



Forbidden Jewel of India

Louise Allen

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Forbidden Jewel of India Louise Allen To Obey His Duty Is To Deny His Heart

Anusha Laurens is in danger. The daughter of an Indian princess and an English peer, she's the perfect pawn in the opulent courts of Rajasthan. Even so, she will not return to the father who rejected her.

Arrogant *angrezi* Major Nicholas Herriard is charged with bringing the alluring princess safely to her new life in Calcutta. Nick's mission is to protect, to serve—but under the searing Indian sun an initial attraction unfurls into a forbidden temptation.

This beautiful, impossible princess tests the very limits of his honor—especially when Nick is left with only one option to keep Anusha safe: *marriage*. But the fast-flowing waters of the Ganges determine a different fate, and duty may separate them forever.

Forbidden Jewel of India Details

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From Reader Review **Forbidden Jewel of India** for online ebook

Alejandra Reyes López says

Este es un libro más de romance, sin nada nuevo que aportar al género.
Lo único que me llegó a gustar fue Anusha y la ambientación en la India.

Cris says

No começo eu fiquei na dúvida se o livro era bom mesmo, e até pensei em abandonar. A mocinha realmente deu nos meus nervos no começo. Ela é a sobrinha de um marajá indiano e filha de oficial inglês, ou seja, ela age como uma princesa mimada com arrogância de uma lady inglesa. E essa mistura foi um tanto indigesta. Mas o mocinho meio que salvou a história. Nicholas é um oficial e tem como missão levar a princesa mimada de volta para o pai, e escapar de uma guerra. A princesa mimada grita, bate os pés, faz drama, mas é coloca em seu devido lugar e tem de se submeter, afinal a situação não é para brincadeira. Ela demora um pouco até entender isso, mas depois que finalmente cai a ficha ela muda da água para o vinho. Daí a história passa a ficar interessante e a mocinha começa a fazer algum sucesso. O resto da história e foca nas relações entre duas culturas diferentes, a inglesa e a indiana e no sofrimento do casal que é separado por elas. Gostei imensamente dessa enfoque que a autora deu, e achei que apesar do começo chatinho, a história acabou valendo a pena.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

3.5 stars. "Forbidden Jewel of India" is historical romance that takes place in the early years of the East India Company. I didn't know this until reading this book and the historical note in the back of the book but back in the beginning of the East India Company, the men working for the company were encouraged to sort of integrate themselves in with the people that they were working with in India and to really learn about the culture of the country. Sometimes the employees of the East India Company even married Indians in order to understand the country more. It wasn't until later that the English and the Indians kept to themselves more. It was really fascinating to hear about this earlier history of the company.

The back story made the setting especially interesting. You get a great sense of what it must have been like to live in India during the late 1700s. You can feel the heat. You can see the cities and the people that filled them. I love exotic locations and time periods and this book most definitely fits the bill in both instances.

Besides the history behind the story being super fascinating, the characters were also very Anusha is the product of one of the English and Indian relationships. I really liked her character. She always felt like she had been abandoned by her English father and really does not want to be told otherwise. So when Nick, an agent of her father comes to bring her to this man that she never really knew. I both liked and was frustrated with Anusha. She seemed to alternate between strong and weak without any rhyme or reason. I wanted to know more about why.

Bottom line: This book is a good pick for romance lovers and armchair travelers!

Lekhana Gogineni says

For those of you who fear romance novels, do not let the cover, the plot, or what may happen inside scare you. This is not a story of a simpering young lady (I hate them, I can't stand them) Anusha is a strong, bold woman who doesn't care what the people around her think and who is very much more open and free than the other ladies of English society at that time. It honestly took me a while before I realized that Anusha was my cousin's name, but it didn't bother me because this Anusha and my Anusha are so different from each other. I also like the character of Nick who was the main male love interest, Nick and Anusha's interactions are also very funny at times.

Shirsha says

I really liked it...it was very romantic and entertaining ??

Kelly_Instalove says

Grade: D+

This one sat in my TBR queue for months because I had Significant Book Anxiety. I want to love any and every romance set in India, but the cover and description made me more than a little wary. This book is, unfortunately, a solid example of “exoticizing the ‘other’.”

In her author’s note, Allen describes her recent trip to India with enthusiasm, and it’s obvious that she reveres the history and culture, but the authorial (or maybe editorial) choices of which bits to include didn’t work for me at all. There are several gratuitous references to *sati* ritual suicides, a superfluous scene featuring a *Shiva lingam* statue, a king cobra attack, and excessive use of Hindi words for fashion and furniture that served no purpose other than to show off the author’s research.

