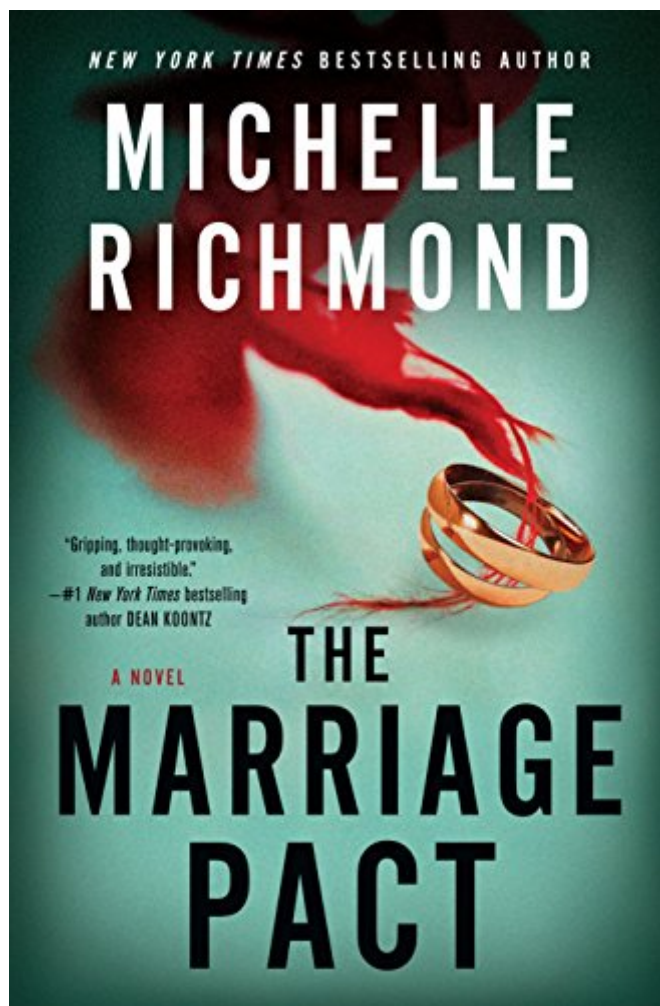


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The Marriage Pact: A Novel



Synopsis

How far is too far when it comes to protecting your marriage? Find out in this relentlessly paced novel of psychological suspense for anyone who loved *The Couple Next Door*. “Ranks with *The Stepford Wives* and *Gone Girl* as a terrifying look at what it really means to say ‘I do.’” —*Joe*

• Joseph Finder, New York Times bestselling author of *The Switch*

Newlyweds Alice and Jake are a picture-perfect couple. Alice, once a singer in a well-known rock band, is now a successful lawyer. Jake is a partner in an up-and-coming psychology practice. Their life together holds endless possibilities. After receiving an enticing wedding gift from one of Alice’s prominent clients, they decide to join an exclusive and mysterious group known only as The Pact. The goal of The Pact seems simple: to keep marriages happy and intact. And most of its rules make sense. Always answer the phone when your spouse calls. Exchange thoughtful gifts monthly. Plan a trip together once per quarter. . . . Never mention The Pact to anyone. Alice and Jake are initially seduced by the glamorous parties, the sense of community, their widening social circle of like-minded couples. And then one of them breaks the rules. The young lovers are about to discover that for adherents to The Pact, membership, like marriage, is for life. And The Pact will go to any lengths to enforce that rule. For Jake and Alice, the marriage of their dreams is about to become their worst nightmare.

Praise for *The Marriage Pact*

“Gripping, thought-provoking, and irresistible.” —Dean Koontz

“Riveting psychological suspense! This book will keep you up all night, while making you second-guess everything you know and everyone you’ve ever loved.” —Lisa Gardner, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Right Behind You*

“Michelle Richmond is, simply put, a great storyteller. And *The Marriage Pact*, without gimmicks or tricks, is a twisting, suspenseful, keep-you-up-all-night thriller. But it’s more than that, too. It’s a deep, insightful, nearly voyeuristic view into modern marriage. . . . A smart, engrossing, scary read!” —Lisa Unger, New York Times bestselling author of *The Red Hunter*

“With a brilliant premise for a novel of psychological suspense, taut plotting, and deft writing, *The Marriage Pact* shows in gripping detail just what could go wrong when we try too hard to protect the love we cherish most.” —JP Delaney, New York Times bestselling author of *The Girl Before*

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Customer Reviews

I like how this is strange and that the author is very good at narrative. The violence put me off a bit.

