



What Is Hidden

Lauren Skidmore

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“The Chameleon is on the loose.” Despite the whispers that sprung up, the Speaker continued, “He’s stealing our masks and assuming the identities of the victims. It is our duty to warn you—do not trust the masks alone.”

In Venesia, your mask is your life. It is your face, your rank, and your identity. Without a mask, you are nothing.

Which makes the Chameleon the most dangerous criminal in the land.

When the Chameleon attacks the talented mask maker Evie, he not only strips away Evie’s mask, destroys her home, and kills her father, but he also brands her face with his own criminal mark that would incriminate her for his wrongdoings should it be discovered. Her only choice is to go into hiding—at the royal palace. But as she creates a new identity—and plans to exact revenge—Evie soon learns that masks hide more than just faces ...

Unmask the secrets that Venesia holds in this unique and romantic spin on the classic tale of Cinderella.

What Is Hidden Details

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Author : Lauren Skidmore

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From Reader Review What Is Hidden for online ebook

Sophia Sardothien says

This is a fantastic read :))) I would have given it a five stars if the plot was less predictable and if there was an epilogue. I would totally recommend this book if you're looking for fairytale especially Cinderella retellings

Rebekah says

Full review to come...

Cassie C says

Review to come!

Update 5/25/14:

Stop what you are doing, and read this book now! I could use every possible positive adjective to describe this book...it is simply amazing. Although the description is short, and not very informative, it actually tells you all you need to know. The reason, it allows you to discover this extraordinary world full of masks, treachery, love, and deceit. And it is fantastic!

When I first saw the cover for this book, I stopped dead in my tracks, and my reaction was something like

I mean, it's gorgeous!! You can't look at that cover and not want to read it. So obviously, I picked it up, and boy was I not expected to love it so much. The writing is breathtaking and will sweep you away into the land of Venesia. Let me tell you, if I could live in this place, I would. But best of all, this story is a spin on Cinderella. I love finding books that are fairytale retellings, and actively seek them out. Some are glaringly obvious, and honestly, I don't totally like those so much. I love the ones with the hidden undertones of the fairytale that make you seek out the ties to the original story. This is such an example. Ms. Skidmore doesn't blatantly retell Cinderella, but retells the story just enough that you can recognize the lovely story within.

The characters in this book were easy to connect to. Evie is our main character, and I LOVED her. She was sassy, intelligent, brave, and didn't let anything get in her way, including fear. After encountering the Chameleon, a criminal that has come to Venesia, her life is changed forever, but she doesn't back down and cower in fear. She charges forward with her life, and tries to get information on the Chameleon. Evie is very independent, and easily relatable. She is also very lovable. The other main character in this story is her best friend, Aiden. He is amazing as well, and I will leave you to discover his loveliness on your own ;)

The setting is flawless. Everything is very well described, and the world building is fantastic. I was never confused or lost, and felt as if I were truly there standing next to the characters. It is very easy to get swept

away with this book, and you will never want to stop reading. The pacing is also very good, and I was never once bored.

The ending was phenomenal and sets up for another book very well. While you find out who the Chameleon is (and it was a surprise twist...I had it narrowed down to who is actually was and another character), but are still left with many questions. Hopefully, these questions will be answered in a sequel.

While this is the first book I read from Ms. Skidmore, I will definitely be checking out her other books. Her writing is fantastic, and I can't wait to see what happens next! Don't skip this novel; you won't be disappointed. Just remember, this book is

Happy reading :)

Sojourner says

What Is Hidden: A Cinderella Tale of Deception and Mystery by Lauren Skidmore is a young adult romantic fantasy full of action and suspense. Magical and dream-like, it is also a retelling of the Cinderella story in such a unique and splendid fashion that the riff on the fairy tale looks an original score. Young readers will swoon as the leading protagonists take centre-stage and make their hearts beat faster as the story races to its breathtaking ending.

Though I'm not familiar with author Lauren Skidmore, I admire her guts for the creativity and the audacity to craft a story which partially based on a fairy tale which is everyone's favorite. As she spins her yarn, leaving one dazzled and open-mouthed in amazement, there are pointers to the Cinderella tale but the story is very much her own.

