



The Billionaire Beast

Jackie Ashenden

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Dark, tortured, and intimidating, these dominant billionaires will steal their innocent heroines' breath away. Overwhelmed by their desire to control their world, they push their heroines to explore their deepest desires. But even the most unworldly of heroines can unlock these billionaires' secrets.

Nero de Santis: Damaged. Bastard. Beast.

Nero hasn't left his house in ten years—he demands the world come to him, and the world is only too happy to bend to the strong-willed billionaire. Ruthless, cold, and selfish, Nero wants for nothing and takes care of no one but himself. His last handful of assistants have left his house in tears, but the prim redhead applying for the job looks up to the task. Nero has spent his life shut within the walls he built, with no care to have more than a window to the outside world. But the fiery passion he senses beneath his reserved assistant's exterior makes him want to break down the barriers he lives behind, and unleash the beast within.

Phoebe Taylor: Uptight. Misunderstood. Engaged.

Phoebe needs the obscene amount of money that comes with being Nero's personal assistant for one thing, and one thing only—to pay for the mounting hospital costs that her fiancee's two-year coma continues to incur. She's heard rumors that the de Santis beast is a force that cannot be tamed—but even she isn't prepared to handle the smoldering intensity simmering beneath his hard shell of feral dominance. Nero is hiding something, something he is fighting with every step he takes. Yet he can't help but stake his claim on this woman who has shaken up his life, and Phoebe can't believe this animal of a man is the one person to ever look into her eyes and see her soul. Nero wants to keep her. He wants to devour her. And Phoebe just might let him.

The Billionaire Beast Details

Date : Published March 7th 2017 by Swerve

ISBN :

Author : Jackie Ashenden

Format : Kindle Edition 212 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Billionaire Beast for online ebook

Maya says

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

I have to say that I wasn't expecting the story to turn out the way it did. At first I wasn't sure I'd like the story, since Nero came off as an A rate jerk but he grew on me really fast and in the end I really felt for him. His past nearly destroyed his future. He lived in terrible conditions as a child and was abused, so that left him with deep scars and with the fear to leave his comfort places. It's been years since he stepped out of his house, so of course he needed help from various assistants to get him things from the stores and so on. And that's where we get to meet his new assistant, Phoebe. She needs the money that comes with her being by his side 24/7. He can be insanely demanding but over the time she comes to see his scars and fears. With that she of course wants to help him but that's easily said than done. You could say this is a story about two people that end up helping each other to get over their demons.

This story is a mix of sweetness, sexiness and sorrow. I really liked reading about the journey those two took and how that changed them. I would definitely recommend it!

Safety:(view spoiler)

Maria says

"Received an Advance Reader Copy in exchange for a fair review"

This book is so amazing in terms of the hero's characterization - indirect, coherent, cohesive, with plenty of showing – that I've delayed the reading, instead of reading it in one sitting.

It's not that I love the hero – billionaire alphas are not my type – but Jackie Ashenden does a great job showing us why he is such a cold and insensitive jerk. What I found most compelling was watching the hero's always genuine perplexity and lack of understanding of clues to feelings, emotions and appropriate social behavior (emotions and people for him are "texts" he can't neither translate nor interpret). And the heroine's ability of learning to "read" him ("He didn't know. He really didn't know. Not only was he blind to her feelings, he was blind to his own, too").

As someone who loves to read and to interpret I found this hero – Nero, as the Roman emperor - that is so unskilled and clumsy reading himself and the others a compelling and unforgettable character. The depiction of his mental functioning, of his arrogance and his vulnerabilities, is striking! And his physical size and strength contrast with his emotional and psychological frailty.

I think that besides the condition identified in the novel Nero might suffer from another condition and I'm glad there was no miraculous solution for his problems.

I'm grateful to the publisher, Swerve/St. Martin's Press, the author, Jackie Ashenden, and NetGalley for providing a free copy.

Beth says

An erotic *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Billionaire Beast* is the story of Phoebe, Londonite relocating to America, to be with her finance who is put in a coma by an auto accident and Nero, a billionaire recluse,

locked in his home by a phobia that he just can't beat.

