



Beauty and the Beast

K.M. Shea

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Once upon a time Elle made a mistake. A small miscalculation sends her through the roof of an enchanted chateau. Stranded until her broken leg mends, Elle is forced to rely on the good will of the sour chateau owner—the cursed Prince Severin.

Prince Severin—the commanding general and staunch supporter of his brother the crown prince—is cursed to look like a beast until a maiden falls in love with him. However, he has given up all hope of shattering the curse after several painful and failed attempts to break it. As such he has only disdain for Elle, leaving her to the devices of his bossy servants. This suits Elle perfectly as she dislikes the entire royal family, Severin included.

Unfortunately for the unsuspecting pair, the chateau servants are determined to break the curse and spend the majority of their time pushing Elle and Severin together. After bonding over gardens, animals, and terrifying squirrels Elle and Severin show signs of friendship, and perhaps something more...

But not all love stories can end that easily. After all, Elle is not what she seems, and Severin's life is placed in danger when hostilities flare between his brother and the monarchs of a neighboring country.

If they really want the love of a lifetime Elle, a loyal liar, and Severin, an indifferent beast, will have to use every trick they know to survive.

Beauty and the Beast Details

Date : Published December 15th 2013 (first published December 12th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : K.M. Shea

Format : Kindle Edition 293 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Fairy Tales, Retellings, Young Adult, Beauty and The Beast

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From Reader Review Beauty and the Beast for online ebook

Talltree says

Okay fantasy read. I think the author needs polish or maybe this is an earlier work. Her plot twists, dialogue, pov inner dialogue need work.

First half was just okay, the supporting cast was better drawn out than the MCs. The second half was written better with the h turning out kickass(which I loved) but the H pulled d!(k move. The h should have kicked him/his servants where it hurt and moved to the next country!! Plus she didn't even let him grovel, that made me mad!

Safe romance but jerk H, the h was too good for him.

3 stars.

Minni Mouse says

DNF at 6% because oh, nooo you don't, you thinly-veiled fan fiction.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Another Beauty and the Beast retelling, of which there are myriad. This one has a few interesting twists, but -- reality check time here -- several major weaknesses as well, most of which are probably because this is an indie author who didn't get some editing help that she really could have used. It's a nice try, though, and the author has potential. It was okay for a Kindle freebie, but I came thisclose to skipping the longwinded, rather boring middle section of the book and jumping to the end. 2.5 stars, which I would round down to two if this weren't an indie author, but I'm going to cut Shea a little slack.

Elle (for reasons that the author coyly hides for most of the story) falls through a stained glass panel in the roof of a country chateau, wherein lives Prince Severin, who has been cursed to live as a beast, along with his servants, who are under a curse as well: their faces are ... um, well, I'm not sure what, since their faces are hidden by masks, but in any case they're all mute and communicate with slates and chalk.

Severin is understandably a very grumpy character, and wants Elle sent on her way yesterday, if not sooner.

But Elle broke her leg badly in the fall, and Severin's on-staff doctor insists that she stay there for weeks, if not months, to heal. The servants all know that love will break the curse, so they'll do whatever it takes to keep throwing Elle and Severin together. Too bad Elle and Severin despise each other so deeply!

So we all know where this is going, eventually, but is the ride worth it? Well, Severin (who is considered a prince even though he was illegitimate) has an interesting relationship with his brother, the ruler of their country. There are some nice allusions to roses and to some elements of the original fairy tale, without being heavy-handed. The servants have some character, though the enchantress character didn't really fit in well for me. Elle has a very different backstory that comes out in the end. I thought the story was a little deliberately misleading on why she was there at the chateau in the first place, but I enjoyed the twist.

I did have issues with the rather boring, interminable middle part where Severin grouches, servants connive, Elle frets about her duties that she can't fulfill because of her injury, and tries to get back on her feet as soon as possible. Not a whole lot else happens for about half the book, other than them gradually getting to know and like each other, and it wasn't compelling enough for me. It was kind of strange, since there were a few other more exciting events in the story that were given short shrift (view spoiler). Romantic tension between Severin and Elle was almost non-existent.

Other problems were that Severin's and the servants' reactions, when they finally find out who Elle is, were overblown, way out of proportion to Elle's (partial) misleading them as to her past. I never bought that, nor did I buy Elle's quick forgiveness of Severin's long-past mistreatment of her, which was the reason for all of her initial hatred of him. He was all, sorry, that was cruel and unfair, I won't do it again, and that was it. They pretty much handwaved the problem away.