In What Is Hidden, Lauren Skidmore created a mysterious land of subterfuges, artifices, charades and pretenses known as Venesia, a land where masks symbolize position and individuality, and where having one's face seen is almost tantamount to criminal act. And it is here, in this make-believe world of shams and deceptions that Evie and her father trade in masks. Evie is artistic, cool and gifted like her father who works in their studio as a mask maker. But a raging inferno destroyed everything, including Evie's father. Worse still, she is unmasked and branded by the arsonist, putting her life in danger, as she is now supposed to be in league with the criminal.

Evie seeks to avenge the death of her father and bring the criminal to justice at all cost. In her pursuit of justice, her friend Aiden provides much needed help and their friendship soon gives way to romance. But will Evie and Aiden find peace and comfort in each other's arms for long? Will Evie bring the arsonist to justice?

What Is Hidden by Lauren Skidmore is a delightful read with an innovative idea of people hiding behind masks. The writing is beautiful and much effort has been taken to fully develop the characters. There are many fascinating characters that readers will truly admire. The twists and turns keep one guessing right through to the last page of the book. It is a thoroughly enjoyable story!

Rhonda says

4 STARS

I love the cover. There is a lot of people and things hidden in this story. A story that has characters I like, a society that has silly traditions in my opinion. Has villains and heroes. Some surprises that I figured out way early and others that I did not see coming. A enjoyable clean tale.

Masks everyone wears and what color they are mark what profession or social positions they have. People in the arts wear green, royals white. They even wear masks at home, family members do not see your face even.

The royal family not only wear masks, but only a royal speaker hears them talk.

Evie is a mask maker. Her father is one to and is training her. Evie wears the green mask. Her best friend is Aiden who is a noble. Aiden loves to go to market with Evie and see how most of the people live. There is a lot about Aiden that Evie does not know.

Something happens that Evie must runaway and hide herself till she can be herself again. She decides to hide in the palace as a maid.

Because she has the right mask she is able to work and live in the palace. Aiden is able to recognize her and comes to visit her in secret.

Evie wants to stand on her own. She is smart and a hard worker. She enjoys her time with Aiden and misses him when he can't visit. Aiden is teaching her to fight with a knife. So she will have some safety. Evie has someone in the kitchen that makes her life harder because she can. Evie has a lot of pride.

Because everyone wears masks and tattoos for criminals others can hide behind the right masks. Sometimes it would be fun to wear a mask but all the time no thank you. We all try and hide are faults and feelings sometimes.

It would be scary to lose everything in one night like Evie did. Her home, father, dog, profession and self. all because of one person. It would feel so lost but Evie does not give up. She comes up with a plan for now to find the person responsible for it.

I liked What is Hidden and would love to go back and visit it and see how it changed.

I was given this ebook to read and asked to give honest review of it and be part of its blog tour.

Melanie says

First of all, I absolutely LOVE the cover!! I don't actively seek out fairy tale retellings but I enjoy reading them when they come along and I loved this one!

Evie has it rough at the beginning of the book and she's not sure where to go or who to trust. She decides to go to the palace to hide until she can figure things out. She sneaks in and starts working in the kitchen. It wasn't easy and she definitely had her Cinderella moments.

She has a friend, Aiden, who used to just appear and hang out with her, but any time the conversation turned to him, he quickly changed the subject and avoided talking about himself. He found her at the palace and they spent time together when she was done working. It wasn't too difficult for me, as the reader, to figure out who he was, but it took Evie quite a while. I loved the scenes where they were together and enjoyed watching their relationship grow.

The story really sped up for me toward the end as quite a bit happened: there was lots of action, secrets were revealed (one of them being the identity of the villain, the Chameleon), and we learned the status of their relationship. I couldn't put it down and wasn't ready for it to end when it did. I have questions and there are loose ends to tie up, so I'm definitely looking forward to book 2! This is a great debut novel and I'm looking forward to reading more of Ms. Skidmore's books in the future!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

Omg that cover..that blurb. You will become mine my pretty book.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

[I thought it was a little unbelievable that by wearing a different

anjuli says

Spoiler Free

3.5

Overall, this was a cute and enjoyable read. The book is a pretty clean read except for a VERY brief kiss scene for those that care. It is a loosely based Cinderella retelling. The pace is good and it was a fast read.

