



The Husband Trap

Tracy Anne Warren

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Here comes the substitute bride. . . .

Violet Brantford has always longed for the passionate embrace of Adrian Winter, the wealthy Duke of Raeburn. Problem is, he's set to marry Violet's vivacious, more socially polished look-alike twin sister, Jeannette. But when Jeannette refuses to go through with the ceremony mere minutes before it is to begin, soft-spoken Violet finds herself walking down the aisle and taking vows in her sister's place. Soon shy Violet is a high-society wife, trying to keep her real identity a secret while living out the fantasies of her wildest dreams.

Adrian thinks he knows exactly what he's gotten himself into: Jeannette may be flighty and, well, a bit self-involved, but she's the picture-perfect wife to carry on the Winter name. Yet this marriage of convenience brings the groom more than he bargained for when he finds his sweet, innocent wife surprising him at every turn. And though he never planned on true love, Adrian is definitely in danger of losing his heart.

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Ange says

You know, from the blurb of this book I actually expected something sillier and I was preparing myself to roll my eyes a lot. And though I must confess there was indeed some eye-rolling, overall I really enjoyed this book a lot.

Let's start with the main characters. Violet is Jeannette's twin. She's identical to Jeannette in appearance but her exact opposite in personality.

Jeanette is the typical "diamond of the first water." She's into fashion and always knows the latest gossip. She could care less about reading and was not a remarkable good student. So basically she's a bimbo...lol

In fact she's so annoying I'm skipping her book and reading book 3 instead. THAT'S HOW MUCH I DID NOT LIKE HER!

Violet is a wallflower. She's really smart but as you know men don't usually like smart women.

Thus the book starts with Jeannette's wedding to the most eligible bachelor, Adrian Winter, the Sixth Duke of Raeburn. All is good, right? I mean that's a predictable match in regency era society. However, the truth is that the woman standing before the altar joining her life to Adrian is no other than Violet!

And this is where I expected to roll my eyes because usually those twin-switching-places-schemes end up being utterly ridiculous.

But it wasn't in this book for the most part. (view spoiler)

In fact what moved me about this story was Violet's gentleness and the lengths to which she would go to protect Adrian and her family.

She's such a lovely human being that I cannot help but root for her... Hope with all my heart that Adrian sees the kind person she is and learns to love her.

Of course, even the best of intentions cannot justify a lie and Violet will have to face the consequences of her actions.

What moved me the most about the story was Violet and Adrian's love story. How they came to love and

trust each other, eventually (view spoiler)

So if you are looking for a story filled with romance, intrigue and passion with a few comical moments this story is for you. (view spoiler)

***TANYA* says**

Oh so endearing and cheesy cute!!! I got choked up several times throughout the book. I can't help but love books with "mistaken" identities. I'm soooo reading book 3 and skipping book 2, I despised the selfish twin.

♥?elody says

I loved it! I didn't know if I would cause the idea of identical twins switching places is just all kinds of crazy yet juicy at the same time. It could have been a total bomb but the author did a wonderful job. While I do think the 'ruse' was dragged out a bit long I understand why it was done. The author was really clever in handling how Violet acted around Adrian. You could tell she completely loved the man and her actions prove how hard it was on her to continue with the lie. So it's hard not to sympathize with her even though she agreed to the plan. And I do love the way the reveal was handled, not rushed to a dramatic yet expected conclusion. I think that was the most intense gut-wrenching scene from the book is when Adrian confronts her. Wow. Beautifully done.

Violet ended up facing her deceit and not gently with Adrian being furious. So good. It definitely took me by surprise. I really love Warren's style of writing and handling of plot. Perfect balance of everything, not too much, not too little, has drama and angst. The angst and tension is what saved the story or I should say made the story. And the nice twist at the end made me love it even more....cause seriously how else can you avoid that awkward elephant in the room of your husband not being able to tell you apart from your sister? Hee hee. Considering the set up of the story there's no going around it or avoiding it. I thought it was very cleverly done. I would seriously read this again it was that good. Amazing!!!

