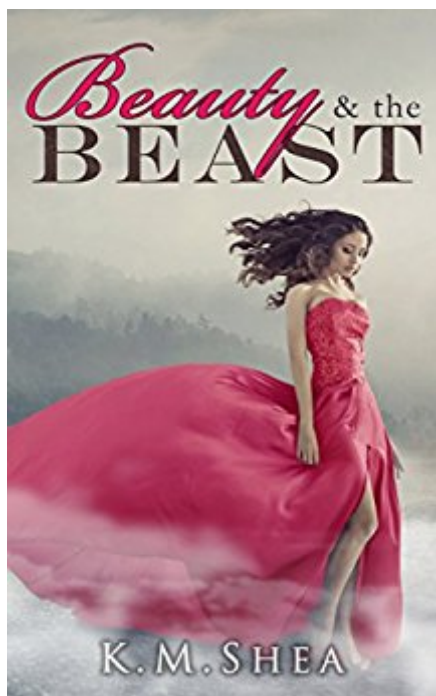


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Beauty And The Beast (Timeless Fairy Tales Book 1)



Synopsis

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 unwillingly 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. He has given up all hope of shattering the curse, and has only disdain for Elle. Unfortunately, the pair can't seem to avoid each other thanks to the meddling of the chateau's cursed servants. Eventually Elle's playful manners and Severin's hidden gentleness draw the pair together. 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. When Elle risks everything to save Severin, will he be able to forgive her for her lies? BEAUTY AND THE BEAST is a retelling of the traditional French fairy tale. It is a story of adventure and prejudice set in a fantasy land lush with magic, assassins, princes, castles, and curses. Filled with humor, deception, and clean romance, it belongs to the series TIMELESS FAIRY TALES. The books in this series take place in the same world and can be read all together, or as individual, stand-alone books.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Okay, so it's been demoted to my second favorite, after "Rumpelstiltskin". Elle is a great character, and Severin gets there (kinda sorta). The side characters each have something about them that you can remember, and while some are less developed than others, each one is memorable and unique, while also not taking away from Elle and Severin's story. For the most part, it's a strong story. I just finished the updated version, and I don't know how I feel about it. Somehow, it seems more disjointed than I remember it being. But for most of the book, there's only a few things that make an eyebrow quirk or a vein twitch. (Spoilers) As soon as the curse breaks, the story starts to flounder, especially since the separation period is rushed through. Something that has bothered me more now that I've read it fully again is that almost everyone accuses Elle of being a liar. And the scene between Elle and Emele is worse in the newer version. There's nothing in the story that suggests Rangers are disliked members of society, and I figured it was common knowledge that Elle was indentured to the crown. And after being considered monsters themselves, you'd think they would look at how Elle treated them, not her job description. And I get that having your brother spy on you is an invasion of privacy, but it was for protection and it's not like she was a malicious spy. The whole issue was blown so out of proportion that you just sort of squint and your evaluation of every character except Oliver drops a few notches. Even of Elle, who just trudged around as if she deserved all the scorn--she didn't have a choice in being there. And Severin's reaction undoes all the hard work of the story. I didn't realize it before, but he's a bit of an *ahem* donkey. It all goes back to the "why does everyone hate Elle" thing, but I just cringed reading his dialogue. And then you never see him grow from that. Two months pass--no chapters on it, by the way, and there's no indication he even thinks of Elle--but when Lucien shows that Elle didn't lie, and Angelique suddenly reveals that he misunderstood the curse, he's back to being a knight in shining armor. Basically, Severin's actions show that he absolutely was NOT in love with Elle. And then she just takes him back. And he actually never learned that his protect-at-all-costs drive was wrong. After re-reading it, the ending left a sour taste in my mouth. Which is upsetting, because I really liked this book. Maybe just read up until the minute the curse breaks, and skip ahead to the confession at the end. Yeah, do that. And then go read "Rumplestiltskin" because THAT is a good story.

This book really made me smile. I found the characters were likable, and the plot was steady and consistent. The content was also pretty clean, which is an important feature for me. I will say that the end did feel slightly rushed, and I found that some of the characters' reactions were a little hard to believe, but then again, that can often be the case when it comes to fairy tales. I recommend this to anyone looking for a quick light read and a bit of laughter.

I'm being generous & rounding up my 3 & 1/2 star rating. The book was entertaining & held my interest. It flowed fairly well, & the world building was good. It was sort of a tame re-do of the original Beauty & the Beast story line. I liked the heroine, Elle, a smart kick@ss heroine whose the best ranger in the service of a King. The Hero, Severin, I had a love hate thing going on with him, he did some pretty despicable things, it's a wonder Elle can get past those things to even fall in love with him. I felt some of the plot twists were just wrong, to the point of actually hurting the story. Like the servants all being against Elle (except Oliver) after they find out she's a Ranger even though the curse is broken because of her (whether it was his OR her love -as they thought it was one or the other not both, that broke the curse, without her it wouldn't have happened). & Everyone treating her "Ranger" thing as being something worse than the Prince & servants being called monsters etc before the curse was broken, now that just felt very hypocritical to me.

A "Beauty and the Beast" rewrite, and I can never help myself. Fairy tales are my soft spot in the creative world, and "Beauty and the Beast" is my all-time favorite. This rendition in particular is unique. Severin is cat-like in appearance, and Elle is a mystery. I would have liked to have seen more of Elle's family, but the lack doesn't take away from the story. It wasn't boring, and not totally predictable. Forgiveness comes too easily, I think, and it wasn't realistic in that nature. If you have ever heard the saying "sorry doesn't cut it."

I love the Beauty and the Beast story. It can go two ways - if the "Beast" is physically scarred it will be heart-warming and touching, with lots of angst. If the Beast is...well, a beast, there is the opportunity for a lot of witty banter between "Belle" and "Beast". This falls into the latter. In fact, it was so witty at times I was laughing aloud. Started it at 7:00 PM and finished it at 3 AM. The possibility of sleep was not possible until I got to the last page. Elle and Severin snark at each other so much I felt like I was reading "Private Lives" He refers to her as Intruder and she makes cat jokes (he's a big cat..."oh by the way, I hadn't noticed: do you have a tail?"). She makes friends with his

grossly overweight dog while said dog is constantly trying to shred Severin's clothes - or Severin (you know, cats and dogs). Of course they fall madly in love, have a huge misunderstanding, and then live happily ever after (it's a story as old as time, for crying out loud - if you don't know what's going to happen, you probably live in a yurt in Outer (or Inner) Mongolia - and not even able to read this review. Just be good to yourself and grab this book. As I write, it's free (a holiday bargain!). But it's worth spending money on.

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