



Twice a Prince

Sherwood Smith

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Sasha's prince is wicked, Sun's is missing they take up the sword, L.A. style!

Sasharia En Garde Book 2

In the magical world of Khanerenth, there's a long way to go before Sasha and her dream prince, Jehan, can get to perfect. Jehan's deception has left her unable to trust him, and grimly determined to search for her missing father. Jehan only wants to protect Sasha from the dangerous undercover mission he's undertaken to heal the broken kingdom, but he knows she can't afford to listen to him not when he's the one living a lie.

Enemies, allies and temptation make the ballroom floor as dangerous as pirate raids. In a world where love is danger and honor is difficult to define, the crown is not the only thing on the line for a wicked prince and a princess with a core of steel.

There's a royal price for love."

Twice a Prince Details

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From Reader Review *Twice a Prince* for online ebook

Whitney says

Who chose the cover art for this duo? With *Twice a Prince* plus *Once a Princess*, what are readers supposed to think, judging by the covers? Teeny bopper bodice-rippers, no thank you!

But seriously. These are good. They make me think of *The Princess Bride* But with a LOT LESS KISSING. These are not kissing books. I mean, we see a few obligatory kisses between swashbuckling and martial artiness, but nothing gross. (and no, I'm not obsessed with kissing, why do you ask?) Great for all ages!

However, it irks me how the whole plot revolves around a search for a missing father. I mean, honestly, is he all that essential? The three main characters of Sasha, swoony colorblind Jehan, and Queen Sun could get a great triumvirate going on. Forget about missing King Harpo.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

I really enjoyed this book, the second half, following *Once a Princess*. This review covers both books, with the only difference being my impressions of the two different narrators. I don't think a person should read *Once a Princess* or *Twice a Prince* as a standalone unless they want to be quite disappointed because its really only half of a bigger book.

I must thank Sherwood Smith for giving me the chance to listen to both of these audiobooks by generously offering me Audible codes.

I really liked the female characters in these books. They had guts and integrity as well as ingenuity and loyalty. For most of the story, Sasha and her mom, Sun, each have their own adventure and challenges, even though they are heading in the same direction. The POV varies back and forth between them.

Sasha was an admirable young woman, in that she had taken her self defense lessons in her youth seriously, knowing some day she might really need to use them. But at the same time, she embraced her life in the U.S. and didn't sit around thinking 'oh, one day I'm going to be princess so I am better than everyone else'. When she was sucked back into the realm of her birth, she was everything she needed to be; smart, resourceful, cautious and determined. And she had ample opportunity to put her self defense training to good use. Fun sword fights and swashbuckling ensued. Despite all the action, I liked that she never lost sight of her goal of finding her father.

Sun had a bit of a trickier time pursuing her goals since she was a prisoner for much of the book, however, when the opportunity arose, she found her own way to rouse the kingdom against the bad guys and seek out her lost husband. I had a chuckle at her struggles with hot flashes. Its such an annoying fact of life that half the population deals with yet it rarely gets factored into character development. Hats off to the author for that one.

I really enjoyed Prince Jehan and the pirate Zathdar. Quite a bit of the humor of the story was woven into

these characters. (view spoiler)

Most of the other main characters in the story were various members of the 'bad guys' but they were painted with enough depth to make them interesting and even sympathetic to some degree. Although I must say that while King Canardan wasn't a solid black villain and he had 'nuances' his war commander was pure evil. You have to have at least one really bad guy right?

This story was a fun adventure that can appeal to young readers as well as adults. The second half had a bit more in the way of romance but it was still very subtle. There is a HEA for Sun as well as her daughter which is appealing to the part of me that loves a romance story.

One final note with respect to the narration of the audiobook. I liked the narration of James Patrick Cronin very much. However, this is the second part of one big book and I think Audible made a mistake in changing narrators.

Overall, I liked the sound of Cronin's voice more than Almasy's (the narrator for *Once a Princess*,) but he wasn't as consistent in changing timbre and accent when changing characters.

Volpot says

4 stars.

Tiffany says

This is the conclusion to *Once a Princess*. I liked it, but not as much as I thought I would. The end was a bit convenient how everyone gathered together. Kisses only

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

The swashbuckling and magic continue....

As I said in my review of *Once a Princess* (read that review first), this is the second half of a two-volume story. If you like YA high fantasies with a solid dose of both action and romance, and with a side dish of humor, I highly recommend this one-two punch of *Once a Princess/Twice a Prince* (also the same author's *Crown Duel* and *The Trouble with Kings*, but those are different reviews, to come one of these times).

I found this a highly satisfactory conclusion to Sasha's story.

Anne Osterlund says

Twice a Prince is the sequel to Sherwood Smith's *Once a Princess*. And truly, the two go hand in hand. You

can't possibly blitz through the first without needing to plunge into the second!

