



Lady Isabella's Ogre

Emily Larkin, Emily May

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She's one of London's beauties ... He's London's ogre.

Lady Isabella Knox enjoys her independence. She collects strays—dogs, kittens, runaway brides—but she has no intention of collecting a husband.

Major Nicholas Reynolds returns from the Battle of Waterloo a hero. He's had enough of soldiering; all he wants now is a bride ... but his scarred face sends young ladies fleeing—literally.

When a slip of her tongue brands the major an ogre—and his chances of marriage disintegrate—Isabella sets out to undo the harm she inadvertently caused. How better to revive the major's marriage prospects than for the two of them to indulge in a make-believe flirtation? They both know it's not real, so where's the danger?

But Isabella is soon in over her head—and so is Major Reynolds.

A Regency romance featuring a beauty, an ogre, a runaway bride, several kittens, and a dog.

Please note:

1. *Lady Isabella's Ogre* is a new version of *Beauty and the Scarred Hero*, which was published under the penname Emily May. The last few chapters have been rewritten. Some things are the same, some are different...
2. This edition is currently only available in North America. Apologies to everyone who's not in North America! I hope to be able to release this book worldwide in the future.

Lady Isabella's Ogre Details

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Corinne says

4* for I really liked it.

I feel calling this a Beauty and the Beast retelling is misleading. Lady Isabella is 29 and while she enjoys the social outings of the Season, she's not looking for a husband. She's has a strong sense of decency and fairness. She's mortified when a notorious gossip hears her label Major Reynolds an ogre and sets out to correct her error. This allows the h and H to become better acquainted and makes for a more believable ending. I loved the main characters - both mature and self-assured. No thoughts of doubt ad nauseam here. The humor is subtle - mostly scenes involving animals and small children - which had me grinning.

I received a free copy and voluntarily chose to review it.

Natalya says

Delightfully atmospheric. I could tangibly picture what its like to get ready for a daily ride in my phaeton around Hyde park, what its like to attend nightly entertainments like balls and musicals, what its like to dine "en famille" instead. Sounds tediously social actually, I would have definitely gotten married asap so I could move to my country estate. Insightful musings on society norms and gossip. Mature and intelligent adults as main characters - such a pleasure. Witty banter, akin to the greats Mary Balogh or Eloisa James. Rufus the mutt was a charmer. Anyways, its a lovely Beauty and the Best story, with humor in it. Incidentally, I am reading this right after Balogh's The Proposal and the two stories echo each other somewhat - down to both military men having been through Badajoz, though Nicholas's underlying sunny disposition makes him a more pleasant companion of the two.

Rainer Prem says

It's not easy to find a new twist for a story pressed into the corset of a regency romance.

Emily Larkin manages that all the time. Putting the emphasis not on the "if" but on the "how" of a developing relationship, her books always stay interesting.

The intertwined side-story of a 17-year-old runaway and her love interest lacks a little in character development, but not enough to spoil the whole story.

Wholeheartedly five stars.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review)

Donna Foster says

I really like this author I've read her bashful godmother series and I really like those! it seems like how can

things go wrong and it does one word mentioned and it becomes something everybody's talking about I really enjoyed this I would read more of her books she just got a way of telling the story.

Aud says

"Lady Isabella's Ogre" by Emily Larkin

This story has it all, damsels in distress, villains, heroes, romance, suspense, and, mistakes & misunderstandings all wrapped up in one cannot-put-it-down story. I was lucky enough to receive a gift copy.. and I am very happy to state I really liked this story. I think you will agree.

note: I did not read the prior version published under another title/author name... but if you did... I am sure you will like this edition,,, maybe a whole lot more?

Happy Reading !!

LizardQueen says

I really enjoyed this book. It drew me in from the first page and kept me reading until the end. I couldn't put it down. The characters were very well fleshed out and believable. I enjoyed the side characters as well. My favorite is Lady Isabella's friend Gussie. I felt like I was in the story with them, living it out. I was happy with them and sad with them, the story even made shed some tears. I am really glad that I won a copy in the giveaway. I would have bought it if I hadn't. I enjoy this authors work and eagerly anticipate further books.

Janet says

Lady Isabella Knox enjoys her independence. She collects strays dogs, kittens, runaway brides but she has no intention of collecting a husband, she's perfectly happy with her life.

Major Nicholas Reynolds returns from the Battle of Waterloo a hero. He's had enough of soldiering; all he wants now is a bride & to live away from death & destruction but his scarred face sends young ladies fleeing.

When a slip of Isabella's tongue brands the major an ogre and his chances of marriage disintegrate she sets out to undo the harm she inadvertently caused. How better to revive the major's marriage prospects than for the two of them to indulge in a make-believe flirtation?

