



La maldición de los Scarletti

Christine Feehan

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• Una historia de amor propia de los cuentos de hadas con una trama de misterio en forma de maldición. • Hay elementos de La bella y la bestia, de La cenicienta o El jorobado de Nôtre Dame. • «La reina del romance sobrenatural», Usa Today.

Nicoletta conoce demasiado bien la maldición que persigue a la dinastía Scarletti. Siempre había creído que sus milagrosos dones sanadores la harían especial y que ningún hombre la controlaría jamás, pero cuando mira fijamente a los ojos oscuros y fascinantes de Don Scarletti de repente teme por su futuro... porque es un antiguo privilegio de los Scarletti escoger esposa entre su pueblo... y la ha escogido a ella.

Obligada por el deber e impulsada por un deseo arrollador y fatal, Nicoletta se rinde a este hombre poderoso y magnetizador. Pero ¿este caballero atormentado será el destino de su corazón... o la destrucción de su alma?

La maldición de los Scarletti Details

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Author : Christine Feehan

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From Reader Review La maldición de los Scarletti for online ebook

Nicla says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Ann Keller says

I really loved this one. Reading this book made me want to read more novels by Christine Feehan.

Loren says

This is probably one of my favorite by Feehan, and it's not in a series. I like the suspense and the beauty and the beast type of love story.

Aanchal (Book Flame) says

From

Bookflame.blogspot.com

I never picked up a Christine Feehan book until The Scarletti Curse. It was one of those days where I was awaiting for some books to come in the mail but needed my fix so stopped by the local grocery store and this one grabbed my attention.

I do not regret purchasing this book. I have now re-read the book twice and it has become one of my favorite paranormal romance novels. This book is mystery,thriller,romance, all combined in one.

Nicoletta is the local healer for her village. She was born with gifts that would label her a witch amongst outsiders. One day the Don Scarletti who owns all the lands summons the local village healer to his Palace due to the illness of his brother (Vincente's) little daughter Sophie falling ill with food poisoning. Not to give herself away she takes caution and has Maria Pia (another main character whom you will grow to love and slightly get annoyed with) pretend to be the healer and herself just a lowly dumb servant to the healer.

There is a lot of death surrounding the Don Scarletti's palace. Every bride who has walked through those doors have fallen a horrible death along with many of the woman workers in the palace. The villagers believe that the Scarletti family worships evil, that they are cursed and has labeled the Scarletti home as pallazo della morte. Unfortunately for Nicoletta the don has eyes only for her.

Nicoletta has deep history with the palace as well through her mother and aunty who were violently killed working in the palace, so you can only expect the heroine of the book to be very fearful of the don and their relationship which is in the beginning forced upon her.

The book was very well written, the characters were also well developed. You grew to hate and love many characters. The relationship between the Don and Nicoletta was entertaining. There was more than enough

mystery to keep me from putting this book down. The novel definitely has it's share of death,romance,evil all packed in one but there is also innocence and a slight bit of humor as well.

Erika says

This book was great -- I absolutely loved it. Feehan's writing makes you feel like you are there with the heroine, feeling the breeze off the ocean, running through the hills. This was perfect gothic romance but with a steamier, sexier edge (something I prefer since I stopped reading the more PG rated gothic romances when I was in my teens). What made this story great was the heroine, Nicoletta. She was the type of heroine I love to read about; one who captures the affections of others because she takes care of them and makes them feel happy, rather than because she is stunningly gorgeous. (I don't like reading about that type of heroine -- one who everyone adores simply because she is beautiful, but her personality is weak, domineering, stubborn, bratty, selfish). Don't get me wrong though, this heroine is beautiful, but it is not the reason she is adored by those around her. Wish I could find more romance novels with tis type of heroine.

The hero, Giovanni, is also likable, but it takes awhile before you really get to know him. This story is told from the POV of the heroine, and it does maintain much of the gothic flavor to it, where you don't know if the hero is good or bad until a good ways in (though you hope and pray he is good -- just like the heroine does!) Nevertheless he has lots of characteristics I love about Feehan's heroes -- possessive, protective, dominant and great in bed. lol

Highly recommend this!

