



Playing the Spanish Billionaire

M.K. Meredith

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Mateu Espasa, CEO of Barcelona's most luxurious hotel, knows how to deliver a five-star experience. When he learns the identity of hotel reviewer, London Montgomery, it seems harmless to play as her local tour guide to make sure she enjoys her stay and places his hotel back in the running for the *Elites Travel and Life Magazine's* hotel of fame. But every moment with London makes Mateu want her just as much as he needs that review.

Constantly working to cover her mother's medical bills, London needs to have a little fun on this vacation. First on her list: *Kiss a hot Spaniard*, and her knight-in-shining-Armani at the train station seems to fit that bill—he's local and definitely hot! But when she discovers the man charming her is really CEO of the hotel she's reviewing—supposedly secretly—she decides to see how far he'll go to make her dream vacation a once in a lifetime experience.

Mateu shows her the romance of his city and his soul, but when the truth comes out, the fun is over, and it turns out nobody wins in a game of hearts.

Playing the Spanish Billionaire Details

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From Reader Review Playing the Spanish Billionaire for online ebook

Heather says

This book is SO beautiful. Not only the sweet, funny, and passionate love story, but the descriptions of Barcelona. I will never make it to Barcelona, but I feel as though I have been there thanks to Ms. Meredith's gorgeous, descriptive writing.

Even without the glorious descriptions of the city of Barcelona, this book is a five star read because of the characters that drive it. MK Meredith has an incredible way of taking a situation that is not one of my favorites (in this case two main characters not being honest with each other) and making me adore the book she has written based around that plot by making the character(s) keeping secrets too likable and the relationships they forge too special to not root for. Even though they were lying to each other from the start, I adored both London and Mateu. I thought that London was brave and strong, and my heart broke for her personal situation. That she was willing to do anything for her mother made me root even harder for to find her happily ever after with a sexy Spaniard. And then there was Mateu. Oh baby, was that not-a-Spaniard drop dead sexy. Not because he's a rich man who was able and willing show London an amazing time, but because of the way that he openly and unashamedly loves his family. Every time he took care of his dad (as much as he was allowed to), chatted with his brother, cuddled with his nephew, and hugged and kissed his mom, I felt myself fall a little deeper in love with him. And his family was equally as wonderful. His mother's gesture at the end made me teary-eyed and made me want to hug her tight. I would happily move to the orchard and live with his amazing family, smelling lemons and sleeping in a hammock for the rest of my days.

If you enjoy being transported to another place as you read, laughing out loud, and characters that have incredible personal and sexual chemistry, you have got to read this book, you will not be sorry.

I requested and was generously granted an ARC of this book. I was under absolutely no obligation at all to write a review - I did so because I adored it.

Katrina Berry says

Playing the Spanish Billionaire by M.K. Meredith is Book 2 of the International Temptation Series.

Oh mah dayummmm...I'm so in lurve. Vivid and captivating, I was swept away with this story. I've found myself a new go-to author. Yay me!

Please note that an ARC was generously provided in exchange for an honest review of which this is both honest and completely voluntary.

Jennifer says

I love books written by MK Meredith and *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* may be my favorite. Mateu needs a five star review for his hotel so he can spend more time helping his family. He learns that London, a noted hotel reviewer, is staying at his hotel and decided to wine and dine her into a good review. London is taking a much needed vacation in Barcelona, her first no work trip in years. She meets handsome Mateu within minutes of getting into Barcelona, only to quickly learn his identity. Their cat and mouse game can only end in heartache. I loved this story!! London is so spunky and independent. Mateu is charming and sexy but there is so much more to his personality. I loved watching them fight falling in love!! Such a great story!

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

London Montgomery is a woman that needs some downtime from the stresses in her life. Her constant worry for her mother and their financial situation has weighed heavily on her for a while, but unfortunately there's nothing more she can do than what she's been doing by working her butt off. Yet, she needs a break and she's determined to mark off the items on her list while she's on her dream vacation. First on her list is to Kiss a Spaniard, and Mateu Espasa seems like the perfect man to kiss. Except London can only carry on so long before she confesses why she's with Mateu. Will he be able to forgive her, or will the past keep them from achieving their happy ever after?

