quite frankly, even less believable than these romances usually are. In fact, if not for that, this probably could have gotten 4 stars or even 4.5 simply because it was nice to see an HP hero go, "Here's how things are going to be," and then the HP heroine go, "That's adorable. Now here's why you're wrong" at least once or twice. Things were a little more even handed in this book than they frequently are in HPs. Plus, even though there was a sort of Big Misunderstanding at the end, I honestly got the impression that it was genuine rather than a plot device on the author's part.

Basically, this one just could have been so much more than it was, which is strange for a Lynne Graham. I usually don't have this much trouble connecting to her characters -- even when I think they're being ridiculous or stupid. It was enough to make me think this might have been written by a ghost-writer... or at least a different ghost-writer than usual since I'm not convinced that at least some of her stuff is written by others.

Jacqueline says

This is really a 2 star read. I guess I gave it the other star because it's Lynne Graham and she's a favorite of mine. This book ultimately lacked conflict. I am reading this series but this was the weakest of the three so far. The reason that the heroine was so bitter and all was just not real realistic. I felt like everything was sort of checked off of a list. So pretty formulaic. The heroes actions don't make much sense either.

Still, I am looking forward to the fourth and final sister's book.

Jenny says

As another reviewer said this book felt totally superficial and dry. The emotions were not there, the characters seemed mechanical and cold, the relationship felt forced and the plot was flat. Felt like a filler book.

Lisa says

When I finished Billionaire's Trophy I immediately ran to the internet to look up Lynne Graham's book list because I was convinced that this must be one of her earliest novels. I'm shocked to find that it's not because Billionaire's Trophy is very badly written. In most books that I dislike it's because the characters' actions piss me off or the plot is full of holes, etc., but this one really is down to the writing.

For one thing, the repetition was off the freaking charts. In practically every scene we're told about Bastian's gorgeous black-fringed golden eyes and Emmie's striking blue ones. And in about 90% of those instances the eye-porn was quickly followed by a pat recitation of how Emmie's nipples were elongating and explosions were happening in her pelvis. It was ridiculously intrusive.

And while LG wasted TONS of time on that boringly repetitive nonsense, she totally failed to demonstrate our couple developing any kind of relationship whatsoever. It's an extremely short book and the hero and heroine spend almost no time together. What little time they do share is completely taken up with easily-avoidable arguments and then with no demonstrated shift to their relationship, suddenly they're both confessing their love. Just totally unsatisfying all the way around.

(view spoiler)

So yeah, this was just a badly written book. LG chose to show us all the wrong parts of the story. We spent ages alone with Emmie while she whined about what a raw deal she'd gotten in life. And the few interactions between her and Bastian were mostly fighting. I didn't believe that either one of them actually loved the other, and I pretty much hated Emmie by the end.

Rgreader says

First, the title does not make sense and doesn't relate to the story but that's how Harlequin does now, make up crappy titles.

Ok. Now the review.

The hero is a standard Lynne Graham hero, alpha wealthy and living the single life.

The heroine is a standard Lynne Graham heroine, likable virginal and struggling to make ends meet.

Modernish Cinderella.

What didn't work was the heroine's reaction when the hero referred to their hookup as such and the heroine got upset about it. This was not a traditional romance. The heroine barely knew the hero. They didn't date. They didn't try to get beyond the superficial.

This book felt superficial. The chemistry between the hero and heroine is superficial. And the story is superficial. The heroine's reasoning for leaving the hero felt superficial.

The one thing I liked is the heroine told the hero she was pregnant and they talked about what to do and where the heroine would live.

The Billionaire's Trophy is not on the level of Graham's the Trophy Husband but it was an ok read.

KC 2.0 says

[after he found out she was pregnant with his child (hide spoiler)]

Alex is The Romance Fox says

The 3rd book in A Bride for a Billionaire and the wicked mother is still giving the Marshall sisters a hard time.....now she's running an escort agency and using pictures of one of her daughters on the site. No doubt poor Emmie will discover the "fall-out" it will cause in her life....but as usual....we tend to forgive our parents even when they are something like her mother....that is one dysfunctional human being!!!!!!

