



Lucy Monroe
VALENTINO'S
LOVE-CHILD



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Under the Sicilian sun, Valentino's mistress tempts him like no other!

Their relationship is scorching, its intensity unmatched, the desire indescribable. Only, love can never be mentioned....

But Faith, his stunning, intriguing American lover, is testing his resolve. He said he'd never marry again, that his principles won't allow it.

The one person to tame the untamable Valentino is Faith—the woman who's carrying his child....

Valentino's Love-Child Details

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From Reader Review Valentino's Love-Child for online ebook

Paula Legate says

This story really touched my heart. This was not just another book where the heroine got pregnant. Both Tino, and Faith shared a hot and passionate relationship. Tino had no idea until later on in the story that Faith was his son's art teacher. Giosue stole my heart, he was just so cute. He played his hand in match making. He invited over his teacher for dinner to meet his father. His mother had died when he was a little boy. He wanted his father to marry again so he could have a mom. Faith was also close friends with Tino's mother. The two would have coffee together often. Tino knew his son had invited over his teacher. When he opened the door, he was shocked to see his lover standing on the porch. He was more shocked to find out she also knew his mother.

Faith had lost her husband when he died in a car wreck. She also lost the baby she was pregnant with. Everyone she had ever loved, had died. She let her emotions shine through the art she made. She was a very talented artist, and well known. Even though she may never be able to have a child of her own, she loved teaching art to the small kids. She loved all the kids, and they loved her back. Faith had worked through her grief, and was a happy person. It touched me, that she was able to help Tino through the grief of losing his first wife. I loved this story. It held so many emotions. This book will go onto my list of favorite books, and will be read again late on.

Kiki says

His declaration of love came "too little too late" for me.

Also I don't appreciate being reminded the hero is a selfish bastard who cares about no one, not his lover, or her feelings but also not his precious son and mother and I don't want to be reminded he'd only marry a Sicilian after seducing the heroine again.

He had a classic dog in the manger attitude and only really wanted the heroine when she without doubt dumped him.

He really wanted the baby, maybe he loved her, but without the baby the marriage wouldn't have happened. He'd keep on using the heroine until she was too mentally damaged.

He also only wanted her love when he realised he might be competing with a dead man, whereas he had NO issues hiding behind his dead wife where the heroine was concerned.

I do NOT enjoy double standards. You may have them, but when you realise it, you need to be humble not overly arrogant because your precious ego is hurt. Specially when you have done more severe damage to begin with.

Heroine was his dirty little secret and he expected her to keep being so, there was no coming back.

willaful says

Argh. Lucy Monroe used to be my favorite category writer, and I can't seem to stop trying, hoping for the awesome gut-twists she used to deliver. But once again, I get the endless meandering conversation, in which all emotion is dissipated in bickering or analysis. I'm reminded of the old "Love is Hell" cartoon:

"I love you."

"I love you, too."

"Do you know the meaning of the word love?"

"What?"

"Oh let's not fight, I love you."

Except this couple wouldn't agree long enough to get to the first two sentences. Here is the actual declaration of love:

"I love you. You fill my heart. You are my heart."

"You don't. You can't. You said."

"Many things I wished were true, but the only real truth is my love for you."

"But you aren't happy about it."

"I have never before broken a promise. I could not save Maura and now I cannot keep my last promise to her."

"She made you promise never to love again?" That didn't sound like the woman Agata had told Faith about.

Is it too much to hope for a little consistent reaction from Faith before she gets all distracted by wondering about Tino's first wife and what she was like? The entire book is like that; all her books are like that. I guess it works for most people, since Monroe is still extremely popular.

As far as the plot: dead wife and ludicrously adorable little boy for him, dead husband and miscarriage for her, promises to dead spouses, unexpected pregnancy, yadda yadda yadda. An extra star just because her feelings about the pregnancy touched me. (When they're not talking, they actually do get to have feelings, woo hoo.)

StMargarets says

Set in Sicily, this is nice angst-fest about two wounded people who find each other in their attempt to regain a bit of control after life took everything unexpectedly.

The heroine lost more than the hero did. An orphan, she lost her husband and her unborn child when they were in a car crash. The heroine had her art and her resilience to see her through the arid years. The hero lost his wife to a sudden diabetic coma, but he still had the family vineyards, his parents and his son.

So guess which one is the commitment-phobe and afraid to face the future?

You got it. The hero.

Thankfully, the heroine breaks up with him so he can sit in the corner and think about what's he's done. The heroine continues to see his son in the art class she is teaching, and continues her friendship with the hero's mother.

I liked the heroine's wise comment that the promise the hero made to his wife after she died was a coping mechanism for his grief - not a deathbed promise. Hero finally realizes it and lets it go ready to embrace the

heroine fully. That his family loved her, too is just what this heroine needed. And I do love a miracle baby.

Marajean says

Love this book.

Faith was an orphan, everyone she ever loved was taken away from her. She married a fellow orphan and wound up having a terrible time getting and staying pregnant. She finally managed one only for a car accident to take away her husband and unborn baby.

