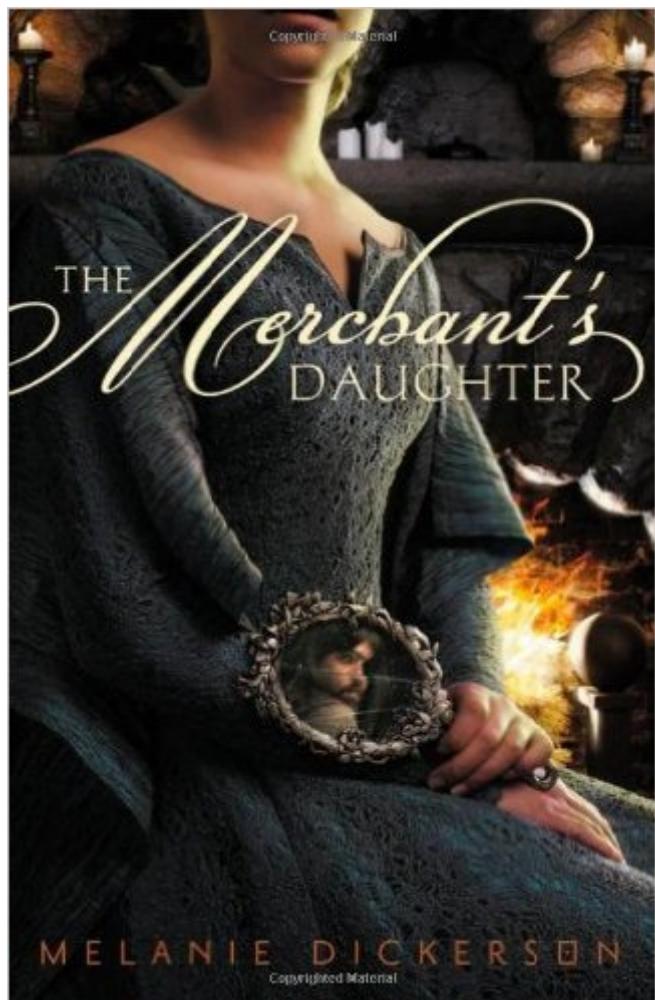


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The Merchant's Daughter (Fairy Tale Romance Series)



Synopsis

An unthinkable danger. An unexpected choice. Annabel, once the daughter of a wealthy merchant, is trapped in indentured servitude to Lord Ranulf, a recluse who is rumored to be both terrifying and beastly. Her circumstances are made even worse by the proximity of Lord Ranulf's bailiff, a revolting man who has made unwelcome advances on Annabel in the past. Believing that life in a nunnery is the best way to escape the escalation of the bailiff's vile behavior and to preserve the faith that sustains her, Annabel is surprised to discover a sense of security and joy in her encounters with Lord Ranulf. As Annabel struggles to confront her feelings, she is involved in a situation that could place Ranulf in grave danger. Ranulf's future, and possibly his heart, may rest in her hands, and Annabel must decide whether to follow the plans she has cherished or the calling God has placed on her heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *The Merchant's Daughter*, Melanie Dickerson has crafted a hauntingly beautiful, medieval tale, reminiscent of the timeless classic, *The Beauty and the Beast*. The setting is 14th century England, a time in which lords and castles, servants and comely lasses, and superstitious townsfolk abound! Our heroine, Annabel Chapman of Glynval, England, was once the daughter of a wealthy merchant, who died and left his family penniless. To avoid marrying bailiff Tom, a lecher who stalks and terrifies her, Annabel agrees to become a servant to Lord le Wyse, who is equally terrifying, but will not mistreat his servants. Lord le Wyse is formidable; a man with one eye and numerous scars

covering his body, and a disposition that leaves Annabel quaking in his presence. She has heard terrible rumors that the lord turns into a howling wolf and roams the woods at night, and actually sees him in the forest one evening on all fours, emitting a gut-wrenching howl from deep within. What has caused the young lord such anguish of soul and disfigurement in his features? Annabel wishes only to become a nun and learn the Word of God, and is given an opportunity to read and discuss the Bible with Lord le Wyse, every evening before retiring. In those moments she sees a vulnerable, kind man, filled with torment and feelings of rejection because of his frightening looks, and a secret he has buried deep within. Just as Annabel is learning to trust God and let go of her fear, she is violently attacked in the woods one night, and a seemingly endless nightmare ensues. Can the beauty and the beast save one another, by the grace of God, or is it too late for both of them? This book was amazing!

The Merchant's Daughter is an adaption of the fairytale Beauty and the Beast that contains resemblances to Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. We have the ugly, deformed male character and the beautiful female protagonist. The circumstances to which Annabel goes to Lord Ranulf le Wyse is unmistakably similar to Belle's circumstances in Beauty and the Beast. Reading a novel that is similar to a fairytale, I couldn't help but compare both. By the end of The Merchant's Daughter (I completed it in less than 2.5 hours), I found myself liking the story even more than the Beauty and the Beast story. Firstly, there is the Christian element in the story. It's no secret that I enjoy reading good Christian YA fiction. There is plenty of Bible reading done in the story, and secular readers wouldn't be able to give it a miss since the Bible reading sessions play an important role in the plot development. A glimpse to the treatment of clergy during the Middle Ages is given an important place in the book. I read quite a few literature books involving the Middle Ages era, and the depiction given of clergy in The Merchant's Daughter is accurate. Then, there is plenty of "control" in the romance part of the story. When Annabel and Lord Ranulf finally cemented their relationship, it was in perfect timing. I liked the way the romance was not rushed. It was slowly revealed bit by bit and that made the story even more enjoyable. The surprises when it comes to romance in this story is endless. Lastly, Lord Ranulf doesn't magically change to Mr. Perfect Looks. I don't want to give away too much of the story here, but suffice to say that once a person looks revolting, he is very likely to look the same unless the fairy godmother waves her wand over him.

The Merchant's Daughter by Melanie Dickerson received a copy of The Merchant's Daughter in exchange for a review. I am under no obligation to write a positive review, just an honest one. So

let's go back in time. But not just a couple hundred years, like most historical fiction I review. Instead, let's go back much further to medieval times. Annabel, a beautiful young woman forced into indentured servitude because of family circumstances, has just moved to the abode of Lord Ranulf le Wyse. A terrifying lord, his appearance is quite mangled, especially one arm and he is missing an eye. Annabel has graciously offered to pay off her family's debt by offering herself up as the indentured servant to Lord le Wyse, but all she can hope for is the day she can enter a nunnery and serve God and read a Bible. But once in the service of Lord le Wyse, she is pressured by the bailiff to marry him. Yet the idea of marrying someone as cruel, vile and mean as the bailiff makes Annabel reel, inside and out. She just cannot imagine a life where she is married. Then there is Lord le Wyse, whose defiguration lead to a marriage where his wife did not care for him one bit. After suffering through a horrible relationship and much loss, he has come to believe that no one could ever love a man who looks like him. As Annabel and Lord le Wyse grow closer to one another, will she be able to see through his disfigured and scary appearance to his heart within? And will he be able to open his heart to emotions other than anger and bitterness? Read *The Merchant's Daughter* to find out! This book can accurately be described as a beauty and the beast retelling, set in medieval times with a Christian base.

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