

The Escort

Gina Robinson

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ON THE WAY TO MEET HER HUSBAND Young, beautiful Italian mail-order bride Angelina D'Alessandro is married by proxy to an older man she's never met-her only chance to escape the poverty of Italy for the hope of a new life in America. But to join him in the wilderness of Idaho in 1899 she's not allowed to travel alone. Now she's torn between duty and desire as she fights her growing attraction to her handsome and enigmatic escort. SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH HER ESCORT Mine owner and explosives expert Tonio Domani prefers to travel alone. In his line of work he can't afford distractions. Against his better judgment he's coerced into playing chaperone to a beautiful and tempting bride. The dangers he faces daily in his mine are real and the increasingly volatile powder keg of North Idaho's mining country makes his return there even more dangerous. But what scares him most is the rising passion he feels for Angelina and the danger of losing his heart to her.

The Escort Details

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Sassy says

"The Escort" by Gina Robinson was a fantastic story of American history that was extremely well written and well thought-out. I found it to be a very sweet romance, especially if you love hot, hunky Italians that take your breath away.

Angel, (Angelina D'Alessandro) our heroine, is on her way from Italy to meet a 'proxy' husband she has never met. She is then escorted by the very handsome, Tonio, from New York to Idaho, a little mining town where her husband is located. Tonio always seems to be coming to the aid of Angel on their trip and things become quite spicy between them during this very long train ride.

There was a lot of really great research done by the author, and great detail was given to bring this wonderful romance story to us. I found it very refreshing. There is also plenty of adventure and intrigue along the way that definitely kept my interest.

I look forward to reading more by this very talented author.

A copy of this book was given to me by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Delta says

An honorable woman...

Angelina Allessandro fled the poverty of southern Italy in the 1890's. Her parents arranged a proxy marriage to an old friend of her father's who had emigrated to the United States and was working as a miner in Idaho. Angelina was to travel to Idaho with her brother-in-law, Paolo, since it wasn't safe or proper for a woman to travel west alone. When Paolo is marked for deportation due to a medical condition, Angelina finds herself stranded in New York City.

A handsome chaperone...

Antonio Domani (Tonio) was in NYC settling the estate of his late uncle. Tonio was part owner of a mine in Idaho not far from the home of Angelina's husband. Although he far preferred to travel alone, he agreed to escort Angelina safely to her destination.

Longing for one while promised to another...

As they travelled together, it became increasingly difficult to ignore their mutual attraction; but, there was never any question that Angelina would fulfill her promise to honor the marriage arranged by her family. Awaiting them in Idaho was impending violence between union and mining company factions that would

threaten everyone involved. Having delivered her safely, would Tonio hold himself apart or continue to see to Angelina's safety???

They both must choose...

The Escort is an engaging read (somewhat more historic than romance). Gina Robinson's historic information revealed some of the issues facing women, immigrants, and miners in the 1890's. The detail about train travel was very interesting, as well as being essential to the plot. Angelina is a very believable heroine, and Tonio is a swoon worthy hero. I will be looking for more books by Robinson. If you like historic romance, I am recommending *The Escort*.

Amy says

I love the writing style of Gina. It's not too simple, yet not too complex. I found myself lost in the trek to Idaho with Tonio and Angelina. It had just enough excitement and action to keep me entertained. Had some heated intimate moments, but I wouldn't complain if there were a few more. ;) Over all I loved this book, and now want to read the other two Gina has written that have similar covers.

Kelly_Instalove says

Review coming soon....

Beth says

Glad that I overlooked the suggestive title and gave this book a try. I really enjoyed the history of Italian immigrants, silver mining, and life around the turn of the century.

Patty Beaty says

Oh how I love this story. A young innocent woman who thinks she can take on life all by herself soon finds out she wants/needs the help and attention of her escort.

N. Kuhn says

I think this was a sweet romance. You watched it develop throughout. I found myself cheering for Tonio. He's quite the hero in the story. Always coming to Angel's rescue. I rather liked the full blown history of mining that was woven through the book. But, at times it seemed long winded and I wanted it to get back to the story. This is a good read though! Most historicals I grab are based in England and titles and what not, so it was refreshing for an American history tale, especially a sweet romance like this. I think for the most part

Gaele says

Somewhere in my pile of TBR and half-formulated reviews, this has languished. And when I was comparing to be read titles to what I have in my kindle – BINGO. Up it pops. Apologies to Gina Robertson and the good folks at both NetGalley and Aspendawn Books for my tardy response.

I am in love with historical romance: more so if there is a chance for me to learn something, or see a new portrayal of a time, or situation yet untouched upon. Gina Robertson brings us an Italian family saga, from mail-order bride to travels through New York, Chicago and on to the mining area in Idaho. With all of the expected difficulties inherent for a new immigrant unfamiliar with language and the country, a woman needing to travel with an escort, meeting a man she has committed to marry without knowing and the labor difficulties that were frequent in the day. So I was ready for a plot rich in emotion and empathy.

Angelina leaves her home and the poverty in Italy to travel to her new husband in Idaho. It was the custom of the time for women to not travel unescorted, so her brother-in-law is her chosen escort. Unfortunately, he is being denied entry into the US for a health condition, and Angelina is left without chaperone or real sense of how to get to Idaho without him. Fortunately, Tonio, a mine owner who lives not far from her intended is in the city to handle some personal business, and he agrees to act as chaperone and see her safely to her new life.

What we have here was an opportunity to play on the reader's emotions and take the attraction between the two further: but both are honourable people and refuse to act on the building attraction, despite the almost palpable grip. The story wends through the scenery, detailing travel by rail, beautifully incorporating bits of history and emotion into the story as we travel westward. Tonio is a wonderful hero, stepping in to provide protection for Angelina, and even helping to unravel some of the mysteries of life in the United States to her. And she is safely delivered to her husband to be, but with an uprising at the mine between workers, mine owners and those who would seek to organize the miners into a unionized group, the story doesn't lack for relevant insertions of issues of the day.

What I did find missing, however, were the answers to so many questions: whatever happened to Paolo, we don't see how Tonio was familiar to her family, nor do we actually see any happy ever after ending. Parts got long-winded and meandered, and while some tightening of the detail and expository scene setting would have helped, the relationship tension between Tonio and Angelina was uneven, and often seemed to peak at the most inopportune times without warning. While I enjoyed the approach and the story, and the romantic elements were well-suited to the time and the characters, I still wanted a bit more to grab on to.

I received an eBook copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility

Celeste says

Not much to say...it was an OK story, but hard to finish. Written well, it just couldn't hold my interest.

Katie says

Tonio and Angel are good characters. She's not a society girl, call girl or a shrew. Tonio is intelligent but secretive. It's one of the best historical romance novels I have read recently. It's not a cliche and it's not set in England or Scotland. There will be no spoilers here, you should read the book.