



A Curse of the Heart

Adele Cleo

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Terrified by strange noises in the night, Rebecca Linwood, the headstrong owner of an Egyptian museum, believes she is suffering from an ancient curse. Out of desperation, she seeks the help of the only man with the knowledge to reverse the evil incantation, a man whose cold heart and sinful gaze pose such an enticing contradiction.

As a scholar of Egyptology and a man consumed by the pain of the past, the enigmatic Gabriel Stone shuns polite society, choosing to bury himself in his books. When a flame-haired temptress pesters him with tales of a curse, his first instinct is to flee. However, his sense of obligation proves to be a dangerous thing and the potent lure of desire too difficult to resist.

A Curse of the Heart Details

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From Reader Review A Curse of the Heart for online ebook

Shweta says

Loved this one.! I read the previous book "Save a Sinner" and I was intrigued by how Gabriel was introduced at the end and finally got to read this one.

The plot was great, but you can say I am biased being ancient Egypt fanatic, I love anything that remotely relates to it. But I would have enjoyed it even more if there would be more of it then just a brief mention of hieroglyphics and Rosetta Stone, rest all the time it's just referenced as antiquities. I would also have loved if the later part of the story would have elaborated more on why Pennington did what he did. Just taking revenge on the offspring of the guy who left his mother seemed far fetched. But hey, I am a sucker for a good story. I'll pick a better plot over simple stronger characters any day. That's just me.

Gabriel was the perfect hero, scholar, but still handsome and everything a historical romance novel hero should be. As much as I loved his character I found it little less practical than the rest since he was pissed on his father to have remarried AFTER his mother died, much worse than what Rebecca or George had.

I loved Rebecca's character. Rebel, intelligent and independent. Portrayed beautifully. It matches everything I would assume a guy like Gabriel would fall for.

All and all an amazing read.

Monique says

A nice Regency romance with two likeable characters in the H/h. The fact that the two of them were totally immersed in the history of ancient Egypt - a hot nerd and a hot nerdette - made the story sweet and sexy. While there was some intrigue in Gabriel and Rebecca's story, I was rather lost in the reveal about Gabriel's 'basement', and why he was so connected to it. He just seemed a bit TOO detached from society, when he really didn't have anything catastrophic in his life to make him withdraw. If anything, Rebecca's life and past history would lead more to becoming a hermit; even though she was alone and felt lonely most of the time, her personality was a lot more open and friendly than Gabriel's. Still - I liked this book. I was wavering between 3.5 and 4, and just settled for a weak 4.

Mojca says

Rebecca Linwood is at her wits end. One night she stupidly read an incantation on a scroll, and now busts are flying in her Egyptian museum almost killing people, and strange noises are heard in the night as her bed shakes. And yes, she's alone in the bed as it's shaking, thank you very much!

There's only one man who can help her get rid of this curse she brought upon herself, but the irritating Gabriel Stone thinks she's a charlatan, and refuses to help her. So she asks the would-be victim of her museum to intervene, and now Stone is finally paying attention and quickly discovers the curse is in fact not a curse, but a ploy to get her back into the family fold...As someone else strives to break the same family apart in seek of vengeance.

This story starts somewhere toward the end of the previous one as Rebecca Linwood asks Lucas Dempsey, the man that was almost killed in her museum, to intervene with his friend, Egyptian scholar Gabriel Stone, to at least hear her out about her predicament...And thus begins our story.

The characters were once more wonderfully drawn-out, engaging and three-dimensional. And unlike in the *To Save a Sinner* Rebecca and Gabriel are also quite similar in the way they both loners, alone in the world, and they both cling to the past, instead of looking into the future. Of course it all changes once they meet, although Rebecca is quicker to embrace the changes than Gabriel, who needs a swift, and almost deadly, kick in the ass to get his head out of that ass.

Although their romance was organic and progressed slowly and measuredly from dislike through grudging admiration and friendship to something much more lasting, it felt like there was something off. It didn't really feel genuine, *because* of the fact they were both (more or less, mostly of their own doing) alone in the world. So having someone there, someone who understood you, someone who shared your passion, was a novelty, and didn't exactly mean there was a deeper feeling behind their later interactions. I didn't *see* the emotional connection between them, making their romance appear "convenient" instead of necessary (if I make any sense at all).

