



The Masquerade

Brenda Joyce

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On the evening of her first masquerade, shy Elizabeth Anne Fitzgerald is stunned by Tyrell de Warenne's whispered suggestion of a midnight rendezvous in the gardens. Lizzie has secretly worshiped the unattainable lord for years. When fortune takes a maddening turn, she is prevented from meeting Tyrell. But Lizzie cannot foresee that that night is only the beginning ...

Tyrell de Warenne is shocked when, two years later, Lizzie arrives on his doorstep with a child she claims is his. He remembers her well --- and knows that he could not possibly be the father. What is this game she is playing ... and why? Is Elizabeth Anne Fitzgerald a woman of experience, or the gentle innocent she seems? But neither scandal, deception nor pride can thwart a love too passionate to be denied ...

The Masquerade Details

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From Reader Review The Masquerade for online ebook

Beatriz says

Cinco estrellas, ni más ni menos!! Me ha encantado!! Es una reminiscencia a la tradicional novela romántica victoriana que últimamente, con tantos autores nuevos que proliferan gracias al libro electrónico, se ha desvirtuado un poco.

Siendo un libro romántico hasta la médula, obviamente peca de personajes cliché, en particular Elizabeth, la protagonista, dulce, buena, sacrificada... pero de verdad no molesta, por el contrario, el argumento, escenas y diálogos están tan bien contruidos y son tan emotivos que es imposible no tomarle cariño y empatizar con ella en todas las situaciones que debe enfrentar, derramando uno que otro lagrimón.

Ha pasado a engrosar mi lista de esas joyitas que se encuentran casi por casualidad.

Maureen Feeney says

I loved this book.

I dont want to go into the plot as there are plenty of twists and its full of sexual tension.

Its not often that you get a hero and heroine you truly like, or a story that grips you from the first few pages, but this book grabbed my attention and kept me up until the small hours of the morning to finish it.

This is my first book by BJ and not my last. I did not read any reviews or plot descriptions beforehand so maybe that enhanced my enjoyment of the book as I had no idea which way BJ was going to take the story.

I am now going to try and get the entire "DE WARRENNE" books .

Nefise says

Lots of my friend loved this book but usually I don't like misunderstandings that can not be solved until the end of the book. So I was postponing to read it. At last I started and finished.

First of all, writing is really good and story development and progress is good, you curiously keep reading it. But what I look for a romance book, it has lack of some of them. Most I love to read about a romance book is the tension and electric between the hero and heroine. But not with lots of lies and misunderstandings. When they're together, there were so much lies, secrets and misunderstandings that I couldn't get in the mood of love or romance because somethins are really not true there.

It was good but not what kind of a thing I like to read.

June says

This is the story of Tyrell de Warrenne, the next Earl of Adair and Elizabeth Anne Fitzgerald (Lizzie). Lizzie has loved Tyrell since she was a child and he not only took up for her when an obnoxious boy was bullying her, but he also saved her from drowning when she tried to rescue the book she was reading, when the bully threw it in the lake. It was at this time Lizzie put Tyrell on a pedestal. He was a prince in her eyes, and she fell in love with him. Lizzie was also extremely shy and felt her older sister Anna (the wild child) was more beautiful. Anna's beauty was only skin deep, but Lizzie's beauty was from the inside out. Anna betrays her sister in a very hurtful way and brings about conflict, deep buried secrets and misunderstanding that takes the rest of the book to come to light.

Of the de-Warrenne series I really began to like Tyrell the oldest de-Warrenne in the first of the series The Prize. Tyrell seemed kind and he gave Devlin good advice. He seemed wise beyond his years. If only he could apply some of that wisdom to his own life. In Masquerade we see a change in Tyrell when he is conflicted between the love for a woman he can never marry and honoring the path that he has been groomed for his entire life - The Earl of Adair. The perfect bride has been picked for him, his life is in order, but his heart is hurting. He does what is unexpected for him. He becomes emotional lashing out at those he loves in anger, he compromises Lizzie in such a shameful public way even his family who love him are upset and try over and again to talk sense into him.

This was not a perfect little light romance, with everyone getting exactly what they want, but it is emotional and at times hurtful.

