



A Happily Ever After of Her Own

Nadia Lee

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Melinda Lightfoot, a preschool teacher with an unusual ability to flit in and out of fairy tales, never thought she would get into trouble...

...until the Fairy Tale Police arrest her while she is in Beauty and the Beast. They offer her a deal: Find Beauty, who left the story when Melinda trespassed into it, or be charged with the ultimate crime -- Fairy Tale Killer. If that's not bad enough the Beast tags along in search of his true love, and Melinda starts falling for the fairy tale prince. She must choose between doing the right thing and having her own happily ever after.

Warning: This title contains the following: Fairy Godmother, the Wicked Witch, dysfunctional fairy tale families, ax-wielding executioners and a happily ever after (or two).

A Happily Ever After of Her Own Details

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Author : Nadia Lee

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From Reader Review A Happily Ever After of Her Own for online ebook

Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

I received a copy of A Happily Ever After of Her Own in exchange for my review.

Melinda has always been able to flit in and out of the fairy tales she reads, but this time it went wrong. While reading Beauty and the Beast she is arrested and it is revealed that Beauty has been captured by the Evil Witch and taken to her own world. Sent back to retrieve them, Melinda has the help of the Beast, in his human form, and she can't help but feel the attraction and affection between her and Edward. But Melinda can't steal Edward's happy ending with Beauty, especially when she is doing all she can to get the two of them back together.

[Link to Goodreads](#)

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I've already read and loved Nadia Lee's Hearts on the Line series (well what is released of it!) which is contemporary romance, but I must say that there is something magical about fairy tales that just can't be beaten, and the author has definitely respected to, and added to, the tradition. In fact there was one point where I actually had to stop to consider Beauty and the Beast and I don't think I'll look at it the same again (though considering the TV show Once Upon a Time changed that forever by making the Beast be Rumpelstiltskin - which I think was a brilliant move I might add).

Though most of the book took on the more traditional fairy tale style, I couldn't help but feel a kind of Alice in Wonderland/Alice Through the Looking Glass (sorry I think putting both is something to do with being a book addict!) vibe, particularly from the porcupines, which I liked! There was much less crazy than in Carroll's books, and it flowed seamlessly into the rest of the fairy tale.

I loved the interactions between Melinda and Edward. Though he was in human form (rather than as the Beast), Edward was really unaware of the world as it is today and understandably so. This created amusing moments, and interactions between the pair of them that added to their relationship. One of such was the idea that Melinda, as a woman, wasn't as capable as a man, and wasn't capable of looking after herself. Again I thought that that added to the dynamic and growing relationship between the two characters.

This is a very enjoyable fairy tale retelling, which retains the magic and is also different from the rest of Nadia Lee's books, well worth a read!

Blodeuedd Finland says

Cute and fun. There is not a lot to say, since it was so short. The only negative thing was that I never saw how Melinda and the Beast fell in love. Cos like a day passed and suddenly love, and I was all what? But then it was a fairytale so I will give them that ;)

And who would not fall for the beast!? He has a library! Ok we did not see the library *sulks* But still.

It mostly takes place in our world as Beast and Melinda tries to find beauty. And everyone lives happily ever after, almost everyone. The end.

Stella says

Imagine yourself reading one of your favourite novels and then plouff you are suddenly in it! And changing the course of the story! That is exactly what happens to Melinda Lightfoot, an American, girl-next-door preschool teacher, who is suddenly on the bench before a tribunal accused of trespassing in a fairy tale!

She was punctual and loved her students; missing class without calling in so the school could find a suitable substitute was simply unimaginable. Then again, even if she could have called, what would she have told them?

"I'm in Fairy Tale Jail for trespassing, kidnapping Beauty from Beauty and the Beast and ruining a perfectly good happy ending."

And from there the story unfolds...

I have to say that Nadia Lee gripped me right from the beginning, the imaginative start to this novella sucked me in and I read on wanting to discover more about the classic fairy tale characters and learn what would happen with Melinda and the mandatory fairy tale HEA.

Here we get the real deal, what readers don't know about fairy tales: that Fairy Godmother has two sons: Edward (the cursed prince of Beauty and the Beast) and Charming (yeah, you guessed it right, the irresistibly handsome prince). The evil Wicked Witch is Fairy Godmother's baby sister and it was Edward's own aunt who cursed him because he deigned to call her Auntiee Beet! Really, you never knew this was what actually happened, did you?

A Happily Ever After of Her Own is a little gem of a story: it is incredibly original, witty and tongue in cheek funny, entertaining and of course romantic. I loved how it broke all the conventional rules and became such a modern retelling yet stayed true to the spirit and message of fairy tales. It showed a mocking glass to old and beloved characters but did it in a witty and adorable way.

The hero aka cursed prince right after he saved Melinda:

"Are you all right?"

