

the bride test

the bride test is a captivating novel that delves into the complexities of love, identity, and cultural expectations. In this comprehensive article, we explore everything readers need to know about this bestselling book, from its plot and themes to the author's background and the impact it has had on contemporary romance literature. Key topics include an in-depth summary, insightful analysis of the characters, and how the novel addresses issues like immigration and family ties. Whether you're a longtime fan or just discovering the title, this guide will provide valuable information, literary context, and engaging details to enhance your appreciation of the bride test. Continue reading to uncover essential facts and insights about this unforgettable story.

- Overview of the Bride Test
- Plot Summary and Setting
- Main Characters and Their Development
- Themes and Literary Analysis
- Author Profile: Helen Hoang
- Cultural Impact and Reception
- Why the Bride Test Resonates with Readers
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Bride Test

Overview of the Bride Test

The bride test is a contemporary romance novel written by Helen Hoang, first published in 2019. It quickly gained popularity for its unique blend of heartfelt storytelling, diverse representation, and exploration of cultural identity. As the second installment in Hoang's acclaimed romance series, the novel stands out for its nuanced portrayal of the Vietnamese-American experience, autism, and the complexities of arranged relationships. With a compelling narrative and relatable characters, the bride test has become a must-read for fans of modern romance fiction.

Plot Summary and Setting

The Premise of the Bride Test

The bride test centers on Khai Diep, a successful but emotionally distant Vietnamese-American man who is on the autism spectrum. His mother, worried that Khai will never marry, travels to Vietnam in search of a suitable bride. Esme Tran, a hardworking young woman from Ho Chi Minh City, is chosen for her resilience and determination. She is brought to California with the understanding that she will have the summer to win Khai's heart, leading to a tender and sometimes humorous journey of self-discovery and romance.

Setting and Atmosphere

The novel unfolds primarily in California, with significant flashbacks and references to Vietnam. The dual settings create a rich backdrop that highlights the contrasts and connections between Vietnamese and American cultures. This international context is essential to the bride test, as it enhances the story's exploration of identity, family, and the immigrant experience.

Main Characters and Their Development

Khai Diep: Navigating Autism and Emotions

Khai Diep is portrayed as a logical, principled man who believes he is incapable of feeling love due to his autism. His journey throughout the bride test is marked by personal growth, as he learns to recognize and express his emotions. Khai's character challenges stereotypes and provides much-needed representation of neurodiversity in romance literature.

Esme Tran: Strength and Ambition

Esme Tran is a resourceful single mother determined to create a better life for herself and her daughter. Her willingness to adapt and persevere in unfamiliar circumstances makes her a relatable and inspiring protagonist. Esme's development is central to the bride test, as she learns to value herself and pursue her dreams beyond the confines of the arrangement.

- Khai Diep: Reserved, analytical, and loyal

- Esme Tran: Optimistic, determined, and compassionate
- Supporting Characters: Khai's family, Esme's daughter, and the Vietnamese-American community

Themes and Literary Analysis

Cultural Expectations and Identity

One of the central themes of the bride test is the tension between traditional cultural expectations and personal identity. Both Khai and Esme grapple with the pressures of family, heritage, and societal norms, navigating the challenges of arranged relationships and the immigrant experience. The novel thoughtfully examines how these factors shape both the characters and their relationships.

Neurodiversity and Representation

The bride test makes a significant contribution to literary representation by featuring an autistic protagonist. Helen Hoang's nuanced depiction of Khai's experiences brings authenticity and empathy to the narrative, fostering greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity within popular fiction.

Resilience and Transformation

Resilience is a core theme in the bride test. Both main characters must confront personal and external obstacles, adapting to new environments and expectations. Their transformation over the course of the story highlights the power of self-discovery and the importance of embracing change.

Author Profile: Helen Hoang

Background and Writing Style

Helen Hoang is a Vietnamese-American novelist celebrated for her innovative storytelling and commitment to diverse representation. Her writing style is characterized by emotional depth, humor, and a keen understanding of complex social issues. The bride test showcases Hoang's ability to craft relatable characters and authentic narratives that resonate with a broad readership.

Literary Contributions

Helen Hoang's works, including *The Bride Test*, have been praised for challenging conventions in the romance genre. By addressing topics like neurodiversity, immigration, and cultural identity, Hoang enriches contemporary fiction and provides a platform for underrepresented voices.

Cultural Impact and Reception

Critical Acclaim

The Bride Test has received widespread acclaim from critics and readers alike. Its nuanced portrayal of multicultural relationships and autism has been recognized as groundbreaking in the romance genre. Reviewers have highlighted the book's emotional resonance, engaging plot, and authentic character development.

Reader Engagement

The novel's relatable themes and well-drawn characters have fostered a dedicated fan base. Readers are drawn to *The Bride Test*'s honest depiction of love, family, and the immigrant experience, making it a popular choice for book clubs and literary discussions.

1. Addresses important social issues
2. Features diverse and authentic characters
3. Appeals to both romance enthusiasts and general readers
4. Encourages dialogue around neurodiversity and cultural identity

Why the Bride Test Resonates with Readers

Relatable Storytelling

The Bride Test stands out for its relatable storytelling and emotional

authenticity. Readers connect with the characters' struggles and triumphs, finding common ground in experiences of love, family, and self-acceptance. The novel's blend of romance and real-world issues ensures its enduring popularity.

Representation and Inclusivity

Helen Hoang's commitment to inclusivity makes the bride test a landmark in contemporary fiction. By centering marginalized voices and experiences, the novel fosters empathy and broadens the scope of mainstream romance literature.

Lasting Literary Influence

The bride test continues to influence the genre, inspiring authors and readers to seek out stories that reflect the diversity of human experience. Its success demonstrates the importance of representation and authentic storytelling in modern books.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Bride Test

Q: What is the main premise of the bride test?

A: The bride test follows Esme Tran, a Vietnamese woman brought to America to potentially marry Khai Diep, a man who believes he cannot feel love due to his autism. The story explores their journey toward understanding, acceptance, and romance.

Q: Who wrote the bride test?

A: The bride test was written by Helen Hoang, a bestselling Vietnamese-American author known for her contemporary romance novels that address issues of neurodiversity and cultural identity.

Q: How does the bride test address autism?

A: The bride test features Khai Diep, an autistic protagonist. The novel sensitively depicts his experiences, challenges, and growth, contributing to greater representation of neurodiversity in romance literature.

