



Unclaimed Heart

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The rules for a young English woman in 1799 are simple: Do what you're told; stay out of the way; and don't, under any circumstances, ask questions.

But Constance Blackchurch is insatiable, headstrong, and complex; and the quest to find her missing mother is too much to resist...

...as is Alexandre Sans-Nom, the pearl diver who steals her heart, uproots all of her social expectations, and can either ruin or save the family she loves.

Unclaimed Heart Details

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From Reader Review Unclaimed Heart for online ebook

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I've been reading this one off and on for about a week and finally sat down today to finish it. I did enjoy the story; it was original in some ways and predictable in others. Constance was a likable heroine, easy to relate to and I admired her spunk. I thought the story between her and her father was nice, how she was able to get to know him and see him in a different light. You can't help but like Alexandre. He was a good leading man with all the right qualities. Constance and Alexandre had good chemistry together, although I would have liked to see them together more before they make any declarations. I guess that's just how it goes though. The ending was a little bitter-sweet, but I'm happy with how everything works out. A good, entertaining read.

Anastasia says

(note: i wrote this Feb '12 for my website)

has a nice plot, but not for me. I'd say I would've enjoyed it if I was still in 5th/6th grade as every next step in the plot, every next line of every character, is very predictable. It wouldn't be a spoiler if I told you that Alexandre, "a handsome stowaway with a sinister past" ended up with Constance, the main character. The main thing they struggle through is the society's rule for people from different classes marrying. Mr. Blackchurch, Constance's father, didn't approve, of course, but she loved him too much. yeah, sound familiar. If you're looking for a great adventure specifically of the 18th century, though, this is NOT for you. It's almost like Kim had rewritten a story FROM that time, instead of creating one OF it. There isn't much connection to the time and have more to do with the places. There is, generally, NO DESCRIPTION of the places whatsoever. She only mentioned a couch because the reader needed to know a character's position, and I think it's quite hard to imagine the story this way. It feels disconnecting, especially when none of us have ever lived in the 18th century before and doesn't know what a 18th century couch actually LOOK like (i THINK it's one of those made of cloth with flowery patterns and laces, but am not sure. it should be along that line, no?) If you enjoy historical fiction I'd recommend nicola and the viscount or victoria and the rogue by meg cabot / the luxe series by anna godberson

Mara says

Two words: massively dull. If it weren't for the time period, I would not have finished it. None of the characters are particularly interesting, the storyline is null, and the villain is not all that terrifying. At first, Constance shows promise as a level-headed heroine, but when she so willingly begins to believe vicious rumors about her father, and then expands on them in her own mind, it became apparent that she was pretty air-headed. This was only confirmed further when she falls in love with a young man quite literally the moment she sees him. There is one thing I can say in her favor: she may be an airhead, but she isn't an annoying airhead.

The romance between Alexandre and Constance was perhaps the most aggravating aspect of this story. I didn't particularly mind that they fell in love, though I would have preferred if they had only become attached in a brother-sister sort of way. It was how rapidly they fell in love. It's immediate. The story gives no opportunity for their love to grow over time. As soon as they see each other, they automatically can't stop thinking about each other, can't live without each other, will do anything for each other, ect. And I mean it when I say it's as sudden and rapid as a lightning bolt. If an Author is going to write a book purely for the romantic aspect, then devote time to having the relationship grow. Don't make it instantaneous.

I was hoping that the search for Constance's mother might offer something of a storyline, and for a while it is a bit intriguing. But it ends in a thoroughly dull explanation. Nothing exciting about it at all. About the only exciting aspect is the trouble Constance's even sillier and bratty friend Orlando causes, and when the villain tries to exact revenge on Alexandre.

However, the ending was good, if only because it was realistic. It's predictable from the standpoint that of course Alexandre and Constance end up together. But they have to spend a year courting properly, giving Alexandre a chance to make his way in the world. And I'll also give the Author points on the fact that this is a completely clean romance story. While the characters are hasty in their attachments, they never behave inappropriately. So, two points for that, and for those people who enjoy romances with little storyline, this would be a good book to pick up. For me personally, the relationship was too quick to develop, it needed a plot, and the villain was not at all a proper villain.

