



Enchanting the Lady

Kathryne Kennedy

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Little-noticed Felicity Seymour is a woman with a problem: she can't take control of her parents' lands until she can prove her magical abilities, of which she's never had the slightest hint. When she meets a handsome were-lion baronet, Terence Blackwell, she's surprised at his interest; what she doesn't know is that Terence smells the taint of relic-magic on her, the same magic that killed his brother. Resolving to learn her secrets, Terence courts the worried wallflower and is as surprised as anyone when he falls head over heels. Soon after they marry in secret, Felicity discovers that people she's trusted all her life are conspiring to steal her magic, her title and her land. Now she's got to stop them with the help of her new husband-but how much does she really know about her mysterious mate?

Enchanting the Lady Details

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From Reader Review Enchanting the Lady for online ebook

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

Cute and sweet + magic and a were-lion. Were-lions for the win!

Irene says

Loved it! Old London with a were-lion :)

Shannon says

This was a really nice story. **I don't read a lot of historical romances but the fantasy elements within really held my interest.** The character development and world-building is really great and even though I figured out what was going on way before Felicity did, I still enjoyed the story.

Felicity Seymour doesn't have any magic and she's dull and forgettable. She's so forgettable that servants run into her and she's sat on at parties. Both of her parents died and now her Uncle and Aunt look after her, but Felicity has to take a test in front of the Prince to prove she can do the magic of a Duchess to keep her title and property.

At this test is the Prince's Baronet, Terrence Blackwell, who is also a shape-shifting lion. Terrence is a relic hunter, he hunts the relics of Merlin, jewels that give the user dark powers. A relic-user killed Terrence's brother so he hunts them at all costs. Shape-shifters are immune to magic, but Terrence uses his keen senses to sniff out the smell of the relics. Once he meets Felicity at her test, he's drawn to both her beauty and the acrid smell of a relic. Terrence courts her to get to the bottom of the mysteries surrounding her.

Felicity is a character that could have been annoying with her naivete, but she's humble and sincere and it's very believable that she's just that innocent. She led a very sheltered life and had hardly anyone to socialize with. Most of the people around her forgot she was even in the room! A lot of times I have a problem with the guy deceiving the girl by dating her with an ulterior motive. Terrence has good intentions though and he's never really that devious when it comes to Felicity. And the romance between them is really hot! *The sex scenes are not overly graphic but not just whispered and implied.* They really fit in with the story and the characters as well, with an ample amount of sexual tension early on.

I really enjoyed the magical elements of the world, they were well-developed and didn't just feel like something tacked on to take advantage of the fantasy genre to sell books. I'm definitely going to read the rest of this series and I'm going to check out this author's other books. This was a really great entry in the historical romantic fantasy genre!

Beanbag Love says

Definitely a 4.5 read. This was a Kindle freebie and I was very pleasantly surprised by the engaging story and the likable leads.

Lady Felicity should have inherited magic to spare but she has none. In fact, nobody ever even notices this would-be duchess. Orphaned, living with her aunt and uncle and her jackass cousin, she has near zero confidence and fewer prospects.

Until she meets Sir Terrence Blackwell, one of the loathed shapeshifters who are particular favorites of the prince. He is gorgeous, kind, and he keeps rubbing up against her and making growling noises in the back of his throat. Hmmm.

I read a lot of PNR and urban fantasy, so books with magic are nothing fresh or new for me. However this one was a bit different from my usual in its atmosphere. It was whimsical in places and dark in others. It reminded me very much of Dianna Wynne Jones's worlds where magic is a way of life and part of the caste system. Less of the overwrought, over thought UF style of PNR and more of the fanciful.

Sometimes I'm very disappointed in the freebies I get for my Kindle. That's pretty hard to do when they're free. But this one was delightful and I recommend snapping it up if you have a Kindle or a Kindle reading app. It's free, fer gosh sakes!