In addition, the romance left me cold, the hero was too perfectly perfect, and the heroine (an Anglo-Indian princess, of course) was wildly inconsistent.

NOTE: This review was first published at DearAuthor.com. I read a review copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

Rane says

Louise Allen has become an auto-buy author for me, her books always end up on my keeper shelf as she delivers a vast story filled with rich history in a small package.

Placing her reader in India in the late 1700's, Anusha Laurens the daughter of an India princess and English peer is in danger of the conflicts of the courts of Rajasthan. Anusha is stuck between worlds not knowing where she truly belongs after her father rejected her and her mother when his wife returned. She's even more conflicted when she meets her "escort" Major Nicholas Herriard whose job is to return her to her father safe and sound. Of course Nick doesn't count of the attraction he feels to the fiery princess and the danger that brings them closer and the test it does to his honor and heart.

Nick and Anusha start off on the wrong foot as Anusha feels no love lost for her father and Nick whose just doing his bidding. Nick owes alot to Anusha's father and feels a great honor to keep Anusha safe and keeping his hands off her. The feeling they invoke in each other as they discover one another and their history is a joy as they become friends before they become lovers. The two change on their journey but don't give up their morals and beliefs in the face of sex and attraction. I loved this as I see many characters change at a drop at a hat when they discover they're in love/lust and fall into bed giving up what they believe in. It takes alot of trust and faith for both Nick and Anusha to take the next step giving us the reader a great sexual tension that I really miss in other books.

Both are two peas in a pod. Hurt by their families, it makes them leery and a tad scared to really risk their hearts. Anusha wasn't a spoiled princess, but fiery and willing to walk the fine line when need be to get her emotions and actions across and to the point. She needs alot of healing becomes of the rift between her father and herself. The healing is not only done by Anusha but with Nick whose life hasn't bed of roses either.

Nick took a little warming up to as he comes across a tad cold,(and a JERK!) he warms up as he protects Anusha and fights her very open nature that causes an easy blush to cross his cheeks! Nick carries some heavy emotional scars that forces him to build a wall of ice around his heart and as he helps Anusha enter a new world. He learns to let go of his past pains and break down the ice that has formed around his heart.

The story pacing was excellent with a road trip feeling and a bit of history along the way that gives you a glimpse of the time and the way of life of those in India and the British living there at the time.

The only trouble I can say I had was the unneeded angst toward the end that felt more of a filler for the characters to reveal their feelings toward the other.

Louise Allen just delivers great story telling and complex characters that make all her works a joy to read and *Forbidden Jewel of India* is just another gem from her to add to my keeper shelf.

eARC provided by Harlequin & netgalley.com

Caz says

Louise Allen is, in my opinion, one of the strongest of the Harlequin/Mills & Boon Historical authors, and I've always found her romances to be well-written and strongly characterised. Category books tend to be shorter than mainstream ones, but Ms Allen is very good at getting straight to the heart of the story and into

the heads of her characters and **Forbidden Jewel of India** is no exception.

Anusha Laurens is the daughter of Sir George Laurens, a merchant of the East India Company, and his Indian mistress. In an interesting Author's Note, Ms Allen explains how British men were encouraged to take Indian wives and mistresses as a way of fostering understanding and cooperation between the two cultures in the early days of the Company's regime. It wasn't until the early nineteenth century with the advent of Christian missionaries that the "propriety" of British society began to assert itself and the Indian wives and children found themselves relegated to less than second-class citizens.

This story, however, takes place in that earlier time, and we meet Anusha as a young woman of twenty-two who had lived happily with her parents until she was ten, when her father's *angrezi* (English) wife finally joined him in Calcutta, and Anusha and her mother were – to Anusha's way of thinking –cast off and set aside. Since her mother's death, Anusha has lived with her uncle, the Raja of Kalatwah and has thus been brought up as a well-born Indian lady, an upbringing which has been markedly different to that of a similarly circumstanced Englishwoman.

When a British officer arrives at the Palace, Anusha cannot help but be intrigued. She has never seen a man like him before – tall, broad and golden-haired – but she takes an instant dislike to his manner, which she thinks is disrespectful and overbearing.

Major Nicholas Helliard has been sent by Anusha's father to bring her to him in Calcutta, but she does not wish to go. She has no regard for Sir George, believing he callously discarded her mother in order to placate his wife, and makes her opinion of him more than clear. But Major Helliard – Nick – will have none of it. Sir George has been a surrogate father to him and Nick is nothing if not loyal to a fault. He will not hear a word against him, and is determined to fulfil his assigned task, by any means necessary.

