



## Loving the Beast

*Naima Simone*

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## **Loving the Beast** Naima Simone

*Left scarred and bitter, he demands her body and desires her heart. But could she come to love a beast?*

Gwendolyn Sinclair needs help. And the one person who can give her the aid she urgently requires is exacting a high price.

Desperate to keep the neighborhood community center open, Gwendolyn seeks out Xavier St. James, her childhood friend and the brother of her dead fiance. Xavier's family foundation possesses the funds necessary to keep the center open, but instead he offers a bargain - a devil's bargain: submit her body for his pleasure for seven days, and the building doesn't close its doors.

Left scarred from an accident, Xavier is bitter, resentful, and alone. When Gwendolyn reappears in his life, need and loneliness override conscience, and he proposes an arrangement she can't afford to refuse. With the woman he has always wanted but could never have finally in his bed, he hungers for more. Her heart. But could she come to love a beast?

Also under the title "Bargain with the Beast".

## **Loving the Beast Details**

Date : Published June 2011 by Breathless Press

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Author : Naima Simone

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Genre : Romance, Interracial Romance, Contemporary Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Fairy Tales, Beauty and The Beast, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Loving the Beast for online ebook

### Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Amy W

Book provided by the publisher

Originally posted at Romancing the Book

In order to receive the grant funding she needs to save the community center, Gwendolyn Sinclair agrees to spend a week with Xavier St. James. Author Naima Simone introduces an adult version of a beloved fairy tale in *Bargain With the Beast*. Above all, it is a love story featuring a proud, wounded hero whose emotional scars are directly tied to his physical scars.

Paired with Xavier is Gwendolyn, a strong female character who fights to reach the man deep inside the outer layer of protection. Xavier hides behind power and money, which makes him incredibly appealing as a fix-up project for Gwen.

The story line integrates plenty of humor as the author explores the limits of a relationship between the two characters. What starts as a business deal gets rather complicated when feelings become involved.

Because the two characters have such a strong connection, their encounters are spicy hot. Although some of the descriptions caused me to have some doubts (comparing apporation of the male anatomy to a plum), I found the writing style to be engaging.

A familiar story line coupled with adult themes makes this appealing for any reader needing a short escape from reality.

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### Judith says

An erotic contemporary re-telling of the traditional "Beauty & the Beast." And Xavier was really a beast in his spirit far more than in his external appearance. His injury and resulting deformity had warped not only his opinion of himself but his manner of relating to others. Gwen somehow manages to get past all the ugliness and embraces Xavier's best self. It is a very nice re-telling and one I enjoyed very much.

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### Crystal Yawn says

I love!!!! Books with a Disney theme. Beauty and the Beast is one of my favorite stories. This is a great representation of that tale!

Xavier makes a great beast. Half disfigured after an accident and grumpy as all get out because of it, he needs light in his life to remind him who he is.

Gwen is a very caring soul with a guilt ridden past. When she can confront that, she lights the light for Xavier.

The story is full of Oh My moments, tender moments and down and dirty naughty moments. Well worth the read!

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## **Lorraine Lesar says**

I'm a sucker for the "Beauty and the Beast" type books. Add the name Naima Simone and I thought I had gone to heaven! Now it takes a special gift of words to make a book stand out in a saturated market, Ms Simone succeeded very, very well. The sensual love scenes were steamy, erotic and a delight to read - she's certainly not shy in expressing herself! The book blurb covers the story well, so I won't repeat. Yes, the book is short, but it's all about the quality not size and this author certainly proves the point - a winner for me!

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## **\*Dee's Reading Time Matters says**

This is Naima Simone's other version of "Loving the Beast." Both versions were very "goodreads" that I highly recommend to readers who enjoys the Beauty and the Beast theme!

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## **raeneysa says**

I always like the adults vision of beauty and the beast this book had twist to it which make this book awesome. the hero passion for the heroine was intent. and i like how they both make there fantasy reality.

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## **Habrewer says**

Loving the Beast (Fairy Tales Unleashed) by Naima Simone

\* I received a copy of this book from Breathless Press in exchange for an honest review\*

Gwen has been friends with Joshua and Xavier since she was a young girl. They grew up together playing at the community center in her neighborhood and they were there for her throughout high school and college. She was engaged to Joshua but her heart has always belonged to Xavier.

First Xavier loses his brother in a senseless car wreck then he and his father are in a horrific crash that takes his father's life and leaves his face severely disfigured. His finance left him because of his accident and all of his "friends" avoid him. He is a lonely, bitter man that hides behind his scars.