K. says

Loved this audiobook! Had a wonderful narrator that I hope to run into more often (she did great male voices -- a HUGE "do or die" for an audiobook for me, and very distinct characterizations).

As for the storyline, although the premise was pretty unbelievable (twins sustaining a switch of their lives and fooling even their parents on a long term basis), the story was portrayed very romantically. I was not only willing, but stubbornly ignored the implausibilities of the situation. The heroine was one of my favorite character types -- not a "chaser" when things blew up. I loved that the hero pined for her and chased HER down! The only thing I would have changed is I felt the separation of the H/h should have been less easily resolved; it would have added a bit more drama to the story.

Really enjoyed this book and the reader. I hope she does more of TAW's books in audio.

K.

Megan says

DETAILED PLOT SUMMARY: This book opens at the wedding ceremony of Jeannette Rose Brantford and Adrian Winter, Duke of Raeburn. Except the bride is not Jeannette Rose, but her identical twin sister: Jannette Violet, or simply Violet.* Jeannette convinced Violet to switch with her right before the ceremony, and with the alternative of having her family thrown to scandal, she reluctantly, begrudgingly accepts. While the twins have different public personas - not to mention abilities and minor physical distinctions - Adrian and Jeannette's courtship was chaste enough that more or less Violet is able to 'play' her sister, although guilt consumes her, especially since she's actually been in love with the Duke for years and the deception eats at her heart. And conveniently, Jeannette has assumed her sister's persona in Italy on a scheduled extended travel with their aunt, so there are fewer fronts in England for the deception to be uncovered. Nonetheless, the deception is uncovered by Adrian's younger brother Kit when he combines the latin book he found where Violet was seated, with Violet's miming along to his latin lessons and her occasional spectacles. (Violet is well known to require glasses and be versed in multiple languages, among other academic pursuits.) Upon reflecting, Kit concludes that Adrian likely prefers Violet because she's nothing like the social Jeannette; and because he sees how much Violet truly loves Adrian, he agrees to keep her secret - so long as Adrian never asks him directly. And also in exchange for additional Latin tutoring. (Kit is kicked out of university several months into their marriage and comes to live with them.)

The shit goes to pot when Violet starts receiving love letters from "K," Jeannette's former lover. Though Violet forwarded earlier letters to her sister presumably along with 'cease and desist' - or at least "redirect" orders - Adrian finds one. Regrettably, it's one with a meeting proposed, one that Violet has conferred with Kit to attend to put off Toddy (K.) Markham permanently (Adrian's best friend and apparently Jeannette's lover.) During Violet's confrontation with Markham, Markham realizes that Violet is not Jeannette and sets off to the Continent to find her. Kit comes out of hiding after Markham leaves to comfort Violet in an embrace. Which is when Adrian appears and seeing them in an embrace, assumes Kit is "K," Violet's lover. After days of cold, silent treatment, Adrian finally confronts Violet. Violet insists he's misread his brother's actions towards her that night, that she doesn't and never has had another lover, and that she can't reveal who the note is from. Adrian dismisses her from his life. Similarly, when Adrian and Kit have their unavoidable confrontation, Kit truthfully reiterates Violet's insistences, and holds that its Violet's story to tell who the note is from. Kit is dismissed too.

It is only while Adrian is in town brooding that a passing conversation with a friend plants the seed in his mind that perhaps Jeannette is really Violet. Adrian goes straight to Kit, who confirms this truth as well as revealing Markham's identity. Adrian returns home to confront Violet, and when she too confirms, he is so repulsed she is dismissed permanently, while he returns to London to annul their marriage. Several weeks later with the paperwork completed, he returns home to find Violet gone. She left - leaving behind only a note with her reiterated apologies and love - just after Adrian left weeks prior. In a panic for her safety and well-being, Adrian spends the next 6 wks looking for her with no luck until he accidentally bumps into Violet's best friend Eliza, who had been using "Jeannette" to fwd her letters to Violet. She mentions to pass her hellos to "Jeannette" in Dorset (his estate where they honeymooned), so he promptly leaves for Dorset to find her there. These weeks of searching in vain for her have allowed Adrian to really analyze the true nature of his feelings for his wife - he realizes that before learning of her deception, he'd come to truly love Violet, whereas he realizes how unhappy he would have been should he have actually married Jeannette. He confesses his love, she reiterates her regrets and apologies, and they reconcile. HEA.

