



Carnally Ever After

Jackie Barbosa

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This ebook includes CARNALLY EVER AFTER, a short story (15,000 words/50 pages), EPIPHANY, a bonus epilogue (3,400 words/11 pages) and an excerpt from Jackie's upcoming release, THE LESSON PLAN (6400 words/21 pages).

DESCRIPTION

Jilted at the altar, Lady Louisa Bennett seeks the solace of a quiet, empty chapel and instead finds Alistair de Roche, her fiancé's best man and the subject of her fantasies from the moment she met him. Alistair knows bedding his best friend's betrothed is well beyond the pale, but Louisa has haunted his dreams for months. Soon, Louisa and Alistair are caught up in a consuming love affair that threatens their families' plans and their own hearts. Can they find a way to live happily, and carnally, ever after?

CARNALLY EVER AFTER was previously released under the same title by Cobblestone Press. The bonus epilogue, EPIPHANY, is available for free in the anthology TWELFTH NIGHT.

Carnally Ever After Details

Date : Published September 18th 2011 by Circe Press (first published February 18th 2011)

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Author : Jackie Barbosa

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From Reader Review Carnally Ever After for online ebook

∅???? [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're are mostly my thoughts as I went with the book...

Carnally Ever After was a fun little novella, I must say! It had me giggling all through the way. But there were those scenes that had me shaking my head, too. Even though the initial novella was too short for me, I really loved the bonus epilogue. JB is an excellent writer no doubt.

Louisa has just been jilted at the altar by Lord Grenville. Alistair, the best man and Grenville's best friend, is angry over the whole thing. Then it's revealed that Alistair always wanted Louisa but both men ended up engaged with the wrong woman since those were arranged by their respective parents. Yes, Alistair is also engaged to a proper English rose, Miss Palmer. He was sitting alone somewhere in the church after that debacle when Louisa comes to find him. Grenville is a debauched rake and gambler and now it turns out, irresponsible as well. Alistair always knew that Louisa isn't really Grenville's type, who likes slender women. But to Alistair, Louisa is a Goddess. There hasn't been anyone more attractive than dark haired, eyed and generously curvy Louisa. Miss Palmer is tall and slim, very beautiful and yet, she doesn't do anything for Alistair.

While Alistair is in this state of mind, we find that Louisa has been fantasizing about him as well; his golden good looks no doubt. She wasn't very fond of her jilted bridegroom, but acceded because of her father. Right now, Louisa can't bring herself to be sad about it. As the novella rushed on, this turns into that, and Alistair ends up revealing his fantasies to her, then and there. Louisa is also up for the challenge as she asks Alistair to 'prove her' how attractive he finds her.

Then, hmmm... they go to Alistair's bachelor apartments and, well, hmmm... they proceeded to do some kinky stuff... and it caught me by surprise seeing how Louisa was still a virgin. Alistair finds a way to spare her virginity, in case Grenville is dragged by his father to the altar.

Don't ask me anything but it had me shaking my head.

Aaaanyway, Louisa's much needed self-esteem returns, thanks to Alistair's attentions. She now resolves that she's not going to marry Grenville no matter what and tells her father that too! *clap clap* Alistair on the other hand, was thinking some stuff. Grenville isn't happy about the whole thing, and no intentions of marrying Louisa for you-know-what(I wanted to kick him, no likey this guy). One thing still caught me by surprise. How wasn't it a big gossip when Grenville and Louisa's marriage was supposed to be such a big event, and so many people attending? There was no mention of the scandal or any such thing. I couldn't really believe this.

While I was ruminating on that, Louisa does something that again, caught me by surprise... Hmmm... it wasn't her plan as to why she did it, but the 'instrument' she uses to deflower herself. Hmmm, I wasn't sure if I should laugh or cry, be embarrassed or be plain horrified! Louisa's plan was to become Alistair's mistress, because she doesn't think she'll be able to find anyone like him and he being engaged... well, you get the picture.

