



Secret Obsession

Charlotte Lamb

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Pride comes before a fall....

Will Nerissa's love for another man come before her husband?

Nerissa is married to Ben and she has tried to love him.

But, since she was a child, Nerissa has also adored her cousin, Philip. Now Philip lies in a coma and Nerissa's special bond with him is perhaps the only means of bringing him around.

But how can she tell Ben she must leave him for Philip's bedside? Ben is so proud and will never let her end their marriage!

Secret Obsession Details

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From Reader Review Secret Obsession for online ebook

Roub says

i read this one quite some time ago n remembered liking it very much ! seems i 4got 2 rate it. nerissa confused brotherly affections wid love

Verity says

Ben is a gray-eyed barrister (another 1 !) who's been burned B4. He caught his ex-wife & his BFF in bed & since splitsville, he doesn't wanna fall in luv again. He meets Nerissa & H/H get married soon after. Both reveal all their cards on the table & the unofficial pre-nuptial agreement : he's not in luv w/ her & vice versa. She's been in luv w/ Philip, her couzin (ick) & they grew up together @ their farm since she's raised by her uncle & aunt. Ben tries his darndest to exorcise Philip from their marriage bed. The only thing in common between H/H is mutual physical attraction. The book opens 3 months after marriage, they're still strangers to 1 another in a lotta ways. Ben is leaving outta town for a court case. Unbeknownst to Ben, the moment he leaves, Nerissa goes back home 'cuz her beloved couzin, Philip, is in a coma after a car accident. I thought it's a flimsy excuse that Nerissa is too terrified to tell Ben 'bout her family emergency 'cuz she thinks Ben won't allow her to go. There's more to it than meets the eye 'cuz as the book progresses, family skeleton is dug up (tho' it didn't take Hercule Poirot to take a shot in the dark on what's really going on). Ben shows up uninvited & stirs things up. It's a sticky situation, he knows exactly how Nerissa feels for Philip & gives her the ultimatum : if she sticks around @ the farm, their marriage is a bust. Things need to be said. Ben forces Nerissa to face her past demons & be true to herself, regardless how painful it may be. In the process, Nerissa discovers that whenever she & Ben bone each other, it's not based on luv & it's no longer enuff. She gets a wake-up call that it's time she needs to fight for what's more important in her current life.

I wavered between 3 & 4*. There were sections that felt like unnecessary fillers holding back the pace & made me skim, but I also liked the undercurrent tension & explosive passion, even when they didn't like each other v. much due to the luv triangle. Ben's pride won't let him lower himself to beg her to pick him over Philip. He's opinionated & as soon as he steps on the family scene, he makes no bones about the fact that Nerissa's family secret belongs in the past & he's not the kinda guy who shares. He doesn't forgive & forget. Past & present don't gel @ all. He shows his jealous-possessive streak but Nerissa thinks it's only 'cuz he thinks of her as an object. It's up to her to make him luv her after she has the epiphany that she's lued Ben all along & not Philip. I didn't like the part when she comes back to their home & he's nowhere to be found. Pages of pages of introspection & jumping to the wrong conclusion that he's bangin' his hawt secretary (who's shown her dislike of heroine from the get-go). I lued the ending, the luv scenes & the naughtiness of Ben in wanting to have her anywhere & however he wants, to hell w/ the location & relatives' proximity. He's been obsessed w/ her & acknowledges in the end that he did what it took to get her to notice & marry him, even tho' she's not ready yet. Nerissa thinks he's projecting his bitterness (ex-wife's infidelity) on his current marriage & she wants more than what he can give her. He's guarded alpha. Ruthless he may be, he also shows sensitivity & intuitiveness. He confronts Nerissa to face the truth, to take a risk. I lued the insights, the complexities of emotions & relationships. Nerissa's aunt dispenses her sage advice that letting bygones be bygones is imperative to a successful, long-lasting marriage but Nerissa has her work cut out for her, she gotta convince him that she really luvs him. In the end, even tho' I thought this book bore some similarities to 'Dark dominion', there were good enuff moments that bumped up the rating. It's not that intense but it hit the right notes.

Consuela Rossetto says

Nerissa ha tutto nella vita: è bella, ha sposato un uomo ricco e di successo e vive in una grande casa.

Cosa le manca? L'amore? La passione? La tenerezza?

Forse Ben non è il tipo che lei sognava da bambina. Non è come il cugino Philip, desiderato da sempre.

Però un giorno accade qualcosa che fa capire a Nerissa che ciò, o meglio chi, vuole veramente.

