

The Unwanted Assistant

Evangeline Kelly

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An Inspirational Christian Romance. A Modern-Day Beauty and the Beast Novel.

What if you fell in love with the same man who wanted to fire you?

Billionaire Sawyer Drake made it abundantly obvious he didn't want an assistant. Traumatized by a fatal accident, he stayed to himself, shunned human contact, and would rather die than open up to another person—much less a beautiful college woman. His inner wounds ran deeper than the scars on his face.

When Ivy Wolfe ran away to Alabama to nurse a broken heart, the last thing she expected was to fall in love again. She needed a job to support her college expenses, and even though the salary for an assistant position in the home of a billionaire appeared too good to be true, she ignored the red flags and charged ahead.

With insecurities of her own to overcome, she found working for a self-absorbed recluse much harder than she anticipated. Determined to get through to Sawyer, Ivy wrote a letter that would change the course of their relationship.

But finding love with Sawyer was like playing with fire. Would she regret the day she hired on as his assistant? Or would she find the love of her life?

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The Unwanted Assistant Details

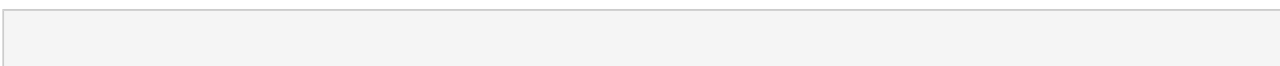
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From Reader Review The Unwanted Assistant for online ebook

Melissa says

Heavy on the Christian element this was a Beauty and the Beast retelling. It was a little too depressing and weak of character for me. These two were a mess at the beginning. He was so mean and nasty I almost stopped reading. She was so pathetic and lost she allowed him to treat her like that, believing in the beginning that that is the Christian thing, was to allow his abuse. What redeemed this was that there was no quick fix to all this and I am glad that it took time. The beginning just took too long and drug out a bad situation. So I gave this 2 stars for a couple reasons, I don't want to read anything else by this author, just not my style. I almost put the book down because I was so annoyed. I started skimming over parts because of repetition of characters thoughts.

Anna Swedenmom says

***** BUY BUY BUY BUY BUY.--.....*****

If any book deserves five stars and more it would be this book. It has life, love, adventure, passion, lessons and heart. From page one to the final page I was riveted as well as enthralled by the writing. The story is one that touches every part of humanism, from love and joy and lessons in life, to understanding compassion and learning. Each part of my heart was totally captivated by the writing as it unfolded. This author deserves the title of Superb Writer. A wonderful gift that is given to her readers shows in each and every word that is written within this novel. It is a novel that is a keeper and will be reread many times through the years. One that gives the reader thought, joy, heart warming moments, smiles and some laughter and tears. I was so captivated by this superb story that I forgot the world and just buried myself in the book.

I emerged from reading and found a day had passed with me only stopping to have some food and go back to reading the book. I was amazed that I had totally withdrawn from all around me and missed many things happening..... I can only tell you that this book is worth reading and worth keeping. I was given an ARC of this book. However, I voluntarily write this review for it is definitely a read that is worth buying! Regards, Anna Swedenmom

Diane says

The Unwanted Assistant is a clean inspirational love story that captured my attention from the first page. Beauty and the Beast is a favorite fairytale of mine, so I was drawn to this book because of the parallel theme. Evangeline Kelly writes an emotional page turner that I didn't want to end. This novel is set in modern day and stunningly navigates the tumultuous relationship between Sawyer and Ivy. While there is a bit of fairytale woven into this story, the author writes a poignant heartfelt testament to this messy journey called life. She tackles the difficult topics of suffering, grief, betrayal, and loss with truth and points the reader to the only One who can heal our wounds. God's love seeps out from the pages, enveloping the reader. Although a work of fiction this book offers an intimate encounter with our loving God.

J. W. Garrett says

“I think this life is hard without assistance from others.” –RuPaul

I love a Beauty and the Beast story and The Unwanted Assistant was a variation along that theme. Ivy Wolfe needed a job. Her parents were in financial trouble due to an accident that temporarily side-lined her father from work. Ivy, a college student, was now forced to support herself as her parents were not able to help her. Wealthy Sawyer Drake had secluded himself after a horrific accident killed his parents, a younger brother and left him horribly scarred. Forced to hire an assistant... Ivy's and Sawyer's personalities were oil and water. Yep, we had the perfect formula for a B&B story.

