



Nobody's Angel

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In Carolina Colony, the community admired Susannah Redmon, plain eldest daughter of the preacher. Her herbal healing skills made her an angel of mercy, her determination held together the family's farm, and her strong will always got her what she wanted--even the buying of a man. But no suitor had ever courted her...

Ian Connelly, Marquis of Derne, had been betrayed, branded a criminal, and beaten. Still defiant, he had been indentured and transported to the Colonies, where a bossy, primly proper *woman* had bought him! But he alone saw the strength of her character, the gold in her tawny hair, and, in her eyes, the fire of her long-hidden desire...

Now Susannah "owned" this magnificently handsome rogue, but it was his passion that could free her imprisoned, lonely heart. From the frontier South to society London or even to hell itself, with her body she would worship him and with her soul she would love him, for she was...*Nobody's Angel*.

From the Paperback edition.

Nobody's Angel Details

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From Reader Review Nobody's Angel for online ebook

Amanda says

It was... okay. This book had incredible sex scenes. Like legitimately, out of this world! However, the problem is that I don't enjoy unnecessary drama in books, and having the main female character be a minister's daughter meant the book was going to be 1/3 of her lamenting her sins, and how she has let down not only her father, her community, her sister's, but god as well. Yikes! I'm not here for this self-flagellation.

Liba says

Beaufort, Carolinas, 1769.

Susannah (26) is a Baptist preacher;s eldest daughter and practically a mother to her sisters.She is the voice of authority in the house and in the community.Sarah Jane (20) is engaged to be married to another preacher .Mandy (17) is a typical young girl who likes the attention of men and wants to have fun.The youngest is Emily (15) ,who still is very much a child.

One day Susannah realizes they need an able man to work their farm.She buys a convict from England, sentenced to 7 years of indenture.Ian Connelly is ill and Susannah tends to him.He is much younger than she thought (31 instead of 40 or more).She and Connelly spar all the time, he can't accept her authority and tries to give orders himself.The convict isn't used to hard farm work (hilarious scenes of him trying to gather eggs or plow with a mule).

Susannah falls in love with Ian and gives herself to him, although thinking it's a sin.Then one of their workers is found dead and Ian disappears..two months later he is recognized by Susannah...only to kidnap her to London and pretend they are married.And there is a secret which Susannah learns about Ian.

Very enjoyable book.

Anachronism: in 1769 neither England nor America knew the Waltz.The dance became popular some 25-30 years later ,when patronesses at Almack's (London) had to give a young lady permission to dance it.

Laarin says

Really lost interest about half way through the book. Felt like there where a several threads of the story that were dropped and not answered.

Tammy Walton Grant says

I love historical romances featuring the plain, dried up old spinster. I always end up rooting for them more than the impossibly beautiful heroines with eyes that are limpid pools of ...whatever colour came up on the author's "spin the wheel, pick an eye colour" game. Of course, she's not really plain, just ordinary. And anyone who's read one of these books knows she ain't dried up neither -- just overlooked.

Nobody's Angel is the story of one such spinster. Susannah is a preacher's daughter stuck raising her 3

younger sisters after their mother's death. She has been so busy mothering the family that she has never had a suitor and she considers herself "on the shelf" at age 26. Her father, of course, is one of those absent/present parents so plentiful in romance novels. He putters around doing nothing but preparing his sermons and barely notices anything going on around him.

Susannah has decided that the only way to get the work done around the farm is to buy a bondsman. As scandalous as her 3 sisters think it is, she will not be dissuaded. The girls attend an auction and, more to be contrary to one of their neighbours than anything else, she bids on a particular man - a tall, dark-haired, dangerous looking man. After signing the papers Susannah takes possession of her bondsman, Ian Connelly, who promptly collapses.

