



Beast of Stratton

Renee Blare

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He appears the beast, but she sees the man...

Architect Aimee Hart, determined to locate her father, infiltrates Miles Stratton's engineering firm as a secretary. Her presence wrenches the shaggy, wounded man from his penthouse, and the quest begins.

Betrayed by his best friend, Miles would rather hide than help, especially from the man's daughter. But something's not right. Someone's trying to destroy Stratton Industrial. A decorated war veteran, he's defended his own before and the Beast of Stratton can do it again.

Even with the enemy at his side.

Beast of Stratton Details

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Author : Renee Blare

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From Reader Review Beast of Stratton for online ebook

Gregory Brown says

The Beast of Stratton, written by Renee Blare, is a modern day twist of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale. Miles Stratton is the CEO of an engineering firm, Stratton Industrial, and a veteran of the Iraq war. He is suffering from mental and physical scars which have caused him to become a long-haired, bearded, recluse. His best friend and former employee, Stephen Hart, is missing and thought to have betrayed the company. Stephen's daughter, Aimee, infiltrates Stratton Industrial by working as a secretary, but she is really searching for clues about her father's whereabouts. While sneaking around the company's building at night, she is discovered by Miles. While questioning her, Aimee convinces him that her father would never betray him and that Stephen was truly missing. Miles and Aimee join forces in their quest to find her father and also to find out who is secretly trying to destroy Stratton Industrial.

This story is action packed and fast paced, with many twists and turns. I often found my heart racing, as I was eager to see what happened next. There is a strong message of faith, as the main characters, Miles and Aimee, pray to God throughout the story and see Him as in control of their circumstances. It also has the theme of forgiveness and a little romance. Something that enriches the story is the fact that Renee's writing style is lucid and picturesque. You can really imagine the scenes unfolding before you.

The Beast of Stratton is an engaging mystery. It is exciting and absolutely worth reading! I highly recommend it!

Becky Smith says

This was a captivating book with all of its twists and turns, suspense and mystery. One great line in it is: "Find your reason to live and hang on to it." But this line made me laugh: "Did he practice at being a jerk or was it a gift?" A GREAT, easy, and fun book to read for all who like suspense, mystery, and twists. I won a copy of this book on Facebook, and chose to leave my own honest review to encourage others to read this fun book.

Peggy Trotter says

Renee spins a tale of total intrigue! You'll be immersed in creeping through Miles Stratton's engineering firm with Aimee, who is determined to find her missing father. And discovers much more. Miles appears as an ogre, but everything is not as it seems. I love that this is based around a fairy tale. It gives you a structure of what the story is about, but spins you around unfamiliar twists and turns! It's a terrific read. Don't miss it

Susan Baganz says

Beauty and the Beast takes a modern twist. Miles is struggling with intense physical and emotional pain as a result of injuries suffered in the war. He's let his hair grow, making him look like the "beast of Stratton" everyone thinks he is. He was seeking treatment when an emergency called him back to his very successful business. Once there he encounters the daughter of his best friend. But is Aimee a spy like many suspect her father is, or can she be trusted to help ferret out the truth? Who has sold out his company? And can Miles overcome enough of the pain of his past to ditch his monster façade and the kind of man Aimee needs?

This is a novella but a fast ride. Author Renee Blare writes in a cryptic manner, not giving all the clues away to the mystery and fills the story with compassion and suspense. A delightful read.

Barbara Thompson says

Beast of Stratton is a modern writing of the fairy tale and it's a fantastic book. I was intrigued with the thrilling mystery and its surprising twists and turns. I love how the author added the romance into the storyline. I enjoyed Author Renee Blare's style of writing and how she was able to capture my attention from the beginning. I highly recommend reading Beast of Stratton by Author Renee Blare. Hopefully, we'll be able to read another book from this author soon. I'm looking forward to another book.

I received a complimentary copy from the author in exchange for my honest review. This review is one hundred percent my opinion.