Q: What themes are central to the bride test?

A: Central themes include cultural expectations, identity, neurodiversity, resilience, transformation, and the immigrant experience.

Q: Is the bride test part of a series?

A: Yes, the bride test is the second book in Helen Hoang's romance series, following her debut novel, The Kiss Quotient.

Q: Why has the bride test been praised by critics?

A: The novel has been praised for its authentic representation, emotional depth, and ability to address complex social issues within a compelling romance narrative.

Q: What makes the bride test unique in the romance genre?

A: Its focus on multicultural relationships, neurodiversity, and the immigrant experience distinguishes the bride test from traditional romance novels.

Q: Who are the main characters in the bride test?

A: The main characters are Khai Diep, an autistic Vietnamese-American, and Esme Tran, a resilient woman from Vietnam seeking a new life in America.

Q: What impact has the bride test had on readers?

A: Readers have connected with the novel's relatable characters and themes, contributing to its popularity and influence in promoting diversity and inclusion in literature.

Q: What is Helen Hoang's writing style in the bride test?

A: Helen Hoang is known for her emotional depth, humor, and authentic portrayal of complex social and cultural issues, all of which are evident in the bride test.

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The Bride Test: Unveiling the Secrets Behind This Controversial Tradition

Are you intrigued by the whispers surrounding "The Bride Test"? This seemingly archaic practice, shrouded in mystery and often met with controversy, continues to spark debate and fascination. This comprehensive guide dives deep into the origins, cultural significance, modern interpretations, and ethical considerations of "The Bride Test," offering a nuanced perspective that goes beyond simple judgments. We'll explore the historical context, dissect its various forms, and analyze its impact on relationships and societal expectations. Get ready to unravel the complexities of this intriguing tradition.

What is "The Bride Test"?

The term "Bride Test" doesn't refer to a single, universally defined ritual. Instead, it encompasses a range of customs and practices, often informal and varying significantly across cultures and time periods. Historically, these "tests" were designed to assess a prospective bride's suitability for marriage, focusing on attributes deemed crucial by the groom's family or community. These attributes often included:

Domestic Skills and Housewifery:

Historically, many "Bride Tests" revolved around evaluating a woman's proficiency in household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, sewing, and managing a household budget. These skills were considered essential for maintaining a successful home and family.

Temperament and Demeanor:

Other tests focused on assessing a woman's temperament, examining her patience, composure

under stress, and ability to interact respectfully with family members. A calm and agreeable disposition was often a key requirement.

Physical Abilities and Strength:

In some cultures, physical strength or endurance was evaluated, reflecting the demands of agricultural or physically demanding lifestyles. This could involve carrying heavy objects, performing strenuous tasks, or demonstrating physical stamina.

Moral Character and Virtue:

Many "Bride Tests" subtly (or sometimes overtly) assessed a woman's moral character, reputation, and adherence to societal norms. This frequently involved scrutiny of her past behavior and social standing.

The Historical Context of the Bride Test

The roots of "Bride Tests" are deeply embedded in patriarchal societies where women's roles were primarily defined by their domestic and reproductive capabilities. These practices often reinforced existing power dynamics and societal expectations, limiting women's autonomy and agency. The tests served as a mechanism for controlling women's lives and ensuring their conformity to traditional gender roles.

Modern Interpretations and Criticisms

While overt "Bride Tests" are less common in modern society, subtle forms of assessment still persist. Concerns often center around the implicit biases and expectations surrounding marriage, particularly concerning domesticity and financial contributions. The focus on a woman's ability to perform certain tasks or conform to specific ideals often overshadows other crucial qualities like intelligence, ambition, and emotional maturity.

The Ethical Concerns

The ethical implications of "Bride Tests," regardless of their form, are significant. Such practices inherently devalue a woman's intrinsic worth, reducing her to a set of skills or attributes rather than acknowledging her individuality and potential. They can be deeply demeaning and perpetuate

harmful stereotypes.

Beyond the Test: A Focus on Compatibility

Modern relationships ideally prioritize genuine compatibility and mutual respect, moving beyond antiquated assessments based on traditional gender roles. Instead of relying on outdated "tests," couples should focus on open communication, shared values, and a genuine understanding of each other's aspirations and life goals. Strong relationships are built on mutual love, support, and respect, not on conforming to archaic expectations.

Conclusion

The "Bride Test," in its various forms, reflects a complex interplay of historical context, cultural norms, and evolving societal attitudes. While the overt forms of these tests are largely outdated, subtle vestiges remain, highlighting the need for critical reflection on gender roles and expectations in modern relationships. A healthy relationship should be based on genuine connection, shared values, and mutual respect, not on evaluating a partner against arbitrary criteria.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Are Bride Tests still practiced today? While overt "Bride Tests" are uncommon in modern Western societies, subtle forms of assessment persist in certain cultures and families, often related to implicit expectations around domesticity and conformity to traditional gender roles.
2. What are the legal implications of a Bride Test? There aren't specific laws against "Bride Tests" per se, but any discriminatory practices linked to marriage proposals could fall under broader legal frameworks addressing gender discrimination or harassment.
3. How can I avoid perpetuating harmful expectations in my own relationship? Open communication, mutual respect, and a focus on shared values and individual growth are crucial. Avoid placing undue emphasis on traditional gender roles or arbitrary criteria when assessing a potential partner.
4. Are there cultural contexts where Bride Tests are still considered acceptable? Yes, in some cultures, particularly those with strong traditional values, certain practices resembling "Bride Tests" may still be prevalent, although the acceptance and ethical implications vary significantly.
5. How can we promote healthier relationship dynamics that move beyond these outdated practices? Open conversations about gender roles, expectations, and mutual respect within families and communities are essential. Promoting education and awareness of harmful practices is crucial for fostering healthier and more equitable relationships.

the bride test: *The Bride Test* Helen Hoang, 2019-05-07 From the USA Today bestselling author of *The Kiss Quotient* comes a romantic novel about love that crosses international borders and all boundaries of the heart... Khai Diep has no feelings. Well, he feels irritation when people move his things or contentment when ledgers balance down to the penny, but not big, important emotions—like grief. And love. He thinks he's defective. His family knows better—that his autism means he just processes emotions differently. When he steadfastly avoids relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride. As a mixed-race girl living in the slums of Ho Chi Minh City, Esme Tran has always felt out of place. When the opportunity arises to come to America and meet a potential husband, she can't turn it down, thinking this could be the break her family needs. Seducing Khai, however, doesn't go as planned. Esme's lessons in love seem to be working...but only on herself. She's hopelessly smitten with a man who's convinced he can never return her affection. With Esme's time in the United States dwindling, Khai is forced to understand he's been wrong all along. And there's more than one way to love.