Best_loved says

The novel is set in an alternate Victorian England where your social position is determined by your magical abilities. Felicity Seymour is a daughter of a duke and should be swimming in magical ability but isn't. In fact, she spends most of her life ignored and forgotten. Really. Since she was a child people have had a difficult time noticing or remembering her - until she meets Sir Terrence Blackwell, a werelion who can actually *see* her. Shifters are a necessary evil in Victorian society, immune to magic and illusions, shifters hunt down relics that threaten the crown, but they are disliked and feared by the polite world. Felicity and Terrence, both outcasts, are naturally drawn to each other. Their courtship is made difficult by family, social position, and a dangerous relic.

It's hard to say if this is a fantasy novel with a lot of romance or a romance with a lot of fantasy. Finding out what's happened to Felicity and what's causing it is as much of the focus as the growing relationship between the two leads. That isn't a criticism, but if you want a straight forward romance with some sizzling - hot werelion sexing, this isn't it.

Jean says

Seriously embarrassing, but felt this one had to make it onto the Goodreads shelf.

While I've read a book about reading romance novels (Reading the Romance, by Janice A. Radway--GREAT book), I've never actually read a romance novel. And didn't mean to start when I downloaded Enchanting the Lady (for free) on my Kindle. From the description it sounded like a fun fantasy book.

So I start reading and all is well for about two chapters. The writing isn't stellar, and I'm starting to think that maybe this is YA fantasy, but that's cool, I like YA. Kennedy sets up a society in which the aristocratic order is based on one's level of proficiency in magic (the King is the most magically talented and so on down). In order to hold her standing in society, our heroine must pass a magical examination. Pretty standard fantasy stuff.

At the end of her less-than-stellar exam, the hero of the story, who has been watching her struggle to perform the magic properly, starts describing the heroine. He's remarking to himself how pale she is, then, out of nowhere, he wonders: "What would she look like with a blush to her cheeks from a round of fevered lovemaking?"

And I'm like, "Huh? That's not appropriate for a YA novel!"

Needless to say, I read the entire book in two sittings:)

Still, I don't think I'll make romance novels part of my normal reading routine. If it hadn't been for a decent fantasy element, I would have been bored, as well as more annoyed with the writing. But, yes, I admit it: I liked it.

Blood Rose Books says

After reading the Drowning City, I needed something light and easy to read. Enchanting the Lady defiantly falls into this category. It is a paranormal historical romance, which for me is what I tend to drift towards when I do read a romance book.

The book takes place in London in the late 1800s and is centered on a Lady Felicity who is next in line to Duchess of Stonehaven (her parents died when she was young). However, in this day and age, the only way to achieve status within the monarchy is to possess a certain amount of magical ability. Felicity has gone unnoticed for her entire life, even so far as the servants will forget her or some people even sit on her at balls, she is convinced that she is not a very memorable person either in personality or looks. The great magic within her family has also seemed to have skipped a generation as Felicity seem to have inherited no magic at all but her cousin seems to have inherited magic above the status his parents, which he likes to flaunt in Felicity's face by sending her scary illusions. So the day comes when Felicity is forced to take a test to prove she has the magic to hold the position of Duchess, but she fails, badly. She is now stripped of her lands, title, everything and further humiliation, she is forced to attend the ball to celebrate all those who have passed. Enter Barnet Sir Terence Blackwell, a were-lion who is in service to the king. He immediately notices Felicity and smells something strange on her, relic-magic. Relic magic is deadly and forbidden within the kingdom. Weres are immune to all magic therefore, they are the perfect hunters of these relics, and Blackwell's family have been relic hunters for the King for generations. Blackwell decides that the only way to discover the relic that Felicity possesses is it to court her and get her to trust him. It starts out of him just going to use her, but the more he is with her the more his beast side tells him Mate. But there is trouble, and it is set on these two not being together, and this force will stop at nothing to possess the relic.

