



Once Upon a Prince

Rachel Hauck

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Once Upon a Prince, the first novel in the Royal Wedding series by bestselling author Rachel Hauck, treats you to a modern-day fairy tale.

Susanna Truitt never dreamed of a great romance or being treated like a princess---just to marry the man she has loved for twelve years. But life isn't going according to plan. When her high-school-sweetheart-turned-Marine-officer breaks up instead of proposing, Susanna scrambles to rebuild her life.

The last thing Prince Nathaniel expects to find on his American holiday to St. Simon's Island is the queen of his heart. A prince has duties, and his family's tense political situation has chosen his bride for him. When Prince Nathaniel comes to Susanna's aid under the fabled Lover's Oak, he is blindsided by love.

Their lives are worlds apart. He's a royal prince. She's an ordinary girl. But everything changes when Susanna receives an invitation to Nathaniel's coronation. It's the ultimate choice. His kingdom or her heart? God's will or their own?

Once Upon a Prince Details

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From Reader Review Once Upon a Prince for online ebook

Jessica Gillies says

4.5 stars

Was it fluff? Yes.

Did I love it? Yes.

Sue me. :)

Rissa says

4.75??

Her life was perfect sort of, until her boyfriend since forever dumped her, her father ended up in the hospital, she quit her job and had to move out of her house. Through all the bad she looked to God and a knight in shining armor (not literally) Nate kept popping up when she needed help the most.

Nate aka nathaniel a prince next in line for the throne decided to keep his real identity a secret because he liked the idea of a normal life and he liked the idea of a normal life with her even more. But his real identity is soon found out and it puts a slight strain on their friendship but that soon disappears and they find each other alwayd on the othermind. But he is a prince and she is just a regular american. He is to marry someone of higher rank someone that benefits the crown even though all he wants is her.

It was adorable and funny and i loved every minute of it.

I want a Prince Nathaniel.

April says

If I had known it was a Christian romance I would have not bought the book. It was a too preachy.

Cait • A Page with a View says

This was so completely sweet. It reminded me of The Prince & Me meets A Prince for Christmas (with some obvious Kate Middleton inspiration). I wasn't sure about the story at the beginning, but ended up absolutely loving it. It's like a Hallmark movie where everyone's boyfriend is secretly a prince and there are all sorts of obstacles for a regular American girl to marry a European king. Obviously you know how it'll end, but the characters are what make these types of stories fun. And I really liked everyone in this book! If you're looking for inspirational fluff, this is the perfect story.

And this is actually one of the first Christian fiction books I've ever truly loved. The plot built around the characters' faith in a natural way instead of leaping across giant holes to shove it in. Plus, it felt inspiring

instead of preachy. I'm definitely checking out this author's other books now!

Duchess Nicole says

3.5 Stars

Cute story...almost has a Cinderella vibe. Some heavy spirituality...almost too convenient that everyone is so reverent. I'm interested to see how this plays out in the next book. Things are set up for drastic changes.

Alexandra Florence says

I did not know that this was a Christian novel, if I had known then I would have not started reading it. I found the Christianity in the novel to be tolerable, however there were many more elements that prohibited my enjoyment of the book.

I found many problems with this book, due to the characters, narrative and storyline. This book held the promise of an enjoyable read, yet sadly it did not deliver.

From the beginning of the book I encountered issues that ruined the novel for me. The book opens with Susanna being dumped by her boyfriend of twelve years with him so kindly telling her he "found the right ring, just not the right girl". I expected more of a reaction from Susanna than Hauck gave us. Personally, I found that there was not enough fight in Susanna's character. After devoting twelve years of your life to a man I believe it is a woman's prerogative to be angry and upset when told he loves someone else. Instead Susanna accepts Adam's reasoning and actually agrees with him! I found myself getting angry with Susanna, asking 'Where's the backbone to this character?'

Hauck then cleverly devises a way for Susanna to meet the Prince, but yet again I found myself questioning the book. Who would really divulge their heartbreak and life story to a complete stranger with a dodgy accent? No one.