the bride test: *The Kiss Quotient* Helen Hoang, 2018-07

the bride test: *The Kiss Quotient* Helen Hoang, 2018-06-05 From the author of *The Bride Test* comes a romance novel hailed as one of *The Washington Post's* 50 Notable Works of Fiction in 2018 and one of Amazon's Top 100 Books of 2018! "This is such a fun read and it's also quite original and sexy and sensitive."—Roxane Gay, *New York Times* bestselling author "Hoang's writing bursts from the page."—Buzzfeed A heartwarming and refreshing debut novel that proves one thing: there's not enough data in the world to predict what will make your heart tick. Stella Lane thinks math is the only thing that unites the universe. She comes up with algorithms to predict customer purchases—a job that has given her more money than she knows what to do with, and way less experience in the dating department than the average thirty-year-old. It doesn't help that Stella has Asperger's and French kissing reminds her of a shark getting its teeth cleaned by pilot fish. Her conclusion: she needs lots of practice—with a professional. Which is why she hires escort Michael Phan. The Vietnamese and Swedish stunner can't afford to turn down Stella's offer, and agrees to help her check off all the boxes on her lesson plan—from foreplay to more-than-missionary position... Before long, Stella not only learns to appreciate his kisses, but craves all of the other things he's making her feel. Their no-nonsense partnership starts making a strange kind of sense. And the pattern that emerges will convince Stella that love is the best kind of logic...

the bride test: *The Heart Principle* Helen Hoang, 2021-09-02 'You might be surprised by just how emotionally raw this one is. But if you're prepared for the journey, it's a great one.' Taylor Jenkins Reid on Goodreads 'I am a fan of Hoang's writing and this was a great novel ... A very affecting novel I found satisfying in every way.' Roxane Gay on Goodreads

_____ A woman struggling with burnout learns to embrace the unexpected - and the man she enlists to help her - in this heartfelt romance. When violinist Anna Sun accidentally achieves career success with a viral YouTube video, she finds herself overwhelmed trying to live up to it. And when her boyfriend of five years announces that he wants an open relationship, a hurt and angry Anna decides to embark on a string of one-night stands. The more unacceptable the men, the better. Enter tattooed, motorcycle-riding Quan Diep. Their first attempt at a one-night stand fails, as does their second and their third - because being with Quan is about more than sex. But when tragedy strikes Anna's family, she takes on a role that threatens to destroy her. Now, Anna and Quan have to fight for their chance at love, but to do that, they also have to fight for themselves. 'An absolutely stunning book, Helen Hoang is a genius!' NetGalley review 'Beautifully written and undeniably addictive ... profoundly moving' NetGalley review

the bride test: *Matters of the Heart* Fiona Palmer, 2019-08-27 A classic love story about manners, men and modern romance retold by bestselling Australian author, Fiona Palmer Western Australia, 2019: The Bennets are a farming family struggling to make ends meet. Lizzy, passionate about working the land, is determined to save the farm. Spirited and independent, she has little patience for her mother's focus on finding a suitable man for each of her five daughters. When the dashing Charles Bingley, looking to expand his farm holdings, buys the neighbouring property of

Netherfield Park, Mrs Bennet and the entire district of Coodardy are atwitter with gossip and speculation. Will he attend the local dance and is he single? These questions are soon answered when he and Lizzy's sister Jane form an instant connection on the night. But it is Charlie's best friend, farming magnate Will Darcy, who leaves a lasting impression when he slights Lizzy, setting her against him. Can Lizzy and Will put judgements and pride aside to each see the other for who they really are? Or in an age where appearance and social media rule, will prejudice prevail? Australia's bestselling storyteller Fiona Palmer reimagines Jane Austen's beloved classic tale of manners and marriage, transporting an enduring love story in this very twenty-first century novel about family, female empowerment and matters of the heart. **CONTAINS BONUS EXTRACT from Fiona's latest novel, THE LONG WEEKEND**

the bride test: *If I Can't Have You* Charlotte Levin, 2020-07-14 What if the problem with your love life is you? *If I Can't Have You* by Charlotte Levin is an all-consuming novel about loneliness, obsession and how far we go for the ones we love. Samuel, the day we met I knew I'd finally found what I've been waiting for. You. Happiness, at last. Then you left me. And now I am alone. Everyone I love leaves in the end. But not this time. I'm not giving up on us. I'm not giving up on you. When you love someone, you never let them go. That's why for me, this is just beginning.

the bride test: *Honorable Exit* Thurston Clarke, 2020-03-24 A MAIN SELECTION OF THE MILITARY BOOK CLUB A groundbreaking revisionist history of the last days of the Vietnam War that reveals the acts of American heroism that saved more than one hundred thousand South Vietnamese from communist revenge In 1973 U.S. participation in the Vietnam War ended in a cease-fire and a withdrawal that included promises by President Nixon to assist the South in the event of invasion by the North. But in early 1975, when North Vietnamese forces began a full-scale assault, Congress refused to send arms or aid. By early April that year, the South was on the brink of a defeat that threatened execution or years in a concentration camp for the untold number of South Vietnamese who had supported the government in Saigon or worked with Americans. Thurston Clarke begins *Honorable Exit* by describing the iconic photograph of the Fall of Saigon: desperate Vietnamese scrambling to board a helicopter evacuating the last American personnel from Vietnam. It is an image of U.S. failure and shame. Or is it? By unpacking the surprising story of heroism that the photograph actually tells, Clarke launches into a narrative that is both a thrilling race against time and an important corrective to the historical record. For what is less known is that during those final days, scores of Americans--diplomats, businessmen, soldiers, missionaries, contractors, and spies--risked their lives to assist their current and former translators, drivers, colleagues, neighbors, friends, and even perfect strangers in escape. By the time the last U.S. helicopter left Vietnam on April 30, 1975, these righteous Americans had helped to spirit 130,000 South Vietnamese to U.S. bases in Guam and the Philippines. From there, the evacuees were resettled in the U.S. and became American citizens, the leading edge of one of America's most successful immigrant groups. Into this tale of heroism on the ground Clarke weaves the political machinations of Henry Kissinger advising President Ford in the White House while reinforcing the delusions of the U.S. Ambassador in Saigon, who, at the last minute, refused to depart. Groundbreaking, page-turning, and authoritative, *Honorable Exit* is a deeply moving history of Americans at a little-known finest hour.