Anusha knows she has no alternative but to agree to return to Calcutta, but even before their departure she is busily making plans for her escape. When the palace is unexpectedly threatened with a siege by a neighbouring raja, Nick has no alternative but to get Anusha away quickly, without their baggage train and without an escort. In India, as in Britain, it is not done for a young man and woman to travel together unchaperoned, but they have no alternative.

On a journey that is fraught with danger, Nick and Anusha begin to know each other better and to appreciate each other's strength and ingenuity. She learns that Nick has spent the last twelve years in India and that he is proficient in several languages and conversant with local customs and religions. He is a clever strategist and courageous warrior, putting her safety before his own on several occasions. For his part, Nick comes to appreciate Anusha's resilience and resourcefulness – although he finds his growing attraction to her increasingly difficult to ignore.

Things are complicated further by the fact that Anusha's education has included the reading of erotic texts and discussion of how to please her husband in bed. As a result, she is not shy of admitting the desire she feels for her handsome Major, or of wanting to act upon it; which I thought was an interesting contrast to her dismay at discovering that English ladies are allowed to appear before men unveiled, expected to interact and flirt with them and – under certain circumstances – to permit their touch. In fact, I was very intrigued by the author's explanation and exploration of the differences in sexual attitudes between the two cultures.

Yet regardless of how much he wants Anusha, Nick cannot betray the man he regards as a father by dishonouring his daughter; and once they reach Calcutta, he dutifully hands her over to Sir George and the ladies of the English community who are to make "a proper English lady" out of his unconventional and exotic travelling companion.

One of the things I enjoy about “road trip” stories, is that it affords the author the opportunity to develop the relationship between the hero and heroine at a reasonably fast pace without it seeming rushed. Being thrown together by circumstance encourages the sharing of confidences and the development of friendship and trust; and I always enjoy stories in which the central couple becomes friends before they become lovers. Though both Nick and Anusha are changed by their experiences on the journey and by their association, they retain the essence of who they are; while their deepening attraction and awareness of each other makes for some delicious sexual tension and steamy moments suffused with longing.

I enjoyed **Forbidden Jewel of India** very much. Ms Allen’s depictions of the terrain and of village life brought the locations to life in my imagination and overall, I thought she made excellent use of the unusual setting. It’s a quick, entertaining and emotionally satisfying read, with well-rounded and engaging central characters and a well-developed and sexy romance.

Alice says

When I saw there was a romance that took place in INDIA, I was so excited. I love reading stories in different countries and time periods, and I know very little about British Imperial rule in India. The saving grace to this book was the way Allen described the countryside and way of life in India. That was interesting. I felt like she crammed a lot in, and it worked.

However, I was super disappointed with the heroine, Anusha. As a mixed race individual, she doesn't feel like she belongs anywhere. Fair. She's adamant that she is both English and Indian, and that's a constant struggle, which is interesting and relatable. That was all thrown away at the end because Anusha was just sooooo happy to be with Nick that she didn't care if people cut her hair, changed her clothes, or made her walk a certain way. By the end of the novel, we lost Anusha, and her most defining feature was that she loved Nick. Bor-ing. I don't have a problem with a woman who really loves her man, but it is problematic when she sacrifices everything to be with him and he's just along for the ride. The ending was such a letdown, that it ruined the book for me, and it didn't deliver overall.

Hilly says

4 stars.

This was my first book by author Louise Allen and I enjoyed it.

Firstly, I admit that I love Bollywood movies and that I loved that the author utilized and italicized the Hindustani words that are now in common English use [i.e., champo (shampoo), pajama, etc]. That's to my interest and my taste -- so, I am her target audience, here. :)

What I especially liked was the sweep and scope of the adventure. I didn't think that it broke new ground: the same story could have been (and often has been) set in historical Europe or WWII or America's Wild West or even in a contemporary romance. I must have read thousands of these stories. It also put me in mind of Meredith Duran's The Duke of Shadows, although in many ways I preferred *this* story. It moved quickly, yet felt grounded enough in Anglo-India that it was like eating a full Indian dinner: satisfying, exotic and spicy.

Now, when I say 'spicy' ... well, it was. However, it was also ... somewhat ... sanitized. Not any extremes of blood, gore or sex. That was a relief to me. The story hung together (enough) and the characters were believable, as was the relationships.

I also really liked Anusha and Nick, ... and wish that they were real people so that I could be friends with them. *That* feeling hasn't happened for me in quite a long while, and so I am giving this book 4 stars based on that pleasure.

Tasneem says

I loved White Moghals and Allen's inspiration is clear when one reads this book. I adored the way she described the British in India and their interactions with the natives before and after the British Raj is established. The arrival of the white memsahibs totally changes how biracial children and connections are viewed.

