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THE TROPHY WIFE



# The Trophy Wife

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## **The Trophy Wife** Janette Kenny

Always an outsider, Rafael spent his life looking in on his privileged Wolfe siblings, a boy in the shadows. And so, determined to create the lifestyle and family illegitimacy denied him, Rafael punishingly worked his way to the top. His marriage to beautiful supermodel Leila was the icing on the cake of success!

Now his marriage is crumbling and the vows he took seem in vain. Rafael chased a rainbow—but made his wife feel as though she was never more than a trophy.... Now it will take all of his courage to win his wife back....

## **The Trophy Wife Details**

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## From Reader Review The Trophy Wife for online ebook

### Saly says

This is about a marriage in trouble story. Both Rafael and Leila have been married for 5 years but they still keep secrets from each other about their childhoods, it's something they never talk about, how Rafael was never accepted by his father and how Leila struggled with anorexia during her early modeling days. Both are driven to succeed and this has left them with little time for their marriage. They meet after 8 months and in those months Leila has changed, her fears have deepened, she wants a family but is afraid because of her anorexia and a miscarriage. Honestly, I felt irritated by Leila half of the time, she put her career first all the time and not taking her husband's money? I don't mean to sound like an anti-feminist but these two people hardly knew what was happening in each others life.

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### Diane says

the writing was good, but the story, about a billionaire and his model wife, who haven't seen each other for 8 months, is rather unbelievable--i mean, with that kind of money and private jets, i just don't get that. and the wife having a miscarriage and not telling her husband--too many secrets in this marriage!

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### Corandra says

3.5 stars

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### Marajean says

This book is ultimately a decent read, but there was too much going on to be really great.

Hero and heroine both have careers and have been married for 5 years. The last year they only saw each other once or twice?? because their careers were taking off so they were pulled in opposite directions.

So here's the heroine, she's a model who doesn't have the womanly curves but has the toned body. When she was young she suffered from anorexia. She also came from Brazil? And was super poor and her brother and father were killed in some work place fire. Her mother was a psycho who was controlling her career and basically got her into anorexia in the first place.

The hero was the bastard unwanted son of some guy but magically he used to sneak in and play with his half brothers and sister a lot?? Even though his mother was always toting him around the world to feed the less fortunate? And his mother slept with his father because his father paid her money to do so.

That whole thing didn't really make any sense to me.

Anyway, they get together each with their issues. The heroine is anorexia free but does so only by maintaining a tight control on her job and life etc. She has to control the aspects of her modeling in order to control herself enough to avoid falling back into anorexia.

Last year she had a miscarriage but because she rarely saw the hero the time was never right to tell him. Her friend was also pregnant at the same time, and as it turns out there are plenty of complications for people who have suffered from anorexia and getting pregnant. The heroine had a miscarriage and the friend, who had also had anorexia, suffered from a relapse and wound up killing herself and the baby through starvation.

So the heroine is terrified and the hero is all for her giving up her career now so that she can start on motherhood because he wants a family.

Meanwhile the hero wants the heroine to give up her career so she can be a full time mother but has no intention of giving up his. The heroine does not want to give up her career, half of which is because the control she finds through that helps her control having a relapse with anorexia. But she then realizes that because the hero's father was an abusive alcoholic jerkwad, he's afraid that he might become that way also.

What I loved about the book? The heroine did not back down about her career. Yay. I'm so sick of the heroine having to give up her career to be a full time mommy or just so she can be there waiting like the good little wife when the hero is done playing with his career. Yeah. Go heroine.

But there was so much other stuff going on from her poverty background and his abusive parent and mother who worked all the time and did charity type work all the time. It didn't take the time to really focus. The book was good but would have greatly benefited from picking one or two things to focus on. There just weren't enough pages for all the issues. And we never get to see the kids get born. I really wanted to see them safely delivered since the heroine had so many fears and issues with her anorexia.