Mariloli says

Pse, por un lado Lizzie me parecio una pavisosa, tan sacrificada. Por otro la poca consistencia del protagonista masculino

Cam says

I wanted to love Tyrell's story, he seemed so sexy in The Prize and so I thought his story would be more fun but all it was was a massive disappointment. The prologue was cute and promised good things to come to chubby Lizzie and her 'prince' charming. But Joyce fails to make her seem less than beautiful, she's a voluptuous strawberry blond with two very beautiful blond sisters- difficult to picture a plain bluestocking and future spinster.

I always knew Tyrell knew exactly who she was but what had he planned to do with her in the gazebo that night of the ball if not to seduce an innocent? Then the whole fiasco with his having a son with Anna who is dismissed as nothing more than a vain and careless young woman. I hated how Tyrell blackmailed her into becoming his mistress and Lizzie become a doormat and allows herself to be used, as her father said to her in the novel before he disowns her "have you no shame???".

Sure she loves Tyrell but in following her heart she sacrificed her dignity and let herself be flaunted as a mistress to a man who's engaged to be married and has a son with your older sister. Tyrell had an itch that only Lizzie could scratch and so he continued to treat her as something to be gotten out of his system- I expected more from him since he was painted as a courageous and noble man.

It also seemed a little convenient that the jilted fiancé Lady Blanche felt nothing so of course she's not going to care that Tyrell was in love with someone else.

Shirlene says

The three girls, Anne, Elizabeth (Lizzie), and Georgina were attending a picnic. Georgie was the youngest but outspoken and studious. Lizzie loved to read and romantic novels were her favorite. Anne was the oldest and she was the beautiful one who drew all the male attention.

All the children were playing together with the exception of ten-year-old Lizzie. She was off by herself reading. One of the boys came up to Lizzie and took her book from her. He threw the book into the lake where the de Warenne boys were swimming. Lizzie couldn't swim but she jumped into the water for the book and Tyrell dove in to rescue her. He carried her back to her parents and forced the boy to apologize for what he had done. Ty also gave the book back to Lizzie. Lizzie fell in love...

When she was sixteen, the girls and their parents were preparing to attend one of two annual events held at the de Warenne home. This was the first ball that Lizzie would be allowed to attend and it was a masquerade ball. Lizzie ran into town that morning to complete her volunteer work with the town's children and on her way home some drunk boys almost ran her over in their wagon. Lizzie tried to jump out of the way and got stuck in the mud. Tyrell once again rescued Lizzie. Lizzie went home and told her sisters what had happened. They then dressed and went to the ball.

When they arrived at the ball, Lizzie was sure that Ty recognized her in her Maid Marion costume. She was more flirtatious than normal. She felt like she was taking on the character that she was portraying. She agreed to meet Ty in the garden at midnight. In the meantime, Anne was flirting as usual and some drink got spilled on her dress. She asked Lizzie if she could exchange costumes since Lizzie wasn't having any fun anyway and probably wanted to go home. Lizzie didn't really want to but didn't want to deprive Anne of her fun so she agreed and went home. Anne acted rather strangely the next morning but things soon went back to normal in their household.

Anne had many callers after the party and one soldier was more insistent than the others and at Christmas asked Anne to marry him and she agreed. They were to be married in September of the following year. There was an older man that started calling on Georgina. Georgie didn't particularly like him but felt like he was her only chance and getting married.

Anne continued acting peculiar at times. Then in late February, Anne confessed to Lizzie that she was pregnant. She had gotten pregnant at the masquerade ball. Lizzie made arrangements to go to stay with an aunt with her sisters. Georgina refused to go so Lizzie and Anne left. Anne had her baby in mid-July and Lizzie named the baby Ned. Lizzie found out from Anne that Ty had met her in the garden as planned. He was not happy that it was Anne and tried to leave. Anne enticed him to stay and they had sex. Anne told Lizzie that he was not the first person that she had sex with. Lizzie was broken hearted. When the baby was born, Lizzie could not be convinced to follow through with their plans to adopt the baby to another family. Anne went ahead and married her soldier and Lizzie remained with her aunt and the baby.