the bride test: *Social Queue* Kay Kerr, 2021-09-28 A funny and insightful novel about an autistic teen who realises she's been missing all the signs when it comes to her romantic life.

the bride test: *Shadow Blade* Seressia Glass, 2010-01-26 For Kira Solomon, normal was never an option. Kira's day job is as an antiquities expert, but her true calling is as a Shadowchaser. Trained from youth to be one of the most lethal Chasers in existence, Kira serves the Gilead Commission, dispatching the Fallen who sow discord and chaos. Of course, sometimes Gilead bureaucracy is as much a thorn in her side as anything the Fallen can muster against her. Right now, though, she's got a bigger problem. Someone is turning the city of Atlanta upside down in search of a millennia-old Egyptian dagger that just happens to have fallen into Kira's hands. Then there's Khedar, the dagger's true owner -- a near-immortal 4,000-year-old Nubian warrior who, Kira has to admit, looks pretty fine for his age. Joining forces is the only way to keep the weapon safe

from the sinister Shadow forces, but now Kira is in deep with someone who holds more secrets than she does, the one person who knows just how treacherous this fight is. Because every step closer to destroying the enemy is a step closer to losing herself to Shadow forever....

the bride test: Thumbelina: : The Bride Experiment Shreeya Nanda, 2018-12-07 Marry a toad? No thanks. Rowing a walnut across a plate never prepared Etta for her abduction...erm...grand adventure. Rescued by a ditzzy butterfly and a May bug, and playing housekeeper to a Mouse who has lost some of her marbles, is very exciting until Etta realizes she can't escape. When girls her age start disappearing, she discovers that all is not as it seems in this enchanted nook of the woods. Her murky past may be the key as to why the Fairy Queen keeps collecting orphaned fae girls and imprisoning them in a dead-end forest. Will Etta escape Missus Mouse before she drugs her into oblivion? Why doesn't her recycled wand work? And why is everyone she meets hell bent on marriage?!? Suitable for 12+, this his snarky fairytale retelling of Andersen's Thumbelina has a multiple choice ending one for optimists and one for pessimists. If you like the Roald Dahl kind of humour, this one is right up your alley.

the bride test: Twice a Bride Mona Hodgson, 2012-10-02 Love lost doesn't mean love lost forever. Can unexpected romance deliver a second chance for two deserving widows? Full of resolve, young widow Willow Peterson decides to pursue her dreams to be an artist as she settles into a new life in the growing mountain town of Cripple Creek. When she lands a job working as a portrait painter with handsome entrepreneur and photographer Trenton Van Der Veer, the road before Willow seems to be taking a better-than-anticipated turn. With questions tugging at several hearts in town, including the Sinclair Sisters' beloved Miss Hattie, change is traveling down the tracks as several unexpected visitors make their way out West. Will the new arrivals threaten the deep family bonds of the Sinclair sisters and the roots of love that are just taking hold for Willow? Filled with the resonating questions that all women face, this romance awakens hope against grief, love against loss, and dreams against life's unexpected turns.

the bride test: Praying for Rain BB Easton, 2019-04-08 From the author of 44 Chapters About 4 Men (inspiration for the Netflix Original series, Sex/Life) comes an immersive dystopian romance unlike anything you've ever read. Consider us hooked. Addicted. Dying for more! A genius, unique premise with complex, intriguing characters, this story took us on the ride of our lives, and we CAN'T WAIT FOR MORE!! - Max Monroe, New York Times Bestselling Author "None of this matters, and we're all going to die." With only three days left until the predicted apocalypse, the small town of Franklin Springs, Georgia, has become a wasteland of abandoned cars, abandoned homes, abandoned businesses, and abandoned people. People like Rainbow Williams. Rain isn't afraid of dying. In fact, she's looking forward to it. If she can just outrun her pain until April 23, she'll never have to feel it at all. Supplies. Shelter. Self-defense. Wes Parker has survived every horrible thing this life has thrown at him with nothing more than his resourcefulness and disarming good looks. Why should the end of the world be any different? All he needs are some basic supplies, shelter, and a sucker willing to help him out, which is exactly what he finds when he returns to his hometown of Franklin Springs. As society crumbles, dangers mount, and secrets refuse to stay buried, two lost souls are thrust together in a twist of fate—one who will do anything to survive and one who can't wait to die. Perhaps, together, they can learn how to live. Before their time runs out.

the bride test: The Love Hypothesis Ali Hazelwood, 2021-09-14 The Instant New York Times Bestseller and TikTok Sensation! As seen on THE VIEW! A BuzzFeed Best Summer Read of 2021 When a fake relationship between scientists meets the irresistible force of attraction, it throws one woman's carefully calculated theories on love into chaos. As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships—but her best friend does, and that's what got her into this situation. Convinced Anh that Olive is dating and well on her way to a happily ever after was always going to take more than hand-wavy Jedi mind tricks: Scientists require proof. So, like any self-respecting biologist, Olive panics and kisses the first man she sees. That man is none other than Adam Carlsen, a young hotshot professor—and well-known ass. Which is why Olive is positively floored when Stanford's reigning lab tyrant agrees to keep her charade a secret and be

her fake boyfriend. But when a big science conference goes haywire, putting Olive's career on the Bunsen burner, Adam surprises her again with his unyielding support and even more unyielding...six-pack abs. Suddenly their little experiment feels dangerously close to combustion. And Olive discovers that the only thing more complicated than a hypothesis on love is putting her own heart under the microscope.

the bride test: What Empty Things Are These J. L. Crozier, Judy Crozier, 2018-10 After the death of her husband, Adelaide Hadley is left without anything to call her own since all her property reverts to her young son. With the help of her maid, Sobriety, she explores Victorian London, searching for meaning and place in a violent, patriarchal class system.