Tino married young and loved his wife, together they had a son. One day his wife was feeling under the weather and Tino thought she was pregnant again. When he returned from work he found that she'd actually had a diabetic attack and died. He promised he'd never love another woman again.

These two find each other and start up an affair. Neither Faith nor Tino have any desire to make things permanent but there is an understanding for faithfulness.

So Faith finds that she's ready to go forward in her life and hopes that Tino will too, but he just doesn't want to. She's more entwined in his life then he realizes. His mother is a good friend of hers and she teaches art to his son in school.

A lot of heartache in this book because we have Faith who feels like maybe she's not supposed to have a family but has reached a point where she can accept the past and try to move forward. And Tino who hasn't been able to accept the past and is still trying to protect his heart.

Faith was really strong and she had some of the best lines ever. Tino managed to be a real jerk which made for some good angst.

This book managed to cover all my favorite tropes.

Vintage says

Crap. I just lost my whole review.

This is a re-read, and I've bumped this to four stars based on the actions of the characters.

Basic plot is American widow Faith and Valentino, a rich, alpha Sicilian have been having a steamy affair for about a year on the down low. Faith happens to be friends with Tino's mother and art teacher to his son, facts he is not aware of. When Faith is invited to dinner by mamacita and the son, she is excited as she thinks it's a move in more serious direction. The look of shock and horror when Tino sees her puts that to bed pretty quick. That and the fact he pretends not to know her hurt her considerably.

Later he admits that when his wife died, he made a solemn promise not to remarry, but if he were to remarry for his son's sake it would be to a nice Sicilian girl. These are not the words to make a lover happy, and Faith

throws down an ultimatum. All or nothing. Valentino is a smart businessman and a hunk of burning Sicilian love. He also happens to be thick as a plank. What could be wrong with having a passionate affair that is going nowhere? Bottom line, Valentino is a GUY. He has the best of both worlds: incendiary passion when he wants it and time for his son separate. Why change?

Faith is incredibly hurt and it turns out incredibly pregnant. Once the H finds out, he does the practical thing and offers to marry her FOR THE BABY. Needless to say, our little h with a spine of steel is underwhelmed with the sheer lack of romance and ass-hattery of the hero.

Thank you Ms. Monroe for writing reasonable characters that are still fun to read. Faith is a strong woman who has survived one heartbreak after another, but still looks at life with optimism. The nice Sicilian mama is unique to Harley-land. She is nice. She likes Faith and does not expect her son to marry an Italian princess whose family dates back to Moses. And Valentino, oh Valentino, so pretty, so stupid. So in over his head. A nice 2' by 4' upside the head would do nicely for him although he is a sweetheart, but he's still such a guy.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Hmmm not so bad. Not bad at all.

All because of a h who's sweet, giving and patient despite a very painful past. She deserved a more generous and indulgent H. But here she had to do most of the work and the giving too.

It's the usual you-are-good-only-to-bed-but-not-to-wed theme. She's an American expat artist living in Sicily and he's the local wealthy vintner. They start a sex only affair with no other contact outside of it. They meet conveniently at his apartment, spend a few hours together and then go their own way never even spending a whole night together— as insisted on by the H. The H is a widower with a son and loved his first wife, and has vowed never to replace her in his heart. The h is friends with the H's mother and his son but doesn't mention it to him.

So when she finds out she's pregnant (along with that she loves him) she tries to gently nudge him into a more, say, amenable thinking but he clearly rejects her and tells her that he'll only ever marry for his son and that too will be to a Sicilian. And to not rock the boat – the sex boat that is.

We have had innumerable hs in love who decide to not reveal a pregnancy because they don't want a 'trapped' H offering marriage. But this h's reasoning and thoughts explained it best imo.

"It had all crystallized when he said he wouldn't marry her—at any cost. Once he knew about the baby, that attitude would change, but the underlying reasons for it wouldn't.

It was one thing to marry someone knowing you loved them and they only liked you and found deep satisfaction in your body. But to marry someone you knew did not want to marry you and did in fact see something so wrong about you that they would marry someone else over you, that was something else entirely."

I also liked the way the author expressed the h's anguish and feelings of grief over her past, and her joy and

fear about her pregnancy through her art and statues. Usually we are told that a character sketches or creates but exactly what – we are not told!

Okay my major problem with the book isn't the H's asshattery because he was just being what he is – a selfish idiot - BUT the number of times the dead wife's name is mentioned – 35 times! And if the h's husband and their marriage could be sadly reduced to a passionless convenience to show the H as a better choice (and he did need that help), why was the dead wife dragged out page after page, thought after thought – and in the epilogue too?

Not liking the H much, I'm in camp Taylish (the dead husband) by default and demand some respect for him.

Bubu says

this was soooo goooooood!!!

let me tell ya with this title is really a surprise..its such a stupid title this book deserves a better title.

with that out of the way what can i tell you that had not been said...this book just moves you.. you can feel the grief, the sadness.. its angst but in an emotional way. In another books you read all the right words but you just don't feel it here is at reverse its not dramatic but you just feel it.

