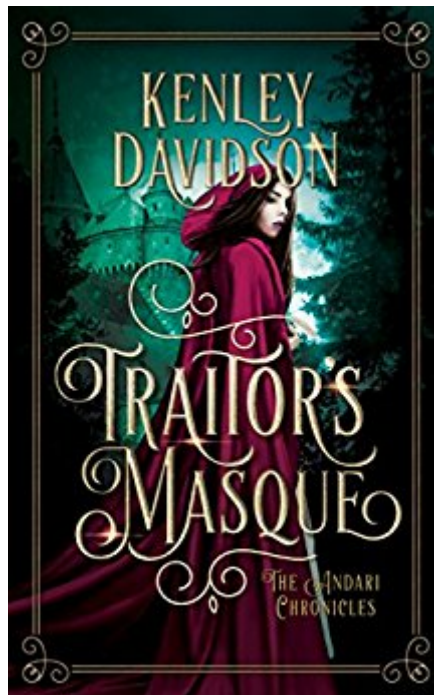




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Traitor's Masque: A Reimagining Of Cinderella (The Andari Chronicles Book 1)



Synopsis

A breathtaking fantasy romance inspired by Cinderella – Trystan spends her days in bleak isolation, with little hope that she will ever be free from her stepmother's cruel whims. When a wealthy and influential neighbor offers her both a fortune and her freedom, Trystan must decide whether to pay the price. Who is she willing to betray in order to gain her independence? What is she willing to sacrifice in order to pursue her forbidden relationship with the compelling young man whose face haunts her dreams? Trapped between the desire for love and the fate of her kingdom, Trystan attends the glittering Royal Masque, where she learns that her actions may have betrayed her prince, and thrust them both into a nightmare of conspiracy and deception. If she is to have any hope of redemption, Trystan must escape a dangerous web of duplicity, espionage and intrigue, though she may be forced to sacrifice her own happy ending to prevent her kingdom from falling into the hands of a ruthless adversary. An unforgettable tale of romance, intrigue and suspense, *Traitor's Masque* is the first book of the Andari Chronicles, a series of interconnected but stand-alone fairy tale retellings. Recommended Reading Order: *Traitor's Masque*, *Goldheart*, *Pirouette*, *Shadow and Thorn*

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Customer Reviews

I stumbled on this book entirely by chance when it was free, and ended up tearing through it in two days and loving it! Fairytale retellings as a genre have really grown on me lately. But once I got well into TRAITOR'S MASQUE, I found myself paying less attention to the retelling aspect and simply enjoying it as a good story. It takes some of the key elements of Cinderella — an unkind stepmother, a prince, an important ball, an errant slipper — and uses them as the jumping-off points for an original story full of intrigue, emotion and suspense. I suppose one must technically call it fantasy, as it takes place in an imaginary kingdom/world, though there's no actual magic in the story. Had it been set in an imaginary European country I'd call it almost Ruritanian, with its themes of political intrigue — and that's largely what makes it so enjoyable. The kingdom of Andar is simmering with unrest over the issue of succession, with the scandal-plagued eldest prince having been disinherited in favor of his steadier younger brother, Prince Ramsey. The story's heroine, Trystan Colbourne (I admit, the one thing I never could quite get used to was her name; even with the different spelling it seems more like a boy's name to me) is offered a chance at escaping her stepmother's persecution in exchange for performing an apparently simple task: attending a masked ball in disguise to receive a message from an unknown contact. But before the evening is over, Trystan begins to realize that she may be playing a part in something much more sinister than she ever stopped to consider. Another thing I liked is that the story squarely undercuts the insta-love aspect of the original fairytale by giving the hero and heroine a chance to meet and form a believable friendship early on — and then gives it a twist by making their unawareness of each other's real identity a major part of the plot's conflict later on. Both Trystan and Ramsey are well-developed, relatable characters with struggles of their own to work through — a Cinderella who's more prickly than sweet, and a prince who is seldom called handsome and is certainly not free from care. Elegantly and intelligently written, with sparkling dialogue a strong point; and filled out with a great cast of supporting characters (Kyril and Lizbet were among my favorites), TRAITOR'S MASQUE is sure to appeal to anyone who loves retellings, suspenseful tales of intrigue in imaginary kingdoms, and subtle but ultimately heartwarming romance.

This is an excellent loose retelling of Cinderella. Beautiful writing, and a well-fleshed-out story world.

I particularly enjoyed the hero--he truly made the book, in my opinion. Not your typical godlike, snarky action-hero--this prince has actual character. The heroine was appealing as well, and their interactions are fun. I also really enjoyed the side characters, although I would have enjoyed seeing more about a few of them. Fully intend to read more of this series!

I adored every second of this book. The surprising take on a classic fairy tale was beautifully written! It had wit, adventure, twists and turns, and sweet romance. One of my favorite things about this book was how raw and realistic the characters were. Davidson wonderfully painted a gorgeous and addicting tale that left me wanting more! Can't wait for her next installment!

I found it impossible to put this down once I started. I highly recommend this book! I'm curious about the other books in this series and Will probably get them.

Cinderella? Not as much as you would think. This is close enough to give you anticipation and yet different enough to surprise and intrigue you. I look forward to more from this author!

I loved the blend of fairy tale and places/people I could actually believe existed in the past. It was a refreshing look at what Cinderella would have lived like as a REAL, flesh, person. The intrigue around her prince and his kingdom, made this classic story perfect! Loved it.

Great story of love and intrigue. This is a beautiful story, Cinderella retold. I really, really enjoyed reading this story. Kenley Davidson did a wonderful job here with wicked stepmother and the snooty step sisters, with Prince charming to the rescue, with a twist that truly intrigues. This story is very well crafted, with a happy ending, for some that is. Oh yea, I was given this book free, with the promise to give an honest review. And my honest review is, that it is a five plus.

I've been reading a lot of the "reimagined" versions of the classic fairy tales and this is one of the best. Ms. Davidson has done a fantastic job with her story telling. I'm ready to start reading Goldheart (the 2nd book in this series) as soon as I finish this review!

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