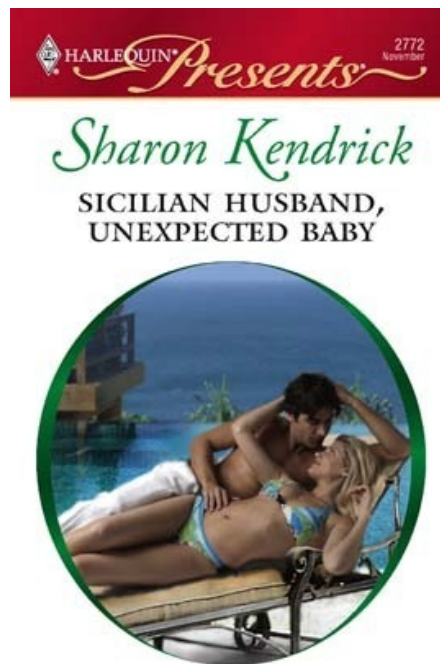




Sicilian Husband, Unexpected Baby

Sharon Kendrick

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When Emma's billionaire Sicilian husband found out she was infertile, their marriage was over. Then, back in England, Emma discovered the impossible had happened--she was pregnant! But life is hard, and, unable to pay her bills, she has only one option: Vincenzo.

Now that he knows he's a father, Vincenzo will claim his son and if Emma is to stay with her beloved child, she must return to the marriage bed!

Sicilian Husband, Unexpected Baby Details

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From Reader Review Sicilian Husband, Unexpected Baby for online ebook

Jenny says

When we first meet the heroine she has a ten month old son but she has no money or job. She realizes she needs to contact her estranged husband. She had married the hero because she was in love with him but their marriage ended up being a disaster. Vincenzo is your typical Sicilian alpha male whose only purpose of marrying the heroine was to have an heir. When he finds out she is infertile and she has hidden this little fact from him he is furious and she abandons him.

Their reunion is bitter, not sweet or romantic. I liked the heroine but I didn't care for the hero at all for some reason. He was so cold and indifferent that I can only describe him as a two-dimensional character. In short I wanted to like this one but it was impossible.

StMargarets says

Secret Baby story with a Sharon Kendrick husband from hell, a doormat heroine and a Bendryl baby.

Let's start with the husband shall we?

- *married heroine because she was a virgin
- *didn't talk to heroine - communication was only in the bedroom
- *was angry when he found a letter from a doctor confirming her infertility
- *didn't take her calls after she left
- *taunted the heroine by telling her he had other women while they were separated
- *threatened to take her baby
- *thinks she's a golddigger and liar for - reasons?
- *only realized he was in love with h when he realized how different she was acting once they were back in Sicily

I honestly don't know how he managed the evolutionary task of walking upright.

Heroine, on the other hand has no spine, but it's convenient for the hero since she is always in the prone position for frequent sex.

sigh

I could go on about how that heroine was entitled to child support no matter what shape their marriage was in. But that would be futile. The heroine is the perfect match for Mr. Caveman Billionaire.

And Bendryl baby? He's sleeping like all good plot devices. I'm sure he'll wake up in 18 years as a Caveman like good ol' dad.

Saintlyjuliet says

This book is like most books of this genre where the heroine is a white woman and the hero is a brown man.

As usual, the hero is super proud of his heritage and this is somehow a sign for him to behave like a chauvinist pig who bosses the heroine around, makes her miserable and behaves in extremely inappropriate and sexist ways but it is all okay because he's Sicilian.

The heroine is a poor, helpless lady who can't get her own head out of her butt to demand rights for herself and her child. She's so stupid that when her home daycare business was in trouble she did nothing to stop it. All she had to do was turn the heater on because of course parents don't want their children to freeze. But the author wanted to tell us the heroine is a poor victim of circumstances so she ended up leaving the heater switched off and freezing her own baby aside from herself. Thus, her business lost all clients and she ended up back in dire situation just in time for the hero to come along and take advantage of her poverty.

I don't know why these authors think a hero who constantly berates, demeans and insults the heroine (especially the heroine they are married to) makes a romantic read? That's exactly what happens here. The hero blackmails her into bed in exchange for a divorce and then thinks less of her for submitting to the blackmail.