This one had more of a suspense subplot than its predecessor that also ran for almost the entirety of the story, but the fact is, I wasn't quite convinced. The villain and his motive appeared out of the left field, but I guess lunacy has no reason. Still, it had its intensity and ominous feel, and although it mostly served to make the hero pull his head out of his rear end on multiple accounts, it livened up the action and provided a satisfactory suspense element.

Well-written, well-paced, (bitter)sweet, sexy and hot, with great characters, but not as good as *To Save a Sinner*.

Sarah Hamilton says

A Fun Historical Romance

Historical romances are a guilty pleasure, so stumbling upon a new author is always exciting. *A Curse of the Heart* was a fun read. The characters Rebecca and Gabriel were likeable and I like how Clee has them interact. Although the ultimate ending is predictable, there are still details that lead you guessing until they occur. My only complaint is although it's set in a specific time period, the overall story (for the most part) could really occur in any time period. There wasn't an overwhelming amount of detail or events to really cement it to a particular era. But a fun read and an author who's other books I look forward to reading.

Nicole {Sorry, I'm Booked} says

Not what I was expecting, but that's on me since I had no idea that this was a full on romance book. It also took me too long to realize that this was a regency romance. Anyways, overall it was a meh romance story for me.

Emma McAra says

I'll agree with some reviews that the actions of the characters are not quite in keeping with the era (1820s) 'Ancient world' appears 11 times, 'sinful' 15 and the chemistry between the characters is too quick and not convincing.

The motives for George scaring Rebecca and Pennington's actions are lame.

But, like To Save A Sinner, it's a cheap easy read.

Unlike, To Save A Sinner, it does not wrap up with a tidy bow. It needed a 'Year Later' epilogue of the MCs either in Egypt or returning from Egypt. Naff ending.

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?

???

Gabriel Stone is damaged , a virtual Recluse, obsessed with artefacts, preferably those from ancient times , he has no wish for a relationship with any woman , and certainly not Rebecca Linwood the owner of the local museum. The woman who haunts him it seems.

Rebecca is in need of help , the person she's been advised can help her is Stone , but he won't even answer the door let alone allow her to explain her problems, those being noises , the ones in her museum, the ones threatening her and her livelihood.

This is another excellent book by Adele , the whole storyline is so different but entices you in ,until your dreaming of Who dunnits and why , it's a wonderfully written book with a plot that twists you around , totally exceptional .

"I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own

BigComfyChairBookReviews says

This one was entertaining and diverting but, I wasn't as into it as I was other books by Adele Clee. The hero was playing the victim card throughout most of the book despite the fact that he had no real reason to be so bitter and closed off. I just didn't like his character.

And, what he has going on in his cellar is just creepy and weird. The heroine was a bit odd to me too. She owns and lives in an Egyptian museum but is not at all obsessed with all things Egypt.? She just didn't seem passionate about her studies. The development of their relationship wasn't believable to me. It was enjoyable and a quick and easy read, but not my favorite by Clee. I have read everything published by Adele Clee and one of my favorite things about her is her consistency. I think of her 18 works I've only given two 3-star ratings. The rest are 4s or 5s. So, if you liked this book I would recommend more of her books. "A Simple Case of Seduction" is my personal favorite. WARNING: there is sex in this book, it is not erotica, but enough to be a steamy & hot adult romance. Please do not read if you are looking for something PG. Romance-4/5 Steaminess-3/5 Explicitness-3/5

Cecily says

I don't mean to be unkind when comparing this to Loretta Chase's "Mr Impossible", but it really is the slimmed down, relocated, less all-round-wonderful cousin of that book. The bookish beauty tempts difficult recluse, things that go bump in the night in Egyptology museums, is one of my favourite sort of plot. (I try not to read anything too deep into that speaking as a bookish plain woman who has married a wonderfully

difficult recluse). There is just a simple, honest fun about this book - especially as all the secondary characters are in on the joke re the feelings the h/H have for each other.

Renae Goddard says

A GREAT LOVE STORY

We were initially introduced to Gabriel and Rebecca in "To Save A Sinner" and their story continues in this novel. They piqued my interest when I first read about them so I'm glad to see they got their own story. In the beginning, I wondered how these two very unlikely characters would end up together. I love Gabriel's personality. And I really felt the journey he had to travel in order to find his HEA.

