



The Mistress

Maya Banks

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Greek hotel magnate Chrysander Anetakis's former mistress was pregnant? And had amnesia? That meant Marley Jameson didn't remember betraying him by selling company secrets. Or that he'd thrown her out of his life. So he told her a little white lie: they were engaged. Then he swept her away to his Greek island to await the birth of his baby and enjoy her sudden devotion...before tossing her out.

But he didn't count on Marley regaining her memory so soon.

The Mistress Details

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From Reader Review The Mistress for online ebook

Jenny says

I loved the angst but poor heroine she suffered too much! my heart broke for her. it was obvious the thief was his evil bitchy secretary. how could he blame poor Marley? glad we got an epilogue with the birth of their baby boy!

Dianna says

Marley has been Chrysander's live-in mistress for a little while and it's going ok. Except that now she's pregnant, and she's not sure how he'll react. Before she has a chance to find out, Chrysander's sexy evil assistant has planted the Secret Hotel Plans in her bag, Chrysander's found them, accused her of betraying him, and thrown her out of his life.

Marley runs down the street, blinded by her tears of love and loss, and then she's bundled into a car and taken away by kidnappers.

Three months later Chrysander's watching the news and there's Marley. She's just been rescued from the kidnappers who have escaped, she has amnesia, and she's heavily pregnant. Chrysander shows up claiming to be her fiancé and takes her home with him.

No one explains to Marley that she was kidnapped, because of trauma with her amnesia maybe causing her brain to explode, which would be no good for the baby? Or something, it's never quite explained. Maybe she has that 'Memento' style thing going as well, where they kept trying to tell her and she'd immediately forget? And then the police are happy to go along with anything a billionaire suggests for Marley, without asking awkward questions like 'why didn't you ever report your fiancée missing?' and, 'we think it's kind of unusual that you didn't receive a ransom note?'

Marley wakes up, nice and pregnant, and there's this guy saying, 'hi I'm you're fiancé, and we're going to Greece,' and she just goes along with it. She notices, but goes along with the fact she has no maternity clothes, that it looks like she slept in a different bedroom. He seems nice? And then why do his brothers, when they meet her for the first time, seem to hate her? What's with Chrysander's assistant getting naked all the time? Marley's a remarkably relaxed, go with the flow sort of person. Marley's background is that she went to work as Chrysander's second assistant for a while, until he offered her a transfer to the bedroom. She doesn't seem to have a background before she turned up at Chrysander's office.

Chrysander's got two brothers, and he calls them regularly so they can be outraged that he's taken the betrayer who stole the Secret Hotel Plans back into his life. He wants the baby, and he'll stop at nothing to get it! Fine, why doesn't he just set her up in a nice flat and wait for her to pop? They ask. He has his reasons, be quiet you guys! He's the oldest and the boss of you. He knows he's got all of this nicely worked out, and while he thinks she's a vile betrayer, she's still cute and what with the amnesia, she's pretty easy to convince that they should be sleeping together.

Chrysander likes control. He's got this thing where if Marley starts asking awkward questions he sends her to bed or makes her eat something, or brings out a medical expert to check on her, or orders her not to walk

up and down the stairs in his Greek island mansion without supervision. Those stairs were very foreboding, every time Marley went anywhere I wondered if she was about to fall down them. Or get pushed down them, by Chrysander's evil assistant. That assistant was so evil. She was always showing up in a bikini with papers that Chrysander had to sign, just as he was about to get cuddly with Marley. It took quite some time for Chrysander to decide this was all slightly inappropriate.

Marley and Chrysander play this game, where Chrysander tells Marley what to do and she smiles sweetly and then does something cutely disobedient. This might look like she's standing up to Chrysander for being such a control freak, but it's not. There's a point later in the book where Chrysander and Marely are in a limo together and Marely says something like 'you treat me like I'm your pet,' and yes, exactly: that's their relationship. He disciplines, she adores, and is occasionally adorably naughty so that he can do something about it.

The whole plot is breathtakingly implausible. It's adorably crazy. There is no way anything that happens in this book can be taken seriously, and I loved it.

Vintage says

Good heavens almighty, why do I like this book so much?

How do I love thee? Let's me count the ways..

Greek alpha hero

I'm a mistress but didn't know it

Amnesia

Pregnant

Suspicion/revenge

Disapproving relatives

Conniving AND evil OW

Magic penis... see Greek alpha hero above..

