



A Tale of Two Proms

Cara Lockwood

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A TALE OF TWO PROMS –

It was the best of prom, it was the worst of prom.

Miranda Tate returns for her senior year at Bard Academy and she is counting on two things: Prom with her boyfriend, Heathcliff, and then graduation from the haunted boarding school where fictional characters come to life. Fate, however, has other plans.

When Catherine Earnshaw, Heathcliff's long-lost love, appears on campus, suddenly everything she thought she knew about Heathcliff is changed forever. Catherine seems determined to win Heathcliff back, even if that means destroying Bard Academy and banishing its ghostly teachers - for good.

Miranda and her friends face their most daunting challenge, yet, which will take them for the first time inside the classics that have powered their mysterious boarding school. It's up to them to save Bard Academy - and prom. Can Miranda change her destiny and Heathcliff's? Or is this one story that was written in the stars?

A Tale of Two Proms Details

Date : Published December 13th 2011 by Cara Lockwood (first published December 11th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Cara Lockwood

Format : ebook 231 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Teen

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From Reader Review A Tale of Two Proms for online ebook

Delaney says

It's been so long since I read the previous three books so I wasn't as invested in the plot, but it was a nice ending. A little predictable, but super fun to see fictional characters come to life in this way.

Shy The WidowMaker says

Let me start off by saying I have never read any of the books in this series but will definitely have to. I loved this book and am glad that I was able to read it without reading the others. This book has a really cool premise. Bard Academy is a school on a secluded island with ghosts for teachers. The twist is that the ghosts are some of the literary greats. As if that doesn't make it different enough fictional characters from the books are brought to life. In this book we get to see more of Miranda and her boyfriend Heathcliff (yes that Heathcliff from Wuthering Heights) and preparing for prom. I have to say I love Miranda. She is my favorite type of heroine,. I love that she isn't afraid of danger and will risk it all for her friends. This book was great in that I loved reading and figuring out which teachers were which literary greats. I loved reading and seeing Heathcliff fleshed out in another book as Wuthering Heights is one of my all time favorite books. Overall I loved this book and will have to go back and read the others in the series.

Alex says

Warning: this review might contain spoilers about the first three books of the Bard Academy Series

At First Sight: It's Miranda Tate's senior year and with prom looming at the horizon, she has to face the fact that her time at Bard Academy is coming to an end...which means her time with Heathcliff is also coming to an end as he's supposed to return to the pages of Wuthering Heights where he belongs.

Only that he's not quite ready to go quietly, and soon Miranda is torn between the boy she loves and her future away from Shipwreck Island. And things get even more complicated when Heathcliff's first love - Cathy from Wuthering Heights - shows up, determined to take the choices away from them.

Second Glance: I realize that my summary of A Tale of Two Proms is shockingly short, but I really don't want to spoil things for anyone. But let me just say that I ADORED this book. Granted, I come from a place of love for this series and this author, but still, this is the book I have been waiting for, for years and years, and it answered all the lingering questions I had about this series.

Do I still wish there was more? Sure, but at least now I've gotten some closure.

The story itself is full of adventures and as I was reading it I kept developing theories about what was going on and it turned out I was always a little right but not entirely, which I loved because things still took me by surprise - though I gotta say I did see one of the final twists coming but I didn't care.

Everything I've always loved about Bard Academy was still there: the literary references, the funny dialog and slightly over-the-top situations. I loved reading about Samir and Blade and Hanna and Ryan and even Miranda's sister Lyndsay (I even liked her a little).

Bottom Line: A Tale of Two Proms is possibly the last book of the Bard Academy Series and I think that it did it justice, over all. I'm not sure I'm quite ready to part with this series but as things stand, I love it. And I'm so happy I got to read this book.

Favorite Quote: "This was Bard, where the impossible wasn't just possible, it was probable."