The book is all about **Evie (18)**, who is a mask maker in the city of Venesia. She's living with her father who is a pretty good mask maker himself. With a twist of fate her life is thrown upside down and she's on a run. Evie ends up at the palace as a serving girl. Of course, things don't go as well there for her either. She's on the shit list of the Kitchen Mistress and her assistance who makes Evie's life a living hell for no rhyme or reason. The only solace she has is her best friend **Aidan (18)** who is a mysterious noble and helps her out as much as he can. Aidan has his own secrets but their friendship is based on mutual respect and care for each other. They met before Evie's life was turned for the worse. They have a good camaraderie together and you can see they do care for each other. (view spoiler)

Lauren Skidmore has built a very strange and intriguing society. In Venesia, the color/design of the mask denotes the citizen's rank/status in the society. For example, white masks means you're royal. The entire city is hidden behind their masks. The only time you remove your mask is when you're with your family members or with very intimate friends. In fact, even the royal family wears a full-on mask and never speak. Royal family has their own speaker who speaks for them in public...that's how traditional their society is. While it was nice to read about different masks etc. I wish I knew more about why the society chose to wear masks? We have no background as to why they are the way they are...except, that's how it is. Neighboring cities wear face paint and keep a "naked" face and are described as savages for not wearing a traditional mask.

Romance is clean. In fact, majority of the book is pretty much Evie and Aidan fun bantering with each other. There is no tension or anything between the two. They are cute together I guess. I did not feel a huge chemistry between the two. Aidan does act as a semi douche at the end but, he is working on redeeming himself ;)

I feel that I would have probably enjoyed What is Hidden better had I known it was loosely based on Cinderella. I went in blind and I kind of was expecting more. As for sequel, I'm not sure if their story continues or not in book 2 even though the world is connected. There is somewhat of a HEA in this book or at least, a path to HEA. I see that book 2 is about another character that played a negative role in book 1. I think I'll read book 2 to see where it leads as that's Red Riding Hood retelling. So we shall see....

Lala_Loopsie [fire breathing B!tch Queen] says

I liked this book. But the question is whether I'll read the next one or not.

Grace (LovingDemBooks) Z. says

Buy this book on AMAZON

or buy this book on BookDepository with FREE WORLDWIDE SHIPPING

I received a free paperback edition of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

I just finished reading this title. Full review to come. Such a great read! It wasn't a super wow factor, but I was thoroughly impressed!

My rating system: (I do use half stars.)

5 - I do not use the 5 star. Not because a book might not be worthy, but because a book is never perfect.
4 - I loved it! There weren't too many flaws, and I had no trouble getting through it. (A 4 star rating is the highest rating I've ever given a book.)

3 - I enjoyed the book, but there were flaws that made me enjoy it less.

2 - I finished the book, but there were too many flaws for me to enjoy it.

1 - I could not finish the book, and I probably did not finish it....

Katie W says

I love the cover! I'm not usually a fan of faces on covers, however, this one perfectly fits the story and it's just beautiful!

It takes me a few chapters to be drawn into a story in most books. This one was an exception! I was immediately drawn into the story and it was hard to put down. I love fairytale re-tellings and this one was a fantastic, creative twist on an old classic, Cinderella. There's even a mysterious villain!

I've always wondered why Cinderella was so sweet and let everyone boss her around and walk all over her. In this story, Evie is in a social situation that doesn't allow for her to speak out. I loved how she had enough restraint to hold her tongue in a lot of situations and not give in to the natural instinct to fight/talk back. Evie is brave in her own right. I really enjoyed her character a lot and felt a lot of depth to her.

Her good friend, Aiden, has secrets that he keeps from even her. I kept thinking about how we all wear masks in life and sometimes they come off and sometimes they change. I loved the twists and turns that happened so unexpectedly. This is a terrific book and the author is definitely one to watch!

Content: I would consider it clean!

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Rane says

3.5 Stars

A world where everyone hides behind a true mask and a city based on our own Venice. I found myself truly falling in love with the world Lauren Skidmore created within the pages of "What is Hidden".