If you have a major fondness for fairy tale retellings, this isn't bad, but its indie roots show a bit too much. I wouldn't recommend it to more critical readers.

J. W. Garrett says

“Every man has a wild beast within him.” Frederick the Great

Formula for a Beauty and the Beast Fairy Tale: Enchanted Chateau; Cursed hero Prince; Cursed servants; Heroine's bankrupt merchant father; Supporting said father and sisters; Only true love can/will break the curse; Magic. Check!

We now have the formula for another version of our classic tale Beauty and the Beast. Our prince was cursed and condemned to live as a beast both in body and mind. However, an Enchantress came along and tweaked the evil curse enough that it cleared the mind of our hero so that he was now human in thought and mind. However, there was also a provision that could/would break the curse... he had to fall in love. Now that just might be a problem... especially when you have the body and features of a beast.

“There is a savage beast in every man, and when you hand that man a sword or spear and send him forth to war, the beast stirs.” George R. R. Martin, *A Storm of Swords*

This took me a while to get into as we join the story well into the life of the Prince as a beast. He is living in isolation with his cursed features and that of his cursed mute servants, who also have animalistic traits. Everything is peaceful and quiet, until, she falls through the skylight into his chateau. With a broken leg, Elle is stranded at the chateau and unable to leave. Why was she on the roof? Why was she even at the chateau? Why is she so angry at the crown and what secrets does she withhold from the prince?

“The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides.” Audrey Hepburn

Once I got into the story, it was really cute. There was only one little problem... there was not a lot of explanation regarding backstory. We are given information fait accompli. This had the feel of arriving at the cinema and taking a seat well after the movie has already started. Perhaps waiting in line for popcorn wasn't such a good idea after all. I can't ask anyone who, what, when or why... that person behind us is one that will shush you for talking in the cinema. Grrrr! So now, I am dependent on clues that will help me understand what the heck happened.

What I liked: The author did an excellent job of letting the relationship develop over time. This was not one of those 'I hate you' one minute and 'I love you' the next type of story... thank goodness. The evolution of understanding really drew me in. The big reveal happened at about 84% on my reader. I had been so worried about who and what Elle really was, that I breathed a tremendous breath when the reveal came about. I LOVED this part. It was really well done by the author. I was so happy she wasn't someone else. There were so many possibilities. The author painted so many rabbit trails and false leads that it had me fearing for our heroine. This was the perfect ploy. The foreshadowing throughout the whole story was right there in front of me and I simply did not see it. Wow, it was so cute. There was a lot of anger and angst with the reveal and forgiveness didn't come easily.

Rating: PG13: due to the violence of the beast before his reclaiming. This is book one of the Timeless Fairy Tales series. There are 9 books that follow the classic tales so far. The prince's brother is featured in book 9.

Treece says

Rating: 4 1/2 stars

Witty, inventive and colorful, this fascinating rewind of *La Belle et Beast* was a delight. The servants echoed hints of Disney and Cocteau but with refreshing originality. There's court intrigue, beautiful architecture, elaborate rooms and rich food, all set inside a French chateau with a gorgeous backdrop of lush countryside. Severin and Elle are wonderful together and apart.

I would recommend this author --whose fairytales are amazing reworkings!--and this book to anyone who enjoys a great retelling of a classic.

Lola says

Ah... another sweet fairytale retelling. I don't think I could ever tire of them. Especially not Beauty and the Beast retells. They're my favourites and, from my reading experience and personal tastes, the best ones there are out there.

I liked this. It's light, it's lovely and shimmering with magic and hope. I especially enjoyed seeing the alterations to the classic and how those modifications made the story feel like a novelty and like reading Beauty and the Beast for the first time. It made me remember why this is my favorite princess story ever written.

But... it's short. But... it's extremely cheesy. But... there's barely is any kind of plot. It felt like the whole book was in fact a long single chapter. I believe the problem stands in it not switching settings as often as

needed. The match maker servants also really, really annoyed me. At first it was fun but it does get on your nerves after some time.