"Yes, thanks to you. You saved my life."

He grunted. "It's in my contract."

Really! Can you imagine any prince acting this way? Grunting and uttering these words? Nadia Lee's dialogues are voluble, the repartee entertaining and witty.

"I want a lawyer."

"That is not the right response," the judge sais sternly. "You plead either guilty or not guilty."

"I have rights."

"You do not. This is under Fairy Tale Jurisdiction."

"What is this, this circus?" she gestured at the guards. "Why hasn't my sister upgraded to something more dignified? Like trolls?"

"We couldn't agree on pension benefits," Fairy Godmother said from her seat on the judge's right. A spotlight shone over her. "After Snow White unionized those dwarves, the trolls followed suit and, well..."

Maybe it is just my legal background, but these terminus technicus and legal mambo jumbo just made me erupt in chuckles! Really! Fairy Tale Jurisdiction and the dwarves establishing a work union? To die of laughter! :-D

What made the story even better and whole was that Melinda was not merely a character there to support and make the fairy tale right, A Happily Ever After of Her Own was just as much her story as it was about the fairy tales. She is such an ordinary character that you immediately feel for her and sympathize with her.

"Police porcupines surrounded her. Their nervous energy was giving her a headache, and she raised a hand to her temple. They immediately leapt back, quills bristling and shields raised. She rolled her eyes. What could a preschool teacher do besides give them a timeout?"

She is just like you and me, and who wouldn't dream of appearing in a fairy tale? :-D

The hero, the cursed prince Edward, aka The Beast starts off as the arrogant prince but Nadia Lee gave him life by fleshing him out and making him a three dimensional real character instead of the cardboard stereotypical prince. His perception of "... and they lived happily ever after" (i.e. that all Happily Ever Afters are hard work) brings reality into the magical, overly rose fairy-dusted unrealistic tales and shows that even princesses and princes have to work at their HEAs:

"Happily ever after does not mean they don't experience exasperation with each other, or are somehow exempt from life's hardships and misery. Living happily ever after is hard work, but you do it because you want to stay in love with the other person. Because your life without this one other, very special person would be something not full, but only half-alive."

I won't spoil the suspense, just say that the romance is tingle inducing and heartwarming. And Nadia Lee spins her own take on the old Beauty and the Beast tale masterfully, bringing you original twists and turns, always leaving the usual pattern and never making the story predictable :-)

Verdict: A Happily Ever After of Her Own is a delightful and entertaining, original and laugh out loud funny, modern fairy tale retelling. If I had to sum it up for those who haven't read it yet I would say it is a contemporary romance meets fairy tale meets Shrek kind of story! You get the cheeky and witty humour of Shrek with all the sweetness and magic of old fairy tales.

A definite keeper, one that everyone should read and will enjoy no matter if they are romance or fairy tale lovers, they will equally love A Happily Ever After of Her Own!

Plot: 10/10

Characters: 9/10

Ending: 8/10

Writing: 10/10

Cover: 10/10

Brenna says

This is such a lovely little novella! It's a very quick read (the PDF copy I received was only 60 pages), but reads just like a modern-day fairytale filled with quirks and witty lines.

Keeping in mind that this reads like a fairytale, expect it to move at the pace of a fairytale as well. Melinda falls in love very quickly (but really, compare that to any other fairytale and it's about the average length of time to fall in love). Normally this would be a complaint of mine with the book, but I have no problem enjoying fairytales where the hero and heroine fall for each other quickly and so I don't hold it against this novella either.

My favourite part of the book is how they try to break down the ideal of a "happily ever after". It questions exactly what "ever after" means and how does one achieve their ever after "happily"? I believe this would be the basic moral of the story, and it's refreshing to see this idea, which is often taken for granted, challenged here yet still put in a positive light.

I've read reviews comparing this to Shrek, and they do have a similar feel. I really think Lee's world would be a fun fairytale world to explore in other books as well, but this is a great little taste for now.

Auggy says

[One minute the heroine is

Angel Graham says

'Twas an enjoyable read, but must admit not a story that I'd have normally have read. I liked the retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" that the author, Nadia Lee did. I always wondered what it would be like to enter into a Fairy Tale and now, through the heroine, Melinda; I have some idea.

I rather liked Beast's explanation of the Happily Ever After ending. That has always been my problem with Fairy Tales. Life doesn't have a HEA. Usually. You have to work at those, and I like that both Beast and Melinda are aware of that.

I recommend this book to anyone wanting a short read, with a trace of childhood in it. It's not your Momma's Fairy Tale, but it's one worth reading.

Lexie says

It had started out rather promising, but felt so rushed. It had zero development for the emotions and worse the Evil Witch was campy.