Now, one of my favourite romance novel cliches is the one where the hero is injured and the heroine has to nurse him back to health. This usually involves sponge baths and shocking glimpses of his manhood, followed by hours of bedside vigil, and the obligatory sexual encounter while he is delirious with fever. I LOVE it - and Karen Robards is good at writing them.

The book clips along at a pretty good pace -- we get to know Susannah and her sisters and the dynamic between all of them. You also get to see what happens when you take a houseful of women (14, 16, 20 and 26) and throw in a tall, dark-haired, stunningly handsome bondsman into the midst of it!

The developing bond between Susannah and Connelly is really well done. She is constantly amused by his farming misadventures and he realizes that under the ugly bonnet and baggy clothes is an attractive, fascinating package. He flirts, he cajoles, he woos - she fights her attraction to him again and again. They bicker, they banter, they make love - in her room in the dark after they've argued and he's climbed in her window (sigh). There are passages like this:

"As to why I did it," he near-whispered in her ear, his mouth nibbling her lobe in searing punctuation, "the answer's obvious: no man worth his salt, not even such a useless fribble as you clearly consider me to be, is going to watch his woman breaking her back over work he should be doing himself".

Then he bent his head to press a kiss to the sensitive place where her shoulder joined her neck, and at the same time one hard warm hand left her waist to cover her breast.

Sigh. And, because I can't help myself, like this:

"You look beautiful sitting there spitting at me like a she-cat. All I have to do is look at you, and I lust. I'm going to take you back to the hotel and take off that delectable dress and make love to you until you don't have the energy to be mad at me anymore."

Sigh. Sigh.

Another romance novel cliché is that no one is as they seem -- secret identities, murder plots and subterfuge. Love this one too, and it's here! Ian Connelly is really the Marquis of Berne - and his being sold as a bondsman is the result of an attempt on his life. He tells no one of his identity and towards the end of the book the reason for that becomes clear - another attempt is made and Ian disappears.

The rest of the book moves along almost too quickly -- the last 80 pages has some pretty significant plot development in it. If I had a complaint about the book it is that what Robards does in 80 pages perhaps deserved at least twice that.

I hope I have described this book in a way to make you all want to read it -- it sure is worth it. As with any good book there is so much more going on that I have described here. Susannah and Ian are wonderful characters and it's not hard to understand how they fall in love. The love scenes themselves are worth the price of admission!

All the plot devices necessary for a good read are here -- a spinster, a nobleman in disguise, a flirty little sister, some violence, some sex, some misunderstandings, lots of bicker/banter/foreplay, a breakup, a makeup, a separation, a trip across the ocean, London society balls, and an HEA that might make you cry.

This book review has been provided by the **No Book Left Behind Campaign** - A Bodice Ripper Readers Anonymous group initiative to review the un-reviewed.

Loretta says

Loved the hot chemistry between these two- the push and pull of seduction...

Have read it several times over the decades and will most surely read it again.

Best part is I own in paper so it won't get lost like the stuff on Kindle does!

Juliana Philippa says

The first half was wonderful, but definitely lost some of its sparkle after that (3.5 stars)

I was really looking forward to reading this book, as I love heroines who are plain, serious, on the shelf, and all that good stuff, lol. Susannah definitely delivers on that end, but she's also *much* more: she's strong, generous, intelligent, and all-around lovely. She is essentially the head of her household, taking care of her three younger sisters and her absentminded father, who is a reverend. Susannah has held this caretaker role since she was 14 and her mother died. While she is at times content, she is never truly happy, and has given up on the idea that she might have a family and home of her own someday.

Her pairing with Ian Connelly (also the Marquis of Derne, though she doesn't know it) was absolutely perfect. He was a "bad boy" in his previous life (read: rake/rogue) and is truly considered one now, having been (wrongly) convicted of attempted murder and sent to America to serve a term of indentured servitude. While this book was written awhile ago, Ian is not an 80s-throwback hero, of which I was very relieved. He's an alpha male-type definitely, but I liked that he *does* work the farm and wants to learn how to help the family. He's a marquis, has no experience with physical labor, and was pretty much a wenching wastrel before all of this happened, yet he doesn't act spoiled or condescending.