Lady Entropy says

ARGH! If I had to choose a word for this book is FRUSTRATION. I give it a 2.5 stars, reduced to a two because of serious stakes and good conflict, but otherwise it's just too damn annoying. Let me try to sum up my grievances without going into a rant -- note that some grievances are related to previous books and culminate in this one:

- Why does Heathcliff suddenly fall in love with the protagonist? Yes, they spend a year in school together, but he already had fallen for her during the first. No, don't give me "She's like Catherine, in face, so that's why he became interested."
- Why has the vault NO GUARDS?! I mean, seriously WHY? They have the campus guardians, why not set a few there watching it? Or put, don't know, a PADLOCK in it!
- How did the Headmaster suddenly discovers how to simply free everyone from the isle?
- OMFG! Why did the author had to be so ham handed in making the protagonist of a Tale of Two Cities the body duplicate of Heathcliff... and then NOT expect us to guess what would be his ultimate fate when Heathcliff was meant to return to the book?
- If Heathcliff and Miranda being together risked the fabric of reality... WHY DIDN'T THEY SIMPLY OVERPOWERED HEATHCLIFF AND SEND HIM BACK? They had special ghost powers, they were more than him and could surprise him. The whole "Heathcliff was missing for three years". Screw that. They could have done it after two, when realized that Miranda and Heathcliff were falling for each other. Hell, they could have done it while she was on holidays. Or even just not accept her back into the school! The stinking reality was AT STAKE! No, because the Headmaster's plan on how to bring him back was SO MUCH BETTER.
- Why is Catherine such a two-dimensional villain? All she needs is a moustache to twirl! Good god!
- How can Heathcliff wrestle Dracula to a standstill?
- How can Heathcliff wrestle Dracula to a standstill BUT BE BROUGHT DOWN BY A MANGY POET!? (okay, that's from another volume, but still).
- How can the author gives us such high stakes and tender moments like the hospital scene -- and then end in the most contrived, most obvious, most unthought of endings? I mean, seriously? Suddenly the entire staff vanishes -- and the parents aren't finding it odd when they get there and realize EVERY DAMN TEACHER IS GONE?

It's not a bad book, not at all. But it had a lot of potential and wasted it in the author's writing this as her own personal Heathcliff fanfiction. After spending the entire book in Miranda's head with her whining about how Heathcliff is awesome, and then how he loves catherine, and cheated on her, and left her and ZOMG he's kissing her... I was praying that Heathcliff got sent back into Wuthering Heights ASAP.

If I didn't like Wuthering Heights before, this book made me loathe the mention of the name "Heathcliff" for good.

Anna (Curiosity comes before Kay) Partrick says

This review is also posted at:
<http://diamondinroughcoal.blogspot.com>

Miranda Tate has survived a lot during her years at Bard Academy. Now she is finally closing in on graduation after a completely uneventful Senior year. But she does have a decision to make: go away to college at Ivy League school Penn State, or stay on the island and marry Heathcliff who has just proposed to her. Because he's a fictional character and tied to his story, Heathcliff is unable to leave the island. Does Miranda have to choose between a life well lived and true love? She may not get the chance to find out, because strange things are happening at Bard again. This time Catherine Earnshaw is behind them, determined to punish Miranda for taking Heathcliff from her (even though she thinks that he's basically no better than garbage). Catherine's plan to "improve the classics?" has negative consequences for everyone. But there are even more surprises in store, including Heathcliff's almost double, Sydney Carton from A Tale of Two Cities who is brought forth by a surprising personage. Also, it turns out Catherine is there by someone else's design to keep Miranda and Heathcliff apart. Miranda and her sister Lindsay have to leave school for a family emergency, but when they return the school itself has disappeared and so have all the students. With the vault of magic books also missing, the few that Miranda still has access to will mean the difference between rescuing her friends and saving the school, and having the world end because of Cathy's plot destabilizing the portals between fiction and reality. Will everyone come out of it alive? Also, will Cathy manage to get Heathcliff once more for herself and what role will Sydney play in all this. The teachers (dead authors with unfinished business) also have a few tricks left up their sleeves before the last page is turned. I honestly thought it was a really strong conclusion to the series. I liked the plot twists and the imagination behind all of it. It kept me just as intrigued as ever. But the romance between Heath and Miranda lagged quite a bit for me. It ended up too angsty and Sydney Carton was my bright spot. I practically howled in rage at what he ends up doing at the close of the novel. I would recommend this for people who have read the first three books only. If this sounds like your kind of book, read the other ones first!!!