The world has the potential to be very vast and we only scratch the surface in this book as we follow Evie a young artisan who creates masks for others along with her father. Life is great spending time with her best friend Adien, and creating masks. Until one day everything changes when a criminal and thief named the Chameleon kills her father along with stealing his masks and branding her own face with his mark. Now Evie and Adien must quickly find who the Chameleon is and why he's doing this before he strikes again.. Evie was the first heroine I've come across in awhile who acted her age. She was strong and sassy, but could be scared, and a tad girly. She was at the stage of growing up and I loved her for it. She took charge when things looked bad and didn't hide her head when things got tough. On the flip-side I felt at times Evie was to focus on other matters to give time to the big concern of the Chameleon. The lack of focus in that regard made me question to much in where the story was headed- as "who" the chameleon was was very obvious. Evie should have become her own Nancy Drew and start looking around.

Another obvious quirk was Adien and what he was hiding which, but was meant for a bigger part later in the series. I really enjoyed Adien and his banter with Evie. He truly cared and while there was a misunderstanding between them, it was sweet how Adien asked for another chance and had the patience to earn Evie's trust again.

Forgetting the obvious, and the somewhat anticlimactic ending, my biggest love and dislike was the use of masks. I loved how the author created "classes" of masks and the even those who didn't wear the masks were very clever and beautiful. The trouble was how easily the Chameleon was able to steal and take over these masks. This flaw I thought perhaps would have been addressed sooner in case of someone playing the imposter. The Chameleon himself stated that the country was trusting and maybe that was at the heart of the matter and how masks hide even our arrogance, our feelings not just our faces.

Even with the troubles, I truly loved it. The vast world yet to discover and who is behind Chameleon I'm looking forward to reading more from this author and the start to her series.

Kel says

Check out more reviews, discussions, lists and fan art at Booked til Tuesday.

Earlier this year, I came across a review of *What is Hidden*- a Cinderella retelling where everyone wears a mask. I'm a sucker for fairy tale retellings, and the cover, while a little too pink, is so pretty, so I tracked down a copy. The atmosphere is rich, but the plot and characters failed to make a strong impression.

Mini-Review:

Evie lives in a city where everyone wears a mask. The make and material of your mask reveals your rank, wealth and occupation, so no one is using them for deceptive purposes. Or so Evie thinks, until an attack forces her into hiding behind the mask of a palace servant. This is a world where you are judged by your looks, or at least by your mask.

I love the fantasy Venice setting, though we spend most of the book cooped up in the palace due to a series of coincidences. I took issue with the fact that the time between Evie being attacked, her house being burned and her entering the palace passes by in a vague blur; I didn't understand Evie's reasoning for running to the palace. It felt more like "let's jump to this point and then the story can pick up again." Similar logic gaps surround the criminal Marks, which are supposed to be a big deal, but I never got enough information on the why or how. And I didn't see the point of Aidan's "fighting lessons." They don't lead up to or amount to much. On the bright side, the romance is a tiny bit deeper than Disney's Cinderella (they've known one another for longer than one night). My biggest problem is the ending. It's so sudden, and then action, and then people, and then wha? I don't like being left with a number of (important) unanswered questions, especially at the end of a standalone.

While the writing was acceptable to my reading mood at the time, the author often shows, then tells, too, in the same sentence. A little trimming would make for a cleaner read, as would corrections of the three or four typos and/or missing/wrong words I found. :(The language is more modern than what I usually find in fantasies with technology indicative of a historical era. And the Japanese names (pardon the cliché) stood out like sore thumbs. An Akita named Hachi and a Lacie (basically a geisha/ninja) named Tomoyo? After reading the author's bio, I learned she minored in Japanese and spent a year in Japan. I think I get why she used them, but those names didn't fit in her fantasy Venice.

If you're looking for a quick, Cinderella retelling with an interesting setting that won't require much thought,

you'll probably enjoy this, especially if you're a fan of romance. For me, it was okay. Not great, but not bad either. :)

Lauren says

I'm not going to rate my own book because that feels like cheating but I will say I recommend it. :)

ETA: Ok yes I changed my mind and added a rating. I think I felt weird originally because I was the only one reading/rating and that's not the case anymore.

I really do love this book and the characters and the fantastic world, and I hope readers will, too.

(Also yes you will see more of these characters.)
