



## Beauty and the Beast

*Hannah Howell*

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*New York Times* bestselling author Hannah Howell entralls readers with her unforgettable tales of the love between fierce knights and their passionate women, weaving her storytelling genius to give us one of her best romances yet. . .

### **Beauty And The Beast**

On the eve of her wedding to the heir of Saiturn Manor, the stunningly beautiful Gytha is shocked to learn that her betrothed, a man she barely knew, is dead. Now she must marry the new heir, Thayer Saiturn, a battle-hardened knight known as the Red Devil. . .

With a face scarred in battle and a heart broken in love, Thayer has no interest in marriage. But not even the Red Devil can break the promise his foster-father made years ago and soon finds himself married to a woman whose exquisite beauty and sweet innocence intrigue him. But can his new bride look beyond his scars to find a hidden passion and undying love locked deep inside him?

### **Beauty and the Beast Details**

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## Gabba says

Bueno... lectura que tendría que haber realizado en el primer semestre, pero quedó en el baúl de los archivos, hasta que el domingo no sabía qué leer (dudaba con otros dos más), y arranqué con esto. ¡Oh, por Dior... tengo que aprender a seguir mi instinto! **Si van a leer mi verborragia, advierto que podrían encontrarse con pseudos Spoilers.** ¡Por si les interesa, acá, pueden leer la reseña versión blog... mucho más coherente! #Ponele ¯\\_(?)\_/¯

Uno ya se puede imaginar más o menos parte de la trama con tan solo leer el título. Todos leímos o vimos La bella y la bestia, o hemos leído otras adaptaciones (Making Faces... ooohh #amorpuro). En este caso en particular, la historia que nos remonta a la época feudal, de los caballeros y demás cháchara de ese momento. Una adolescente (supera los estándares de belleza del 1300), obligada a cumplir un acuerdo contraído cuando apenas tenía horas de nacida; es decir, contraer nupcias con el barón de la casa Saitun. Un par de hechos hará que se casé con el segundo heredero, el cual fue dado por muerto, cuando estaba a punto de casarse con el tercero, ya que el primero había muerto. ¡Oh, el quid del eje del mal! Y así arrancamos, barro por doquier... una purreta que siente un algo desde el vamos por ese gigante inseguro, maltrecho en emociones por las habladurías e insensibilidad de la alta sociedad y una mujer en particular, la perra de lady Elizabeth. Idas, vueltas, enfrentamientos, batallas, y bla, bla bla... que se observa durante el relato. Mucha incertidumbre entre sus penas y pesares, que terminó por AGOTARME. Eterno, así fue como se me hizo. Tranquilamente podríaN haber resuelto el asunto un poco antes, pero la autora optó por agregar un poco más de drama y de dolores... e histeria femenina, cuando estábamos llegando a los albores del verdadero "y comieron perdices".

Sentí empatía Thayer, pero hasta ahí nomás, no me voló la cabeza. Ella, la "pequeña y bella" Gytha, me pareció demasiado despierta/inteligente/ o cómo gusten llamarlo para la época.

Ni hablar el temita de las cabalgatas... DEMASIADO, a la primera montada ya era una experta en el #ArteDeLasCabalgatas... por favor! En cualquier oportunidad tenían ganas de seguir ampliando sus conocimientos...

Puntos a favor (?): personajes satélites.

~En particular cómo se fue dando la relación de Roger (la voz de la sabiduría y buen amigo de Thayer) con Margaret (prima bastarda -y casi sirvienta- de Gytha).

~Los miembros de la familia de Gytha. Puro amor. (#Ponele)

~Tal vez, esa segunda oportunidad que tuvieron miembros del eje del mal. Luego de repensar sus acciones y tratar de revertirlas. (Segundo #ponele)

~Y sin lugar a dudas el pequeño Bek, chiquitino...

¿Y, qué te pareció? Mmm, es un libro que no volvería a leer. Dudo mucho que diga: che, no sabes qué leer, pues anímate con este.

Repto, tengo que aprender a seguir mi instinto, por algo lo había dejado olvidado...

#QuéSabioSosQueridoInstinto y marche un gran #BesitoEnLaFrente para #LaBellaDeLaBestia

Posdata: *Che, ¿por qué tanto #? Ni que estuvieras en Twitter o Facebook!*

## **Lucy Qhuay says**

An enjoyable enough historical romance, without being particularly original or exciting.

It's plain to see I picked this book up drawn by the promise of some kind of beauty and the beast retelling , but I must say I was disappointed.