VERDICT: 3.5/5 Stars

I received an Advanced Reading E-book Copy from the publisher, via NetGalley. No money was exchanged for this review. This book was published December 11th, 2011.

Sarah says

Thanks to NetGalley and Cara Lockwood for the opportunity to read and review this book. Miranda and her friends are back at Bard Academy for their Senior Year, things start out normal, well normal as far as Bard is concerned. The same enchanted forest, trouble-making teenagers and ghost instructors. Senior year brings more than just prom and Parker problems for Miranda; she also has to decide whether to go to Penn State University where she has been accepted, or stay on the island and marry her true love Heathcliff.

Strange things start to happen before she can make her choice. Catherine Earnshaw is at Bard, she could pass

for Miranda's twin. Her purpose? To take Heathcliff back to Wuthering Heights with her. But that's not all that she wants.

Miranda and her sister, Lindsay, are called away for a family emergency. When they return, the island is empty, completely empty, no students, no teachers, even the school is gone! Miranda must use the remaining books to find their friends and rescue the school, before it's too late.

I love this series, it was a fun and fast read. This is an adorable series, it's sad that this is the end, but I can't say I didn't like the ending, I did.

Diana says

Everyone loves a happy ending.

Molly says

It took me such a long time to get through this book. I loved the first three books in the series but there was something about this one that I struggled with. It was probably the fact that the first part of the book was just Miranda going on and on about her relationship with Heathcliff. I was never behind this pairing from the very beginning. Then there was the whole pair the spares thing with Hana and Ryan; I don't have anything against these two hooking up but it does get a little old that in every book/TV series everyone ends up dating the same people. Am I supposed to believe in the whole of Bard Academy there isn't one other guy that Hana could be interested in?

I never understood the appeal of Heathcliff, he never really speaks or expresses emotion of any kind. Miranda, you could do so much better.

Here lie SPOILERS:

It wasn't until Bard was sucked into the universe of A Tale of Two Cities that it held my attention. Before our main cast walks through the portal can we discuss the fact that Parker was eaten by Polyphemus? I mean the Cyclops since he is never mentioned by his name. Parker was Miranda's arch nemesis but did she really need to be killed off? What is the point of that?

Fast forward to the ending... Really? Really? Sydney Carton is going to take Heathcliff's place in Wuthering Heights? I mean it's not like he's that important of a character in A Tale of Two Cities. Nobody is going to miss him. Lockwood, I'm sure it was unintentional, is basically saying that Wuthering Heights is a far more important piece of literature than Charles Dickens' novel.

Now that Sydney is in Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff is free to be with Miranda. I don't know if it was just me, but I found some problems with this. How are they going to explain that there is no birth certificate for "Heath Grange"? I mean where do you find a good forger? Miranda, is this someone you really see yourself spending the rest of your life with? If you two break up, is Heath going to come up with a background where he isn't a fictional character for the next girl he dates?

I just have to say I CANNOT believe that Heathcliff proposed to Miranda! She's 18 for crying out loud! Why oh why was that a necessary part of the book? I really wish that Heathcliff was sent back to Wuthering Heights and Sydney Carton could stay in A Tale of Two Cities.

There were parts of the book that I liked but overall I expected this to be so much more.

Veronica Morfi says

I am glad I decided to finish this series. This would have probably gotten 5 stars if I read it back in the day but still was extremely entertaining and I loved the characters and story so well deserved 4 stars :)

Alissa says

Upon starting this series ages ago, I was hooked. The idea of the worlds of classic literature mixing with the present reeled me in. And at first, it was entertaining. Now, in *A Tale of Two Proms*, it's simply redundant.