They immediately rewed in Dorset, using Violet's real name for both the ceremony and paperwork. But they agree - mostly at Violet's insistence - to continue to let the world believe her to be Jeannette in order to spare both their families the scandal. But when Jeannette returns from her travels despondent - it turns out Markham jilted her for a widowed Countess when he discovered her dowry was reduced (b/c now she was "Violet") - Jeannette seeks for 'resume' her role as Duchess. Appalled, Violet does not agree, sharing that Adrian already knows that she is actually Violet. But Jeannette is insistent that Adrian would never be able to tell the difference, and bullies Violet into agreeing with a one-night switch if only to prove Jeannette wrong. Through Adrian shows some initial confusion during their switch at Violet's first hosted ball, he discovers Jeannette out soon enough, and confront his wife, but not before torturing her into making her think he would attempt to seduce her sister. When mock-threatening a spanking, she reveals she's pregnant. They return to the ballroom and Adrian stops the orchestra to announce publicly that he is married to Violet not Jeannette. HEA (again).

*What parents in their damned mind would name their identical twins Jeannette Rose and Jannette Violet?
Atrocious!

Tu?ba At?c? Co?ar (okuryazarannecek) says

?nstagram da yorum yapas?m gelmedi çünkü pis nefretim var. Kitab?n ana karakterlerini ve kurgusunu a??r? sevdim. Hatta bay?larak okudum. Ama nefret etti?im o ikiz karde?e a??r? derece kin besliyorum. Lanet bir huyum var. E?er bir karakter kitapta iyiye ve sonradan kötü oluyorsa ben onu sevmekten asla vazgeçemiyorum. Ayn? ?ey tam tersinde de ge?erli. Bir karakter kötüyse sonradan a?z?yla ku? tutsa bana yaranamaz.

K?z?m?z?n ikiz karde?ide benim için tam bir itici pislik kategorisinde. Bir derece kabul edebilirdim ta ki bu itici k?z?nda kendine ait bir hikayesi oldu?unu ö?renene kadar. Kötü demek do?ru de?il belki ama a??r? kendini be?enmi? karakterlerde benim gözümde kötü. Hakemiyor ve ben onun o tav?rlar?ndan sonra mutlu sonunu okumak istemiyorum. S?rf bu yüzden seriye ara verdim.

Fakat Adrian... adam a?k.

Violet ise tam bir tat?l?k abidesi. Çifte bay?ld?m. A??r? severek okudum.

Konu olarakda güzeldi.

K?saca itici pislik hariç her ?eyi çok sevdim.

Iliada says

That was another good HR I read lately. I'm glad to see there are still little gems to be found in this genre and I've become better in telling what to avoid by the blurb of the book and by my fellow readers' reviews.

This is a sort of marriage of convenience/forced marriage plot with a twist.

Adrian wants to marry and found lady Jeanette beautiful and confident enough to be his duchess. He may have had doubts about his choice of bride after the engagement but it is too late to do anything about it. A gentleman, after all, wouldn't jilt a lady before the wedding and ruin her reputation. Violet is Jeanette's shy twin sister who has worshipped Adrian from afar since the moment she first saw him. When Jeanette decides she won't go through with the wedding just before the ceremony, Violet steps in to take her place with dread for the deception she's perpetrating, but also happiness to finally get the man of her dreams. Adrian can't

believe his luck when he realises that his new bride isn't the spoiled girl he had thought she was during their engagement period, but he's not going to question his good fortune. Little does he know of the deception that has been going on behind his back.

Well, I loved the uniqueness of the plot, improbable as it may be. I loved Violet's innate kindness and devotion to Adrian. I loved the romance that developed slowly, while Adrian came to respect and admire a wife he had held to little esteem before their marriage.

