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H.M. Ward

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From Reader Review Stone Prison for online ebook

Natalia Paez says

My rating for this book is 2.0 stars.

La historia te mantiene confundida en todo momento, aunque es cruel y un poco macabra, se siente la intención de destacar sobre cualquier historia de brujería. No es la típica historia de felices para siempre, no es la típica historia de misterio... más bien la llamaría un cuento de terror para niños.

Es realmente curioso todo el concepto de la brujas devoradoras de corazones, que su magia provenga de el corazón de un inocente que es muy amado, pues como que tiene sus múltiples interpretaciones, cada quien puede darle sentido a toda la historia de diferente manera.

Parece que habrá una continuación o así se insinúa, pero no se con el final me parece que no tuvo un cierre completo y tampoco fue un buen y llamativo final, así que...

Krista says

The characters in the book make you feel like you are cheering them on as Ella is trapped in her Stone Prison, you want her to get out. You are cheering "RUN", then like a mirror broken into a thousand bits of glass! Everything shatters your perception of how things are. This book took me on a wild ride. Loved it. Loved the imagery with how things are changed, for example a snake is quickly turned into a beautiful silk gown with such little effort on the witches part. Beautiful yet so dark at the same time.

Joanna says

Amazingly horrific!!

I liked this book even though it was a very short read.

Ella, being a toddler at the time, witnesses the heinous murder of her father, and is kidnapped by the woman who commits the crime. She is taken and held in a stone tower for 15 years, and on the eve of her 17th birthday discovers something that makes her skin crawl!

Off to the prince's ball where he will pick his bride, Ella is burdened by what she must do, and what is her inevitable fate!

This book is a mix of Brothers Grimm, meets Cinderella, meets Rapunzel. Very interesting, looking forward to more tales in this series, and hoping for longer, slightly more in depth stories!

Madeline says

First, I'll note that I would have given this 5 stars, except I thought it was a bit too short, that's the only reason. This was different than what I normally read, but I loved it! Great short story. It was well written, and dark and as stated in part of the title: Twisted Tale. I enjoyed every chapter, and kept reading hoping to

find out more about Ella and the witch. DID NOT expect it to end the way it did. Towards the end I really, really, wanted Ella and the Prince to have their 'Happy Ending'...well you are NOT going to find one in this dark tale! Looking forward to more from this author. =)

Sol Belenda says

Tal como lo dice la sinopsis, esta mini-historia es básicamente un cuento de hadas pero la versión de terror y bastante sangriento.

La protagonista supuestamente recuerda con sumo detalle el día en que la bruja asesinó a su padre y se la llevó para encerrarla en la torre -eso me pareció poco creíble, pero bue-. Desde entonces vive allí y sólo se le permite salir una vez por año, pero siempre debe volver antes de que el reloj marque las doce.

Cuando Ella está por cumplir los 18 años, la bruja le encarga la "gran" misión: enamorar al príncipe y llevarlo a los jardines para que ella le arranque su corazón. Pero ella no quiere eso, ya que está enamorada de él, así que buscará la manera de salvar a su amado.....sin saber, que quizás ella misma sea el mayor peligro.

Desde ya les aclaro que no hay un final feliz, pero sí es un final de terror cuya moraleja se asemeja -oh hice una rima jajajaj- a la de la historia que todos conocemos....o por lo menos eso es lo que me pareció.

Me gustó.

Yianna Yiannacou says

A Cinderella story gone dark. I really liked this short story yet it made me a little bit sad. It was written beautifully and even though you know what is going to happen, you have to keep reading because there are twists to this story. The fairy godmother isn't so godly. The stroke of midnight isn't as it seems and the glass slippers prove to be used for different purposes rather than leaving behind as a clue to who the maiden is.

I definitely recommend this story if you are looking for a fairy tale with a not so happily ever after ending. Enjoy!

Heather Marie says

I don't want to give away the tale that was depicted in Stone Prison, but I will tell you that the story was simply dark and beautiful. Absolutely loved the unique outlook on this fairy tale and became completely engrossed in the idea and characters. Love love love it!!!