Annette Dahl "Old Vicarious Reader" says

Beauty, the supposed Beast, and the Palace of Death

This story started out intense and scary. Listening to the audio was like watching the beginning of a horror movie, so much so I wasn't sure I would be able to finish it. As the story progressed I got confused. From some of the reviews I had read I thought the Don was going to be a cruel beast of a man. Perhaps it was the reading interpretation of the narrator, but I didn't find the Don that way at all. Authoritative, yes, but not cruel. I'm not a fan of historical romance, so it took some doing on my part to get past the oldworld customs and superstitions. The oldworld customs made me very angry.

The plot was developed in such a way that I became fascinated. The story started out with a sick near death child, then there was the creepy mansion and all the deaths, and last but not least the mystery of the Don's mind melding capabilities. I kept replaying the audio to be sure I didn't miss a word. I was totally captured by this tale. It's been a while since a story has gripped me totally like this one did. I was adrenalized from the beginning to the end.

One of the wonderful things about this story is I was pulled into the characters as if I knew them personally. I was frustrated with our heroine so many times. Nicoletta was not stupid by any stretch, but between her distrust of Giovanni, the superstitions that she had, and not speaking up to share some facts made me crazy. I felt emotionally invested in the characters.

I loved this story. It had intrigue, mystery, suspense, and falling in love. Excellent storytelling.

Michelle O'flynn says

I had read some of Ms. Feehan's short stories in anthologies, but this was my first venture into her own novels, and I was rewarded with a great tale of olde world Carpathian romance with enough darkness to hint at danger and intrigue, and enough romance to swell the heart of many readers, especially women. I wonder if any men would really like these sorts of books or is it just too much for them? I must say, I've yet to meet any guys who remotely resemble the heart-throb characters that are so carefully crafted by female writers. More's the pity.

Anyhow, back on track, this is no modern romance novel, with characters straight out of the middle ages. Nicoletta is a young healer with talents that could well endanger her as being branded and burnt as a witch in many of the nearby villages, which are all under the protection of the mysterious and fearsome Don Scarletti. However, the Scarlettis all bear some fondness for this particular village, with the locals craftsmanship in weaving the most beautiful fabrics, much sought after by the aristocratic family.

Myth and legend have surrounded the Scarletti family for many years especially when several family members and villagers have either disappeared or died in suspicious circumstances. The dilemma for the village elders is the protection of their folk whilst appeasing the wishes and whims of the ruling aristocracy. When Giovanni Scarletti decides to invoke the Bridal Covenant (an agreement reached in previous generations) and chooses Nicoletta, the village elders struggle with their consciences and duties to their village and to their patron.

The imposing castle where the Scarlettis reside is dark, frightening with its gargoyles and strange architecture and statuary. It had been nicknamed Palazzo del Morte (Palace of Death) by the locals, and fuelled the imaginations and legends surrounding this powerful Don. How would Nicoletta survive this marriage when she knew that her own mother and aunt had perished while working within its dark forbidding walls? At least 6 people were believed to have died in strange manners, and her only family Maria Pia feared for her wellbeing. Read on!

Inés Izal says

-3.5-

Bastante entretenido, con una trama muy original y unos protagonistas adorables.

Pero me siento un poco engañada con respecto a la sinopsis, no he conseguido encontrar esa relación a cuentos clásicos que hace mención.

También el uso excesivo de "italianismos" ha hecho que no disfrute tanto de la historia como podía hacerlo hecho.

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

I've been making my way through Feehan's Carpathian series, more or less in the right order, until I reached *Dark Celebration* (book 17) and found myself at a bit of a dead end. In that one, all the characters from the previous books are reunited at Christmas. So I wanted to make sure I'd read all the previous ones before

starting that one (excepting a graphic novel here, a short story there, which I'm not too bothered about). The one that I was missing was *Dark Symphony*, book 10. I tried starting it but from the first couple of pages it was clear I'd need to read the prequel first, because I had no idea what all the references were to - the prequel being *The Scarletti Curse*.

You can see what a good girl I am, doing exactly what the publisher wants! The thing is, having finished *The Scarletti Curse*, I have no idea how it figures into the Carpathian series, or *Dark Symphony* in particular - which seemed to start immediately after some important piece of action which I expected *The Scarletti Curse* to end with. It wasn't anything like that. First of all, it was clearly a different time period, and obviously the heroine from this book couldn't be the heroine in *Dark Symphony* as well. It's very much a self-contained, stand-alone novel, and I guess I'll just have to hope it all becomes clear. Even though I feel like I followed a red herring, I don't actually regret it.