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## **RLA says**

The hero Rafael and his wife Leila, the heroine, meet for the first time in 8 months due to their careers taking them away from each other. Rafael is looking forward to spending the week with Leila as he has missed her terribly and wants to finally start trying for the family he longs for. Rafael spent his childhood watching his siblings be together and was never acknowledged by his father. When he and Leila are together he feels complete, only now he feels Leila distancing herself from him and becoming more and more obsessed with her career. Leila, a famous model, is guilt ridden around Rafael, she suffered a miscarriage a year ago, which she believes to be her fault due to her past issues with anorexia, she also never told Rafael about it. Leila has fears she will never be able to have children and is afraid that Rafael will no longer want to be with her, whereas Rafael thinks that Leila has changed her mind about wanting a family and is only interested in her career.

Usually when a romance novel has a married couple as the hero and heroine they are separated or perhaps near to divorcing. That's not the case here, Rafael and Leila have a relatively happy, albeit distant, marriage. This is a different angle and I found it interesting and enjoyable to read.

Rafael is caring and devoted to Leila, but I found his tendency to dictate what she could or could not do a little annoying. He is desperate to have the happy family he feels he missed out on as a child, it seems a little bit of an obsession, and I think he was lucky to have missed out on some of the horrors the Wolfe family

went through. Leila was well written, her issues with anorexia were handled with sensitivity and I liked how she really wanted to make a success out of herself. I did feel uncomfortable with the fact that she kept the miscarriage from Rafael.

This is a story about the dangers of couples not communicating in marriage and was interesting, if a little frustrating, to read. I did like the angle of Rafael's experiences of being external, so to speak, to the Wolfe dramas, and I think it added more depth to the whole series.

An enjoyable read.

Originally posted at <http://everyday-is-the-same.blogspot....>

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

Much better than I expected!

I saw that the main characters had been married already for five years, and I was prepared to read a book full of marital strife. Fortunately, that's not this book. However, this couple did have some issues to work through to keep their marriage on track, and to resolve pain from their unhappy childhoods.

#### **What I liked:**

\*Even though I don't normally reach for a romance with a couple who's been married this long, it was kind of refreshing. The problem in their marriage is not a lack of love. They are just going through growing pains, and they need to spend time on their marriage when their careers had come between them for far too long. I saw two people who were committed to stay together and truly did love each other, and that made this a touching and emotional read for me.

\*Both Leila and Rafael show what a married couple needs to do. They have to make sacrifices for the well-being of their counterpart. This is what love is. I could see this happening with both. They had a mutual commitment, and it was merely a matter of fear (of rejection or not measuring up) that made them seem disconnected from each other. In the end, they realize that their love is stronger than any fears and shortcomings that might temporarily interfere in their bond.

\*Although I lack any personal experience with anorexia, I feel that the author's choice to feature a heroine who battled this disease adds depth to her characterization. It gave me something to think about, although I feel that she just scratched the surface of this issue with this book.

I have to give this four stars because it had some deeper levels than I expected, and I was touched by the love that Leila and Rafael shared. I rooted for them to get their loving marriage back on track, and fortunately they were able to do so. This was a good addition to the Wolfes series.

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### **Nonie?serenity2bliss says**

3½ stars.

Easy, simple read. Nothing to get all excited about.

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## **Tarsis says**

Fue completamente aburrido. Aunque tenían buen argumento, muy mal desarrollado.

Nos cuentan la historia de Rafael y Leila, una pareja que ya tienen cinco años casados. Se aman aunque su exceso de trabajo los distancia. Él es empresario, ella una super modelo. El problema está cuando Rafael se empeña en que ella deje de trabajar para formar la familia que él tanto desea. Tienen un pasado oscuro y difícil los dos, son dos personas que vienen de abajo y que han construido su fortuna y sí, suena genial. Pero no está escrito de forma genial, aparte de la constante repetición de sus historias y sentimientos al pasado, aburren.

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## **Marialys Scarano Rodríguez says**

Just love it. If anyone knows a book like this stop waiting and add the recommendation please. It goes after the end, when we believe in the happily ever after, this show that no relationship it's perfect. A pesar de todo el amor hay cosas que se deben trabajar juntos. Sobre todo que se centra en el presente, a nadie le importa el historial ni si Soy una más. Espero conseguir otros libros después del felices para siempre.