I was expecting Thayer, the hero, to be a battle-scarred, cold-hearted, ruthless warrior, but when push came to shove, he really wasn't.

He was surprisingly soft and sweet, albeit in a rough way. Sure, he had trust issues and he was scarred, both in and outside, since he had been betrayed by a woman of his past, but I can't remember a moment when he was purposefully cruel.

Plus, and even though he was supposed to be 'The Red Devil' and the leader of his group of warriors, he wasn't exactly what you call an 'alpha' hero.

I also didn't like that Thayer and Gytha, the heroine, came up as childish as they did. I can understand it somewhat with Gytha, considering she was seventeen, but he was a thirty-year-old man and a seasoned warrior.

All in all, read this book if you please, just don't have high expectations.

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## **Kathrynn says**

I didn't care for either main character in this one. Thayer was too hung up on a few scars and red hair! Gytha was beautiful and blonde. (my eyes are rolling here). For the majority of the book Thayer expected/suspected Gytha of cheating on him.

Gytha had good morals and loved Thayer, he just could not get his act together...until the end, of course. Even when he found her being assaulted, he thought he was witnessing Gytha with a lover.  
He.Just.Stood.There.

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## **Monserrat Maxfield Markov says**

### **Editando: Horrores Ortográficos**

Mi primer libro de Romance Histórico y... ¡¡Me ha encantado!!

Como me encantan las historias de muchos años atrás. ¿Qué fue lo que más me gusto del libro? Debo admitir que adoré a Thayer es un hombre poco agraciado; la verdad para mí está más que perfecto. Me encantan los hombres que a simple vista se ven bien malotes, creo que esos son los que más pasión tienen, te cuidan, te aman, te procuran... En pocas palabras, lo eres todo para ellos.

El problema de Thayer fue su físico, que se sentía poca cosa para Gytha por que ella es muy bella, pero me encanto lo que dijo Gytha: Que ella en el espejo solo veía piel, carne, pelo, que para el ojo de las personas

todo eso encajaba y la hacia ver bella, pero la belleza es otra cosa. La belleza se acaba con el tiempo con las enfermedades y lo único que queda es lo que eres por dentro, cuan cierto es eso.

¡Me encanto!

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### **Tarsis says**

No sé porqué tengo la sensación de que ya lo había leído antes, jajaja. Gytha es sorprendida al saber qué su prometido está muerto y en su lugar tomará como esposo al Gran Demonio Rojo, un guerrero temible, primo y sucesor de su ex-prometido. Pero hacerle vera a Thayer que lo ama, es más difícil que caminar sobre fuego, es una bestia que ha sido anteriormente y que con lo que respecta a mujeres camina en hielo quebradizo.

Me gustaron los personajes, incluso el niño Beck, es adorable. Thayer es un poco terco y tonto, pero también hace reír y enternecer. Es una historia sencilla y muy linda.

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### **Aly is so frigging bored says**

#### **Main characters:**

Gytha Raouille

Thayer Saiturn, the Red Devil

#### **What I Liked:**

-the time period

-the mostly accurate portrayal of the time period

-seeing the life at court

-Gytha's family

-Thayer's son, Bek. He and Roger were the smartest men in the book :D

#### **What I didn't like:**

-this will sound bi-polar, but the overlay use of “‘tis, nay, aye, mayhap, etc” drove me insane! I know I complain a lot when the language is too.. new in one of my historical, but this one had too much. I want balance, not a headache from rolling my eyes

-Thayer's distrust in his wife, after 60% of the book it became a little tedious

-I absolutely hate the names! I have no idea how to pronounce them and I usually read them wrong

**Favorite character:** Gytha, her perseverance and wit made me give such a good rating

**My least favorite character:** Elizabeth(chilly woman)

**Favorite scene:** I loved when she made him so mad and he shared his emotions and apologized for being an ass.

#### **Favorite quote:**

“Have you made Gytha mad again?” Bek asked as his father stepped into his bath.

“Aye, I fear so.”

“But you went to win rewards for her.”

“True, but I neglected to ask if she wanted those rewards. Can you scrub my back, son?”

Moving to do so, Bek frowned in thought “Is a wife not supposed to be pleased at all her husband does?”

