



Rhianna

Amanda L.V. Shalaby

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Upon the unexpected death of her parents, Rhianna Braden finds the enigmatic Lord Guilford Kingsley on her doorstep. He escorts her to Kingsley Manor, where family secrets and scandals begin to unfold.

Her uncommon beauty captures the attention of the dashing Lord Thayne Brighton of Ravensleigh, but Rhianna is certain, despite their mutual attraction, that he would never choose her over his wealthy intended. Meanwhile, Lady Lydia Kingsley suspects her husband's attention to Rhianna has led to an affair between them. Events turn deadly when the truth of their relationship is discovered.

Eventually, Rhianna is forced to make a life-altering decision—while discovering that some secrets are not meant to be kept.

Sensuality Level: Behind Closed Doors

Rhianna Details

Date : Published July 16th 2012 by Crimson Romance

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Author : Amanda L.V. Shalaby

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From Reader Review Rhianna for online ebook

Bookswithbenefits says

Amanda L.V. Shalaby's debut novel is surprising. Perhaps so different from other historical romances that it might not be too far to say that Shalaby is on her way to creating a new sub-category. For Rhianna is not merely an historical novel. It is a novel that is history. To read Rhianna is to read new seventeenth and eighteenth century fiction. It's as though some historian has unearthed a never before discovered collection of novels by Samuel Richardson or Susanna Rowson.

The expectation with most historicals is that the setting, costumes, and most of the social rules appropriate to the period will be followed, but we all expect that the history within will be more than a little bit tweaked. Heroines are not your average from the period. They are eccentric in a way that most women true to the time were not. These heroines think mostly as we do—especially about romance. They frolic in gardens with little concern for their reputations. They have a nearly modern sense of love, and like a woman living today, take for granted that sexual attraction, equality, and lifelong companionship are what makes up a good marriage. They suffer as governesses and tip headlong into any mystery or excitement they encounter.

Rhianna on the other hand—like a true, written-in-history heroine—does not know what kind of love she has for the man who first proposes to her. She is quickly turned from thoughts of marriage and romance by excitement over a trip to an English manor from her early memories and by the offer of a governess position. She is grateful for her role as teacher and companion and she shies away from the mystery and romance that would entangle her.

Very rare stuff.

So what are the Benefits of reading Rhianna?

Dialogue that is true to the period: Shalaby's dialogue is full of all that lovely fluff that makes Austen so beloved by SAT test makers. Dotted with indeeds and certainlys, the conversation between characters hits various pitches.

Narration that is true to the period: Classic fiction was not as obsessed with the old Show-Don't-Tell paradigm. What might be related in scene and dialogue now was then entrusted to the narrator. Most contemporary romance has only a minimum of narration, preferring instead to move back and forth in the POVs of the main characters. This book, however, has all the trappings of classic fiction. Descriptions of scenery and how that scenery evokes meditation. Haunting dreams and memories that layer the present day. A heroine who is so sleepy she isn't aware of speaking. There's even a moment where the heroine sees an image of her younger self superimposed over her current face in a looking glass.

A plot that is true to the period. Former Crimson Romance editor Jennifer Lawler advised writers to cut their entire first chapter. One writer I recently met at RWA insisted that she regularly deleted the first three! The sage advice to begin as near to the end as possible is a general rule in fiction. In romance fiction, that typically means beginning when—or just before—the hero and heroine meet. This is not how classic fiction works. Most classic novels are better described as bildungsroman—or coming of age stories. So, classic novels are concerned with the life story of one protagonist—not just her marriage. Rhianna begins with her birth, skips ahead a few years to when things begin to boil with the arrival of a man from her past, but we don't meet a major contender for her hand until a full fourth of the book has gone by. There is mystery and

suspense aplenty, too, but again it builds as a classic novel would. The heroine—even when she's at the center of the mystery—is not the center of the action. She hears no whispered words. She is in little immediate danger.

If you're in the mood for Austen, you'll likely love this book. But a note of caution to those who love Austen's period, but not the pace of her prose.

Disclaimer: An ARC copy was provided.

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

It's been awhile since I've read a good Gothic. From the description, I thought this could be one. Well, nope. The paternity mystery is easily guessed. Convenient end with the villains. This was very dry and dragged for me.

A complaint. If given a key to a room that has been LOCKED for YEARS, wouldn't you make sure said door was LOCKED again when you left?! Or at the very least make sure the damn door was closed?! Stupid.

Kelsey says

I loved this book. I am going to agree with a lot of the earlier reviews and compare it to *Pride and Prejudice* with its intense, but appropriate romance. Rhianna was an amazing character and she is the type of person who you root for from the first page until the last word. Fans of historical novels will definitely not want to miss this book.

Becky Lower says

You know the kind of book where you're hooked from the beginning and want to race through it because the plot line is so compelling? But then, you find yourself going back over what you just read and savoring every paragraph because it is so beautifully written? This is one of those books. Rhianna is Amanda L. V. Shalaby's debut novel, and it is a wonderful read. The book is a tale of a lovely young woman who has a suitor in France with whom she's grown up, and more than one suitor in England, where she's now living and working as a governess. Shalaby weaves in lust, passion, lost loves, and true love, and does so in a lyrical style that is a delight to read.