But here's the kicker, the heroine wasn't submitting to blackmail she was just too weak in the knees after being called a whore, liar and gold digger. So she fell into the office couch with the hero without thinking about it.

As usual for these books, we are repeatedly told the hero is Sicilian (as if we couldn't glean this from the title). And we usually receive this info just when the hero does something bad.

This author has written books with white heroes and they seem to be civilized in comparison to her brown heroes. I guess if you have no interest or inclination in learning about a culture and it's people you must rely on harmful stereotypes.

At one point the heroine complains about not being close to the hero's family and the next minute she has an inner monologue stating that she met all the many Pietro's and Maria's in the family...maybe that's why she isn't close? Because they are just faceless stereotypes to her?

I read this book after reading the reviews to see if it was as bad as the impression they gave me and yep. I guess I've grown out of these books. I'd rather read about Sicilian hero's from authors who put in the work to learn about the culture.

BTW the hero insults everything the heroine does including putting her down for giving up on her education when she says she was upset she couldn't even go to work. He says with her poor qualifications all she could do is bake cupcakes and how dare she want to do that while married to him and his big wealth. Is this really romance? The hero only sees the heroine as a good fuck, a pretty face and (after seeing her with a baby who is sleeping 24x7), a good mom. He himself is just rich. We don't know what his talents are or what he actually does that allows him to suddenly run a vineyard but that's all we know of him...he's rich. Yet he's better than the heroine who shouldn't bake cupcakes even though that's honest work.

I mean these books are written for women, by women and marketed for female readers and all we see is this insulting story over and over again.

My advice is for you to skip it because it doesn't offer anything new and nor is it romance.

Linda Sims says

Oh dear this was so awful, how can female authors write this stuff, for instance the male protagonist thinks that because the heroine enjoys sex she's behaving like a mistress and not like a wife. I rest my case. The heroine is dumber than a bucket of rocks. While he's just a nasty piece of work. Totally unimpressed.

Sandra TheSnarkyOne says

'A son,' he breathed on their wedding night as he stroked her flat, bare belly and moved over her with dark intent. 'I will put my son inside your body, Emma.'

Who wouldn't have thrilled at that avowal?

Err ... me?

Nah, just kidding, baby, I adore that type of sexy talk. Go on. Let's see how you can do this. Into a cup, then rush to a laboratory and spend your billions to see if you can separate the XX from the XY? Oh do it, baby, just do it! Artificially inseminate me! Yes! Yes!

If you can read this book in that vein, you may enjoy it. Maybe. No promises.

This H is Sicilian so I guess in romance la-la land this qualifies him to be some sort of Neanderthal? He gets mad. A Lot. He's mad that she didn't tell him she's a virgin then takes pride in it. He's mad and resentful that he's fallen in love with her then marries her. He's mad that his friends are ogling her but wants her to dress like a knockout. Then, he finds out she is barren and takes this as a sign of ultimate betrayal, accusing her of being a gold-digger who used her virginity to trap him into marriage and a rich lifestyle.

She decides to leave him but not before he carries her off for one last night of angry, passionate endless orgasms (no details, bummer) where he makes sure he has spoilt her for other men. After which, he callously throws her out. She of course, defies the medical prognosis, and becomes pregnant.

Frankly, unlike most sensible readers, I like these cavemen-type Heroes. It's a bit like meeting a fire-breathing dragon and indulging the fantasy you can tame one. And it's fun to pair it up with a clueless kitten, all wide-eyed and innocent and watch that dragon reduced to puffing out pathetic wisps of smoke before the end of the novel.

But this kitty needed to grow some claws and maybe fangs considering the reason he threw her out. I wanted her to storm into his office wearing an overcoat, slowly unbutton it and have an epic in-your-face moment with her pregnancy. But instead, she took some weird martyr route that didn't gel with me.