Stabbing says

Part of Once Upon A Fairy Tale: A Collection of 11 Fairy Tale Inspired Romances; an anthology I got from NetGalley in exchange for a review.

This was the second story from that anthology; and for me it was just ok. Nothing really wrong with the writing style but I thought the plot was very juvenile. Reminded me of a Disney or Nick Jr. made for tv movie plot, also much too contemporary romance for me to enjoy.

Morgan says

I received this book from Netgalley as part of a multi-work collection (Once Upon A Fairy Tale: A Collection of 11 Fairy Tale Inspired Romances) in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

More of a 1.5

This had an interesting, albeit cutesy (but we're talking fairytales here) premise. Where it lacks is in execution. There's a beginning....and then there's an end. Yes, there are some things that happen in the middle, but they don't really count as a middle showing the progression from Beginning to End.

Just inexplicable insta-love to glue the two halves together.

Bonnie (A Backwards Story) says

If you're looking for a light, funny novella, look no further than A Happily Ever After of Her Own by Nadia Lee. Lee takes the term "fractured fairy tale" to new heights, creating a story in the same vein as the Shrek movies. Upon reading this e-book, who wouldn't covet Melinda's ability to pop in and out of various fairy tales? I know I'd love to take a first-hand look at my favorite tales. Then again, Melinda's unique ability is what gets her into trouble in the first place.

Caught trespassing in Beauty and the Beast, Melinda is sent to Fairy Tale Court, where she must plead her innocence. Upon entering the tale, however, something goes horribly wrong and Beauty winds up missing. Beast appears in Court claiming that because of her, he'll never get his Happily Ever After. Melinda's crime is upgraded; she's now considered a Fairy Tale Killer. It turns out that whenever Melinda stepped into a tale, she created a bridge from our world to that one. The Evil Witch finds out about this and uses the opportunity to snatch up Beauty and take her into our world. Melinda and Beast must set out to find Beauty and bring the Evil Queen back where she belongs before she takes over our world and dooms everyone to a tragic ending.

I really liked the way Lee builds up the way fairy tale characters are related to one another. In a way, characters from various books are really one big happy family. This had me laughing in surprise several times. I also loved the way Lee brought a new way of thinking to the term Happily Ever After. This quote sticks with me even now, a couple of weeks after reading this novella:

“Happily ever after does not mean they don't experience exasperation with each other, or are somehow exempt from life's hardships and misery. Living happily ever after is hard work, but you do it because you

want to stay in love with the other person. Because your life without this one other, very special person would be something not full, but only half-alive.'" (pg. 64, nook edition)

One reason people condemn fairy tales is because in real life, there is no "And they lived happily ever after." I love this quote from *Beast* because it shows that just because we need to keep working at our relationship, it doesn't mean that there's no Happily Ever After. There's more to his argument than just the above quote, and I feel it's absolutely brilliant. It truly made me sit back and think.

Being a fairy tale story, *Melinda* is also on track for a happily ever after of her own, just as the novella's title implies. Granted, the whole story occurs in about 24 hours, so the romance feels a bit rushed at times, but that might just be me nitpicking. I was also nitpicking when it came to the fact that *Beast*'s name is Edward. At first, I was surprised by the way the romance shapes up because I wasn't expecting it to come in the form it did. Lee does it in such a way, however, that it makes sense. There's a startling revelation about fairy tales that I won't spoil for you here. Overall, *A Happily Ever After of Her Own* is a fast, entertaining read that will give you food for thought, especially if you're a fairy tale lover!

Jules Goud says

Cute little story..

This book was free and the little blurb sounded interesting, so why not?

Melinda's power was so cool. I mean, lots of people have imagined themselves in fairytales... My personal favourite was "The Little Mermaid".

Another thing that was cool was the way that Edward interpreted the idea of "happily ever after". Lee makes us think about what that actually means. When we think of happily ever after we don't think about what it actually is. To some people it is a far off place or idea that they don't think they'll ever get to. Nadia Lee makes us think about what our "happily ever after" and what we want it to look like.

The thing that was the most nifty thing about this story was the fact that everyone was related to each other. That was really cool.

So glad I took the time to read this book! :)

Renégade ♥ says

3 stars

I liked the creative idea behind this novella and was curious what the author would do with it i.e., the heroine, Melinda, is able to somehow enter into the fairy tale worlds that she reads about.

Unfortunately, her latest excursion (while reading 'Beauty and the Beast') lands her in fairy tale court where she is accused of kidnapping Beauty, disrupting the Beast's happy ending and jeopardizing the fairy tale

realm.

She is given the awful label of 'fairy tale killer'.

These circumstances eventually lead Melinda and Edward (the Beast) on a mission in our world to rescue Beauty and thwart the Evil Witch who is behind all these difficulties.