The exchanges between Ian and Susannah were very sweet; I so enjoyed watching him tease her and seeing Susannah lighten up a little and allow herself to enjoy things. They are very much opposites, but fit together perfectly. The first half of the book was great, because we get to see their relationship develop through this odd-prism of Susannah thinking Ian is an indentured servant she bought (and ex-servant) and a man she's

falling in love with, and Ian beginning to realize that Susannah is so much more than she shows the world and that all the other beautiful (but spiteful and greedy) women he's known pale in comparison to her.

Criticisms

The second half is where things decidedly went downhill for me. I don't want to give anything away regarding the plot, so I will just say the following:

- What could have been an emotional and lovely reunion was not.
- Susannah has a decidedly shrewish period, one that is somewhat understandably, but a little over the top.
- The entire subplot of how Ian was betrayed and forced into indentured servitude is resolved completely "off-screen" (off-page?) and is unbelievably anti-climactic - twice-over.
- Parts of the subplot seem to come out of nowhere and involve people we've never met before or even been told about.
- For most of the second half, the romantic relationship between Susannah and Ian is very different from what it was before - and not in a good way. It felt very seedy and far more superficial - and mostly physical - than it had before. Also, their personalities seem very changed, though I'm not sure whether that was what contributed to the seediness-feeling or vice versa.
- The ending was a little anti-climactic and I feel that more should have been resolved between them, both emotionally and practically/logistically.

I also did not like the fact that almost all of the book was told from Susannah's POV. It made me feel very blind as to what was going on emotionally and internally with Ian, and I would have liked more insight into his feelings and thoughts.

Two other minor complaints: Whatever happened with Jed, the wife-beater? And Susannah's sister Mandy was very, very annoying.

Bottom Line

While this book could have easily been turned into a 4.5 or maybe even 5 star read for me, several things in the second half of the book decidedly lowered my opinion. I'm glad that I read the book and would recommend it, however I'm also happy that I got it from the library and did not buy my own copy.

Recommendations

In many ways, this book reminded me of Lorraine Heath's series Rogues in Texas, which revolves around three English "gentlemen" who are all sent by their families to America "for their own good." They are best friends: one is a duke's bastard, another an aimless and direction-less second son, and the third a gambling addict.

Book 1 - *A Rogue in Texas* (4 stars)

Book 2 - *Never Love a Cowboy* (4 stars)

Book 3 - *Never Marry a Cowboy* (unread)

Manuela says

Un altro grande romanzo di Karen Robards, che conferma di saper narrare con maestria e sensibilità emozioni e sensazioni intense, rendendo le sue storie vere e reali.

Anche con Ian e Susannah non si smentisce. Crea due personaggi dalle personalità sfaccettate, anche se nel corso del romanzo ci sono momenti meno riusciti, come la parte finale, probabilmente troppo affrettata, o alcuni momenti in cui gli atteggiamenti infantili ora di Ian, ora di Susannah, mi hanno, simpaticamente,

innervosita.

Tutta la parte centrale è splendida, intensa, ricca di emozioni e non nascondo che mi ha coinvolta molto. La favola del brutto anatroccolo che si trasforma in cigno grazie all'amore è un espediente spesso utilizzato, a volte a sproposito, nei romance, ma la Robards ce lo mostra in una maniera molto intensa ed originale, portandoci a provare empatia e simpatia sia per Susannah, che per Ian e il suo atteggiamento così poco "sottomesso".

Un'ennesima bella storia della Robards, che sta prepotentemente entrando nella mia rosa di autrici preferite.

