



The Goblin Bride

Emma Hamm

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In her debut novel, Emma Hamm brings us to a new world. The mining town of Silnarra is not an easy place to survive in. Convicts and the poor work alongside each other to gather gemstones sold to the rich and famous. Their lives are put on the line every day as they descend into tunnels that were built long before humans found them. Rumors of monsters lurking in the depths keep the miners wary of shadows. Disappearances frequently occur in the darkness.

Jane Penderghast has two younger siblings relying on her. She has to resort to desperate measures to keep them all alive. Women are not allowed to work in the mines but it is the only way to earn money in this cursed place. She will do anything to save her family, even lie and work in the belly of the earth.

In a moment of fear and confusion, she realizes that the rumors of goblins are true. These strange creatures that live far below her town bring her into their world. What she finds there is both astounding and heartbreaking. A goblin warrior, a dying race, and a chance at a life she never expected.

To become a Goblin Bride is no easy thing.

The Goblin Bride Details

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From Reader Review The Goblin Bride for online ebook

Deljah says

"A Story of Brainwashing & Dehumanization that Ends on a Cliffhanger"

SPOILER ALERT!!

SPOILER ALERT!!!

I finished this book. It reminded me of the Hades and Persephone myth, which I usually like, but there was too much to turn me off. The heroine disguised herself as a man to go work in a mine to support her two younger siblings, a 17 year old boy and a 9 year old girl. The heroine was 26, and their parents had died. The younger siblings were literally at risk for starvation and all sorts of other horrible things to happen to them. However, the heroine's loyalties rather quickly switched to the goblins after she was captured and forcibly married to one. The goblin race is dying out, and after capturing her by accident, they wanted to see if she could breed and replenish their ranks.

Somehow, the heroine overcame her opposition to that role. Somehow, her familial loyalty faded away, apparently. She kept telling herself that she had no choice, but I didn't buy it. She still had tremendous power in the situation.

She became okay with the fact that the goblins kept male humans as slaves to work in the mines and do other labor, while the goblins focused on being "artisans." She became okay with the goblins killing those human slaves after they became unable or unwilling to do forced labor for the goblins. She felt sorry for the goblins, after all of that. She even tried to attack human slaves to prevent their escape. She asked herself, and I quote, "were they missing their homes so much?" This was immediately after she saw her husband kill humans who had been starved and worked almost to death. They were killed bc they couldn't work anymore. smh. Despicable. I have read many Stockholm Syndrome stories, but this was the worst.

She had no understanding of human self-defense or real familial bonds. She completely equated being a slave who worked in a mine to being a human who choose to work in a mine. She completely dismissed the fact that these men had families that they supported and cared about...families who needed them. Nope, the goblins were nice to her, in hopes that she'd breed from them, and that was good enough for everybody! She even apologized to the goblins, right after the goblins massacred the humans! unbelievable.

This book is really an illustration of brainwashing and dehumanization, and it ends on a cliffhanger.

I read the sample of book #2 to see if things changed, but it was no better. She'd been accused of leading a slave revolt that lead to the deaths of 17 goblins. The humans were being killed anyway, so who cares, right? She kept saying that she really didn't help the humans escape. The goblins didn't believe her, and she felt soooo bad about that. Why, the goblins had been kind to her, so they really weren't as awful as they seemed! *eyeroll* Such disappointment after such an interesting premise.

Vanessa Mozes says

The Goblin Bride was a wonderfully told story with endearing characters in a world that truly felt magical. I discovered this author through other fantasy romance readers and writers, and am so happy I picked up this book. I don't give a book a 5 star rating unless I would go back and read it again. This story is both lovely and heart-wrenching.

Jane is a relatable, believable heroine who cares deeply for her family. With her parents gone, she takes responsibility for her two younger siblings and would do anything for them, including work in the mines. When she's taken by the creatures she thought to be the imaginings of scared children, her entire world turns upside down.

Ruric is a goblin warrior, one of the best in a dying breed. Though larger and stronger than most goblins, he has a soft spot for the human woman, Jane. He might not say much, but his feelings run deep, and he would do anything for Jane and his people.

I loved this book and I can't wait to read the next one!

Shasha says

Needs editing

The plot was interesting but I almost quit in the beginning. The sentences were oddly put together and I had to reread many. The cave life was simple but grabbed my imagination. I want to see the relationship grow between the MCs and learn more about the world.

I felt that there were holes in the world building. Where did they get furs? Where is the mom of the goblin teen? The goblins used words and descriptions that were Above even though they had never been there (he describes the heroine as smelling of sunlight--how does he know that?!)

The ending does make me want to read more.

Cliffhanger

Heidi Kneale says

When I read the description of this book, it was totally my crack and I had to get it. Loved the cover.

Things I liked: I loved the characters Jane and Ruric. Jane's determination to survive is a solid trait that endeared her to me. This determination drove her to action. This willingness to go to action every time gave her a strength I admired. The main plotline of their relationship was solid and an enjoyable read. Ruric's determination to win Jane over endeared him to me. While the plot was a little slow for the first couple of chapters, once Jane is taken by the goblins and she's bonded to Ruric, the pace picks up. Their story intrigued me so much I got the second book.