Adrienne De Veyra says

Stone Prison was so hauntingly and twistedly beautiful. I was actually gonna give this a 5 star but is was just

too short. It's like those fairy tales; specifically a mix of Rapunzel and Cinderella with a dash of a nightmare you would not want for yourself. The characters are great, Ella and Prince Phillip's romance was okay. I was completely engrossed with the book therefore I finished it really fast. The end was...I don't want to be a spoiler though, I really really waited for Happy Ending to come... But it seems the book did live up to its name 'Twisted Tales'.

Lark says

This is a dark fairy tale. A twisted tale, if you will. A Grimm tale that takes the happily ever after and crushes it with power and bloodlust and magic.

But honestly, it's not that great of a story because of its length and therefore its character development. It's barely okay as a short story, but that's only because the reader already knows the premise of the entire plot and is reading the tale more for the difference and the ending and the darkness rather than the story alone.

You see, Ward is cheating a bit because she doesn't actually give her characters personality. I don't feel like I know these people, even though there are really only three characters in the whole story. Their actions are unbelievable, unknown.

-mild spoilers-

I don't understand why Ella would hold that anger from two years old all the way up until she was grown up. There isn't enough detail, not enough thought behind the actions.

Same with the witch. She has not become real on paper with the scant amount of detail there.

The love is unbelievable. As if the two could really fall in love from one day each year. Or rather, it could have been possible, but the story hardly makes it seem possible.

The only redeeming factor of this short story is the ending - because that's what we're reading it for anyway. We already know the story of Cinderella. We are just reading it for the dark, dark ending.

H.M. Ward hardly does justice to re-imagining the story of Cinderella except for the ending.

But that last line was beautiful.

Two stars because it was only okay. Not great, but redeemed and given an extra star because of the ending. If you get your hands on it, you might as well read it because it's so short. But I wouldn't really go out and recommend it to anyone. I've read better non-published dark fairy tales than this one, to be honest.

Sharrice says

This book was one of the most disturbing and shocking books of my life. I have no words other than a giant fat EW EW EW EW!!!!

Sarymil says

First and foremost, I loved it!! For a dark gothic tale short story, it kept me wanting to know more of the characters.

This was a quick and easy read that had me on pins and needles the entire time I was reading it. In true, typical, H.M. Ward writing, she throws some twists and turns that you don't even see coming. At first I thought the story was going in one direction, and WHAM, I got hit with a 180-degree turn that took me somewhere else completely unexpected.

If you are into fairy tales with a HEA, be prepared for what comes on this gothic tale! If you are a faint at heart, definitely be prepared for the ending. It is not what you expect AT ALL!!

Samar says

Who is not fond of fairy tales with a tragic, twisted end? Who is not fond of the dilemma involving the inevitability of one's past and blood and roots which seal our doom? This short story is a promising effort brought forward by a writer whose other YA paranormal fiction I could not quite appreciate.

Conny says

WOW I so love these kinda short stories !!

Mike J says

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I picked this up after finishing the author's Demon Kissed series without really knowing what to expect... Short stories can be hit or miss, and here the author was starting from scratch with a new world and new characters - and it worked beautifully.

As a short story, I'm reluctant to give much away. The author does a lot within the 10,000 words she's given us, and it seems silly to write just as many in order to say how much I enjoyed it. This is a fairy tale. Not in the spirit of Disney, but of Grimm. And that's probably the best comparison, since I can't think of any other contemporary writer doing anything similar. In Grimm's Cinderella there's bloodshed and self-mutilation before you get to the happily ever after. Ward is easily as dark and twisted. And the reader will take a perverse pleasure in exploring the twists and turns that lead into the darkness.

A must read, but not for the light of heart and not before bed. I'll look forward to the next "Twisted Tale."

Jane Blake says

Wow... eso es todo lo que puedo decir. Ame esta historia y la leí en apenas un par de horas. La ambientación es oscura y la trama tiene unos giros muy interesantes.

Quizas me habría gustado que fuera un poco mas largo para lograr conocer mejor a los personajes, la historia de amor y tambien un poco mas el trasfondo de la historia ya que es una mezcla de Rapunzel y la Cenicienta pero en un entorno que puede parecer muy diferente y donde la heroína no es del todo buena.

Soy una persona a la que le gustan los finales diferentes, que no se pueden prevenir facilmente. Esta historia tiene todo para gustarme y el final para nada feliz, fue lo que me llevo a darle esta calificación.
