



A Beautiful Curse: A Retelling of The Frog Bride

Kenley Davidson

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Follow your heart...

But you might just end up snacking on flies.

When a bumbling fairy godfather gifts a humble woodcutter's fourth child with extraordinary beauty, she spends the next eighteen years trying to hide it—behind a book. Now, Elisette is ready to follow her dreams and become a scholar, but her admirers keep getting in the way of her ambitions. Ellie knows better than to rely on her fairy godfather, but she's desperate enough to risk asking him for help. The trouble is, Mortimer isn't feeling very helpful. In fact, he's downright irritated...

After a bit of vengeful fairy magic, Ellie discovers that webbed feet and green skin are even harder to manage than beauty. No one cares what happens to a frog, except maybe quiet, unassuming Prince Cambren, who has enough troubles of his own.

Will Ellie find a way to break her curse and live happily ever after? Or will she spend the rest of her life eating flies and living in a pond at the back of the palace garden?

A Beautiful Curse is a romantic fairy tale novella. It can be read on its own, but is more fun when read as a part of the Entwined Tales, a series of interconnected fairy tales by six different authors. Each story follows the adventures of one of seven children from the same family as they seek out their own happily ever afters in spite of their reluctant fairy-godfather.

A Beautiful Curse: A Retelling of The Frog Bride Details

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Author : Kenley Davidson

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From Reader Review A Beautiful Curse: A Retelling of The Frog Bride for online ebook

Ru4repeat says

I thought this was a sweet twist on the Frog Prince story. I really enjoyed that the romance between the characters really had a chance to grow and develop before they were declaring their undying love got each other. This is a cool PG on a steaminess level. Truly great for any age.

As a fellow logophile I loved the vocabulary that had me looking up new words and smiling at one I already knew!

The only pet peeve I had while reading occurred with switching between calling her Ellie or Elisette sometimes on the same page. Yes, let's get on the same page and just go with one name! Okay, rant over. Enjoy the book.

Kendra Parker says

This might be my favorite novella from the series so far. The role reversal made this a fun retelling of the Frog Prince. I really appreciated the emphasis on friendship that made its way through the story.

If you enjoy fantasy or fairy tales, you might really enjoy this one. The humorous fairy godfather makes for a fun plot twist later in the book than I expected. The heroine learns both humility and the value of true friendship. Likewise, the hero discovers his own value along with the value of friendship.

You do not need to read these books in order. They all stand alone, and no real spoilers happen between the books.

Kim Gregory says

What a change from the original! The original isn't a fairy tale that I cared for, but i enjoyed this version. Eli, or Elisette, had a very snarky attitude throughout the story. She hated the gift that Mortimer gave her as a baby - great beauty. We know the routine, do they love me for me or for my beauty? Eli's a scholar. She wants to learn in a time when that wasn't something women were supposed to want. No one could understand why she hated her beauty or the attention she received from all of those men. She takes things into her own hands and goes off to the capital's library and becomes an apprentice. She meets a prince. She meets Mortimer again and he gives her another curse/blessing and unfortunately I can't tell you anything else or it would spoil the story for you! But, I laughed a lot, and I some very tender moments too. The four stars is for the beginning when I had trouble getting into the story - it started out slow - but don't give up on it - you won't regret it.

This is a clean read.

Kira Assad says

I loved every minute of this book! The Entwined Tales series has been an incredible group of books by some amazing authors. A Beautiful Curse was one of my favorites from the series. Ellie is an adorable character, and the fact she loves books makes me adore her even more! Prince Cambren is not your typical prince, but he has more heart than any character I have ever read in a story and by far one of my favorite princes of the series. I cannot recommend this book, series and all the authors doing the Entwined Tales series enough, but I'm going to anyway. If you hadn't read this book or any of the books in the series yet, do it!

Anna Marie says

Wonderful retelling of the 'Frog Princess'. It's one of a series, and of course it's NOT a stand-alone. You read this, and you'll be grasping at names/previous events you're not privy to. Made it a little hard to read the story.

But basically, a young princess wants to be a librarian in a time when only young men are scribes/book-keepers. So she forces the hands of the Powers that Be, and ends up in the position, but in a bad place (discrimination). On top of that, her fairy God-father (who's... not right in the head) gets peeved at her and turns her into a frog.

The good news is that the local prince (where the library is) likes the frog, even though he doesn't know it's the girl at the library he'd been attracted to, his last visit there.