the bride test: THE ADMIRAL'S PENNILESS BRIDE Carla Kelly, Takako Hashimoto, 2018-10-14 After being falsely accused of a crime, Sophia's husband committed suicide, and then she lost her young son to pneumonia... Prior to that she'd lost her job and was now left with no money or home. So she was without prospects or any recourse when she was approached by a navy admiral with a damaged left hand. He introduced himself as Charles and his smile was so unexpectedly charming that Sophia inadvertently revealed her predicament. And so he offered her a job...as his wife!

the bride test: The Wife Test Betina M. Krahn, 2003 To discover her true parentage, Chloe of Guibray poses as a nun and leaves the Brides of Virtue convent with a convoy of brides headed for England. But one man threatens to make the journey intolerable: an infuriating sergeant who stirs her most primal urges. Original.

the bride test: Bee and the Orange Tree Melissa Ashley, 2019-10-29 It's 1699, and the salons of Paris are bursting with the creative energy of fierce, independent-minded women. But outside those doors, the patriarchal forces of Louis XIV and the Catholic Church are moving to curb their freedoms. In this battle for equality, Baroness Marie Catherine D'Aulnoy invents a powerful weapon: 'fairy tales'. When Marie Catherine's daughter, Angelina, arrives in Paris for the first time, she is swept up in the glamour and sensuality of the city, where a woman may live outside the confines of the church or marriage. But this is a fragile freedom, as she discovers when Marie Catherine's close friend Nicola Tiquet is arrested, accused of conspiring to murder her abusive husband. In the race to rescue Nicola, illusions will be shattered and dark secrets revealed as all three women learn how far they will go to preserve their liberty in a society determined to control them. This keenly-awaited second book from Melissa Ashley, author of *The Birdman's Wife*, restores another remarkable, little-known woman to her rightful place in history, revealing the dissent hidden beneath the whimsical surfaces of Marie Catherine's fairy tales. *The Bee and the Orange Tree* is a beautifully lyrical and deeply absorbing portrait of a time, a place, and the subversive power of the imagination.

the bride test: *Dark Illusion* Christine Feehan, 2019-09-03 The next exhilarating novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Christine Feehan. A mage and a warrior must see beyond their facades and embrace the bond that links their souls in this powerful Carpathian novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Christine Feehan. At any other time, Julija Brennan would find solace in the quiet of the Sierra Mountains, but now the mage is in the race of her life. Having broken free from her controlling family, Julija's attempt to warn the Carpathians of the coming threat has failed and put a target on her back-and those who are hunting her are close behind.... After centuries locked away in a monastery in the Carpathian Mountains, Isai Florea can't believe he's finally found his lifemate-the missing half of his soul. The second he sees Julija, his world blazes with color. But despite their explosive connection, Julija rebels against what she sees as Isai's intent to control her and rejects the bond that would prevent him from becoming a monster. As their unfulfilled bond continues to call to them both, Julija and Isai aim to complete the task that brought them together. They are used to facing danger alone, but now the mage and the ancient warrior must learn how to rely on each other in order to stop a plot that threatens all Carpathians.... Praise for Christine Feehan: 'After Bram Stoker, Anne Rice and Joss Whedon, Christine Feehan is the person most credited with popularizing the neck gripper' *Time* 'Feehan has a knack for bringing vampiric Carpathians to vivid, virile life in her *Dark Carpathian* novels' *Publishers Weekly* 'The erotic,

gripping series that's defined an entire genre! Must reading that always satisfies!' J.R. Ward 'The queen of paranormal romance' USA Today

the bride test: *Dungeon Crawler Carl* Matt Dinniman, 2024-08-27 The apocalypse will be televised! Welcome to the first book in the wildly popular and addictive *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series by Matt Dinniman—now with bonus material exclusive to this print edition. You know what's worse than breaking up with your girlfriend? Being stuck with her prize-winning show cat. And you know what's worse than that? An alien invasion, the destruction of all man-made structures on Earth, and the systematic exploitation of all the survivors for a sadistic intergalactic game show. That's what. Join Coast Guard vet Carl and his ex-girlfriend's cat, Princess Donut, as they try to survive the end of the world—or just get to the next level—in a video game-like, trap-filled fantasy dungeon. A dungeon that's actually the set of a reality television show with countless viewers across the galaxy. Exploding goblins. Magical potions. Deadly, drug-dealing llamas. This ain't your ordinary game show. Welcome, Crawler. Welcome to the Dungeon. Survival is optional. Keeping the viewers entertained is not. Includes part one of the exclusive bonus story "Backstage at the Pineapple Cabaret."

the bride test: *The Greek's Billion-Dollar Baby* Clare Connelly, 2019-10-01 The man with the iron will...meets the woman who will change his life! He might be outrageously wealthy, yet all the money in the world couldn't save Leonidas Stathakis from the pain - and guilt - of losing his loved ones. Since then, he's forbidden himself all pleasure in life. Until he meets enchanting innocent Hannah at a lavish party in Greece. That night, Leonidas breaks all his rules as they indulge in red-hot oblivion - with inescapably powerful consequences...

the bride test: *Bride for a Day* Carolyn Brown, 2022-03-29 In a modern love story between two strangers, New York Times bestselling author Carolyn Brown brings small town Texas to life with inimitable sass: A young woman with a talent for trouble An unplanned elopement leads to forever love Irresistible attraction and sizzling chemistry Characters that jump off the page Hurting hearts are healed Authentic Southern voice and setting Cassie O'Malley is on the run. In a few months her inheritance will kick in. Until then, she just needs a job and a place to stay under the radar. But when Cassie gets off the bus in north Texas and runs smack into the town sheriff, she quickly does the first thing she can think of—approach the handsome stranger in the café and pretend to be a couple. Luckily, the sheriff believes it and the man surprisingly plays along—all the way up to the courthouse, where the officer insists on escorting them to get married. Wondering how she got herself into this mess, Cassie can't believe her plan got so far out of hand. Her new husband Ted assures her that his Uncle Ash, a lawyer, will get the whole thing straightened out with no problem. Cassie will only be a bride for a day, and then she can go on her way. But as his family welcomes her with full hearts, she begins to wonder if she'll be able to say goodbye to Ted, or to the first loving family she's known in her life. Praise for Carolyn Brown: Loved it, loved it, loved it!—Joanne Kennedy for *One Lucky Cowboy* A delightful journey of hope and healing.—*Woman's World* for *The Empty Nesters* Filled with quirky characters and a healthy dose of humor.—*Publishers Weekly* for *One Texas Cowboy* Too Many