The beginning of the story was fun on a number of levels and made me chuckle at points. As was mentioned in another review, this story had a bit of an 'Alice in Wonderland' vibe (especially with those porcupine police!).

I liked the interactions between Melinda and Edward as well as watching him try to make sense of the heroine's modern world. At the same time, despite some sweet moments between them, their love story felt sudden and not developed enough for me to fully buy into it, even as I accepted it in the context of this story.

As well, I felt that the villain of the piece was not dealt with in a way that was satisfying or as she truly deserved. I realize that she was written with a comedic touch and that it probably wasn't meant to be more serious, but that didn't quite work for me.

I understand that this was a (view spoiler)

Despite these aspects, I enjoyed this twist on 'Beauty and the Beast' with its various nods to other fairy tales. Wouldn't it be neat if we could enter into these stories that so many of us have grown up with - as long as we didn't end up in court or in jail, of course?

Or inside the Grimm's versions, for that matter...

(That would be bad. Very bad.)

'A Happily Ever After of Her Own' is part of Once Upon A Fairy Tale: A Collection of 11 Fairy Tale Inspired Romances which was published February 8, 2015 and was offered for a limited time. It is no longer available for sale.

(Please note: I read the e-book version as I acquired a copy before the anthology came out.)

Further details regarding this collection can be found here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

*** The review link above lists the stories with their story blurbs and other information.

Colette says

Melinda Lightfoot, a preschool teacher with an unusual ability to flit in and out of fairy tales, never thought she would get into trouble... ..until the Fairy Tale Police arrest her while she is in Beauty and the Beast. They offer her a deal: Find Beauty, who left the story when Melinda trespassed into it, or be charged with the ultimate crime — Fairy Tale Killer. If that's not bad enough the Beast tags along in search of his true love, and Melinda starts falling for the fairy tale prince. She must choose between doing the right thing and having her own happily ever after.

I was glad I waited until all 9 chapters were out to read the whole thing, because I couldn't get enough of Melinda's story. It's a delightful story & it's for those of us who have always wondered what happened after the words "happily ever after" were written in the fairy tales we read. The problem I normally have with novellas that are this short is that I have a really hard time getting into the storyline & characters because they are just over too fast. Not so with this one. I loved Melinda's spirit, and the Beast is so swoon-worthy. I might be a little bit biased because I've gotten to know Nadia over the last month or so through twitter, but I think I would have loved the story even if I didn't know her. While this book doesn't have a Christmas theme, the storyline of doing what's right, and thinking of others first, definitely fits in with what Christmas is all about. The chapters are fairly short, and it's a perfect read for during the week.

Karissa says

I got this book to read on my Kindle quite awhile ago (back when I had just purchased my Kindle and was acquiring ebooks at a breakneck pace). This book was a cute read and okay overall. It's a very quick story.

Melinda has been able to dream herself into fairy tales for as long as she can remember. However this time is different. She finds herself stuck in Beauty in the Beast and ends up being captured and accused of kidnapping Beauty. Eventually the Fairy Godmother shows up and helps the Court to realize that Melinda wasn't involved at all, instead the Evil Witch was the one who kidnapped Beauty. As a result Melinda gets charged with hunting down the Evil Witch and returning both the Witch and Beauty back to the Land of Fairy Tales. Unfortunately the Beast is determined to come along and help....and he looks much less beastly in his human form...

This was a very short and straight-forward book (more of a novella really). The plot is very predictable. Melinda and the Beast have fairly good chemistry together; but there just isn't enough page space to do their relationship justice.

I thought the idea of Melinda being able to dream herself into fairy tales was cute. I also liked that the theme

of the book was that happily ever after is something that needs to be worked at by both members of the relationship...not something that just happens.

Aside from the above everything else was just okay. The writing is okay but pretty simple in style, the story is predictable; the result is a story that is a cute and quick read but not great.

Overall a cute and quick read that wasn't great but wasn't bad. Really I don't have a ton to say about it. I wouldn't necessarily recommend it, but if you are looking for a quick paranormal romance/fairy tale retelling it's okay.

Mojca says

****available in the Once Upon A Fairy Tale collection****

Melinda Lightfoot has the ability of travelling between our and the fairy tale realm. But one day she is caught trespassing in *The Beauty and the Beast* fairy tale and charged with kidnapping Beauty as the heroine disappears.

In order to overthrow her conviction as a Fairy Tale Killer, Melinda must return to the real world and find Beauty. She has three days to do it, and to make things even more complicated, Beast (in his studly princely form) decides to tag along.

This one was a hoot to read with Edward (beast) experiencing cultural shock as he accompanied Melinda to the real world.

I liked both protagonists, though I wish the romance would've been developed a little bit better, but I guess the author was pressed for time.

The final resolution also felt a bit rushed, but *"they all lived happily ever after"*.
