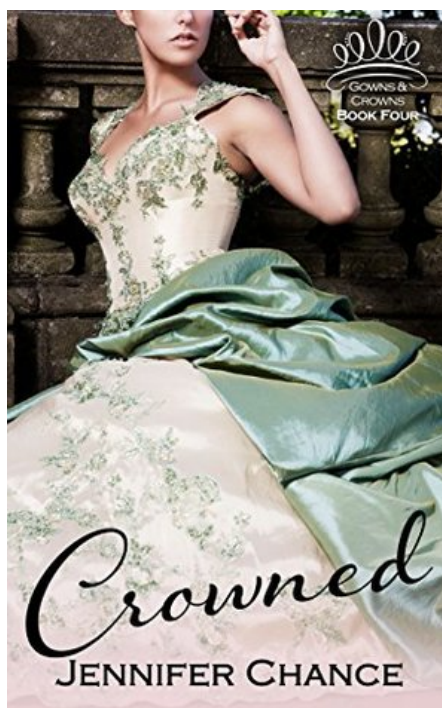




Crowned

Jennifer Chance

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Trauma psychologist-in-training Francesca Simmons would like to think she can help anyone, as long as she keeps herself centered, focused... controlled. Then she meets a man in desperate need of that zen-state serenity... and he makes her absolutely crazy.

Ryker Stavros has been rotting in prison his entire life... the life he can remember anyway, which began a year ago in fire and pain. When an angel steps into his world with maddeningly cool hands and gentle words that set his soul on fire, telling him he's not at all who he believes he is, he knows she's only trying to help... But the devil in him won't rest until he makes her his.

Crowned Details

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Chelsea says

More reviews available at my blog, Beauty and the Bookworm.

Crowned is the conclusion to the main "arc" of Jennifer Chance's Gowns and Crowns series, though it seems like there is a spin-off fifth book, Cursed, in the works which will move the story away from the fictional Garronia and onto US soil. In the meantime, Crowned is about the last of four American friends visiting Garronia to not have been set up with a romantic interest: Fran. In the wake of the rescue of the amnesiac crown prince, Fran is pulled in to act as a sort of companion and to help him remember himself, which the queen thinks will happen because Fran is young and pretty and oh yeah, she's a graduate psychology student with her focus for the past year having been on soldiers with PTSD. It's this that really made me have serious reservations about this book--though there were other glaring problems, too--because a therapist having a relationship with a patient is a huge, huge no-no.

Now, Chance makes it very explicit throughout the book that Fran is not technically Ari's therapist...and yet she really is acting as one, and I feel like in this case it's the spirit of the thing rather than the letter of it that really made the big difference.

Chance has a knack for writing both steamy and sweet interactions, but her plots themselves really weakened as this series went on. For example, in this book, Ari eventually does start to regain his memories--I'm not going to get into that part of it, because I'm not really qualified to--and yet he has no problem that Fran, and all of his other friends and family, decided to keep his identity a secret and let him walk around Garronia like a nobody when pretty much everyone who saw him had at least some idea of who he was. He has no problems that Fran slept with him under, essentially, false pretexts. There's absolutely no questioning of any of her actions or why she kept any of the secrets she did; none of them are hugely harmful, and yet the very fact that she felt the need to do so, and had broken laws in the process of doing so for no good reason except that she felt like it, really seemed to have no effect on anyone. What? What is in the water in Garronia that the fact that their apparent future queen is a complete fake does not bother them? Is the royal family planning on perpetuating this lie for all eternity? Surely someday, someone would recognize Fran and go, "Hey, isn't that...?"

I think this series has made abundantly clear that plot is not Chance's strong point. The romantic interactions are right on-point, sweet when they need to be and steamy when you want them to be, but the plots that surround and hold up these romances are very weak and can really take away from the romance as a whole. I am still curious to read Cursed, whenever it comes out, but I had serious, serious reservations about this book, and I don't think it was a great end to the main series.

2.5 stars out of 5.

Galateea says

For the love of me, I can't figure out why this book is listed on an alien erotica shelf. And trust me, this issue has been bugging me massively for months: www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/alien-er...

Edeena Cross says

I've loved reading about each of the four friends, and it was great to see Fran shine in this story. I loved that there is a natural conclusion to this series so that we are satisfied that the girls are on their way to a Happily Ever After, without completely closing the door on Garronia. It's a true balance between giving us everything and leaving us wanting more.

I also loved the sneak preview into Cursed, which promises to give us our Garronian fix!

Mary says

This book was gifted to me. Another brilliant story in the Gowns and Crowns series. This is filled with romance, drama, mystery and suspense. Ari is finally home and we finally discover Fran's past. The love story of Ari and Fran is so sweet, and fun. I wasn't sure if I would like Fran, she has been so nervous about her past, but she is the best of the bunch. And I love Ari, not as much as Dmitri, but a very close second, he's such a nice easy going guy even after all he's been through. I can't wait for Cursed now.

Jessica says

I was quite happy with how this book turned out. I had always been intrigued by Fran through the previous books. Then I was dying to know how she'd be able to help Ari recover his memory. The queen is quite the matchmaker and I loved seeing all the secondary characters (previous couples, etc). There was plenty of romance and drama/suspense, and it was a fairly quick read (to me anyway) that I devoured in one sitting. There were some grammatical errors that can quickly be fixed with another round of edits, but other than that, I really liked the book!

Coral says

Plot: 4/5

Characterisation: 4.5/5

Prose: 3/5

How much I enjoyed it: 4/5

Tina says

Wonderful Series

I have the first four books of this series and they have been wonderful. Quick paced and light hearted. They keep you in the edge of your seat. You have to keep coming back to see how they end. Great series.

Stacey Miller says

Truly inspiring.

A great story of Life, Love, and friendship. The ups and the downs. Rounding out the other stories of Gowns and Crowns.

Marguerita says

After reading the first three books in the series and enjoying them, I was excited to read the fourth book. Overall I enjoyed the book and was not disappointed.

Yesenia says

3.5 stars

Stacey says

I think my problem with the last two books in the series is that they're more thriller/suspense than romance. Both deliver on a good plot. It's the character's and how they get together than doesn't quite ring true for me. Both are well written. They just lie a little....flat.
