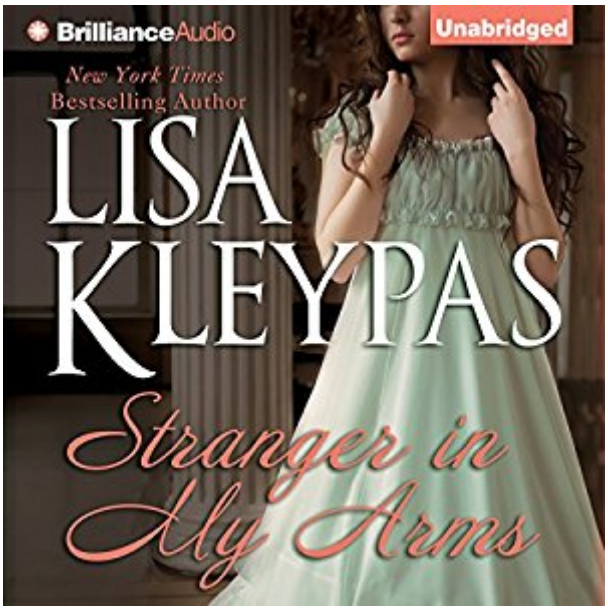
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Stranger In My Arms



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Synopsis

"Lady Hawksworth, your husband is not dead." With those words, Lara’s life turned upside down. Hunter, Earl of Hawksworth, had been lost at sea. Or so she’d been told. Their unhappy marriage - with its cold caresses and passionless kisses - was over. But now a powerful, virile man stood before her, telling secrets only a husband could know, and vowing she would once again be his wife in every way. While Lara couldn’t deny that this man with the smoldering dark eyes resembled Hunter, he was attentive and loving in ways he never was before. Soon she desperately wanted to believe, with every beat of her heart, that this stranger was truly her husband. But had this rake reformed - or was Lara being seduced by a cunning stranger?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lara’s had been an arranged marriage to a man who was cold and mostly absent, so when word reached Lady Hawksworth that her husband was lost at sea, she happily gave up her title and position and proceeded to lead an exemplary life as a volunteer at the community orphanage. But suddenly - after over a year - Lara receives word that her husband is alive and on his way home. While Lara couldn’t deny that the handsome man who appeared before her resembled her husband in many ways, and knew things that only he could know, the "new" Hunter was attentive and loving in ways he had never been before. Was it possible that her rake of a husband had reformed - or was Lara being seduced by a cunning stranger?STRANGER IN MY ARMS was an exciting and intriguing story that had a wonderful blend of both mystery and romance. Throughout the tale the

question remains: is or isn’t he Lara’s husband? Early on the reader is looking for clues to this query although for the most part it’s assumed that Hunter is indeed an imposter. His newfound feelings for Lara as well as his entirely new personality all point to the fact that he’s not who he claims to be. There’s an interesting twist to the plot when all is revealed that I didn’t see coming, and everything was explained superbly. Simply put, this book held me enthralled from beginning to end and was a completely satisfying read.The characters were well developed and multi-dimensional, especially Hunter, whom I loved! He was kind, generous, and thoughtful, but he also had a dark and dangerous facet about him that was entirely appealing. The chemistry and passion is apparent from the start, and the love scenes were sexy and well written. I liked Lara, but her insecurities and indecisiveness grated on my nerves at times and I felt she was the only slight flaw in an otherwise thrilling romance. Still, the entire story engaged me emotionally and was very touching. I loved the ending too, which was moving and left me with a warm feeling. Ms. Kleypas is a true talent and I would absolutely recommend this book and almost anything else she’s written =)