Lizzie had left home at sixteen and she was now eighteen. Her aunt convinced Elizabeth that it was time to return home. She felt that Lizzie should explain the child as not hers and that she adopted him but Lizzie chose to tell everyone that she left home to have the child and that it was hers. The child, Ned, looked so much like Tyrell that Georgina realized immediately who the father was. Her parents asked who the father was and Lizzie told them that it didn't make any difference because he was married. Her parents were very upset and felt like her having the child would cause Georgina's recent engagement to be broken off. That didn't happen and her Aunt Eleanor soon tired of her parents attitude towards Lizzie and told them that Tyrell de Warenne was the father of the child.

Elizabeth Georgina ran into and Rory, Eleanor's nephew, and Ty in town. Ty had heard about Elizabeth being a single mother and made a proposal to her about setting her up as his mistress and Lizzie refused. The following day, Elizabeth, Ned, and Elizabeth's parents went to the de Warenne home to talk to Ty's parents. They recognized the fact that the child looked identical to what Ty looked like as a child and told them they would take Ned and raise him and their own. Elizabeth refused to be parted from Ned so they called in Ty

and Ty used this event to establish Elizabeth as his mistress. This all happened the day of Tyrell's engagement party.

Ty was to become the next Count and felt that it was his duty to go through with the marriage and it was not unheard of for husbands to have mistresses. Ty was deeply taken with Elizabeth and didn't really care for the marriage but felt he couldn't let his family down. Ty and Elizabeth did have sex and she tried to cover the fact that she was a virgin but to Ty it was obvious. Ty didn't understand and knew there was more to the story and he was determined to find out.

Rory and Ty were good friends and he had seen Elizabeth when she was at her aunt's home and knew that the child was not hers. Elizabeth tried to talk him out of telling Ty and he wouldn't agree. He figured out that it was Anne who had the child and not Lizzie. Georgie told Lizzie that Rory would remain quiet for a time because he was in love with her. Lizzie refused to believe it.

Rex, Ty's brother, told Ty that all was not as it seemed with Elizabeth and he needed to let her go if he was going to go through with the wedding. Ty knew that he was right but he just couldn't seem to give Elizabeth up. He wanted her too badly. Ty's mother also became fond of Elizabeth.

Georgina went to Lizzie and told her that the date for her wedding had been set and she was terribly upset. Ty was leaving to go back to his home and Lizzie and he took Georgina with them. Notes were sent to her fiancée and her parents telling them that Georgie's engagement was off. Lizzie was set up as the mistress of his house and Ned was introduced as his son. Ty was now convinced that Ned was his son and he knew that Elizabeth was not the boy's mother. Lizzie and Georgie were amazed by the size of his home. Wicklowe, near Dublin, was like a castle to them.

Lizzie had never been happier and all seemed to be going well until her father came to visit. He was upset that Lizzie was living openly as his mistress. He told her that he was going to disown her and take Georgie back home. Georgina refused to go home. Ty came home and noticed that the women were upset. Lizzie told him that her father and mother were being shunned by their neighbors. Ty told her that he would see to it that the situation would be taken care of. She heard from her family that her mother was now being included in society again. Then Lord Harrington, Tyrell's fiancée's father came to visit. He explained to Elizabeth that he didn't need to marry Blanche for money. He was hoping that she would fall in love when she grew up but her mother had been killed in a riot and Blanche was thrown aside and hit her head. All of her emotions seemed to leave her after that accident and he was looking for a husband who would take care of his daughter regardless of her lack of emotions. Elizabeth felt sorry and told Lord Harrington that she would leave in order to not cause interference in their marriage. Elizabeth and her sister left the next morning while Ty went into Dublin for work.

Elizabeth wrote a note explaining why she left and that she was leaving Ned with him. The note also told him that Anne was really Ned's mother. Lord Harrington intercepted the note she wrote and threw it into the fire. Lord Harrington also left before Ty returned home. Ty was heartbroken. He knew that he was in love with Elizabeth and already missed her terribly.