Ally says

The girl on the cover always reminds me of Taylor Swift. I know she doesn't look like her (well, sort of, I guess), but I just have to get that off my mind.

Anyway, Constance Blackchurch is an idiot. She never thinks things twice or secondguess herself. And in this book, that is bad. First, she gets on the ship with no backup plan. Isn't she afraid of the outside world? I guess not, because she simply jumps out into the world. Without money. Without the necessary supplies. Without telling her father. Without telling the people who cares about her. But I can sure tell you that she is mischievous. And daring. Those traits nearly got her killed.

Then again, that might be why she is everything not like the rules or the proper lady. She doesn't do what she is told. She doesn't stay out of the way. And under any circumstances, she always ask questions. Or look for answers and the truths herself.

Alexandre Sans-Nom is very confusing. He is a pearl diver. But he is very confusing. Despite him having a POV and a few chapters, most of his history is strange. I don't know why he acts the way he does, but I guess he thinks like a foster child. Or an orphan. I feel like he is mostly there because of 1) the need for an attractive male love interest and 2) the plot's demand to make everything easier and smoother for Constance Blackchurch. And I have no idea why he likes Constance. Grr!

(Maybe because she is Swan-ish?)

Unclaimed Heart is a two hundred paged book of little fun and a lot of stupidity. Haven't this author heard of foreshadowing? Or perhaps holding back information from the audience to make the book more interesting and enticing? There needs to be a filter! Everything about Unclaimed Heart is easy to guess or deduce. Or even pin the monkey.

Okay, now the last bit is just insane. Even for me.

The writing is okay. The plot demands too much and drives most of the characters in certain directions. The only character who seems real enough is Constance's father, but even he does a few questionable things for his character. And the plot demands too much and the authors always delivers the plot's wants. But the plot doesn't need it.

Great. Personification. That's it. I'm done.

Rating: Two out of Five

Kate says

Good for younger teens or if you need something very light as a beach read, but nothing special. It's a really quick read and not very complex. None of the characters seemed particularly memorable to me. Constance's father had some depth but he's still very much an archetype, as were Constance's spoiled, flirty friend Orlanda and Alexandre's cruel master de Locke. Constance and Alexandre both seemed bland, and though their romance was sweet, it just sort of falls into place.

The writing style isn't very sophisticated, and though the author conveyed an okay-sense of place and time, I didn't feel like "I was really there" as some other historical fiction books have done for me.

The plot is sort of typical. Most of the book lacks a real sense of tension or urgency.

Something better: The story bears some similarities to Everlasting by Angie Fraser, which has supernatural elements. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi is my all-time favorite book in the "girl at sea" genre.

Cover & Title: Generic title - lets you know it's going to have romance but nothing to do with the story in particular. (Apparently published in Australia as The Pearl Hunters, which is more relevant). Though rather Photoshop-ish, the cover is lovely, and the girl actually fits the description of Constance.

Where I got the book: Shelves of the local library.

Check out my book review blog: www.backtothebookshelf.wordpress.com

Yan says

If you want to imagine what Unclaimed Hearts is all about think Titanic but with pearl divers and merchant ships—more 18th century. High class rich girl falls in love with lower/middle class working boy in a sizzling

chemistry that leaves the reader biting their handkerchiefs for more, more, more! Okay so I went a little crazy with the last part.

One thing that I love the most about this book was the different points of views. While everything is the standard third person, each new chapter focuses on one particular person: Constance, Alex, or Henry (Constance's father). You get a better feel for the character; their emotions, actions, reactions, thoughts, all laid out in front of you. Especially since they threw some humor in the mix, some snap, crackle, and pop romance we get a wonderful combination.

If Johnny Depp can make pirates look sexy than Alexandre can make pearl divers look hot. Seriously for a guy who's live on a boat for his entire life he has a gentleman's manners, an ability to speak 3 different languages fluently, and a knack to swoon a girl with ease. Together with Constance they create this cheese sensation where everything kind of smells funky, like it's a bit too much. Lovely dove sickeningly sweet but it has this amazing taste/texture—smooth, rich, can't-just-take-one-bite relationship. I think I lost you guys, haven't I? Lets just say that it was cute but sometimes revolting because of how cute they were and yet you can't help but stare. It's make you go awh! There, that should make sense now.

