



Jewel

Beverly Jenkins

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A proposal she had no choice but to accept . . .

Though Eli Grayson is one of the most handsome, charming, and intelligent men in Grayson Grove, no one will take a chance on a confirmed bachelor. Unwilling to give up his dreams, Eli convinces his friend Jewel to pose as his wife. Their masquerade is to last just one night . . . but when word gets out, Eli and Jewel must tie the knot to save his career—and her reputation.

Became a love she never expected . . .

Angry at being forced to turn her life upside down, Jewel never imagined that a white-hot passion would consume her once she and Eli became husband and wife. Sharing a bed has turned their prim friendship into a sensuous love affair . . . but when a woman from Eli's past returns to stir up trouble, he and Jewel will learn just how far they'll go to protect the precious gem of their newfound passion.

Jewel Details

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From Reader Review Jewel for online ebook

Heidi Cullinan says

Read for the BJ book club. Loved the book & conversation both. Sweet, spicy, perfect small town historical romance. Because it's BJ, you learn some history they missed in school as well. **Highly recommended.**

Pamelia Grady says

Jewel: A Good Friend

What kind of trouble can you get into helping a friend get a job by posing as his wife? Eli asked his family friend Jewel Crowley such a favor

Karla says

It always sucks to read an author who comes with a lot of good press and have reasonably high hopes for a great romance, and then be bored to tears (see Laura Kinsale, Carrie Lofty). I gave up on pg 192 when the banal dialogue, too-numerous typos, and persistent "telling, not showing" made me throw it at the wall.

The plot is almost a textbook example of "contrivance." Former dissolute rake and adulterous bottle-baby Eli Grayson has a newspaper that's up to its banner in debt, and GW Hicks, a magnate from the East, comes to look at it with an eye to injecting some needed cash into it to keep another black newspaper afloat. OK, so far, so good. However, Hicks thinks that unmarried men are unreliable (umm, ok) and asks Eli if he's married, his marital status completely overshadowing Eli's record of having a unique and useful voice in the struggling black press. Makes sense, doesn't it? Eli panics and says, "Hell yeah!" Hicks suggests a dinner to talk over things and insists on Eli bringing his wife. Whoopsie cuddles! Thing is, Eli's a bachelor, but he decides to get his stepsister Jewel to pretend to be his wife for the private dinner. However, Hicks messes it all up by leaving the private dining room and announcing to the ENTIRE restaurant that he's agreed to take on the paper and asks them to congratulate "Eli and his lovely wife." Naturally, jaws drop and gossip rages throughout this little East Butt-F-istan within hours, including the rumor that Jewel's already knocked up. Well, her father won't have his little girl gossiped about! So off to the altar they go. Eli's all assured and stuff, Jewel's PO'd and intent on divorcing him after a seemingly time. Because, you know, it's easier to do that than say, "Hey, you all have got it all wrong!" However, those hormones kick in and they fall in love. Eli's getting a sudden attack of monogamy and Jewel's nether parts persistently swell to the size of Karl Rove's head at the slightest glance from the husband she's crushed-on-since-the-age-of-14-but-now-whom-she-hates- omg- I-am-so-not-kidding-you-guys.

So much didn't make sense. Jewel's father & stepmother (Eli's mother) are intent on not having scandal, yet Jewel is good friends with Maddie, who is a former streetwalker and globetrotting mistress to a millionaire, and, later, brothel madam that goes around wearing buckskins after she gives up the whorehouse and

becomes a responsible citizen. If you're going to kick up a fuss over your daughter getting speculated about when a straight-forward explanation would do, but then let her fraternize with former whores, it doesn't wash. And since Maddie runs a library and is a valued member of the town, this sudden attack of the town hive mind about Jewel and Eli isn't logical either. It's just a weak way to get them married and the "tension" to start. Also, once they start to thaw out with each other, she and Eli make out on a wagon as they drive around the town. Sorry, but macking on each other in public wasn't seemly back in Small Town America 1881, married or not. Jewel's sexual innocence (at the ripe-for-the-time age of 24) is also prey to plot convenience. Any families with daughters her age always left the town! So she was never able to talk and giggle with them about boys and sex! They always left! Always! Isn't that so *believably* weird?

