



The Love Charm

Pamela Morsi

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The fairest in all Louisiana...

Aida Gaudet has charm and fire enough to enflame the desires of any man. Like a hurricane descending upon the bayou, her unparalleled beauty has thrown a humble Acadian town into turmoil—setting neighbor against neighbor in competition for her attentions. But Aida wants what no one yet has offered her: she wants to know true love.

A steadfast pillar of a tight-knit community—someone to trust in times of trouble—Armand Sonnier also feels Aida's fire. And he, too, burns for this rare, radiant jewel who can never be his, for she is promised to his closest friend.

But the bayou moon can work many strange sorceries—compelling even a rational young man to take irrational risks...as it strengthens his resolve to win an enchantress's restless heart with passion, determination, and a cup of voodoo magic.

The Love Charm Details

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Author : Pamela Morsi

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From Reader Review The Love Charm for online ebook

Maura says

Set in 1820 Louisiana bayou the story had a lot of twists and turns. The heroine was depicted as smart with herbal medicine and very compassionate. That was what made her TSTL moments take me out of the story. I liked the hero because I like short guys! This guy didn't let his size change his masculinity. The hero was more man than anyone in the story. I found the book compelling in the usual Pamela Morsi way. I loved all the interaction with the river and the lifestyle.

Chele says

It started off well. 20% into the book I lost interest. I picked it up several times to restart it and almost gave up. 40% into the story and it got better. The h was an empty-headed beauty, nothing to recommend her. The secondary characters had a way better story. I have enjoyed the other books by this author more.

Madeline says

Okay, this book is a little bit weird and confusing, but it is still really good. I love any romance novel, though. It is straight out of the romance section and I always love that!

Karen Darling says

Three to four different love stories going on at once, not usually my cup of tea, I like it when the story is just about the hero and heroine, but this was ok.

Drava says

3.5 Stars - This was a sweet story of a physically imperfect man getting the beautiful girl. There is the love story of Armand and Aida, the main characters, but there is also the side story of Laron and Helga, which I didn't find nearly as interesting. I really enjoyed this book. Armand is small of stature and fine-featured with a bright mind and eloquent speech. Aida Gaudet is the most beautiful and scatterbrained girl on the Vermilion River and every man is in love with her, including Armand. But she is engaged to Laron, who is Armand's best friend. Laron is in no hurry to marry and spends all of his spare time with Helga, the German widow. Aida knows this and isn't bothered by it and long as Laron didn't love Helga. Orva the local treater has Aida become her apprentice, but with Aida being an admitted scatterbrained, Orva volunteers Armand to write down the cures for her.

It is during this time of togetherness that Aida notices Armand as an attractive man. But Armand is under the false impression that Aida is now interested in his older married brother Jean-Baptiste, who is unhappy with his marriage. One day at Orva's home, Armand and Aida notice a blueberry tart sitting there and consume it. Then they find out Orva made the tart for Jean Baptiste which she laced heavily with a love charm. Worried that Aida will fall in love with Jean Baptiste, after ingesting the love charm, Armand kisses Aida, which turns into much more. Armand manages to stop because he doesn't want to ruin her, but Aida loves him and blackmails him into proposing marriage by threatening to tell her father and priest. They marry immediately and encounter Helga who is searching for Laron, afraid he has gone off to kill her husband so they can get married. The three of them go find Laron and it is during that time that Armand and Aida realize they truly love each other and that it wasn't because of the love charm.

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

I couldnt decide wether to give this one star or two,so settling for the middle ground of 1.5

I found the setting unusual and this is the first time I learnt about the descendants of the Acadians

A very interesting cultural heritage to say the least :)

Now onto the story

Aida Gaudet is considered in her small community of Prairie Acadie to be the most beautiful woman (but also the most forgetful and unpractical one)She is engaged for some time to the heros best friend.

The hero is Armand Sonnier he has been in love with Aida for several years but feeling its hopeless as he doesnt consider himself worthy of her on account of being of slight height,he has cultivated a pretense of being distantly polite to her.

Aida takes this to mean that he hates her.

Things starts to change when Armands married brother shows signs of being attracted to Aida and she to him (or at least Armand imagines it so)

So to save his brothers marriage he sets out to try and discourage her of having feelings for his brother.Though I cant understand how any woman could be attracted to the brother considering his disgusting and unfeeling to his wife.

She cant help but be surprised but happy about Armands sudden interest in her.

Things go from there.

The hero was very interesting being very short (I mean how often is the hero allowed to be short in historical romances) and slight of build,he was also clever yet had a vulnerable streak.So I felt the heroine wasnt a good match or even worthy of him.

The heroine was TSTL though.She acted like she had a vacuum where her brain should be.Harping on about

being "the most beautiful" and wanting to marry her fiancee because he was beautiful too. All the while knowing that the fiancee were happily involved with another woman, she was sure she could make him love her.

If your fiancee keeps putting off your wedding for two years, that's a pretty solid clue that a) He doesn't want to marry you, and b) that you are seriously deluded to believe you can make him love you by being understanding about his relationship with another woman

and the sex scenes... weren't sexy.

I mean the hero is very very short... but the way the author described the heroine during those scenes was reminiscent of some cow-like giantess.

Then there is the sub-plot with the fiancee and his relationship with the woman he loved. I felt it was a more powerful plot than the hero and heroine's story.

Sorry just wasn't for me.

Dawn says

++SPOILERS++

4.95 stars

Morsi does not disappoint! Again she delivers a unique story in a unique location about unique people.

I loved it!

The story follows three couples. The main one being Armand and Aida, the second was Helga and Laron, and the third Jeanne Baptiste and his wife (I forgot her name sorry).