It makes of an enjoyable read if you're into fairytale retellings or simply Beauty and Beast tales. Could have been better, but hey, good nonetheless.

belle says

I would recommend this for a light read. I had fun reading it, and found the dialogue highly amusing. It was not an extremely thought provoking or emotionally provoking book. I found that the real emotion and the writing really peaked by the end of the book. I do wish that there would have been further exploration of this time frame within the book. Though the story follows the famed and predictable route of the famous tale Beauty and the Beast there were unique and insightful adjustments to the plot. The beast was a truly excellent character and I loved the unique description of his physical characteristics and thought that the detail Shea included regarding his appearance led me to appreciate "Beauty" and her braveness more. This "beauty" was a great character. Instead of a perfect glamorous heroine as this title might inspire, we find a struggling and regular girl with... AN ACTUAL NAME. Yes. Her name is not beauty. She was also fairly cool, if I do say so.

SUMMARY: one night the cursed master of the chateaux, the illegitimate prince, is conducting his night when a girl falls through the glass roof of his home. The servants watch as she screams from her broken leg. When they approached her she showed no fear. Their faces were permanently covered in masks and they could not speak as part of their prince's curse. She showed no fear as the master approached, a sinister and predatory mixture of humans and cat. Elle is forced to stay at the chateaux from her broken leg. The prince wants no involvement with her but eventually the efforts of the servants force them to become friends. Despite their differences they bind over simple and silly things. Can Elle be the girl who breaks the curse by loving the prince in this form and capturing his heart? Can they overcome their class differences and Elle's secrets? Will Elle's family be safe as she is forced to delay her indentured duties from her broken leg? Can she befriend a man so responsible for her family's misfortunes and her own labors?

The best parts: the characters were connectable, intricate, and engaging. The plot and descriptions were detailed lending an impressive sense of genuineness to the story. I particularly loved Severin-- the "beast". Beneath his misleading yet actually very accurate exterior he is a great person, very loyal, and still involved in the Crown's affairs. He also does not hate everyone or act in a way that reflects his exterior besides his inner strength, and he is by no means perfect. Elle is incredibly inspiring and she carries a twist in the story. She is also not a weak and vapid character as one might think from the title. She is also not a delicate beautiful princess as other stories have often pictured beauty. I thought that the situation of the servants was intriguing and Elle's outside life was very interesting. The chateaux was also a great place.

the not-so-best parts: I thought that there were rather strange and insensible parts to the book. such as: why did Severin never question why elle FELL THROUGH HIS ROOF? and why is she automatically left at someone else's home, and treated like a queen, taking everything for granted? I also thought that we saw too little of Elle's outside life. The ending was extraordinary entertaining, and could have been much more riveting, yet instead we barely see or hear anything at all. I also wished we could have read more from Severin's point of view.

For the most part, I would recommend this book for a light yet humorous read, with some interesting twists and underlying meanings. It was definitely a fun read! however, if you are looking for a more dark or classic

version of a fairy tale, this may not be your book. Be forewarned: there is no magical ball in which everything magically falls into place.

Susana says

2.5 Stars

You would think that by now I'd be sick and tired of retellings, but surprisingly enough this story was quite readable, until the Beast's transformation (oy) and despite an avalanche of grammatical mistakes.

I especially liked the attention given to the secondary characters and how the author was able to give a fresh face to both Beauty and The Beast.

Here, Beauty, a girl named Elle, literally comes crashing into the Beast's palace. There's a secret surrounding her...okay, not much of a secret once we start reading it, but it's different from all the retellings that I've read so far.

As for the Beast, Severine, he actually has a family; I mean a living family with whom he can _ and does _ interact.

This is mostly a character driven story because not much happens in here. Despite that, I did kept reading because I do like snark... despite **it** at time being delivered right in the middle of an atrocious phrase. And English is not even my first language...

So yes, this story needs urgent proofreading skills... and less cheese...

Which brings me to the last part of the story right after Severine gets turned into a man once more, because that part was bad. Up until then, we had somewhat intelligent characters, and after the transformation, the thing was like, "oops, there's goes ninety percent of my cerebral activity alongside with my no longer needed fur!"

Or, "hey, I have my facial expressions back, but I had to trade them for my marbles!"

Basically the author spend so much time in the first part of the book, going over the same things, over and over, and all of a sudden, there's kids (actually one) crossing two continents in order to find some Enchantress; and he finds her! In a few pages!

Also the whole Enchantress plot was kind of weird...

As for the whole romance, well, there's growing friendship and then we're bludgeoned with the motto, "BEAUTY AND ATTRACTION ARE TEMPORARY... so you should just stick with a friend."

Despite that, I confess myself curious to check if the author's writing skills improved.

