



Bronwyn's Bane

Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

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As if it wasn't bad enough already that because of her frost giant heritage from her father the king's side of the family she was 6 feet tall when she was only 12 years old, poor Princess Bronwyn (the Bold) of Argonia was cursed at birth to tell nothing but lies. With her father away at war and her mother heavily pregnant, Bronwyn is even more in the way than usual, so she gets packed off.

Bronwyn's Bane Details

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Author : Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

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From Reader Review Bronwyn's Bane for online ebook

Lisa says

This was a bit difficult to follow - the heroine has a curse of always lying, so she often says the opposite of what she means, sometimes just something ridiculous. Lots of fantasy creatures, the main plot difficult to follow behind other sub-plots. Very complex, and characters each with as many quirks as redeeming characteristics. Hats off to Scarborough for finally being able to tie things together at the end! I only persevered because of my sense of loyalty to Scarborough as an author; however, this is clearly not her best work!

Kathy Burford says

One of Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's early and very funny fantasies: inventive and hilarious. Bronwyn, who wears full armor, carries a useful anti-magic shield, and constantly practices her fighting skills, has been cursed and can't tell the truth. She sets off on a quest to uncure herself and another enchanted princess who is currently a swan, along with her cousin and a gypsy boy who can speak to animals. Along the way they encounter outlandishly entertaining beings and situations.

Scarborough makes great use of twists on fantasy/fairy tale expectations and the persnickety nature of magic and enchantments. One of four books in her Songs of the Seashell Archives, all of which are well written and amusing.

Highly recommended!

Alexandra says

3rd in the series.

Nicole says

This is essentially a comedy of manners in fantasy.

She was cursed (by an evil fairy of course) at her christening to always tell a lie so this leads to every manner of farcical setting. Delightful!

Sion says

Dead funny.

Dark-Draco says

I thought this was quite good, but felt a bit let down. There didn't seem to be a lot of 'point' to the story - the characters just fell into one event after the next with no real conscious will. I hate to sound like me English teacher, but the characters didn't really develop at all, which left me disappointed. Saying that, I did enjoy the read and thought it was quite funny in places, but isn't one of those books that is going to stay with me.

Kelley Ceccato says

This is a comic fantasy from the 1980s. Somehow I feel that a lot about the book, good and bad, could be summed up in those few words.

The Good:

The characters are very engaging (or at least have the potential to be so). I found Bronwyn a delight. Honestly, how many fantasy novels feature a bluff, good-natured giantess as their heroine? One who must labor under the burden of a most provoking but interesting curse, never to speak the absolute truth? Her wily song-witch cousin Carole made a pleasing contrast, as did Jack, the "guile hero" who looks out for his own interest and doesn't mind a bit serving as the brains to Bronwyn's brawn. An ogress with a heart of gold and an extremely haughty enchanted swan-princess complete the motley crew of Good Guys. (There are a LOT of female characters in this one.) Then there are those characters who, well, might be good, but we're not quite sure...

The Not-So-Good:

This novel presents us with such an eclectic bunch of characters that it's a shame they couldn't be drawn with a little more depth -- but then, I expect this is part and parcel of being a comic fantasy from the 1980s. Only Bronwyn herself seems to react to the drama and dangers she faces with any real emotion, and certain flashes of her interiority make me think of what, say, Terry Pratchett could have done with her story. Under all her adventurous energy there's a desperately lonely girl who doesn't want to let the one character who's been consistently nice to her out of her sight, and who, when one of the villains tells her that "no one can be expected to care for you," is forced by the curse to respond that she's fine with that. She's easy to root for, but I can't help wishing that some of her companions had been painted with similar sympathy. Could it have been done without sacrificing the overall light-hearted tone? I wonder...

Also not-so-good:

We travel to three lands, one where the normal and the magical mix, another where magic is outlawed, and another where everything is magic. This latter land is depicted as pseudo-Arabian Nights, and the characters are heavily stereotyped.

Michelle says

Bronwyn is not a typical princess. She is big. She is a little clumsy at times, and can only ever tell lies. This does not present too much of a problem for her cousin, whom she is sent off to "visit"...her cousin Carole picks up easily enough on the curse and is able to just reverse everything Bronwyn says. Their adventure

takes them over seas and across mountains. I found this book both funny and charming, a wonderful fantasy to add to any collection.

Lenny Husen says

It was just OK. Blah story. But the cover art is amazing!!!

Tatra says

A great adventure.

Jeffrey says

Light fun fantasy with sly humor. Bronwyn, is not like other princesses. She is big, brawny and has been cursed at birth with a spell that makes her tell nothing but lies.

When war breaks out she is sent by the Queen to live with her cousin Carole, but soon the cousins go on an adventure themselves.

Carol says

Girl power fantasy!

Rachel says

It's been a very long time since I read this but I remember that I liked it. A fantasy with good story telling. Might contain a little adult content?

Arlene Allen says

I've been reading Elizabeth Ann Scarborough for 27 years now? Scary!!

Ero says

Given the silliness of the plot and the colorful contents of the plot, this ought to be super-entertaining. But the prose is so poorly written that I have to read everything twice just to figure out what's going on. Also, I can't for the life of me muster any feelings at all about any of teh characters.

It may be the perfect bedtime book though: it's mildly entertaining, puts me to sleep quickly, and I don't care what happens in the meantime.
