



Beauty and the Baron

Joanna Barker

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A penniless maid determined to save her father, a broken baron bent on isolation, and the undeniable draw between them that will lead to happiness—or disaster.

Rose Sinclair has run out of options. With her father in prison and their bookshop sold to pay his debts, she has no choice but to turn to Henry Covington, the Baron Norcliffe. But the baron has more than earned his harsh reputation, and Rose must face his wrath in order to save her father—and herself.

Since the deaths of his parents, Henry Covington has isolated himself from society, ensuring the solitude of his estate with his deliberate callousness. However, when the beautiful Miss Sinclair appears on his doorstep, begging for a chance to repay her father's debt to him, a moment of weakness finds him offering her a position—as a maid in his own house.

They both soon learn that first impressions are not to be believed. Henry is surprised—and intrigued—by Rose's optimistic charm, while Rose slowly uncovers Henry's true self, his compassion concealed behind the pain of loss and betrayal. But when a shadow from Henry's past returns, their newfound hope is tested. They must decide for themselves who to trust—and what they will risk for their happily ever after.

Beauty and the Baron is a Regency retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*. It is a sweet/clean romance novella, and is Book 1 in a series of Regency retellings. The stories can be read in any order.

Beauty and the Baron Details

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Author : Joanna Barker

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From Reader Review Beauty and the Baron for online ebook

Mrs Caroline Trevor says

I found this a really good book. Rose is a really strong character. She offers to work for the Baron in order to pay off her Father's debt to him. She never complains about the amount of work the housekeeper assigns her work till late in the night. Her feelings for the baron come along over time.

OLT says

This is the sweet little story of a down-on-her-luck daughter of a bookshop owner who's in prison for debt. Rose has no money; her father, as, apparently, too-many-to-number HR fathers do, gambled away everything, even the loans made to him to shore up the bookshop's finances.

So dad's in debtors' prison and Rose wants to work off her father's debt to Henry, Baron Norcliffe, and applies for a servant's position at his home. She's the Beauty and he's the Beast in this bland and colorless rendition of the fairy tale. Henry's grumpy and living an isolated life because of sad events in his past. Rose is compassionate and optimistic. You know what's going to happen.

There are a couple of villains and a minor mystery and, of course, the low-key romance. I got this on a bargain day. It's not much of a story. The author does have a decent command of English and grammar and the book is relatively well edited, so there's that. (2.5 stars.)

Adrienne says

Rose Sinclair's father is in debtors prison, and though she has done all she can to pay off his debts, he still owes money to Henry Covington, the Baron Norcliffe. Needing to repay the money as well as earn money required by the prison for her father's care, Rose is desperate enough to disregard Baron Norcliffe's reputation as hard and unfeeling in order to propose the only solution she can think of.

Henry has essentially cut himself off from society and intentionally cultivated his harsh reputation, but when Rose offers to become his servant in order to repay her father's debts, Henry allows her to take a position as a maid.

Rose isn't exactly a good servant--she's slow and talks out of turn--but Henry finds he doesn't mind since Rose draws out parts of him that he thought he'd buried and intrigues him as no woman has before.

This is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast, without any magical elements. It's a clean read, and since it's a novella, it can easily be read in an hour or so.

I really enjoyed this novella. The characters were well-written and I liked watching their feelings for each other blossom. I also liked that the author didn't try to hard to force the story to align perfectly with the original story; there are unique elements that really made the story very interesting.

I read an ARC provided by the author. All opinions are my own.

Christina says

Sweet Regency Fairytale

I really enjoy fairytale retellings and this was a fun novella. I thought the author did a great job in creating something new and fresh by putting her own twists on this classic tale, set in the Regency period. While I wish it could have been longer and had more buildup it was still a fun and quick read.

Melissa says

This is a novella length book. You can read it in a couple hours. This is a B&B retelling. It is one of my favorites. This was very light and fluffy. It was well written but had no meat to it. It was a fun story to read and I think my teens will like it. This was not a fantasy, there was no magic. This was very chaste also.

