

Masquerade

Hannah Fielding

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Nothing makes love more appealing than a dash of forbidden romance, plus a generations-old rivalry. Add Spanish sunshine and stir gently.

Luz de Rueda is a gorgeous young biographer, freshly returned to her aristocratic family's villa in Cadiz. For all her progressive thinking, Luz is essentially untouched. "She considered the act of love to be just that, provoked by deeply felt emotion, and for love itself to be a passionate adventure," Hannah writes. That adventure shows up in the form of Leandro, a sea gypsy who captures Luz's eye. Their mutual attraction is taboo—gypsies and gadjos don't mix, and Luz is caught between propriety and passion.

In addition to the boy-meets-girl story line, there's also a nice, tightly written subplot that stretches back to the previous generation. Throw in a gypsy curse, and things get really interesting. Soon, Luz is entangled in a forbidden romance, plus a long-awaited reckoning between the lovers' families.

With high passion set in heart-meltingly beautiful landscapes, *Masquerade* is a vivid delight.

CLAIRE RUDY FOSTER (Fall 2016)

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