I have mixed feelings about this series so far. I haven't totally hated the previous two books...in fact book #2 liked quite a bit...but I was a bit let down with book #3.

Usual hero....rich, handsome, alpha and heroine...sassy, beautiful and kindhearted and a virgin...of course!!! The problem was that I just could not engage with these two characters. There's so much drama going on and all the angst and blowing hot and cold, just drove me further away from them.

I liked the premise of the story but it just did not feel real enough for me.

This was not one of this author's best books but still it was an enjoyable read. I like the Marshall Sisters.

Vashti says

Enjoyable latest offering by LG. Typical LG hero that you wanted to hit over the head with a cast iron skillet, but he redeems himself at the end. The heroine was likeable. Loved the epilogue which caught up on the 3 sisters families, looking forward to the 4th sister's book.

IamGamz says

I loved this book.

Emmie is forced to accompany Bastian to his sister's wedding to avoid his ex-fiancée's attempt to get him back.

Ernie's sweet and innocent, but, she's sassy as hell and very outspoken. Poor Bastian has women fawning all over him, except Emmie. She calls him out on his rudeness, his bad temper, even to the point of telling him he pouts like a girl and asked will he be throwing a temper tantrum next?

Bastian is turned on by Emmie's disdain for him. To the point where he gets he into bed and takes her virginity. Then he jacks everything up by saying he wasn't expecting anything but a "typical shag". What an ass.

Emmie ends up preggers. They are constantly at odds with each other. She runs from him when he says something ridiculous after their second "shag" months later.

This poor fool just can't win. He has no concept that he is being an idiot. Emmie tried and tries. It wasn't until she disappeared while having extreme morning sickness, and he couldn't find her, that he realized how important she was to him. And then the groveling began.

A really fun read and another winner from Lynne Graham.

StMargarets says

Hero hires heroine as an escort to his sister's wedding. Heroine is the "ugly" identical twin to a super model. She is interning for free at the hero's company.* Her mother owns the escort agency and put her photo up on the website without her permission.

So off they go to Greece where the heroine is knocked in to the pool within the first ten minutes. She's also knocked up after her virginity is taken later that night. It's the typical LG mess that her heroines find themselves in.

Hero doesn't know he's in love until the heroine leaves him twice.

This is the last story of three sisters with a terrible mother. Luckily, they are all gorgeous and marry rich, doting husbands. There is a baby-filled epilogue.

The best part of the story was the heroine realizing she was being snippy, so she wrote "I'm Sorry" on her hand and showed it to the hero in the loud helicopter.

* Hey, rich hero! Pay your interns!

Megan says

I am pretty sure I read this series but just haven't rated them. I remember or at least think I remember Saffys romance. If I can I'll reread them

Fanniny Moreno Zavaleta says

I'm skipping this one because I already hate Emmie (since book 1), the reviews are not that favorable for me to give it a chance and read the first chapter and didn't engage me.

Ashley F says

This review was posted at Tsuki's Book Blog on August 19, 2013.

I'm continuing on the path of a few days of Harlequin reading. I'll be honest and state I tend to read a boatload of Harlequin romances to get back into the groove of reading. When I get stuck I read a few HPs and start moving on to other things. As of writing this, I've already moved onto a few other titles and am hoping to finish up some of my current reads (I've got about five going right now).

I've never read Lynne Graham before unless it was a novella. It's not ringing any bells and I didn't have a chance to check out my goodreads account so I'm going to say I never read any of them. I picked this up in my July HP pick-up and thought it sounded a bit different and interesting.

The premise follows an alpha-billionaire (I know, surprising right?) whose engagement imploded from an idiotic fiancée. He's headed to his sister's wedding where the fiancée is a bridesmaid and wants a date. When a co-worker shows him an assistant's picture on an escort site he decides to hire her to be his date. Of course Emmie had no knowledge of her picture on the website but once payment was rendered to her mother she has nothing to say except yes.