Ending a bit contradictory but kept up my interest

Entertaining exciting read. Ending disappointed--kind of took the easy way out.

I'm a mom/homemaker with two toddlers. Reading is a guilty pleasure I don't often get. This book was perfect for this situation! It was easy to get into, writing was very comfortable - vocab was normal, names and characters were easy to follow, and the story pulled me in right from the get-go. The concept is intriguing. The story itself is flawed, however, in terms of what a character would/would not do. An attorney would not sign a contract with minimal review and not even glance at the main exhibit. Duh! But I didn't care much, because it was enjoyable anyway. Kind of like watching shows that are grossly erroneous in terms of medical procedures or physics, but they're still entertaining. I had a hard time putting this book down, but towards the end it got to be a bit much. I felt like we were on step 5 of a 4-step program, running on and on as if the author wasn't sure how to bring it to a close. The ending was a bust. Still, I would read this author again because the writing style was something a busy person can grab and become engrossed in very quickly. While not great, it was a really nice diversion from a very busy lifestyle.

4.25-4.5 STARS When I first read the synopsis for *The Marriage Pact*, I just knew that this was one novel that I had to get my hands on. With a uniquely intriguing premise, I was immediately drawn to this story and was subsequently enveloped by the drama unfolding around the newly married couple, Alice and Jake. A wedding gift invite to join *The Pact* by one of Alice's prominent clients, the goal of this exclusive club is to help keep marriages intact. At first, the rules and elaborate parties seem more than doable. But when rules are inadvertently broken, the consequences might be more than this couple is willing to abide. Suspenseful and mysterious, this psychological drama takes the reader on one very unforgettable ride. Up until the ending, *The Marriage Pact* was all that I had expected and more. But the author totally lost me with the way in which she wrapped this story up. Unrealistic and overly contrived, this story's conclusion was disappointing, to say the least. After riding the story's high, it was a major let down not to have a smarter, more satisfying resolution. Still, *The Marriage Pact* has its merits—not the least of which is a very innovative story concept. While it might not be a 5 star read, it's certainly a book well worth giving a try.

Compulsively readable but the whole premise was unbelievable. *The Marriage Pact* is, to put it bluntly, a weird book. Like really weird. Our main characters are newlyweds Jake and Alice, and for some bizarre reason (read: there really isn't a good reason), they decide to sign *The Pact* in hopes to have their marriage last forever. My main issue with this book is that the decision to sign *The Pact* makes zero sense. For example, Alice is a lawyer. And yet she signs a contract without really thinking about it, or reading the fine print. That made absolutely no sense to me whatsoever. And Jake just kind of goes along with whatever Alice says because he doesn't want to lose her. And when things start to go oddly, both Alice and Jake just ignore all of the warning signs. Alice gets on someone's bad side and it starts off with her having to wear a tracker bracelet. And both Alice and Jake seem to be amused about it all. It was very weird. Things escalate from the tracker bracelet, and I won't spoil that here, as part of the readability of *The Marriage Pact* is that you know things will go downhill, but you don't know exactly what is going to happen. I would've read this book in one sitting if I had the opportunity to; I was desperate to know what was going to happen next! And the ending is, well, it was a letdown for me, but only because it was bizarre, a bit

disturbing, and a tad ambiguous. The Marriage Pact was a book that I didn't want to put down, so I would definitely start this at a time when you can devote a few hours to either reading this in one sitting or in two sittings. It's one of those books where the character choices really don't make a lot of sense (when you are running from people with all kinds of resources, it's probably best to NOT take your cell phone or use your credit card. |just sayin'), and there were just some very weird things in the book, but I did read the book quickly and can't stop thinking about it! I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book. This review first posted on my blog, luvtoread.

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