



## **Before the Kiss**

*Jayne Fresina*

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## **Before the Kiss Jayne Fresina**

An original novella introducing Jayne Fresina's charming, delightfully naughty new Regency Romance series. In the sleepy village of Hawcombe Prior, the five young ladies of the Book Club Belles Society are looking for their own leading men. When handsome, mysterious Darius Wainwright strolls into town, the Book Club Belles are instantly smitten with his brooding good looks and prideful demeanor. It's as if he walked out of the pages of their favorite new novel, a scandalous romance called *Pride and Prejudice*. But Miss Justina Penny has a secret – she's met this arrogant, brooding bachelor before. In Bath. The town, not the tub. Although, she was naked...

## **Before the Kiss Details**

Date : Published May 6th 2014 by Sourcebooks Casablanca

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Author : Jayne Fresina

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Novella, Historical

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## From Reader Review Before the Kiss for online ebook

### Griffinyarn says

[ note the similarities in the first "proper" introduction - when they both have clothes on (hide

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### Sally Hannoush says

This is a funny prequel to "Once Upon a Kiss." I was sad it ended so quickly even knowing it was a short story. I read the preview of the full novel and it makes me eager to read on. Darn teasers. I am looking forward to the love story between a trouble making clumsy women and a serious no nonsense man.

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### Becca says

I read the book itself first and loved it so I decided to go back and read the "backstory" which is hinted at in the novel. This prequel is as crazy as it sounds and the reader gets a solid understanding of the characters and how, despite their many differences, might experience chemistry together. Fresina writes in a style that is more in line with 1800's authors than modern day vernacular so this is a great, free opportunity to test out her style and see if it suits you. There is also a short excerpt to the book itself, which I highly recommend.

While I do not necessarily believe that our heroine, even with her penchant for mischief, would ever behave as she did in this first part of this short story, I still enjoyed it and I loved how she ruffled our hero's feathers, which pleasantly continues in the main novel.

Bottom line: A cute prequel to the main novel and all the juicy details on the initial "meeting." This is a great opportunity for readers new to the author to try her out.

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### Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Romantic Historicals

Before The Kiss is a sweet, sassy prequel to the Book Club Belles Society series. While it does not have a traditional cliffhanger ending – it comes so close. The initial encounters between Darius and Justina are equal to a lighthearted romp – they do not get their happy ending in this prequel. Their story has more to it and we will find their complete story, with a happy ever after ending in the first full book in this series.

Jussy and her sister, Cathy have been brought to Bath in order to find Cathy a husband – according to her mother, there is no hope for Justina. So Jussy being the impulsive, outgoing young woman that she is decides to head out to the boarding house where a certain gentleman is staying. He's a friend, she likes him well enough so she is going to take herself off the market by – well, compromising them both. Immediately after landing on the snoring hump on the bed – naked except for her pink bowed garters and stockings – Jussy

immediately realizes her mistake. This is the wrong man!

So begins a delightful romp between an outgoing, mischievous young woman and a stern, immovable man. In fact, they have each met their match in the other and would ideally be perfect for a serious romance between them... if they hadn't started off so, well... naked.

Although I dislike cliffhanging endings, it is forgivable in this fun, charming introduction to some of the characters we will meet during the course of the series. I have the next two books downloaded ready to read and the third is scheduled for a NetGalley review on another of my review blogs. So I'm a happy reader ready to settle into the Book Club Belles Society series.

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### **Paula says**

Gostei e despertou-me a curiosidade para o próximo.

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### **Sonya Heaney says**

Originally posted **HERE** .

First thing's first: I know a man who looks just like the guy on this cover. I was feeling a little... uncomfortable about reading certain things!

*Before the Kiss* is an introductory novella to Jayne Fresina's *Book Club Belles Society* series.

There are a lot of people giving this novella one star because it's an introductory novella to a series...

I like Jayne Fresina's writing. She usually makes me laugh. Occasionally she creates a very immature character, and the heroine of this one is definitely immature. I can see that not all readers will like her antics.