So Rachel Hauck was clearly trying to create a pseudo-British Prince, I can comfortably say that NO ONE SPEAKS LIKE NATE. His ridiculous English accent really annoyed me. It became very clear to me that Hauck is American as she displayed an idealised and entirely fake English accented gentleman in the form of Prince Nathaniel. Furthermore, Brighton Kingdom is perhaps *the most* ridiculous name for a country I have ever encountered in a novel. It is almost as if Hauck was struggling to think of a name and so decided to look at a map of the United Kingdom for inspiration, discovered the coastal city of Brighton and whacked Kingdom on the end to make the country sound more regal.

In the novel there was an over complicated political situation between Brighton Kingdom and the neighbouring island Hessenberg, this added little to the plot and was a bit of a non story that had no affect on the novel. Nate's mother, the Queen, took an instant dislike to Susanna before even meeting her, however she championed Ginny, who it was very clear was a manipulative and scheming woman. I could not comprehend this decision, clearly the Queen did not want her son abdicating, as the law would require if he were to marry a foreigner, yet the plotting against him I found unbelievable. Furthermore, a Queen should be a good judge of character, yet the Queen favours Ginny, and it is not until considerably far into the book that she realises the error in her judgement. I found the character of the Queen to be contradicting itself, and she is another

example of a character created by Hauck that I did not like.

I adore love stories, a happy ever after and a Cinderella-esque tale, however I do not believe that in conventional modern day romances an engagement comes before sex, and especially not before a first kiss. I fully appreciate that the Christian element to the novel required the chastity, however I do not believe it fitting to the time. Furthermore, there was a serious lack of cursing in the novel, I had no problem with this, however I found the substitutions used, for example "by gum", irritating. Hauck is clearly deeply religious. I found the preaching element to the novel annoying as whole chapters were dedicated to the discussion of God and faith. The concept of offering oneself to God for Him to direct your life according to His plan is alien to me, and I believe that it was this concept that lead to what I believed to be the weak character of Susanna.

Overall I would not recommend this book, I found it infuriating and ridiculous. I loved the premise of a Cinderella story, however for me the book did not deliver. Books such as Suddenly Royal and To Marry a Prince were far more successful as reads about royals.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I've wanted to read this one for a while now. I thought the cover was cute and the premise sounded fun. The book starts with our heroine Susanna getting dumped by her longtime boyfriend, who has fallen in love with another woman. Their relationship was weird as well as their breakup. Hardly any emotion.

The historical elements were boring and repetitive. And how did Susanna know so much about his country's history? The whole story felt repetitive after awhile I lost interest.

I didn't believe in their love story either. They are hardly together and when they are together all they talk about is weird stuff and how they can't be together. They don't even kiss until the very, very end. I did not feel a romantic connection at all. And as far as Susanna being Queen? I don't think she'd be a good Queen. She did nothing in the story that made me think she could handle that responsibility. She can barely manage her own life, forget about running a country.

I knew this was Christian fiction so I was prepared for some religious elements, but not for the overwhelming preaching that took place. If religious stuff is going to be present I prefer it to be mild and incorporated in such a way that it feels realistic to the characters and the story. I can handle a little preaching, but it was over the top in this. It just rubbed me the wrong way.

Overall, not the book for me. I ended up skimming and skipping a lot.

Content: Boringly clean, G.

Ashley says

I wanted to love this book. And the first pages immediately drew me in. The premise was good and the

writing was skillful, unfortunately it lost me in the details. I knew the premise before going into the story, so I wasn't expecting something completely realistic. I was expecting a whimsical, light, fun story. Who doesn't want to be a princess right? :) And I liked Nathaniel although he could be a bit whiny at times. I had trouble connecting with Susanna or rooting for her. Like I said, it started well, I was with her up to a point. But the split started around the end of chapter one when she actually agreed that the TWELVE year relationship she'd been in was basically just safety and convenience and totally loveless. I wanted her to fight more, I was hoping she knew her own mind better than that. I might have taken this a bit personally, being a military girlfriend turned military wife, but you don't just stay with someone through deployments and stress and danger and separation like it's no big deal. It just seemed completely unbelievable to me that anyone could be in a relationship that dead for that long and NOT KNOW, military or not. I was willing to put that aside, but Susanna kept doing things that didn't make sense and I just got more frustrated with her. Bawling all over Nathaniel and telling him her life story when he stopped to change her tire and was a complete stranger was another strike and it went down hill from there. I couldn't relate to a grown career woman being so completely lost in her own life and not being able to take charge and make her own decisions. I prefer a stronger main character who knows who she is and what she wants I guess. Again, Rachel Hauck can definitely write. Her style is very engaging, and the idea is a cute one. It just didn't work for me.