I should've been annoyed but I wasn't. Probably because it was a novella and Alistair surprised me by telling her later that she'd be the mistress of his life. It was sweet, I give him that.

There's a very small epilogue at the end, which was ok IMO. Then, I had to get the free anthology, 12th

Night. I read and loved the bonus epilogue, 'Epiphany'.

This takes place 2 yrs after the main story. Louisa has just had the heir to the Holyfield earldom. She's obviously shy and embarrassed about the changes motherhood has wrought on her body. She's been fending off sex with lights on. But Alistair is plain crazy about his wife, and wouldn't hear 'no' on that regard anymore. He's determined to *show* her how sexy he still finds her... Ooh, lala! I've read novellas/novels with settings like this, and have always found them plain HOT. No exception to Epiphany. A superb show to their HEA! My recommendation is, read the bonus epilogue afterwards or better yet, get the re-released version that has the bonus epilogue added to it. Either way, don't miss it.

Lemme quote something from here:

*She smiled as she recalled thinking when she first heard the word c*ck that it was an apt name for such a showy organ.*

Alistair followed her gaze, the corners of his mouth pulling down in a mock frown. "I pray you are not thinking again how 'little' my contribution is."

Overall, 4 stars.

Carnally Ever After is followed by Behind the Red Door, which contains 3 more stories that are loosely connected to each-other. I'm hopping on to read that one now!

PS: I still don't see the phrase 'nascent erection' should annoy anyone.

Victoria Vane says

I will say first that the author is an excellent writer. If you are seeking historical erotica this would absolutely and wonderfully fit the bill.

Helen Kord says

Dnf'd at 20%

I thought I'd try something new and short, but then the hero decided he can't take the heroine's virginity and decides to do anal instead and guys. Guys seriously. Guys no.

K.J. Harrowick says

Why I picked up this book:

All right, so I picked this book up after seeing a twitter post about a review that led the author/publisher to set the price as free. I'd just read a dark fantasy and needed a bit of a palate cleanser a la dirty romance.

What I liked:

The author's writing and voice is stellar.

Areas needing a touch of refinement:

This should be a dirty romance, but right off the bat there's nothing that smacks of romance or love, only lust. Both the hero/heroine are already engaged to other people, and their first intimate encounter reads as a one-night stand for nothing but sex. I would have loved to see a more organic progression of intimacy from a-to-z.

I didn't really connect with the story. It was vague at best around the affair. One thing that bummed me out was a setup in chapter 4 that really opened a portal for fun romantic hijinks between the affair couple and their betrothed partners, but it never played out.

Overall:

If you're looking for a quick read that's more dirty sex in an affair-like setting, definitely pick this up. I may check out other tales by the author as I do like her writing voice, but this story had me suspending too much disbelief for the hero/heroine love story to feel authentic.

RIF says

Manages to be erotic, a bit funny and pack in a tender love story-get the one with the bonus epilogue for full effect.

Angela says

Carnally Ever After is a quick erotic read that was ultimately satisfying; I did have some issues with it, however they didn't detract from my overall enjoyment too much. At a mere 68 pages, per my Kindle, the story flies by and there is - surprisingly - an actual story packed in here too.

Louisa is left at the altar, not so much jilted as forgotten by her fiancé. She comes to the conclusion in her discussion with his best friend, Alistair de Roche, that it's because of her plump figure and general unattractiveness. Now, don't get me wrong, I absolutely get feeling self-conscious about weight; but just once I'd like to see a heroine that's overweight and comfortable in her own skin. In all other regards though I like Louisa. She goes after what she wants when she finds herself in this untenable position, and is fearless in pursuing her desires.

Alistair, of course, has been attracted to Louisa and her generous curves since he first met her - but she was already his friend's fiancé, so he's kept his thoughts - and his hands - to himself. Until Louisa demands that he prove she's attractive to him. I honestly don't have much of a feel for Alistair, other than we're told he's good with making money and he's incredibly attracted to Louisa. This is a downside of the length of the novel. I liked how he treated Louisa - even if I didn't quite like how he dealt with his own fiancé.