The Scarletti Curse is very Feehan (which I'm using as an adjective now). If you've never read any of her books, this might not be a bad place to start. However, I don't recommend Feehan to anyone - I don't want *anyone* hating me because I recommended Feehan! Her writing is pretty bad, heavily clichéd, repetitious, predictable and is often sagging under the weight of some truly hideous words to describe female and male anatomy.

Set in Spain during the time of the Inquisition, there is one Don whose lands haven't yet been absorbed - at swordpoint - into the Spanish king's newly-united realm. Don Giovanni Scarletti is a feared and respected man, whose home - a giant, stone, gargoyle-encrusted, cliff-hugging monster of a castle - has been dubbed "the Palace of Death". A curse seems to lie on the Scarletti family, killing wives, mothers, daughters - and female servants.

One of the servants who died in suspicious circumstances twelve years ago was the mother of Nicoletta, now the village healer. Nicoletta has a natural talent to feel the sickness in others and the ability to heal them, as well as hear the messages of threat and death on the wind. In order to protect her from being burned as a witch, the villagers pretend she is just an apprentice healer. Don Scarletti isn't fooled, though. More than that, he desires Nicoletta for himself, and is more than willing to enact the old bridal covenant between the Don and the peasants on his land - to take a bride of his choice from the villages, in return for his protection.

Living in the Don's home, Nicoletta is determined to discover what, if anything, lies at the heart of the curse, and what killed her mother and aunt, another victim of the Palace of Death.

The Scarletti Curse is trademark Feehan - you've got your narrow-waisted, long-haired, lip-nibbling heroine who's a mix of strength and innocence, kindness and stubbornness; and your tall, muscular, dark, brooding, powerful, charismatic, dangerous, possessive hero who seems like a bad guy at first impression but turns out to be, well, a hero. Everything pretty much falls into place from there. The atmosphere is great, though, and I loved how *alive* the castle was - it reflected the family that lived there, and seemed to change with Nicoletta's arrival. It would be a really creepy, over-bearing place to live, but it was protective of the family.

Plot-wise, it was predictable - it was obvious which Scarletti family member was behind it all, but it was actually quite enjoyable unearthing all the skeletons in the closets. Lots of secrets and sins in *this* family!

Oh you could probably turn it into an analogy for the advent of modern times - the free spirit of Nicoletta, representing nature, the earth, the elements, the wilderness: tamed and restrained by the yoke of "man" and industry. The parallels are all there, the symbolism too. Yawn.

For as much as I love making fun of Feehan's books, I still keep reading them. They're fun, for what they are, and I get that emotional intensity from them that I sometimes crave. It's self-indulgent, for sure, but her books have enough in them to please me to balance out the flaws. Oh but isn't the cover hideous?! Makes me

want to snigger ;)

CC says

3.5 stars

Loose tie in to Dark Symphony in the Dark series.

I do not read many historicals so I struggled with things that are much easier to take for regular readers of historical romance.

Overall I enjoyed the story. The intrigue was well done. The author keeps throwing red herrings at you trying to keep the big reveal until the end. I did guess correctly pretty early on, but I did not know for sure until the end. The problem was that the heroine was so out of the loop, you really had to struggle to figure out what the point of the intrigue was.

The romance part was a bit harder for me to love. This was heroine only POV (which I do not like) which makes it really hard for me to connect with the Hero. Plus this Hero kept loads of secrets so I was pretty unhappy with him a lot. And the heroine is so naïve and young I found her very hard to connect to. She did not bring up issues that were important to her. She feared her husband. She thinks she is sinful for having (and enjoying)sex with her husband. She felt the need to pray to the Madonna after sex. I just could not stop the eye rolling. Hubby did shit I would not have forgiven so easily (no cheating or OW or anything unforgivable - although he did tell her he could if he wanted). But she is essentially trapped so what is she to do? I know that her never wearing shoes is supposed to be endearing. But I found it to be just another example of her being a child. I guess I like a little better power balance in a relationship. I can handle the rake/virgin if the rake is so enamored of his bride that she holds power over him. But that is not the case here. Maybe he was in words, but not in deeds.

