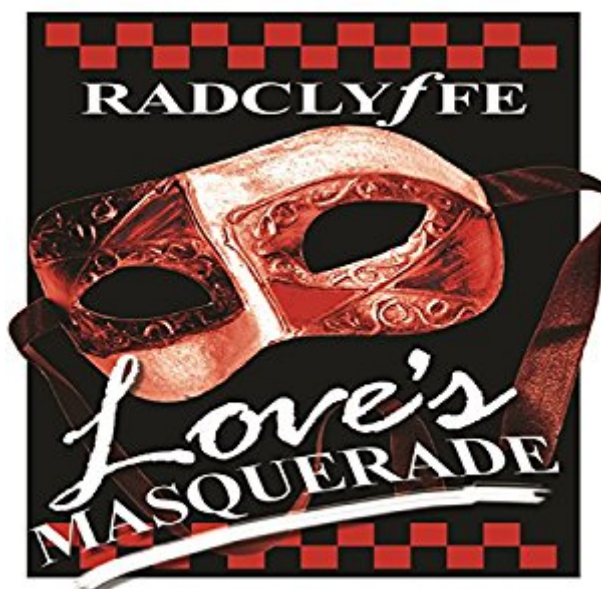


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# Love's Masquerade



## Synopsis

Plunged into the often indistinguishable realms of fiction, fantasy, and hidden desires, Auden Frost discovers a shifting landscape that will force her to question everything she has believed to be true about herself and the nature of love. Auden's journey begins one winter morning when she interviews for a much-needed position as an editor at Palmer Publishing. Haydon Palmer, the powerful young head of the company, offers Auden something far different - something that ultimately forces them both to confront their deepest fears and utmost desires. Unable to resist Hays's challenge and unaware of the charismatic woman's closely guarded secrets, Auden soon finds herself on a path that will transform both their lives.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

Well-written, but far too dramatic for me. It has a happy ending, but it's a sad & painful ride getting there & when I say ending, I do mean the very end. People who love drama and tear-jerkers will love it, but those who read for a world of happy fantasy with just a touch of drama thrown in to keep you turning the page will hate it. I actually found myself skipping to the end to make sure things would be somewhat ok before I could finish it & I never do that. It's a good book, just not a book for me. A little more romance & a little less drama please.

But don't let the tragedy of this story stop you from reading it. It's full of angst but is not a downer. This is a Radclyffe and a Bold Strokes Book... no depressing endings allowed!! lol. Just be prepared for a whole lot of sappy drama. The lead romance is more emotional-sweet than sexy. This soap

opera begins when blond, feminine nonfiction editor Auden Frost is unexpectedly picked up to organize the newly acquired lezfic branch at Palmer Publishing. Haydon Palmer is the hot, young head of this publishing company who overlooks Auden's inexperience with fiction and sees something in her she really likes... professionally and personally. As her homework, Auden is to start reading lez romance and get acquainted with all the star authors. Um, who wouldn't want this job?? lol. Hays gives her an office nearby and they work closely together on this new project. Auden is a dormant lesbian with no f/f experience... Hays has a genetic condition and isn't expected to live long. And yet they become impossibly attracted to each other. They both struggle with what is or isn't ahead for them. Parallel to this attraction is a correspondence between romance writers and Auden's relationship with her best friend Gayle... these elements bring a lightness to the story but also a complication of overcrowdedness. At first I thought too much was going on and didn't much care for reading email exchanges in my novel. Something emotional just doesn't translate. The erotic and love passages we get from the lez authors are also too disjointed to feel sexy... but once you catch on to who's who there was something deeper here I began to appreciate. I think Radclyffe has a lot of complexity in her thinking and these interconnected subplots are very interesting in theory... but this doesn't translate as well to readers. It just makes the book difficult to read. Gayle's parallel love story would have been better off as a separate novel. It stole time from the leads and made everyone's story seem thinner. I also have mixed feelings about sex scenes involving Auden's best friend and her lover before the leads even hook up. Who does Rad want me to care about? I don't want the secondary characters to be superficial and ignored either... but I prefer the leads to be the central focus- I don't really want to be in bed with someone else!!! lol. And this was my biggest issue with the book. Just a little too much going on. I did like the peep into lezfic publishing and one wonders how much of Rad's own experiences are here with all the names changed, lol... this part of the book alone was worth the reading. If only lez romance writers were as hot looking as their characters, ha ha... I also noted that if there were any butches in this story... they took on anonymous gender characterization. I've gotten used to reading Rad's movie star butches in full detail (and the femmes being more ignored)... here they are practically nondescript and I don't know what they are... but they're not femme. Hays, Gayle, and Thane all fell into this category. Auden wasn't much clearer either. And then after 100 pages Gayle is subtly referred to as African American? Huh? More clarity upfront, please. This writing technique to create "Everywoman" characters rarely works on my brain... I like to really visualize my characters in full detail and was disappointed by the lack of physical description. I really wish authors wouldn't do this. I feel robbed of character when they do. Or maybe some of them just don't do this "technique" well. There is a

fine line between obscuring your characters and nuanced characterization. I didn't think I'd rate this more than 3-3 1/2 stars as most of the book isn't better than that for me... but the last third of the book or so really picked up and left a strong emotional imprint on me. Here Rad focused primarily on the leads and the drama went into high gear. It was very moving and very sweet and lost some of the over-the-top soap opera cheesiness. So I'd agree with 3 1/2- 4 stars. Again, I can't think of this book as sexy and I struggled to get through some of the chapters... but there are some clever things here and the dedication these characters have for each other is truly endearing.

Thanks to Radclyffe for another great book. Interesting characters. A plot to keep you turning the pages as fast as you can. Everybody wants someone to love them. I'll add this one to my wish list for Audible to record.

This book has it all: sweet love story, incredibly sexy descriptions of interactions between Auden and Hays that really got my blood flowing (especially the make out session in the middle of Chapter 11--I still have it bookmarked!), and intense anxiety that makes you fearful about the fate of their relationship. I love many of Radclyffe's books; she has great timing, beautifully erotic sex scenes, and characters that you can really connect with. I'm more attracted to femme/femme fictional relationships than butch/femme, so this book has skyrocketed into one of my faves. Woo! Even thinking about it is making my heart beat faster! I think I'll go read some certain sections again. ;)

This is one of my favorite's by Radclyffe, a classic. One of her earlier writings. Love the characters, sub characters, storyline. It flowed well for me and had everything I wanted in a lesbian romance. Great read anytime. Highly recommend, be prepared though you may shed a tear or two. But, for me as a reader, being made to feel many emotions is just good writing.

Love's Masquerade is full of fiery passion, enchanted love, and fear of losing both. It's amazing how Radclyffe is able to take you from one extreme to the next. Going from erotic pleasure to undeniable sadness and happiness for all the characters in this book. I loved Auden and Hays and the supporting characters Gayle, Thane, and Abel. You will not be able to put it down. I wish we were able to this played out on-screen. It would make a beautiful movie.

I read the story with a lump in my throat given the emotions of the passages. Even in the midst of illness and likelihood of demise, love still brings hope and strength. Rather different story from

Radclyffe's other works but none the less, another winner.

As I said, another well written fantastic story. The characters made me ache with longing for their happiness. Radcliffe writes characters that I want in my life. I must say, I almost didn't finish the book. I came to a place where I didn't want the story to go and panicked. I had to read the ending before I could go back and finish reading.

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