They connection between "tyrant" dad and "dainty" daughter is one of pure delight. I found it enjoyable because everyone's been there where you thought your dad hates you and being a pain in the ass 'cause he can, but it turns out he's just doing what he thinks is right. That's what this was.

Overall: Unclaimed Hearts was a mixture of romance, history, action, and adventure. Overall, it did well in all 4 categories.

The Dreamer Reader says

I really had no idea what to expect from this book, and, I had no idea how much I would actually enjoy it!

The Good: Strangely, I really liked the third person point of view for this story. Usually, it makes me feel detached from the characters, but this is not the case for Unclaimed Heart. I loved reading more about Constance, Alexandre, and Constance's father, Henry. It was really interesting seeing all their quirks and thoughts.

I, also, liked the romance between Alexandre and Constance. There's one word to describe them: ADORABLE! Even though it crosses the line between cute and corny, sometimes, it was still enjoyable to read about. I swear, I went AWWW a lot in this book and I'm sure you will to!

One more thing, I really liked the writing style. It captivated me and I couldn't put the book down. It is a fantastic read and possibly one of the greatest historical fiction novels of 2009!

P.S.

Alexandre has totally made me reconsider marrying a pearl diver ;)

The Bad: Though the writing was good, some metaphors were not. Well, the metaphors were not used properly. For instance, the last sentence is suppose to be uplifting, but I found it a little depressing. (IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THE LAST SENTENCE, SKIP TO THE OVERALL NOW)

"... and watched the brilliant sun disappear behind the restless sea." Maybe I'm over-reacting, but it looks like the sun is a beacon of hope and it's getting swallowed by the water, therefore, destroying the hope.

Sorry, but I just HAD to say something!

Overall: Unclaimed Heart is an unexpectedly fantastic read that will make readers swoon with its intriguing mystery, breathless romance, and fulfilling adventure. It is definitely one of the best historical fiction novels I've ever read.

Grade: B+

CLM says

Yes, complex, headstrong Constances are right up my alley!

Camille says

I didn't exactly love this book.

I had hoped to fall in love with the characters, but unfortunately I couldn't find myself attaching to any of them in particular. There were some loose ends and to me, a few questionable actions that left me thinking about what was going on with particular characters.

But mostly, I felt disappointed with how the book ended. The ending was expected, but I didn't feel very thrilled with the closure - it was more of a "Oh, that's it?" kind of feeling.

However, the descriptions were excellent and visual. It made me wish to ride a boat and sail off to distant seas, venturing into the unknown. It was a fluffy and acceptable story, but to me, not very memorable.

Princess Bookie says

My Thoughts: I'm not a huge fan of any kind of historical romance or setting. Usually I just pass them up because I'm more of the in the now type of girl. But this was a very cute book. We meet the main character Constance. She is very likable. Her mother left her father and her a long time ago. Her father wants to find her mother. So does Constance. So she sneaks upon his ship upon departure. She then meets a boy name Alexandre. He is in a much lower social standing than herself and she knows he is not "suitable" for her. I actually liked this book lot more than I thought I would.

Overall: Took a little while for me to really get into, but I'm glad I spent the time reading it. Its a good choice if your in the mood for historical romance between forbidden lovers.

Cover: I think the cover is cute. I especially like the water and how it just adds to the cover of the book. It is very beautiful! Good choice!!!

(Reviewed by Princess Bookie)

Janice Cafarelli says

Set in 1799 early 1800's. Constance was raised by her Aunt. Her mother disappeared when she was less than 2 and her father was never home as he was a Ships Captain. On his last visit home he received word that Constance's mother had been sighted years ago in Ceylon and he planned to leave right away to go check the area she was sighted in.. Constance now a young lady of late teen years decided she was going to stow away on her fathers boat and help him search for her mother. All she knew of her father was rumors she had heard that didnt paint a very good picture of him.. When her father spots a stolen ship and overtakes it she rescues a young French man and he ends up helping her search for her mother. This voyage ends up bringing understanding between her father and herself.

While period piece books are not usually ones I enjoy alot this one was different and I recommend it to those who like period piece books and those who do not.