Nero is known as a brutal and ruthless employer but Phoebe need money to keep her comatosed finance up with the best of care. She will do anything and Nero is the man that will ask it.

This was a tough story. First you have Nero, who was abused and isolated as a child and still hasn't faced his fears. He is not a very likeable person, thinking only of himself and what is best for him. Then there is Phoebe, who will do anything to save her finance...and I do mean anything. Liked it, but found the overall premise a little off putting

Intriguing tortured soul plot, *Beauty and the Beast* didn't lack in the sexual chemistry or interaction. Although this is the second in a series, *The Billionaire Beast* read as a stand alone.

I received this ARC copy of *The Billionaire Beast* from St. Martin Press - Swerve. This is my honest AND voluntary review. *The Billionaire Beast* is set for publication March 7, 2017.

My Rating: 3.5 stars

Written by: Jackie Ashenden

Series: Billionaire Fairy Tales

Sequence in Series: 2

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Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Billionaire-Be...>

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/the-...>

Reviewed for:

<http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Elaine says

Rating 4.5/5

What a brilliant, very adult, remake of the classic Beauty and the Beast fairy tale this turned out to be - I loved it! It has all the elements of the classic tale but brought up to date with plenty of contemporary twists to keep the reader enthralled. It is the second book in the series but I haven't read the first one - though I intend doing so asap - so I can confidently say that it works well as a standalone for anyone else who hasn't read the earlier story. (I found out it is 'The Billionaire's Virgin', just in case you'd also like to know).

The Beast in the story is the reclusive billionaire Nero de Santis. He rules his home - which he never leaves - controlling, domineering, selfish, forthright and obstinate. What he says, goes. What he wants, he expects to get. Everything needs to be done his way or you're out. He's a very difficult employer for all these reasons and he's quick to fire anyone who doesn't meet his exacting expectations. He fired ten PAs in less than a month.....

Phoebe is brilliant at appearing cool, calm and collected, regardless of what is said to her and what she is really feeling. She originally travelled from her home in London to be with her fiancee, Charles, but two years ago he was seriously injured in a car crash and has been in a coma ever since. She's prepared to take on the impossible task of PA to Nero because of the high rate of pay - she needs all the money to help pay Charles' medical bills.

It is an enthralling story, one where the very caring nature of Phoebe has an impact on the traumatised Nero. As secrets from the past are revealed, both have experienced tragedies in their lives which impact on their attitudes and behaviour. It is not a typical romance but is a delightful story that I thoroughly enjoyed escaping into and have no hesitation in highly recommending!

Many thanks to the publishers for gifting me a copy of this novel, via NetGalley, with no obligation. This is my honest review.

? Jeri's Book Attic ? I like says

I can never resist a good version of Beauty and the Beast so I doubt there is much to explain about the plot of this book. What made this book a little different was that I actually really did not like our Beast and while reading I was wondering how the author would manage to change my mind.

Well suffice to say ... I changed it and I actually had a little silent laugh when I realized why the name Nero fits this Beast so well and why it felt so familiar with the setting. Anybody here that grew up in the 1970's /80's ? Does the name "Nero Wolf" ring a bell - hahahah ... not going into this any deeper but if it rings a bell - you will understand when you read it :-)

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Kahea says

4 'Give Me the Words' Stars

I decided to give this one a go simple because of the fact that it was based on the Beauty and the Beast fairy

tale, which hands down is my favorite of them all. I hadn't read the first book in the series, nor anything by the author, so I went in blind and was hooked from the first page and found that I had very difficult time putting it down. I was absolutely intrigued by both Nero and Phoebe and enjoyed watching as they got under each others skins, stripped each other bare and forced the other to take a good, hard look at what their truths really were.

The description of Nero in the synopsis is perfect *Damaged. Bastard. Beast.* and I absolutely adored the bastard that Nero was. I did. I know most hated him instantly, but not me. Nope. That was the hook. I loved how he owned the asshat he was and didn't apologize for it. But I also loved watching as his well construction kevlar armor started to crumble and revealed the heart that he so desperately wanted to believe was dead, only to find that it wasn't as black as he thought it was. And to find out what formed him into the beast was heartbreaking.