Lizzie and Georgie went back to stay with their Aunt Eleanor at her London home. About 5 months had now passed and Lizzie was still missing Tyrell. Lizzie wrote to Tyrell's mother and still received news about Ned and what he was up to. Rory came to visit a couple of days before Christmas, bringing gifts and discovered that Georgie had blossomed living in town. She was constantly going out and was more involved in the political conversations going on in London. Her and Rory began debating the cartoons that he drew for the London Times. Rory realized that he was in love with Georgina and took advantage of the fact that he was under some mistletoe and kissed her. Rory had flowers delivered to Georgie a couple of days after Christmas. The flowers were given to Lizzie and when she read the card she found out about his interest in Georgie and was happy for her. She was still missing Ty. Lizzie didn't know that Ty was also at his home in London. Rory had gone to see Ty and told him that Lizzie was in London about twenty minutes away. Rory told Ty to stay away from Lizzie and Rory took a friend to visit Lizzie. Ty decided to go see Lizzie and was very jealous even though Lizzie had told Rory's friend that she had no interest in dating anyone yet. Lizzie found out from Rory that Ty's wedding had been postponed. He did not get married in September as had been planned. Blanche had been sick and they were to be married in May. Blanche was staying with the de Warne family in their London home and she became uncomfortable. She still had no feelings for Ty and told the family that her father wasn't feeling well and she wanted to go home. She went home and told

her father that she didn't want to marry Ty. She paid a visit to Elizabeth to meet her and told Elizabeth that she knew that she was in love with Ty and she felt that he was in love with her too. Elizabeth was very glad to hear that but knew that he was still going to be married.

Ty paid a visit to Elizabeth and invited her to see Ned. Elizabeth went to see him and tried hard to hide the fact that she still loved Ty and spent the day watching and playing with Ned. Ty went to see Blanche after Lizzie's visit and told her that he couldn't marry her. Blanche agreed to break off their engagement. Ty went to tell his father, expecting an argument. His father surprised him by supporting his decision. Elizabeth came to visit the next morning and told Ty that it was her sister who had Ned. Ty told her that he knew that Lizzie wasn't Ned's mother. He also told Elizabeth that he remembered pulling her from the lake when she was ten and he had watched her as she grew up. He had been in love with her for years and asked her to marry him. Rory also proposed to Georgie and they agreed to be married. Ty and Elizabeth were married three weeks later at the estate in Adare. They had a daughter and she was the first of the five children they had together. Georgie and Rory were married the following summer. Ty was his best man and Lizzie was the maid of honor.

Chickie says

There will be spoilers here I'm sure, so be warned!

I like to borrow books from the online library. A lot of times, I have been on the waiting list for so long that by the time I am able to read the book, I don't remember why I wanted to read it.

This was one of those books. A few chapters into the book, I got very very mad. Almost put the book down mad, but dangit, I had waited for a whole month to read it and read it I was.

With that said, it was okay. I mean, it was an easy read and everything fit where it was supposed to, but. . . I don't know. Something was missing. There were major issues to deal with here, yet, no one really dealt with them. Everything was kind of, "eh, okay".

The heroine has loved the hero for most of her life. Everything is finally lining up and our hero, well, he's in the mood for some romance. She is to meet him in the garden (I think). Except her sister is a spoiled bitch and has ruined her own costume. In order to save her, the heroine exchanges costumes and goes home. poor sad little thing. blah.

A short time later, we learn that the heroine's sister is now with child, but she doesn't want to name the father. Who doesn't see where this is going? I saw it from a mile away and it made me a little sick, but I'm a glutton and kept on trucking.

To make a long story short, the heroine decides to save her sister and they go away for the baby to be born. While away, it comes out that the sister is a slut and hooked up with our hero (and a few others, too). The heroine is mad for like half a second. But she is so good and understanding that she lets it go.

This is where I got mad. If my sister hooked up with the man that she knew I had been in love with all my life, I might have to introduce her to a baseball bat.

I'm just saying.

But not our heroine. Oh, no. She's everything that is good in the world. Sugar and butterflies and puppies have nothing on her.

After this point, I went to my happy place. I continued to read the words, but they had no meaning to me anymore. Everyone is so good. Everything they do is for the good of the world. Our hero would never knock up someone randomly, he's not that kind of man! Oh, no! Except he did. The heroine, she wouldn't hurt a thing. She also wouldn't take a stand for herself if her life depended on it. Everything she did was because someone told her to do it. Tell the hero about the child. Stay with me and be my mistress. Leave the hero for the good of another woman. EVERYTHING! Nothing was of her own doing besides keeping her sister's baby and that because he looked like the hero.

