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A Most Inconvenient Marriage (Ozark Mountain Romance Book #1)



Synopsis

Abigail Stuart Thought She was Jeremiah Calhoun's Widow. But Jeremiah Calhoun Is Very Handsome, Very Alive, and Very Perplexed. Most Inconvenient Indeed. With few options of her own, nurse Abigail Stuart agrees to marry her patient, a gravely wounded soldier calling himself Jeremiah Calhoun. They arrange a quick ceremony before he dies, giving Abigail the rights to his Ozark farm and giving Jeremiah the peace of knowing someone will care for his ailing sister after he's gone--a practical solution for both of them. After the war, Abigail fulfills her side of the bargain--until the real Jeremiah Calhoun shows up, injured but definitely alive, and wastes no time in challenging Abigail's story. Abigail is flummoxed. After months of claiming to be his widow, how can she explain that she's never seen this Jeremiah Calhoun before? How can she convince him that she isn't trying to steal his farm? And will she find a way to stay, even though this practical arrangement has turned into a most inconvenient marriage?

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Customer Reviews

A Most Inconvenient Marriage - (Ozark Mountain Romance Book #1) Regina Jennings This was my 3rd Regina Jennings book. I started it around 6pm the night it arrived and read 15 chapters...staying up well past my bed-time until nearly 1am! I was truly into it, even though I had to work the next day! I finished it the following evening and definitely recommend it :) The story starts off in 1865 St. Louis Missouri. The war is ending and Nurse Abigail Stuart is tending to prisoners of war. Her family has turned her out, and soon, the remaining patients will be transferred and she will not have a job. When her favorite patient, Jeremiah Calhoun is nearing death, and proposes a marriage of convenience to her to ensure his ailing sister, Rachel, his widowed mother and his horse ranch will all be cared for by her, she agrees. After his passing, she heads to the Missouri Ozarks to begin her new life. She must confront Laurel, Jeremiah's fiancée, constantly find the good in a temperamental Rachel, and learn to fit in among the untrusting mountain people. However, there is one very unexpected hitch, which I absolutely love. Jeremiah Calhoun, the real one...is very much alive! He comes home, damaged from the war, only to find a crazy woman claiming to be his bride. Meanwhile, he is anxious to return to his true love, Laurel and get rid of Abigail as soon as possible. Things are not, of course, that simple. It's been 4 years since Jeremiah left and Laurel has grown up and moved on to explore new options. Jeremiah's injuries cause him to "need" people in ways he is not used to, and Abigail already has a firm hand on running the farm and caring for his family. Considering his lack of options, he is stuck with her for now.

I very seldom buy Christian fiction because I have found a lot of it to be extremely heavy-handed, bordering on smug and sanctimonious. Ahem! Now that I've enraged everyone, I do like some well done Christian fiction as well as secular works that integrate Christianity without being "Christian" books. For example, Sharon Sala, one of my favourite authors, writes mainstream romance books where characters talk openly about God and their relationships with God, and they pray openly. Several secular historical romance authors that I like also make God and church involvement part of their characters' lives. This book, however, is one of the very few Christian romance books that I have actually bought, as opposed to downloading for free. The synopsis and the sample appealed to me and I knew I could always return it if it became too heavy handed for me, so I decided to try it. I'm glad I did because I thoroughly enjoyed it. The author wrote very well, the book was well edited, the pace was even, leisurely but not too slow, the characters were likeable and the plot was extremely engaging; it held my interest and I consider the book to be a keeper. What I especially liked was the way the author deftly integrated the characters' religious faith into story. There was nothing "fire and brimstone" or "preachy" about this book. Characters talked about their faith and

discussed topics like war, killing, death and dying, making peace with God and others, forgiveness, God's plans for or God's hand in one's life, and love for one's family and others, all within the context of Christian beliefs and values, and the author did it with a gentle hand.

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