



## **Bought for the Billionaire's Revenge**

*Clare Connelly*

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*Sold to the ruthless tycoon!*

Innocent socialite Marnie Kenington was devastated when her parents forced her to spurn Nikos Kyriazis. She's never forgotten him, nor his raw sensuality. So years later, when Nikos insists on a meeting, Marnie's heart leaps...until Nikos strikes a cold, hard deal. Her family is on the verge of bankruptcy and he will rescue them—if she becomes his wife!

Marnie's rejection drove self-made billionaire Nikos to unimaginable success. Now, he'll take his revenge. Marnie's poise is legendary, but he knows in the bedroom he can take her apart, piece by sensual piece...

## Bought for the Billionaire's Revenge Details

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## **From Reader Review Bought for the Billionaire's Revenge for online ebook**

### **Vashti says**

This is the author's HP debut, but I have read her before and enjoyed her stories as they were HP in style. This was a tale of marriage for revenge plot. The couple were young 17/21, she landed English gentry, he peasant Greek "scholarship" boy. But the course of true love did not last long as the heroine was forced to choose between her young love and love for her family that had recently seen their golden child daughter die of leukemia. Our poor heroine was always in the background, never front and center. The poor Greek peasant was given a large sum of money and sent on his way after a few well chosen words. From then on, he had plans to become richer and more powerful, revenge is now the name of the game.

Six years later, our star-crossed lovers to be meet up when our heroine is summoned to the lion's den (hero) and his plan of revenge takes form. Marry me he tells her and I will make all your father's financial worries disappear. What's a girl to do but comply and away to Greece to begin a marriage founded on revenge.

I found this to be a good story. I liked both characters, the hero's rise to billionaire status in six years seems to be a bit farfetched, but hey, it's Harleyville.

Nice epilogue with baby and all family coming together. I am wondering if Anderson will get a story.

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### **Esther says**

ARC provided by NetGalley and Harlequin for an honest review.

Marnie and Nikos first meet when she's a teenager. They fall in love and are in a relationship for a few months. But tragedy strikes Marnie's family, her sister dies and her Father opposes her relationship with Nikos. Marnie's family is well to do and Nikos is working class. She ends the relationship to Nikos to make her parents happy and with her not knowing her Father pays Nikos off to disappear. Both are devastated and heartbroken. Nikos is hurt and angry and swears he will make something of himself with the money he's given.

Six years later they meet again. Marnie has grown into a composed young woman and is sought after by the paparazzi, she's been labeled Lady Heiress. She's been labeled because of her cool, composed and put together appearance. All a defense to hide and shield her heart from all the pain and hurt she's endured with the loss of her sister, the pressure and expectations her parents have of her and most of all her loss of her soul mate, Nikos. Nikos on the other hand has accomplished what he set out to do, become a successful billionaire with the opportunity for revenge against Marnie and her Father. Marnie's Father is in financial trouble. Nikos invites Marnie to his office, informs her what her Father's situation is (she knew something was up with her Father but no idea he was in so much financial trouble) and that the only way he'll assist in helping her Father is by her becoming his wife.

Marnie and Nikos find that neither has ever gotten over what they had together. Marnie closed herself off and shut down all feeling and emotions to survive. Nikos determined not to be hurt or made to feel inferior as he had in the past, so he worked hard and closed himself off to emotions as well. But as the two plan their wedding and future life together all those feeling and emotions come back to the surface like a rushing wind. What I appreciated was their unraveling of the past in a honest, open dialogue. I appreciated the gradual development of their relationship as they sorted through their past and future together. Would they stay

married and what about children. Would her parents ever play a part and does the truth all come out.

I found I liked both these characters and their multi dementional personalities. Their character development throughout the story was layered and grew into two people I liked and wanted to have their HEA. Liked the secondary characters but not Marnie's parents.

Really enjoyable read with characters that communicated and worked through issues adult like.

But I have to say I did have issues with writing. Some of the scenes would stop abruptly and suddenly you find you are thrown into a completely different scene and having to recalibrate. Needs improvement in transition and delivery.