Armand and Aida:

They grew up together. Aida was and still is a bit of a scatterbrain. Some readers may find her annoying, as I did at first, but I grew to really like her. She was a good and kind hearted person, but was just forgetful. Aida was also extremely beautiful. She knows she is, but considers it a curse because she feels that no one can see past her beauty into her real self.. that is.. no one except Armand.

Armand is a very educated and intelligent man. He is also the "Judge" in their small town in Louisiana. He has loved Aida since their youth but she is betrothed to his best friend Laron, who is the most handsome man in town. Armand is plain, and short for a man, he also feels he never stood a chance of winning the beautiful Aida.

Laron, on the other hand, is in love with the widow Helga. Helga is not really a widow, her husband ran off and has been absent for 3 years. He was a complete jerk and Helga was greatful when he left. Laron knows he cannot have Helga since she is legally married to Helmut so he proposed to Aida then put off the wedding for 2 years. He has been having an affair with Helga for nearly 3 years and he didn't tell her about his

betrothal until recently.

Jeanne Baptiste has been married for 5 years, has 3 children and another on the way. His wife is very pregnant, very fat and he has not been happy in his marriage lately.

Lots of great stuff happen which is too much to go into, so I will only mention some things I liked and disliked.

Liked:

All the men in the story were virgins before giving themselves to the women they loved. This was done in a believable fashion IMHO. This is to say that they just were virgins. No crazy reasons for them being innocent for so long, like they were abused or odd..it's just.. they were.

There is a little bit of hoo doo mysticism going on with love charms, visions and an old woman who is a sort of healer/fortune teller.

Everything that seemed not to make sense in the beginning all became clear and was explained leaving no loose ends. So if you are reading and something doesn't make sense, stay with it!

Everyone gets a happy ending.

What bothered me:

It was a little repetitive. I didn't care for how much we are told how Aida wasn't smart and was a scatterbrain. It was also a little uncomfortable how Aida was constantly mentioned as being so beautiful, and how she knew how beautiful she was. It was clear there are reasons for it so try not to let that get to you so much.

In the beginning, I was kinda pissed that the story was leaning more toward Laron and Helga's story and got away from Aida and Armand but was glad that the story got back on track with them not long after.

Long story short, I loved the history, the locale and the characters which were all unique and atypical of what we normally get in a romance. Only Pamela Morsi can pull it off.

Love her.

It's KU but I am buying it!

Safety:(view spoiler)

Lyuda says

Spell-bounding tale of 19 century Acadian, settlers of southwestern Louisiana where they developed what became known as Cajun culture. As always with Ms. Morsi stories, you get a great sense of place, people, culture. The love stories (there are more than two) pair together very unusual characters. There are very likable with all their quirks, humor, imperfections, enduring strength and a little magic.

Ashleighloveland says

very sweet romance with the Morsi charm, ordinary people with deeply held values rooted in their cultures and time. wonderful characterization, easy to read, lovely conflict.

Christine (Cagnes) says

3.5 stars

Bark says

THE LOVE CHARM is another irresistible read about hard working, down to earth characters from Pamela Morsi. Set in the Louisiana bayou Ms. Morsi brilliantly brings all of the scents, smells and customs of the small tight-knit community of Acadia to life.

As a child Aida Gaudet concocts a love charm she insists will make the man of her dreams fall deeply and forever in love with her. Aida, being a bit featherbrained, hands the charm over to her best friend Armand Sonnier then forgets about it when her father calls her for dinner.

Years later Aida, now the town beauty, has all of the local men and her childhood friend Armand vying for her affection. Armand has kept his feelings to himself knowing he can never win her hand because he is "plain" and also the shortest man in Acadia and has resigned himself to a life without her. Awww. . . how can you not instantly love this guy? Also standing in the way is the small fact that Aida is engaged to his best friend Laron. She has agreed to marry Laron, the most handsome man in Acadia, because it is what is expected of her. Aida has given up dreaming about true love knowing men only care about her looks and will never love her as a person.

When Armand, in a moment of jealousy, thoughtlessly spills the beans about Laron's secret mistress he inadvertently upsets several lives but especially his own. With a little push from a meddling soothsayer Armand sets out on a path to set things right and finds himself spending most of his waking hours with Aida in an attempt to thwart fate.

It is wonderful watching these seemingly opposite characters overcome their enormous insecurities before they are able to truly open their hearts to each other.

THE LOVE CHARM delivers everything I look forward to in a Morsi book and then some. With a little helpful magic, a bit of humor, lots of tugs at the heartstrings and major sexual tension Ms. Morsi masterfully ties up not one but three intriguing love stories and manages to make us care deeply about all six characters. Very Highly Recommended.

Sarah says

I've never been disappointed by a Morsi book, and this one was no exception!

Lisa says

“Pamela Morsi has been called ‘the Garrison Keillor of romance’” by Publishers Weekly (according to her bio on the book jacket of this edition of The Love Charm). I, for one, enjoy her romances very much. Morsi has set The Love Charm in 1820 Southwest Louisiana – Bayou Country – where several generations earlier Acadians had fled when they were expelled from Canada. In a proud and tight-knit community, which they call Prairie l’Acadie, they farm their land and raise their families and set an example for their children to grow up to be just like themselves. Armand and Jean Baptiste Sonnier are brothers who stick together and look out for each other and their friends including Armand’s best friend, Laron Boudreau, who is betrothed to the most beautiful woman on the Vermillion River – Aida Gaudet. The Love Charm follows the love stories of these three young men and interweaves them into a delightful tale of misunderstandings, difficulties and the acceptance of change - with a little bit of voodoo to help them along. Delightful!

Dee says

the bayou setting was something different - i'm a bit conflicted overall, well written, but wasn't as enjoyable as the previous book by her i read