Phoebe *Uptight. Misunderstood. Engaged* and all three descriptions were of her own making. This is how she describes herself and yet there is so much more to her. I loved how controlled she was, the facade she presented to the world was amazing. Her strength of will was insane, some may have seen a doormat, I didn't. I saw a woman who had a goal and worked it. But the fire that lay underneath, once unleashed, only made her that much stronger and I loved how she embraced it.

Nero and Phoebe 's journey was erotic romance with a bit of dark rolled in it and it just worked for me because they were so evenly matched. While Nero was big, bold and in your face, Phoebe was slow, subtle and a hit you when you least expected it. The force of their personalities made it so neither one could be ignored and that lead to so many truths being exposed and dealt with, sometimes painfully, but dealt with.

This can be read as a standalone since it's a character driven story and while there are references to Nero's family, they don't play a major role in anything that happens. This retelling was a fun, quick and smexy read that hooked me from the start and I found the ending more than satisfying.

~ *Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley* ~

Sabrina says

The Billionaire Beast was my first book by Jackie Ashenden and I was actually really excited about it. A beastly Billionaire is something that's right up my alley and I usually always fall for these types of Heroes. Unfortunately that wasn't the case for me with this book, though.

I found the story to be well written and I did like the authors style of storytelling. What I couldn't get on board with were the characters. Nero was an unlikable asshole this whole entire book and I never once saw a redeemable quality in him. What's so great about beastly protagonists is that underneath their growl is a good person. Not the case here, at least for me.

One of my biggest issues with Nero was that he didn't care about anything but his own needs. He wanted Phoebe and he didn't give two shits about what she wanted. And he definitely didn't care that she has a fiancé who had been in a coma for two years that she was worried about. I almost dnf'ed this book, which I have never done before, when Nero didn't even want to let Phoebe leave to go see her fiancé after she got a call from the hospital he was in. I just found it all very frustrating to read about and I had the biggest urge to slap

these characters.

And I include Phoebe in my slapping rampage because she was just as bad as Nero. She would say no to him over and over again and then just give in to his demands. I didn't like that she never really stood up for herself and I wish I would have seen that at least once.

Bottom line, this book wasn't for me. I'm sure many other people will read it and fall in love with these characters so I will still recommend it for anyone that's a fan of a very beastly Hero.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

This story was more heartbreak than I was expecting. We got a glimpse of Nero in the first book and I was really looking forward to his story. He came off as a moody, dominant man that was a bit mysterious. I wasn't really expecting him to be such a jerk. All he cared about was what he wanted and he expects everyone around him to comply. He's been through so many assistants that word has spread and no one wants to work for him despite the generous salary. Except Phoebe.

Phoebe has a fiancé that has been in a coma for 2 years and she needs funds fast to keep up with his care. Phoebe has had a bit of a sad upbringing. Her mom had her to replace her dead sister. Her father never wanted her. She leaves them when Charles came into her life. She was hoping this was a chance for her to live a life with Charles when he gets into an accident putting him in a coma. Now she needs to make money fast and her chance comes when she interviews with Nero.

As the story progresses, we start to learn why Nero is such a hard man. It's a heartbreak tale and Phoebe is peeling back the layers one piece at a time. By the end of the book I loved Nero. I understood why he was such a hard man and I loved seeing Phoebe bring out the man he truly is. It wasn't what I was expecting and I didn't care for Nero in the beginning but it ended beautifully.

ARC provided by NetGalley.

Sandy S says

3.75 stars--

ABOUT THE BOOK: Release Date March 7, 2017

Dark, tortured, and intimidating, these dominant billionaires will steal their innocent heroines' breath away. Overwhelmed by their desire to control their world, they push their heroines to explore their deepest desires. But even the most unworldly of heroines can unlock these billionaires' secrets.

Nero de Santis: Damaged. Bastard. Beast.