This book is cute and full of whimsy. Kennedy defiantly has a sense of enchantment when she writes. From having carriages driven by sea horses, to the balls that Felicity attends there is defiantly a sense of fantasy. My favourite part in the book, and also part of the fantasy aspect, is the Dragonette, Daisy, I thought she was a unique addition that I had not read before. It was also different that weres do not change into a bigger version of their animal but to the exact size. Therefore, if someone was a were-bunny, when they changed into their animal size they would be an actual bunny (not too sure how safe that would be). It was also funny that weres did have some feature or habit that was associated with their were creature, Felicity was ever trying to figure out what an individual would turn into. For example Blackwell's hair looked like a mane.

This was a good easy read, I would say another filler book, for me, compared to what I usually read, but I think those people who do like paranormal historical romance books will enjoy this trip back to the 1800s.

Enjoy!!!

Kelly says

I'm having a historical shape-shifting bonanza of books all of a sudden. It's fantastic! Guys, I had no idea I was missing out on this whole subset of books. No idea. None. And now that I know I can't un-know it. It's there. I'll have to seek out more of these books. And I'll have to read them. And I'll be daydreaming about hunky shapeshifters who flout society's rules and live large. I love it!

I liked that magic was out in the open in this book. In fact, the degree of magic one possesses is directly related to how far up the nobility ladder they get to climb. The one exception to this rule are the shapeshifters, who are immune to magic and can't actively work magic being that they're magic themselves. This immunity is what makes them so well suited to hunting for the Relics of Merlin and what gives them a place among the magical nobles.

The spell that Felicity was put under, the one that made her unnoticeable to most everyone, made her a very sympathetic character. I mean, we've all had times where we think no one notices us. It's just that in her case it was that they literally didn't notice her. That just... sucks. To have someone walk into you because they didn't see you? To have them look past you like you're not there? Talk about a way to kill someone's self esteem. Yikes.

So, yeah. I liked the book. The world felt very well developed and the action was fast paced. The sexy shenanigans were, umm, sexy. I'm totally on board with the historical shapeshifters now that I know about them.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Bry says

This book was total cute fluff. I knew that from the beginning and thus totally enjoyed it. I think if I had gone into it hoping for more intense characters or more twisted plot I would have been disappointed, but I didn't so I wasn't!

The good characters were adorable and pure, while the villains were evil and extremely crazy. They were all a bit cheesy but I think that was part of the books charm.

The plot while predictable was set in a pretty unique world. Magical ability is due to birth, and the amount of power you have determines your rank within the ton. Without magic the main female character loses her rank as duchess, her lands, her position - basically everything.

If you like historical romances and paranormal romances and fluff this is definitely a book for you!

Kathleen says

4.0 for this steamy, spooky, and suspenseful lion-shifter romance. I enjoyed it. It's kinda sweet 'n scary.

But also sad, and I even chuckled a time or two. My few quibbles are listed last.

Third-person POV shifts from heroine to hero. Fairly strong prose. Few typos. Explicit sex, minimal swearing, violence.

Set primarily in London in 1881, this book brings to mind *Soulless*, by Gail Carriger (my review). Like *Soulless*, it includes nobility, magic, and shifters in Victorian England. All kinds of shifters, from rabbits and rats to lions and cats. (Loved Bentley, butler, spy, rat shifter).

Premise: About 1700 years ago, Merlin the wizard created a magical aristocracy: Royals are the most magical. Dukes are next, having the ability to transform matter. Lesser nobles have weaker magic. Merlin also created the shifters. No magic works on them, because they ARE magic. He also created 13 powerful relics. Whoever possesses a relic gains enough magic to overwhelm even a Royal. Only six relics have been found so far. The shifters are spies for the Crown, charged with sniffing out and destroying relics.

Main Characters:

I think of **Sir Terence Blackwell** as **Lion-Heart**. Not only golden and gorgeous, this shifter loves to nuzzle his mate (awww). Wealthy and powerful, invulnerable to magic, hated and feared by all nobles except Prince Albert himself, his job is to find relics, but along the way he falls in love. However, she smells faintly of vile relic magic! His lion knows what's what, but the man has a few qualms. In the end, our spy sees beyond his baggage (brother was killed by a relic-obsessed lover) but along the way, I muttered "*idiot*" more than once.