I loved the h, she was way to kind to H. About him i'll just say this MEN ARE STUPID the silver line is that he redeemed himself at the end. I'am glad that for once h has valid reasons for not telling him about the pregnancy. I wish there were more books like this, i'm tired of the flimsy stuff "i thought that you cheated on me, that you don't want the child, etc. and don't check the facts or dont open your mouth to discuss the issue and assume that the other person thinks/wants.

Jenny says

A passionate emotional read about a man afraid to love again because of his promise to his dead wife and a woman who tragically lost her husband and baby. Hero and heroine become lovers and that's all they want to be but an unexpected pregnancy changes their plans and forces them to examine their feelings.

Jacqueline says

I liked this story. The hero was not nice to the heroine but mainly hurt her (with words) as a knee jerk reaction to keep himself from hurting. It dealt with long term grief. Both of them were widowed but while the heroine had forced herself to move on the hero had not. When he began to fall in love with the heroin, the hero could not handle what he considered betrayal of his first wife.

Believable emotions and story line.

Mary says

One of my recent favorites. Faith and Valentino have been lovers for almost a year. At the start of the "relationship", Valentino laid down some rules such as each one's private life was to be kept separate from

their "together" one. Under no circumstances will he introduce Faith to his family publicly.

What he doesn't know is that she is carrying his child (not a spoiler since it's in the blurb). As you read deeper, you learn more & more about each one's tragedy that impacts how they deal with one another. (view spoiler) I could have hit Tino upside the head for not knowing very much about Faith outside of the bedroom!

Fatimama says

I wanted to brain Valentino. Makes for a good angsty read though if you wanna get pissed off while reading a romance.

?Jamie? says

3.5 Stars! Another great Harlequin romance by Lucy Monroe with tragedy, second chances, love, and so much more.

Summary:

Valentino Grisafi has experienced tragedy. Losing his wife too soon was an event he wishes never to repeat, but he is also blessed. He has a loving family and the very physical definition of his love with his late wife in his son, Gio. He also has a woman in his bed. A woman that gives him passion and satisfies him like no other. His mistress, Faith Williams. Although Faith does not acknowledge herself as his mistress, that is what she is to Tino. What they have is sexual, and he can't give her more. Faith has also known tragedy. A great deal more than Tino, but she has made it through and with a cheerful attitude to boot. She loves Tino, but realizes he has some issues to work out before he could possibly allow her into his life in a bigger capacity. She is already dear friends with his mother (an action that occurred before her relationship with Tino), and a teacher to his son. Valentino, however, is far from pleased when he finds out Faith's role in his private life and reacts badly. He made a promise he must keep, and Faith is too close to causing him to break it. Something he finds abominable. He decides to take a step back and return their interaction to those of a more sexual nature. Unfortunately for him, Faith's circumstances have changed and she can no longer accept only part of Tino. She needs more. But is Tino willing to give it? Working through grief and the past is never easy, but both Tino and Faith must if they wish to find their way to a happy future.

I really liked Faith. She was sassy and smart. Her passion for children and art was infectious and clearly felt through the words in the book. I loved that because it helped me connect with her so easily. Tino was a great hero. His words and actions definitely made me want to hit him, but I understand his thought processes and feelings of betrayal. His love for family helped, too. I love a good romance where the hero must convince the heroine. The lengths they go to are sweet. Another great read. <3

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Once again, I'm just not sure why Lucy Monroe's Harlequin romances affect me so much...but they do. "Valentino's Love-Child" (and yes I'm shuddering even as I write that) made me laugh and cry and sometimes that's just exactly what I want and exactly what Monroe can deliver for me.

Faith's past has taught her not to hope for a family of her own. Instead, she's learned to be content with her life in Sicily, her art, and her work with children. Her sizzling affair with Valentino was unexpected and she certainly never dreamed it would last almost a year! Over that year though, her feelings have grown and she knows that soon she'll have to back away to save her heart. But then--a miracle. She's pregnant with a child she never dreamed she could carry. Maybe she's greedy, but she can't help but dream of another miracle--a life with Tino.

Valentino made a promise at his young wife's grave. He would never allow another to take her place in his heart. So he's kept his affairs and mistresses separate from his family life with his young son. But he's having difficulty keeping thoughts of his latest lover, Faith, from intruding into his 'other' life. He's infatuated with her but still determined to remain heart whole. Until Faith begins acting strange...and dares to terminate their affair!

Yes, the plot is one I've read many times. Yes, I know what the ending will be. But it just doesn't seem to matter. For the time I'm reading Lucy Monroe's story, I'm totally immersed in it. The characters become real to me and their joy and pain is almost visceral. As an added bonus, the sex is hot and the stories are relatively short. She's an author whose books I'll reread when I need a good emotional jolt. If that sounds good to you, try her latest and let me know what you think. (Since I refuse to type that title again!)

Booklover says

Just finished this book thanx a ton Seton,saw it on your update list and managed to get the book n finished it

Must say Lucy Monroe once again has managed to touch my heart with this book,Tino-Faith awesome couple

Faith absolutely adored her,liked the fact she was shown to be strong n always stood for herself unike some other Harlequin books where heroins are absolute doormatt

Tino must say he is good man but torn between his promise to dead wife n his passion for Faith,he is adorable father,good son

Recommend it