Nero hasn't left his house in ten years—he demands the world come to him, and the world is only too happy

to bend to the strong-willed billionaire. Ruthless, cold, and selfish, Nero wants for nothing and takes care of no one but himself. His last handful of assistants have left his house in tears, but the prim redhead applying for the job looks up to the task. Nero has spent his life shut within the walls he built, with no care to have more than a window to the outside world. But the fiery passion he senses beneath his reserved assistant's exterior makes him want to break down the barriers he lives behind, and unleash the beast within.

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REVIEW: 3.75 stars--THE BILLIONAIRE BEAST is the second installment in Jackie Ashenden's contemporary, adult BILLIONAIRE FAIRY TALES erotic, romance series focusing on the de Santis brothers-Xavier, Nero, Raphael and Lorenzo. This is billionaire IT specialist Nero de Santis, and personal assistant Phoebe Taylor's story line. THE BILLIONAIRE BEAST can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Any important information from the previous story line is revealed where necessary.

Told from dual third person perspectives (Nero and Phoebe) THE BILLIONAIRE BEAST follows the building relationship between reclusive billionaire Nero de Santis, and his new PA Phoebe Taylor. For close to ten years Nero de Santis has kept himself hidden behind closed doors; locked in a sprawling mansion that potentially covers several city blocks with only his butler for social interaction. Ten personal assistances in 30 days precedes Nero's introduction to his latest 'temporary' employee. Enter Phoebe Taylor, a young British woman struggling to survive the mean streets of New York, as well as the medical bills for her comatose fiancé. What ensues is the contemptuous relationship between Phoebe and Nero, and Phoebe's struggle to remain distant from the mysterious man with a dark and lonely past.

Nero de Santis is a broken man whose ability to interact with people is questionable; his actions and emotional behavior are dangerous; his demands beyond the requirements for a normal personal assistant aggressive and improper. Throughout the story line small snippets from memories of the past begin to outline a heartbreak history for our story line hero. Phoebe Taylor followed her fiancé of three years to New York only to find herself alone, paying the ever increasing medical bills for a man who remains comatose closing in on two years. In desperate need of money, our heroine accepts the position of Nero's personal assistant suspecting that she is expected to perform outside the range of her normal duties. The \$ex scenes are seductive, intimate and intense.

THE BILLIONAIRE BEAST is a dark romance about two people whose lives are pulled together by loneliness and need. Nero de Santis's actions and demands are difficult to accept; his initial treatment of Phoebe Taylor borders on abusive and controlling. Some readers make take exception to Nero's behavior; the reasons why will be all too clear at the end. The premise is dramatic; the characters are controversial and tenacious-our hero is tormented and lost; the romance is provocative yet heartbreaking. The 'fairy tale' aspect comes into play thinking about the behavior of Beast behind the walls built to protect him from the

people outside.

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www.thereadingcafe.com

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

This cover is fairly nice. The red is a bit harsh in my opinion, but the composition is nicely done. The typography is lovely and has good placement. I would probably have made the author's name smaller to line up with the title. I'm of the opinion that the title of a book should be the largest and most prominent text on the cover. Because the author's name extends almost the entire width of the cover it draws the eye away from the title.

I REALLY enjoyed this one. This is the second book by this author I have read (The Billionaire's Virgin being the first), and she knows how to weave a tale. It was a surprisingly dark subject matter with the hero's issues, and I wasn't expecting that, but it all worked so well for me.

Nero was an incredibly damaged hero. He was a HUGE asshole, to begin with, and I wasn't sure I was going to get over that. As the book goes on the author peels more layers from his character, and I found myself falling a little in love with him myself. I thought Phoebe was a great character as well. She was damaged, but to a way lesser extent than Nero, and I enjoyed the way she stood up to him while still recognizing that his behavior was stemming from a place of pain and hurt. Together these two characters healed each other.

Not much left to say. It was a well-written. Nicely paced emotional read and I am looking forward to the next book in the series. Two thumbs up from yours truly.

★ Belle The Bibliophile ★ says

Phoebe doesn't deserve happiness. Okay maybe that's too harsh but I think she would have cheated on her fiancee (who was in a coma) even if Nero wasn't in the picture. Nero just gave her the excuse to do so.