I half-listened, half-read this one as I own both a paperback copy and the audiobook and I can say the voice of the narrator was pretty nice too.

All in all, I recommend this historical romance, especially to readers who enjoy old-style romances. Though it's not an old HR, it kind of felt like a book written in the '90s (no abuse of the heroine, though!).

Jess the Romanceaholic says

Violet Brantford has always longed for the passionate embrace of Adrian Winter, the wealthy Duke of Raeburn. Problem is, he's set to marry Violet's vivacious, more socially polished look-alike twin sister, Jeannette. But when Jeannette refuses to go through with the ceremony mere minutes before it is to begin, soft-spoken Violet finds herself walking down the aisle and taking vows in her sister's place. Soon shy Violet is a high-society wife, trying to keep her real identity a secret while living out the fantasies of her wildest dreams.

Adrian thinks he knows exactly what he's gotten himself into: Jeannette may be flighty and, well, a bit self-involved, but she's the picture-perfect wife to carry on the Winter name. Yet this marriage of convenience brings the groom more than he bargained for when he finds his sweet, innocent wife surprising him at every turn. And though he never planned on true love, Adrian is definitely in danger of losing his heart.

What worked for me:

*Maybe the heroine is not a true "plain jane", but she's a bookish wall-flower anyway -- I like that type of story a lot.

*The whole "reveal" scene -- everything surrounding that worked for me :)

What didn't work for me:

*Marriage based on deception -- while it makes for an exciting read (just WHEN is he gonna find out?!), it still irks me to see someone who claims to be "in love" base their entire relationship on a very big lie.

*The second switch -- while I understand the reasoning, that annoyed me, especially when she got all butthurt over the results.

Overall, a very enjoyable, quick read. The sex was hot without being blistering, the romance was sweet, especially when our hero was surprised to find himself falling in love with his wife, and the climax/resolution was very satisfying (and no, that's not a dirty pun lol)

Solid 3 Stars

Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

Identical twins...always trappin' folks. :P One twin decides, on her wedding day no less, that she no longer wants to marry her duke. To save the family from ruin and scandal, her identical twin sister steps in as her and proceeds to marry the duke. Hilarity and drama ensues. This story is exactly as fun and harebrained as it sounds, but as delightful as it sounds, I don't think I'll be reading the sequel because the twin who did not marry the duke is featured in it and she was kind of just absolutely the worst.

fleurette says

It took me a while to read this book but not because it was not interesting. In fact it was much better than I expected. This was my first book by Tracy Anne Warren and probably not the last one.

To be honest, I shouldn't have liked this book so much. Lying to the person you love was an important part of the story and this is something I can't stand in my books. Violet agrees to replace her twin sister Jeannette on the altar and plays her role after wedding making her husband Adrian believe she is Jeannette. The books suited perfectly to one of my challenges and that was the only reason I started reading it. I'm really glad I did it, it was a pleasure, even though I was not convinced by the plot.

I liked the characters a lot. Except Jeannette, of course. Violet is true in her love for Adrian and I found him very cute and caring. I also liked Kit and I would like to know his story.

I found out that the second book in this series is about Jeannette, so I definitely skip it because I can't stand her. But I will go for the third book about Kit and Eliza, Violet's best friend. I really hoped for them to be together, since I like them both.

Tuba Özkat says

Öncelikle Adrian...

Sen bu k?zlarla u?ra?ma güzel çocu?um, bana gel :)) Yaz?k günah ya, bir adamla bu kadar oynanmaz.

K?zlar ikiz karde?ler, tek yumurta. Biri sessiz sakin, kitap kurdu, çok zeki. Violet.

Di?eri partileri seviyor, sosyal, k?r?c?, ?en ?akrak. Jeannette.

Dük olan adam?m?z kendine evlenmek için Jeannette'i seçiyor, halbuki Violet onu gördü?ü anda sevmi?. Jeannette dü?ün günü mihraba gidecekken evlenmekten vazgeçince de yerine karde?i Violet geçiyor. Sonras? çorap sökü?ü misali.