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### **Brenda says**

This was the first Clare Connelly book that I'd read and I liked it so much that it got me venturing into reading her other books, even though they weren't HPs and came across quite a few of her books that I liked, especially her Sheikh books. Most of her books have my fav tropes, alpha, ruthless hero, sweet, virginal heroine, angst and pregnancy or secret child.

This one had all the above tropes though pregnancy came at the end. I liked both Nikos and Marnie. Despite the separation, hurt, and angst, they'd never stopped loving the other. They only thought they did. And, although, Nikos, had blackmailed Marnie to marry him in his quest for revenge, spoke coldly and rudely to her like telling her to call him Nikos when she called him Nik like she once used to, he actually kept doing stuff that would make Marnie happy. For example, willing to accept the invitation from Marnie's parents for her father's birthday party so that he could convince the man on the brink of bankruptcy to accept his help, the man whom he hated the most. His vengeful mission had been to buy Marnie's ancestral mansion and gloat over it, but when he actually bought it, he changed plans. Such an adorable dolt. Giving her divorce papers thinking it was the best thing for her, not getting it that he was her happiness, her entire world. Loved the blasting Marnie gave him for that and I literally laughed imagining the stunned expression on his face.

His ice-sculpture in the epilogue also had me laughing. Very sweet epilogue.

Overall, a very touching and enjoyable book.

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### **Laura says**

I don't think I've read any Mills & Boon books by this author before but it did feel like I had read a similar plot before as this is a very unoriginal plot which I have read time and again in a Mills&Boon however, I enjoyed it and would recommend to a M&B fan but don't expect anything original.

At 17, Marnie had ended things with Nikos due to pressure from her parents. I felt a bit confused here as her dead sister is mentioned but the author doesn't take us back to the past much and it wasn't really explained enough. Marnie was unaware that her father also paid Nikos off. He was angry and so he used the money to

make something of himself and only six years later, he's a billionaire! He finds out Marnie's father is in trouble financially and sees it as his way to finally get Marnie back.

I liked Nikos. He wasn't ever particularly horrible to Marnie but he does hurt her but I felt the emotion was lacking. Marnie seemed a bit of an insipid character that never really stood up for herself with her parents or Nikos. I felt the author didn't expand on enough...their past, her dead sister, Marnie's job. I would say Nikos was the saving grace of the story.

ARC provided by Netgalley.

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## **StMargarets says**

I don't know what to say about this story. It's a revenge story. To-the-manor-born heroine jilted the Greek peasant scholarship hero when she was 17 after her parents, still reeling from the grief at the death of their perfect daughter, pressured her.

It is now six years later. The under-30 hero is a billionaire and realizes he is one of the few people with enough money to bail out the heroine's father. He summons the heroine to his London office and proposes marriage for five years in exchange for helping her father. The heroine agrees and signs a nonsensical prenup that has all kinds of provisions that are never addressed again. (I'm told 50 Shades of Grey has something similar) The point is making the heroine feel humiliated rather than any plot point. (Denying her a child was a loving cherry on the asshole sundae.)

To further muddy the waters, the father doesn't know why the heroine is marrying the hero and when the hero does offer help after their wedding, he doesn't want it. In fact, he only takes the bare minimum and he doesn't soften towards his only surviving daughter – at all. Her mother is equally cold and equally devoted to the narrative that the wrong daughter died.

This isn't angst – this is despair. And all sorts of shades of sadness keep coming for the heroine.

The heroine barely dated and is still a virgin when she marries the hero. She kinda sorta admits to herself that she's not doing this for her parents, she just wants to be with the hero, no matter what. She gives in to the hero on every demand, but doesn't show her feelings. She is a house-elf – compelled to obey her new master – whether its her parents or her husband. This isn't doormat behavior – it alarmingly goes further than that.

We get the hero's point of view during some of these scenes, but the head hopping is hard to follow sometimes. And the hero is erratic in his thoughts as well as his actions. He is cruel in his lashing out at the heroine. But these incidents are like papercuts - there are quick bouts of searing pain and then all is quiet for awhile.