Because hey apparently, Nero is so ALPHA!! MY FIANCEE IS WEAK. MY FIANCEE COULDN'T EVEN GET ME TO C*M SO I GET A FREE PASS OKAYY!! FEEL MY WOES.

Like... she just wants to get laid. I would have liked it better if she'd just have sex with the guy without using her fiancee's shortcomings as an excuse.

In other words, trash heroine. The hero is just as bad. Not worth my time.

Lisa says

3.5 Stars!

The Billionaire Beast is the second installment in author Jackie Ashenden's Billionaire Fairytales series featuring the second and most reclusive de Santis brother falling to the mighty hand of lust and love. I enjoyed the first book in the series and was especially looking forward to Nero de Santis' book as he was the elusive brother mentioned in book one. I was immediately intrigued. This author certainly knows how to pen a sexy romance and this book was definitely an enjoyable read. With a "Beauty and the Beast" plot and two interesting protagonists, this installment is definitely worth picking up.

Nero de Santis is an asshole. He does not really see beyond his immediate needs and what HE wants. He has no consideration for anyone else's feelings nor does he care (that much) that he can't seem to keep an assistant on staff for a long period of time. Sure Nero had a horrific and traumatic childhood and is the illegitimate de Santis son; however, does this really excuse his demanding, ruthless and selfish ways? Enter Phoebe Taylor. She desperately needs a high paying job to continue paying for the care of her fiancé who has been in a coma for two years. It is either applying for the personal assistant position or stripping. Phoebe opts to try her hand at being a personal assistant even if it is for a cold and domineering, yet gorgeous, man who puts some crazy demands on her.

When Nero and Phoebe meet the sparks and the chemistry certainly ignite. Phoebe knew this would be a difficult job and resigns herself to dealing with Nero's standoffish and surly attitude. Nero is taken aback as to how much Phoebe actually intrigues him and he is not sure what to do about his new personal assistant who seems to roll with his impossible requests. He's fascinated and she awakens something inside of him that he has never felt before. As the pair enter into this push and pull sort of relationship that moves from business to pleasure, matters get complicated as the antagonistic two can't seem to stay away from one another. The allure of the forbidden and the deep seated lust they feel for one another is too much of a temptation for Nero and Phoebe. What starts off as a no holds barred sex affair leads to the couple developing some very real and intense feelings for each other; however, Nero has some complicated issues of his own. He's never even left his residence for over ten years! And, what about the comatose fiancé? Happiness does not seem in the cards if Nero can't accept all that he is feeling and let Phoebe completely into his heart and life. Can the red-haired beauty break through and tame the beast that has captured her own heart?

I did like many things about this book. The romance between Nero and Phoebe kept me reading even though I had a really hard time with our ass-hat of a male protagonist for most of the book. Things may have begun in an antagonistic lust-filled craze, but the pair slowly understood that there was more going on than some hot sexy times. There was a good balance of the heated moments and intertwining a heart-warming romance. If I have one criticism it would be that I got a little bored of all the internal monologues this author is fond of. I wanted to see more dialogue between Nero and Phoebe rather than description after description of their internal thoughts and struggles.

All in all, *The Billionaire Beast* was a great book and great addition to this very entertaining series.

****An advance reading copy of ***The Billionaire Beast*** by Jackie Ashenden was generously provided to me via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Liv ? says

★3.5 STARS!★

ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

?If I'm being completely honest I'm not sure this is the book for me. When I read the summary I was intrigued about how the main character, Nero, never left his house. His troubles reminded me somewhat of the Fifty Shades trilogy and Phoebe being the only one who could help him.

?I loved Phoebe's character and how she cared for her fiancé even though it was clear he probably would never wake up from his coma. Taking care of him for years, and making money for the sole purpose of paying his medical bills. Taking a job by someone that basically meant bending at her boss' every wish. Her dedication to the one she loved was amazing, and it showed how strong she really was.

?Nero was an interesting character to say the least. I just remember thinking to myself while I was reading that he better have a good explanation for behaving like an ass! (he did, don't worry). I really liked how he revealed his past to Phoebe. I didn't expect him to at all so when he did so willingly, I was shocked and sort of proud of him for it.