Darby says

Once upon a time I had a friend that used to fly through these type of romance novels. They were cheap and easy...in more ways then one and so she gave me sacks of them after she was done. So for a while it is all I read because as I said they are cheap and easy.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

3 STARS

Susannah is the eldest of the Minister Redmon's daughter and the one that holds together the family and the community. At 26 and unmarried she is considered a spinster and her 20 year old sister, Sarah Jane is next in line to marry and is now engaged to a young preacher. Mandy at 17 years old is the beauty among her sisters and town and has men of all ages at her beckoning. Youngest and plumpest, Emily at 15 years old is trying to keep up and mostly annoy her older sister, Mandy. Susannah despite her father's values and her own must buy an indentured servant as there is no one to really work the farm. Ian Connelly, criminal turned indentured servant, is not happy to be taken from his homeland of England to be brought to the Colonies in America. He does not seem to know how to work a farm or do many of the labour jobs but can read and write - and charm women. Despite the two having nothing in common they soon cannot deny the desire they feel for one another.

This novel reminds me a bit of the movie Captain Blood where Olivia deHavilland (American colonies) buys Errol Flynn (who was jailed in England and then brought to America) and soon fall in love AND a twist of Little Women as it is 4 sisters trying to make due without a parent. I liked this novel except I wasn't overly crazy over Ian as i found him to be a bit of a bully but he did redeem himself in the end. Susannah was a strong character who was a bit inexperienced with men but I found it charming and realistic. I loved the dynamics between the sisters and their father. Maybe this is how Pride and Prejudice would have been sans Mrs. Bennet.

Tyna says

Îngerul nim?nui este o superb? poveste de dragoste, plin? de n?b?d?i, scris? cu mult umor, care reu?e?te s? te conving? c? sufletele pereche reu?esc s? se g?seasc? ?i s? fie ferici?i împreun?, dincolo de prejudec??i ?i de barierele impuse de diferen?ele de educa?ie ?i de statut social.

Recenzia mea:

Rosa says

What can I say? I love this book. I have read it several times and once again I was riveted to it all night -- I read it in a one day. I love Susannah, I love Ian and their love story is just so wonderful. *sigh*

Emmy says

Basically the same plot as Sweet Release, which, as I just abandoned, I really don't know what I was thinking to attempt this one. But what really made me throw in the towel on this one was the hero. He is utterly infuriating - I just have absolutely no patience for it. Am I supposed to like a hero that openly taunts, mocks and antagonizes the heroine? And any woman that falls for a man after behavior like this is an idiot. And I don't suffer fools. Not gladly. At all.

And not to mention this book creates no sense of time or place. I'm told they are on a farm in South Carolina in the 17th century. But honestly if could be a farm in any country in almost any time period. There's absolutely no sense of history. Fail.

Karen Darling says

I was half way through the book and nobody was curious to know why the hero was accused, tried and found guilty of murder and who he supposedly murdered?, or where he even came from.....

Heather says

I really enjoyed Nobody's Angel, but it wasn't one of my favorite Karen Robards novel.

The story line and plot were creative and interesting ... A Marquis betrayed who ended up as a bound servant to a preacher's family in the Carolinas, but some of the characters fell a little flat. I think the book has a lot of potential, and was certainly enjoyable to read, but it could have been so much more.

Susannah's character was a bit over the top in her criticism and anger. Ian was a bit too much of a rake at times. Susannah's father was excellently portrayed. But the book lacked clarity on Ian's past and his family. It moved too fast over parts that deserved more time. There were a bit too many characters vying for attention, that not enough was said about some of the main ones - like Soerena - was her role in the story even necessary?

However, the story was enjoyable and many parts made me laugh - like Ian's attempt at farm work, peeling turnips, running from chickens and plowing.

I enjoyed the romance, and I loved the ending, predictable as it was. I thought it was a good book, but it left

me feeling like something was missing. I feel like this story was better done in the Banning Sister trilogy which the sisters in this book remind me of.

Overall, I recommend it. It's an enjoyable book, a quick read, funny, and clever.

Shannon says

really good book