With her mother a prisoner in the palace, and the man Sasha isn't supposed to love now walking straight into that viper pit himself, our heroine sets out for Ivory Mountain. To find her father, whom no one has seen in a decade. And to save him with a spell--one she hasn't used in a decade. In order to free a country on the brink of war, chaos, and destruction. But then what can't be overcome by a kick-butt L.A. girl with questionable people skills?

Ria says

It pains me to only award this book 3 stars, but I have to be honest in my rating. Twice a Prince continues the adventures of Sasha, Jehan and company, introduced in *Once a Princess*. The book is sprawling in scope, covering multiple POVs and grand schemes that hold interest throughout. And impressively enough, Sherwood Smith neatly addresses a previous criticism I had, with the mix of first and third person voices - there's an explanation that kind of makes sense!

BUT, the book didn't stir me in the way that I have come to expect from Ms Smith's books. Crucially, I swept through the final pages of the book without much of an emotional reaction - extremely unusual for me when reading books by Sherwood Smith, as I typically go back and re-read my favourite parts and sigh over how very much I love the book.

It seems a little unfair to lay all the blame at Sasha's feet, but for whatever reason I didn't feel like I got under skin and subsequently the perils she faced, the search for her father and the path to true love all underwhelmed me. Jehan had all the hallmarks of a great Smith hero, but again, I wasn't anxiously pacing through the book, awaiting his next appearance.

The *Sasharia en Garde!* series was enjoyable, and perhaps it's unfair to judge it based on what other books I have read (and **ADORED**) by this author, but it's not a series I am likely to revisit in the immediate future. Maybe I'll just re-read *the Trouble with Kings* again...

Jacob Proffitt says

If you've read the first book (and *do* read the first book!), you'll know what you're getting with this one. At least, that applies to the first three quarters or so. And I mean that in the best possible way because Sasha is as fantastic as ever and Jehan just gets better and better as you get to know him. The PoV shifts still grated on me, but the pace and story just barreled along and I *could not put it down*.

But really, it's the last quarter that raised the bar (and my rating). It's way, way too spoilerific to burble on about, so I'll stick to saying that it's a *fantastic* conclusion, as good as any Sherwood Smith story, and *that's* a high bar, indeed...

And I really liked the eventual internal justification for the PoV shifts that comes at the end. It snapped everything together in a natural, even organic way (that doesn't actually abrogate my discomfort throughout, but helps alleviate it somewhat in retrospect). Indeed, that justification shows how very good Smith is with narrative voice . . . but again, spoilers, so I'll stop now.

scarlettraces says

i just didn't like this series as much as others of hers that i've read. i never engaged properly with the characters and i found the first person pov of Sasharia herself annoying.

Kes says

Why do bloody events get translated into Great Events in histories? Probably because they force summary change. But here was the real effect of sudden change - the wrenches in the lives of those who would never leave behind records, the people who lived and breathed and hated and loved, feared and fought, the everyday folk whom the balladers inevitably overlooked. They might go home and tell the story, and perhaps the sword Ban Kender gripped would be handed down to a grandson, along with the story of this day. Maybe he would even feature as a hero. Well, if he did, it wasn't like anyone would be hurt by it.

I didn't like that there were more point of view characters - I preferred the close focus in the first book. (view spoiler)It did lead to a happy ending, but his uncertainty felt a little off.

Anyway, I love the female relationships - Sun and her army of women! That was great, and even the little things, like how talking and communication works. I liked that women were able to tell each other: "I don't like what you say and I need to think about it" *and then actually do that!* The men were in positions of power, maybe, (they were the head of the army/kingdom) but it was so female-focused that it felt gender-equal. I liked that Jehan and Sasha were able to give each other space. I just enjoyed how reasonable everyone was! It was really refreshing. Although Damedran's scene - "And he began to sob, the angry, honking sobs of a teen betrayed beyond endurance."

The writing remained breezy - I liked the slight asides that transform it from breezy to funny and engaging. I didn't get a strong sense of how the world worked (semi-generic fantasy, perhaps), but that didn't fault the worldbuilding. Still remains a fun, light book.

This is 3.5 stars, rounded up to 4.

Bronwen says

Not as good as the Court Duel. Not a fan of the main character.

Estara says

Basically a day after I finished the first book, the second one arrived and I can see now why Sherwood wrote on her LJ that this was actually one big book. It starts right after the end of the first one (so no explanations for readers who come in later, which I actually prefer in my series books).

Sasha remains cautious and the hero keeps kicking himself (deservedly) for screwing up by keeping too many secrets when he met her. Not being a villain he lets her go (but sets one of his trusted friends to track and help her).

