



Masquerade

J.S. Cooper

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We first met Bianca and Jakob in *Illusion*, stranded on a desert island and thrown into one another's arms. But each of them has dark secrets yet to be uncovered...

In this new e-novella tied to the Swept Away series, *New York Times* bestselling author J.S. Cooper reveals even more surprises about the dangerous Bradley family...

Jakob knows Bianca's appearance at the Bradley, Inc. stockholders meeting was no accident. He knows her family ruined his mother's life. And he knows that he can't keep his hands off her. But it's what he doesn't know that might put both of them in deadly danger.

Masquerade Details

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Author : J.S. Cooper

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From Reader Review **Masquerade** for online ebook

Arys says

(Thanks to JS Cooper, Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books, and NetGalley for the chance to read an ARC of **Masquerade** for an honest review)

Masquerade by JS Cooper was a quick but intriguing read. I loved getting to know more about Jakob and his motivations. He seems cold at times and definitely has family issues. For some reason, the flashbacks with his mom and just how it read for me, especially the mom's guidance about love and her wanting revenge on the people who wronged her and Jakob's need to get that revenge for her, so made me think Norma and Norman Bates for the TV show *Bates Motel* lol. Obviously the characters are not anything like those of the Bates, but the scenes with Jakob and his mom so made me think of it. lol.

Though short, it still got me hooked on the mystery, like who was sending the two notes to Jakob? And why is Larry so worried about what Bianca will dig up?

Overall, I enjoyed this novella and definitely recommend it, along with reading the other books in JS Cooper's *Swept Away* series.

***P says**

5 "Keeping my interest" Stars

This is book 2.5 in Cooper's *Swept Away* series, and I have to say, this book is just another piece of brilliance. I really loved the first book, with the mystery and chemistry. Book two had me frustrated as there were more questions and less answers. In between these, and now in between book 2 and 3 are short novellas which I find to be brilliant. Do I think they are brilliant because of the writing, no. Though don't get me wrong, the writing is very good. I find them brilliant because just when you are ready to forget about a series prior to the next book coming out, you get this snippet with just enough back information to have you eagerly awaiting the next novel. In my mind it is brilliant.

I'm not sure I have any more answers to questions raised in book 2 but there definitely was more understanding as to all that took place prior to book 1. I swear everyone in this book is devious and has their own agenda. Now I am scratching my head wondering who is going to come out on top once this whole series is over. I certainly hope everything will come to light in the next book. Regardless, my interest in this series has been reignited and I cannot wait for the next book.

Thanks to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Candace says

Another Layer Peeled Back

Little by little, this confusing, and yet captivating, story is coming together. This short novella, told from Jakob's POV, focuses on the months leading up to the kidnapping. It quickly becomes apparent that Jakob knows far more about Bianca and frankly, most everything, than what he's said.

I'm still in shock, honestly! I really liked Jakob, despite his many omissions and half-truths. I never thought that he was this duplicitous. He was so much more involved in the foul-play that has haunted Bianca than I had ever imagined.

At the same time, being privy to Jakob's innermost thoughts, leaves me more confident than ever that he does have real feelings for Bianca. It is clear that he is attracted to her from the start. Often times, he has to refocus himself when his admiration of her takes his mind off task.

This novella also provides a glimpse into his childhood. Seeing his mother's heartbreak and anger through the eyes of a young Jakob was enlightening. It is easy to see how his mother influenced him from a young age, grooming him to avenge her in many ways.

I'm crossing my fingers, hoping that Roma, Bianca's back-stabbing BFF will get what's coming to her also. I'm a little nervous about what she might have in store for Jakob and Bianca, but I'm hoping that they'll come out on top. It is clear that she's up to no good. Jakob's ominous statement about being unaware of just how big of a mistake he'd made by being with her has me worried.

I still have many unanswered questions and will be starting the next book right away. Hopefully, all my questions will be answered. I can't wait to see how everything works out.

Holly (epiloguebookblog) says

I'm as intrigued as ever in this story!!