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## **Ana says**

Rafael - the illegitimate son of William Wolfe has done good for himself. He's a billionaire with his own company, he is married to a beautiful woman he loves. But he is unsatisfied with the fact that they spent the last year working and almost not seeing each other. He wants a family, children. And he wants his wife not to work but stay at home and take care of them. Now, since he spent his childhood watching his mother work herself into the ground so that they could survive, that can make sense.

Leila is a famous supermodel. After a teenage experience with anorexia she tries to stay on top of it. But she is petrified that the pregnancy would ultimately kill her (one of her friends died when she relapsed during her pregnancy). She wants children desperately, but the fear is also strong.

Rafael & Leila had been married for over 5 years and their marriage is a happy one. When they actually get to see each other of course. What I didn't understand is Leila's reaction when Rafael tells her that he loves her at the end of the book. He calls her my love throughout the book, and she acts as if that's some great surprise.

Leila is a really irritating character. She works a lot so that she could have enough money for her free clinic, but when Rafael offers money she refuses. OK, in the beging it wasn't that was okay, but later when (view spoiler) and she still insist on working. There were a few more instances when I wanted to slap her, but that was the worst.

Rafael is also way too overprotecting and overbearing, and didn't like him much either.

And one other thing, he never really talked to her about his childhood, she shared some of hers, but he still

kept it to himself. We learn of it through his recollections. I mean that had great influence on him, and it would've been nice if they actually *talked*.

Rating:

**1.5 stars.**

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### **Makii says**

Estaba deseando conocer a Rafael, y la verdad me lleve una gran sorpresa.

No es de las historias que estamos acostumbrados a leer. Dos personas que se conocen, se enamoran y luchan hasta reconocer que no pueden vivir sin el otro.

Esta es la historia de un amor de 5 años, de una pareja que se enamoró perdidamente el uno del otro hasta entregar sus vidas, pero que sus oscuros pasados y el temor a abrirse plenamente llevo al descaste y la separación. Ella, marcada por una madre que la presiono durante su carrera de modelo, hasta llevarla a caer en la anorexia. Incluso después de recuperada, lucha contra el fantasma que dejó la enfermedad y los posibles efectos secundarios. ¿El mayor de ellos? el riesgo de no poder concebir hijos. Él, uno de los magnate de la dinastía Wolfe (no por heredar la fortuna sino por luchar y forjarse un imperio de la nada). El único hijo bastardo que su padre rechazó y apartó de su familia. ¿Su mayor anhelo? Vivir su amor con Leila y formar esa familia que se le fue quitada tantos años atrás.

Me gusto que no se centrara en el dolor de ser un Wolfe, ya que el vivió todo el drama de forma alejada.

Cuando su padre lo rechazó y le prohibió ver a sus hermanos, ellos lucharon e igual se vieron. Por lo que muestra que a pesar de estar tan alejados unos de otros, su cariño por ellos es infinito. Lo que mas me gustó es que es el único que no odió a Jacob. Sino que todo lo que es fue gracias a él.

Como dije, aprecié esta historia porque es una historia de lucha. Contra los demonios del pasado, pero que ante todo, por recuperar su matrimonio, basado en el amor tan intenso y poderoso que los unió y que a pesar de todo sigue intacto.

"-Si amas algo, déjalo libre. Si no vuelve a ti es que nunca fue tuyo. Recuérdalo siempre, Rafael."

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### **Desi says**

leído el 10/08/2012

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### **Danielle says**

3 - 3.5 stars

I guess I'm deciding to knock this *The Notorious Wolfes* out of the park and trying to get the number books I have to read in this series down. I have only two books in this series remaining then I am done. Yeah! But I will confess that I will take a break and wait to read the last two book because I don't think I could deal with the bastard of William Wolfe anymore and what he did to all his children. I just need a little space from him then I will go back to it. Have many other Harlequin Presents books I need to read so I will come back to this series at another time I think.

Anyway on to this book, and my thoughts and feelings on it. I wasn't sure what rating to give this book because even though I did like it for the most part, there were other times where I wasn't sure if I was liking it or not because this book was not what I expected from the back blurb. I had some expectations from reading the back blurb and found that this story was a little different from what was presented or what I felt was going to happen in the story, which was kind of the reason why I was a bit wishy washy on this story. I'm going to try to explain what I mean in this review.

