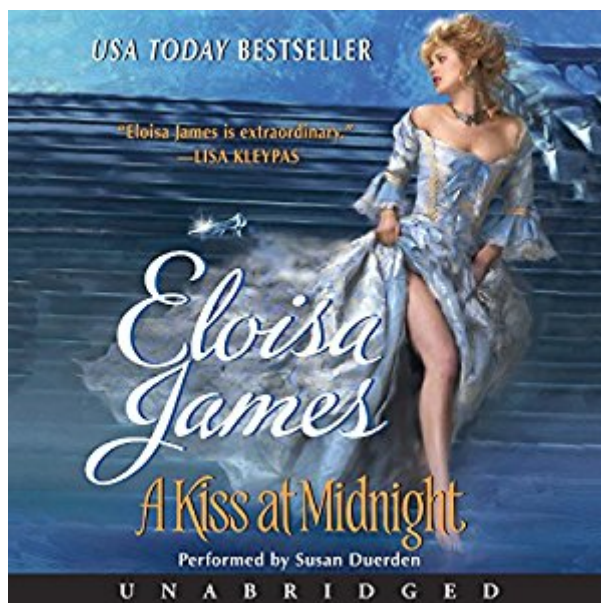


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A Kiss At Midnight



Synopsis

Miss Kate Daltry doesn't believe in fairy tales...or happily ever after. Forced by her stepmother to attend a ball, Kate meets a prince...and decides he's anything but charming. A clash of wits and wills ensues, but they both know their irresistible attraction will lead nowhere. For Gabriel is promised to another woman-a princess whose hand in marriage will fulfill his ruthless ambitions. Gabriel likes his fiancée, which is a welcome turn of events, but he doesn't love her. Obviously, he should be wooing his bride-to-be, not the witty, impoverished beauty who refuses to fawn over him. Godmothers and glass slippers notwithstanding, this is one fairy tale in which destiny conspires to destroy any chance that Kate and Gabriel might have a happily ever after. Unless a prince throws away everything that makes him noble.... Unless a dowry of an unruly heart trumps a fortune.... Unless one kiss at the stroke of midnight changes everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you like romances with humor that's witty you should read Eloisa James' *A Kiss at Midnight*. The writing is skillful and witty. Fans of Susan Elizabeth Phillips may transition from contemporary romance to historical romance with this book. (I've yet to read the entire series, so I can't say if each book is equally entertaining.) This Cinderella-like 'fairy tale' has a wicked (mostly selfish) stepmother, a silly yet kind stepsister, 'rats,' and a fabulous godmother. Let's not forget the Russian prince and heroine who challenges him not to be a fool. *A Kiss at Midnight* was so much fun to read. I was glued to the pages! There did come a point around the 30% part where I worried that the plot had lost momentum but the pace picked up with its snappy wit. The hero and heroine are well-matched

and Ms. James rewards us with a fulfilling epilogue. I loved this book so much I purchased the novella because I want it permanently on my ereader, along with book 1, which was inexpensive. So if you like SEP's style and would like to try historical romance then this is the book for you!

I love EJ. I have read everything she has written thus far, and started her fairytale series two weeks ago. I finished this [A Kiss at Midnight] two days ago. I read through it pretty quickly, and did find myself interested in the plot, characters, wit, and fun of it. I was not expecting this book to be historically accurate or the language to be perfect either. She states as much in her notes at the end of the book. When I want a serious romance I read Jane Austen (or another author of the same ilk), when I want some hanky-panky I go for EJ. I read this book in the spirit it was intended, as a fun fictional romp in an imaginary land, in an imaginary time, (though the places mentioned are real, the details are not and I understood that). Some of the characters were a bit wooden and under developed (Cherryderry, Mariana, and Toloose for example). Matter of fact i had a very hard time even remembering who the heck Toloose was and why on Earth a Russian princess would transfer her affections from Gabriel to him...I had to go back and re-read who the fella was! I did find the whole mention of the collection of animals (the elephant, monkey, lion etc) completely useless to the story in general. While cute, i found all the mention of the dogs annoying, but understandably since Ceasar was the cause of Victoria's not going with Algie to the Prince...i let it slide, although her condition [pregnancy out of wedlock] would have been reason enough for Katherine to have stepped in and gone in her place. This story sort of reminded me of another EJ book, Duchess by Night, which involved a character pretending to be someone other than who she was. In that book she was disguised as a young man, while in this [A Kiss at Midnight] Kate was disguised as her half sister. It was written over and over again how Kate was 'not attractive, plain, overly tanned, gaunt, skinny, boney, weak-looking, etc' that it was hard to believe ANYONE in the book would mistake her for her softer, lighter skinned, voluptuous, younger half sister. Obviously this point was stated again and again by other characters and explained away as an illness, but i felt at times that it was driven home to the point of annoyance, trying desperately to make the reader believe it too. I don't much care for cocky characters who push themselves onto the heroine, and then the heroine responding to it in the positive, it's just too cliché. As if being insulted and treated like a piece of meat by a man is attractive or wanted by the whole of feminine society. It's not...i do like a bit of the obnoxious pairings find each other irresistible in the end type of story, but the forcing of affection is tantamount to molestation/harassment! Other than the rapid pace of the "seduction" (that felt more like harassment to me and the breaking of Kate's resolve than romance), it wasn't half bad. So while i