E che scatena una girandola di emozioni e di sentimenti sconosciuti e impensabili.

SMR grey says

A small bookstore had a clearance sale last week. It was mostly Charlotte Lamb's harlequin series. They were all so cheap. I think I might have bought them all. lol. No regrets with this one. I loved it. Will binge read her books for the next few weeks.

Tianna★loves books★ says

Seriously I was trying to like this book. But it bored me. I tried, tried and tried. I was feeling zero connection with the MC. The H is at least bearable. But the h is stupid dumb ass.

Yawn.....

KC 2.0 says

Nerissa loves Philip who loves used to love Nerissa, but it's forbidden so that's why Nerissa married Ben instead, who secretly loves Nerissa.

I find love triangles frustrating in theory, but if I come across one I usually can't help but read it. Maybe they are my thing? Anyway, this one was a doozy! Add a taboo factor (Nerissa and Philip are half-siblings, ew), a jealous-possessive hero, plus a heroine out of touch with her feelings and the result is an angst and drama fest.

I loved how besotted Ben was. He fell in lust/love with Nerissa at first sight, hiding his obsession from her because he didn't want to scare her off. He also had his pride to protect since he knew she was still not over her ex. So when they agreed to marry for convenience, Ben mouthed all the right words claiming he wasn't looking for love as he'd been there, done that and didn't want a repeat divorce (his first wife had cheated on him with his best friend). Nerissa bought it; hook, line and sinker. Was there a better way to forget Philip? It was all going "well", until a few months into their marriage when Nerissa rushed to be at Philip's side after he'd become comatose after an accident. She didn't bother telling Ben any of this, leading Ben to think she'd left him.

Poor Ben. I felt sorry for him: he had to chase after his wife who was obsessed with another man and give her an ultimatum. I thought Ben acted with considerable restraint considering the situation. Sure, Ben did

press for sex in risky places like the great outdoors and a bedroom next to the one Nerissa's aunt and uncle shared. But he didn't choke or blackmail her, or deliberately use another woman to make her jealous. So yeah, pretty restrained for a Charlotte Lamb hero I'd say.

Nerissa, meanwhile, was one confused chick. It wasn't until Nerissa thought she'd lost Ben forever that she realized she had been in love with him for a while. She'd misunderstood the deep affection she had for Philip as romantic love, and dismissed what she felt for Ben as only physical attraction. In hindsight, Nerissa realized she never would have wanted Ben so badly if she was still in love with Philip. Speaking of whom, I couldn't understand how Nerissa still pined for Philip after discovering the truth about him. If I were in her shoes, knowing Philip was my half-brother would be a real buzz-kill.

Background: Nerissa and Philip had fallen in love thinking they were cousins, not siblings, and were only told the truth when they declared their intention to marry. Her uncle was actually her father, having cheated on his wife with his wife's younger sister.

Philip himself didn't play much of an active role in the triangle. I received the impression that he'd had an easier time moving on, unlike Nerissa. In fact, he was too busy recovering from his injuries and being doted on by his nurse to take much notice of Nerissa's problems.

Nerissa may have been out of touch with her feelings, but I think this is why I found her strangely sympathetic, and not pathetic as one might imagine. What *was* pathetic, though, was her wimpy attitude after just proclaiming to herself that she would fight for Ben and their marriage (he'd returned back to London after stating their marriage was over if she stayed with Philip and her family). No sooner did she declare this than she started crying in bed, thinking Ben had come home with his sexy colleague to have hot, animalistic sex. Too bad Nerissa was too busy moping to see the irony of the situation. Her feelings of jealousy, rejection and hopelessness were probably very similar to what Ben had had to endure during their marriage.

Luckily for Nerissa, her pain is short-lived. Turns out Ben hadn't given up on her: he's always loved and wanted only her, his secretary had dropped him off because his own car was out of commission. They clear the air and reconcile—so well, in fact, that they happily welcome a healthy and fat baby boy to their family a year later. Whew! The End.

Tia says

HOLY SECRET TABOO!

Oh my, this novel was definitely unexpected and quite the thrill. Adored it!

Jenny says

Heroine and hero are married but her love for her half-brother always comes between them. When she finally realizes she is in love with her husband she is afraid it is too late. Loved the angst, the very jealous hero and the sweet epilogue!

Naksed says

H is butthurt that his ex wife cheated on him with his bestie. h is in taboo love with her half brother. They decide to enter a marriage of convenience to escape their problems. They are hot in the sheets and that's about it. No communication whatsoever. Eventually, they realize they are in love yaddi yaddi yadda. Not one of CL's best.
