



Blessed Twice

Lynn Galli

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The problem with starting over in another state after losing your partner is that your new friends don't understand why you can't just get over it. They never saw how you were together, how much you loved her, how she was your life. They only see a number: three, as in, the number of years since she died. That's all the evidence they need to begin pressuring you to get back out there again. It doesn't matter that you've told them to back off. No, they feel it is their duty to butt into your life and ambush you with blind dates.

This wasn't a predicament Briony Gatewood anticipated when she relocated for tenure at a prestigious university. Yet after a year with her new friends, they've ceased being merely concerned and moved on to obnoxious. As if being fixed up wasn't bad enough, the dean at her college just volunteered her to teach a potentially career damaging class. Along for the experimental course is the socially challenged M Desiderius, a fellow professor who won't ever win a faculty popularity contest. But as they start working together, Briony begins to understand M's aloofness and is intrigued by the shy, brilliant, passionate woman. Enough so that she's starting to believe her friends when they say it's time to move on. And M, as complicated as her past has been and reticent as she seems now, may be the perfect person to help Briony finally heal and love again.

Blessed Twice Details

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Lexxi Kitty says

This is my, I'm fairly certain, fifth book I've read that was written by Lynn Galli. I was somewhat reluctant to start, not to buy and eventually read, but just to start. Because it involved two people who were not a part of the Virginia Clan when this series started. And I wasn't really sure I wanted to know anything else about Bri. Also, I, yet again, already knew that the couple would, at the very least, be a couple, because the last book included them in the epilogue.

So. I read. Started whenever it was I started. I glance up and I see I'm done (ETA: actually, I forgot that I had a sleeping break at some point. heh). Of the five books I've read by Galli, I believe I liked this one best of all. Also, there was a certain heightened eroticism about everything, added because everything was made much more heightened by having a frightened woman set the pace. And go super slow. So each touch, just two fingers touching, each caress, each kiss, were that much more important than they probably are for the vast majority of other people. For M touching others, or being touched feels very painful to her. Like she's being burnt. So anything she was able to do, anything she could do, was something of a gift to both Bri and M. (Also, as a side note, though directly related, made the actual physical intimacy that much more heightened and exciting).

Arien says

I really enjoyed this one, loved the characters, especially M, she was written in a unique way. Out of now hundreds of FF books I've read so far she stands out in a good way.

T says

another great book. after reading austy's story, jessie's story and willa's story; i was admittedly getting annoyed by the common theme of all of these beautiful people being rich and having happily-ever-after stories. this one sung a little more raw, showed some flaws that actually made one of the rich beauties seem human. i loved that. i loved seeing this author take on a less 'charmed' story. and the psychology of it is moving and thought provoking.

Alena says

After all the violence and gruesomeness on my reading plate lately I was in dire need of something light and fluff.

This is one of those books I enjoyed while reading it, but questions are starting to pop up now.

It's a romance, at its center Briony, widow with a ten year old son, and M, whose character is only slowly unraveled, it turns out that she has had a very hard childhood that included sexual abuse and has had problems forming any sort of relationship with people ever since.

Both teachers at a university they meet when they have to team up to teach a class together, and the romance takes its course. Not unbumpy, see reasons above, but inevitably. It's a well written book, except for one cringe moment when the author uses 'waiting on' instead of 'waiting for' (I know it's spreading and more accepted today, but it just doesn't sit right with me). The dialog is funny, the characters really jump off the page and seem real.

The more I think about now, some things bother me. Why, oh why doesn't Briony grow a pair and tell her friends to stop setting her up with really horrible women? I know some of these characters appeared in earlier books, but most of Briony's friends don't really come across as likeable to me as I have no further background knowledge about them. Briony can tell me over and over again that they are nice people, I have a hard time buying it.

It's always problematic to have a serious issue at the heart of a light romance, abuse may be the hardest of all. It always bothers me when coupledness is portrayed to be the only desirable way to live. It works for some, it doesn't for others. In this aspect, things tie up too neatly in this book, even though the topic is handled with great sensitivity. But it is a romance novel, so yeah, I guess it had to be this way.

Corrie says

Blessed Twice is the 4th story in the **Virginia Clan** series (3rd if you don't count the later added prequel) and I think it's one of the best so far.

The story is about two characters that are basically not part of the core group of friends.

I was relieved to have not too much interference from the more annoying members of the Virginia Clan this time. Of all of them I like Willa, Quinn, Austy, Elise, Jessie and Lauren the best, the rest not so much. Partly because their characters are not fleshed out much so you can't really bond with them and partly because of their meddling and annoying behavior. It makes me want to get my bitch-slapper out.

Lynn Galli moves away from the theme she used in this series so far and sets a tone that is more raw.

Briony Gatewood and **M. Desiderius** both have had some rough experiences in their past (M. more so and in a different way than Briony) and it has given them some major hurdles to overcome. Briony deals with the traumatic loss of her wife, the sole care of their son and the relocation away from her life and family in Aspen. M. is a tortured soul, a mysterious woman who's body is captured in a rigid prison as the result of the sexual abuse she suffered as a child.

I loved their journey. The slow progress of Briony coaxing M. out of her shell, gaining her trust. It was very slow burn and extremely rewarding in the end. Well done!

f/f explicit

Themes: less of the annoying friends in this one and that was a relief, because they don't take no for an answer, M is a memorable character, such a tortured soul, and yes... you will find out her true name in the end, the kid was actually more than tolerable, the epilogue did not bother me this time.