Sharon McGregor says

Aimee goes undercover as a secretary to find her father and prove he didn't betray his friend and employer Miles Stratton. She is soon unmasked by Miles who has returned from a second tour of duty suffering from PTSD.

Together they follow a trail of clues to find Stephen Hart but discover an unexpected answer to the mystery. Now can Aimee find the man she knows lies underneath his "Beastly" exterior and have her fairy tale ending? And can Miles survive his burden of pain and guilt to become the man he knows she deserves? This story is full of twists and turns. It is fast paced and full of action. Don't miss a chance to get in on the action.

Rachel James says

I love the fairytale Beauty and the Beast, and this modern day twist of the story certainly does not disappoint! The novella is a good length, and I found myself turning the pages quickly to reach the end. It has suspense, romance, and a wonderful christian message interwoven that is not preachy or forced. Can't wait for more from Renee Blare.

polly debruin says

Finished Beast of Stratton. There is plenty of suspense and tender, clean romance, exciting, so many twists and turns and until the very end..

who, tell me who was responsible and why????

Enjoyed it very very much. If you haven't, Get it and READ IT!! This author's first book WILL NOT be her last!

Gina Burgess says

MY REVIEW

There is a lot in this story to like. At times the story whooshes along so fast you barely hear the railroad crossing warning before the train has passed. However, other times it moves really slow, but the prose is staccato like high heels clacking along a cement platform.

Character development is nicely done. You meet a young woman who has a mission to find out where her father is. You have to figure out that she's going undercover to the job where he was last seen. She's an architect, but is pretending to be a secretary (she was one a long time ago, so it's okay, she knows what to do). We get a good feel for Aimee, we know she's a firecracker, and that she's good at what she does. We also know that she loves her father AND she loves him for good reasons: He's faithful, true, honest, etc. so the characters are very believable.

I like the way we meet the Beast of Stratton; in your face and sort of growling. It's a long time into the story before you figure out what his problem is, and why he's so grumpy. There is one character, I think it's one character who is usually called Ian, but something Sebastian. That part was very confusing, so I'll tell you that he's the head of security and he really is a good guy.

About style...

Blare makes a lot of points in the narrative without a lot of care that the reader truly understands what is going on. I get this kind of writing because I wrote this way a long time ago. It's to be efficient with words so that the words carry a lot of impact. However, the word economy here is very distracting to the storyline. The reader has to waste time trying to figure out exactly what is going on, and sometimes who is doing the action. That dams up the story flow, and can actually keep the reader from enjoying the suspense. This is the fault of the editor mostly, not the author. Authors tend to get caught up in story telling and frequently we leave out words and sentences because our brains are working faster than we can type. The editor on the other hand must make sure the story flows fluidly so the reader can shoot the rapids as well as savor the deep, quiet waters. That is what makes a good story a great novel.

Dialogue needs some work as well. Sometimes it's hard to tell who is talking to whom. Although, what the characters say to each other is believable.

For the ending to have the kind of huge impact that I know the author is going for, more time should have been spent on the mother. It's great what happens in the end, but frankly I didn't get to know the mother so I really didn't care if she was forgiven or not. Maybe you will feel differently about it. Maybe I'm just getting

old and I don't like the sound of high heels walking across a concrete platform. I like the sound of steady rain on the roof, and splashes of puddles, and white water rivers because it's all going somewhere with a purpose that is clearly discerned.

I *liked* the book. It is interesting and a very good premise, so I give it 3 stars out of 5.

Victoria says

Wounded and suffering from PTSD, the beast, Miles Stratton comes home to find his architectural firm in shambles seemingly destroyed by his best friend, Stephen, who is missing.

When everyone appears to be against Miles, a new employee, Aimee is caught after hours trying to crack the computer system. He recognizes her as Stephen's daughter, and she struggles to make Miles believe she's not trying to do further damage to his company. He and Aimee, along with the chief of security, Ian, go to her home to recover the clues left by her father when a more sinister plot unravels their plans.