Groveling

Marley is pregnant, and asks the somewhat natural question of her uber handsome, alpha Greek lover, Chrysander. "What about us?" He goes into tycoon lockdown with the knee-jerk comment that she is just a mistress. A few minutes later he kicks her out of the high-rise and, yep, she becomes the *Kidnapped Pregnant Greek Tycoon's Mistress*.

Turns out he found the fake hotel plans he and his brothers had created in order to find out who the corporate spy was sticking out of her purse. Yep, there they were in his mistress' purse for all the world to see. So glad he didn't stop and think about how easily they were found, check her bank balance to see if she had a big deposit, or anything like that. Much better to drop the boom. Marley leaves in shock.

Three months later, and Chrysander sees on the news that his ex-mistress was rescued from a den of kidnappers. She has amnesia plus a little something extra. She's about five months pregnant.

The rest of the story shows us Chrysander struggling with his lust for the mother of his child, and the poor h

trying to figure out why the H blows so hot and then so cold. Hey, he may think she's a money-grubbing, corporate spy, but he has the hots for her.

The climax occurs when she overhears him discussing the situation with his brothers and the uber-skinny PA she can't stand. Marley's memory returns full bore, and now it's the suspicious ass-hat hero and his condescending brothers on the defensive block.

For some reason, this book tickles my fancy. When Maya Banks is on, she is ON! The scene where Marley remembers everything really gets to me. To the heart.

The H is a jackass for the beginning and the middle, but when he realizes what a Grade A idiot he was he does grovel, gets pale and interesting. High marks from me.

Re-read

Holes so big an 18 wheeler could plow through, but so much fun.

OTT idiocy from the *Greek tycoon* who lobs the h smack into the anachronistic mistress role after her fateful question, his idiocy in never checking to see if she really is guilty, the stick-out-like-a-sore-thumb evil woman who is, big tip-off, *skinny*, the doctors and/or police who never question why the Greek tycoon didn't report his pregnant fiancée missing for three months, the absent kidnappers that treated her with kid gloves, and so forth and so on and on...

Stevie says

“THE MISTRESS” by Maya Banks

(Opening Theme Music to “The Hills” Starts Playing)

STARRING:

Spencer Pratt As Chrysander

Lauren Conrad As Marley

AND

Heidi Montag As Chrysander’s Evil Assistant

(Theme Music Stops Playing)

PREVIOUSLY, ON “THE MISTRESS”:

Chrysander told Marley that she's not the "Marrying" kind, she's more the "It's 2 a.m., I drank a bottle of Tequila, and didn't eat dinner, booty calling" kind.

THEN

Chrysander's Evil Assistant planted papers in Marley's bag making it look like she betrayed Chrysander.

THEN

Crysander found the papers and threw Marley out.

THEN, 3 MONTHS LATER

Chrysander sees Marley on the news.

AND

SHE'S GOT AMNESIA!

AND

SHE'S PREGNANT!

(Chevelle's "Wonder What's Next" Starts Playing)

SO MANY QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED:

What will Chrysander do? *Will* he help Marley? *Will* Marley even let him? *What* about the Evil Assistant?
What will she do?

You'll have to read "The Mistress" to find out.

FINAL RATING: "The Mistress" - 3.5 Mo Drama Den Da Hills Stars

Kiki says

-hero tells his live in girlfriend that she's someone he pays to have sex because , wait for it "he was scared she wants more out of the relationship" yet claims he loves her SOOOOOOOOOO much! I call it bullshit!
-since he's such a macho man that he got scared by hints of commitment he conveniently jumps at the first excuse of throwing heroine out, and does it without any solid proof, or listening to her!

-his idiocy almost gets the heroine killed!

-his brother implied that she's his whore

-he uses her sexually AGAIN when she's vulnerable, which kinda sorta is abuse!

So where is the grovelling and redemption for this?

-he gets pale and feels sick

-he has to fire a secretary who has sold business secret to rival! (Oh! How traumatising!)

-he had to say "I love you" (how damaging to his reputation)

-he had to admit he was an asshole and beg her to marry him without knowing she loves him (don't feel too sorry for him, he gets a full on wedding night and undying declaration of love the next morning).

So do tell me, where was the grovelling and redemption? Even if we forgive him for believing the worst of the heroine, where is the redemption for calling her a whore simply because HE was unable to deal with adult life and was a failure? The above were NOT enough. He called her whore to cover the fact that he is a miserable louse and failure and was scared shit, when she had no contribution to it. Did he even apologise profusely? Nope.

Sorry, nope, not redeemed, you can go die you crazy manwhore. We'll find a better hero for the heroine!

Even another heroine for the heroine sounds better. I volunteer myself!