For instance, the heroine makes the hero dinner when he gets home from work. At first he reluctantly sits down and eats one scallop. Then he realizes he doesn't have to comprise with anything the heroine does. He coldly gets up and tells her that he never eats when he first arrives home, but has a swim first. Then he leaves for the swimming pool. The heroine is hurt, left sitting there alone. It's a papercut hurt, swift and searing.

Then, as a good House Elf, the heroine decides to join the hero in the pool, they have sex and the dinner is burned – like we're supposed to believe they were so overcome with passion after the hero scolded her like she was the new hired help.

There are other petty incidents – like the hero never telling her she looks nice before going out – he just looks her over and says nothing. The heroine feels off balance and not sure if she's pleased him or not. He never says. It's mean and creepy and I came to hate this guy. He also keeps saying in a monotone that he doesn't want to hurt the heroine when he watches her cry her eyes out.

Hate him.

(view spoiler)

This is very much in the tradition of the cruel hero vintages from days gone by. There's no manhandling, but the angsty emotional weight a heroine is supposed to bear gives Lillian Peake or Margaret Pargeter a run for their money. I understand this is the author's debut novel. She can really write pain and angst and I look forward to reading something else by her, even though this was a miss for me.

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## **Maria Rose says**

*Bought for the Billionaire's Revenge* by Clare Connelly is a debut story for the author with the Harlequin Presents line, and in classic HP fashion is a passionate second chance romance with lust, revenge, money and power leading to a well deserved happy ever after.

The daughter of wealthy socialite parents, Marnie Kenington's first love Nikos Kyriasiz is four years older than her and as far as her family is concerned, totally unsuited as a prospective partner. When Marnie's sister dies of leukemia, her grief stricken parents can't chance losing another daughter and give Marnie an ultimatum – them or Nikos. Heartbroken, Marnie breaks things off with Nikos.

Six years later, Nikos has the chance to enact his revenge for being so easily cast off by Marnie. He's become a very wealthy man and upon hearing how much debt her father has accumulated he arranges a meeting with Marnie and a deal – marry him, and he'll take care of those debts. Once again, Marnie is in a position where she feels that she has no choice, and agrees. Nikos plans to keep his heart intact even as he seduces Marnie into bed, and Marnie knows she'd be a fool to let her feelings for Nikos come back to the surface. Can these two find a way to forgive each other for past hurts and give themselves a second chance at love?

For more of this review please visit Harlequin Junkie: <http://harlequinjunkie.com/review-bou...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher for review.

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## **Sue Child says**

### **Hot, fast, relationship-intense read**

The boardroom barter always makes for a strong, Presents' first impression. What I really liked about this beginning though, is that the relationship conflict is right out in the open between them.

I also liked the Greek setting with its older-Presents' vibe, an impression reinforced by voice and how the romance is very conflict-driven.

Nikos also reinforces that classic Presents' feel when you're first introduced, but you're waiting, or at least I was, for him to become more 3D.

This is more the heroine's story than the hero's. Marnie is easy to empathise with. You understand how she made the decision she did as a grieving 17-year-old, even if it takes the hero a while to.

The pace is disorientating at times as you sometimes wonder where you are and whose head you're in.

Marnie says she's seen inside Nikos' soul, but I didn't really feel as though the reader had, and I would have happily sacrificed secondary-character scenes and love-scene intense for more internal insight into Nikos' heart and soul.

### **3 classic Presents' stars for this easy-to-read page turner that skates the surface of the emotion and the hero**

*Advance Reader Copy from NetGalley in return for feedback*

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## **Rgreader says**

Clare Connelly. A debut hp author. I have her non HP's but have yet to read them. I was so happy this author got signed onto harlequin. I got her books because I was told she writes alpha heroes & her heroines are mostly virgins. Tropes I prefer.

Unfortunately Bought for the Billionaire's Revenge failed to live up to my expectations. The problems- the storytelling was mediocre and sluggish; the hero shows no jealousy or possessiveness and the hero pushed the heroine away toward the end. He was willing to let the pregnant heroine go!

Also a problem- the parents suffer no consequences for destroying the hero & heroine's romance.