What a wonderfully written, fast-paced, captivating read Ms. Meredith has penned in this story, encompassing a heroine in desperate need of taking her dream vacation; a hero determined to find a way to be there for his family, even if it means using the heroine; and a couple with so much chemistry that I was surprised by how long it took for them to take their relationship from platonic to physical. The way this story started had me liking both the hero and heroine immediately, and I loved how they came face-to-face for the first time. Did Mateu set London up, or was she just one of the unlucky ones?

The dialogue was well-written and had me hooked due to the main characters back stories and their growing relationship. London needs the time away because she's under a lot of pressure trying to make ends meet and look after her mother. All she wants to do is have the chance to have a little fun, cross off a few of the items she's listed, but it's hard to let go of the worry she feels for her mother. What if something happens to her mother when London is on a different continent? Moreover, London has a few decisions to make that aren't easy. Should she give Mateu a chance, even knowing his motive for getting close with her? Should she admit the truth of why she's spending time with him after learning what she does about his ex?

While the hero, he's confident, works too much, loyal and I liked how determined he was to show London a good time, which is proven by all the things he does for her and the places he takes her. I could understand why he reacts the way he does when London admits why she's been spending time with him, allowing him to show her the best of Barcelona. Yet, at the same time, I found he was being a tad unfair, considering he was using her just as much. But what I liked most of all about the hero is his love for his family and that he would do anything for them. Really, he's lucky to have such a wonderful mom who isn't afraid to knock some sense into him -- so to speak -- when it comes to London. Advice about how he shouldn't let the heroine go when it's palpable she's special to him.

Overall, Ms. Meredith has penned a fantastic read in this second book of her *International Temptation* series where the fast-paced plot together with the main characters dialogue, chemistry and back stories entertained me from start to finish. The way this story ended had me smiling, because Mateu certainly delivers in making things right with the heroine the way he helps her cross off another item on her list and gives her the

best surprise ever. I would recommend *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* by MK Meredith, if you enjoy the opposites attract trope or books by authors Victoria Davies, Stephanie London, Naima Simone or Sarah Balance.

Sarah Ballance says

Be still my sobbing heart. Or suck it up. Anything other than this blubbering mess into which I'd morphed by the end of this book. Because ERMAGERD.

Beautifully seductive, *PLAYING THE SPANISH BILLIONAIRE* is one of those deliciously enticing, let-the-world-just-wait-because-I-will-die-without-one-more-page must-read romances, and then you've hit the end and it's both the best and the worst thing ever because OMG THOSE CHARACTERS. London is that bestie you've always wanted, and Mateu-not-a-Spaniard-thank-you-very-much is, well, everything. Yeah, he's up to something, but it's not exactly what he has in mind. Ms. Meredith sees to that within the pages of what is hands-down one of the best romances I've ever read.

Yep, I said it.

The. Best.

It's hard to put into words what makes this one so special, and perhaps that difficulty in pinpointing any one thing is exactly what makes it that way. Real life romances aren't words. They're moments. They're messy. They defy explanation. So how Ms. Meredith captured so perfectly every iota of these two falling in love, especially when they didn't want it (looking at you, all-the-reasons-keeping-them-apart), is beyond me. Some stories push the characters together and the romance doesn't feel natural. This one, the attraction is so palpable, the intimacy so deep, that sometimes it feels a little voyeuristic to stay in the room, but no shame, y'all. I stayed, and I may have drooled a little. (Shush.)

And since we're being internationally tempted (a nod to the series title), the setting definitely deserves a confetti toss. I've read some great first lines in my day, but this snarled me quite indecently, considering we'd just met (um, hello, Erotic Museum de Barcelona, and why did I not visit you when I had the chance?), and just kept sucking me further in. If you think you might not lose yourself in this book because Barcelona sounds too exotic or too distant from your life, I have news for you: you're about to go to Barcelona. Ms. Meredith captures the city and its surroundings in vibrant, stunning detail, but softly, with an artist's brushstroke. The result is breathtaking, and with a kind of subtlety that quietly lends brilliance to the nuances of everyday life. Long after you've closed the pages, the city will settle in your memories, a place you've been even if you've never stepped foot on Spanish soil.