I felt quite immersed in the story and the time period, though there wasn't a lot of page to develop the world. The characters felt slightly anachronistic, but honestly that wasn't what I was reading for; the sexy times were quite sexy though perhaps a little rushed. I did quite enjoy the last "Epiphany" epilogue that was included in this edition, which takes place some months after Louisa gives birth.

My main issue with the story, and it admittedly comes up in almost all stories I read that contain a self-conscious, overweight heroine, was the implication that only lush women are feminine. Now, I thought the author was doing really good for a while, showing that Alistair is attracted to her, and other men are attracted to other body types of women, but then about mid-way through there was a comment regarding her being the ideal for "loving" and again in the "Epiphany" epilogue some generalized comment about all men loving big breasts and no breast being too big. I'm sure these were meant innocently enough, and the man was speaking as a man that is in love and attracted is wont to do, but it grated at me. It wasn't enough to ruin my enjoyment of the book though, and I will definitely be reading more by Jackie Barbosa in the future.

Rose says

This is the first book I have read from author Jackie Barbosa and I really enjoyed it! Hot and fun novella with a couple that I was happy to see together in the end.

Lady Louisa Bennett has been jilted at the altar by Alistair's best friend, Lord Grenville. She believes that she was jilted because she's fat and that no man would want her. Alistair de Roche, the Earl of Holyfield has been attracted to Louisa since they were first introduced. He tries to convince her that she's attractive and that any man would want her. Then Louisa demands proof!

Louisa and Alistair were a great couple and the Epiphany (Bonus Epilogue) was the perfect ending!

Wendy says

A little hot number this one.

Never Stop Reading or Dreaming says

3 1/2 stars

I don't really read historical romance but this was a good one. Although, some of the language was not used in the 1800's I was able to look past it.

C Joy says

Short and carnal

Killian says

I stopped reading at "nascent erection". I stand by that decision.

Barbara says

This was a good story of a jilted bride and the best man. Alastair wanted Louisa but was engaged to another. Louisa gets jilted and Alastair is there to pick up the pieces. They both have their duties but their love and lust are able to overcome. Did like the novella in 12th Nights to catch up with them. Very apt for their story.

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Carnally Ever After is Extremely Erotic. Its not BDMS just plain outright erotic sex. Its a Novella so the story moves pretty quickly. I like both lead Characters. It was just one bit that kept me from giving this 5 stars and that had to do with a cucumber. That should have been edited out.

If you like erotica this is a really good one. I wish it had been longer but it is a Novella

April says

Louisa Bennett was left at the altar by Greenville, a man she doesn't care to marry in the first place. His best man, Alistair de Roche, is there to comfort her. They want each other, but know that no one can find out. Louisa knows she is still going to have to marry Greenville, and Alistair is set to be wed very soon himself. After their first time together, she decides to defy her family's wishes, even if it is just to be his mistress.

Carnally Ever After was a quick, hot historical read about learning not to settle for who others think you should. They may not approve, but everyone deserves to be happy with the person they love.

I loved the epilogue! I think it made me enjoy the story as a whole a lot better. I liked the story itself, but I could really relate to the epilogue.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Crazy for Books (Stephanie) says

Provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

Louisa Bennett has been jilted at the altar by Lord Granville. So when she starts bashing herself for being too full figured and what man would want her, Granville's best man, Alistar de Rocha decides to show her that he's the type of man who would want her. Even though he's engaged to another. They spend the hours that her family uses to renegotiate her dowery to get better acquainted.

Though Alistar wants her and has since the moment he met her, he doesn't believe he can have her. Mostly because her family is dead set on having her married to a better titled gentleman than he, though he's financially more well off.

Louisa has learned something being with Alistar. That she can't marry someone just for her family's sake and

that she will do anything to be happy. Even proposing to be Alistar's mistress. But Alistar wants her more than she can know and they run off together.

It was well written, I just wasn't enthralled with their story.

But when I read the sneak peak pages for The Lesson Plan, I had to have it. I bought it and read it right away.