A cute story. Well written. I gave it to my teens to read, when I was done - it's clean, fun, and magical.

Jassa says

Davidson is someone I found shortly before learning about this series coming out. Like literally, I read a few of her books almost a month before. I'm glad I did, but even if I hadn't, reading this would have made me want to go pick up something she had written.

Now, at this point, we have gotten to the first set of twins. A boy and girl who were ~~blessed~~ cursed with being beautiful when they were born. Well, this probably would have been okay if they had been royalty or even nobles. Otherwise, it's really just a pain. So this tale is about the girl. She wants to be around books. Really can't blame her for preferring to want books when everyone instantly falls in love with your looks. So she gets her dream job and off she goes. Her brother has already run away from home. (It seems to be a trend with these kids.)

I rather like how she wasn't instantly turned into a frog. We got to see her try to live her dream. She wasn't even turned into a frog be taught a lesson...(view spoiler). But really, in the end, I liked how the lesson of the hour was about friendship.

Raquel Evans says

This book just feels like a feminist rant. Maybe not an angry feminist, but at least a seriously irritated feminist, and it's just not fun. And since fun, fluffy reading was the only reason I was reading this book: meh, I'm moving on.

Donna says

Rrrridip

The best frog/prince story written. Looks vs character is not a challenge when true character is what looks best. ...but I think it takes exceptional characters to see it.

Shruti says

(I received a digital copy of the book. Thanks to Kenley Davidson!!!)

“My brother Dauntry believes in the greater good, and sacrificing himself for his kingdom, and I suppose that’s all very well, but it doesn’t do much for me. My mother always said you had to see people one at a time, or you would begin to treat them as a herd, rather like sheep, and forget how important and beautiful each one really is. Whether a person is a prince, or a merchant, or a librarian, or a frog, they deserve their sovereign’s compassion, wouldn’t you agree?”

This is a beautiful retelling of one of my most beloved tales. The Frog Prince. I totally adore this version of the story which was simple and sweet. It made for amazing short read with just 150 pages and I had finished reading it even before I realised. It almost felt like I'd just started reading , so absorbed was I.

It wasn't enough to simply disapprove of injustice. You had to do something.

I like Eli. She's got this spirit and is really good. And Cam is really adorable and sweet .

The grumpy godfather who causes more trouble than help is a good change to the normal trends and just adds to the appeal. Thankfully, in the end all his perks none the less work out for our hero . Truly this is an amazing tale that I'd recommend to all fairy tale lovers .

Darque Dreamer says

A Beautiful Curse will speak to your soul. It is full of beauty and emotion! Faerie tale lovers rejoice, for this one sparkles with love, laughter, and life lessons!

I've probably said this with each book in this series, but each one has gotten better and better, and I now have a new favorite! I loved this one so much! I smiled, I laughed, and I teared up at the end.

This one was so incredibly beautiful! I loved how it fit seamlessly with the rest of the books in the series, but I also loved how it stood out for me. This one really spoke to me on so many levels.

On the surface, it was a humorous retelling of an old German folk tale, that is similar to a couple other tales. It was fun and sweet and entertaining. Digging deeper, this one spoke of self love. It offered life lessons on being careful what you wish for, not judging a book by its cover, the importance of true friendship, and the

mantra "looks aren't everything." It was a stunningly deep story that also introduced me to my two new favorite characters.

Elisette, or Ellie, was such a strong, independent young woman. She was witty and intelligent, and very adventurous! She was kind, and daring, and wasn't afraid to go after her dreams.

Cambren was my favorite prince out of the three from the story. He was exceptionally compassionate and loyal. I loved that he was willing to sacrifice for the sake of friendship and that he wasn't a typical, perfect prince.

I also really loved the King in this one! He was extremely wise and very thought provoking. I enjoyed his reasoning behind the tests he put his sons through, and I found him to be very understanding and caring, both to his sons, and his kingdom!

A Beautiful Cruse was vividly colorful and had such dimension and depth! I could not put it down! It was charming and snarky, and insanely enjoyable! It felt both familiar and original at the same time!

Thank you to the author for providing me with this free e-copy in exchange for my honest review and as part of my Faerie Tale Friday post.

Amanda says

Elisette wants nothing more than to lose herself in the world of books. She dreams of being a librarian. Unfortunately, her joke of a fairy godfather has gifted/cursed her with an otherworldly beauty. But when she finally manages to lose her looks, will she lose everything else she worked so hard for or will she finally find herself and even a friend who truly sees her? This is a retelling of the frog princess and I was provided an ARC by the author in exchange for my honest review, which follows.

