Bachelor Dad on Her Doorstep

Therese Michelle Dryden

BA (Hons) University of Newcastle

Submitted in fulfilment of the requirement of
the degree of Master of Philosophy

March 2011

Faculty of Education and Arts
School of Humanities and Social Science
University of Newcastle
This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library**, being made available for loan and photocopying subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

**Unless an Embargo has been approved for a determined period.
I dedicate this thesis to my husband Greg for his support, his advice and his unfailing good humour.
Acknowledgments

Sincerest thanks go to my supervisors, Dr Kim Cheng Boey and Dr Dianne Osland, whose support, encouragement and direction have proved invaluable. I would also like to thank Dr Christopher Pollnitz and Judith Beveridge for their enthusiasm and support early in my candidature. Thanks must also go to my fellow postgraduate students of the Friday afternoon creative writing workshop for their insights and good humour. For offering me a residency during the writing of this novel, I express my gratitude to Varuna, The Writers’ House. My heartfelt thanks goes to the Mills & Boon editorial team who, as always, have provided much sound advice and support in helping me to develop my writing.

Finally, this project would not have been possible without the support of my family, especially my husband Greg. I thank you for your patience and forbearance over the past four years.
Table of Contents

Acknowledgements iv

Table of Contents v

Abstract vi

Bachelor Dad on Her Doorstep 1

Critical Exegesis 182
  Introduction 183
  Chapter One: The Heart Has Its Reasons 196
  Chapter Two: Narrative Strategies of Romance and Realism 219

Works Cited 249
Abstract

The creative work – *Bachelor Dad on Her Doorstep* – is a Harlequin Mills & Boon Sweet Romance. It details Jaz Harper’s return to her hometown of Clara Falls in the Blue Mountains after eight years away. Her return means confronting her past – in the shape of her high school sweetheart, Connor Reed, who broke her heart and who is the reason she left Clara Falls all those years ago. Connor is convinced that eight years ago Jaz cheated on him, dashing all their plans for the future. In the time since she left he has become a single father. The story details the development of their relationship from antipathy to empathy, and then from friendship to love.

The accompanying exegesis discusses the conventions and constraints of the popular romance genre. It explores the challenges presented to a writer in creating and maintaining emotional intensity in a popular genre romance and the need to provide a satisfying and credible ending to that romance. Five well-known romance novels – *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *Rebecca*, *The Grand Sophy*, and *The Republic of Love* – are analysed for the manner in which they portray romantic love and for the narrative strategies that may be of use to the writer of category romance. Finally, the exegesis discusses how the conventions of the popular romance genre and the narrative strategies employed have combined to shape the creative work.
Bachelor Dad on Her Doorstep

by Therese Dryden

©Therese Dryden 2009

The creative section of this work is available as a commercial publication and therefore is not available as part of this PDF document.

The creative work is available to purchase from

http://ebooks.eharlequin.com/

as Bachelor Dad on Her Doorstep by

Michelle Douglas

The page numbers have been maintained to ensure consistency of citation.