

Her Good Name
LDS Romantic Suspense—83,000
637 word synopsis
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CHRESSAIDIA JOSEFINA SALAZAR, or Chrissy, gave up believing in fairy tales a long time ago, and she only agreed to the blind date with MICAH HEET, a divorced father of three, because her best friend, AMANDA, promised her a pedicure if she'd go. She has no delusions that Micah is the man that will change her life. However, the actual date changes the lives of both of them when the cashier who rings up their dinners also sells their identities.

Micah's identity is used solely for money, whereas Chrissy's identity becomes the final detail needed for a new CHRESSAIDIA to come to the US, have her child, and earn the respect of her father; a militant leader in Guatemala intent on overthrowing the current democratic government of their country. The new Chressaidia arrives in southern California, eight months pregnant and resentful of the role forced upon her. She infiltrates the drug trade of her husband, FREDERICO, and makes herself right at home with the new name she's taken on.

Chrissy continues to live her life in Idaho Falls; helping care for her niece and nephew, looking for a new career path, ignoring the dreams that never quite came true in her life, and completely unaware of the identity crisis looming over her. When Chrissy finally discovers the theft of her identity, she finds herself with a police record, tens of thousands of dollars worth of debt in her name, and an empty bank account. Amanda convinces her to go to Micah for advice, since he's recently dealt with his own attempts of proving his innocence, and with their paths crossing once again they both wonder if perhaps there is room for second impressions.

Back in California, Chressaidia is anxious to finish her mission and return to her father, but when her baby is born with serious birth defects she determines to find another way to prove her worth. Abandoning her child at the hospital, she becomes intent on proving Frederico's failings and showing her father the extent of her abilities by finding an arms shipment that was lost months earlier. She manages to transport a portion of the guns across the Mexico border and makes plans to ship the rest of them as soon as the details can be arranged. Nothing will stop her.

Meanwhile, Micah and Chrissy begin unraveling the facts of their circumstances and making up for that first date-gone-bad until Micah's ex-wife's announcement of her divorce from her current husband forces Micah to admit he no longer has room for a relationship when his children need his stability so much. Following Micah's explanation, Chrissy's patience runs out. She heads to California, intent on proving to the police there that the woman they arrested is a fraud. However, upon arrival she decides to first gather enough facts to make her argument indisputable. Micah joins her after his identity is accessed once again, and together they realize just how much trouble this other Chressaidia—and Chrissy by default—is in.

Only after they find the guns, learn of Frederico's murder, and see BABY SALAZAR does Chrissy agree to go to the police. Unbeknownst to the two of them, however, Chressaidia has found them and when she confronts Chrissy in the hotel room it's with the understanding that Chrissy and Micah are all that stand in her way. The situation intensifies when Micah calls the police, and Chrissy finds herself fighting for her life in more ways than one.

The next day Chrissy awakens in a hospital to find titanium pins in her arm, Micah confessing his true feelings, and her good name on the long road to recovery. Chrissy finds herself facing a whole new set of dreams and understanding, perhaps, why those other ones never came true. There wouldn't be room for these ones if they had.