Aside from the worlds playing switcheroo and allowing the characters to travel into the classics, not much differs in the plot. Miranda, her friends and the school are still in danger, and she's still trying to be together with Heathcliff. But as a reader, I just wasn't convinced of the insecurity – or rather, the need of it. How much more could the poor boy do to prove his love? It felt straining even to me. The aforementioned danger is rather predictable (if you've read the previous books in the series); it's new, but not new. New in the sense that it involves different classics and enemies, yet not new in that they're all still after the same thing/ending. The drama is certainly at the forefront of *A Tale of Two Proms*, and not the story or character development. If you're hoping for more from Miranda and the gang, you won't find it in here.

And maybe it's just me, but this time around I feel the writing itself is a bit lacking. Sentences don't flow smoothly and the narration is highly repetitive. Most times I wanted Miranda to stop thinking and get a move on with the story. Then again, it didn't help that I could predict the upcoming events.

What kept me holding on to the story was wanting to know its resolution. I'd followed the series this far. I wanted to know how it ends.

(www.thegrammariansreviews.com)

Sara says

Miranda's finishing up her senior year at Bard Academy, a school for delinquents on a haunted island, where the teachers are all ghosts of famous authors (stuck there as a sort of purgatory), and there is a thin line between reality and fiction. Her boyfriend, Heathcliff, is actually *the* Heathcliff from *Wuthering Heights* and wants to be with her after graduation, only that doesn't seem possible, since he's supposed to return to his fictional world to keep the balance between the two worlds. Out of nowhere, Catherine (also from *Wuthering Heights*) appears and starts getting between Miranda and Heathcliff. Even more strangeness starts happening around the island, and soon Miranda and her friends are in charge of saving their own world, which seems to be imploding by the day.

This is the final installment of the *Bard Academy* series, and it definitely wrapped up everything in a satisfactory manner. I think it may have even been my favorite of the entire series, although it's been a while since I read the other books. I loved all the characters in here and the way that they helped the plot move forward. Everyone had a unique personality that shone through in various situations. I especially enjoyed the

interactions between Samir and Blade, two of Miranda's friends; he's very traditional and scared of everything, while she's fearless and a rebel.

My favorite part about this book was, for sure, the way that the author blended the real world with the fictional one. In previous books (from what I remember), it had continually been a mystery about how the portal between the two worlds worked. In this book, the mystery of how this happens was explored - and in such a fun way! I think blending the worlds to such a large degree gave a fun and different setting for the book. There was such a fun selection of classic novels from which plot points and settings were taken, and it made me want to reread many of the referenced books.

Although some of the plot twists along the way were a little predictable - not because they were obvious, but because the groundwork was laid thick enough to guess what would happen next - it didn't make me enjoy the story any less. The fun of this book was *how* the end was reached, not the end itself. The writing was light and funny, and the journey to the ending kept me entertained. Definitely a good end to the series!

Julie Graves says

Miranda is in her Senior year at the Bard Academy. Her boyfriend Heathcliff(yes Heathcliff from Wuthering Heights) has just asked her to marry him. Miranda is torn, does she marry Heathcliff the love of her life and have to stay on the Island forever or does she leave all of Bard Academy behind and go to Penn State University where she has been accepted?

Before Miranda can make a decision though strange things begin to happen. After all, it is Bard Academy, where strange is normal. Catherine shows up from Wuthering Heights, she is Heathcliff's true love. She also happens to look just like Miranda. Then Heathcliff begins to act strangely, when did Heathcliff begin to drink Miranda wonders.

Miranda and her sister Lindsay are called away from the Island for a family emergency. Upon their return they find the Island empty. All of the faculty and students have disappeared. Heathcliff and Catherine are nowhere to be found either. Knowing that somehow Catherine is behind the disappearance of everyone Miranda and Lindsay must travel into other novels in order to find all of their friends before it is too late and the classics as we know them are altered forever.