First of all the character of Rafael wasn't what I was expecting at all and thought he would be totally different from the back blurb. Now there were times that I really liked Rafael and felt bad for him and his situation as well as his history of what happened to him when he was a child. I understood his yearning for a family and not wanting to be alone and having a loving family home with Leila, who he wanted to be a full time mother to his children and that was because he didn't want his child to live the existence of what he experienced in his own childhood. So I got that and where he was coming from, but just the way he handled it was all wrong and just made me think he was totally a jerk for forcing Leila to make all the sacrifices in her life while he made none and he just didn't get it or get why working and control was so important to Leila. He didn't even try to understand and how hard it was to live day, day after recovering from an eating disorder how important for her to have control in other aspects was important so she didn't go back to it. And then he would get all pissed off when she wouldn't follow his demands and thought that she was choosing her career over him and their family. No, she was just doing what she needed in order to have a healthy lifestyle so she didn't revert back to her destructive ways. He just didn't get it and didn't want to get it. He just expected her to concede to his demands and that was it. Now was Leila in the right. No, she definitely had moments where she could have made more of an effort to reassure him and compromise so that their marriage came first, but she was dealing with her life the best way she could so she didn't self-destruct. Now, it could be argued that Rafael was doing the same thing and was dealing with things in the only way that he knew how to and trying to get that happy family he always wanted, but it was just the way that it came across that bothered and annoyed me. The last half of the book I wasn't happy with him.

Also I think I was surprised with the character of Rafael that he knew he was in love with Leila and believed they were in a loving marriage. Now he wasn't demonstrative with his words but more with his actions like most alpha males in these types of books. I just was surprised that it was acknowledged on page one of this book and kind of made me question where this was all headed if he truly was in love with his wife. And Leila loved him too there was no question about that, but they never really communicated that to each other verbally. Physically yes, but not verbal until near the end. I think I was just expecting that Rafael would be more about the wanting than the loving and just not have this attitude of wanting a loving family and having that with his wife. Again I understood where he was coming from but from reading the back synopsis I thought there would be a little more push and pull about his feelings towards his wife and I thought it would be more of an uphill battle, one he would be fighting for most of the book.

Which brings me another point and my expectations of what would occur between the two, though there was an established conflict between the pair mainly them making time for marriage because their careers took them away from one another for a year and them only being together once during that year and now their marriage was starting to fall apart and come bursting at the seams unless something changed, but what I found lacking was the sense of angst that I expected to occur here. I thought there would be a lot more of that and that push and pull like I said. Yes, there was push and pull but more of them fighting about which point of view was right when it came to the future of their marriage and where they would go from there. Also the issue of starting a family came up as well and when or if they should do it. Leila was scared after her miscarriage plus she feared that she would go back to her old ways once she gained weight from a pregnancy and it really scared her, but that didn't mean she didn't want to be with her husband and make their marriage work, but she also wanted a career which he just couldn't understand. He wanted his wife in his life full time,



and I don't blame him for that or the fact that he wanted to put his marriage first over their careers. I agreed with him on that point. It was just how he went about it that I didn't agree with. So the conflict was there. It was just the angst and ripping out of emotions were not.

I believed from reading the back blurb there would be a lot of angst coming from the story. That rawness that I expect and want, but again there really wasn't a lot of that just them going back and forth with their issues. What I thought was going to happen from the back blurb that Leila would feel that Rafael didn't love her and didn't want her and only married her because she was a renowned model and that would up his status in the world, therefore she would be living this soulless existence with him ignoring her and basically not being affectionate except in the bedroom and would basically show her off in public to show he achieved status. Then Leila would feel lonely and heartbroken because she loved him while he didn't love her and basically she used model to run away and keep her distance and not have to deal with this heartless marriage. She no longer wanted to be just his trophy wife. That's what I thought was going to happen and what kind of was indicated in the blurb, after all this was called *The Trophy Wife* so I thought that would be the feeling that Leila experienced for most of the book and feeling like nothing but a piece meat, therefore that would be where the angst and the rawness of emotions would come from and just that heartbreaking feeling that would be going through Leila at the time and how she felt that was the reason that her marriage was falling apart. Then I thought that Rafael would have to grovel and do anything in his power to win his wife back again. Now that was the story I was expecting and probably been one I would have enjoyed more than this tale that was told. I thought a bit more groveling would have taken place then did. And yes their marriage was in trouble and they let careers get in the way, but it wasn't as broken of a marriage as I thought it would be especially since they both knew and believed they were in a loving marriage and wanted to be together and live full time and be with each other always but they just didn't know how. They didn't know how to put their marriage first instead of careers. They needed to learn that. And even though it was an established conflict like I said, I just felt like it wasn't the heartbreaking conflict and angst that I was expecting and that I wanted to see occur.

