



## The Marriage War

*Charlotte Lamb*

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*Something worth fighting for!*

Sancha's first instinct was to burn the anonymous letter. Its malicious message couldn't be true: Do you know where your husband will be tonight? Do you know who he'll be with?

Sancha adored Mark now as much as when they were first married, even though family life meant that they were no longer so close. She'd never dreamed that her tough, handsome husband would fall into the arms of another woman!

The battle was on - though when Sancha confronted Mark, she discovered the physical attraction between them was as strong as ever. But she wouldn't let herself be seduced by him.... Not yet!

## The Marriage War Details

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## From Reader Review *The Marriage War* for online ebook

### Fre06 Begum says

No stars for this book I hated the male lead the guy was just nasty I mean how could he even think about having an affair and then on top of that admitting that he was on the verge of falling for the other woman and they got physical enough that he nearly slept with her! As far as I am concerned he was unfaithful in everything but the actual act and even then he admitted they did a lot of touching it doesn't say much when a man who feels neglected cos his wife is too busy looking after his children can so easily fall for another woman and on top of that defend her and actually feels sorry for her rather than have real remorse over his actions! This book really pissed me off and I felt really let down by the author so I stopped reading her books afterwards just in case her future books held the same cheating theme!

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### StMargarets says

Four stars for intensity, although CL pulls her punches quite a bit. It's the same scenario as Michelle Reid's *The Ultimate Betrayal* - overwhelmed housewife heroine has been neglecting her ambitious husband. Husband seeks emotional solace/ego stroking from the OW but doesn't "go all the way."

Heroine discovers the affair from an anonymous letter. At first she denies it and then realizes hubby has been staying late at work a lot. From there she beats up on herself - they are sleeping in twin beds, she has neglected herself in favor of the children, she hasn't fought for her man.

Her sister sends her out to the hairdressers and an afternoon off. Heroine sees hero with the OW going into a trendy lunch spot.

When heroine confronts the hero - he denies sleeping with the OW and says it's all the heroine's fault for being too tired, then he shifts to his worries about his job and how the OW listens to him. It's the usual caught husband blather.

The heroine still feels guilty for being a boring housefrau, so she blames the OW for stalking the hero. Hero sticks up for the OW calling her a nice girl and claiming the relationship just happened without any ulterior motives. Heroine turns out to be right since the OW does not go down without a fight - she comes to the house and does her best bunny boiler imitation. She also admits to sending the anonymous letter.

Hero's eyes are open, but H/h aren't out of the woods yet. Heroine won't have sex with him until she feels she can trust him. They have a nice family day out. Hero opens up about his job and plans to move North for a fresh start. They see the OW stalking another man and the heroine realizes she's no longer a threat. Hero finally grovels. HEA

So CL divides the blame - the heroine for neglecting her marriage to take care of the kids, the hero for neglecting his marriage to take care of his ego, and the OW for being a stalker/emotional parasite.

The hero has the most blame here and because of that, he has to change the most. I liked how CL showed this. He actually gets the children ready one morning and on another day he makes dinner while she is putting them to bed. He's also willing to leave the firm and move to a part of the country where this is more

of a life/work balance. He's an arrogant jerk at the beginning, and that was fun to read because angst.\* Plus most people are defensive when they are caught doing something wrong.

The heroine also needed to change - she had to ask for help from her sister and neighbor and husband. She actually got to enjoy life rather than be a drudge and that was gratifying to see.

OW was fired from her job - but she found a married sugar daddy, so she landed on her feet like an indestructible OW.

As you can see, not a lot of new ground was covered here. And the emotions aren't writ large like in Michelle Reid's story. It's more matter-of-fact in tone. The hero was stupid. The heroine forgave him. The kids and lots of sex are keeping them together. It's a young marriage problem and not a tragedy. That the heroine has a career to pursue once the youngest is in school is probably a good thing and makes me think they can keep their HEA.

The secondary characters are all well drawn - especially the H/h's toddler-from-hell. I was exhausted just imagining keeping up with her antics. Give this one a whirl if cheating scenarios intrigue you.

\*Or should I say - reach through the screen to slap this hero silly? Many, many readers hate this guy - so be warned.