But this romance, y'all.

I laughed out loud. I swooned. I may have hiccup-sobbed. This book, this love, that defies description is each of those things, and there's really nothing you can do to comprehend the enormity of an author's ability to capture all of that. You just read it, become embarrassingly invested in the characters, develop an irrational need to go (or go back to) Barcelona, and either vow to immediately visit a nude beach or swear you'll never touch toe to sand.

Either way, it'll be arguably the best couple of hours you'll ever spend reading a book, and if that doesn't deserve a five star rating, then nothing ever will.

Copy provided for review, but subsequently purchased.

Valeen Robertson says

Playing the Spanish Billionaire is both sweet and hot. London is on a desperately needed vacation to Spain when she meets Mateu, a hot local who ends up taking her on a vacation of a lifetime. London's finally able to relax and not worry so much about her mother and paying for their bills, and she has a check list of what this vacation should be composed of. Number 1 on her list? Kiss a hot Spaniard. Cue the hottie Spaniard, Mateu!

But, in reality, things are not quite as simple as that. Mateu has an agenda for his little vacation with London, an agenda she doesn't know. He knows she's a hotel reviewer and he assumes she's there to do an anonymous review of his family's hotel, so he decides to woo her into giving them a good review. Of course, she's not supposed to find out that he knows who she is. Just as he's not supposed to find out she's using him to get the vacation she's always wanted. Sigh...the miscommunication thing is such a common trope, and it never fails to cause a lot of problems for the couple. And it does cause a problem for our two lovers, a potentially relationship ending problem.

I wanted to smack Mateu a little for being such a hypocrite when he found out London's little misleading agenda, because he was guilty of something just as bad, if not worse. Thankfully, he realized (with the help of his amazing mother!) what an ass he was being, and decided to get London back, in the sweetest way. When he bared himself and opened up to her, I swooned a little, ok, a lot!

If you like your romances sweet and caliente, with a hot Spaniard (can I have a hot Spaniard à la Carlos Sainz Jr., of my own, too?) then *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* should be on your TBR list.

I received an ARC through NetGalley for an honest review.

Lori says

I loved this story. It had such a sensual and beautiful feel to it the entire time I was reading it. Mateu was the complete Latin lover package. While I did not like his deceit, he made up for it in the end. My heart hurt for London and all she was going through with her mom. She was strong, but very weary. I admired her do-whatever-it-takes-for-my-mom attitude. I loved the ending and got a little teary eyed. I only wish there was an epilogue because I would love a glimpse of their life in the future.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review from the publisher through Netgalley.

Linda Quick says

Loved! This is a delicious story that starts with London arriving in Barcelona for her dream vacation of a

lifetime. Upon arrival, an urchin swipes her luggage and a handsome local man gets it back for her. They begin to speak and are both a bit smitten.

London is a professional hotel reviewer and is published under an alias. Unfortunately, one of Mateu's employees knows her alias and has tipped him off to who she is. Thus begins an elaborate deceit - Mateu's of his true purpose in wining and dining her, and London's in that she knew who he is, but allowed it anyway and why she allowed it. Somewhere along the way, in the midst of all the deceit, each secretly fell in love with the other.

The author has a wonderful way to storytelling that just makes me fall in love with her characters. As if it wasn't enough to fall in love with London, Mateu, and their families, she made me fall in love with Barcelona. Her descriptions of the region are beautiful and made me feel almost like I was there....and like I'd like to travel there and experience the region for myself.

Fans of the genre will love this book. The author is on my must read authors' list and should probably be on yours as well. This is a must read novel.

RaeLatte says

Playing the Spanish Billionaire by MK Meredith is a Spanish Adventure set in the heart of Barcelona.