Even though she is early in her career, Hamm had a voice that spoke to me and made me forgive the story's rough spots.

Things I thought needed improving: This feels very much like a first book in that Hamm's handling of the craft is a bit clumsy in the beginning, with grammatical slips and filter phrases. These elements smooth out as the book goes along. The omniscient POV was a little difficult to follow at times as the head-hopping sometimes startled me. I wish there were more subplots and complex plot threads woven in. This would have made the world even richer as Jane's and Ruric's storylines interacted with others.

There are two books in the series and I can see how the two could have been combined into one, with delicious foreshadowing woven in. That said, I'm sorry there were only two books, as I would have gone on and read a third. Some planning in structure would have taken this book from good to great.

Ashley says

3.5 stars

This is a slow moving story. However the world building and character development keeps you reading because you want to find out what happens. I'm rating it a three because it did not hold my attention throughout the story and I skimmed some chapters. I may or may not purchase the next book.

Emily Dones says

This book was good. It's very interesting to read an author's first published book. I liked how the relationship developed however the ending was a bit of a shock because it invalidated / undid most of the development of Jane's relationship with the goblins; all the trust between her and Ruric was also affected although I understand why he made the decision he did compared to the alternatives. I loved how important females were for the goblins is something I hadn't read of before in a book; I look forward to exploring more books with a similar theme to the goblins view where women are concerned. Again this was a bit dampened by the ending of this book. I enjoyed it very much. I read it very quickly and I can say what I like the most about Emma Hamm's books is the warmth the narrative you get the feeling of community and family straight away in her books and I love that.

Melissa says

This book probably falls under a guilty pleasure read.

But I enjoyed it. If the romance worries you I'd give this a pg-13 rating.

Interesting new world. Strong, independent lady lead. Not sure how I feel about the ending, but will probably check out the sequel.

Tigress62 says

3 stars! Sadly, this book is very badly in need of editing (many garbled sentences and a hell of a lot of

typos!), and that's why it almost went down to 2 stars for me, despite a storyline that I enjoyed quite a lot. The descriptions of Above and Below are impressive, and as a beginner's work it is amazing: Beauty and the Beast in Avatar-like surroundings (a bit too much of glowing moss and too many globes, though), and a lovestory that moves slowly, but surely. Unfortunately, however, things get a bit hectic and rushed in the end, and I cannot always relate to Jane's inner musings or actions. The cliffhanger hints at more to come (volume two has already been published!), and I will surely read the sequel ...

Erin Grey says

Really enjoyed this story. The characters were complex and likeable and the world of Above and Below vividly portrayed. It needed some good editing though - many spelling errors and extraneous words and sentences. I would easily give it a fifth star if this was fixed.

Miku says

The story was fascinating. A fresh story that is so different from what I always read. This one had been a delightful read but BE WARNED that this is a series so I recommend everyone to buy it as a set and read it when they have both books to fully enjoy the whole fascinating world and story of the goblin and his bride.

This first book is all about the life in the cave, the cultural difference and the budding relationship. This was a really slow paced read and I guess not for those who get bored with mundane things in a book. I guess one could say that nothing really happens in this book. The real action would be in the next book where things would change and a future can be seen. I also do not recommend that you should skip this book and go to the next, you might find yourself with Jane and Ruric's relationship. The problem start in this book so I advice everyone to read it in order as the second book is a continuation to this one.

I do find myself liking the world building and being able to read other people's POV was a plus. Though I sometimes find myself frustrated with their relationship and language barrier, I find the book growing on me. It was a very refreshing read and was glad that I found this gem.

Amanda says

This book was an entirely unique read. If you love paranormal romance books, you will definitely enjoy Emma Hamm's debut book. There is nothing I love more than a big strong terrifying male lead having the softest heart of anyone you've ever met and he's even a goblin, no less. The leading female, Jane, is strong and determined. It was fun to follow her as she discovers this goblin world she's only heard stories about. This is a book that just draws you in and you can't stop turning pages. I don't like to give away any spoilers but this book is certainly a must read. I can't wait to read the next book.

marz says

Writing was a bit rough at the start, but story captured and held my attention. Cliffhanger at the end which

was a bit disappointing, but I'm happy there may be more books. Slavery is part of the story which put me off a bit, but there wasn't any cruelty or degradation to the imprisonment.

Alexandra says

Review can be found on **Milky Way of Books**

Jane lives in a world where mining can offer you a chance to go and live in the City, but it comes with costs and danger. Desperate to feed and raise her two siblings, she will disguise as a man and go to work in the mines. An accident will lead her to the discovery of another race, the Goblins.

Beautiful and terrifying at the same time, the Goblins take her as a prisoner and a warrior, Ruric becomes her guardian. There is double POV so we know both their thoughts and the descriptions of this world are amazing.

I had read firstly the other books by Emma Hamm, "Heart of Fae" and "Veins of Magic", which were amazing, and in this book, I could see how the author's writing evolved. There is a slow pace, as Jane and Ruric try to learn each other. In some cases, they try to communicate and in others, Jane acts kind of stupid, since her growing feelings and fear of her family collide and she doesn't think in a logic way.