Gwen has been trying to get into contact with Xavier for the last few weeks. The community center they all played in as children is in danger of being shut down if she doesn't find funding. She applied for a grant through his foundation but was denied and he's her last hope. She makes a deal with the devil knowing she may be walking away without her heart.

Xavier doesn't know what possessed him to make the deal with Gwen. He has dreamed about her for years, even while she was engaged to his brother. This is his chance to get her in his bed but can he keep her there?

Gwen is a strong and independent woman. She is not afraid to fight for something she believes in. She also loves with everything in her heart. I loved that about her. She told herself that she accepted Xavier's bargain for the community center but later admits the real reason she's there is for Xavier.

Xavier is one of my favorite types of hero's, tortured. He lost his brother and father and now his finance has

left him. He is alone but he won't let anyone in because he doesn't want their pity. He is rude and crass and pushes people away. Over the course of the story, we see him start to have hope and believe in love again. Gwen shows him kindness, not pity but she is not afraid to tell him he is being a jerk either.

My favorite fairy tale is Beauty and the Beast and the spin on this novella is no different. I was impressed with the completeness of the story; all the loose ends were tied up and the main characters had resolution. The author delved into several taboo topics such as interracial dating and socioeconomic issues.

Overall I really enjoyed this book and give Loving the Beast 4 Flaming Hearts.

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### **Fashionista says**

Xavier won my heart. Underneath that sarcastic exterior lays the real man. This was such a sweet read. And the love scenes are scorching HOT!

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### **Diana~ (Kiss Me Books) says**

**Loving the Beast** was actually my first e-book that I bought using my Kindle and to be honest? This book was definitely worth the buy! I guess it's fairly new but the scenes between the hero and heroine was deliciously sweet and *hot*! Plus, if you're into stories or quick reads with a fairy tale twist, then this is the book for you. The story starts out with our heroine, Gwen who is at a party solely for the purpose of finding Xavier. As for the reason why, you can pretty much guess from the summary: She needs him to donate money to the community center that they had both met in. In my opinion, it was a pretty low move from him since he ended up blackmailing (!) Gwen into having sex with him. Of course, Gwen is shocked to hear this because of their long-lasting friendship after all these years! Yes, she has been secretly in love with him for years and we find out that he was in love with her as well... *But*.

Due to some difficult circumstances, since Gwen is engaged to his younger brother, Josh, they were not able to be together. She reluctantly accepts... and I actually thought that Xavier would have been a pretty interesting character if only the author had fleshed out his character more but I'm happy with what I got. Like the Beast, he is physically and emotionally scarred as a result of his father's (whom he admires) death in a car crash *and* in addition to catching his fiancée in the act of cheating on him. But like Belle, Gwen does of course heal Xavier's heart through her love for him. It was actually kind of sweet!

Now let's talk about the scorching hot scenes between the two because wow. Naima Simone does a pretty great job capturing the sensuality and intensity of their love scenes. I really liked the build-up from having them gradually start out as being friends and into lovers. I truly enjoyed this little hot read and I am definitely looking forward to reading more from this author!

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### **Lady Raven RAVE! says**

<http://www.romancenoveljunkies.com/> for book lovers and readers.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

Gwendolyn needed funds to help keep the community center in her neighborhood open. The only person she

is able to turn to was, Xavier. Asking Xavier proves to be a little difficult, since he is ignoring her. Ever since his accident that has left him disfigured, Xavier, has not been the most pleasant person to be around. Now that Gwen has finally cornered Xavier, she asks for his help, but it comes with a price.

## THOUGHTS

This book has the sweetest title, but this book should have been called 'Loving the Beast (Karma Sutra tales). Wow, I was not expecting this book to be so sexually charged. I like what the author is doing with the fairy tales we've come to know, and putting her spin on the series. Beauty and the Beast, is a concept that has been used multiple times throughout the years, but I never get bored or tired of this concept.

Xavier has been the playboy socialite, with the gorgeous girlfriend, fast cars and loving life, until his accident that has left him disfigured. Now bitter and unapproachable, he gave a completely new meaning to the beast character. I loved that even though he was disfigured he still had sex appeal. Gwen, was your typical heroine, but still likable. The characters are the focus throughout the story, so there were really no supporting characters. With the added bonus of beauty and the beast concept, a good old blackmail was thrown into the mix. If you are familiar with the harlequin presents books, this story had the same feel to it, but a little X-rated.