It was not easy, but Thayer swallowed his impulse to laugh. “Bek, I will tell you two things about women. Heed me well, now, for you had best remember them. The first is—never do as I do. I fear your poor father knows very little. If I handled a sword as I do women, I should have been killed in my first battle.” He

smiled faintly when Bek giggled. "Second—few men are true masters over their women. In truth, I would eye with suspicion any woman who acts as if that is the truth. Either she lies, or she is so dull-witted or weak-spirited that she will make you a tedious wife."

"So you do not really mind that Gytha is angry with you."

"I did not say that." He grimaced. "T'will depend upon how angry she is and if there is any soothing her."

**Would I recommend the book:** Yes, it's well written and fast-paced, has action and a little drama thrown in, strong characters and an interesting setting.

**Final rating:** 3.8\*

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## MAP says

It's that time of year again: I'm at my parents', I've run out of books, and I'm going through a relative's attic library.

This book is a fairly typical historical romance novel, complete with BIG MISUNDERSTANDINGS, DEVASTATING TWISTS, and LACK OF COMMUNICATION. The big unique thing in this book is supposed to be that instead of a charming, womanizing rogue, the hero is a somewhat deformed, ugly man with no self-esteem around women. There are two problems with this:

1. This is not terribly unique if you know the stories of the Phantom of the Opera, or, say, I don't know...Beauty and the Beast?
2. The man's terrible, self-esteem ruining deformity is.....he's a ginger. No, I'm not kidding. He's a red head with a broken nose or something.

Overall, this is a completely average and trite romance novel with little to make it stand out amongst other trite and average romance novels. Also, I did notice that the author apparently did little enough research to not know who the King of England was during 1365 so it was always "the king wishes" "the king the king." (It was Edward III, for the record)

Thank god I found some David Niven books.

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## Bark says

This book features something new (at least to me): a hero who isn't drop dead gorgeous and is insecure because of it.

Thayer thought he was about to attend his cousin William's wedding & soon discovers he is the bridegroom of the beautiful Gytha (ugh, what a name) due to a twist of fate. Thayer is appalled at this news. Years earlier his heart was broken by a beautiful but heartless well-bred woman and he promised himself he would never become that vulnerable again. Gytha slowly breaks through the barriers he's constructed around his heart with her innocence and loving ways. But deep down Thayer still isn't convinced she is as pure as she seems and dreads the day when he will find her in bed with another man. Because of Thayer's mistrust, a greedy uncle and Thayer's ex-love Elizabeth (who decides she wants him back in her bed) he and Gytha have a very rocky road ahead of them.

I really enjoyed this delightful Beauty & The Beast retelling. It was refreshing to read about a heroine who had no care for looks and although she was physically perfect she didn't feel it was an important part of who she was. This book was very funny in part while still being emotionally intense and the chemistry between the h/h was smoldering. This one teared me up & had me smiling at the same time. I hated to see their story come to an end. Definitely one worth pulling out of the tbr pile.

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### **Megan says**

Gytha is stunningly beautiful and must marry the heir to Saitum Manor, who is Thayer (the Red Devil named for his red hair and fierce tempter- which turned out not so fierce). Thayer is considered “ugly,” this is not a scarred-hero story. Thayer is just ugly and Gytha is immediately smitten with him when she meets him. Thayer is scared of Gytha because he once had his heart broken by a well-bred lady when she cheated on him, so he is scared to trust. He spends the WHOLE book waiting from Gytha to cheat on him. Thayer finally finds her being almost raped and he does NOTHING. Gytha is eventually able to get away, but not before she sees her beloved husband NOT come to her aid. She is mad. She wants an apology. She never gets a formal one and she forgives him!! Ugh!! That was the big “misunderstanding,” which lasted a couple chapters at best. It made me SO angry! And the other “plot” was Thayer’s kin trying to kill him in order to marry Gytha and own her property- which is nice- but never brings in a substantial income. So, I felt that was a very flimsily plot. Gytha is a good character, Thayer just makes me mad. I mean isn’t it bad enough that they get married and consummate their marriage in the first 50 pages of the book? Nope, it just goes down-hill from there.

In my opinion, this book does not deserve the title “Beauty and the Beast” by ANY stretch of the imagination. I am now nervous about reading other books by this author.

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### **Ariannha says**

La historia comenzó bien, sin embargo fue decayendo conforme avanzaba. Al personaje masculino por momentos me costaba no abofetearlo, después de ser tan guerrero, mostraba inseguridades. El malo, simplemente escueto, las situaciones tan tontas como inverosímiles.

Realmente esperaba un poco más.