He refuses to take her calls when she attempts to tell him she is pregnant, though to be fair to him, she barely pushed it. Kendrick tried to show the level of poverty the h had to endure but I could only feel impatience. Cutting back on the heater during harsh winters to make sure the bills don't go up is a grim reality for some. A heroine who chooses to live in sub-zero temperatures with a baby when there was a way out didn't endear her to me. And I'm getting tired of Hs, especially billionaires who think they do not need to provide spousal support after separation and by the same token the hs, who don't try to find out if they are entitled to it.

It wasn't all bad. She "suffered" till the baby was only 10 months old (not few years old, thank you, Kendrick) before she realised she had to put her pride aside and tell her husband. And there was some easy-reading angst for the first half of the book that I enjoyed.

But the rest of the book just fell flat. Even descriptions of their first meeting, that love-at-first-sight moment felt lacklustre. Neither grew in character or maturity. Case in point when he picks out a dress from the brand new wardrobe he's purchased for her and tells her to get rid of her cheap, well-worn clothes.

'And dump those jeans while you're at it,' he suggested caustically. 'I don't ever want to see them again.'

She does as he instructed in the name of maintaining peace for the sake of their child, puts on the dress and asks "How do I look?" Wtf. I would have googled "40 different ways to recycle your jeans" and put that shit everywhere in the house.

Perhaps writers should think of changing their setting to the 70s or 80s if you want to write novels like this. Explanations of him having macho male Sicilian pride just doesn't cut it post 2000. It ends up having racist overtones. I foresee a future where she makes a furtive call to the Sicilian mafia to take him down a notch or two.

For those who like a gentle, docile heroine and a macho Hero who is uncompromising till the end (and why shouldn't you, we're all different in our tastes) this might work for you.

Jasbell76 says

I read this book in 2010, I am re-reading it right now but it's more like re-skimming. I didn't want to read it again. I wanted to check why I couldn't remember too much of this romance. I used to read Sharon Kendrick but her heros more than her heroines drove me **MAD**, her heros are **REAL ASSHOLES** and her heroines are weak and allow the heros to treat them like **SHIT**. They never have good arguments to defend themselves. Most of the times, they never win a verbal battle against the heros. Heros always behave like GOD and know **EVERYTHING** about heroine's feelings, thoughts, bodies and so on. At the moment I just want to do this with hero's private parts

Then...

I will post the review of this book soon ;)

Updated
24/03/2015

Nikki ? Navareus says

*****FOUR STARS*****

Whew! So many other reviewers HATED this story. Guess I'm the odd man out, because....

I started this story right when I went to bed, and was sucked in and ended up staying up reading all night to see how it ended. This story had the perfect amount of angst for me. Good stuff!

SMJC says

Why do I torture myself

I have read enough of these books to know better. I do not like weak female characters, and oh boy was she massively weak in this one. Why did this author have to write a female with with such potential, only to have her crumble or just so easily give in the second a man even looks at her ? Why does their common sense fly out the window at the drop of a hat ? Just no.

Dianna says

Unrated.

When I read the blurb, about how Vincenzo sends his wife away because he discovers she is barren I thought: that bastard. I must immediately read this book, I am sure it will be delightfully crazy!

I'm at the fifty per cent mark, and I can't read any more. It's not delightful, it's sad. Vincenzo is a rage monster and abusive, and Emma is sad. She's on the brink of rather desperate poverty, she has a ten month old baby, and is incapable of supporting herself. She ran a child minding service out of her home until the mothers complained that she had no heating, and removed their children. It's highly unlikely Emma had done anything to make this a legitimate business, because Emma is hopeless.

Her landlord has told her that he's going to raise the rent, and hints that he might be amenable to negotiating another form of compensation. i.e. sex. This is what prompts her to call her estranged billionaire husband and ask for a divorce. Because when you get a divorce, you get money, right?

Vincenzo will see her, but she must come to London. Emma can barely afford a train ticket. She's going to have an interesting time getting legal representation for less than a return train fare. There's more backstory about Emma's sadness – when she was at catering school her mum got cancer and died, there was no money for Emma after paying the medical costs, and Emma didn't feel like going back to school. So instead she booked herself a holiday in Sicily, and that's where she met Vincenzo.