This is a faith-based story [Christian]. Readers should be prepared to encounter people of faith attending church, quoting scriptures, praying for each other, seeking guidance from a higher power and having that inner dialogue with their God. Characters discuss their beliefs, how they came to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior [being saved] and sharing that information with each other. It is a normal conversation between friends of the faith and is not out of line within the constraints of this story.

I liked the characters, they were believable... to a degree. Their resolving their differences got on my last nerve in their treatment of each other. It was like the pendulum went too far in its extremes. I found it hard to hear characters acknowledge loving each other and yet refusing to yield to that love. There was a cognitive dissonance where we had the extremes on both sides. In fact, they discussed cognitive dissonance in the story. I found that rather comical that they were doing the same thing.

“None of us got to where we are alone. Whether the assistance we received was obvious or subtle, acknowledging someone's help is a big part of understanding the importance of saying thank you.” –Harvey Mackay

Our HEA was hard fought and I thought it took way too long to get there. Other than that, I loved the story. The author was especially descriptive of the University of Alabama, the glory of the southern architecture, the flora and the visual descriptions made me want to immediately travel there. It was a visual smorgasbord for the senses.

On another note, for those who are Jane Austen fans and love JAFF [Jane Austen Fan Fiction], there was an Austen reference to her books and especially one toward matchmaking and the book Emma. I found that a delightful gem.

I received a free copy of this book. After reading it, I wish to recommend it to my friends and fellow readers. This review is my honest opinion and I hope it prompts others to read it. The publication is expected in early March 2018.

R.J. Rodda says

This is a very Christian modern day Beauty and the Beast, where, interestingly the Beast is a Christian but very much struggling with how he looks and the wrong things he has done in the past. He has isolated himself from the public but his father-figure friend demands he hire a companion. Enter Beauty, a financially challenged young lady who has just been cruelly dumped by her boyfriend.

I think my favourite part of this was the differing perceptions of the MCs. He saw himself as hideously scarred so that no woman could possibly love him, but she sees an incredibly handsome man who is very fit and she even thinks the burned part of his face gives him distinction and makes him striking to look at. Likewise she thinks she is not skinny enough to be beautiful, but he sees her as beautiful.

Judybelle says

This is my first book to read by this author and I'm sure it will not be the last one. Kelly is an excellent writer and the plot was somewhat different as it was something like Beauty and the Beast..... A billionaire whose face was burned in an auto accident five years ago has become a recluse. He lost his parents and younger brother in the accident. Sawyer has scars on his face, but worse, he has scars on the inside. He feels that the only way to survive is to keep people at arm's length. He has become a hateful individual who uses his tongue as a knife, wounding everyone who tries to reach out to him. Then in walks Ivy, who is devastated by him, yet is attracted to him and she refuses to give up.. Her kindness melted the wall he had erected around himself. This is such a good read. I was given this e-book and I am happy to leave a review.

Chandra says

SENSUALITY RATING: NO Profanity; NO sexual encounters

GENRE: Modern day; INSPIRATIONAL Romance

SETTING: Tuscaloosa Alabama

CENTRAL FEMALE CHARACTER: IVY -compassionate, unsure of relationships, has a hard time not allowing people to run over her.

CENTRAL MALE CHARACTER: SAWYER – loner, fowl temper, grieves, feels sorry for himself.

SYNOPSIS: She moved from California to attend the University of Alabama. She tried to put a relationship behind her. He had moved to Alabama years ago from Colorado. He had to get away from the memories of his family. They were both faithful Christians, but he chose to live as a hermit and pushed everyone away. She just needed a job to get her through college and expenses.

WHAT I LIKED: Relating scriptures to event in the story.

WHAT I DID NOT LIKE: COVER. Did not represent the main character. Very mis-leading.

Debi Lantzer says

Back at the end of February this year, I was contacted by author, Evangeline Kelly because I am a top reviewer on Amazon. It actually happens often, folks wanting to know if I had any interest in reading her book, The Unwanted Assistant, which was due to be released in March of this year. It seemed interesting

enough, I said yes, and downloaded the book.

The heroine of this story is Ivy Wolfe, who struggles with her weight and tends to be a bit overweight. Her boyfriend, Austin, dumps her to be with her beautiful and skinny friend, Tina. Not surprisingly, this event shatters Ivy's what little self-confidence Ivy has so she decides to move to Alabama. She reunites with her friend Sammie and she plans to attend college there so she can get away from everything reminding her of her bad memories of California. Once in Alabama, Ivy knows she needs to find a job to meet her living expenses because her family doesn't have a lot of money.