Fast paced and interesting the twist and turns of the plot make this a fast read. The characters are well developed and the story unfolds into one of heartfelt reclamation from the real beast that holds the main character.

Kari Trumbo says

Miles has just arrived home from two tours on foreign soil to find his company has been hit by industrial espionage. The daughter of their main suspect shows up under an alias and Miles must decide if she is telling the truth...or is a traitor like her father.

This book is a gripping tale that is not one you can put down and come back to a week later. You will lose what has been happening and the pace of the whole book will be thrown off. It is face-paced and meant to be read in as little time as you can. After the first 50 pages, I thought this was a play on Beauty and the Beast, but after those pages, it loses the similarity. It is edgy and current. A great read if you are looking for a suspenseful read with romance as well. In fact, I couldn't tell if I was reading a suspense novel or a romance, so well are they laced together.

Lee Carver says

"Beast of Stratton" is written with high emotion and dark mystery. Moods fluctuate dramatically within scenes. The industrial intrigue plot involves a missing senior employee, his beautiful daughter, and a wounded veteran of Iraq. The take-away passages are well done. This is a quick read with a well-resolved ending.

Natalie Vellacott says

I read this through in one sitting for the "Christian Books Only Review Group" and only lost interest in the last few chapters which were a bit laboured.

This is an unusual story attempting to deal with some of the issues of PTSD as a result of serving in the armed forces. I thought the romance that developed between two of the main characters was a bit unlikely but I still wanted to see how it turned out. I think more needed to be said about some of the fringe characters at the beginning of the book because when they appeared dramatically in important roles towards the end I found myself struggling to remember who they were.

Basically a good CLEAN read. Recommended.

Daphne Self says

A true romance written with overtones of Beauty and the Beast.

When I say 'true romance', I am meaning that this book is reminiscent of the older stories from the 80s and 90s. The love story of the Harlequin romances, but the cleanliness of the Love Inspired line combined with Renee Blare's unique writing style gives a pure, romantic tale that also gives an accurate insight into PTSD.

Fast-paced, and heart-thumping, the action flows from one scene to another. If I had to find one flaw that stood out, it is that the book could be longer, have a little more description and scenes added, and the transitions from one action to another smoothed into narrative that's less jarring at some points within the story. But that is a style preference.

Otherwise, when a reader opens the book they fall immediately into the story and action. As they read, the story unfolds bit by bit. There are no unnecessary backstories thrown in. There are no long, descriptive narrative that bogs down the reading. What the reader experiences is an escape into a love story and a reading adventure.

Aimee is portrayed as a strong and yet godly woman. Miles, who cannot love a man like him?, is the tortured soul who finds a breath of new life because of Aimee. I loved their interaction.

Beast of Stratton is a modern day Beauty and the Beast story with a suspenseful twist and one that will delight true romance readers.

Cindy says

The Beast of Stratton by Renee Blare is a story about CEO Miles Stratton working to find the traitor of his company, Stratton Industrial. Miles discovers his best friend, Stephen Hart, has left Stratton Industrial and gone to work for the competition. When Stephen left, he took his team of employees and some design plans with him. He has now disappeared. Stephen's daughter, Aimee, begins work as a secretary at Stratton Industrial, hoping to find her father and the truth of the betrayal. Miles is also dealing with PTSD from a helicopter crash in Iraq that only he survived.

I really wanted to like this book. Many aspects of the book appealed to me: the mystery and suspense involved in tracking down a suspected traitor, a war hero finding love upon his return home, a daughter desperately determined to clear her father's name. The first part of the book was interesting and built suspense about the betrayal. However, after reading several more pages, I became more confused about what was happening. As I continued to read, I found myself flipping back pages, wondering if I had accidentally advanced more than one page in my ereader. I re-read passages, hoping I would get a better understanding of what was happening. While this helped to a certain degree, the book just did not flow well, in my opinion. I struggled to follow the storyline. The story had great potential, but it could use some smoothing out and some clarification.

I received a copy of this book through The Book Club Network in exchange for my honest review.