Edit:

After reading some reviews for the second book, you know what, I think I'm done with this series -_-

Rebekah says

I don't remember how I came across this book but because of it I am not on a Beauty and the Beast frenzy and then found and got like 15 other beauty and the beast retellings!

This was a fun twist and certain aspects were definitely unique to the story!

I LOVED Elle the main character, I loved how strong she was as a character and I appreciated many aspects of her own story that you learn about later on in the book and how she came to be in the Chanceux Chateau (the cursed castle).

I loved the beast, he was awesome and sweet and kind. I liked how he came to be cursed which was different than the usual reason why the beast is cursed which was appreciated. And his backstory was also a nice change to see.

I liked the staff and how they are cursed with the beast.

One thing that bothered me though was the writing, it wasn't horrible but there were times when the author seemed to almost give up, like I would be reading and it almost seemed like she didn't know what or how to write the next step and gave up and it a little choppy I guess is the best way to describe it.

Also when the curse was broken it bummed me out how quick the beast and his staff were to just throw away Elle and not believe her after they've spent literally months with her, really? it just didn't fit with the rest of the story.

However overall I LOVED it and it make my heart flutter at times which always shoots the rating for me which a book can make me FEEL for the characters regardless of what I didn't like about it.

Sexual Content: mild/none

Language: mild/none

Drugs/Alcohol: mild

Violence: mild

Darque Dreamer says

Beauty and the Beast is a classic tale that has been re-written with enchantment and elegance. Kitty has done a fabulous job with keeping the faerie tale feel in her retelling, along with adding her own entertaining twists. Her take on this classic tale is rich and satisfying!

I loved the slower pace of this one. It allowed the story, and the love connection, to really flourish and grow, along with the whimsical characters. It wasn't just "Belle and the Beast" that were developed here. I fell in love with Emele, Bernadine, Duval and Oliver. Each character had a part to play, and each character just fit with their own quirky personalities.

The story twists were enjoyable and had a bit of unpredictability to them. Severin's character had quite a different background than we are used to with the tale. Elle was not your average "damsel in distress," "book-nerd." There was no Mrs. Potts, Lumiere, or Gaston. But there was an evil witch, and an enchantress. I loved how the story somewhat followed what is known from the tale, but also had whimsical changes that fit quite nicely. The story had humor, friendship, danger, intrigue, and a satisfyingly happy ending!

Kitty has an exceptional way of writing with beauty and poise. She also finds elegant ways to incorporate touching morals in to her stories. This one shimmered with hope and the importance of inner beauty. It was magical and beautiful. It spoke of friendship and true love.

4-4.5 Stars

Cait • A Page with a View says

More like 3.5 stars. I can't really identify anything that I *didn't* like about this story, but I guess I didn't connect with it very well because I only finished it an hour ago and already forgot most of it. It was fine, though! Beauty & the Beast is one of my favorite fairy tales and I love pretty much any retelling. It stayed pretty true to the original, so it did get somewhat predictable. I've read more creative takes (like Cruel Beauty), but at the same time the writing was better here.

So if you're into retellings, check this one out. Otherwise there are more entertaining books out there.

Sunny says

I didn't expect much from this book, It was in my kindle list, and I have no idea when I added it. Needing a book to pass the time, I opened this one, and was quickly hooked! Despite "knowing" the general story, I found myself holding my breath and rooting for the characters. Elle (beauty) was an endearing character, strong and smart. I opened this book knowing nothing about the author or her style, but couldn't put it down!

Jennifer says

2.5 stars.

This wasn't bad, but it wasn't great either. I appreciated that this tried to put a twist on the Disney version of this fairy tale (which is unfortunately the only one this reader knows). The period when the MCs was getting to know each other (i.e. the h was forcing the H to be friendly) was very cute and funny. I also enjoyed the fact that there was absolutely no OP drama and that it didn't seem like the H was a rake in his past. There weren't any mentions of his playboy ways, mistresses, or anything like that. So score. This was a completely clean and safe read, which seem hard to find nowadays.

However something about this author's writing style failed to engage me. I suppose I like more subtle and nuanced writing, and this story was told in a rather straightforward manner. And the quick way in which all the bad feelings were resolved at the end made me mad. Honestly, where was the groveling? I didn't want the h to be a bitter shrew, but she deserved friends who didn't just abandon her the moment they thought she did something wrong. So overall, an ok read in the land of retellings.