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### **Megzy says**

They had three children under the age of 7. The youngest was a demanding 2 year old girl who needed to be watched like a hawk and required constant attention. Her name should have been mischief.

She went through post-partum depression after having her daughter and later she was so busy taking care of their kids that she had no time for him. They lived like roommates after their daughter was born instead of husband and wife. They slept in separate bed and hardly talked. Add a young secretary who wanted him as a husband and would go to any mean to make it happen to the mix and you got yourself a story.

Don't get me wrong I still blame him for most of the problems. Instead of going to his wife with problems at work, he fell right into his secretary trap and almost destroyed their marriage but I do blame her too partially. She also stopped communicating with him and made it easy for him to feel neglected.

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### **Booklover says**

Intense Emotional Read,the thing that spoiled the book for me was H was such a selfish immature jerk,he very cordially put all the blame on his wife for his straying,i wanted severe grovelling was disappointed was through the book h was shown doormat taking all garbage behaviour from H,i completely understand she was at fault too-she realized her mistakes and she wanted to save her marriage but at the cost of your self-respect-this i could'nt digest,also she should have made him grovel but she gave in too easily

But i liked the book  
Recommend it

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## **Naksed says**

One person's grovel is another person's halfhearted apology, I guess...\*shrug\*

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## **Willow says**

When I first started this book I couldn't believe how much it pissed me off. I'm laughing now, because I was practically foaming at the mouth (seriously, see my updates.)

I guess it's because I can't stand cheaters. I think it's so self-centered, selfish and cruel to fool around. Anybody who has an affair is pretty much saying that their amorous needs are more important than anything else, including their loved one's feelings. So immediately I thought Mark was a colossal douche.

Sancha is a stay-at-home mother raising three little kids when she gets an anonymous letter telling her that her husband is fooling around with his assistant. This starts Sancha in a downward descent as she spots Mark with his new honey at a restaurant, and later she discovers him at the woman's apartment.

Deciding to confront him, Sancha waits up for him until one in the morning, but when she sees him, she gets sidetracked by his naked hot body. WTF??? (I thought you were going to smack him upside the head with a fry pan, not drool over him?)

Anyway, when they do finally talk, he blames the whole affair on her because she spent all her time with the children and never any time on him. \*eyeroll\*

And what drove me batty the most was that she believed him. After all, she had let herself go, wearing jeans all the time instead of dresses. And most nights she was too tired to have sex because she had been chasing three kids all day. Of course he had to get his loving elsewhere. (bleuaghhh)

Yes I felt sorry for Sancha. Being without an income and being saddled with three small children has put her in a very precarious position. But OMG! What a doormat!

This was about the time Mark did a massive character change in two days and became the perfect father and husband. It turns out he never slept with the other woman, only dated her (so that doesn't count, does it?) Not to mention, the other woman is a psycho bitch who actually comes to their house and throws herself at him (poor Mark was a victim.)

There are a few hunky love scenes with Mark saying (like Rhett Butler) "You're not shutting me out tonight!" and Sancha going "No no, I can't trust you," even though she really wants him.

These of course are all interrupted by one of the kids.

Then there's some dribble at the end about how marriage is a lot of work:

*What did marriage mean? Sharing your life with someone, taking care of each other, loving each other – marriage was a two-way road. You both had to work at it.*

Are you kidding me? LMAO!

On the whole this was a fun book. I enjoyed it immensely. Any book that can get me that pissed off has got to be good. LOL

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## **boogenhagen says**

Re The Marriage War - Charlotte Lamb gets book ten of the Forbidden Series and starts her own little Sisters mini series.

This book, like The Ultimate Betrayal is about a husband who almost sleeps with his secretary. There is definite emotional infidelity and unlike TUB, this H isn't sorry and he blames the h for his marital disinterest and his 'oops, minor mishap' because his affair partner is truly a lovely, sweet girl in his estimation -which as we shall soon see is the only one that counts.

The book starts with the H and h in twin beds. Apparently after the birth of their third child, (the h and H have two boys aged five and six and a two year old rambunctious toddler girl,) the H demanded twin beds because the h's constant getting up and down at night was disturbing his rest.

The h had a complication filled pregnancy and then she had a really tough time emotionally after her daughter's birth. Plus they have a big house and two active boys and the h is so busy being the domestic engineer that the H feels neglected.