I guess this week I'll finally read Connelly's non HP's. I need to see if the writing style is different.

I'm disappointed. I expected much from this new addition to harlequin. Sigh.

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## **Danielle says**

This was yet again another disappointing Harlequin Presents read. Just lately I have been really craving a good old Harlequin Presents read these last few days, and I just haven't found it. Then again I set my expectations pretty high, and I know what I have been looking for, but I just haven't found it.

I thought this one was going to match my expectations with lots of tension and spectacular angst. This one did have angst. Plenty of misunderstandings. Marnie and Nikos had a history so all the more friction because of their past relationship where she rejected him and all the hurt build up because of that. And all the building of a really angsty romance, but it wasn't pleasurable angst if you know what I mean. In fact it was downright disturbing and kind of annoying. There just was no real softness to their relationship that would make me root for them. At times, it was just a plain turnoff especially Nikos's overly cruel to her.

I don't know I just didn't like them as a couple. I didn't connect with them at all or their story. To me they just didn't have it. They didn't have that spark that I was looking for. I wanted to see more intimate moments between them, not of the physical variety, but the emotional variety. Yes, they kind of had a moment at the end, but it wasn't enough for me. They just didn't have a lot going on for them. I was just turned off by their entire romance.

The love scenes were okay, but once again nothing special about them. There was something about them that had an important missing piece, and that was the emotional intimacy of the scene. It was more about the lust, and despite the fact that they claimed to never stop loving each other, it didn't feel like it. It felt like that they finally scratched the itch that they had after never having consummated their relationship in the past where she was only seventeen and him not much older. They were kids in love. A less mature love, so I was expecting that they would have that more mature love and love scenes, but they didn't, and that was really disappointing.

Overall the story wasn't a bad one with many typical Harlequin Presents themes that I enjoy and love, but the way that Marnie and Nikos story played out just really didn't do it for me. There was that spark missing. The interest just wasn't there. Just how it all played out was not enjoyable. There just needed to be more depth and intimacy more throughout the book instead of the focus being on the sex and romance of the entire situation. That wasn't appealing to me. I wish there was more of the enjoyable angst between them then I think my review would have been very different and I would have been more engrossed in the story. This one just felt really flat to me, and I did skim a majority because there was nothing holding me to it. I needed to be more immersed than I was. I had to believe in their relationship. Their love, and I just didn't.

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## **Lakshmi C says**

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## **Fanniny Moreno Zavaleta says**

I've read non-HP by Clare Connelly and liked them better.

Here, the h rubbed me the wrong way from the beginning and the H wasn't outstanding ??

The best part was Anderson ??



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## **Jenny says**

Rich socialite heroine rejected poor hero when they were young and years later he is back for revenge. He will pay her father's debt if she agrees to marry him. But what he doesn't know is that Marnie married him not because of his blackmail but because she never stopped loving him.

Amazing marriage of convenience story. This is Clare's debut Harlequin Presents novel and I am hoping she writes many more Harlequin Presents. Heroine was my kind of heroine. Virginal, loving, forgiving and self-sacrificing. Hero was your typical presents hero ruthless and cruel at first but it quickly becomes obvious how much he cares for his wife. Very emotional, romantic book. Epilogue with their baby girl was so sweet. I recommend!

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## **Helen says**

This is MS Connelly's debut for Harlequin and what a beauty it is there is sensuality oozing from the pages and sparks flying in so many directions between the hero Nikos Kyriazis who is after revenge and the heroine Marnie Kenington, Marnie is the socialite known of Lady Heiress but there is a lot more to Marnie than most people see and I loved getting to know her and Nikos on this very sizzling journey to a very well deserved HEA.

Marnie met and fell in love with the boy from the wrong side of the tracks when she was seventeen he was friends with her sister Libby's fiancé but when Libby passes away and devastates the family Marnie's parents force her to get rid of Nikos she cannot refuse them so hurts herself and Nikos and she never forgets him and although she has a few dates here and there no one will ever be Nikos.