Amanda says

3.5 stars

Take a not so beastly hero and a strong willed heroine, sprinkle in a few magical tropes such as getting caught in a rainstorm and bonding time in the library and you have the very lovely romance of Beauty and the Baron. Obviously, this novella was inspired by Beauty and the Beast and was a refreshing, albeit predictable retelling of the much beloved fairytale.

I was wonderfully caught off guard by the amount of emotion Joanna Barker was able to infuse in so few words. Rose was at the center of that. She was kind, selfless to a fault, but with an inner strength that thawed even the coldest of hearts. Although I wouldn't call Henry cold per say, but rather closed off, preferring aloofness and all the protections it afforded to him. Betrayed, used and having lost all he held dear, Henry thought he'd never allow anyone past his defenses again. Oh romance heroes, will they ever learn? Rose changed all that, of course. Through a series of candid conversations, Rose and Henry grow closer, forming an intimate friendship that eventually blossoms into love. There is a bit of side intrigue towards the end, but its only service was to move the story forward. In the end it was Rose and Henry's relationship and their individual characters that left me with a smile on my face when all was said and done.

Anyone looking for a quick, sweet read who also enjoy fairytale retellings, I highly recommend this one.

Bookconfessions says

As a retelling Joanna Barker incorporated portions of the traditional tale making it obvious is was a beauty and the best retelling, but not overly cliché. Unique enough to stand out. The relationship was well developed for a novella with a good blend of misunderstanding, friendship, and attraction. She created tender moments and an engaging plot. The plot twists added excitement, but my favorite part was that the plot twists did not make them misplace their trust in each other. It's a really sweet, clean read.

<https://bookconfessionsblog.wordpress...>

Lindsay Bergman says

Beauty and the Beast is one of my favorite Disney movies, and this retelling is everything it should be. It was perfect. I couldn't imagine loving it more.

Gina says

A delightful story based on Beauty and the Beast. Though the beast in this story is not physically unappealing his countenance and personality are certainly gruff. Duke Henry Norcliffe is bitter about many things. When a debtor's daughter asks for a position to pay off her father's debt and to be able to send money for her father's prison sentence he is less than kind. As she works as a maid he sees her light and is impressed. As they grow closer a threat amongst servants may jeopardize the growing relationship. I certainly enjoyed this story. I received a complimentary copy and I am voluntarily reviewing.

Kathy says

What a delightful book! I loved the similarities to Beauty and the Beast but I also loved all the twists that kept it fun. I loved the characters and their growth throughout the book. I will definitely look for the rest of this series.

Jessica says

I absolutely love new takes on old fashioned fairy tales, and this is another fantastic one! This story pulls you in from the first chapter and hearkens back to it's fairy tale roots in subtle, wonderful ways. The main couple are separate, intriguing people with pain in their past, and how they grow closer together was so fun to read. Loved this new story from my favorite new Regency author! A definite must read if you love this genre, and even if you don't, try it!

Julie says

I absolutely LOVE retellings of fairy tales. This is a wonderful retelling of Beauty and the Beast. Rose is such a beautiful character. She is strong, cheerful and kind despite the circumstances she finds herself in, through no fault of her own. Henry has closed himself off from the outside because of a bitter betrayal that led to his parents deaths. I loved this book. It is very well written and I couldn't put it down. I would highly recommend this book and this author.

Lori says

A fun little novella! I'm usually hesitant to read novellas, but I decided to give this one a try, since I loved Joanna Barker's debut novel so much. I am so glad I did! I love Barker's writing style and particularly enjoyed the playful dialogue between Henry and Rose.

Deanna says

Wow!

This was a great Beauty and the Beast retelling. I crushed in a little over a day! Will definitely be looking for more books like this one to read.

Esther says

A perfect regency short story with so many fun Beauty and the Beast elements throughout. Ms. Barker's writing is excellent, the story fun, and her characters memorable. Reading Beauty and the Baron was the perfect way to spend an hour by myself. Now back to real life...
