



Twice the Temptation

Suzanne Enoch

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Two unforgettable tales. One dazzling diamond!

Summer 1814...

When Evangeline Munroe inherits the exquisite but supposedly cursed Nightshade Diamond, she considers it a bit of good fortune. Then she literally runs into Connoll Addison, Marquis of Rawley, the most sought after bachelor amongst the ton. Surely her immediate attraction to the rogue is bad luck. Could the diamond be more dangerous than she ever imagined?

Present...

Samantha Jellicoe thinks it's good luck that has her—a reformed cat burglar—providing security for a museum exhibit. Then she discovers the Nightshade Diamond, with an accompanying note that says the thing is cursed. Cursed indeed! How else to explain Scotland Yard breathing down her neck, the appearance of an ex-boyfriend, and her lover Rick Addison suddenly testing the boundaries of their relationship? She needs to unload the gem and soon, or she may lose her dreams forever.

Twice the Temptation Details

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Paraphrodite says

4 stars.

I really enjoyed how there are two stories - one from the regency era with Rick's multiple-times great-grandfather Connoll and then the present day with Sam and Rick... all to do with a cursed blue diamond necklace heirloom.

A fun read. (This book reminds me of J.D. Robb's Remember When, also a book with an interlinking storyline and missing diamonds.)

Vida X says

Dos novelas cortas y relacionadas en un solo libro. El inicio de la primera, en la regencia, un poco lento, pero después agarra algo de ritmo. Los personajes son interesantes, pero no tanto como Sam y Rick. La segunda en la época actual, se siente apresurada y poco profunda. Pero igual resulta entretenida, aunque termina muy rápido. Los conflictos entre los protagonistas siempre son los mismos y creo que empieza a ser repetitivo. Ojalá que el quinto y último mejore.

Fran says

3.5 Stars

Steve says

I'm rather conflicted by this book. It started with a back story which ended up requiring over 100 pages to tell, which first made me question why I was reading about these people and their choices, and then left me wanting to know more after the book transitioned to Rick and Sam. The two stories met, in a way, but still left me feeling cold. The climax was also rather predictable, as was the resolution.

Jessica says

Not the best of the series, although the first half/story was actually pretty wonderful! That's a 4 star endeavor.

The second half did not meet its promise. It recycled elements from the first 3 books -- the insider, hate with Donner -- and wasted Bryce, who could have been an interesting media for insight into Sam's past. The Rick-Sam arguments were also a little stale. I love that pair so much that I'm hoping for freshness in the last book!

Nitpicky: I was a little disappointed that Sam's gift was bought from Cartier without any history or story given their shared appreciation for context.

Hajira says

The story of Rick and Sam was too short otherwise great book like the rest the series

Jilly says

Why write one good story when you can write two mediocre ones?

I hear ya, depressed tiger. Never love anything. They will just eventually let you down.

This book is two novellas, which I admit have a cool connection - a cursed diamond necklace- but still, neither story was that great.

The first one was a historical romance and was ... fine. I guess.

The second one was in the now with Rick and Sam and it was kinda stupid. She was actually pretty unlikable in it. She not only acted pretty childish, petty, and unreasonable, but she let an ex boyfriend kiss her on the lips and hid it from Rick.

Kjen says

Another great Sam and Rick re-read about a cursed 16 million dollar diamond. I love the way their relationship has grown and strengthened. As always, the banter is snarky, their love is passionate, and the bad guys are always screwed. Rick is just such a 'basic' guy...it's constantly hilarious to me;) Reading these books are like spending time with old friends.

Maria says

Not my favorite...

Rhode says

I was so utterly APPALLED by the first half of the book, the part set in the 19th century, that I couldn't make myself read the rest.

The heroine is a 19 year old upper middle class woman seeking a husband on the marriage mart in Regency England. Anyone she marries will have 100% control over her future, her body, her property, herself. Wife beating is legal and there's no such thing as rape in marriage; drunkenness, adultery and crazy gambling losses are normal; and men can get away with spending all their wife's money. There's also basically no divorce. So, massive power imbalance.