Before tackling this one, I'd read Charade, Illusion, and Disillusioned--all though NetGalley. I still anxiously await the series' conclusion, Resolution.

Masquerade is markedly different because it is narrated by Jakob, while the others have all been narrated by Bianca (from what I can remember). Much of this novella focused on Jakob's relationship with his mom, thereby providing context for his relationship with David, his preconceived notions of Bianca, and his interest (or lack thereof) in the Bradley Corporation.

I'm STILL wondering about Roma and Steve and Larry, though. There's obviously more of a story there, and I'm ready to FINALLY discover what that story is.

This novella is short and to the point, and provides just enough new information (namely Jakob's perspective) to keep me interested in the story's outcome...especially since the final installment isn't scheduled to release until the end of this year.

Dirty Dayna says

5 **the island** Stars

SO its no secret that I love the Swept away series

I have gotten incredibly luck and received books : 1, 1.5, 2 and now 2.5 via ARC .

Its also a fact that 1.5 was one of my least loved books from all of JS Coopers books

So why did I enjoy this tiny little novellete? JAKOB BRADLEY! We all wanted to know his thoughts.

We are all still asking ourselves.. is he a friend? A foe? Evil? WHAT IS HEEEEEE.

There are so many different angles in this series that either book 3 (the projected end of the series) is going to be very long or very action packed.

This series is addicting! This is also one of those series that im obsessed with but my good reads friends are on the opposite side; Which makes me feel good that I enjoy something for myself and not for any other reason.

I need ANSWERS!!!!

Book 3 isn't out till DECEMBER ... OHH EMMM GEEE

Sandy S says

4 stars--

About the book: Release Date June 8, 2015

We first met Bianca and Jakob in Illusion, stranded on a desert island and thrown into one another's arms. But each of them has dark secrets yet to be uncovered...

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REVIEW: MASQUERADE is the second prequel novella in J.S. Cooper's adult, contemporary Swept Away romantic suspense series focusing on Bianca London and Jakob Bradley. Throughout the series the reader had been pulled into Bianca's search for the truth about her mother's death and her father's connections to Bradley Inc.

Told from first person point of view (Jakob), MASQUERADE follows Jakob's need to uncover the who and what of Bianca London. Bianca's family is tied indirectly to the death of Jakob's mother, and the Bradley connection to the London family borders the unethical and illegal. Jakob and his half brother David are convinced that Bianca is out to destroy the company name, and a plan is set into motion to extract all of the

information Bianca knows about their family connections.

MASQUERADE reveals all of the players in a game that will see Bianca London caught in a game of cat and mouse—but who is the cat and how many mice are trapped in the Bradley maze. The premise follows the set up and potential take down of a woman whose life is about to unravel; where betrayal is around every corner; where the people she loves are not the people she has come to know.

Copy supplied by Netgalley.

www.thereadingcafe.com

Samantha says

This novella is short but insightful. It does its purpose, shed light into Jakob's mind and life. Since the story is told through his point of view it is easy to be inside his head and understand why he is the way he is. I liked the read and feel it is a good addition to the series. It is always nice to see things from his point of view. My rating stands at an easy 4 stars.

Raynell says

Jakob's POV and certain unanswered questions from prior books in series are answered. We discover Jakob's upbringing and his real intentions for Bianka's.

You want to despise and love him all at the same time. I'm for team Jakob!!!!

ARC provided from the publisher for a review.

Pre-ordered on Amazon.

Amber says

Masquerade is a wonderfully intimate and highly charged view of Jakob's perspective from his part in the delightfully complex mystery that surrounds Bianca London and the people of Bradley, Inc. There is never a dull moment in the action, and we find that the twists and turns are always in a state of constant flux. Not even Jakob is able to keep up with all of the players and their shifting roles. This causes the danger levels to increase exponentially and his list of trusted individuals to dwindle down to one surprising person – Bianca. No one is as they seem, and the stakes are rising higher with each passing second.