Melody Cox says

4.50 Stars

This book grew on me. At first I only rated it three-stars, but something niggled at me to read it again a year and a half later. It may have been my mood the first time through because the second time I grasped onto each page, devouring every written word, and thought it was very good, bordering on great. In fact, I'm placing this on my 'Yearly Reread List' with other books I liked so much that once was not enough.

Marley Jameson was Chrysander Anetakis's mistress until the night he found planted company secrets sticking out of her purse. He immediately jumps to the conclusion that she's selling his top secret plans to his rival.

Marley loves Anetakis and has just found out she's pregnant and is ready to tell him until he walks into their bedroom furious and gives her a matter of minutes to leave. The woman has no job and no place to live and he throws her out into the street like garbage. This is NOT a man of honor, but seems stereotypical of the extremely wealthy, gorgeous world of the Greeks as portrayed in many books. As soon as she leaves his apartment she's kidnapped and held for three months. The jerk of a man never once checks on her after throwing her away. One evening he's watching the news and sees a report about a woman who was kidnapped three months prior and is five months pregnant. To his shock he sees that it's Marley. She now has amnesia and he goes to the hospital and tells them she's his fiance and whisks her off to his island until the

baby is born.

I must say that when things finally came to a head the man, Chrysander, sure stepped up to the plate. I usually fuss and am annoyed because many authors simply let the hero off too easily when not near enough groveling has taken place. In other words, the hero is usually under-redeemed in most instances but not this one. Even though his actions caused such brokenness and devastation, the author did a great job in bringing this hero full circle so that in the end, I was in love him, too.

I definitely recommend this book as well as the series.

Tia says

Read this long ago, loved the series as a whole. This one is about Chrysander and Marley. She was just his mistress to him but she was pregnant and in love with him. When he thinks she has done the worse, he abandons her. Only for her to wind up kidnapped. When he finally realizes the truth, it may just be too late because Marley seems to be broken beyond repair.

StMargarets says

Disclaimer: I'm not a Maya Banks fan. I find her world-building flimsy and her dialogue a little wooden. Still, she has a flair for plot dramatics and pacing. I think this is the best story in the "Tycoon" series, and yet it only merits a weak 3 stars from me because I never could sink into the story.

One of the problems, I think, is that we have both the H/h points of view. If the author had stuck with just the heroine's point of view, we could have experienced her trauma, confusion and sense of betrayal. The h had experienced a kidnapping – that's high drama stuff – but it's given only a glancing reference. Seeing the H through her eyes would probably be more complimentary – since knowing his inner thoughts did not endear him to me.

That the hero felt betrayed is no biggie, because he kicked her out and got on with his life. He had no emotional stakes in this story – even when the heroine was back in his life with amnesia. He got lots of sex and then when the truth came out – he got more sex and easy forgiveness.

I really hated the H's brother as well. (The tycoons of the next two books) They are sexist pigs who judge first and ask questions later. When one of the brothers tracks down the heroine after her memory returns and she relives the H's betrayal all over again – he says he cares because she's carrying "my nephew." Who talks like that? Why is he staking possession of the h's child in her womb when he thinks she is a corporate spy? That phrase "my nephew" reduces the h to incubator status for a male's possession. Gross.

The kicked-out pregnant mistress who is then kidnapped and has amnesia is an awesome idea for a story - I just wish MB had fleshed out this story more.

Penny Watson says

This review includes all three of the "tycoon" books by Maya Banks....

What exactly is a "tycoon" and why is it so damned popular in certain romance novels? According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, a tycoon is "a businessman of exceptional wealth and power: magnate." So, basically a tycoon is a really rich, powerful guy. Okay, I sort of get why that would be sexy. And, the tycoons in Maya Banks trio of books--The Tycoon's Pregnant Mistress, The Tycoon's Rebel Bride, and The Tycoon's Secret Affair-- are all hot Greek guys. I'm getting the whole tall, dark and handsome thing, with the added benefit of them speaking Greek, which is sexy.

Here's the deal with these books, and the shocking (and embarrassing) conclusion I reached:

Tycoons are big a-holes. There's arrogant, and then there's I'm-going-to-strangle-you-if-you-tell-me-one-more-time-to-be-careful-walking-on-the-stairs. (Seriously, I think 50% of the dialogue of The Tycoon's Pregnant Mistress is Chrysander telling Marley to be careful walking on the stairs!). These guys are ridiculous!