Nikos is devastated when firstly Marnie drops him and he is bought off by her father but it makes him so very determined to make something of himself and that he does he works hard becomes a billionaire and is so sure that one day he will have his revenge and when he finds out that Marnie's father is almost bankrupt he steps in with cash on the condition that Marnie marry him finally his revenge, but in the end his life is about to change forever.

Oh what a story the emotion and the depth of the characters had me turning the pages my heart went out to Marnie so many times and Nikos I could have hit him but I knew that his love for Marnie was so very strong as hers was for Nikos. I loved Marnie's strength and courage to stand up to Nikos throughout the story and her caring and loyalty to her family and of course to Nikos yes there were a few tears lots of sighing and lots of smiles in the end. Thank you for a fabulous story MS Connelly one that I thoroughly enjoyed and can highly recommend.

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## **Maura says**

6 years earlier, 17-year-old Marnie Kenington was pressured by her parents into giving up the love of her life, which set him on a vengeful path. Now, Marnie's father is completely bankrupt and in financial danger

and Nikos Kyriazis is ready to bail him out, for a price. He wants Marnie to marry him so he can more or less punish her, show her how much she wants him and how little he cares and hold his now, much loftier position over Marnie's and her family's heads. But he doesn't expect to actually start to like her again. Nor does Marnie expect Nikos to have so much anger. But she knows she still loves him and hopes they can make their marriage work.

So not a bad opener for this author in the Harlequin Presents series. I liked the set up which was nice and angsty. Nikos blackmails Marnie into marriage and holds on to his anger for a surprisingly long time, and while he's not exactly kind to her, he's not exactly an ass either. He hurts her feelings plenty, but mostly through his disdain, his sneers and his neglect. Later, when he gets all grovelly, and kind of bumbles it since he (view spoiler) it gets kind of endearing. All he wants to do is undo his mistake and he doesn't realize he's making it worse. Marnie I didn't like as much. She was a good character with a level head and a lot of kindness, but she had an underlying doormat streak that irked me. It really felt like she was living at Nikos's whim and just hoping and dreaming that he'd see the truth all the while tolerating his disdainful attitude and outright anger. I especially didn't like all their justifications there at the end...instead of admitting that anyone was in the wrong, they gloss over everything with lies. Marnie makes an excuse for Nikos that he blackmailed her into marriage because he'd loved her all along and wanted to help her family, to which Nikos later agrees. Meanwhile, Marnie's also telling him that all along she married him because she'd loved him and couldn't imagine a life without him... Then in epilogue they work together to completely rewrite the story with falsehoods - she claims she never doubted his love for her and he claims that he called her "agape" because even through his anger, he hoped they'd be in love again. I didn't really buy that given their behavior in the story. Still this was a pretty good blackmail story without a tantruming heroine or asshole hero and you do feel Nikos melting throughout the story and trying to fight it, while Marnie's suffering is pretty well conveyed. This was a well-written story - I'd be curious to see more by this author, but using different tropes.

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## Camy says

I didn't know what to expect since I had never read this author before, but I absolutely loved this story. There was something about the heroine's reserved personality that really resonated with me, especially when she worked so hard to present a mask to the world. She was not as tempestuous and irrational as some other Presents heroines, which is what I really enjoyed about her. I found it easy to sympathize with her difficult family situation, being overshadowed by her sister, undervalued by her own parents. There is one scene of the hero with the heroine's father that perfectly explains how her parents thought of her—every year they would do a family picture, but after her sister died, they stopped doing it. Her father says, “What was the point?” As if a picture of the heroine wasn't worth the effort without her sister. That scene really made me ache for how the heroine has been treated her whole life and why she made the choices she did.

The hero's reasons for marrying her smack of complete self-delusion, but for a man who had been so shamed and who hated himself so much for taking her father's money, I would expect a lot of self-delusion to come into the picture.

The story has a great deal of emotional conflict, which kept me interested and engaged for the entire book. I also liked the author's lyrical writing style and how she expressed each character's emotions. It was very intelligent but also very moving.

The ending was a tad cheesy, but I was primed for that happy ending and really enjoyed it. Overall, a really great book with characters I liked. I would definitely read this author's other works.