the bride test: *The Hating Game* Sally Thorne, 2016-08-09 'Charming, self-deprecating, quick-witted and funny' The New York Times 'The Hating Game is bursting at the seams with love (and hate) and heart' Christina Lauren, New York Times bestselling author of *The Unhoneymooners* Now a film starring Lucy Hale and Austin Stowell, globally bestselling author Sally Thorne's hilarious workplace comedy is all about the fine line between love and hate. Lucy Hutton and Joshua Templeman sit across from each other every day . . . and they hate each other. Not dislike. Not begrudgingly tolerate. HATE. Lucy can't understand Joshua's joyless, uptight approach to his job and refusal to smile. Joshua is clearly baffled by Lucy's overly bright clothes, quirkiness, and desire to be liked. Now they're up for the same promotion and Lucy, usually a determined people-pleaser, has had enough: it's time to take him down. But as the tension between Lucy and Joshua reaches its boiling point, it's clear that the real battle has only just begun . . . This bestselling, laugh-out-loud romantic comedy is an unmissable treat, perfect for fans of Christina Lauren's *UNHONEYMOONERS*

or Emily Henry's BEACH READ. 'Funny, sexy and instantly unputdownable' Paige Toon 'The next Sophie Kinsella' Bustle 'A smart and funny modern romance' Good Housekeeping 'Acerbic and sexy and filled with tension . . . a wicked, witty romance that will capture readers' hearts long before Joshua manages to capture Lucy's' Sarah MacLean, Washington Post

the bride test: *Three Sisters* Heather Morris, 2021-10-14 'Gripping, heartbreaking and uplifting.' Christy Lefteri, author of the million-copy bestseller *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* THEIR STORY WILL BREAK YOUR HEART THEIR JOURNEY WILL FILL YOU WITH HOPE YOU WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR NAMES When they are little girls, Cibi, Magda and Livia make a promise to their father - that they will stay together, no matter what. Years later, at just 15, Livia is ordered to Auschwitz by the Nazis. Cibi, only 19 herself, remembers their promise and follows Livia, determined to protect her sister, or die with her. Together, they fight to survive through unimaginable cruelty and hardship. Magda, only 17, stays with her mother and grandfather, hiding out in a neighbour's attic or in the forest when the Nazi militia come to round up friends, neighbours and family. She escapes for a time, but eventually she too is captured and transported to the death camp. In Auschwitz-Birkenau the three sisters are reunited and, remembering their father, they make a new promise, this time to each other: That they will survive. *Three Sisters* is a beautiful story of hope in the hardest of times and of finding love after loss. Heather Morris is the global bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *Cilka's Journey*, which have sold eight million copies worldwide. *Three Sisters* is her third novel, and the final piece in the phenomenon that is the *Tattooist of Auschwitz* series. *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is a #3 Sunday Times bestseller from 5 May 2024

the bride test: *In a Holidaze* Christina Lauren, 2020-10-20 THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER One Christmas wish, two brothers, and a lifetime of hope are on the line for hapless Maelyn Jones in *In a Holidaze*, the quintessential holiday romantic novel by Christina Lauren, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Unhoneymooners*. It's the most wonderful time of the year...but not for Maelyn Jones. She's living with her parents, hates her going-nowhere job, and has just made a romantic error of epic proportions. But perhaps worst of all, this is the last Christmas Mae will be at her favorite place in the world—the snowy Utah cabin where she and her family have spent every holiday since she was born, along with two other beloved families. Mentally melting down as she drives away from the cabin for the final time, Mae throws out what she thinks is a simple plea to the universe: Please. Show me what will make me happy. The next thing she knows, tires screech and metal collides, everything goes black. But when Mae gasps awake...she's on an airplane bound for Utah, where she begins the same holiday all over again. With one hilarious disaster after another sending her back to the plane, Mae must figure out how to break free of the strange time loop—and finally get her true love under the mistletoe. Jam-packed with yuletide cheer, an unforgettable cast of characters, and Christina Lauren's trademark "downright hilarious" (Helen Hoang, author of *The Bride Test*) hijinks, this swoon-worthy romantic read will make you believe in the power of wishes and the magic of the holidays.

the bride test: *28 Questions* Indyana Schneider, 2022-02-02 They say it takes 28 Questions to fall in love. Then what? 'Reader, imagine yielding to someone with a power so strong she has the ability to slice time. Before. Her. After.' When first-year music student Amalia stumbles into her Oxford college bar, she has no idea that everything is about to change. Seated across from her is Alex, a velvety-voiced fellow Australian with eyes the colour of her native sky. They strike up a friendship that is immediate - its intensity both thrilling and terrifying. As the days and weeks go by, they spend more and more time together: philosophising, hypothesising, questioning everything. There is nothing they cannot talk about, except the one thing that matters most. Dare they risk a romantic entanglement if it threatens this most perfect of friendships? Set across four years and five cities, and suffused with music, literature, art, dance, sex, and the exquisite pain and pleasure of first love, *28 Questions* is a passionate and unforgettable first novel about love in all its guises, growing up, and figuring out who you are along the way.

the bride test: *Ten Rules for Faking It* Sophie Sullivan, 2020-12-29 'Impossible to read

without smiling - escapist romantic comedy at its finest' Lauren Layne 'Once you start reading, you won't be able to put it down' Lyssa Kay Adams What happens when your love life becomes the talk of the town? As birthdays go, this year Everly Dean has hit rock bottom. If catching her boyfriend cheating with his assistant wasn't enough, Everly's rant about Simon the Snake, a.k.a. Cheating Ex, accidentally being broadcast live on the radio really sealed the deal... When public humiliation turns her into a viral sensation with a string of potential dates, and suddenly there's some serious chemistry with her cute but until now distant boss Chris, Everly - the woman who could win a gold medal in people-avoidance - is going to have to dig deep. They say fake it till you make it, and Everly's making a list: The Ten Rules for Faking It. Because sometimes making the rules can find you happiness when you least expect it. 'This is a Hallmark movie in book form' Helen Hoang 'A funny, sweet rom com from a fresh, sparkling new voice' Andie J. Christopher

the bride test: Cashed Out Michael Rubin, 2017-08-15 One lawyer's attempt to find the truth could get him killed.