*Before the Kiss* is more or less borrows its cast from *Pride and Prejudice*, with our Elizabeth Bennet heroine a little more like Lydia in her behaviour if not her selfishness. We have our Darcy-style hero, his Bingley-style friend, the Jane-style older sister, a Mrs and Mr Bennet and so on.

If you've read reviews of this one that say, "*It just ended without warning. One star!*" remember that this is a lead-in to the first book in the series. Treat it that way – it's a good indication of what to expect.

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## **Courtney says**

This was a freebie on Amazon by an author I haven't read. I started it thinking that it was a novella, but in reality it is more like the first few chapters of a book. And then it ends, very abruptly, without completing a story arc. So, huh. Is it a preview? A prequel? I'm not sure. But, it isn't a short story or novella. It was well written and does set up the series well, but I'm not sure that I'm interested in reading any more of it right now.

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## **Nightwitch says**

As others have mentioned, this is not actually a novella - this is essentially a teaser. The writing was good, the dialogue was good, and I liked that the heroine was basically an impetuous idiot (I get so sick of being told that idiotic heroines are actually brilliant geniuses), but it combined truly ridiculous anachronisms - it begins with the eighteen-year-old heroine, in newly-purchased fancy underwear, setting out to seduce a family friend in his lodgings so that they can get married and attempting to accomplish this aim by climbing naked into his bed (she apparently wasn't put off by the landlady's assertion that he constantly has prostitutes visiting him) - with obvious *Pride & Prejudice* references (Mama wants her girls to get married, Papa retreats behind a newspaper, older sister is beautiful and boring, hero's rich friend falls in love with older sister at first sight). It's a combination that didn't work for me.

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## **Isha Coleman says**

Have had the pleasure of reading *Before The Kiss*, the introduction novella to Ms. Fresina's Book Club Belles Society series. The blend of regency romance, fun characters that are charming and interesting is what I loved. Her characters have a Jane Austen era feel to them and I think that is what makes them enjoyable. My one issue is that it was too short. Had to remove half a star for length. My review rating: 3.5 stars.

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## **Sandra R says**

Nicely written. I knew it was a novella and the lead up to a series, but I felt a bit peeved that nothing was resolved and it ended as it did. I will have to read the next book to see what happens.

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## **Celestine says**

### **Similarities to Pride and Prejudice**

This is a short prologue to one of the author's series but I found it enjoyable. Her characters are full of sass and atypical. This tidbit definitely made me want to look up the related books.

Book source: Kindle Unlimited

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### **Arielle Dumas says**

A short, free preview, funny and fresh. Looking forward to more! I've seen some weird reviews complaining that this isn't a full book. Its a free read and if you're angry about that, I feel sorry for you. LOL. I had actually read a preview arc of the first book in the series - so it was especially good, I thought, to get this free short story which goes back and tells how they first met. Cute! I would love to meet my own Mr. Darcy and always enjoy P&P retellings/versions. Can't wait to see which other books the Belles get to read in this series. I hope the author isn't put off from giving us free reads!!

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### **Kay Smith says**

Short prologue that's well written, sequenced and paced well. Dedicated characterizations.

ENTER WEIRD DROP OFF. All of a sudden this ebook banks off, then says 'read on for sneak peak' ....and the tenor of that book has the same characters, but a different vibe to it altogether. The action is jointed, all of a sudden a diary is swimming through the text, not married well to the dialogue. And the facts of the prequel are re-written differently in a few spots of the novel, which I found disruptive to the flow.

It's just a confusing read—when paired with that well-crafted prequel. I was going to buy the book, but then after reading what feels like a shell of authorship interest, today I'll pass.

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### **Lynsay says**

A prequel to her new series. I loved this novella. It was short, sweet and funny. It left me wanting to read the first book in the series right away. Thankfully there is an excerpt from the first book, which seems to be that it will be just as funny as this one was.

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