It was not until the very end that they actually spent time together and talked. She pulled up her big girl panties and asked questions and expressed her opinion. It was a great scene and I actually felt the attraction and growing love. I understood then why the Hero liked her. Unfortunately, that was the end.

Safety Gang safe

Holly says

I don't like this book as much as I like Lair of the Lion, but it's still a good read. I like that Feehan really addresses maidenly modesty here. Too often in historical romance novels the heroines are perfectly comfortable to strip naked for their men - or any discomfort they feel at being naked and wanton is soon forgotten in the glory of the Big O. But that isn't realistic - a woman's sense of modesty, especially during historical times, isn't so easy to overcome. Feehan really showcases the issue, leaving the heroine with regrets, doubts and many self-recriminations for her sexual behavior. She doesn't take it overboard, but it

adds just the right flair of reality into the story.

I also like the practicality the heroine shows. She isn't given a choice about her marriage, but she does her best to work with what she's got. I did find myself becoming frustrated with the way the hero acted, however. His "me man, you woman" routine got old early in the book, as did the way he constantly brushed her aside, ignoring her concerns and fears. He was redeemed in the end, however, because once he opened up and committed himself, he was all in.

Kathy says

A different type of book than the others I've read by Feehan... setting is early Renaissance, a fictional Italian city/state, more fully developed characters, a bit of a mystery to solve, minimal paranormal additives... more descriptive of the land.

Nicoletta is the village healer - gifted with intuitive knowledge of how to help with the ability to impart the healing by her touch... She is light - of spirit, of soul, of personality... she is kind hearted, fun loving, intuitive... and she does not like to wear shoes.

Don Giovanni Scarletti lives under the Scarletti curse... men who love jealously, and murder their wives (or so it seems)... he is negotiating political alliances, in secret... but is making enemies... many women have been killed in the palazzo - his mother, his grandmother, Nicoletta's mother & aunt (servants at the palazzo)... he is gifted with the mind reading & psychic communication, which grows stronger with Nicoletta as they get closer, especially when she is upset, worried, scared, hurt, or sad...

Giovanni invokes the bridal promise... a contract made hundreds of years earlier where the don may choose any of the villagers as a bride (because the villagers have psychic gifts that the dons wanted to blend into their bloodline) in trade for the villagers being allowed to stay on their land & under their protection. He has been attracted to Nicoletta for many years, watching her, listening for info about her, and dreaming of her... but he had sworn never to marry or love (to avoid the curse)...

But Nicoletta is called to the palazzo to heal his daughter (and him) because of food poisoning... and she touches him, and he is lost... he can no longer resist his feelings for her... so he forces her to marry him, in spite of her resistance.

Day by day they learn to love and understand one another, and themselves... they both deal with each other honestly... and of course they are attracted to one another.

...

Nicoletta keeps getting into trouble, but in very innocent ways.... and he is consistently there to help, and to protect, and...

They must uncover the evil living in the household... it ends up to be his middle brother... perverted by a perverted father... to believe that he should be the don, and be in control, and women are to be used and abused, and murdered if they get in the way... he was the one who murdered his mother, and grandmother, and other women...

Malinda says

4 stars

This was a very good story. I liked both Nicoletta and Giovanni and found their story to be well written and engaging. This doesn't really seem to have a tie to the Carpathians in the Dark series but both Giovanni and Nicoletta have certain "abilities" that may mean they had Carpathian ancestry.

Nicoletta is a young woman that serves as the healer for the village where she grew up. Her father was killed when she was too young to know him but her mother and aunt raised her with love until they both died. Since then, she's been mothered by another village woman, Maria Pia.

Don Giovanni Scarletti is the head of a family that's plagued by a curse. Many women and even some men have died in the last decade or 2 in his family home and there's an evil pall over it that's hard to escape. Giovanni never planned to marry because of the curse but when he meets Nicoletta for the first time, he's lost and is determined that they're meant to be together and that he will claim her as his.

Maria Pia was the village's midwife but Nicoletta has much better healing skills, some that are mystical enough that she could be branded a witch and killed for it. Nicoletta's village has always protected her secret and Maria Pia plays the senior healer while Nicoletta acts like the simpleminded assistant whenever they go outside of their village to heal someone. As this story begins, Nicoletta and Maria Pia have been called to the Don's home because of an illness. They get there to find the Don and his niece, Sophie, are both terribly sick. Nicoletta is able to determine that something was tainted in some soup they both ate and is able to heal them. Unfortunately, (at least in Nicolett'a opinion) this leads to Giovanni wanting to marry her and invoking the marriage covenant that allows the Don to claim any un-claimed woman in the local villages as his wife.