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### **Victoria Castillo says**

So i was thinking of how i would write this and i decided i to go straight to the point. Much easier...less boring.

I didn't like this. The plot dragged throughout half of the book and the main characters exasperated me. I didn't feel any connection to Gytha, the heroine, who is the prototipe of a lady of the 1600's and don't get me wrong, is not like i was expecting something different, but she just didn't have any trait i could find interesting. She was just a Meh, plain character.

Thayer i thought i would like more. He started really well, not being the typical "sexy, handsome hero" but a big, redhead, scarred beast instead. And i liked that Gytha never thought of him less for that—in fact, she notices him in a good way immediately when they met—but he quickly ended up being sort of an idiot, and not the kind i could enjoy.

I mean yeah, i get it, you had a bad relationship with a woman before, (view spoiler) and now you want to protect yourself from that. Fine. But then he starts measuring every other woman to her (including his wife) and expecting the worst of her at every chance, until there's a point where he doubts everything she says or does because it just could be "a lie or bait from her part". His constant lack of trust in Gytha just exasperated me, to say the least.

There is a scene half through the book that just shows exactly this.(view spoiler)

And ever since then, the book went straight to hell for me.

Because ever since that, we are baited in a back and forth when the two characters keep having the same problem. Thayer doesn't trust in Gytha or her feelings. Gytha struggles to find a way to make her dumb ass husband understand that she loves him (because apparently to just tell him is fucking impossible) and then fight, make love, fight, make love, until mark 90% or so, when (view spoiler)

Me at 90% mark

Until half of the book, i could have rated this a three stars, just because it was kinda fluffy, Thayer is not your typical muffin and the sex scenes were kinda good (view spoiler) but then it got boring, and the whole main problem could have been solved if these two just sat down and talked to each other.

Oh there were some bad guys, but so caricatured that i don't even remember them. And the Secondary Characters weren't good enough that i could forget the assholness of the two idiots protagonists.

I need some good Historical Romance that isn't written by Lisa Kleypas. Me urge.

And as usual, sorry for los errores de ortografía, es que me no speak very well el english.

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**Netanella says**

I've been digging through some "Beauty & the Beast" themes, and this one was titled as such, so I gave it a go.

This book is unabashedly a historical romance. It had me smiling from the start. Our hero, the Red Devil, is big and red and furry, scarred and battle-marred and befreckled like a red-headed stepchild. Our heroine is golden and pure and sensual, all in one package, and when she sees Big Red for the first time, she wants to take care of him and ease his worries. She gets all squishy inside. Big Red, however, having been burnt in the past before by a beautiful woman, doubts his golden bride's belief in him and their marriage, and therein lies the trouble for most of the book. But for a good conversation, the story could have been shortened by about 10 chapters.

Much of the plot revolves around the misunderstandings of Big Red and the Golden One, again, easily resolved by a "honey, I love you" statement. There's the evil Lady Elizabeth who contrives to get Big Red back in her bed, or do away with the Golden One. There's the evil uncle Someone, who plots to steal Big Red's inheritance from him.

I loved the first half of the book much more than the last half. Unfortunately, by the second half I found myself skimming whole sections to get to the ending. This was a fun and cheesy romance; it fit the Beauty and the Beast theme, and I would recommend it to fans of the genre.

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### **Alba Turunen says**

2 Estrellas, y va que chuta, porque vaya ganas de estropear una historia que tenía buenos ingredientes, buenos personajes y un trasfondo que prometía.

¿Qué ha sido de "La Bella de la Bestia"? La verdad es que sólo el título, porque si la intención es que esta novela se pareciera al mítico cuento la lectora se llevará un chasco de narices.

Como digo, al principio prometía. Un hombre, un guerrero de gran renombre, valor y reputación, que tiene la desgracia de no ser físicamente agradable, si no que se lo definiría como alguien feo; y una mujer muy hermosa, paciente y bondadosa y capaz de ver mucho más allá de lo que el simple físico del hombre aparenta.

Debido a las circunstancias que se mencionan en la sinopsis, Thayer y Gytha están obligados a casarse, él por ser el heredero de la Casa Saitun, y ella como heredera para unir sus casas. Hasta la boda, el libro iba como la seda y hasta me estaba gustando. Después la historia se ha convertido en un rollo sin sentido, incoherente e inverosímil.