From the quaint streets sprinkled with restaurants and shops to the majestic landscape, MK has masterfully captured its beauty, aroma and sensual gastronomic experience. If you've never been, this book will leave you craving the many flavors of this Mediterranean city. I will never experience a tomato the same way again ?

A must read!

Sandi Bedell says

Barcelona is an enchanted setting for this romance. There's the beautiful ocean, historic buildings, the Erotic Museum of Barcelona as well as the Catalan culture and language. The ambiance and characters that populate this book are definitely an integral part of the background. I really enjoyed the colorful people as well as the background of Barcelona.

London Montgomery is a "secret guest" for a travel magazine. She not only supports herself but her mother who has Multiple Sclerosis. Many of her mother's bills are not covered so she works lots of overtime to pay for it. This trip was supposed to be an independent vacation but Mom suffers another setback and London has to slip into her work mode.

Mateu Espasa is the CEO of the five star hotel where London has reservations and his staff has identified her "secret guest" role. He tells her he is at the hotel to check on his contract with them for lemons. A characterization that is not exactly a lie, but not quite the truth. He is a champion of his city and his Catalan culture. The physical and emotional dance the two of them engage makes this book, one that I recommend. I also will be looking for new book by M.K. Meredith especially if they combine travel with romance. I received this book as an ARC and this is an independent review.

Jennifer Schultheis says

I loved *Playing The Spanish Billionaire* by MK Meredith. Mateu and London had plenty of chemistry and made me interested in their story. Meateu is the CEO of a luxurious hotel and prides himself on delivering an amazing experience. He needs the hotel to receive five stars, so when he finds out who the hotel reviewer is, he offers himself up as the tour guide. Keep in mind, she has no idea that he the CEO of the hotel she's reviewing. When London realizes who Meateu really is, will that be it between them or will Meateu give her the best experience of her lifetime?

I loved London, as a heroine. She reminds me a little of myself. She takes care of her mother and all the bills, but forgets to put herself first. Her doctor tells her to relax, so that's exactly what she plans to do in Barcelona...but she never counted on Meateu. I really enjoyed these two together and would definitely read their story over again. Definitely recommended.

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

London's secret was out, even before she hit the ground. She knows a secret also. Mateu is not just a simple tour guide seeking to make some change. He was the CEO of the very hotel that she came to experience and write about. But the thing was that this was just a chance to make herself have the fun that she so richly deserved. She was a hard-working woman.

This read was rich, warm and full of things specific to Barcelona. I loved the history brought in to make things feel more authentic. The sights. The sounds. The chemistry. Mateu bite off a bit more than he was expecting too. London's world change and she had decisions to make.

This was a good afternoon read that gave you a taste of vacation and the sun of the tropics.

Jennifer says

London Montgomery has been saving for years for her dream vacation. London writes reviews for *Elite Travel* magazine, so she is constantly on the go evaluating hotels and their amenities. She rarely gets out to experience the places she travels to, so she has a "bucket list" of things she wants to do while on vacation--including kissing a Spaniard.

Mateu is the CEO of the hotel chain where London is staying. He finds out she's coming to visit under a false name and thinks she's coming to do a surprise review, so he puts plans into motion to show her the experience of a lifetime. In the meantime, London finds out her mom's medication is no longer covered by insurance and is quite costly. Family is EVERYTHING to London, so she realizes she'll have to cut back on her bucket list activities to pay for the medication. She also decides to work while on vacation and sets out to review the hotel. London then finds out, with her best friend's help, who Mateu really is. She figures she'll enjoy her vacation on Mateu's dime.

What starts off as deception on both parts, quickly turns into more. When feelings get in the way and guilt starts to weigh on London's mind, she decides to confess. Mateu explodes, acting as if she was the only one being deceitful. Hurt and confused, because she knows he's lying, London decides to submit her review and cut her vacation short. Will Mateu wise up and go after the love of his life?