the bride test: Daughter of the Salt King A. S. Thornton, 2021-02-02 A 2021 Foreword INDIES Award Winner in Romance and Finalist in Fantasy A 2022 Benjamin Franklin Award Runner-Up in Best New Voice: Fiction "The heat and romance of the desert, the push and the pull of Emel's desperation, and the magic and humanity of a caustic jinni make Daughter of the Salt King an irresistible ride." —Amy Harmon, New York Times bestselling author "This riveting debut novel will leave readers eagerly awaiting Thornton's future works." —Booklist A girl of the desert and a jinni born long ago by the sea, both enslaved to the Salt King—but with this capricious magic, only one can be set free. As a daughter of the Salt King, Emel ought to be among the most powerful women in the desert. Instead, she and her sisters have less freedom than even her father's slaves . . . for the Salt King uses his own daughters to seduce visiting noblemen into becoming powerful allies by marriage. Escape from her father's court seems impossible, and Emel dreams of a life where she can choose her fate. When members of a secret rebellion attack, Emel stumbles upon an alluring escape route: her father's best-kept secret—a wish-granting jinni, Saalim. But in the land of the Salt King, wishes are never what they seem. Saalim's magic is volatile. Emel could lose everything with a wish for her freedom as the rebellion intensifies around her. She soon finds herself playing a dangerous game that pits dreams against responsibility and love against the promise of freedom. As she finds herself drawn to the jinni for more than his magic, captivated by both him and the world he shows her outside her desert village, she has to decide if freedom is worth the loss of her family, her home and Saalim, the only man she's ever loved. For readers who enjoy epic desert fantasies and forbidden romance like *The Forbidden Wish* by Jessica Khoury, *The Wrath & the Dawn* by Renée Ahdieh, and *Empire of Sand* by Tasha Suri.

the bride test: The Boy with the Bookstore Sarah Echavarre Smith, 2022-09-06 When a baker meets the bookshop owner of her dreams, and he turns into her nemesis, they'll both have to read between the lines to avoid a career-ending recipe for disaster. Max Boyson looks good...from a distance. But up close and personal, the tattooed hottie Joelle Prima has been crushing on for the past year and half has turned into the prime example of why you shouldn't judge a book by his delectable cover. When she first learned about the massive renovation to the building they share, Joelle imagined that temporarily combining her Filipino bakery with Max's neighboring bookstore would be the perfect opening chapter to their happily ever after. In her fantasies they fed each other bibingka and pandesal while discussing Jane Austen and cooing over her pet hamster, Pumpkin. Reality, however...is quite different. Her gallant prince turned out to be a stubborn toad who snaps at her in front of customers, dries his wet clothes in her oven, and helps himself to the yummy pastries in her display case without asking. But beneath Max's grumpy glares, Joelle senses a rising heat—and a softening heart. And when they discover the real reason for the renovation, they'll have to put both their business senses and their feelings for each other to the test.

the bride test: A Bride in Store Melissa Jagears, 2015 When a mail-order bride arrives while her groom is away, what will she do when sparks begin to fly with her future husband's best friend?

the bride test: Serious Moonlight Jenn Bennett, 2021-01-05 "An atmospheric, multilayered,

sex-positive romance.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) After an awkward first encounter, Birdie and Daniel are forced to work together in a Seattle hotel where a famous author leads a mysterious and secluded life in this romantic contemporary novel from the author of *Alex, Approximately*. Mystery-book aficionado Birdie Lindberg has an overactive imagination. Raised in isolation and homeschooled by strict grandparents, she’s cultivated a whimsical fantasy life in which she plays the heroic detective and every stranger is a suspect. But her solitary world expands when she takes a job the summer before college, working the graveyard shift at a historic Seattle hotel. In her new job, Birdie hopes to blossom from introverted dreamer to brave pioneer, and gregarious Daniel Aoki volunteers to be her guide. The hotel’s charismatic young van driver shares the same nocturnal shift and patronizes the waterfront Moonlight Diner where Birdie waits for the early morning ferry after work. Daniel also shares her appetite for intrigue, and he’s stumbled upon a real-life mystery: a famous reclusive writer—never before seen in public—might be secretly meeting someone at the hotel. To uncover the writer’s puzzling identity, Birdie must come out of her shell...discovering that the most confounding mystery of all may be her growing feelings for the elusive riddle that is Daniel.

the bride test: Superfan Sarina Bowen, 2019-06-25 A new standalone novel in the Brooklyn Bruisers world! Sometimes lady luck shakes your hand, and sometimes she smacks your face. Sometimes she does both on the same day. Three years ago I met the most amazing girl in the world. We were both down on our luck. Then I got that call—the one that tells you to get your buns on a plane to go meet your destiny. But the girl was left behind. I didn’t have her phone number, and she didn’t know my real name. While I became a professional hockey player, she became a superstar, with platinum records and legions of fans. And a slick, music producer boyfriend who treated her badly. But fate wasn’t done with us yet. When Delilah turns up at a hockey game, I can’t resist making contact. The internet swoons when I ask her out on a date. She might not remember me. But her jerkface ex does. He’ll do anything to keep us apart. Good thing athletes never give up. This time I’m playing to win. Be still my heart! Silas is book boyfriend PERFECTION. This one has everything you’ll love in a swoony romance--a sweet, but take charge hero, a determined heroine and a lovable cast of side characters. New York Times bestselling author Kendall Ryan Sarina Bowen’s hockey romances books can be read together or separately: BROOKLYNAIRE OVERNIGHT SENSATION SUPERFAN ROOKIE MOVE HARD HITTER PIPE DREAMS BOUNTIFUL THE YEAR WE FELL DOWN THE YEAR WE HID AWAY THE FIFTEENTH MINUTE HIM US GOOD BOY STAY Don’t miss Sarina’s other romances, including the USA Today bestselling True North series: BITTERSWEET STEADFAST KEEPSAKE BOUNTIFUL SPEAKEASY FIREWORKS _____ For fans of: Helena Hunting, Elle Kennedy, Catherine Gayle, Avon Gale, Toni Aleo, Kristen Callihan, LJ Shen, Mona Kasten, Corinne Michaels, Jana Aston, Karina Halle, Meghan March, Jay Crownover, Anna Todd, Geneva Lee, Audrey Carlan, Jill Shalvis, Suzanne Brockmann, Helen Hoang, Christina Lauren, Kristan Higgins, Sally Thorne, Penelope Sky, Vi Keeland, Penelope Ward, Debbie Macomber, Nora Roberts, Maisey Yates, Elle Kennedy, Lauren Blakely, Susan Mallery, Penny Reid, Julia Kent, Kelly Jamieson, Melanie Harlow, Carrie Ann Ryan, Kendall Ryan, Kennedy Ryan, Ilsa Madden Mills, Nana Malone, Helen Hardt, Penelope Skye, Jasinda Wilder, Melissa Foster, E.L. James. Keywords: hockey romance, hockey novel, sports romance, Brooklyn, hockey, workplace, office romance, billionaires, New York City, urban romance, forbidden romance, alpha male, genius, alpha billionaire romance, sexy billionaires, hot billionaires, rock star, second chance, missed connections, sports hero, hockey star, second chance romance, super fan, superfan, rock star romance, professional hockey, hockey players.