Wealthy Sawyer Drake has been a total recluse for the past five years following a car accident he was in along with the rest of his family. The only time he leaves the house is to go to church. Sawyer was the only survivor suffering only some facial scarring but the guilt he carries from surviving is his even deeper scar. Sawyer has help from Hayden Jeffries managing his inherited businesses and keeping them running successfully. He also provides Sawyer with some companionship but he's older and he's spent. Although he doesn't want to hire anyone else, Hayden gives Sawyer an ultimatum to hire someone else to help lighten the load.

It's Ivy that answers the ad, and then she gets the job. Of course Sawyer doesn't even want her there so he's rude to her. Because the job pays well, Ivy sticks it out praying that she will find a way to connect.

Both Sawyer and Ivy need to stop seeing themselves as unlovable and to make brave choices. It lays on the preaching too thick in places, but it's still a moving story.

This is a wonderful story about faith and the power of love. I loved how the characters trusted in God and were able to grow by doing so. Ms. Kelly does a great job in pulling readers in and caring about what happens to Sawyer and Ivy.

I received a free copy of this book, but was not required to review it and I was not paid for it. I chose to post a review because I liked the book.

Sherri says

This is a modern day retelling of The Beauty and the Beast. The author does a good job of showing the difficulty Sawyer has dealing with the death of his family. He deals with grief, guilt, and anger at the path his life has traveled. Many of us want to hide from the world when difficulties arise. Sawyer's wealth gives him that capability which most of us don't have and he takes advantage of it. Ivy arrives on the scene and things start to change. She disrupts his sheltered life and challenges his need to put up walls around himself. I thought the book did an excellent job of weaving the characters strong faith into the story. It might have benefited from a little more editing as it seemed a little repetitious at times but it was a good story over all.

Stox4story says

Fear Is a Destroyer ... Choose Wisely

Fear has a way of gripping our hearts and changing our lives. Evangeline Kelly brings this truth forward,

front and center, in *The Unwanted Assistant*. This book captured my interest in the first few paragraphs. I knew it would be heart wrenching, I knew it would be revealing. And it was. We are lead page by page on a journey of discovery. A journey that reveals just how gripping fear is and how our choices are influenced because of our fears. The lead characters, Ivy and Sawyer, are a good example of that. They allowed fear, guilt and insecurities control their lives and made life changing decisions because of this. The way to freedom can be costly but Ivy and Sawyer had a faith that refused to allow them to take the wrong road. Yes, they steered off the path many times, but kept on the main road to their healing, their freedom.

I must admit, there were times I became frustrated with Ivy. It was easier for me to understand Sawyer and his fear, guilt. I felt badly for Ivy, especially in the beginning. However, later in the book, I felt like she needed to practice what she preached, so to speak. I do understand why she convinced herself to make certain choices. She built up walls for self-protection.. She was afraid of being hurt.... again. However, to me, she was 'teaching one thing, but doing another'. Basically she reversed roles. Instead of being the teacher, she became the student.... and a bad student at that. So, it was good seeing just how she overcomes.

Unfortunately, others in the book took the wrong fork in the road. Austin and Tina seemed heartless. They were selfish and cared only for themselves. I would love a sequel here. All the characters in *The Unwanted Assistant* were church goers. They sit in the same pews, listen to the same messages, but lived very different lives. While Ivy and Sawyer allowed fear, guilt and insecurities to plague their lives, Austin and Tina allowed pride, arrogance, self centeredness and self-righteousness rule them. The sad part is, they didn't care who they harmed. They both played a big role in Ivy's pain and insecurities. Austin seemed to believe he was God's gift to women and Ivy should be grateful he was her cheating boyfriend. He kept belittling Ivy and tried to control her while telling her she would never find anyone else. I'd love to see Austin when he learns of Ivy's future without him. I would love to read more about that journey....

What do Austin and Tina have to experience to see themselves for who they are? Do they ever have to face themselves and change or do they keep on their same deceptive paths, ignoring the pain they cause others? Ivy and Sawyer allowed their faith to guide them. Will Austin and Tina eventually do the same? Will they see the errors of their way and allow their faith to be in the God they hear about while sitting in those pews? Will they ever desire to change? It's all about choices. I'd love to read more. We followed the heart wrenching story of Ivy and Sawyer and how they come to make the choices they did. I'd love to see more about Austin and Tina. I'd love to see how life and choices come into play in their lives and if they ever choose another path, another fork in the road to their journey's end. They each could use their own book, their own story revealing the choices they make and how they are affected by them.