Literary Chanteuse says

For a star rating and complete review, visit *Ind'tale Magazine* online July/August 2012 issue.
<http://www.indtale.com/reviews/rhianna>

preppea says

If you want to read a book that breathes historic romance and has the same gorgeous, lyrical writing as all your favorite classics, then look no further than RHIANNA. Amanda L.V. Shalaby delivers an amazing, fully developed story with twists and turns that keep you captivated while maintaining all of the beautiful writing of times old. She develops a slow-building love story that keeps you wanting more while sharing a tale filled with mystery and suspense.

Rhianna has never felt close to her parents; so at the news of their deaths, she feels only guilt at her lack of emotions. Lord Guilford Kingsley delivers the news in person and offers his home as Rhianna returns to England to fulfill her family duties. She soon finds herself immersed in the Kingsley's lives as governess of Kingsley's daughter. More importantly, she meets Lord Thayne Brighton, who she fights her developing feelings for knowing he'd never marry someone of her station. All of this is told under an air of mystery as the author slowly provides other information that shows the reader all is not as it seems.

The reader is swept up in both the mystery surrounding Rhianna's parentage and the romance between Rhianna and Lord Brighton, both equally interesting and all-encompassing. My only complaint, and mind you it doesn't stop me from giving this read a full 5 stars, was Rhianna's decision to run into danger not once but twice in the latter part of the book, which I would have forgiven but her excuse was so ridiculous and trivial that I couldn't help but fume at the typical girl in a book doing something they're told not to only to require saving by the male lead. Still, this book was wonderful and different and a must read for lovers of historical fiction.

***Copy provided by the author/publisher for an honest review.*

***Reviewed by Michelle on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews and The Romance Reviews.*

Victoria J. says

I loved this book ! Enjoyed every page! It was such a great read that when my mom borrowed the book, she called me and said get yourself another copy I want this one for my library... Oh mom you're not borrowing Audra when it comes out, no way ... LOL I guess I'll be buying 2 copies of the next one.

Lisa says

Very engrossing! Rhianna is a curates daughter ? sent to France for school for 10 years. She becomes a companion to a friend from school. She is suddenly called to England because her parents have died in a coaching accident....now the mystery begins...who is she really? Is Desmond as much of creep as he seems: (I'm betting yes) Does she get with the dreamy Thayne, who was her tormenter as a child? Can't wait to find

out!

Joanna Lloyd says

Rhianna is a beautifully written book in the style of the Regency classics. I am an avid reader of historical romance but am regularly disappointed by the number of “historicals” which are simply modern tales set in earlier times. Shalaby has perfectly portrayed the habits, speech and fashions of the era. Not to mention the art of understated but sensual love play: the brush of fingertips, a lingering gaze, the tantalising glimpse of an ankle. While I read Rhianna, I was firmly ensconced in the early nineteenth century, experiencing the thoughts and emotions of the characters, societal restrictions, and the vivid detail of the surroundings.

This story not only had a beautiful and satisfying love story between two admirable but very human characters, there was also a clever web of intrigue, surprise plot twists and life-threatening danger. This was an enthralling and compelling debut novel for Amanda L.V. Shalaby – one which I highly recommend.

Michiele says

I really enjoyed this book: A nice, clean historical romance. I rarely give 5 stars, but I could easily give this 4.5 stars. I enjoyed the writing style; It was reminiscence of a older books. I stopped after the first chapter to see if it was written in the 19th century. It is not the most accurate as far as the historical part, but I don't read for the accuracy so that didn't bother me at all. I enjoyed the story itself, even though it was fairly predictable. I am looking forward to reading more of Ms. Shalaby's books.

Sabrina Parker Davis says

Another great read for me

Stephanie Freeman says

Shalaby's remarkable story of a young woman surrounded by secrets has classic written all over it. Instantly the reader is transported back to an era when a look or the briefest touch could convey a world. The dialog was sheer poetry, beautifully written. I found myself tearing up more than once as I read some of the passages. The prose simply captured my imagination.

The main character Rhianna Braden was as brave as she was beautiful. Thayne Brighton was the perfect combination of mystery and devotion. Not one to give spoilers, Rhianna is the kind of irresistible historical romance that is a rarity that will be a permanent part of my library to marvel over again and again. I look forward to reading more from this author.

A dazzling 5- star feast, Amanda Shalaby's Rhianna simply takes your breath away.

Ms. Shalaby gave me an advanced reader copy of this work for an honest review.

WiLoveBooks says

I absolutely loved this book. The writing just pulled me in, making it impossible to put down for long. There is mystery, intrigue, suspense, romance, and a bit of witty humor, wrapped in a lovely English historical package. This is one of those books that I had to race through to find out what would happen, only to be disappointed when it was over. Luckily, Audra's story is set to release in April.

Jenny Q says

Really surprised to see so many glowing reviews of this one. After fifty pages of nothing happening and an abundance of elevated, frivolous, adverb-riddled dialogue, I had to put it down and move on.

John says

Ok, so, I never thought myself a Romance reader of any sort. Well, except I tend to read vamp and werewolf stories and there IS romance there, as well as the guy type violence. Now, having said that, I got into reading some of the classics and immensely enjoyed Pride and Prejudice. After joining Goodreads, Amanda and I commented back and forth on a few of the classics and I saw that she had a book of her own, Rhianna. I put in on my to-read shelf and continued reading some of the other books on my list. I finally decided to purchase it the other day. Boy, I have to tell you, I wasn't disappointed. I finished the book in 2 days (just reading it on the bus to and from work). It's an AMAZING story with a few twists and turns and a surprise ending. I would highly recommend this book to ANYONE, even those who previously thought they wouldn't like Romance books.

Well done Amanda! Can't wait for your next one!!