The angst just totally missed the mark for me. The angst was needed to create that little spark and excitement that would be running throughout the book. That's just my opinion and my expectation. It doesn't make it a bad book but it just wasn't what I was expecting.

I will say that I liked the chemistry and the passion between the two of them. That was palatable and felt through most of the pages of the novel, and it was hot. After only being together once during the year and not having any contact for that time physically made them have this build up of sexual tension. Sexual tension so thick that I could cut with a knife and that anticipation just grew and grew because they didn't give into it right away because their careers stood in the way. But I just couldn't wait for when they finally went to bed together after all that time of waiting. The anticipation was great and very well done, I was almost as anxious for them to get on as they were. They were panting for it and when they looked at each other they were practically making love visual and I don't how they didn't rip others clothes off sooner. It was that heated and that bone melting. And when they finally make love for that first time, it was like finally, and that scene didn't disappoint let me tell you. In fact that passion and chemistry did not disappoint one little bit. It was the highlight of the book for sure, and I loved seeing all that anticipation and heat going on between the pair. They were practically sizzling off the pages and the love scenes were so hot, I was surprised the book didn't catch on fire. Whew! I mean that part of their relationship didn't need help. That was just so hot. Love scenes were A plus here, and I could tell from the love scenes that there was definitely more going on than them wanting each other physically that real emotion and love was behind it. They waited so long that they literally exploded in each others arms. It was great to see.

I think one thing that diminished my enjoyment of the story was how annoyed I was with Rafael. For him not

understanding, or seemingly wanting to understand, her fears or trying to talk to her about it because that was a big issue for her and it wasn't going to get settled in one conversation with him saying he'll protect her if she trusted him. It needed to happen in several conversations until she got more secure and was more ready to proceed and take their marriage to the next level. So that bothered me as did his lack of compromise and only thought about his wants and needs instead of thinking about hers, which is what love is suppose to be about.

Now is Leila perfect. No, and I am not just talking about her eating disorder, I'm talking about her remaining emotional distance and keeping secrets from Rafael. I didn't get why she didn't tell Rafael sooner about the miscarriage. If she called him, she had to know that he would be by her side and they would grieved together and got through it together like married couples should, but she chose not to tell him which just caused her more grief and guilt when she could have told him then they could have processed together as well as she could have told him more her fears. But she didn't. That was the one thing that bothered me about her and her choice that she made there. I just didn't get it especially there was nothing to back up that Rafael wouldn't be there for her.

So yes they both had issues that they needed to contend with, but if they dealt with them together then they would have a lot less friction in their marriage. And I get that was part of the story and the conflict that was set amongst them, but that didn't necessarily amp up the angst and the emotions in the story, which is what I want from a Harlequin Presents story. It just felt like they were butting heads and that was it and neither really giving into compromise and just wanted to win their side of the argument. And though they both had valid points and valid reasons of why they wanted what they wanted, it just didn't make for an exciting and emotionally raw love story that I believed this story could have been. I certainly felt for both of them and wanted them to be together because they belonged together and loved each other, but just this story was a bit ordinary and needed a flare of something more whether it be drama, angst, or another more rich conflict that developed deep within their psyches where I could feel it and have my heart break from them.

Again that rawness that drives me to romance novels is what I want or more accurately the feelings I get while reading the story where there is that emotional intensity to it that I crave that I want. It's hard to describe really I just know when I really like and love a book it's about I get when reading with the emotional highs and lows to it. I want my heart to pound, my insides to warm up, my stomach to drop, a gasp my throat, and possible a few tears leaking out of my eyes. I want root for the couple and feel like they really exist and deserve their happy ending. That's what I want. But this one just felt like a big argument with passion thrown in here and there and that was about it.