?kizlerin ikisine de uyuz oldum ama Jeannette'e hissetti?im g?c?kl???n haddi hesab? yok. Violet garibim, hep d??land??? için özgüvensizlik hissediyor, adam? seviyor falan ama... Yapt?klar? ?eyin ne mant??? var ne ahlaka s??ar. Ne bileyim de?ne?in iki ucu falan boklu de?il, de?nek komple boktan olu?uyor.

Dü?ündü?ünüzde sorunlar acaip fazla! Fakat yaz?m tarz?n? güzel buldum, erkek karakter ya?at?lanlara ra?men çok tatlı? ve iyiydi, o yüzden 4 y?ld?z.

KatieV says

Skimmed too much to rate.

I'm not sure what it was about this but I couldn't get into it. It started out promisingly and it was nice to see the two begin to fall in love. I could even let myself suspend disbelief for the unlikeliness of such a plot. The narrator was good as well.

I think it was just too long for what it was. The H/h marry fairly early on and then you're just waiting for the other shoe to drop - for him to find out his wife is actually the shy twin.

Once it did, there was some good angst. I didn't like the very end scenario much though. The heroine needed a good slap upside the head for that one (view spoiler)

Umaiya ?A Far Off Memory? says

My detox read.

After the last couple of my sort of intense reads, I once again needed my mind detoxed. I've actually noticed if I didn't clear my mind and just jumped from one book to the next especially if it had been an engrossing book, the characters tend to start to overlap. I start mixing up the leads and their personalities, it all becomes a big jumble and then I have to keep reminding myself, "Wrong book".

So this was a sweet enough book. My first by Tracey. I loved how well Violet portrayed herself as Jeanette cause I've been watching this drama and the lead acting as her sister is just atrocious. I cringe Every.Freakin.TIME!

They're supposed to be twins for God's sake!

Talk about ruining all I've made up in head about twins! Gah!

And you know what else is atrocious? Jeanette.

God I just wanna bash her head in! That level of entitlement! I HATE people like her.

Anyway, it was a pretty sweet book, the whole misconception deal is not my thing but it's not like the story could have progressed in any other direction.

Pretty run of the mill, saw everything a mile coming but I liked the ending and how Adrian had his revenge! Oooh yeah, that was good and so totally fair! xD

The book did what I had hoped it would. My mind is all clear and ready to jump without fear :p

Lisa Kay says

★★★★? (This is a review of the audiobook.) I don't know how many times I've read this book; it just resonated with me, back in the day, as I tried to imagine being in Violet's situation: her identical twin doesn't want to marry the man with whom Violet is secretly in love. It is shortly before the wedding, so Violet makes a rash decision and steps in. Implausible, true, but fun in some ways.

Still, while the narration by Bianca Amato was very nicely done -- she's surprisingly great with the male voices and I'll seek her out again -- only some scenes still held my attention. I also didn't like the ending as much as I once did; now I remember, the last time I skim-read it I spend more time re-reading the middle.

Beanbag Love says

I started out giving this a four star review and now I've changed it to three stars. Certain things about the story just weren't my cup of tea and I can't say that I wasn't pleased for it to finally be over.

My personal problem with it is that more than 50% of the book is spent with one character deceiving the other. Not a simple deception, but the newlywed wife is posing as her twin sister! So it feels like the love story doesn't really start until he finds out he's been deceived.

Although, as usual, I loved their interactions and both of them as characters, I thought Warren did them a disservice by making the deception take so long to run its course.

It also took a while for the story to start. The first two chapters were taken up mainly with the nervous heroine's inner thoughts during her wedding. We don't get the hero's POV until chapter 3. Slow going.

The last quarter of the book is pretty good. There's some nice angst and some humor and Warren's deft hand at romance.

So, while I enjoyed the ending of the book, I didn't necessarily enjoy the entire journey to it.

Not that this is turning me off Warren. Not at all.