Combine all these clunky contrivances with equally clunky dumps of peoples' back stories whenever two characters share a scene, and it finally met the wall. All these characters did was smile or grin at each other (seriously, there was a LOT of grinning), make some comment that indicates a backstory, and off we went on some exposition expedition. All telling, not showing, very boring. The "historical" information I saw about the black press would have fit on a couple 3x5s after a glance at Wikipedia. I'm honest to God hoping that her other books are better, because I already have several of them.

Nicholas Whyte says

"<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1231221.html>[return][return]Browsing through LibraryThing one day, I noted that Beverly Jenkins, of whom I had not heard, was one of the highest rated authors by the owners of her books - not many, but enough to reassure me that this was not astroturfing. Her particular subgenre - African-American historical romance - is not one that I had ever considered sampling, but I thought, what the heck, and BookMooched a couple of her books.[return][return]Jewel is actually a rather nice book. I particularly appreciated the historical setting, a Black community in the northern USA (specifically, Cass County, Michigan) in the 1880s. It's not an environment I had ever thought much about, and Jenkins has clearly done her homework: the book is perhaps intended partly as a didactic device to educate readers about that period of Black history, especially the increasingly important role of journalism, and I was happy to be educated. [return][return]I'm not a connoisseur of romance novels so feel less qualified to judge the plot. I found the setup a bit implausible (the eponymous heroine, a 24-year-old virgin, agrees to pose as a friend's wife and then finds inevitably that the fiction becomes reality). But the execution was entertaining, with lots of sexy newlywed moments. There were no really nasty characters in the book except for the husband's ex-girlfriend, and she is suitably dealt with. An uplifting and cheering read."

L. Wright says

Jewel was one of Ms. B's books that I'd never read. I'm not sure why that is since I've tried to get my hands on all of her books. And, like every other time, Ms. Jenkins did not disappoint.

Returning to Grayson Grove, Michigan—the setting from Vivid—was a great ride for me. I was interested in seeing what happened to the people of the town after Nate Grayson and Vivid Lancaster rode off into the sunset. As always, the scenery descriptions zapped me right into the beautiful town and its surrounding areas.

The book opens with a little mystery (sorry, I can't spill) and then we are reintroduced to Eli Grayson—Nate's handsome cousin. Eli, who had some less than admirable traits in the past, has tried to live

on the straight and narrow. He's a journalist by trade, but the local paper he ran has closed due to lack of funds. The Gazette is Eli's passion and he'd do anything to try and get it back up and running. When the owner of a thriving Black newspaper enters the picture, intent on investing the money to help The Gazette, Eli sees this as a way to get back to doing what he loves. However, G. W. Hicks only invests family men—Eli has to have a wife.

Enter Jewel Crowley, who we met in Vivid as well. Jewel is fiercely loyal to her family and takes care of her father, Adam (who is married to Eli's mother coincidentally), and her brothers—and loves doing it. When Eli comes to her with a proposal—they would pretend to be married for one day then when Hicks leaves after investing in The Gazette it would all be over—she is skeptical but agrees to it. After all, who can resist Eli Grayson? (Not me.) Jewel has even harbored a crush on him for years.

Of course, it couldn't be that easy. That's when the fireworks start for these two. One night of pretending becomes a real marriage of convenience—which I have to say is one of my favorite premises. Give me a marriage of convenience and I'm all in.