A well written well paced story that drew me in from the start & had me enthralled all the way through. The characters are well fleshed & likeable, Nicholas is honourable & straight as a die so there was always going to be a problem about Isabella's lie. Isabella is beautiful, generous, sympathetic & caring. The two are made for each other but they know their futures are set in stone she as a spinster aunt & he wedded to a young mouldable wife! I particularly enjoyed how the pair came to like & respect each other. The story is quite straight forward with no mystery to solve just a couple of secrets to cause problems. It was also enjoyable for the heroine to be older & happy with her life, no wicked family member making her life difficult or hidden past.

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read

Drew Doll says

[

The Beast in this retelling was really not a beast at all but labeled as one through our heroines' mistake. What followed was a delightful comedy where the heroine tries desperately to restore our beast's reputation while managing to keep a significant secret from him.

(hide spoiler)]

Gudrun says

I enjoyed reading this novel very much. The characters are charming and the plot premise - young girl forced by a guardian to marry a titled gentleman - a common incident in that time.

Emily Larkin is well versed in custom and behaviour of Regency, the descriptions of all those social events are very entertaining and I could see it like "head cinema".

Most of all I liked Isabella and Nicholas, the ogre. Both are very sympathetic characters, their love developed slowly and their banter was witty. Emily Larkin writes very good dialogues, her characters communicate instead of having long internal monologues.

Inserting all those stray cats, dogs, and a damsel in distress was a masterstroke.

I received a free copy of this book and it has not affected my review.

Cat C says

I received a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway and it has not affected my review.

I enjoyed this book while I read it, but I'm afraid that only a few days later I've completely forgotten everything about it (except the contrived inciting scene where the heroine calls the hero an ogre, because it was so awkward, and the fact that the heroine shelters a woman named Harriet, because it makes me think of Emma). Alas.

I adored Unmasking Miss Appleby by this same author, and look forward to enjoying more entries in that series (historicals with a magical twist), but this was much more of a typical Regency romance and I didn't find that any of it really stood out to me.

Laura J. says

Two well written, lovely characters

Lady Isabella is a happily single woman who inadvertently causes pain to Major Nicolas Reynolds. In order to make amends, she suggests that they pretend to be interested in each other. The major is looking for a young, placid girl to marry. Isabella and Nicolas become friends and then the kisses start. And thankfully don't seem to end. Isabella rethinks marriage and the major rethinks dull, young girls that can be shaped into wives. The emotions, change of hearts and pacing were well done.

Makoto says

Enjoyable read! Love love the main characters!

Isabella - the heroine that has her own sense of justice and loves helping people and four legged friends.

Nicholas - the scarred hero. Handsome if not for his scarred face.

Pros: (1) these main characters are awesome. Sensible and not drama filled. It also makes it more believable how two people with such vastly different viewpoints on marriage could actually be friends and get along. Love the chemistry between the two!

Kelli says

I received a free copy of this book for an honest review.

Lady Isabella's ogre is a quick hearted romance novel about Isabella Knox, a spinster who is a kind hearted lover of all strays: dogs, kittens and runaway brides. She shelters a young girl who has run away because she does not want to get married. Isabella jokes to the young girl "why is it because he is an ogre?" Which starts a terrible rumor that Major Nicholas Reynolds is an ogre of a gentleman. From his time in the war Nicholas received a giant slash across his face that has scared him for life. The nickname sticks, and soon the ton is calling him this behind his back while he is desperately trying to find himself a wife. Lady Isabella feels absolutely terrible that she is the one behind the rumor and decides to save him from humiliation by being kind to him and showing an interest in him. This soon starts their love story. I throughly enjoyed Isabella's character. She seemed thoroughly happy about who she is, and that she did not need a man in her life to make her happy. She finds a best friend and love in Nicholas which she never thought she would have. Overall an enjoyable romance.

shirley fisher says

Just like a French farce indeed!

Couldn't help starting review that way...had a bit of a problem with this, it started fast then seemed to go nowhere and I put aside for quite awhile, just picked up again and read straight to the end. Isabella and Nicholas just came alive and together for me. Beware what gossip can do still true today one little mean spirited word can cause a world of hurt. Seems nothing can be done but understanding and forgiveness and

love save the day. Like a play of olden days girl gets guy girl looses guy, damsel in distress, chase scenes. Sounds like the makings for a good book!! Just enjoy til the curtain comes down! :)

Marianne says

I liked both Isabella and Nicholas. The moments with the pets were quite cute and the couple's reunion was very sweet. The supporting characters were nice too though I will say I found Harriet a bit frustrating at the end