The h gets a letter that her husband is having an affair and she is devastated. She realizes that she and the H have grown apart and that he looks at her with loathing. When the h calls her older sister for moral support, the sister - who is the h of the next book- sends the h out to have a day to herself and to get herself a little make over.

The h sees her husband and the OW out together and later that night, when the H has lied again about where and who he is doing, the h calls the OW's flat and hears her husband's voice. The h is furious, betrayed, hurt and runs the gamut of all those heartbreaking emotions as she waits for her husband to come home.

He eventually does and sleeps in the spare room, supposedly not wanting to disturb her. He leaves early the next morning before she can confront him and then the h decides to take steps. She gets a sympathetic neighbor to take her kids and the well meaning woman tells the h to not be hasty in kicking the H out.

(The neighbors' own husband ran off with a teenager and the woman was so irked, she told him not to come back when it all went south. The woman regrets it dearly, so the h has to have a think about things.)

The H returns and the big confrontation is on, it has only been a few days since the letter and the phone calls and the h lets him know the jig is up. The h knows about his affair and the story devolves into how mistreated and abused the H is and the h only wants him for his money to support her big house and three kids she insisted on having.

(Which caused me to down several shots of the Captain. The H has his own business and it is in danger of a

takeover. He wanted the house and he had no objections, nor did anything to stop having kids, though he is a very indifferent father at best.

He spends money on high priced suites and taking his tart out, yet the h has to have an allowance and he hasn't bother to actually increase it in ages. But per CL the H is mistreated one and his straying is all her fault.)

The h is more shattered by his accusations and hurt by his admission that he thinks he might love the OW, the H gets nasty then. He finally notices her new hair style and her new dress and he accuses her of tarting herself out to keep him, now that she thinks the gravy train is going to end.

The H tries to make a roofie kissing move, but the h is horrified and the kids come back. The kids are riled up, as little kids who have adventures tend to be and the H tries it on again later that night, only the little girl has a nightmare and the h has to go sort her out.

The next day, the h and H manage to send the kids off to the zoo with the helpful neighbor and the H claims that he will end things with the OW and take the h to his favorite restaurant for lunch. The H goes off to the OW's house, he refuses to let the h come with him and they miss their reservation for the restaurant - tho the h learns that the H has taken the OW there and presented her as his wife.

The h is now frantic, she really doesn't want a divorce, tho she thinks she might be able to start a photography business if she ends up alone. The H is gone several hours and when he returns, the h learns that the OW threw a fit and she decides to blame the OW for tempting the H - essentially she giving him a get out of jail free card.

But unlike the h of Emma Darcy's Marraige Meltdown, this h doesn't leap into the sexual shenanigans to hold her H - even tho that is what he is pushing for. She wants absolute proof that the H is going to be faithful and that he still loves her.

The H does a lot of chatting around the subject and the h relents, she will finally sleep with him. But before that can happen, the OW shows up while the h is in the bath and when the h walks in on the H and the OW, they are kissing in the foyer of the h's home.

The h hits a major meltdown and the OW relates all about how the H despises her, and wants to dump her but can't because he can't afford a divorce. This throws the h for a loop, then she thinks about it and realizes that the OW is right - the h will get the marital home and a big settlement if they divorce, so the H is only staying because he can't afford not to.

The H half-heartedly denies the accusations and the h is still going to fight for her man, so the OW is dismissed, the h sorta believes the H's excuses and the next day they all go out as a family. The H makes an extremely half-assed attempt to get the kids breakfast and bring the h some toast.

Over the course of the day, the H is continually frustrated by the toddler and complains about her endlessly, but the h is just thrilled that he is actually spending time with his kids. They end up in a restaurant and the OW shows up. The H walks her out and the h has to deal with a toddler tantrum in the middle of all of this.

When the h and kids are leaving, the h sees the OW on the arm of a wealthy man and she finally relaxes. The H has lost his shot and her marriage is safe for now. The H also explains that he will probably be bought out of his business and they will have to downsize and move to a smaller home in the North, where the H will

take a job for less money.

The H and h finally have their big passion moment and the H claims he loves her - tho it was said during sex, so that is highly suspect- and can an assume that we have reached an HEA.

