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**Susan Wilson**

**Beauty**



Title: Beauty

Author: Susan Wilson

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## Description

### What if the fairy tale came true?

*In this bittersweet love story, it isn't Beauty who needs to discover the man inside the Beast—but the man himself.*

When Alix Miller takes off for a remote spot in New Hampshire to paint a portrait of the reclusive aristocrat, Leland Crompton, nothing has prepared her for what's in store. The housekeeper is unnerving. The castle-like house—with its massive chimney, mullioned windows, and ironwork gate with wrought-iron roses—gives her chills. And Lee himself is disfigured by a rare, genetic disease.

In the long hours of work that follow, deep in the wintry woods, Alix discovers that beneath Lee's exterior lies a remarkable man, a man she could come to love. The problem lies in convincing Lee.

## Insightful reviews

Rachele: This is one of my favorite reads. If nothing else sounds interesting, this is what I pick up. Its the typical story of beauty and the beast but set in modern times, with the "beast" being a regular man with a genetic distortion to his body.

MAP: This book is a contemporary (1996) romance based on the classic fairy tale of Beauty and the Beast. Alix, who comes from several generations of portrait painters, is commissioned by Lee Crompton, a wealthy recluse, to paint his portrait, as Alix's family has done for Lee's family for over 300 years. The catch of course, is that Lee is deformed and holes himself up in his country mansion.

The book was ok. I definitely thought the characters of Alix and Lee were well written, sympathetic, and engaging, and it's hard not to fall a little bit in love with Lee just like Alix does. But there were a couple issues with this book that made it hard to give it a higher rating.

First, the horrible deformed Lee has...acromegaly. Certainly, it's an unfortunate illness, and people who struggle with it have a myriad of health problems, but do you know who had acromegaly? Andre the Giant.



And Richard Kiel



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Like, sure - they're not Brad Pitt, but the book literally has kids seeing Lee and running away screaming. He actually calls himself a "monster," like he's the freaking [Phantom of the Opera](#). I even tried looking up images of NON-famous people with acromegaly, to see if maybe Andre and Richard were just particularly photogenic, but no - pretty much everyone with acromegaly has that look -- big hands, taller than average, slightly boxy. I mean, I'm sorry, but I thought going into this that we'd be dealing with a Joseph Merrick type situation, not a...Ted Cassidy situation. (Lurch from the Addams Family)

Second, the end of the book is kind of a downer. And I actually can get really into downer endings. Often, when I hit a downer ending, I'll have a Darth Vader "NOOOOOOOOOOO" moment, then run through in my head what it would have looked like as a happy ending, and say to myself, "No, you're right, author, this only works as a downer ending. The book officially sucks with a happy ending." It didn't feel that way here. There was no...reason for it, no purpose. You tack on a different ending in your brain and the book gets BETTER, not worse.

So was it worth getting from the library? Sure. Was it worth reading once? Yes. Would I read it again? No. Would I add it to my permanent collection? No.

Not going on my Phantom of the Opera shelf because a boxy chin and big hands does not a Phantom character make.

Evelyn: A painter, who unknowingly accepts a commission to paint the portrait of a grotesquely deformed New Hampshire aristocrat, finds herself slowly drawn to this lonely and intelligent man.

Highly recommend. LIBRARY JOURNAL calls it "a little gem." Well-written story. Variation on the theme: [Beauty and the Beast](#). Will appeal to a broad audience of readers. Wonderful read. Lovely story. Enchanting.

Gerrie: it is a attractive interpretation of the sweetness and the beast story. Lee, the hero, is really hideous at the outside. He has acromegaly, a wholly disfiguring condition, which has completely distorted his looks. the 1st time the heroine, Alix, sees him, she is totally repulsed. the writer unveils the attractive individual inside Lee layer via layer, and we slowly learn how to delight in his enormous internal good looks besides Alix as she will get to grasp him. You fall in love with Lee in addition to Alix, until eventually all you spot is the internal man, the gorgeous human being. The language is lyrical, yet spare, with no one pointless or superfluous word. i'd have given this booklet five stars and marked it as a favorite. However, (view spoiler)[ I learn romance simply because i would like satisfied endings. If i wished a grittier reality, i'd learn these varieties of books. The ebook was once lyrical and heartbreakingly relocating till the previous couple of pages, the place it resulted in tragedy. i am yes the writer had her reasons, however it completely ruined the ebook for me. i really desired to down grade it to two or three stars at that point. However, I additionally needed to recognize that the 1st ? of the e-book is so really attractive and moving, that it deserved a really excessive rating. So five stars for the 1st ¾ and no stars for the ending. (hide spoiler)]["br"]>["br"]>

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Sheila: one of many saddest and most pretty books i've got ever read. If at some point I personal it i'm going to reread it.

Grace K: enjoyed it! finishing had me approximately in tears.

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