Jakob is not an innocent bystander. He has his own sinister plan set in motion to expose the person who he believes Bianca to be. What he doesn't understand is his unwanted yet uncontrollable pull to her. The closer he gets to her the most confused he becomes as his previous judgement doesn't line up with what he continues to find out about her. One thing is true, he will stop at nothing to find out the truth about Bianca. However, he must understand that no man can control every aspect of their lives. Somewhere along the way, his control will slip and he may just find himself at the mercy of another.

I knew that Jakob was never who he claimed to be. He was dangerous and ruthless, and yet for all of his power, he was helpless when it came to Bianca. It was her genuinely good heart that won him over and showed him that no one was out to get him. While she was a pawn in a deadly game of chess, she showed him that she was not her parents. What I loved was that the vulnerability that he kept tightly hidden was slowly exposed at her obvious innocent nature. He couldn't help that he truly wanted to protect her more than he wanted to destroy her. Something about her called to him in a way that no other woman besides his mother ever had. She was different, special, and meant for only him. However, no matter the power and force of their attraction, neither would truly open their hearts to the other for fear of losing more than they could ever afford to give.

J. S. Cooper has created an absolutely outstanding and highly entertaining series that has kept me on the edge of my seat! I can't get enough of this highly complex storyline and this eclectic cast of such incredible characters. I am counting down the days until the last book of this series is out and we finally are able to see just how deep the rabbit hole goes. This is a highly addictive and brutally wicked suspense series that will leave your head spinning and your senses in overload.

Grace says

3.5 stars

This is a very quick read (can be read in under an hour), but despite its short length, I felt like it was an important piece of the puzzle in this whole series.

In this novella, we finally get Jakob's POV, both in the past and the present, leading up to the "kidnapping". From the past, we get his interactions with his Mom and how her comments set him on a path for revenge. What surprised me was how many people he wanted to take down. Has he been misinformed along the way? I think so, but we'll see how that all plays out.

In the present, we get to see how David, Larry, Steve, and even Roma, played an intimate part in the kidnapping. From the novella Charade, we learned that Bianca wasn't as clever as she thought in seducing David. Everyone seemed to know her plans. And in this story, we see how each of them played a role in those plans.

Two surprises. One, I didn't trust Roma from book one, but how I down right hate her. Two, I have no idea what to think about Steve. Is he Team Bianca, Team Jakob, or his own Team? I have a feeling it is the latter, that he has his own plans in play that will shock everyone. Guess we'll have to wait and see if I'm right.

*An ARC was received from the publisher via NetGalley for an honest review.

Steph says

And the plot thickens!

Once again we meet Jakob Bradley and Bianca London, this time getting the background from Jakob's perspective. When his little brother David expresses concern about a woman sniffing around the family

company, begging him to help figure out her angle, Jakob sees it as the perfect opportunity to further his own agenda. He simply wants to plot his revenge against Bianca for the sins of their parents. Jakob's deep adoration for his mother affects every aspect of his life, and he'll stop at nothing to make sure his mother is avenged. But what if everything isn't always black or white? The shades of gray between the Bradleys and the Londons are infinite.

MASQUERADE is the bridge novella between books 2 and 3 in the deviously convoluted Swept Away Series, this time told from Jakob's POV. I always enjoy a good read from the man's perspective, IF it's done right. This was done right. Just when I kinda thought Jakob was this ruthless bastard, we learn more about his reasons for wanting revenge as well as what makes him agree to the kidnapping plot. And then I knew for SURE he was a ruthless bastard. Even so, he clearly had at least a slight moral compass deep down inside (ok, very VERY deep) courtesy of his mother, so I'm more than a little excited for the final book in this series, RESOLUTION, due out this December.

Bottom Line: This book gives JUST enough to make me salivate for the finale of this crazy, whacked out series. Don't skip over this one!!! - See more at: <http://www.theromancereviews.com/view...>

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Blanca says

Absolutely Amazing this author never fails to amaze me with her creativity. This is the second prequel novella in J.S. Cooper's Swept Away Series and focuses primarily on Bianca and Jakob. All throughout the series we are being drawn in to figure out the truth about Bianca's mothers death and the connection her father has to Bradley Inc.