The hero was so conflicted and stupid that my head hurt. He came off very much like a spoiled child who was used to having his way. Everything was a contradiction. We are told one thing, and then get to watch them do another. The child is not his in his mind. The heroine is doing this to get her child a name. That bitch. But when he figures out that the heroine is a freaking virgin does he say anything? No. Not until the end of the book. And when he does realize the child is his, does he question who he was getting it on with? Nope.

And out of all this, who comes out on top? The slut sister. She gets to get married, and have a handsome new husband, and a child on the way. No questions and no consequences.

Shoot me now.

While the H & h, do get theirs, too. It was just . . . I didn't really give a shit one way or the other.

Hamza says

Biraz dura?anl?k olsa da okunur ama tabii Virginia ve Devlin'in hikayesi kadar güzel gelmedi bana.

Harlequin Books says

Elizabeth, Lizzie, has loved Tyrell de Warrenne ever since she was a little girl and he came to her rescue. It didn't matter that her family was way below his in the Ton, she still couldn't stop her foolish heart.

When 16, Lizzie's family goes to the annual de Warrenne masquerade they have for the neighborhood and friends and she actually flirts outrageously with Tyrell. He even sets up a meeting in the gardens with her. Alas, she isn't able to join him and shortly after, she goes for an extended visit at her aunt's.

She returns with a child almost 2 years later and claims it is Tyrell's but he is darn sure that he never was with her. However, he hasn't been able to get her out of his mind and takes the opportunity to finally claim her as his mistress with his fiancée in the same house! What a muddled mess she finds herself in and all because she can't seem to control herself when he comes anywhere near her. Scandal, passion, duty, honor, love, all mixed up and forming a steamy-hot fun romance.

Ellen W-S says

Ok, I just devoured this 500 pager in two nights! Thank you Eva for the recommendation! I loved this story and it made no difference that I hadn't read the previous books in the series. The books are mostly spread apart in generations/centuries. Elizabeth is an amazing heroine. She is inherently good, generous, forgiving, sincere and above-all self sacrificing. Lizzie and Tyrell living on neighboring estates however Lizzie is not in the same socially elevated circles as Lizzie's parents are not well-off and they depend on their three daughters making favorable matches. Tyrell rescues Lizzie twice from certain death and Lizzie loves him from afar until one fateful night at a masquerade ball, Ty asks Lizzie to meet him in the gardens at midnight. From here the story takes off and Lizzie's loyalties to her family and Ty are tested. Lizzie meets betrayal with forgiveness and definitely takes the road less travelled. Lizzie allows herself to be ruined by circumstances that few people would be able to withstand with dignity and grace. Tyrell, known to be an honorable, even-tempered, and astute catch, is engaged to a woman who is on paper his perfect match but Lizzie is the woman he yearns to be with. Tyrell takes Elizabeth for his mistress but is duty-bound to marry Lady Blanche to secure his family's holdings for generations. I cheered their successes and I cried for their heartbreaks and sacrifices. This book was a great read and I am so happy it was brought to my attention. I definitely will be reading more Brenda Joyce books!

Selin Alpdo?an says

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Viri says

AMO EL NO RATING DE GOODREADS

Lo siento.

No pude terminarlo.

En serio. No. Pude. Terminarlo.

Y me da una rabia inmensa pero es que aaaaagh...

Lizzie fue EXASPERANTE. Amo las protagonistas atípicas, gorditas, feas, demasiado altas, acomplexadas y miles de etc. (in betweens) pero siempre tienen una cosa en común. Son fuertes, aguerridas y valientes.

Lizzie no es nada así, es una niña perdida en un amor de niños que idolatra a un hombre desde los 10 años.

Él, a donde alcancé a leer, no me conquistó ni hizo que quisiera conocerlo. Lo siento. Así fue para mí.

Y la verdad no entiendo porque todos le ponen tan buena puntuación, pero lo mismo de siempre... Para gustos, colores.