the bride test: *The Beach House* Mary Alice Monroe, 2017-01-03 From the New York Times Bestselling Author of *On Ocean Boulevard*! Caretta Rutledge thought she’d left her Southern roots and troubled family far behind. But an unusual request from her mother—coming just as her own life is spinning out of control—has Cara heading back to the scenic Lowcountry of her childhood summers. Before long, the rhythms of the island open her heart in wonderful ways as she repairs the family beach house, becomes a bona fide “turtle lady” and renews old acquaintances long thought lost. But it is in reconnecting with her mother that she will learn life’s most precious lessons—true

love involves sacrifice, family is forever and the mistakes of the past can be forgiven. The perfect summer read!

the bride test: One Day in December Josie Silver, 2020-11-10 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Get ready to be swept up in a whirlwind romance. It absolutely charmed me.”—Reese Witherspoon (A Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick) “The perfect book to get lost in . . . Josie Silver’s characters sneak their way into your heart and stay.”—Jill Santopolo, author of *The Light We Lost* Two people. Ten chances. One unforgettable love story. Laurie is pretty sure love at first sight doesn't exist anywhere but the movies. But then, through a misted-up bus window one snowy December day, she sees a man who she knows instantly is the one. Their eyes meet, there's a moment of pure magic...and then her bus drives away. Certain they're fated to find each other again, Laurie spends a year scanning every bus stop and cafe in London for him. But she doesn't find him, not when it matters anyway. Instead they reunite at a Christmas party, when her best friend Sarah giddily introduces her new boyfriend to Laurie. It's Jack, the man from the bus. It would be. What follows for Laurie, Sarah and Jack is ten years of friendship, heartbreak, missed opportunities, roads not taken, and destinies reconsidered. *One Day in December* is a joyous, heartwarming and immensely moving love story to escape into and a reminder that fate takes inexplicable turns along the route to happiness.

the bride test: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1875

the bride test: *Munro* Kresley Cole, 2022-01-25 The next stand-alone installment in the electrifying *Immortals After Dark* series by #1 New York Times best-selling author Kresley Cole. Venture deeper into the Lore, fierce realm of the immortals—if you dare. . . . **TORMENTED IN UNIMAGINABLE WAYS** Coming off torture at the hands of his warlock captors, Munro MacRieve never expected to find his mate, or to lose her just as abruptly. Driven to desperation, the ruthless warrior uses his enemies’ own powers to reunite with her—in the distant past. **STOLEN FROM HER TIME** When a crazed werewolf crashes her wedding, Kereny “Ren” Codrina does what any cunning huntress would do: she captures him. Yet she finds herself softening toward the wounded beast—until he turns the tables and forces her into an incomprehensible future. **CAN A HUMAN AND AN IMMORTAL UNITE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE?** As danger mounts, Munro will do anything to make her undying, even sell his soul to an evil sorceress. But first he must convince his fiery mate that she belongs with him. If seduction means her survival, Munro will use every weapon in his arsenal to possess her—forever.

the bride test: Here Comes the Bride Pamela Morsi, 2012-08-21 There comes a time in every woman's life when she must get herself a man or give up the idea entirely... After three long years of patiently waiting for her reluctant, handsome, gentlemanly Amos Dewey, to pop the question, Augusta Mudd—owner of her small town's biggest factory--decides it's time to take matters in her own hands. With the help of her friend, ruggedly attractive Rome Akers, she's determined to make Amos jealous--and get him to the altar--before it's too late. Rome Akers wasn't ready to settle down. But by pretending to make Augusta his partner for life he had a chance to become her business partner instead. Yet despite his best intentions, the closer he gets to this intelligent, sweet woman, the stronger his feelings grow. Their tantalizing conversations and tender kisses ignite a desire more passionate than Roman ever imagined. Soon he'll do anything to make Augusta a bride--but only if he gets to be the groom.

the bride test: Those People Louise Candlish, 2020-05-12 From the author of the international bestseller *Our House*, a new novel of twisty domestic suspense asks, “Could you hate your neighbor enough to plot to kill him?” Lowland Way is the suburban dream. The houses are beautiful, the neighbors get along, and the kids play together on weekends. But when Darren and Jodie move into the house on the corner, they don’t follow the rules. They blast music at all hours, begin an unsightly renovation, and run a used-car business from their yard. It doesn’t take long for an all-out war to start brewing. Then, early one Saturday, a horrific death shocks the street. As police search for witnesses, accusations start flying—and everyone has something to hide.

the bride test: Art in the Blood (A Sherlock Holmes Adventure, Book 1) Bonnie MacBird,

2015-08-27 London. A snowy December, 1888. Sherlock Holmes, 34, is languishing and back on cocaine after a disastrous Ripper investigation. Watson can neither comfort nor rouse his friend – until a strangely encoded letter arrives from Paris.

the bride test: The Bride Bet Tessa Dare, 2025-12-15 How to lose a duke in ten years...without losing your heart. Once upon a time, two sworn enemies—the bookish daughter of a scholar and the devilish heir to a duke—made a pact: If they were both still single in ten years, they would marry each other. It was a joke, Nicola thought. A duchess? Her? But when the Duke of Westleigh returns a decade later, he's serious. He needs an heir, so he's holding her to their marriage bargain—diamond ring, lavish gown, engagement ball, and more. Nothing Nicola says can dissuade him. When she calls him arrogant, he praises her honesty. When she makes social stumbles, he catches her fall. And when she gets exasperated, the duke can't seem to get enough. For reasons she can't fathom, he claims that no other woman will do. He's betting he can change her mind, with logic and passion. She's betting she can change his mind, just by being herself. And as the clock ticks down to a wedding day, neither is counting on losing their heart.

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