Kristen says

4.5

Ok, I pretty much loved all of this book. It did get a tad too preachy in some spots, hence the .5 star taken away, but overall it was a great book. Fun, clean, girl falls in love with an honest to goodness prince. What's not to like!

Moral Note: Can't think of anything bad in it.

Alia Ros says

“And tonight, and forever, he held her in his arms”

MAN THIS BOOK I COULDN'T PUT THIS BOOK DOWN AT ALL!! What a lovely read!!

Jaye says

Let me start by saying this: I had absolutely NO IDEA that this was a CBA novel. That is, Christian fiction. If I had, I wouldn't have picked it up. I must have missed something in the blurb that would have indicated this. Now, this review isn't a shot at all Christian fiction. I'm not even saying this book represents all books within this genre. All I'm saying is that it's not for me.

I did start to read it. From the beginning, I could tell I wasn't going to connect with this one. I kept getting caught up on the language. By language, I mean the lack of profanity--on every level. The author incorporated such phrases as "by gum" and "hoo boy." Curse words don't bother me, rather the opposite. So, their substitution rubbed me the wrong way, much like nails on a chalkboard. In my world, "hell" is more

acceptable than "heck."

Additionally, What's-Her-Name--the female protagonist--struck me as too whiny and self-contradictory. She gave off too many Damsel In Distress vibes. I couldn't understand how Nathaniel falls for her within minutes of meeting her.

Then, I skipped to the end where Nathaniel proposes to What's-Her-Name. She obviously says yes, but only after refusing him for some inexplicable reason (I didn't read the middle, so I couldn't grasp her reasoning). Then, the anticipated kiss. Their first kiss. Again, in my world, the marriage proposal doesn't come before the first kiss. It doesn't even come before sex.

In the end, I love the royal-falls-for-commoner story arc. However, this book wasn't for me. I couldn't bring myself to enjoy it, let alone read it.

Becky says

Royal fun! If you're a fan of royals (who isn't?) then you'll enjoy this book and this series. The hero of Once Upon a Prince is Nathaniel, an honest to goodness European prince. And the heroine, Susanna, is a down to earth girl from St. Simon's island, Georgia. Nathaniel is restricted from marrying anyone not from his kingdom of Brighton, so duty and love collide in this charming romance. I really enjoyed the behind the scenes peek into the life of a modern day royal. And the ending was swoon-worthy!

Great job, Rachel!

Sarah says

Age Appropriate For: 13 and up (thematic material, romance)

Best for Ages: 15 and up

I am going to start this review with the one thing I didn't like about this book: the cover. For me, the cover gave me pause. It made it look like the book would have content that might not be appropriate. It isn't so much what is shown as what is implied. Thankfully, the cover had nothing to do with the story. I hope this type of cover doesn't become a trend for Zondervan books.

Thank goodness I chose not to judge this book by its cover, because it was an amazingly wonderful story. The romance in it was so clean and so God honoring that even younger readers might find themselves liking it. Seriously, I don't think I have read a romance from a traditional publisher that made me jump up and down saying "That is the kind of romance I want!" until I read this book.

Both characters like each other from the beginning, but feelings are not the center of the romance, only a factor. Most of the time Nate and Susanna spend together is spent talking, often about faith. When they are apart, they don't spend all the time dreaming of kisses, hand-holding, and such, the miss each other's advice, thoughts, and presence.

Nathaniel was so amazing. There are not many heroes in books who think more about duty and honor than their hormones. He was the type of guy I am looking for – the type who treats girls with respect and honor; the type who cares more about a girl's heart than her body. That isn't to say he wasn't attracted to Susanna. Let's be honest, it would be weird to have a romance where there was no attraction. It is simply that he thinks more about who she is than the fact that she is pretty.

The fairy-tale aspect was so fun. So maybe it wasn't 100% believable, but who cares. It was so fun! The settings were so lovely that I could hear the accents, and the history of the fictional country was well presented. Some of the political aspect was murky, but not too bad.

The faith message was awesome. It was well-constructed, not too heavy, and central to the story. Both Suzanna and Nate helped build each other's faith.

I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a clean fairy tale, God-honoring romance, and characters that are strong of faith and character.