Vincenzo pursues her, and they sleep together. He discovers that Emma is a virgin, and is furious. "I have robbed you of your virginity – the most precious thing that a woman possesses," he rages. That this doesn't bother Emma is ... not great. Emma is in the habit of not telling Vincenzo fairly important things: 'warning, I'm a virgin,' and 'I went to the doctor, and it looks like I'm barren,' and 'it turns out I'm not barren, I am going to have a baby.' Emma frequently insists to herself that she has done nothing wrong.

The thing is, and this is what I can't rationalise enough to read the rest of the book: Vincenzo is abusive. I'd been prepared for him to be controlling – that's the game, and the interest in a book like this is how, after a huge fail in the game, the couple renegotiate the rules. What I can't see is how the second half of the book is going to rehabilitate Vincenzo, how he will see his own mistakes and work out how to correct them, because I haven't even got to the part yet where he threatens to remove the child from Emma's custody unless she agrees to have sex with him. Some of Vincenzo's stand out romantic hero moments are:

1. ogling a female employee while on the phone to his estranged wife

2. not wanting a divorce because he won't be able to sleep with women without them trying to marry him
3. emotionally torturing Emma by telling her that it wasn't her infertility that was the problem, it was the fact that she'd discovered it in secret, and then deceitfully kept the news to herself
4. when they were living together, extreme jealousy when men looked at Emma, and a refusal to allow her to pursue anything that would give her some independence
5. after sex, pointing out that they didn't use contraception and taunting Emma with her infertility
6. Despising Emma for enjoying sex so much, because women with babies should be more restrained
7. Calling her a whore.

I'm disappointed. I can't see there being any satisfying redemption. Vincenzo is so over the top, but I can't find him funny, and I've really tried. I'm sure there'll be something where Vincenzo comes upon a moment of understanding of the wrong he has done Emma, but I can't imagine there'll be much left in the book by that stage, and therefore no opportunity to see that he will become a better man. I can't see Emma doing anything more than enduring. I'm sad for them both.

Shari Kay says

I need a nutcracker and an injection of calcium stat!

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Paula Legate says

I'm torn on how to rate this book. This was the worst hero I have ever read about. He was mean, cold blooded, and cruel. The book may not have had a villain, but the hero in the book could have played the role as villain. The author was very talented in writing about a character that drew out deep emotions from me. I just wanted to reach through the pages, and slap him for some of things that he had said to Emma. Part of me wants to rate this book a 2, because the main character was so awful, but the other side of me realizes it takes talent to make up a character that mean... Vincenzo did redeem himself a little bit by the end of the book!

LIA says

the author implied that hero sleep with many women. but it didn't confirmed in the end. so we were left to guess the truth.

the hero is shallow, and not the brightest button in the box apparently. he accused the heroine as gold digger and deliberately trapped him into marriage because the heroine apparently couldn't give him an heir he was craved so badly.

the heroine is the doormat type, she fell into bed the moment he touched her and kissed her, makes us wonder isn't it! Girl, where is your dignity!

in all honesty I couldn't enjoy this book. this the kind of book that makes me question my sanity.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

==>Re-read December 11, 2016

==>Read August 21, 2012

Jerk!!!! I hate myself for having read this book!

The supposed hero sees the heroine as if she were a whore Gold-Digger.

Even if she's a virgin when he met her. When he discovers that she cannot have children he throws her out of the House.

This hero goes to my list of the most hateful and despicable.

And our heroine wins the trophy of which opened the legs faster despite being considered a slut by the hero and treated as such. He had to do was make out and her legs opened quickly.

Has no self-respect our heroine.

Desperado says

My Thoughts:

Our hero Vincenzo is a Sicilian billionaire who views women as either sluts or virgins(his words) & spends the majority of the book being pissed off at his wife. Our heroine Emma is a poor, virgin, college dropout who lucked out, fell in love & married Vincenzo. She left him when the going got tough. Apparently his mission the whole marriage was to impregnate her with his Sicilian seed. When he found out she was infertile, he flipped the hell out-at her. Like it's her fault that she's infertile. After Emma left him she found out she was preggers but she can't run back to him because he treated her so bad. Of course they meet again after the baby is born & Vincenzo spends the rest of the book talking shit to her & using the threat of taking their baby away from her to get & keep her in his bed. Oh Vince, you are such an awesome hero using your child to make your estranged wife give you some kitty. I don't see why she left you at all! I'd totally get on that asshole train & take it for a ride.