?Their relationship is a two way street in my eyes, she needed to talk to him about her family and he needed someone to talk to about his own issues. They leaned on each other in ways that no one else could and eventually they found their way back to one another.

?I enjoyed this book, but again it's not necessarily something I would read again - not really my style.

Corina@BookTwinsReviews says

I'm not usually someone that loves retellings. Maybe because I feel like I already know the story, but with *The Billionaire Beast* by Jackie Ashenden I really hit a good one.

I also should mention that it is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast - but actually it's more about the Beast than anything else if you get my drift.:-)

And because it's a retelling I'm not going into the premise at all. Instead I want to talk about how impressed I

was by Jackie Ashenden's writing and story building.

The Billionaire Beast was my first book by this author. I came across a review and really liked what I read, so I went straight to the library and voilà here I am. I LOVE my library. She (my library is definitely a female since all I borrow is mostly romance) is my best friend and my go-to person for all things audiobooks and new authors I want to try out before I buy.

And because of that you'll see me reading The Big, Bad Billionaire (Billionaire Fairy Tales #4) and The Billionaire's Intern (Billionaire Fairy Tales #3) - they are already downloaded on my kindle and I can't wait to dive in.

For me to like a book it has to have a few ingredients:

I must dig the writing style.

I like dialogues that are interesting, witty and smart.

Characters that aren't bland and boring.

A story that is interesting and entertaining.

And of course all of this is subjective. At the end what I like, you might not care about at all and vice versa. But if we do have books in common. Give this author a try. I was thoroughly enchanted and captivated from beginning to end.

These kind of books are perfect for just sitting on the sofa, snuggling into a blanket and letting everything be - it was an easy and quick read.

I really need more books like this.

So, long story short - I really liked this book. So much so that I'm reading the other books in this series as well. The author writes perfectly swoony male characters that are grumpy and demanding, but also sweet and caring - in time. Her hero was a great Beast!!! Growly, damaged and just waiting for someone to rescue him from his bleak existence. And I really loved his backstory which was very interesting and unique. A nice spin to the damaged hero trope. It was a kind of office romance as well, if you like that sort of trope - which I DO!!!!!! ♥♥♥

That being said, I'm finishing up because I have books to read. But honestly, give this author/book a try if you like retellings and office romances, and let me know how you liked it.:D

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Deborah says

A high 3.5*

After reading 'The Billionaire's Virgin' I was intrigued by Nero the mysterious half brother to Xavier and Lorenzo and I was looking forward to his book.

Several pages in and I wasn't sure I was going to like this, Nero was cold, harsh and unapproachable which honestly from the title and blurb wasn't unexpected and Phoebe was engaged and apparently in love with her fiancé.

Now I knew from the blurb she was engaged but I'd kind of assumed her fiancé had been cheating or something, some reason we could dislike him and she could be working to pay his healthcare simply because there's no one else to do it.

Nero lives in huge house, a house he hasn't left in ten years he's cold, hard selfish and ruthless and he can't keep an assistant (no surprise there) despite the huge salary he offers.

He expects perfection 24/7 and despite being warned to stay away Phoebe is desperate, she needs money and lots of it to pay her fiancé hospital bills and so she's prepared to put up with just about anything.

Phoebe is prim proper and incredibly hardworking regardless of the hour Nero calls her and Nero is intrigued.

Phoebe is a giver but unfortunately she's been surrounded by takers and through her developing relationship with Nero we learn more about her, her past and her life with Charles.

While I didn't dislike Phoebe I didn't like that she was so weak and so easily manipulated by the people who should care about her the most, especially when the details of her relationship with Charles were revealed.

Now Nero is a different matter completely the first time we meet him he's cold ruthless and uncaring but slowly, very slowly we see him start to change partly through his attraction to Phoebe, he's never really wanted anything he hasn't been instantly able to have before but also because he spends so much time with her and watching her he sees other things, reactions and feelings and it's all new to him. We know he's damaged but we discover just how damaged he truly is.

I have to say I enjoyed this book more than the previous one and more than I thought I would.

I voluntarily read a review copy kindly provided by NetGalley and St. Martin's Press