Jacqueline says

How have I never read this author before? Thanks to my GR friends for introducing me to this one. A lovely story and even though it's not typical regency fare, it was very grounded in its time period. The emotions and actions of the characters seemed realistic and believable. Each character remained true to him/herself even though they changed and grew. Lots of lovely angst and I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

HÜLYA says

Maskeli Balo-Brenda Joyce

San?r?m yeni favori yazar?m? buldum ki, Brenda Joyce ile tan??t???m için çok ama çok mutluyum..Kimi beni bu yak??t?rmam? abart?l? bulabilir ama san?r?m yeni bir historical kraliçesi ile kar?? kar??yay?z..Özellikle arka arkaya Bir Avuç A?k son olarak da Maskeli Balo'yu okuduktan sonra bu yazar için Pegasus Yay?nlar?'n?n kap?s?n? çok a??nd?r?r?m gibi gözükiyor..

Bu nas?l bir yazar ki Devlin O'Neil'den tüm benli?i ile okuyucuyu nefret ettirirken Tyrell de Warren'e hayran b?rakt?rabiliyor okuyucuyu..O ne duygu sa?ana?? öyle okurken ço?u sahnesinde hem Lizzie hem de Tyrell'in duygular?'n? birebir hissettim...Kitab? elimden b?rakamad?m..?lk romandan daha çok sevdim çünkü ilk romanda okurken bu birebir hissetmemden dolayı? ki kitab? f?rlat?p atmak gelmi?ti içimden..Ama burada Maskeli Balo'da her ?ey masal gibiydi..ola?anüstü idi..Hala okumayan varsa çok ?ey kaç?r?yor Brenda Joyce'?

Az?c?k konusuna gelince:

Her genç k?zn gözünde bir kahrama hayallerinin prensi vard?r günümüzde bile Elizabeth Anne Fitzgerald?'n hayallerinin prensi Tyrell de Warren idi..Tyrell onu gölden kurtard???nda 10 ya??nda tombul bir küçük k?zd? sen prens misin? Diye de sormu?tu ona üstelik..Elizabeth'in kalbi sonsuza kadar Tyrell'e mühürlendi o gün..Ne oldusa bu de?i?medi..

Üç k?z karde?lerdi Lizzie içlerinde en küçükleriydi ve en duygusal olan?..Ama en güzelleri de?ildi..En güzelleri Anna idi ama en bencil ve en ??mar?k olanlar? en ahlaks?z ve sorumsuz olan?..

Lizzie'nin kat?ld??? ilk Maskeli Balo'da y?llarca deliler gibi a??k oldu?u Tyrell'den bul??ma teklifi almas? onu ?a?k?na çevirmi?ti..Ama ablas? Anna üstüne içki döktü?ünde eve geri gitmemek için Anna'dan kostümünü istemi?ti..Onun yerine geçmesini de?il elbette..Anna kelimenin tam anlam? ile bunu yapm??t?..O gece Anna bir anl?k zevki için yaln?z kendinin de?il tüm ailenin kaderini de?i?tirdirdi?i gibi bu olaydan en az zarar da o gördü..Lizzie ise bu olay sayesinde a?a??lan?p dü?ümü? bir kad?n olacakt? ki ...Alt?n çamura da dü?se alt?nd?r atasözünü do?rular nitelikte idi Lizzie..

Tyrell için ise olay daha de?i?ikti..Tam tam?na Ana cadde de onu araba kazas?nda hayat?'n? kurtard??? andan beri a??k oldu?u bu kad?n maskeli balo gecesinden sonra ondan kaçm?? onu görememi?ti ki..?ki senedir aray?p duruyordu Lizzie'yi sonunda ondan kaç?p giden kad?n? tekrar bulmu?tu...Ama bu kad?n bir çocuklar? oldu?unu iddia ediyordu..

Onu tekrar gördü?ünde ba?ka ?ey dü?ünmez oldu o çocuk onun olmasada kabul etti..Yeter ki bir daha onu kaybetmesin hep yan?nda olsundu..

Harika ola?an üstü bir duygu sa?ana?? vard? roman?'n sonunda çok duyguland?m etkilendim..Umar?m yeni roman?'n? okumak için yazar?'n çok fazla beklemeyiz..