The first book concludes with a kind of cliffhanger which opens the way into the second book.

Katter says

I have read a lot of Fantasy/Urban Fantasy books that deal with a myriad of mythical creatures. After perusing my TBR list I noticed that many of the stories deal with the same paranormal folk. Which can get pretty stale! So I knocked my brain about trying to think of a critter that doesn't get much time in the spotlight. And strangely enough, goblin came to the forefront. They are such odd little boogers and I was very interested to see what an authors would do with them.

After searching for a bit I came upon *The Goblin Bride*. Now at first glance I can honestly say that I wasn't too enthused to read this book. It looks so hokey! I thought it was just some schmoozy erotica hiding under the guise of a fantasy novel. Turns out, I was wrong! Despite the cover art and it's 90's romance novel vibes, it does not contain graphic sexual content. Color me surprised!

So it begins with the heroine whose name is Jane. Since her parents are both gone, her two siblings rely on her for everything. Living in a very poor mining town, Jane isn't given much of a choice on what to do to provide for her family. Men are the only ones allowed to work in the mines as it's a dangerous place.

Throwing caution to the wind, Jane disguises herself as a man and goes to work in the dark tunnels in search of gems. If she can find one of those then she and her siblings can leave for the city and live a happier life. It all seems so simple. But it's not. Things lurk in the caves. Tales of old say there are nasty goblins that hide in the depths, preying on humans. Eating them if given the chance.

One day while toiling away, Jane encounters such a creatures. Her mining buddy defends her but is conked

out by a very big goblin who does the same to her. Awakening later on, Jane learns that she has been taken down into the goblin city to have her fate decided by these odd creatures.

Anticipating the worst, our heroine is surprised to learn that she is spared any cruelty. The Queen of the goblins figures out that Jane is a female and females are precious in the Below. It doesn't matter that she is human, she is still a woman and will be treated well.

The large goblin who brought her here is to be her guardian. Ruric is his name and for one so large and frightening, he can be startlingly gentle. He can speak in the human tongue too even though it is quite difficult.

The circumstances are far from optimal but Jane and Ruric soon bond together and learn about each other and their homes. Unfortunately for Jane, now that she has seen the home of the goblins, she must stay there. She can never return to the surface, and it causes her great pain.

She misses her family and hopes they are well. For her safety she is bound to Ruric, and yes, that means a lot more than just for his protection. You see the goblins in this tribe have no more females. They are dying out and they all hope that perhaps a union of human and goblin could replenish the dwindling population. All eyes are turned toward Jane and Ruric. Perhaps there is a chance for them after all!

Love and affection blossoms between the human and the goblin, but things change as Jane witnesses how the inhabitants of the Below treat the captives of those from the Above. In an attempt to save some humans, things go wrong and change forever.

Jane's heart is in the right place, all she wants to do is make both sides see that they are decent and worth respect. It all backfires. This story ends on a rather sombre note. I can't say that this book was amazing as it does the whole 'We'll take yer womens!' sort of cringe worthy plot.

It's full of grammatical errors and yet there is still something that draws me to this tale. It's like a strange retelling of *Beauty and the Beast* but with goblins! The world building isn't awful, and some of the descriptions are lovely. The glowing moss and algae is such a unique idea! I just wish this little book had some more polish to it.

I will read the second story simply because I am quite curious to see how everything pans out. The ending to this novel made my heart hurt. I want there to be happiness and love! I hope that things get resolved and sets to rights. Above and Below as one.

Ipsita says

A quick read!

I wanted to read this book as soon as I read the title and the blurb. It seemed so interesting and something new and wild to read on.

Humans and Goblins! Both leaving, breathing and having their own space and civilized yet bloodthirsty of each other. Not one species knew the other to be anything other than an animal.

But when it comes to save their kind from extinction, the goblins left with no other choice how to save their race in the future with their females number so scarce and near to death. Or maybe they haven't found all that they searched for before.

Then Jane, a human from above world suddenly left with the responsibility of both her siblings, is forced to

work in the mines with other men while pretending to be a man as *no woman can work in there*

When a sudden accident in the mines brings Jane face to face with the creature she had only heard of and whom all the humans feared and then being abducted by them to the Below, to the world of goblins. But what she finds in the world Below, she could never have imagined.

A bargain. A bondage for life.

Will the goblins finally find a way to save them all from extinction? Or will Jane help them; the goblin species and to understand them as different from the animals she thought before of?

This book was short and took me less time to finish it. I liked the plot and story before I started reading it. But what I found was even better than what I thought. There were sometime when I was really annoyed with it all though. The story starts off with a good pace then it gets kinda slow in the middle with Jane's getting comfort with the surroundings and all. And her character also annoyed me a lot. I liked Ruric though, but still he proved to disappoint me further towards the end.

But even with all that the story got it's pace back after sometime and as it was a really short book I didn't mind it much. However the ending is one I had not really hoped for and now I'm a little more excited to read the next book.

Hope it doesn't disappoint me this time!!! I couldn't afford getting into another slump.