Likes: While this story isn't the first to use the idea of an inept fairy godfather who makes things worse, before they get better, I still thought the author did a good job with the concept. I read Davidson's clean romance novels because they are happy and make me smile and this one was no different.

Dislikes: If you are looking for something deep or dramatic, you will need to look elsewhere.

Overall: Davidson is an author I enjoy reading. This retelling is part of the Entwined Tales, which is written by several different authors. If you are looking for something happy and feel good, I would say you couldn't go wrong with Davidson. Also, any of the other authors of the Entwined Tales are worth a look. I have read and like K.M. Shea and in the future will be checking out Shari L. Tapscott, thanks to my enjoyment of her contribution to the Entwined Tales.

Lisa Dawn says

A Beautiful Curse tells the story of Elisette, the middle child of the fairy godfather-cursed family from the series. When they were born, their bumbling fairy godfather, Mortimer, gave her and her twin brother, Martin, the gift of beauty. Unfortunately, he could not have picked a worse set of twins to grant it to. Martin, who is seen briefly in a A Little Mermaid, hates being beautiful because it causes people to think that he's a girl. Elisette, on the other hand, grows up with absolutely no interest in any of the things a woman with her

gift could benefit from. She doesn't care much for fashion, romance, dancing, or courting. Instead, she is a bookworm who wishes to have a career. Her parents' misguided attempts to help her by convincing her to embrace her beauty and find a suitor only frustrate her. So, she applies to be a librarian's apprentice at a famous library in the capital under the name "Eli." Unfortunately, it's not that easy to escape the burden of her beauty. Once she reveals her face to her employers, she is hired with the utmost reluctance as her co-workers regularly sabotage her work in any way they can, hoping to get her fired.

Meanwhile, the three princes of the kingdom are put to the test by their father, the king. Though the youngest son, Cambren, is not mocked as openly as he is in the original fairy tale, he is still considered the oddball of the family. His brothers are especially annoyed with him when they visit the local library to learn if the rumors of the beautiful new apprentice are true, and he has the nerve to ask her to help him find a book! To Elisette's dismay, such a request does turn out to be an uncommon occurrence when she finds that the library quickly becomes crowded with people who want to look at her and have no interest in reading. It gets so bad that she gets put on probation for causing too many distractions for the library's patrons. Elisette can't understand why it's so hard for her to just do her job, especially after all the work she put into it. She begs Mortimer for help but quickly regrets it when she is transformed into a slimy frog right in the middle of the library!

Prince Cambren's oddities come in handy for Elisette when he decides to scoop up the cursed frog and protect it instead of running away screaming like the others. In return, Elisette agrees to help Cambren with his father's tests but refuses to tell him who she really is. She has never known a man to respect her after seeing her face, so she feels that it is best for him to think that she is a talking frog. This doesn't prevent them from getting to know each other on an intellectual level and growing very close. It's touching how protective Cambren is of the frog without even knowing she is a woman, let alone one who helped him find a rare book he had been searching for earlier. The romance in this book was built at a perfect pace and contained the timeless themes of "Beauty and the Beast" that true beauty is found within.

A Beautiful Curse did a fantastic job of conveying the overall theme of the Enchanted Tales series that magical gifts that seem harmless can become curses if they are given to the wrong person. Elisette was by far the strongest and most interesting heroine in all of the books. She had the clearest goals and the most rational plan for attaining them. The romance was done equally well and teaches us that love isn't any easier for conventionally beautiful women than it is for anyone else. If you only read one book from Entwined Tales, make it this one.

Bethany says

[as someone who has Misophonia I understood her dislike of crunchy foods and her zeroing

Nicole says

I really enjoyed this! Kenley Davidson has a knack for writing fun and unique stories, and A Beautiful Curse did not disappoint. I haven't had a ton of luck reading short stories because they seem to be difficult for authors to sufficiently pull together in such a short amount of writing space. I usually find certain elements that I wanted to be developed more, etc. But Kenley did a great job of developing the world, rounding out the story, creating memorable characters, and she brought it all together with a charming writing style.

She has quickly become one of my favorite fairy tale authors. I highly recommend trying Traitor's Masque!

Lynn says

This is a new to me author in this multi author series of Entwined tales. I liked her characters and the way she developed them in this fairytale retelling. There were some really small things that I might have changed but I would really like to try another book by this author. She might be another one I really enjoy.