I have totally enjoyed Cara Lockwoods Bard Academy series! Going to a school where the teachers are characters and authors from famous classics would be totally interesting. There's always a bit of danger in each one also, and of course the romance between Heathcliff and Miranda keeps the pages turning. I believe this may be the last book in the series. If so it was the perfect ending!

This is an advanced copy courtesy of Cara Lockwood through NetGalley.

Nasty Lady MJ says

I really liked this book. I thought it was a great way to the end the series. All my questions were answered and there was a definite ending. As usual, Cara Lockwood pulled me into the story pretty effortlessly. Be that

as it may, there were a few things that bothered me about the book. Nothing really major. I just thought a couple of the plot lines were just wrapped up a little too conveniently. Since I'm a sucker for perfect endings though, this didn't affect my enjoyment of the book. The one thing that is probably my biggest issue with the series is the personalities of the authors/teachers at the school. Their personalities seemed a bit diluted in comparison to their real life counterparts. For instance, I think Headmaster B and Ms. A would not get along, due to Headmaster B's harsh words about Ms. A's work. I honestly kind of wanted that to be alluded to more. But then again, I am a lit geek.

To see full review click here: <http://yalbookbriefs.blogspot.com/201...>

Rachel Harris says

I LOVE the Bard Academy series! Cara Lockwood has found an ingenious way to retell the classics, and make it fun and fresh again. With names like Wuthering High, The Scarlet Letterman, and Moby Clique, you can't go wrong. It's been three years since the last Bard book, and I admit things were looking bleak for Miranda to get the ending she deserved, but then the Christmas season came and we got ourselves A Tale of Two Proms.

Seriously, how cute are these names??

On one hand, it's sad to see this beloved series draw to a close--but it couldn't have been more perfect. Although I may get a few tomatoes for admitting this, I didn't exactly get the hoopla over the original Heathcliff in Bronte's classic. He was gruff and just plain out didn't do it for me. But the Cara Lockwood edition? Yeah, major swoon time. I fell hard and fast for her Heathcliff, and in this final chapter of the series, he lived up to my every memory, hope, and expectation.

Miranda, too, was witty and flawed as always, and the cast of sidekicks infused every page with hilarity, drama, and fun. And Catherine? Yeah, she's a witch . . . but her hijinks provided a wild ride, for Miranda & company, and the reader. And finally, my favorite addition in this book--the ghost of Jane Austen. Oh, how I love Ms. A! Somehow, having her included sweetened the whole experience.

If you haven't checked this series out before, definitely start from the beginning. The Bard Academy series is great exposure to the classics for those who have never read a word of the originals, and for those who have, they are filled with inside jokes, fun new twists, and angst drama that make YA literature rock. And if you are a fellow fan who has read the rest, you do NOT want to miss this conclusion.

Check out my Review on YA Bound for my miniview with author, Cara Lockwood =)
<http://yabound.blogspot.com/2012/01/t...>

Pamela Todd says

A Tale of Two Proms is the fourth book in the Bard Academy series. Miranda has returned to the elusive school for her senior year...and to boyfriend, Heathcliffe. As in, the Heathcliffe.

With an acceptance letter to her top choice of college's burning a hole in her pocket, Miranda already knows this year will be full of difficult decisions without Heathcliffe adding to the mix with a bombshell of his own.

As the rest of her class gets excited for prom, Miranda's mind is firmly on other things...like the sudden appearance of Catherine, Heathcliffe's long-lost love. With her life in tatters, Miranda and her friends must once again fight for what they love and believe in, before everything is lost forever.

A Tale of Two Proms is sure to be a hit with many teens. Bringing classics to life is a risky endeavour, and while it sometimes pays off, other times the classical characters fall a little flat for my liking. One thing is certain – it will provoke enough curiosity to encourage new readers to pick up the books mentioned by the author and broaden their reading horizon.

Miranda and the rest of the cast of characters keep things interesting as the plot develops, but my biggest nit about this book was how a lot of it seemed so repeated. Repetitive mentions of previous books, whilst at times helpful for the reminder, at others distracting from the current book.

I wasn't blown away by this read, but I have every faith that many others will simply adore it.