Pam I. says

For me this rated 3.5 not a real 4. The sensuality carried throughout and before/between intimate encounters, and I prefer sensual to graphic, gratuitous sex. I would have liked more specifics and historical significance of the Egyptology as a period field of study. Like some other readers, I had difficulty understanding the basement secrets and revelations relative to Gabriel's issues with his family. Rebecca is charming with a nice combination of assertiveness and vulnerability. Enjoyable light reading.

R.C. Matthews says

This story was a nice change for the Regency period. Gabriel is the youngest son of a Viscount (or his father was) so he comes from wealth, but doesn't hold a title. Rebecca is the illegitimate daughter of a lord. Both share a love of ancient Egypt. While there were light gothic elements to this story, overall the story had more of a humorous feel to it. I enjoyed Rebecca and Gabriel's banter, and how they each found excuses to spend time with one another. The last quart of the book turned to romantic suspense, and we got our HEA. I loved these two characters together - it was easy to see why they were perfect for each other and how their feelings developed naturally out of their shared interests.

Cheesecake says

Gabriel the snooty grouch, and Rebecca his unwelcome distraction.

He ignored her, ridiculed her, accused her of thievery and kissed her.
What?.. is he 12 yrs old? well no, but somehow i like him anyways. *shrug*

The MCs have more in common than they thought; They both love Egyptian artifacts. Neither of them wants marriage. Society holds little interest for them. They both have family issues they choose to ignore. etc. Rebecca is suffering under an Egyptian curse and Gabriel is the foremost expert on Egypt in London. Both MCs are lonely but won't admit it. After much trouble (on Rebecca's part) Gabriel finally comes to her aid, and thank goodness he did!

The culprit was hard to guess but that wasn't really due to cleverness on the author's part...

Still it works well for the story.

This is my second read by this author and I admire how she never pushes things too far. Just as you get annoyed with one character or another, they do something to redeem themselves. This goes for side characters as well.

The MCs are sweet together and neither really has the upper hand. A true partnership.

Safety is all good.

Zena says

Gabriel and Rebecca come together because of something she thinks was a curse and that it began affecting her life after she read it.

They both have an interest in ancient Egyptian things and history and so find a common ground for their romance to take seed in, flourish and prosper and I couldn't help rooting for their success as a couple.

I so enjoyed this clever adventure and the beautiful romance between two people who least expected it.

The story is a page-turner and is full of witty scenes, the reconnecting of family members, mysterious happenings in the dead of night, a rather nutty villain, twists and turns in the plot, a rather divine hero and a very sweet and witty young lady who doesn't let too much make her deviate for her goals and a heart warming romance.

Kylie Stewart, was a perfect choice as narrator and she added to my enjoyment of this most enjoyable story which I am very happy to recommend.

I requested and received a free copy of the audiobook from the author and this is my voluntary and unbiased review.

Heather says

Rebecca Linwood isn't your typical husband seeking wallflower. She's an intelligent woman, headstrong and determined to make her own way in a male dominated world. Her father taught her to love Egyptology and she has spent her life honing that knowledge. Running her own Egyptian museum gives her purpose, although she still feels alone. After reading a mysterious scroll aloud one night, her troubles begin. Mysterious scraping, moaning, and bed rattling at night leave her sleepless. In desperation she seeks out renowned expert Gabriel Stone to break the curse.

Gabriel has heard of Rebecca Linwood's Egyptian museum, but he believes she's a charlatan with only superficial knowledge. Forced to meet her, he accuses her of being a thief and a liar. Stung by his words, Rebecca proves her knowledge and impresses Gabriel despite himself. Recognizing her intelligence, he agrees to help her break the curse. In doing so he becomes involved in her life in ways that only expose how much they need each other.

Both Rebecca and Gabriel were really interesting characters with dark backstories, and I couldn't help cheering them on. Their vulnerabilities made them so likable. They bonded over their common interests, but it was their family complications that really brought them together. They're the kind of couple that you can picture ten years down the road, traveling the world in love like newlyweds on a honeymoon. The plot was really interesting, and it was a good mix of romance and suspense.

I thought the narrator was great, her pace was perfect and her accent worked well with the setting. Her reading was smooth and not dramatically overacted. She pulled me right into the story. I received a copy of

the audiobook in exchange for an honest review, and I'll be keeping an eye out for more by this author and narrator!