The characters in these books are pretty unlikable and not very well developed. The women are whiny, manipulative, submissive, wishy-washy....Jiminy Cricket! I especially didn't like Jewel, the heroine of The Tycoon's Secret Affair. She jumps into bed with a total stranger, then gets pissed off when she's fired because she unwittingly slept with her new boss. She screams "You can tell Mr. Anetakis that he is the lowest form of pond scum...He's a gutless piece of chicken shit, and I hope he chokes on his damn cowardice." Nice manners, babe.

The TSTL moments are unbelievable. You're a pregnant woman with amnesia, and you allow a total stranger to take you to a secluded island and then jump into the sack with him at the first opportunity? You've been warned about potential kidnappings, but insist on escaping your security team so you can sub in for your friend at her stripper club, even though you've never danced before? (Hee hee....I love that one!). You find yourself pregnant after a one night stand and call the "chicken shit" up to insist he cares for you during your high risk pregnancy, even though you have a best friend who could do the job, who you are conveniently ignoring. Uh.....okay.

The purple prose is incredible. Here is an actual line from one of the books.... "She raced up a mountain slope and hurtled into a free fall of ecstasy." Also, "turgid manhood" was mentioned in the last book. ;)

Have you ever read a book and gotten the distinct impression that the author was intending to do something with a specific plot point, and then later changed her mind and just decided to wrap it up with a couple of dorky sentences? There is a kidnapping in book one, and the criminals are never apprehended. The threat of potential kidnappings for the heroines in books 2 and 3 is brought up repeatedly, and they both have a team of big, beefy security guys yapping at their heels. I was waiting for the kidnappers to strike again, get caught in a dramatic way, find out that they were actually 2nd cousins of the Greek family, something. Anything. It was like dangling a piece of unresolved plot in front of the reader's face. However, after waiting patiently throughout the third book for a bad guy to jump out of the bushes or something, Banks casually mentions that the kidnappers were caught in NYC. We never find out who they were or why. What the hell is that all about? Okay, end of rant.

Now for the embarrassing conclusion. In spite of the unlikable characters, bad purple prose, bizarre TSTL

moments, and plot lines left dangling with no where to go, I still found myself addicted to these books. And, if Maya Banks suddenly decided to find a long-lost Greek brother in the family who wants his own tycoon book, I would probably read the damned thing. Why?

Well, I guess it all comes down to one simple thing....entertainment. These books entertained the hell out of me. I laughed my ass off at the purple prose. I gasped at the stupidity of the heroines. I shook my head at the "black moments" and their obvious conclusions. Maya Banks knows how to get a reader addicted to her storyline, and that is a very good thing.

Honestly, it was worth inhaling the whole trio just to say I've read a book with the title The Tycoon's Pregnant Mistress.

Happy reading,
Penelope

KatieV says

Definitely one of the better vengeful Greek tycoon, pregnant mistress stories.

He thinks she committed espionage and kicks her out. He doesn't realize she's pregnant at the time. She is kidnapped and when she turns up 3 months later, she has amnesia. H takes advantage of the situation for "revenge" and to gain control of the child.

AgentScully says

If pregnancy + amnesia = Pregnesia (according to the Harlequin/Silhouette title generator), then what is pregnancy + amnesia + kidnapping? Pregnesiapping? Pregnappinesia? The heroine in this one finds out she's pregnant, has sex, encounters nasty Other Woman, gets falsely accused of stealing, gets thrown out by rich Greek lover, and gets kidnapped, all in chapter 1. And I thought I was having a bad hair day.

I admit to not being a fan of Maya Banks' writing. I don't care for her erotica and I was plenty amazed to discover last year that she is now writing Sihouettes. I picked one up out of sheer curiosity, wondering how her writing would hold up without menage sex scenes to hide behind. Maybe because my expectations were low, I was surprised how much I enjoyed The Tycoon's Pregnant Mistress. The writing is effective and emotional (within the constraints of a melodramatic Silhouette plot of course). Marley is a good heroine without TSTL moments, and she gropes convincingly for clues to what her life and her relationship with the hero were like before she lost her memory. The hero is plenty conflicted, veering between solicitous care (and burning desire) for Marley on one hand, and coldness and anger at her betrayal on the other. At times he's almost schizophrenic and this does nothing to help Marley figure out their relationship or help her settle in. Apart from the initial accusation and throwing out though, he's not a harsh hero by Harlequin/Silhouette standards. To his credit also, he's almost totally forgiven Marley for her supposed betrayal before her memory returns and the truth comes out. Between the angst, there are some nice scenes of them being happy on their Greek island. I like when a romance actually shows the couple interacting in a happy or playful manner. When the heroine recovers her memory, it's back to angst though and these scenes are some of the

most effective in the story.