Although, there is a plot to the story, the intimacy level was very high. Therefore, if you are looking for a sweet and detailed romance, this may not be for you. However, if you are looking for sweet, raunchy and to the point, then this is for you. The kindle size is almost 2000 so it's a decent size book.

Story: FAIR

Intimacy: Double D.R.I.P (Don't Read In Public)

Enjoyment: GOOD

<http://www.romancenoveljunkies.com>

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## **Delaney Diamond says**

Another smoking hot read from Naima Simone! I really enjoyed Sweet Ultimatum (<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/79...>) and looked forward to reading this one. Not only did she write an interesting plot, I enjoyed just reading the words and how she puts them together.

Xavier is a tortured alpha male who coerces Gwendolyn into spending seven days with him in exchange for funding the community center she manages. They've known each other for years, and even though they've always been friends, they've both been secretly in love with each other for a long time.

Gwen ends up engaged to Xavier's brother, and Xavier ends up engaged to another woman, Evelyn. Joshua dies and Evelyn cheats on Xavier, leaving the hero and heroine free. Unlike his so-called "friends" of the social elite, Gwen sees past the scars that mar Xavier's body, and her love remains as strong as ever. He, however, has to learn to appreciate her and what she has to offer, because his pride has been so bruised by the rejections he's experienced since he became the "beast." She, in turn, has to get past her guilt over the death of Xavier's brother and the role she played in his unexpected demise.

This is an emotionally charged book with lots of flaming hot sex (Xavier clearly has an oral fixation) and

wonderful plot. Looking forward to reading the next one from Ms. Simone.

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### **SheReadsALot says**

This was my first read from Naima Simone and I'm sure that it will not be my last. Oh...My...The sex scenes were some of the hottest I've read. An alpha male doesn't even describe the H at all. He was all consuming. He was...buy this book. It's a solid story with smut but an actual plot thrown in as well. Fluff this is NOT!

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### **Margaret says**

Loving the Beast is a modern day, erotic version of the childhood fairytale, Beauty and the Beast. A gentle reminder to everyone that looks don't make or break a person. The way Simone intertwined the fairytale with the steamy scenes between Gwendolyn and Xavier keeps a reader interested in the story.

Gwendolyn approaches her childhood friend, Xavier at a party, seeking a grant to keep the community center they met at open. Xavier, who has always harbored feelings for Gwen, takes advantage of her demise and tells her that he will give her the money, in exchange for her spending 7 days with him, as his lover. Gwen, who has harbored the same feelings for Xavier despite being engaged to his brother, takes the opportunity.

What comes of Gwen and Xavier makes you love them and hate them at the same time, it makes you wonder what is going to come of them, as well. The story is engaging and endearing, everything a reader could want in a story with the addition of the intensely hot scenes between Xavier and Gwen. Loving the Beast is a well written novella, a great bedtime story for adults to enjoy.

Reviewed for Deviant Diva's Erotic Book Review

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### **Shelby P says**

I think if I'd read this 3 years ago when I first got my Kindle I would have liked the story better. Since becoming a Kindle owner I've read a ton of books and they are pretty varied. My friends were recently talking about this book so I wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

Now I've read other "beauty and the beast" themed books but Xavier having a scar from hairline to chin didn't seem that monstrous to me. It was a bit unbelievable how disgusted the party goers were of his scar and the horrid things they said about him. I mean, he has gorgeous hair, muscular thighs, a broad chest and a scar. Oh the horrors!

When I read I want the plot to be meatier than it was here. I need a story and not just pages and pages of sex. It got old hearing how wet her p\*ssy was. I think I skimmed majority of chapter 5. Now why oh why does the ex-fiancée just conveniently show up trying to get the man she cheated on back and then give him vital information so that he could win his current love interest?

So Gwendolyn decides to whore herself out for the community center but in the end, we didn't even get an epilogue to see that the money she whored herself out for did some tangible good. I'm glad my reading palate has vastly improved.

## **Becky Condit says**

I enjoyed this book for a number of reasons but the main one is Ms. Simone's use of language. She has the power of description that brings her characters and plotline right out of the pages and into the reader's imagination. She can make the most mundane view picturesque, the most average experience one of magnetic beauty, but where she really shines when writing erotica is in the sex scenes. I honestly have never read a more poetic description of female masturbation than when Xavier demands that Gwen bring herself to orgasm while he watches. Whew! That is one steamy passage, but actually all of the sensual encounters in the book are enthralling.

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