I love the fact that the friend/spy loses her soon after, due to weather and not any special skills by Sasha. I love it when she loses her way out of inexperience, is happy to be rescued from a storm at a military camp of the king and leaves in the morning without ever thinking about the consequences of a report about her showing up (she does use a false name, but her few treasures clearly show the connection to the old royal house). The villainous usurper **also does not want to kill the heroine in this one** (yay!), he wants her to marry his son and continues to want this (and to try to send his son to find her and woo her, as the prince's supposedly a real ladies' man).

The mother, increasingly seeing that the usurper keeps trying to seduce her and showing off to the court how happy she's living with him in his castle, manages to flee (with the help of resistance members whom she helped to escape capture in the last book) once it is clear that the captured resistance people can't be killed outright by the usurper (because their supporters manage to make him agree to a public trial, yay for legal technicalities of rule!). And being who she is and from the time she grew up in, she develops a plan of asking all women concerned (which is basically the married half of the country) to come with her in a big protest march to the usurper and ask him not to start a war (which is the second current plan of this guy).

We get great family interaction between the womanizing prince who is definitely not as he seems and his father, attempts at breaching the gap between them which both feel. This book has - as always with Smith - no clear cut evil villain, just people going wrong from various reasons who disregard the chances of turning back (with the vague but looming threat of an attack from Norsunder always at the back).

There was a military game which actually was supposed to show off the prowess of the nephew of the usurper's right hand man (who really is hoping/wanting to engineer an accident for the "imbecile" prince and make his nephew the next king). It all went wrong and the nephew is now after Sasha with his own corps of cadets, rethinking all the manipulations he has done himself and being done to him by his uncle, especially when he does capture Sasha (who managed to lose track of time in her journey to try and release her father from a spell) and she points out that you don't send cadets off to capture a princess with the clear order to "not tell anyone" and expect her to survive this.

It's the hero to the rescue and Sasha goes off on her own AGAIN, all of the major characters finally congregating at the place where Sasha's father is waiting to be released from his spell. Yes, there is a happy end of a sort, but the threat of Norsunder remains and the hero has to bear a personal loss.

I liked the hero more than Vidanric in Crown Duel when I first read that, because we are allowed into his head this time (we also get into the head of the right hand man and the usurper as well as Sasha's mum), so we had an impression not just of his deeds but of his feelings (since I've read A Stranger to Command, Vidanric remains my favourite Smith hero, apart from Inda). Sasha is more savvy in some ways than Meliara was, simply because she grew up always on the look-out for danger and she's simply older. She's around 25, I believe.

Q says

Second book felt more balanced than the first one.

Sasha was actually thinking with her head and that made her less annoying. Jehan was making mistakes other than Sasha-related blunders and that made him more human. There were also balancing thoughts of her mother with her own, much more mature and thought-out adventure. All this as well as things happening without or with minimal involvement from main characters made it a much more enjoyable read.

Hallie says

I did add a bit of a review with the rating a while ago, but computer froze or something and I forgot to come back to it. (Hunh - Atanial may have hot flushes, but she doesn't forget things this often!)

Very satisfying continuation/conclusion of the story, and I was decidedly pleased *not* to have to wait usual sequel length time to read it. I liked the way all the very different people's contributions to the cause came together; no one person could have saved the day on his or her own but everyone was needed.

I especially liked the fact that the character who seemed to be THE villain early on became more and more shaded, so that his inevitable (at least, I saw it that way) fate was sad and was allowed to be mourned. The family relationships were all good, unsurprisingly! And the romance(s!) made me happy.

Miss Clark says

I liked this book, but the repetitive formula used in half of Sherwood Smith's books thus far, of the prince/hero having pretended to be a fool/ dandy for years and years but ultimately being good and awesome and very intelligent and having a good sense of humor, begins to become a little to predictable. Need to change it up. Like SENRID. Cannot wait to hear more on that story front.

Yet I digress. Apart from wanting a great deal more backstory and more relationship time, Twice A Prince picks up right where Once A Princess left off and brings us swiftly along our way to the end, which was a bit rushed but still satisfying. Unlike the The Trouble With Kings which had giant lack of conflict resolution. Some of it does not make a lot of sense and other things are simply underdeveloped, but I love Sasha's voice and the fact that Sun/Atanial still gets to have this major role. I just felt like we lost some of the fun from part one that came from the comparisons between life on Earth and S-D... Hmm.

But Math and Sun get to be together and despite everything Sun was not going to accept Canardan's advances. Speaking of which, they developed him enough that his death was truly sad. And I loved how Jehan and Sasha get their "happily ever after" and Sasha gets to be a pirate before settling down to ruling a kingdom. I can see them being a very unconventional pair of rulers:) Just wish we got to see them together more, bantering. Oh, and we got a cameo from Sven Eric and co.!

Anyways, a lot of fun, if underdeveloped and worth a read.

