



Charade

J.S. Cooper

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From *New York Times* bestselling author **J.S. Cooper** comes an e-novella prequel to the *Swept Away* series, best read after *Illusion*. Bianca is determined to avenge her father's death, but to do that, she must get in bed with his enemies...

When Bianca's father died, she was left with nothing but her memories—and a box full of secrets. Had her father really been squeezed out of the company he founded? And could his betrayers have something to do with the death of Bianca's mother years before?

Bianca will do anything to find out—even pursue the heir to Bradley, Inc. But the road she's on is a dangerous one, and if David Bradley sees through her charade, it could be deadly...

Charade Details

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Author : J.S. Cooper

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From Reader Review Charade for online ebook

Julie says

Charade by J.S. Cooper is a 2015 Pocket Star Publication. I was provided a copy of this book as an XOXpert, the official street team of XOXO After Dark.

This novella length story is the second book in the “Swept Away” series. I confess I read this book ahead of “Illusion” the first book in the series. Usually, reading out of order is frowned upon, but in this case I actually recommend it if you are interested in this series. If you have read the first book and are wanting a little more back story, then you certainly will benefit from reading this short story, because it will clear up some things for you and help you understand the first book a little better.

Bianca is trying to unravel the cryptic message her father left her after he passed away. He is suggesting that her mother's death wasn't an accident after all, and so in order to find out the truth, Bianca attempts to infiltrate Bradley Inc. by engineering a meeting with David Bradley. She worms her way into David's life intent on learning more about the corporation and David's suspicious brother, Mattias.

The only benefit in reading this book is for the back story concerning Bianca's father and her relationship with David and how that all turned out, but also to cast suspicion on a few characters Bianca has put her trust in. This is good information to have, no matter which order you read the books in.

However, if you are looking for a romance, you won't find it here. There are a few steamy situations, but, romance isn't really the goal in this story.

The writing in this one was moderately better than in the first full length novel, but I'm probably going to bow out of this series. However, for those who enjoyed the first book, then you will want to pick this one up too.

2 stars

Cristina says

Welll...where to beggin...

Charade is a an original e-novella in the Swept Away series by J.S. Cooper and reveals the story that put in motion all the actions in the Illusion novel.

I've tried to read Illusion a few weeks back and I could not finish it...it was bad...very bad...you can see my review here.

Charade was an arc provided to me by Netgalley and although it had some parts that where off it was an ok read and it made me curious of what was about to happen. But I don't know if I would have finished it if it

wasn't an arc.

But after finishing this novella I went back to Illusion and picked up where I left it because I have to know if (view spoiler). I just have to know how it ends...I'm a sucker for a mystery puzzle.

So kudos to you J.S. Cooper for making me go back and read a novel that I had no intention of ever finishing.

ARC generously provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Dirty Dayna says

2 charade stars

Honestly I loved illusion but I felt like the writing in this novella felt disconnected and you really didn't learn much, it's quite short but you get a feel of their relationship before Bianca gets kidnapped. I can't wait to read book 2 but this novella didn't do it for me at all.

D.B. says

I was given this ARC in return for an honest review.

An intriguing and fast read. 3.5 stars

Bianca is a woman looking for answers. After her father's death she was left with boxes of paperwork and a letter from him saying that he thinks her mother was murdered years ago. After taking time off from work she devotes all her time into finding out the truth. She begins dating David in hope of finding those answers. This is a companion novella to a full length novel and can be read either before or after to fill in the blanks.

Keri says

I want more

This gave lots of insight into David and the crazy world Bianca got herself mixed up in. I really can't wait for the next book. So many unanswered questions. This is a great series.

Candace says

*** I was provided with an ARC through Netgalley.com in exchange for honest feedback. ***

This prequel, meant to be read after 'Illusion', goes back in time to before Bianca is kidnapped. This quick read focuses on the days and months immediately following her father's death, as she begins her investigation into Bradley Corporation. Mostly, this book focuses on how she orchestrated her "chance meeting" with David Bradley, which she used to insert herself into his life.

Overall, the prequel was okay. It didn't reveal many details about the Bradley Corporation's involvement in her mother's death. Instead, it focused on the superficial relationship that she had with David. Although he was duped by Bianca, I couldn't help but feel like it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. Really, he just seemed like a sleaze for most of the story. I guess they both got what they had coming.

At the end, David does give Bianca a warning. He tries to forewarn her that his brother Mattias is watching her and tries to scare her off. Maybe he was trying to help her, or maybe he just felt guilty for being caught red-handed cheating on Bianca.

Either way, this short story didn't seem to provide more than a little background information on the story of how Bianca dated David. Maybe there's something here that might prove to be valuable information later in the story, but for now nothing seemed to have any significance. It was really short and it was an okay way to pass some time. All in all, not great, but not all that bad either.

Mazmum says

ARC kindly provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Let me start by saying that this book opens on a declaration that this is the Prequel to the Swept Away series and is best read after Illusion. I popped across to Amazon to find that said book is over £7 for the kindle edition and therefore out of my price range, so I had to read this on a standalone basis. I am a firm believer though that every book should stand up on it's own merit, even if it's part of a series so I went into this book on that basis.