Kennedy created a sympathetic character in **Felicity Seymour**. Her loving and extremely magical parents, the Duke and Duchess of Stonehaven, died when she was a toddler. Since then, she has been living an unpleasant life with Aunt Gertrude, Uncle Oliver, and Cousin Ralph. (*Harry Potter-ish*).

Felicity does not live below the stairs, but she may as well, because she's all but invisible. People just overlook her! And when they finally do notice her, they see how plain she is. Folks, our heroine is almost homely. If you can believe that.

Even worse, in a world where magical ability is needed to hold your title and lands, this drab can barely generate a spark. Despite the vast magical power her parents once wielded, she only feels a faint buzz.

Unattractive, unnoticeable, and un-magical. You'd think Felicity would feel sorry for herself. And she does, but never for long. This gal is not a weeper. You'd think she'd suffer from low self-esteem. Yes, of course she does, pondering how anyone as wonderful as Sir Lion-Heart could possibly love her. (Does this get a little old? Almost.)

Plot Teasers (no spoilers):

Early in the book Felicity undergoes the ceremony of magical testing, presided over by none other than Prince Albert himself at Buckingham Palace. Unless our brave girl can muster magic, the duchy will pass to Cousin Ralph (that cretin). At the ceremony she meets Sir Lion-Heart (droll scenes).

And with that, we go from Buckingham Palace to a mansion in Mayfair (yes, *fairly*) with excursions to Pall *Mage* and *Trickside*, at some point visiting a VERY creepy mansion near the sea and taking a few trips into London's Underground.

Things get tense at times, with *Merlin's relic* in the wrong hands. Action involves knives and knuckles, potions and plants, fangs and claws, and some pretty spooky things that go bump in the night. Various slithering monsters that only awaken when Felicity sleeps.

But the lion watches over her rest. And when he cannot be there, she's guarded by a fierce dragonette, the adorable Daisy. So how could any harm befall her?

Bottom line: It was good! Better than expected, given the reviews. Solid action scenes, hot sexy scenes, sweet times (the peas -- hah!). I was surprised to find out what Felicity's nightmares and illusions really were. I was glad to see Felicity find her feet and felt satisfied with the HEA ending -- which included a few surprises. Nicely done!

Quibbles:

I was annoyed when someone acted outside of character, towards the end. It just did not fit and felt contrived. I am talking about when (view spoiler)

I sometimes got impatient with how dense the H and h were. They should have figured things out sooner. Felicity stupidly put herself in peril because of blindness to reality. Grr!

Flaw in the logic: Given that dukes and duchesses have the power to change matter, it's a fallacy to say viscounts are less magical because their powers are limited to alchemy (and herbs). Changing iron to gold (e.g., alchemy) IS changing matter.

Nan says

I downloaded this book for my nook as a Free Fridays book from B&N. So far, I've really enjoyed their Free books--even if I don't like a title, they've helped me discover which authors to ignore in the future. When the only thing I have to sacrifice to try a new book/author is time (rather than money--or dignity by asking that my library find a copy for me!), I'm often willing to take the chance.

Thankfully, I picked up this book when I was in the perfect mood for it. I wanted a light-hearted romance without too much graphic sex. And that's what I got.

Light-hearted is perhaps a strange way to describe this book. It's not funny. It's not even silly. But it is a fun, involving sort of read, one that didn't make me angry (as bad romance novels often do . . .) That's enough for me to call a book light-hearted.

I think my favorite aspect of the book is the world that Kennedy built. It's an alternate Victoria England (where apparently Victoria has a sense of humor . . .), and rather than pass down titles purely through primogeniture, they also pass through magic. Basically, the nobility are ranked according to their degree of magical prowess, and their children only inherit their titles upon proving that they also have the same level of magic. As the novel opens, Felicity is about to take the test to determine if she will be a duchess, and she *knows* that it's going to go badly. Despite her uncle's faithful teaching, she's never been able to master the smallest of magics, and the thought of losing her late parents' estates terrifies her.