4.5 stars

Kexx says

Has to one of the best ever = loved it!

Jo reece says

For such a sensitive issue, this book was written very well!

Fia says

This one was much better than Imagining Reality. Thank God, because that one wasn't good.

The gang thankfully wasn't present that much like in Imagining Reality. Still, they were annoying. Well, except Quinn, Willa, Jessie and Lauren. They were real friends, not the rest of them. I couldn't understand how they could be friends with the rest. I mean, they were pushy, annoying, judgemental and didn't know them at all.

Now to the main couple. They were so cute together it hurt. That is all I have to say. I liked them, I liked them separately and together, and with Caleb.

I liked M and while I can understand her behaviour, some things got me confused. (view spoiler) But other than that and some cheesy dialogues it was all good.

Still liked Wasted Heart better though.

C. Mack says

My first read was a 4, my second is a 5; possible reason for this is that I'm currently into the friends into romance slow burn and this book has this from the off. It's like a 'lite' (with lots of other differences I hasten to add) version of 'Give me a reason' by Lyn Gardner which is one of my all time favourites.

Yep, on second read I found myself appreciating this one much more than I did the first time round...we are fickle creatures!

Mirtha Siblesz says

Loved it!!!

The author did it again, she wrote a wonderful story full of love and dealing with subject matters that in today's society are integral in the development of the character of many women and particularly women like M and the patience and love. That Brioni had for her to give her the space she needed to grow into the love she shared with Bri.

Well done!

Rose Forbes says

I absolutely loved this book... finished it in 2 days and i am already reading another one of hers... this author can definitely tell a good story and as much as i am not all to keen on the mushy mushy i love the way she portrayed the romance between M and Briony. This book will make you laugh but still has some sad parts... the characters are well portrayed and very realistic so are the conversation. Great read!!!

Diane says

**! least favorite of these books..DNF! too difficult of a storyline to get through and the direction of the plotline also (100% honest)

angie says

Lesfic has disappointed me a lot over the years, but I have always been grateful that it even exists at all. As a teen I would have loved to read anything that dealt with people "like me."

Lynn Galli (thankfully!) is one of the best in her field, heck, one of the best writers, period! Discovering her books is one of my favorite things about this past year, as has realizing Kindle is probably one of the best ways to access lesfic in a world where libraries and bookstores don't give you much to pick from (if they even carry it in the first place.)

Blessed Twice is amazing, even better than Wasted Hearts and Imagining Reality.

The only pet peeve I have is the same that Briony has until she falls in love and everything changes for her: why is it that people (friends, relatives, society) put a time stamp on how long you should grieve for the love of your life?

Briony, like many people who lose their beloved partner or spouse, has needed more time to mend her broken heart than society thinks is normal.

Having come at this book with the corny, maybe even unrealistic, view that there is one true love per person per life, I had trouble (at first) with the concept of Blessed Twice. But Lynn Galli's wonderful characters and her ability to tell a really good story made me forget everything else.

As a main character, Briony is more developed and fleshed out than she is in Imagining Reality. And M is a very unique lady who is painfully shy and socially awkward, yet has so much to give when it comes to love.

I cannot say enough good things about Blessed Twice. Even the title speaks to the fact that finding new love doesn't negate your first love.

We should all be so lucky to find the kind of love that is Lynn Galli's fictional world.

Maria says

I recently read other books by Lynn Galli and got hooked up on her writing. The characters are usually well built as well as the story, so if you like a good romance you're in for a treat.

Lunatic says

A different theme from Lynn Galli's previous works. It's not just a simple romance, it also deals with some very depressing moments concerning the character's pasts and their traumas (especially M).

Both the main characters are imperfect, but they are perfect in their own way, and this love is possibly their last chance to hold on to. Since this is the kind of love that is especially rare, and it took them years before they could find it (It took M 37 years to find it).

This is a happily ever after, but it requires a lot of patience, understanding, and consideration to reach it.

If you are looking for a quick romance with steamy scenes right on the get go, this is not the book. I'm still recommend reader to try this one, since the ending reward is totally worth the wait, not to mention the intensity between the two main characters. The romance is at an extremely slow pace, the main couple relationship remains completely platonic in the first half or 3/4 of the book. Yet, their feelings for each other is undeniably deep and beautiful.

M is a very intriguing character, she is full of mystery and secret. She is wounded, and she needs time to heal. Her dry humors brought in a lot of light into the story, especially the way she talks to kids. I'm seriously thought this is a D/s story at first, which surprised me due to the author's previous works, but it is not.

Briony is a very persistence person, her narration is relax and comical. Her disastrous dates resulted in a lot of humorous moments, and she is blessed twice indeed.

I really enjoyed the book, Briony and M is now my most favorite couple in the whole series. I was hoping M could have more interaction with Briony's friend, especially the continuing of M and Jessie's conversation in the gym. But overall, the ending is perfect for me.

PS: I probably should have read *Imagining Reality* first before I read this one. However, I'm not missing out anything in this book, since this one is perfectly work as a standalone. Occasionally, you'll get to see main couples from the other books due to it being a series.

The description and reading sample for *Blessed Twice* attracted me the most, so I missed the order and jumped right into it. To be honest, it didn't disappointed me. M and Briony's story is just wonderful that way.