Their passion, their strength and their desire do what is right is beautifully brought out. A really good read.

re-read - 04/02/2015

Re-reading Anusha and Nick's story again made me want to go exploring the old palaces of India. The descriptions are vivid and captivating. I really felt for her - she is so lost. She is neither Rajput, nor English but both and that makes life difficult. Her father loves her, but she is mistrustful of that love having been sent back to her uncle the Raja at the arrival of her father's legal wife.

No wonder then that she is afraid of love, and loving Nick means being vulnerable to pain. I did find her running away tiresome. Allen seems to like making her heroines flee for some reason towards the end of her books. It seems like a favourite plot device.

Julie says

A sumptuously written tale simmering with exotic splendor illicit desires and secret passions, *Forbidden Jewel of India* is an enthralling and engrossing historical romance from the immensely gifted pen of award-winning author Louise Allen!

Anusha Laurens has spent most of her life sheltered and cossetted in her uncle's luxurious palace in Rajasthan. The illegitimate daughter of an Indian princess and an English nobleman, Anusha still bears the scars of her father's devastating betrayal. Anusha has never managed to forgive her father for sending her mother to an early grave nor has she managed to forget the heartbreaking pain which she had to endure when she had been forced to leave the only home she had never known and seek shelter in her uncle's palace. Anusha had vowed never to have anything more to do with the father who had so brutally abandoned her ever again. However, when her life is placed in imminent danger, Anusha realizes that her only chance of survival is if she consents to travelling halfway across India to her father's house in Calcutta. Swallowing her pride is not something which the proud Anusha finds easy to do – and indeed the journey to Calcutta is made even more challenging when she encounters the man charged with protecting her: the devastatingly handsome Major Nicholas Herriard!

There is absolutely nothing that Nicholas would not do for the man who had rescued him from the brink of

despair and given him a reason to live: Sir George Laurens. Anusha's father had treated him like his own and made him the strong, intelligent and dependable man he is today. Nicholas had felt honoured and privileged when the man he respected most in the world had asked him to bring his beloved daughter to safety. However, Nicholas hadn't counted on how aggravating and infuriating Anusha Laurens could be – nor had he imagined that he would find himself attracted to her...

With danger lurking round every corner, Anusha and Nicholas must keep their wits about them if they are to survive and reach their destination. Although the two of them had resolved to keep their feelings for one another firmly under wraps, resistance quickly proves futile. Surrendering to temptation might have been inevitable, but does Anusha and Nicholas' love stand a chance of surviving when there is so much standing in their way?

Forbidden Jewel of India continues to assert Louise Allen's standing as one of the most exceptional writers of historical romance writing today. Daring, innovative and wonderfully passionate, this sublimely romantic tale of forbidden love sweeps readers away to an exquisitely rendered and fabulously recreated eighteenth century India. Expertly melding her meticulous historical knowledge with her astounding storytelling prowess, Louise Allen has written a dramatic, dazzling and engrossing historical romance which I couldn't bear to put down!

Atmospheric, captivating and simply breath-taking, Forbidden Jewel of India is a powerful historical romance readers will never forget!

MissCherry says

3,5 en realidad. Me ha gustado mucho este libro. Me enganchó desde el principio por su originalidad y la trama no ha decaído en ningún momento. Se lee en un periquete.

Es una novela corta por lo que me esperaba que igual el romance fuese precipitado pero no, esta llevado de una forma perfecta y pausada.

Me ha encantado lo mucho que la autora se ha documentado antes de escribir sobre el tema de las relaciones entre los indios y los ingleses y el que haya introducido palabras del hindi me ha enamorado.

La protagonista me ha encantado también. Es una mujer fuerte, decidida e independiente. Y él es muy dulce y honorable.

Es más que probable que lea alguna novela más que tenga esta autora, es buena escribiendo y documentándose.

Denise Bonham says

It was different being set in India but I really enjoyed it. Can't wait to move on to the next one.

Gaile says

Anusha, raised in India believes herself to be abandoned by her father after her mother dies.

She is shocked when her father sends an English man, Major Nicholas Herriard to fetch her back to her father.

Full of resentment, she balks. What does her father want with her now? The idea of English society in Calcutta and having to wear corsets and heavy gowns is not something she wants but her Indian grandfather orders her to go.

The journey is long and dangerous. For the major, Anusha proves impossible, never obeying orders, getting herself in danger and flirting with him all innocently unknowing that he is trying desperately to avoid falling in love with her.

He knows her father has other plans for her and doubts they include him.

I read this on an airplane. It was a smooth easy read and I was all too soon done!