Lili Marcus says

Elle, due to a small miscalculation, fell through the roof of a chateau. The accident broke her leg and so she has no choice but to stay in the chateau even if its owner isn't very happy about it. Prince Severin, the chateau owner, illegitimate prince, commanding general of the Crown Prince's army, is cursed to look like a beast until a maiden falls in love with him. But he'd already given up after several painful attempts in the matter. But his servants don't. And their hope ignited because of Elle. But Elle isn't what she seems to be and Severin has no time for romance, especially if it's a romance with little hope.

After reading Daughter of Smoke and Bone Trilogy, I needed something lighter read, and this one seemed what I needed. I don't know how many retellings of Beauty and the Beast have I already read but this one is the simplest of them all. Yeah that sounds negative but like I said, I needed something lighter. Ahm have I said before that I'm a moody reader? Well, I am.

Some other time, the simplest of the plot might've discouraged me to read this but thankfully last night was not that time. Hehe. For me, this one's an okay retelling. There are little twists that I liked and though they were slightly predictable, I still enjoyed them. I also enjoyed Elle and Severin's moments. They're so sweet and fun to read. The servants are all interesting characters too.

Only, I think the plot resembles the original a little too much and so I can't give it higher than my rating. I know this is a retelling but still. But like I said I liked the little twists that seemed original and the characters made up for it. Overall, I still recommend this one to anyone who's looking for a light, fun read. This is a short book too.

Happy reading guys,

Sharon says

Reading this book gives me the coziest feeling ever.

I was a bit bored in the first two chapters, but I have quickly realized that this book's slow, gradual developments are something beautiful to behold.

I find myself curious what will happen next because the events in this book are new and different from what happened in the Disney's version of *Beauty and the Beast*. No library gift, no snowball fight, no "tale as old as time" dancing moment with THE yellow dress, etc.

There isn't even a Gaston or talking cups and other household items.

I would think that I would hate that those highlighted characteristics are not in this book, but it's actually very much refreshing. It's still *Beauty and the Beast* but a vastly different story from the original and from all retellings I have read.

We still have the grumpy beast, the servants who cheer on the heroine, and the curse about falling in love with the beauty within. These are the only resemblances we have between this version and the others.

The difference is that we also find a true steady growth of a friendship and understanding between Elle and Severin. They spend a lot of time together, sometimes not talking and just enjoying one another's company and other times, they discuss topics from horses to moral belief to responsibilities (to one's family, friends, and country). The author has done a great job establishing that these flawed individuals stand on equal footing. They are both impeccably smart, capable, and compassionate. I love not only seeing their relationship develop, but also seeing them as individual people. They are lovable, sweet characters who are also stubborn. I relish in seeing how their views on each other gradually change from distaste to respect to genuine affection to love. Even though it would be awesome to see signature moments from the original in this book – it's completely unnecessary because this is a new story filled with all new wonderful things. I am truly intrigued by these characters.

In addition, the servants are now masked, voiceless people. I love how they interact with Elle and are continuously trying to matchmake her with Severin. They are so, so, so adorable and funny. I am left feeling all warm and cozy from this fun-loving household. It's great to see Elle create friendships with these people, and to understand the reason why they genuinely love their master.

Then, there's Lucien, Severin's brother. I thought I'd hate his guts, but he's a pretty all right character. I love the emphasis on brotherly love and loyalty. This guy is a bit of an asshole, but it's great to see that he can be reasonable and good to Severin. This is different from other books (and I suppose, history) where there's always jealousy and violence between the legitimate brother and illegitimate brother.

I also love the plot twist at the end. (view spoiler)

My only real complaint is that I would have liked a bit more to the ending. Like just one more chapter would have been nice.

Overall, **4.5 stars**. Such a lovely read, and now, I am entirely looking forward to reading the next in the series and reading more from this author. I love the story of Elle, Severin, and the masked servants. This is a perfect, cozy read. It's a retelling that manages to not simply "retell." A lot of *Beauty and the Beast* retellings tend to be a bit TOO similar to one other and to the original. This one, however, manages to bring new, delightful things to the story without marring the original idea.

Things that you might want to know (**WARNING: Spoilers below**)

Is there a happy/satisfying ending? (view spoiler)

Love triangle? Cheating? Angst level? (view spoiler)

Tears-worthy? (view spoiler)

Humor? (view spoiler)

Favorite scene? (view spoiler)

What age level would be appropriate? (view spoiler)

One of my favorite stories for retellings will always be Beauty and the Beast. Super excited for this.?