Debbie Brown says

Ivy Wolfe, the heroine of this story, is described as a bit overweight rather than willowy thin. Her boyfriend, Austin, dumped her in favor of her skinny, beautiful friend, Tina, leaving Ivy's self-confidence shattered. She moves to Alabama to attend college, reunite with her good friend Sammie, and get far away from her California memories. Ivy's family doesn't have a lot of money, so she needs a job to meet all her living expenses.

Sawyer Drake is a very wealthy young man who's been a total recluse for the past five years, starting when the rest of his family died in a car wreck. The accident left him with some scarring on his face, but the deeper problem is the survivor's guilt that he carries.

Hayden Jeffries has been looking out for him, including both managing the successful businesses Sawyer inherited and providing companionship, but he's an older man who is stretched to his limit. He insists that Sawyer hire someone else to spend time with in order to lighten Hayden's load. Sawyer doesn't want to, but Sawyer's ultimatum gives him no choice.

Ivy answers the ad and gets the job. Sawyer is rude and churlish, doing his best to make her quit since he doesn't want her there. However, it pays very well, and Ivy prays she'll find some way to reach him.

What both these damaged souls have is a deep Christian faith. They attend the same church (that's the only time Sawyer leaves his home, though he sits alone in the rear of the balcony without speaking to anyone), pray often, and can quote Scripture, including chapter and verse.

This is a nice Christian romance with some elements of Beauty and the Beast about it. The writing seems to be aimed toward young adults. There's more than one moral to this story. Both Sawyer and Ivy need to stop seeing themselves as unlovable and to make brave choices. It lays on the preaching too thick in places, but it's still a moving story.

Amy Koster says

A fun retelling of my favorite fairy tale Beauty and the Beast. The Unwanted Assistant does not disappoint. An excellent book I could not put down. This story has it all. Ivy is a sweet girl looking to make a fresh start. I love she takes on her boss at full steam even though she struggles with her own insecurities. She has a great personality. I honestly loved Sawyer. I probably loved him more than Ivy. He cracked me up with his brutal honesty and crankiness. He is a tormented man who desperately needs someone to love and accept him.

This was my first book from this author. It is very well-written and you will not be able to put it down. I highly recommend it.

*Please note I received a complimentary copy. All opinions expressed are my own.

Jaycee Weaver says

Excellent retelling

This Beauty has body image issues, but a kind, Christlike heart. This Beast has scars and a surly temper, but buried deep within is a man with the capacity for love and laughter if only she can set him free. This captivating retelling had me enthralled from start to finish and was very hard to put down! Well written, well edited, and highly recommended.

Rebekah says

Struggled a bit with this one

I liked this book. I really liked the story overall. However, the end just seemed to have too much drama for me. There were just lots of "I love you but I'm afraid" and "I love you but I'm too ugly for you" and "I love you but I don't think I can trust you agin." Anyway, the drama build up at the end just felt a touch overboard and really made me crazy. There are also quite a few editing errors. Again, the premise of the story is good and the characters are real. I loved that Ivy was so human and normal--with both her appearance and dialogue.

Content: Clean

Language: Clean

Religious: This is a very religious book. A lot of the dialogue discusses scriptures and Christianity. The characters all talk about Bible study and Jesus.

Happy reading!

Charissa says

This Christian contemporary romance features Sawyer, a reclusive rich kid who is the CEO of a hotel empire, and Ivy. Sawyer lost his parents and brother in a car accident five years ago. The same accident left him scarred from burns on his face. He hasn't left his mansion ever since. His mentor, an older man who is like a second father to him, wants him to make an effort to live life again, but Sawyer refuses. When Hayden threatens to quit running his company for him, Sawyer caves to his demands, which are that he hire an assistant so he gets personal interaction with a human being besides him each day.

Ivy has just been dumped from a two year relationship when her boyfriend cheats and chooses another woman instead of her. Sensitive about her weight, she doesn't think anyone will ever love her for who she is. She moves to Alabama to go to school and escape memories. When she sees an ad for an assistant, the high pay draws her in since she's helping her parents out still. But when she meets Sawyer and he practically yells at her, she is ready to leave. But Hayden convinces her to stay and work for Sawyer. He also convinces Sawyer to give the girl two months before he fires her. As the unwanted assistant, Ivy begins trying to find a way into this horribly rude man's life, and when she glimpses his vulnerability, she understands his gruffness is all a façade hiding the kind man underneath.

This story is a modern twist on the Beauty and the Beast theme. It's fun, inspiring with Bible quotes and passages, and has lots of heart-tugging drama. First, we see-saw back and forth with Sawyer, later with Ivy. The story kept me engaged the whole time and had good pacing. I really enjoyed it and liked the ending too.