At the testing, only one man seems to notice how beautiful Felicity is. His name is Terrance, and he's a baronet. In this world, the lowest rank of nobility is reserved not for magic-users, but for those immune to magic--shapeshifters. He can see that there is magic of some kind surrounding the woman, but he'll have to get to know her in order to discover if he's a villain or a victim, a friend or enemy to the throne he's sworn to protect.

I will definitely seek out the other two books in this series when I need something fun. This title was not so

enchanting that I must read them today, but I believe that they'll be a good read when I need one.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This was a sweet book with a sexy hero who was a shapeshifter, and an endearing heroine who thought she had no powers, but actually had them stolen away. I love the mix of Victorian and magic. Great job on the author's part.

Summer says

I really liked this book a lot. It was a romance with really strong fantasy elements that didn't seem just thrown into the mix to add interest. I especially liked the hero and couldn't put it down once I started reading. It didn't necessarily blow me over, but it definitely impressed me and has me looking forward to more from the author.

Arminzerella says

Lady Felicity lost her parents when she was a young girl, and since then she's lived with relatives (her aunt, uncle, and cousin). She's the heir to Stonehaven, but when she faces her testing – to determine whether she has enough magic to keep her title – she fails and is demoted to “Miss” Felicity, of commoner status. As if that isn't enough humiliation, Felicity has her coming out celebration the very evening of her defeat where everyone treats her as if she doesn't exist. After nearly colliding with a serving man, Felicity is rescued by a most unexpected person – the Baronet, Terence Blackwell. He can see through any magic – it doesn't affect him because he's a werecreature (a lion, to be exact). He and Felicity are immediately attracted to one another, although in Blackwell's case, what draws him to Felicity initially is the relic magic he can smell all around her. Blackwell decides to court Felicity, even though she has no prospects, in order to find the relic that either she or someone close to her is using.

Because this is a supernatural paranormal romantic suspense mystery (whew!), we find out that Felicity has been under a spell for most of her life – placed on her by her scheming relatives who want her estates for their own. Her aunt uses one of the missing relic stones (made by Merlin) to keep Felicity practically invisible and to transfer her powers to herself and her son (so that he can pass the tests). Blackwell and Felicity end up together (after Blackwell admits to some deceit on his part) and she regains her magic (although, not her estates) and learns how to transform herself into a lioness (to match her leonine husband) and devote her energies to helping him track down the other relic stones.

Although the magical world isn't all that well-developed (the magic seems mostly illusion-based, but there are references to Merlin, and a dangerous Underworld), and some of the were-lion characteristics were laughable (he makes a lot of silly noises in his throat), and there were entirely too many references to the “swell” of Felicity's bosom, this was still quite entertaining. It moved along apace, Felicity's cluelessness was more adorable than annoying, and the scenes between Felicity and Blackwell were deliciously convincing. I kind of rolled my eyes at the end when Felicity shows off her new transformative powers (puh-lease), but overall I had fun with this.

Blodeuedd Finland says

I found this book to be adorable, it was just so cute and fun. Not to mention that I liked the society that in this alternate England.

Magic is still around and English society is infused by it. The Royals have the most powers and then the Dukes and so forth. If you are without then you are stripped of titles and lands. Magic rules and different titles have different magic. I really liked what she created and it was interesting.

Our heroine is truly naive, but that is the only way she could be. No one ever notices Felicity and she believes she is a grey little mouse. But there lives a fighter in her that wants to peak her head out. She was sweet and innocent.

While the hero Terrance is something else entirely. There is one class of nobility that has no magic and that magic can't touch and that are the shapeshifters. But the Royals use them as spies since they can sense relic magic. And Terrance, well I wanted to be angry at him for using sweet Felicity, but at the same time he was falling for her so I forgave him. His beast knew better than he did.

A relic of evil magic must be found, a couple fall helplessly in love and all is not well in the country of England.

Such a sweet story that I devoured in a day. Easy to read, easy to fall in love with.