Our leading lady Bianca has just lost her dad. Not having any money to leave to her, all he leaves her are two boxes full of patents and a cryptic letter. Therein starts Bianca's investigation into how her father went from being a partner in a three way company to an employee in the two man version, and around the mysterious circumstances of her mothers untimely death. Caitlin decides her way into the company is via the sons. One is mysterious and never seen, the other is a bit of a party boy, so she arranges to bump into him and hopes that this chance meeting will reap rewards.

Lo and behold, he doesn't get annoyed when she throws wine on him but asks her out to dinner instead. Therein starts the beginning of a weird and confusing semi relationship between the two. I have to say, if I was in his shoes, she wouldn't have lasted a second date. Meanwhile, i'm struggling to decide just what it is about the man boy that she finds so attractive.

This is a very short novella and I do feel that it could have been fleshed out a bit more to put some meat on the bones of the main characters. It doesn't really matter about your side players at this time, but you need to feel you have got to know your main characters enough to relate to them and I didn't feel this quite did enough to achieve that.

At the end, I was mildly curious about what the next book brings, but not chomping at the bit for the next

piece like I normally am with a novella I love.

Jennifer says

Received an ARC for review

I didn't like it. The writing was good, but I didn't like David or Bianca. He was a slight jerk and she was just a tease. I have no desire to read the rest of this series. Plus it took me two days to read this which is sad since it's only 66 pages, but I was bored.

H. says

I love a good romance with a bit of mystery mixed in and yet again the author does a fabulous job of teasing of what is to come by giving us a bit more of the back story for the first book Illusion. Charade is a prequel to Illusion and gives insight on how Bianca came to be with her boyfriend David and why. His family (the Bradley's) are a mystery in them selves and hold the key to what Bianca is going through. It also helps you understand how her and Jacob come to be on the island.

booklover4life says

4.5 Stars!

This novella is best read after Illusion, even though it tells us the events leading up to that story. We get a lot of background information about what is going on in Bianca's world, especially the mystery surrounding her parents. Even though we are given some answers, we are still left with many questions. It is easy to see that this series will keep us guessing to the very end.

Chrissy says

After reading Illusion, I needed to know more about the relationship between Bianca and David and Charade was just the way to get it.

We meet Bianca right after her father's death and her finding the letter he had written for her. She starts her investigation into the Bradley's and figures out the perfect way to meet David Bradley, since his brother Mattias seems to be non-existent.

I did enjoy Bianca's private detective skills, but I wasn't a big fan of David's. He seemed to only want one thing from her, and she wasn't willing to give that to him. I really didn't think he cared about her at all in this book until the very end when he issued a warning about his brother. I think in the end he did care about Bianca (in his own odd way), but he cared about sex more. As much as I didn't like their "relationship" I

really understand Bianca's reasoning behind trying to get close to David, she wants the truth about her mother's death, and being close to the Bradley's seems to be the logical step in getting that information. If only she knew what would happen to her for poking around in their business....

I was hoping we'd get more information and maybe some clues into everything that happened in *Illusion*, but I was left with more questions, as well as more distrust for characters (Rosie!). I was also a bit disappointed we didn't get more information on Bridgette since in *Illusion* we know that Bianca had met her and her admitting that seemed to be a big moment in the book.

Charade is definitely a quick read and should be read after *Illusion*, even though it occurs prior to *Illusion*. It helps fill in some blanks about David and Bianca, but also left me with a bunch of questions and more suspicions on who Jakob was, and if Rosie was part of everything happened. If you read *Illusion* and wanted to know more about how Bianca ended up in the mess she's in, then I do suggest reading *Charade* to get some background into Bianca's life before being kidnapped.

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

***P says**

5 "Perfect Bridge" Stars

This is the second book in Cooper's Swept Away Series. *Illusion* was an amazing full length novel that ended with a huge cliffhanger. This book is a novella and prequel to the first book. You really should read them in order to best enjoy the books. It is great because we get more of the back story between Bianca and David. We also see how Mattias was getting suspicious about Bianca. This book was a great bridge to tide us over until this Spring when *Disillusioned* comes out. With knowing more of the back story I think we will better understand what may take place in the next book. I was a little shocked that we didn't get any information on Bridgette in this book as I thought she had been dating David and Bianca had interacted with her. On a totally different topic, Rosie was really acting weird in this book. It was almost as if she knew what was going on and I can't help but think she had something to do with what happened in *Illusion*. I am sure I am just making something out of nothing, but Cooper has me wondering. I just can't wait til we get the rest of this story>

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

Mandy says

I really enjoyed *Illusion* and was excited to read *Charade*. *Charade* is kind of a prequel to *Illusion*. It's about Bianca and how she lured David into meeting her so she could put her plan in action. There wasn't a lot of new information in this novella. I did feel like it made me question Rosie and if she is really Bianca's friend. I laughed out loud while reading this at one point- when Bianca is trying to figure out her dating schedule and she has to consult to see if there are any good prime time tv shows on, I thought that was hilarious and hit a little close to home for me. I did feel a little disconnect from Bianca though, she was a tease to David and I could understand his frustration even if he was a jerk. I'm really enjoying this series and can't wait to

see what happens next - I can't wait to find out how this is all going to come together.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review

Izzie Edwards says

"He left home to escape. She made a new life out of guilt. Neither one expected to find love—but not even the Arctic can cool this steamy romance."

I simple loved this book. It tore me apart, made me cry and then made me cry with happiness. Highly recommended and so worth reading.

Kelly says

[being cheated on by him after she teased him during two months (hide spoiler)]