This was such a refreshing love story centered around family. I loved it! I thought I was going to have to reach through my Kindle to strangle Mateu, but he eventually decided to follow his heart! I read a gifted copy of this novel and all opinions stated are my own.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

MK Meredith's second book in her International Temptation series takes readers to Barcelona, Spain. Once again, the Huntington Hotel Chain plays a part in bringing two people not looking for love together.

London Montgomery is a highly sought after hotel reviewer for Elite Travel and Life Magazine, writing under the name of L.M. Cipriano. To make sure she doesn't get any special treatments when she goes into hotels, her true identity is kept strictly confidential. After years of saving money, she's finally able to go on her dream vacation to Barcelona and experience the city as a true tourist. Before she can even get to her hotel her luggage is stolen, only to be returned a short time later by an Armani clad knight in shining armour. She later finds out her mother, who she has vowed to take care of no matter what, has to be hospitalized and the medicine she needs isn't covered by insurance. Strapped for money, London is going to have to skip some of her to do list. But all is not lost when London makes a startling discovery and plans to make the most of it.

Mateu Espasa is a man of honor. He loves his family and takes great pride in being able to strike out on his own and be successful. Mateu's drive and strong work ethic has landed him the title of CEO of Huntington Place Barcelona. Needing to stay in Barcelona to help his ailing father at the family's orchard, Espasa Orchards, he has to make his position at HPB permanent so he can do both jobs. His plan is in jeopardy when HPB's rating goes down. He thinks earning a 5 star from ETLM will secure his plans. While it goes against everything he believes in, he plans on wining and dining one London Montgomery, who he knows is L.M. Capriano, to make sure the HPB gets the 5 star rating it deserves.

What I liked about *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* was that from the start, the characters of London and Mateu were likeable. I really tried to not like Mateu, but he made it very hard. Even though ultimately they are playing each other, it's easy to understand why. The secondary characters of Mateu's family are just as likeable and add so much to the story. Mateu's brother, Antoni, definitely needs to find his own HEA.

I loved that MK took readers on a tour of Barcelona and all the culture it offers. I loved the romanticism *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* offers, with Mateu and London enjoying each other's company and slowly falling in love with each other. What I wasn't a fan of was the use of the Catalan language. I don't generally have a problem with other languages being used. I can usually figure out the meaning on my own or do a quick and easy search. But I found searching for the Catalan language was hard and time consuming. I think a glossary of all the words used would have been very beneficial.

MK Meredith has definitely written a story that dreams are made of. From London meeting a sexy knight in shining armour in her hour of need to having a romantic vacation in a beautiful city to falling head over heels in love, *Playing the Spanish Billionaire* is a wonderful book to escape into.

****Received a copy of the book courtesy of the author and voluntarily reviewed.****

Elaine says

London Montgomery's has a hectic life as a secret hotel reviewer, having to keep working to fund her mother's increasing medical bills. Now, however, she's going to take a break from working and have a real holiday in Barcelona - or that's what she'd planned, including devising a list of things she's hoping to do on her dream vacation. Her arrival in the Spanish city has a dramatic encounter at the train station . . . when a handsome Catalan comes to her rescue. It turns out he's going to the same hotel . . . is this fate?

Her rescuer is Mateu Espasa and he's actually the CEO of the hotel she's staying at - but he's not telling her that! He knows her undercover job and assumes she's working. He's determined to ensure she has a 5* experience so her review will reflect well on the hotel. However, the two are seriously attracted and sometimes the best laid plans can have added twists! With both keeping secret their knowledge of the other, motives are bound to be questioned and the big reveal open to misinterpretation and confrontation. When confession time arrives the reactions are heated and potentially romance killing. However the reconciliation makes it all worthwhile and the ending is both heartwarming and endearing - it certainly left a smile on my face!

This is a fast-paced, action packed and enthralling read. The author brings the characters vividly to life and it is especially easy to empathise with the main characters and their concerns regarding the health of one of their parents. I've enjoyed every book I've read by this talented author and I have no hesitation in highly recommending this to other lovers of romance who really should also check out her other books!

I requested and received a copy of this book via NetGalley without any obligation. This is my honest opinion after reading it.