CL leaves us with the homily that marriage is two people working together, but implies that the woman is the one who needs to do the real work. While such a 1950's attitude is very in keeping with CL's probably real life opinion on marriage and relationships, it is very disconcerting to read such a pragmatic throwback at this time in the HP timeline.

I couldn't buy the HEA here and because I have read the next book as well, I really don't buy this outcome. The H is not happy with his life, he thinks the h is a drab, his kids don't interest him and he is more than likely downsizing and hiding assets to run off with the next sweet young office assistant that comes his way.

The h wants to believe and has doormat all over her, so she buys the trite and boring lecture on how it is all her fault she is running off her man and I thought that pathetic piece of mushroom fertilizer was bull even when I read this book twenty years ago.

From the author who wrote Runaway Wife only seven years prior to this, this book felt like a slap in the face. CL's attitude was always very conservative in her books, but considering her own personal success in life, I would have liked to see a bit more support for the h in this to be more than a household drudge, mother and sex toy.

CL did a probably realistic story in terms of what an economically dependent wife with three small children has to tolerate in order to get to a place where she can find her own way, but I wasn't happy about it and I wouldn't call this a romantic or inspiring HPlandia outing, though I admit I am always riveted to the story whenever I read this.

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### **Veronica Mckenna says**

I have read some terrible sexist stories with scumbag heroes but this took the biscuit. He cheated and yet it was the wife's fault!

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### **Jenny says**

Hero was an asshole and a cheater! I give it 4 stars cause it was so intense and compelling i couldn't stop reading this. CL was a great author!

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### **Anusuya says**

I read this one years ago. While it is true that the h was busy with their 2year old and so 'neglected' the H, that is no excuse to 'almost' get intimate with someone else. I mean what an ass. I would have liked it more had the H been contrite instead of 'Oh its your fault I acted like a jerk'.



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## **Roub says**

i hated it! 2nd worst book i read by CL, who mind you, is my favourite author! i was so shocked and disgusted by the pathetic heroine! sancha made absolutely no move to bring mark to heel. she was just desperate and afraid he wud leave her. dats all she cared about. mark even told her maybe he was in love wid jacqui and she still wanted to stay married to him!?! in my opinion, mark did not love sancha. he was actively pursuing jacqui and very obviously did not care a jot about his wife! he criticized sancha's appearance and clothes. just bcoz ur wife has turned dowdy, u turn to OW? just bcoz she became absorbed wid ur kids!?! he's the sort of man who will turn to OW again and will definitely cheat into the future! so dat their HEA is rubbish!

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## **Lu Bielefeld \*read.laugh.love\* says**

Despicable hero who felt neglected by his wife who takes care of three young children and the House and has post partum depression. He has an affair with a co-worker and admits to be falling in love with her. And upon discovering their affair he is not remorseful because he claims that she had no time for him. But for dinner and hanging out with another woman he has time and money to spend, but not to help with the care of children and alleviate the burden of excessive domestic work of our heroine.

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## **KC says**

A provoking book about adultery! Don't read this if you are in the mood for a romantic read because you won't be getting it here. The author hammers home the message that marriage is work, with communication a key component to a happy relationship.

Mark cracked me up with his claim that he didn't cheat as he and the other woman, Jacqui (a.k.a. Crazy Tart), hadn't had sex yet. They had gone on dates, kissed and touched—it was only a matter of time. So yeah . . . it's still cheating!

In the end, Mark realizes he hurt his wife Sancha badly and hates himself for it. He asks for forgiveness, knowing now that he should have talked to Sancha about feeling unhappy instead of finding comfort with Crazy Tart.

Sancha unbelievably takes some of the blame for Mark's wandering, saying she should have noticed his unhappiness and tried to talk to him as well. Sancha was willing to forgive him because still loved him. Mark professes his love too and all ends well.

I read this book before I realized how much I hate adulterous heroes. It receives two stars because I somehow didn't hate either protagonist, and I wanted to see if Mark redeemed himself (sort of).

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## **Mo says**

Dating someone else is cheating, dipshit. The fact you think it's cheating only when you put your dick in another woman says everything the reader needs to know about your lack of intelligence. I wanted the h to castrate the H. That is not the way a romance book should make you feel.

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## **Anne says**

I love Charlotte Lamb, but the hero in this book is one of her worst.

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