Once again, Ms. B gives us a passionate love affair. These two are on FIYAH! Eli is strong and intelligent (my kind of man; gray eyes, hot body, and all). Jewel is smart and beautiful (and a fire cracker). Perfect Couple (and if you haven't read my thoughts on perfect couples, [click here](#)). I was hooked from the beginning. There was mystery, intrigue, and the supportive characters were colorful and extremely important to the story. I especially loved that Maddie (another character from Vivid) was featured and had her own mini-love story. All in all, I was so happy that I had a chance to read Jewel. I enjoyed every bit of the story.

Tiffany says

This was another author I met at the Romance Writers' conference in SF this past summer. I really enjoyed this one, even though I usually hesitate to read historical romances (Judith McNaught notwithstanding). This is definitely the first Black historical romance I have ever come across and I was more than happily surprised by the novel. The problem with writing American history from a Black person's perspective, is that life wasn't too great two hundred years ago. The author chose to set this piece right after slavery ended and in all-Black settlement in Texas. The story was intense, exciting and the kind of predictability romance readers (like myself - looking for less complicated narrative) come to expect and enjoy. I'll be looking for her other works...

Ilona says

This was one of those books that I liked but when reading it I was feeling kinda meh, then ooh that's interesting, then back to meh. There was lot's of interesting bits and pieces of history thrown in which I really enjoyed but the characters themselves while not bad were just, not that memorable for me.

The book was good technically and I did like the characters, however it wasn't a stand out story, except maybe in the history bits strewn throughout which were as I said interesting to read about.

I would recommend this as sort of an everyday read, it's not hard to put down but it's also easy to pick up again and was quite an enjoyable read.

Anna Lynn says

First Beverly Jenkins book. I've only read romance a couple times and ended up disappointed both times. I fell in love with Beverly Jenkins personality after watching the documentary Love Between the Covers so I really wanted to see her writing style. I absolutely loved it and will be picking up more of her books.

Shonnie says

I guess what was disappointing was that Cecile didn't get the kind of just reward that she deserved. Death doesn't seem fair. Other than that, it was long and just okay.

Jo Forrester says

I really enjoyed the story. The only thing that saddens me is that I did not read the first story in the series first. But I plan on rectifying that mistake very soon.

Jewel is a great love story that started out as a charade, turned into an arranged marriage, arranged ended as a great love affair. The story provided some intrigue, a murder (or 2) and lots of passion. I can't wait to read more by Beverly Jenkins.

Connie says

Loved this "Grayson" series. Wished there was more. Viveca & Jewel are my Heroines :)

Samantha says

Something was missing and I couldn't love this book which was hard for me because I normally love BJ's book.

Rena says

Absolutely enjoyed this book. Jewel was tough, stern, sassy, witty, and beautiful inside and out. She didn't let anyone get over on her. Eli was every bit of her match, so you can easily see how they were made for each other. Even though he gotten them into the marriage, he took his vows seriously and wooed her in spite

of herself. They ended up falling in love with each other. I hated that she went through that situation with Creighton, but Jewel handled herself and him well. I'm glad that Maddie and G.W. found each other. It goes to show you're never too old to find love.

Nia Forrester says

As with all of Beverly Jenkins books that I've read (this is now the fourth), what I enjoyed most, and what sets her books apart are the historical details, and the obvious pains she takes to maintain fidelity to time and place. I love that she sprinkles in little factoids about what else was happening in the world at the time, be it the Women's Suffrage Movement, or the rise of Jim Crow. I also enjoy that the romance itself is true to the time -- marriage is viewed as much as an economic and social necessity as it is the product of a love affair. I can't imagine that I would read something of this author's and be dissatisfied.

Maryn Alwaysworkingforzeta formley says

Eli and Jewel - the story we were waiting for

I'm always really impressed with the amount of details in Ms. Bev's towns. In my opinion, Grayson's Grove is only second to Henry Adams because i feel like i know everyone there. Refreshing to see Jewel and Eli grow up and grow together in love. Also nice to see a female lead villain. I love that we get a little update on Nate and Vivid, Magic Satin and the twin boys too.