This story is closely reminiscent of two great movies - The Return of Martin Guerre, and more recently the Jodie Foster/Richard Gere cryfest Sommersby. Except, of course, we have a happy ending here instead. Most historical romances I’ve read - even the good ones - have stuck to a formula, but this one has definitely veered off the path. And I love it. I’m thinking the less-than-positive reviews on this book might be because it didn’t follow the usual course of most historical romances, but I would definitely give the author kudos for taking the plunge. I love the outright adoration that our hero, Hunter, bestowed on distrustful, hurt but unjaded Lara right from the get-go. For a change, instead of waiting for the hero to fall for the lovestruck heroine, we get to read about the other way around.My only issue, I guess, is the glaring typographical errors with this download. Darn it, darn it, darn it - it is so damn distracting to find these slip-ups during dramatic scenes of the book. For example, there are obviously some missing words during the paragraph that make you think the typist suddenly had a hiccup in his/her thought process and you are left there going "huh"? Also, our hero Hunter Crossland was referred to as Hunter GRASSLAND for more than twice. Uh-huh, so suddenly our Lord Harksworth is a topographical feature. C’mon, please! Just because this is a Kindle download instead of a book, doesn’t mean you have to slack off on syntax. Some corrections would be appreciated on this wonderful book.

I’m so glad I didn’t listen to the negative reviewers on this book, because I loved it. Although, just from reading the "preview" section, I realized that I was really going to like it.Lady Larissa

Hawksworth, known affectionately as Lara, was verbally, emotionally and sexually abused by her husband during the first years of their life. He was in love with another woman but married Lara because she was younger and could, theoretically, provide him with children. Unfortunately for Lara she failed to do so and the verbal and emotional abuse grew worse, although at least he stopped "forcing himself" (i.e. marital rape) on her. Instead he just degraded and insulted her, played little games to humiliate her and veritably made it impossible for her to please him although she did her best to be a dutiful wife.If it wasn't for his awful cousin Arthur who took Hawksworth's title after Hunter perished at sea, Lara's life would have been much better after her husband passed. Although she made the best of things anyway, even though she was basically kicked out of her house and sent to live in the barely habitable gameskeeper's cottage. After years of abuse and no one helping her she's begun to devote her life to helping others, especially orphaned children who, like her, have no control over the awful circumstances that they find themselves in.And then her husband comes home. Or at least, a man saying he's her husband, and Lara knows that her nightmare is about to begin all over again. Except that now Hunter is insisting that he's different (but then again, most abusers say that) and he goes about doing his best to win her over. But can she trust what he says or is this just another game that he's designed to humiliate and hurt her?Lara is one of the bravest heroines out there... it's hard enough for someone who's been abused the way she has to go about trusting someone new, but to allow herself to be romanced and coaxed to trust the same person who hurt her takes a lot of courage - not to mention time and constancy on his part and you have to admire Hunter for his tenacity.About a third of the way into the book the reader finds that Hunter is not who he says he is, and even as Lara is struggling to learn to trust her "husband," the reader already knows that he's lying to her, which puts an entirely new threat over the happiness that she's finally learning to have. Because for a woman who's already been betrayed by her husband in every way, finally allowing herself to trust him and fall in love with him only to find out that THIS man has been lying to her about EVERYTHING is going to be devastating and you find yourself bracing for this final showdown throughout the entire book. It adds a level of anxiety and interest that I usually only experience with murder mysteries or adventure books.I love the relationship between Lara and Hunter, the two steps forward and one step back. Intellectually she knows better than to trust him, but her heart and instincts are telling her that it's okay. He proves to her, one slow step at a time, that he's not going to humiliate, degrade, insult or rape her. There are lots of roadblocks, most of them initiated by her, all in an attempt to protect herself. At one point she even throws his mistress at him, the woman Hunter always loved. This is to protect herself from finally having to spend a night with him and also because she's now a little worried about her

heart - after all, if she gives in to trusting and loving him only to have him leave her for the mistress again... Ouch. No wonder she felt the need to do one final test before giving herself fully to him.Watching her blossom from the person her husband boxed her into, under the gentle tutelage of this new version of her husband, was absolutely delightful. By the end of the book Lara has learned how to trust, she's learned that although she might be an independent person it's okay to depend on someone else some of the time, she's learned that the world isn't black and white, and she's learned that sometimes the right thing to do isn't always the honest thing. It was very pleasurable watching Hunter coax her out of the cage she lived in, watching him teach her these things. The slow seduction is especially steamy and done very realistically. I wouldn't have believed it if Lara had been willing to hop right into bed with him or to trust him immediately; Hunter seduces her heart and mind along with her body and the result is a wonderfully romantic book.

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