Michelle. D. says

This book was enjoyable. The plot of the story was interesting as well. Though I noticed that things seemed to move a bit fast. I have to say though, Constance was a well thought out character. Her dad is a real pain sometimes but that is just what dad's are like sometimes. Orlanda is just a whiny into herslef girl. She just pissed me off sometimes... And Alexandre, man, he was a great character. A gentlemen, a friend and aloyal crewmember. Just great. It's just, hard for me to imagine him in real life. Oh, and there is the whole theme of love. Honestly, Orlanda is a desperate girl. She can date anyone! As for Constance, she alright. :P She and Alexandre make a great couple. I found it amazing that they always think of each other whenever they are apart. Obsessed or just caring? The only ting tha I noticed about their relationship is that, they fell too fast. I know this is like the old times and all, but, I still think they fell to fast. All in all, the book was a nice read.

Alison says

Constance and Alexandre come from two different worlds, but a twist of fate brings them together. Constance Blackchurch stows away aboard her father's ship, Good Bess, when he sets off to find her mother, missing without a trace since Constance's infancy. Meanwhile, orphaned Alexandre Sans-Nom, or No-Name, is biding his time to escape from pearl diving for his greedy master, de Locke. The two cross paths when Good Bess encounters de Locke's pearly. Alexandre sails with Good Bess to Ceylon, hoping to find a passage to his native France. Secretly, Constance enlists Alexandre to help her search for her mother. Constance and Alexandre fall in love, but the difference in their social classes keeps them apart. Meanwhile, de Locke swears revenge against Alexandre and Blackchurch. They all meet near the spot where Constance discovers evidence of her mother's drowning. Alexandre saves Blackchurch's life, and Blackchurch decides to consent to the young couple's marriage if Alexandre will sail for a year as an officer on Good Bess.

Unclaimed Heart features a hearty blend of action, adventure, and romance. It switches perspectives between Constance and Alexandre throughout the novel, making both characters more fully developed. The

background and experiences of both characters are interesting in their own way. The weakest point of the story may be the plotline of Faith Blackchurch, Constance's mother, which never quite comes to a satisfying conclusion. Nonetheless, there is something for everyone to enjoy in this intriguing novel.

Jennifer says

I had high hopes for this book, but I ended up being disappointed. *Unclaimed Heart* had so much potential to be a great read, but ended up falling short. Usually when I read a book I become engrossed in the story and with the characters, but that just didn't happen here. I never could completely warm up to any of them. They came across as very flat and a little boring. The story also seemed to move along at a sluggish pace. I expected more action and less predictably. In the end the story didn't seem to have any closure. I felt like I was left hanging and thinking "that's it?" Overall not a great read and disappointing.

Rebecca says

Seventeen-year-old Constance Blackchurch has grown up in England with her aunt and cousin. Her father, captain of merchant ship, has always been away at sea for months at a time, and Constance feels she barely knows him. Her mother disappeared one night when Constance was a baby, and no one has heard from her since. Then, shortly after returning from his latest sea voyage, Constance's father receives a letter telling him that his wife was seen in Ceylon years ago, not long after her disappearance. He immediately decides to sail for Ceylon to see if she is still there.

Constance's father, who still thinks of her as a child, tries to hide the news from her and is upset that she has found out. Frustrated with him, and determined to find her mother, Constance decides to stow away on his ship - quite a daring plan for a young lady of 1799. When her father finds out he is furious, and she expects to spend the rest of the voyage in lonely solitude. Until she meets Alexandre, a young Frenchman not much older than her, who works as a pearl diver near Ceylon and has escaped his cruel employee. Constance and Alexandre are instantly drawn to each other, but she knows a relationship between them would never be accepted by her father because of their different social classes. As Alexandre helps Constance search for her missing mother once they arrive in Ceylon, they grow even closer. Will they find a way to be together despite the rules of society?

An *Unclaimed Heart* was a very quick and enjoyable read full of romance, adventure, and history. The love story was very sweet, and the setting was unique and exotic. I highly recommend this book to readers who enjoy romance and historical fiction, and I hope to see more books from this author in the future. And as a side note, I love the cover. It's so pretty!