On the advice of her mother, our heroine is attempting to cope with this scary situation by seeking a malleable man to marry - one who will be happy to let her be the boss. And that's ok to me. After all science tells us a certain percent of men and women are naturally wired to prefer that kind of relationship, even without the added enducement of avoiding being a potential abuser's legal slave.

Sadly, this is most certainly not a novel that allows a woman's need for control to be good or natural. Instead the author and her hero both see this as an unnatural, stifling and slightly sick situation. According to this book, there is absolutely no way she can be happy. And the only men who could ever ever put up with such a wife are incredibly unattractive - either very old and fat, or very young and stupid to the point of imbecility. Plus they are really bad kissers.

On top of that sexual role bigotry, I was appalled at how the hero decides to win the heroine -- with sex. Yes, actual sex. He figures if she gets her cherry popped by a real man, then she will let her fantasies of being in control go.

OMFG.

Really. There are no words.

Patti Ashley says

Fascinating story

At first I was not sure where Enoch was going with this book. The first half we get to meet Rick's ancestor and the fiery woman he decides to marry. The Nightshade diamond is her legacy passed down from an aunt. No one believes it is cursed, but strange things do occur.

The next half of the book jumps back to the present and our reformed thief finds the unlucky but spectacular gem. Of course she finds it in the middle of setting up a gem show on Rick's estate for the V&A museum. Old lovers, fear of diamonds, and loving Rick keep Sam on her toes and us reading.

Diane ~Firefly~ says

Two stories involving one diamond necklace. I liked the first story "A Diamond or Forever" best. Evangeline and Connell were great together and the diamond seemed to do its best to be bad luck to whomever was

carrying it. The second story "Diamonds are Not a Girl's Best Friend" was weaker as Samantha finds the necklace while setting up security for a gem show. The bad luck didn't seem as linked to the necklace and Rick and Samantha's chemistry wasn't as good (which is funny since it is a book in their series).

Sara McBride says

Ugh...I just did not like this book as I did the others. I really am only reviewing the second half (although, I did read the first). I think people really only care to read a review about the Sam and Rick half. I know I did.

I just feel like she could have made this so much more. Maybe add more accidents and goofy things because of the supposed curse. For Rick to finally believe in the curse after Sam was in danger...that is just stupid. How many times in the past year has she been in danger?!?! And with no excuse of a curse. If he was going to believe...let him get his foot get stuck in a broken floor board, break pencil after pencil, get a small electric shock while typing on his computer, have birds crap on his head (or is that supposed to be good luck?....you get my point. The tire and phone incident were believable, but everything else was of their own making and reactions....and some were probably in motion before the cursed diamond was even in the picture.

Also...would have loved to get to know the security guys more...especially Jamie. And would have liked to learn more of Shepard.

Basically... why even write the darn thing, if you are going to cut it in half and deprive of us of a complete story?

I have read reviews that the next one is great. So yes...I will read it.

Jaye says

Okay, so I think this Jellicoe installment was a definite mistake on Enoch's part. It would have been better if she had committed to the story with Sam and Rick, or even interspersed the two. However, because each story is told separately, there is a disjointed feeling that I did not appreciate.

As to the first story, it felt rather boring and pointless to me. I mean, the Nightshade Diamond doesn't cause any real trouble. Also, I tried and failed to like or sympathize with Evangeline as a character. I don't know whether this is due to the short nature of her story or a lack of character development. Moreover, her and Rawley's connection lacks foundation and credibility.

When it comes to the story involving Sam and Rick, I think Enoch tossed a truly exciting and interesting storyline out the window. There was so much more she could have done with Sam's ex, Bryce, if the script were longer. It really is a shame.

Overall, the two stories didn't mesh well together and left me quite put out.

Lori1035 says

I surprisingly liked the historical section of this book. It had been a long time since I had read anything from this time period. The story line in the contemporary time seemed to drag a little even though it was really a short story. All in all, the series is very entertaining although somewhat unbelievable. I mean, it's not every day a billionaire falls for a cat burglar.