I tend to look at HPs in two ways. Fun reads and boring reads. Typically I'm generally happy about HPs and they regularly fall into the average ratings. They're fun but at the end they blur together. I enjoy them and I read them again and again but some are better than others.

In this case, this was a solid mid-level HP. There was nothing to point at and go 'horrible' but there was nothing to point at and go 'spectacular'. On average I find myself questioning if it is original or if there are

aspects so unbelievable I can't get past them. In this case I had a healthy dose of both.

The characters were average. Bastian was the typical alpha male who had been burned by women. Naturally he wasn't trusting and often jumped to conclusions. On top of that he also was tender and gentle when he fell in love. Emmie was stubborn and strong-willed but innocent and unknowing of the bad things in the world around her. They were a pair I've seen many, many times in HP.

On the other hand, I've never seen the escort aspect before in an HP. It was an interesting concept fraught with miscommunication. Often times it is a matter of a ten minute conversation and there would be few issues but in the ways of romance, that never happens.

For those of you who read lots of HPs then I would recommend trying this one for the escort premise. If you are new to HPs then I recommend skipping this one because it probably won't endear you to the line.

If you are looking for a great HP from July 2013 try Annie West's "Imprisoned by a Vow".

2 Stars

Published by Harlequin

July 23, 2013

192 Pages

Provided by--Me

Kathleen says

Lynn Graham has long been a favorite author for me, but this romance is weak. I didn't feel the love. Graham vividly and explicitly depicted the sex scenes (too sudden) and the heartbreaking rejection scenes ("Don't get ideas, it's only sex, I just want a typical shag, we don't have a relationship..."). But she depicted no vivid *relationship-building* scenes.

In passive terms, in past tense, Graham mentioned that Bastian was wonderfully caring and attentive to pregnant Emmie for three weeks in London, when she lived in that apartment. Passive and past tense. We never got to actually *see* him being tender. Nope. Nothing. Likewise, Graham told the reader that Bastian was wonderful to Emmie for four days in Greece. She mentioned that he walked with Emmie through the orchards, for one example, but she did not portray this scene in vivid present tense. No dialogue. No laughter. No scent of honeysuckle, no sudden bee sting. Simply nothing. Just a few lines of text referenced those four happy days, as if bonding scenes didn't matter. The only scenes that got a vivid portrayal were downers, or were merely erotic.

So, I never felt the love. The trust. Never bought Bastian's sudden ILY with big bling ring. Never even bought Bastian's sudden and intense sexual obsession, and got tired of reading about Emmie's elongating nipples, clenching wombs, and embarrassing dampness. Since when did writers substitute true sexual anticipation -- served with emotion -- for that nonsense?

Furthermore, I never bought Emmie's homelessness or desperate poverty. Her sister Kat was there for her, always. Kat owns a farmhouse and it was also Emmie's home. Kat then married a billionaire, and more funds were made available to Emmie. She was pregnant, but never in dire straights.

I didn't respect Emerald's treatment of her twin, Sapphire. Emmie strummed a self-pity song that just went on and on. She didn't even attend Saffy's wedding. I didn't buy Emmie's self pity, nor her shunning of Saffy.

Emmie's beautiful, healthy, and even loved. Yeah, her mother is an utter heel, but she abandoned Emmie at age 12. Good riddance. Cause for celebration, not self-pity. Emmie was in good hands with Kat. And the car accident with the crippled leg occurred a decade ago. Move on!

On the up side, I did buy Bastian's wariness about love and marriage, given his past.

Graham needs to sharpen her pencil and stop writing by rote. She needs to dig into her characters and her plot, as she has done in some of my all time favorites, like the angsty Bond of Hatred, complete with resolute heroine and fabulous ending, the highly amusing Daisy and Caesar in the The Spanish Groom, and even her like-titled oldie, Trophy Husband. And when it comes to Greek characters, Graham needs to think of some new names. Enough with Appollonia and Olympia already!

April Reader says

2.5 stars

Lynne Graham's books are fun to read because they're so ridiculously drama-filled but the terrible communication between the hero and heroine can grate on my nerves as it did a few times during this book.