As for what I didn't like, the whole kidnapping plot seemed thrown in as a device to give the heroine amnesia and give the hero a reason to spirit her off to his island to protect her. Even worse, it was left totally unresolved. We never learn who kidnapped Marley or why. It's inexcusable to leave such a plot element dangling. And can I say that it's just laughable to demand a piddling 1/2 million dollars from a megarich multimillionaire who owns his own island? I mean I know there's a recession and all but really!

Nikki ? Navareus says

*****TWO STARS*****

I've decided that I'm not really a fan of the amnesia theme, and it just didn't really work for me in this story. And I'm still left wondering who kidnapped her, and why? That should have been a huge part of the story, but after Marley was released, it was just kind of forgotten about. Chrysander was this huge tycoon. One would think it would take some serious brains to become so rich and powerful, but he couldn't really savvy that his assistant was a conniving, manipulator and maybe she could have had something to do with the plans being stolen (especially since she was in the apartment at the same time as Marley, so maybe some investigation should have been done before throwing poor Marley out on her ass without a second thought. Or at the very least, maybe hire an investigator to figure out where Marley was stashing all that money she supposedly collected from the competitors. And what is with the abrupt change of heart, from Chrysander hating Marley's guts to babying the fuck out of her and not allowing her to even wipe her nose by herself just because he found out she's now pregnant? I dunno, this one was just a little too unbelievable to me.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

What can I say except that when I find an author I enjoy, any time I see the name the next thing I know the book is in my cart! Yes, Maya Banks is writing a trilogy for Silhouette Desire. The good news is, the heat is still there. The bad news is, it's still 'formula' romance. The rest of the good news is, I still enjoyed it and it was a steamy, quick read!

Marley was heartbroken when Chrysander called her his mistress and then accused her of selling his company secrets! She quickly grabs her coat and runs...right into the arms of a kidnapper!

Three months later Chrysander is still dealing with the fallout of Marley's betrayal when he hears her name on the TV. He can't believe it! She'd been abducted and held for three months...and she's five months pregnant. Chrysander didn't get to be a gazillionaire by not being able to count...that baby is HIS.

Yes it's a formulaic romance, but it still managed to bring a tear to my eye. And yes I knew who the 'bad guy' was almost from the first, and felt like smashing Chrysander's Greek head against the wall...but I still found myself turning the pages as fast as I could read to see Marley vindicate herself and watch to see if Chrysander would crawl!! As a side note, having lived in Greece for almost five years means I don't necessarily find Greek heroes immediately sexy...and Chrysander was no different. Now if he'd been Australian?

Anyway, fans of Banks will enjoy this book for what it is. And I can't lie...I'll pick up the upcoming books about the brothers as soon as they hit the shelves!!

willaful says

In this book's acknowledgments, Banks writes about how much she loves category romance. Perhaps that's why she decided to write *The Category*. It has everything you'd expect: the overbearing Greek hero constantly spouting Greek endearments, the pregnant, vulnerable, doormat heroine, the evil other woman, the big betrayal (twice!) *and* amnesia! (Really seems like it should have been a Harlequin Presents rather than a Silhouette Desire, but I guess there's some overlap.)

I like all the elements, why didn't I like the book more? The enormous plot holes and implausibilities are pretty much par for the course with these sorts of categories, but they bugged me quite a lot. The concerned father-to-be hero got very irritating, practically not letting the heroine go to the bathroom by herself. And the heroine's efforts to stand up for herself just come off as feeble and childish.

There's an interesting plot twist and some major drama, so it did hold my interest, but sadly, it wasn't the keeper it had the potential to be.

ETA: I'm going to up my rating of this to 3 1/2 stars, because I did keep it, and enjoy picking it up to reread some sections now and then.

Jen says

3.5 Stars

As far as fulfilling my need for a macho, arrogant asshole prone to jumping to conclusions about his "mistress" (never a girlfriend, always a mistress doncha know!) as only a harlequin can deliver, *The Tycoon's Pregnant Mistress* more than fit the bill.

Still, I have a couple of questions regarding this book and Harlys in general. Stay with me, people.

Why are these women always falling asleep at the first sign of emotional distress?

I mean seriously! This chick fell asleep at the drop of a hat. Or at the very least, everytime she found herself being carried. You know, 'cause of the aforementioned distress. I kept wondering if narcolepsy might be an issue.

I'll move on, but I seriously think this woman needed to see someone about that.

Second question: what the hell is a Tycoon?

If those of you that read more HPs than I do could help me out, I'd be much obliged.