El gran problema que le he visto a la novela es ése, inverosímil. Situaciones forzadas, personajes de chiste. Estamos ante un libro en el que los buenos son muy buenos, y los malos muy malos, y encima de ser malos, son estúpidos y absurdos. ¡Tienes a una persona persiguiéndote durante medio libro con la intención de darte muerte y llevarte a tu esposa, y lo sabes y no haces nada! Tienes pruebas de semejante tropelía ¿Y no lo llevas ante el rey? Pues sí, el malo de esta historia es una cosa asquerosa e ilógica que en manos de otra escritora no habría durado ni un capítulo, pero aquí tenemos un resumen de cómo no hacer historias chapuceras, porque este es el resultado.

Por otro lado el romance de los protagonistas, sí, empezó muy bien, pero igualmente su historia se vuelve tan incomprendible que no sabes por donde pillarla. De todas formas, he empatizado mucho más con Gytha a este respecto y lo que siente por Thayer, y hasta he aplaudido más de una de sus decisiones, pero Thayer, que debería haber reblandecido corazones, me ha sabido a poco. Thayer es un personaje al que su físico le ha

acomplejado siempre, y sobrevivió a una traición espantosa, amó a una mujer que se aprovechó de él y lo pisoteó. Por ello a Thayer le cuesta mucho confiar en las mujeres, sobre todo en las mujeres nobles y hermosas, y no se lo pondrá nada fácil a Gytha, por mucho que le atraiga su joven esposa. Pronto su romance de ahora te quiero, ahora te odio, estará lleno de vaivenes, confusiones, rencor, y desconfianza, así que el gran problema que aquí se nos presenta es una falta de comunicación abismal.

A pesar de ello, la escritora lo ha intentado arreglar al final, pero para mi gusto ha alargado demasiado la historia, y la idea general de la novela se podía haber resuelto mucho antes. De modo que sólo salvo el inicio del libro (hasta la boda), y las diez últimas páginas, pero aún así es un libro que no recomiendo a menos que tengas muchas ganas de leerlo, y atente a las consecuencias.

No es el primer libro que leo de Hannah Howell, pero este iba a ser definitivo, mucho lo dudo, pero no creo que vuelva a leer más suyo.

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### **Vero Rinconin says**

En realidad un 3'5 la historia entretenida pero mmñe algo pesadina por momentos porque hubo cosas que se repitieron hasta la saciedad (vamos, hasta el final).

??Mi reseña en Mi Rinconín de Lectura??

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### **KatieV says**

2.5 stars

I hesitated between a 2-3 on this, so 2.5 stars it is. I sorta liked it. Which is between 'it's ok' and 'I liked it', I suppose.

The hero was insecure, but to my surprise we weren't treated to someone who was violent or emotionally abusive as so often happens with this plot line. I get so tired of that. The H largely kept his insecurities to himself and only truly showed his deep-down insecurity driven mistrust of the heroine once. Otherwise, you just kinda wanted to shake him for being such an insecure, blind fool - yet, he inspired no anger in me. He was overall a likeable, fair guy who treated the heroine well. In fact I was bit surprised that he was such a reasonable, fair minded man considering the times. I'm not saying those men didn't exist in the Middle Ages, but found it rather odd that he never really got angry with the h for disobeying him or insisted she submit to his will like a dutiful wife of the times.

I suppose I expect a medieval to be a bit more raw. This would have been more in line with a Regency as far as the lightness of it. Not that terrible things weren't going on during the regency period, but we've been rather conditioned to Regencies being much lighter/fluffier while expecting much more violence and extremely domineering behavior from the males in a medieval. After all, that was a extremely rough time in history. There was violence in this since the H was a warrior, but it was glossed over and I didn't find it immersing at all.

The Beauty and the Beast title was misleading. This was more a case of someone who was plain of face - with the rock hard bod of a warrior and a giant penis, of course - paired with someone who was a celebrated

beauty. There was nothing 'beastly' about him at all. He sounded like what I'd describe as a "carrot-top" sort of redhead versus someone with the "more sexy" auburn hair \*gasp, the horror\*. He also had some battle scars, but nothing disfiguring. There were no blatantly unattractive features. He just wasn't a pretty boy.

For the most part, I felt this lacked tension overall. It's the type of thing I probably won't recall a week from now. However, if you're looking for something lighter/sweeter and not likely to tax your emotions in a negative way - you may love this.

I was pleased with the passing nod to the plague and how it had so changed the feudal structure of England. It's not a romantic subject, but it was one that made huge changes in the economy and social structure of Europe. It's weird that it's rarely mentioned in most medieval romances.

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