Told from Jakob's POV, in Masquerade we finally try to uncover who Bianca London really is and what she is all about. Bianca's family is somehow connected to the death of Jakob's mother. Jakob and his half-brother David truly believe that Bianca knows exactly what she is doing and is out to destroy their company. The brothers set out a plan to find out everything and anything Bianca knows about how their families are connected.

Masquerade provides you with just enough revealing information to hold you over until the final installment. What will be the outcome to this intriguing story? I can't wait to finally discover where this story will lead us.

Chrissy says

Masquerade is the perfect novella to allow us to see Jakob's point of view and why he got involved with Bianca. I have slowly come to love this series, and was excited to get my hands on this book to see if we got to know any more of Jakob's secrets, and we got to know some, and I'm hoping in Resolution we get to the bottom of them all.

This novella is told solely in Jakob's point of view, and we get to see the dynamic of him with Daniel, Larry, and Steve before the time on the island. We also get some flash backs of Jakob and his mother, which I loved, and helped explain why he's so willing to do anything he can to take down the people he blames for her death and her life after she gave birth to him. I really enjoyed the flashbacks we got of Jakob's past. We

got to see him with his mom, growing up, and learning how he made his billions. He may hate all the cold and calculating people surrounding him, but he's just like them in a way.

I've had a love/hate relationship with Jakob so far in this series, and in this novella we see that he still hasn't been completely honest with everyone. He knows a lot more about what was going on then he ever admitted, and he was a key person in the kidnapping that landed him and Bianca on the island in Illusion.

An important part of this book was seeing how involved so many people were in trying to stop Bianca. I know Jakob and Daniel had their own reasons, but I'm now more interested in figuring out Steve's role in everything. He's been a creepy character who I've felt is an important player in the series, and in this installment, we get to see a bit more of him. I was also given more reasons to despise Roma's character as well in *Masquerade*. I haven't liked her from the start, but seeing her in this book, truly made me hate her!

Little by little throughout this series we are getting more of the story and what is going on, *Masquerade* helped in peeling back another layer of this intense story, and I highly enjoyed this short read! Even though this was a very quick read, I felt that it helped bring important information to light and I can't wait to see how everything plays out! Now on to *Resolution* to see how everything ends!

I have received this book as a member of the XOXperts, XOXO After Dark's official street team, in exchange for an honest review.

Mandy says

I'm so torn on how to rate this one. On one hand, I'm even more intrigued to see where this story is going to go. At this point, I don't know if I'll be happy with any resolution because I dislike most of the characters so much. In this novella, we get Jakob's point of view up to the time of the abduction. Jakob is like the king of manwhores and I wasn't crazy about reading all the details of his sordid sexcapades. That being said, I can't wait to read the final book in this series to see how all the pieces fit together.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review

Michel Reinhard (Smut Book Junkie Reviews) says

Masquerade is the second prequel novella in the *Swept Away* series. This novella is from Jakob Bradley's POV. In the previous books and novella in this series, most of the ongoing story is from Bianca's POV or perceptions. This novella sheds some light on Jakob's motivations and how he got from point A to point B.

Jakob has the need to uncover the secrecy of who and what Bianca London is. He needs to know her ties to his family and the family's corporation. He is convinced that Bianca's family is tied to his mother's death. He's convinced that Bianca is out to destroy the corporation. His half brother David is under the same assumption. The two come up with a plan to extract all of the information that Bianca has acquired after her father's death. They concoct an elaborate plan that involves kidnapping, seduction, and betrayal.

The interesting thing is that Jakob and David each have their own personal motivations. David is not all he portrays himself to be. Jakob has his own agenda that may not be true to the Bradley family interests.

There are other players in this game of greed and deception. Jakob may end up being a victim as well. Bianca is not the only one trying to seek the truth. Jakob is not the only one trying to manipulate the truth.

How it all plays out is going to be a surprise to u