cannot rate this as a "wonderful" book if it was based in some form of historical romance, i can rate it slightly higher because of the fanciful way of the story as a true fairytale, (I find most fairytales unbelievable and A Kiss at Midnight is absolutely an unbelievable story!). I will remain open to the following books in her fairytale remake series, but i wont (can't) take them as seriously as some of her others. She does however gain bonus points (i wish i could give half stars, for this would have been a 3 1/2 for me), for not jamming this book full of endless characters and secondary plots and stories like she has done in past books, which made for some very confusing and under developed stories! (An Affair before Christmas is a great example of too much side story, not enough main story MEAT). all-in-all i would recommend this to someone new to romance novels, simply because it's a simple story, with simple language and not overly detailed about time periods or dress, so someone unfamiliar w/the regency era (or ANY era other than their own for that matter) wouldn't have a hard time following the story here.

An heiress whom thought she lost everything to her stepmother and half sister, ended up having all she ever wanted and more. Thanks to her godmother, who would not allow her to pretend to be someone else, she caught the eye of the prince and fell in love. The prince must marry for riches ,not love because his older brother left things in a mess. While waiting for his bride, fixed by a friend, he fell for what he thought was a lady with no means. The question is can he go through with the arranged marriage, knowing he has found the love of his life

There were definitely Cinderella accents to the story: A young woman who was born a lady but is being treated as a maid, "glass" slippers, small animal friends (dogs instead of mice), a mean step-mother (but the step-sister was sweet and kind-hearted), a loving godmother (not a fairy), and a prince who is hosting a ball. Other than that, the story is completely different from the traditional Cinderella tale. Kate's father died and left everything to her step-mother. The step-mother has taken it all and turned it into a large dowry for her own natural daughter, leaving Kate with no hope of a high marriage. At 23, Kate is nearing spinsterhood. Her days are spent working, her hands are callused, and her clothes are threadbare. When Kate's step-sister hopes to marry the cousin of a prince, she is required to meet and be approved by the prince before the nuptials can take place. Kate's sister suffers a dog bite to the lip and refuses to meet the prince with such a blemish. Kate's step-mother forces her to disguise herself as her step-sis and meet the prince in her place. (This is rather ridiculous, because she will be spending days with people who have met step-sis before... yet they expect no one to notice.) The prince is holding a ball to introduce his arranged bride, a princess

from Russia. He meets his nephew's "fiance" and finds himself a bit enchanted by the woman. She is the first single young female to not be wowed by his greatness. First, she is an annoyance. Later, he finds himself infatuated. Still, he is duty bound to marry the Russian princess. Kate and the prince are falling in love, but both know there is no hope for a future together. Overall, the story was a very sweet and old-fashioned romance. I found that it kept me interested, even despite two things that didn't work for me: 1. It was stretching a bit to have Kate pretend to be a sister she looks nothing like. Even more so to have her come back into society later as herself and no one notices it's the same woman. Her only disguise: wigs that she wore while pretending to be her sister. The two women had completely different body types, skin colors, and faces... but no one noticed? OK... I'll chalk that off as "fairytale" creative license. I really prefer a story that I can "believe", but for some reason it didn't bother me as much with this book. 2. The prince was a bit of a jerk. He used Kate for physical pleasure, all the while planning to marry another woman whom he was expecting to arrive at his castle in a couple of days. I found it hard to feel badly for his breaking heart when he acted so dishonorably. Also, the prince I want to read about in a fairytale romance is a man who fights for his beloved against all odds. His reasons for choosing to marry the Russian princess were unselfish, but he didn't even try to find a way around it. Everyone else in his household put more effort into fixing the situation than he did. Not much of a "hero" to my way of thinking. So why 4 stars, despite these things that bothered me? I honestly can't figure that out myself. Something about the story just kept me hoping and reading.

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