I found both the hero & heroine intensely unlikeable. Vince is a douche to the nth degree who blames Emma for everything. I wouldn't be surprised if he put a hit out on her "defective" womb. Emma is a doormat who allows Vince to treat her like shit & as soon as he waves his Sicilian wand-o-much-lovin at her, her panties fall down. I have no respect for a woman who feels lust & love for a man who uses her child to blackmail her. Even the baby, Gino doesn't act like any baby I've been around. He's always giving Vince these hallmark smiles & looking superficially cute in his little baby jumper. He even balls up his fist at one point & gives Vince a baby punch to the jaw. Love that kid.

I would say this novel was an epic fail but my expectations going in were very low. I'm not a fan of uber asshole heroes & heroines who think with their kitty. I will say that I am very happy that the majority of these category romances are under 200 pages which means no matter how much the book sucketh, it will be over soon. On to the next book in my quest!

Marajeau says

Dumb cluck heroine uses the last of her money to go on vacation and meets hero. They have an affair and when she returns he comes after her and sets her up as his mistress.

Everyone treats her with all the respect of a playboy bunny. Dumb blonde who's only good in bed and doesn't have a lick of intelligence. Also perfectly alright to make fun of her to her face because she's so stupid it's not like she knows anyway.

Eventually the hero makes the mistake of deciding to marry her. Immediately upon family disapproval of now being saddled with the brainless bimbo as part of the family, he decides to impregnate her with his son and heir in an effort to excuse his actions.

D.C. heroine is upset that it hasn't happened and goes to have a test only to find out that she's infertile. She doesn't know how to tell the hero but doesn't have to worry about it as he manages to find her HIDDEN PAPERS, while he was innocently going through her stuff. He's mad that not only does he look like a pathetic guy who fell for the brainless bimbo and married her, now he's saddled with a wife who didn't tell him right away she couldn't have kids so he could ditch her ASAP.

D.C heroine decides to leave him because he doesn't want to be with her anymore and he's okay with that as long as he gets a last good lay, then he makes sure she's out the door.

Enter almost two years later and D.C. destitute heroine needs money to survive with her son, and what better way than to divorce the hero. Hero is shocked that she would dare to contact him, and worse, she wants a divorce when he's been using the fact that he's married to keep the numerous bed partners he's had in 18 months since his marriage unofficially ended from thinking any permanent thoughts.

Hero is his usual insulting self and heroine is her usual brainless put up with anything self and poofle, they have sex. Then she tells him about the kid and he insults her left right and in to next year also.

But since it is his kid, which he decides after seeing the kid and not a moment before, they'll resume their marriage.

The D.C. heroine thinks she's basically making an effort to behave exactly as he expects her to, though no different than she ever really behaved, and hero has an epiphany that she doesn't like it there and decides to let her go because he just loves her so much.

Of course, despite the fact that the hero has insulted her morals, intelligence, choice of career, looks, speech and virtually anything else he can think of, the heroine loves him too.

I mean, who wouldn't love a guy who treated you like crap while you were sleeping with him, couldn't handle that he asked you to marry him because it made him seem weak, treated you as a breeding machine for his children, ditched you because you just weren't good enough when you couldn't have children, called you a slut, whore, ugly, pathetic, weak, and no wife of his would ever bake *CUPCAKES*.

What the hell isn't there to love about this guy?

In MY ending, the heroine hunted down many of his numerous women he'd slept with while not officially separated from his wife and sued him for divorce. She wins and gets all his money. Hero has never had to do without money before and he and his entire jerk-off better than thou family wind up bankrupt and living in little shacks somewhere begging for scraps. The hero winds up washing dishes in a bakery.

Meanwhile the heroine decides it's time she starts living her life and not just going through it and uses the money set up a charity to help provide free trustworthy childcare to single parents.