I received this book from Zondervan through Booksneeze in exchange for my honest review. I was under no obligation to write a positive review. The opinions in this review are entirely my own.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Susanna Truitt never dreamed of a great romance or being treated like a princess---just to marry the man she has loved for twelve years. But life isn't going according to plan. When her high-school-sweetheart-turned-Marine-officer breaks up instead of proposing, Susanna scrambles to rebuild her life. The last thing Prince Nathaniel expects to find on his American holiday to St. Simon's Island is the queen of his heart. A prince has duties, and his family's tense political situation has chosen his bride for him. When Prince Nathaniel comes to Susanna's aid under the fabled Lover's Oak, he is blindsided by love. Their lives are worlds apart. He's a royal prince. She's an ordinary girl. But everything changes when Susanna receives an invitation to Nathaniel's coronation. It's the ultimate choice. His kingdom or her heart? God's will or their own?”

Series: Book #1 in “*The Royal Wedding*” series.

Spiritual Content- Scriptures are mentioned, quoted, & read; Prayers; Church going; Many talks about God; ‘H’s are not capital when referring to God; Many mentions of God & Jesus; Mentions of prayers & praying; Mentions of churches, church going, ministers, & hymns/songs; Mentions of Christmas & hymns; A few mentions of those in the Bible; A few mentions of faiths; A few mentions of miracles; A couple mentions of Heaven; A mention of thanking God; A mention of a Christian group;

*Note: A mention of a woman seeing an angel or a demon from time to time; A mention of a she-devil; A mention of Medusa.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘be jacked’ (a replacement for the d---- word), a ‘blooming’, a

Sexual Content- a thumbs-to-lips touch, a (brotherly) cheek kiss, a cheek kiss, and a border-line barely-above-not-detailed // semi-detailed kiss; Wanting to kiss (border-line barely-above-not-detailed // semi-detailed at one point); Quite a bit of Touches, Hand holding, & Dancing (barely-above-not-detailed); Noticing & Smelling (barely-above-not-detailed); a ‘sexy’, two ‘babe’s, and five ‘hot’s; A woman tries to get near Nathaniel & give touches (barely-above-not-detailed, he pushes away her advances); Mentions of rumors of a couple sleeping together (nothing happened, though, our main couple is thought to have had a one-nighter); Mentions of kisses & kissing; Mentions of romances, dating, dates, breakups, exes, girlfriends, & boyfriends; Mentions of flirting & flirts; Mentions of blushes; A few mentions of young women (not) getting pregnant outside of wedlock & rumors of it happening (also a mention of having to have intimate relations to become pregnant); A few mentions of mistresses & a woman gossiped to be one; A few mentions of jealousy; A couple mentions of a (possible) affair; A couple mentions of a female assistance spending a lot of time with her (married) boss; A couple mentions of chaperones; A couple mentions of crushes; A mention of a girl living her with boyfriend; A mention of sleeping around; A mention of a creepy man’s wolfish grin; A mention of a young man looking at a girl like a “very thirsty man”; Love, falling in love, & the emotions;

*Note: A mention of a woman’s strapless dress showing her chest; A mention of kissing someone’s grits; A mention of a door hitting someone somewhere.

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*“Once Upon a Prince”* was still a cute one in my eyes, but there were many things I had forgotten since reading it over four years ago. It’s instant love/attraction, but not so lovey-dovey, which was nice. There also was much more faith content that I recalled, so that was a lovely surprise. I will admit that the royal politics boggled me down a bit when reading and there were a couple other comments could have been left out in my

opinion, but overall, it's a cute contemporary read. :)

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

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### **Aleida Oskam says**

Een heerlijk romantisch verhaal was dit. De schrijfstijl van Rachel Hauck is erg prettig dus het leest vlot weg. Alleen de politieke kwesties snapte ik niet helemaal en ik moest soms erg nadenken wie nou ook alweer wie was. Voor de hoofdpersonen wist ik het wel, maar vaak met alle subpersonages moest ik even goed nadenken. Uiteindelijk werd het meestal wel weer duidelijk maar ik had liever gehad dat ik het sneller weer snapte. Verder vond ik het mooi hoe het geloof in dit boek werd verwerkt. En vond ik dit ook goed tot zijn recht komen in het boeken. Al met al een prachtig verhaal.

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