Nicoletta had already been skirting the advances of a couple of young men from her village and she truly had no interest in getting married. She had her garden in the hills and her healing and was perfectly content with that. When Giovanni claims Nicoletta, she's freaked at the idea of living in such a horrible place and she gets claustrophobia just thinking about it. Regardless of her fears, Giovanni wont let her go and she moves to his home and becomes his wife. There are multiple intrigues going on and it's hard for Nicoletta to know who to trust and if Giovanni is among the trustworthy. Giovanni is patient with her and since he has some abilities of his own, he doesn't have an issue with her abilities. It takes some time and persistence but Nicoletta and Giovanni are able to learn to trust each other and find the bad guy that's causing all the problems. They then end the story starting a well deserved HEA.

This was a very enjoyable story. I liked Nicoletta and thought she was pretty well balanced. She was a little too fearful of what was proper in the sex area at first for my taste but I guess with it being a historical it isn't unusual (thankfully, that didn't last long). Giovanni was a good hero...I wish we had been able to get some of this from his PoV, that would have been interesting. Overall, this was a very good story that I enjoyed a lot. I'd recommend it.

* note - I listened to the audio version of this book and the narrator did a very good job.

Susan says

The Scarletti Curse , is the first stand-alone book I've read from the wonderful imagination of Christine Feehan. If you are a regular follower of my blog, you will no doubt remember that I am a big fan of Feehan's *Dark Carpathian* series.

Within the palazzo of the great Scarletti family, evil appears to lurk around every corner, in every carving, inside each secret passageway. But even more deadly than a metaphysical unnamed maleficence, beastly family secrets endure and threaten to be the doom of any woman who dares to become a Scarletti bride.

Don Giovanni Scarletti has vowed never to marry, to stop the Scarletti curse of jealousy and murder from touching a new generation. But when a young healer from the villaggio is sent to the palazzo to save the lives of the don and his young niece Sophie, he is inexplicably drawn to the wild and beautiful woman.

Enigmatic and free-spirited, Nicoletta did not fear the ancient whispers of the Scarletti curse, until Don Giovanni invoked the "Bridal Covenant" and chose her as his bride. Nicoletta must uncover the truth behind the rumors she has grown up with, in order to face and defeat the Scarletti curse.

The Scarletti Curse did not have the vampires or legendary Carpathian hunters of Feehan's *Dark Carpathian* series, but despite that fact, it was a wonderful and a quick read. As with the other books I've read from this author, her secondary characters are written just as well as her central characters - most were multi-dimensional and worthy of their own stories.

This was truly a fantastic paranormal romance with a palpable Gothic feel to it. *The Scarletti Curse* is a satisfying and entertaining read, complete with the passion and intrigue of Feehan's other work.

Book Binge says

I don't like this book as much as I like *Lair of the Lion*, but it's still a good read. I like that Feehan really addresses maidenly modesty here. Too often in historical romance novels the heroines are perfectly comfortable to strip naked for their men - or any discomfort they feel at being naked and wanton is soon forgotten in the glory of the Big O. But that isn't realistic - a woman's sense of modesty, especially during historical times, isn't so easy to overcome. Feehan really showcases the issue here, leaving the heroine with regrets, doubts and many self-recriminations for her sexual behavior. She doesn't take it overboard, but it inserts just the touch of reality into the story.

I also like the practicality the heroine, Nicoletta, shows. She isn't given a choice about her marriage, but she does her best to work with what she's got. I did find myself becoming frustrated with the way the hero, Giovanni, acted, however. His "me man, you woman" routine got old early in the book, as did the way he constantly brushed her aside, ignoring her concerns and fears. He was redeemed in the end, however, because once he opened up and committed himself, he was all in.

This is a dark read, so don't go into it expecting something light. There are also paranormal elements and things that go bump in the night..all of which make for a fascinating, if at times frustrating, tale.

4 out of 5

This review was originally posted by Holly on Book Binge at <http://thebookbinge.com/2011/01/light...>