Overall it wasn't a bad story. It was just not the story I was expecting. Again I needed more. More rawness. More emotional intensity. More gripping drama. Just more everything to up the stakes. Again I may not have been totally thrilled with this story because of my own preconceived notions of what this story was going to be then when I didn't get it, I was disappointed and therefore not digging the story as much.

Now I wish I could go into a book and have no expectations then just go on reading with a clear head and make judgments from there, but that can't happen especially when there's a synopsis in play and I make judgments based on that and whether I would interested in reading the book or not. It's hard not to go by the synopsis or your expectations when reading because when you don't get that then you're invariably disappointed as I was. Same with authors I enjoy, I expect them to deliver certain things and when they don't I am disappointed. Is it wrong of me? Yes, but it's also what makes reading an individual experience with no two people having the same experience when reading the same book. That's why I like reading because it's about your experience while reading and it not being right or wrong, it's just how you feel. It all about the feelings and the feels that you get, and for me this one just didn't quite make it even though it was a nice

quick read and enjoyable at times even if it felt a little ordinary. The emotional stakes needed to be risen just a bit more for my taste.

I will say I am glad that Leila and Rafael got their happily ending and I know they will have a loving and passionate marriage in the future with probably lots of children in their fold. I wished I enjoyed their story more than I did, and I did go back and forth on my rating from a 3 to 3.5 stars to even a 4 because it definitely wasn't unreadable, but there was just something missing for me. A spark. I needed that spark and not just feel like the whole book was an argument of how to conduct their future. Basically normal marriage problems without the angst and the emotional intensity that I needed to enjoy this book more than I did.

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## Cecilia says

Cardboard characters, artificial conflict, and predictable twists. Add to that a hero who can only think about having babies and his shame about his past, and a heroine who can only think about fear of having babies and anorexia, this book was no fun at all. (I realize anorexia is serious, but there was so little that rang true, my empathy was just not engaged.) If I had to sum it up in one word, the word would be WAH.

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## Mara says

OK, so the first two books in the series were really good, then there were two books that pushed my buttons (one for its alphas hero, the other for its superficiality in certain key issues). The fifth book wasn't exactly bad, but it was completely 'meh'. Now this book, the sixth in the series, made me roll my eyes. A LOT.

First of all, the hero is an overbearing jerk. *"But, Mara, he has a sad past. Can't you see that he is a wounded-alpha-macho-Brazilian-poor-illegitimate-unwanted-son-turned-Mark-Zuckerberg-only-hot in need of some TLC?"* No. What this man needs is some therapy! He clearly has a lot of issues he refuses to talk about, even after he hears everything about his wife's past (which, btw, is similar to his). Having children will not magically fix your emotional and mental state, dude. In fact, it should be your priority to get yourself in order (you're rich, get the best shrink), and THEN work on making babies. But this guy wants to make his supermodel wife become a stay-at-home mom, while he spends hours working, and goes on a business trip to London for a week. Some priorities!

Secondly, the heroine and her ego. She is a supermodel who had anorexia, and although she is now 'cured', some consequences are still present, like her fear of getting fat. She has established a charity in Brazil, helping other girls battle their eating disorders, and this charity is slowly draining all of her finances, and she needs financial backing of rich people. She is married to a billionaire who offers to help her with the charity. She refuses his financial help. MORE THAN ONCE! Because she doesn't want HER charity to become just one of his 'appendages' (I think that was the term the author used, but I don't feel like checking). Get a grip, darling, it's not all about you!

Finally, these two have been married for 5 years now. Yet, they've spent the past year basically living separate lives and not seeing each other due to their work commitments. They didn't even talk on the phone regularly, or sext, or skype, or whatever. Instead of trying to get closer to his wife to make up for that lost

time, this guy wants babies and he wants them now! Really?! You'd call that a stable marriage? Their whole relationship made me roll my eyes.

These are only the worst issues with the book, there are many other lesser ones. It's good the editors didn't put this book as the first, or I never would have read the rest of the series. As it stands, I have two more books left, about the only daughter, and the last one about the prodigal eldest son. I'm thinking I'll read the reviews, and then decide whether to read, skim, or just give up completely.

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