



Before

Cambria Hebert

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What if your life was charmed and everything in it was perfect.....

Before.

This is the story of my past. Of what things were like for me when everything was normal. Of what every teenager's life is like. Clothes. Parties. Boys and summer vacation. What's so wrong with that?

I liked it. I was happy.

Until things changed. I changed.

I didn't know that lies and secrets were about to take over my existence. I didn't know there was someone out there, someone meant just for me. I didn't know that I was about to go on a journey, a journey that would lead me to the girl I am today.

This is the beginning of the worst year of my life. Would I go back and change things? Erase everything that has happened to go back into these moments?

Not a chance.

This is a story of before.

Before Details

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Author : Cambria Hebert

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From Reader Review Before for online ebook

Giselle says

I don't usually read short stories because they're, well... too short. I never have time to get into it so I don't bother. When I do read them, it's most likely after the main course - so yes, I cheated and read Masquerade first. *blasphemy*.

Before is a short prequel to the upcoming full length novel Masquerade. When we meet Heven in Masquerade, the attack that gave her horrible scars on her face has already come and gone. So in Before, we get a glimpse of how glamorous her life was when she had all her beauty and self confidence.

It was nice to get to know Heven before her attack - even if it was short lived. I could tell how she was different - personality-wise - which shows that Cambria knows how to write her characters. We see how Heven was much more outgoing and sure of herself back then. We also get a look at Sam and his disagreement with the villain of Masquerade, which was interesting and led us up to the event of the attack. It was short and to the point. If you're like me regarding short stories, I suggest you read Masquerade first. If not, beware of the major cliffhanger!

Michele at A Belle's Tales says

We have an old, southern saying that goes something like this: "If that don't light your fire, your wood's wet". That is exactly what kept running through my mind after reading Before Heven and Hell 0.5, the exciting prequel to Masquerade Heven and Hell 1...because if that didn't make you excited for a book, well, my friend, you are completely unexcitable. The fact that the author was able to draw me in with only 19 pages is an extraordinary talent. The story is spicy and sweet - with Heven being sweet and Sam being off the charts spicy! The cover of Masquerade already had me intrigued, but its prequel, Before, has me enthralled. And that cliffhanger? Sweet mother of all suspense! I can hardly wait to read the rest of Sam and Heven's story and more of Cambria Hebert's work.

A huge thank you to the author for sending me a copy of Before in exchange for my honest review.

Review originally posted at: <http://abellestaes.blogspot.com>

Danielle Smiley says

This short story tantalizes you into putting "Masquerade" (the first full book in this series) onto the top of your TBR pile. Hebert's writing flows beautifully as you are immediately drawn into the story. Mere sentences pass and you already care about what will become of the characters. Reading "Before" will make you hold your breath until "Masquerade" comes out.

Heidi says

Before

Two lives one light, one dark; One hiding in shadows, haunted by horror and the monster. The other, alive, happy and hopeful. Sam is desperate to escape the evil clutches of the monster, even if it means rescinding his chance to be near Heaven. He is a dark moth drawn by an unrelenting desire to seek Heaven's glow one last time. Heaven, his beckoning ray, is a beautiful girl standing on the brink of teenage bliss; a cheer captain crowning, a handsome boyfriend prospect, friends and popularity, a life brimming bright with possibility. The only thing marring a spectacular, euphoric day is an essay; three pages looming over her head. Ignoring the temptation to cheat, she journeys to the library. A fateful decision that will forever change her world. As she heads home she is unaware of the beast lurking in the blackness, hunting the trail inadvertently left by Sam. It closes in lapping up her footsteps in the dark. A shrill scream shatters the night, piercing Sam's ears. He knows that his moment of weakness has led the monster straight to Heaven. Will her glittering light be snuffed out by the blackness?

Before is the prequel to the upcoming novel *Masquerade* by Cambria Hebert. In this short story she tantalizes and teases with her gripping splice featuring Sam and Heaven. This promising gem shows that Cambria is a talented new voice in the Young Adult genre. She offers a tempting taste in her small prequel, that will have you salivating for the rest of the story, to be continued in her debut novel *Masquerade*, December 16, 2012.

Favorite Quotations:

It's like her shiny blond hair and smile were a beacon to my lost ship.

Things were going so good. They couldn't get any better. I had no idea how quickly things could change. Right now to celebrate the debut of *Masquerade* you can read *Before* for free at Smashwords! For more reviews visit my blog: <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/...>

Ottile says

Before is a short story setting up for the debut Young Adult novel *Masquerade* by Cambria Hebert. The novelella is written in beautiful language that wraps around your mind placing you in this world. Cambria's words are descriptive so that the readers can imagine every scene as if they are there. The main characters Sam and Heaven are eager for the readers to get to know them more in *Masquerade* as we get a peek into their lives in *Before*. Sam is part of a dark world that is looming over him, he wants out as his only peace of mind is knowing that a girl he barely knows is safe. Heaven has the perfect life, great friends, date with her crush, and was made head cheerleader which is turned around. Cambria has written a great short story to set up her novel *Masquerade* that will have the readers craving for more.

MIpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Heaven and Hell. Light and Dark. Goodness and Evil. Sadness and Happiness. Hope and Despair. Sam and Heaven.

Cambria Hebert has created a fresh new look into monsters and darkness and a young man that is struggling to overcome what he is and what he wants and what he is drawn to in this great new series that will leave you breathless and wanting more.

This prequel may be short but it will grab a hold of you and refuse to let go until you get more.

Cambria Hebert is a very talented, very promising new author. This book will tease you and leave you begging for more.

I can't wait to read the first in the series, Masquerade!

I think we can expect some great things from Ms. Hebert in the future if this short novella is any indication of what is to come.

Jenn says

Before serves as a prequel to Cambria Hebert's debut novel Masquerade.

Heaven is your normal teenage girl entering her Senior year of high school, her biggest worries are that of if her crush likes her, what to wear to school and if she will be made the head cheerleader.

You know, the stuff majority of girls think about or even dream about when they are little.

Heaven has it all in this story, she is beautiful and popular and it seems like everything is going her way.

But the question is, how long can it last?

Cambria Hebert was able to capture the average teenage female thought process perfectly.

So well in fact that I found myself rolling my eyes at the trivial things that Heaven and her friends talked and obsessed about in the story.

But, I had to remind myself that I was once a teenager too (What? I was) and admittedly acted the same way.

Don't get discouraged or turned off though, the happy happy joy joy feeling of the story doesn't last long.

Something wicked this way comes after Heaven.

The question is, what is it, why is it after her and what happens to Heaven?

Hebert drops a bomb on you like nobody's business leaving you dying for more.

I believe that this is a great introduction to her next book Masquerade and will definitely have you running out to get it and find out exactly what happened and where this series is going to go.

If Before is any indication of what to look forward to, this is gonna be one heck of a ride!

Becca says

BEFORE is the prequel to Cambria Hebert's Heaven and Hell series. It's a quick introduction that contains just the right amount of mystery and tension. In short, this prequel does its job. I'm hooked, caught up with the lead characters and soooo ready to read Masquerade (Heaven and Hell #1.) I have a feeling that is series you DO NOT want to miss. Don't take my word for it. Come meet SAM and HEVEN and see for yourself!

Kayleigh {K-Books} says

Before Review on K-Books

Cambria kindly sent me the prequel of her debut novel for review before her novel comes out in December.

Heaven is the perfect girl with the perfect life. She has just been asked out by the guy she's liked for a while and she has just been appointed head cheerleader. Everything is looking up.

Sam is a mysterious guy stuck in a mysterious world Heaven knows nothing about. She doesn't know him but he knows her but he can't be a part of her world as he wants, it could put Heaven in danger. But will he be able to resist when she is everything he has ever wanted?

This prequel is a very short story featuring the characters of the upcoming full-length novel, Masquerade. Because of it being very short there is not much to say about it. I really liked reading it and it got me excited for the first book in this new series and I think the prequel shows the potential of a great storyline and a great start to a series.

I am really looking forward to reading Masquerade and seeing what happens with these characters.

Sandra "Jeanz" says

Right first of all yes I am friends with Cambria on Goodreads but I want to take this opportunity to say that my review will be as honest as if I had picked up the book at a local bookstore.

Now onto the book review...

Hmmm very mysterious, it certainly makes you want the next book NOW!

It is well written very descriptive, so much you feel the atmosphere and can see the surroundings etc. Its definitely got me thinking what is Sam? I think I might have an idea but am I being too obvious and who is the monster as well as what and what hold does he/she have over Sam. Then there's the ending bit Ooo Is it Heaven screaming or someone else. This prequel really leaves you asking lots and lots of questions which of course, is exactly what it should do. Yeah theres the odd typo here and there but nothing major and certainly doesn't spoil the flow of the book. I seriously would have wanted to drop everything and read Masquerade if I had had it to hand!

I also love the cover, the person on the front is presumably Heaven, as she is described in the book as looking heavenly.

Nora Weston says

Possessing the looks of an angel and high school popularity topped off by becoming the new head cheerleader, Heaven has it all—or does she? In Cambria Hebert's perfectly spun prequel to her debut novel, "Masquerade," nothing lasts forever, especially the idyllic world Heaven exists in. On the other hand, Sam is a mysterious teenager captivated heart and soul by the bewitching Heaven, who can only imagine a perfect world, and if that world is to be perfect, it must include Heaven. "Before" is a quick read, setting the stage for Heaven to go through hell so she can crash into her destiny, which is nothing she could've ever imagined.

Sam is a fascinating character because he has dark secrets, but he's also willing to forgo ever meeting Heaven to keep her safe. He sounds clever and heroic...but naive too since he underestimates the power of evil. And

the evil found in “Before” certainly piqued my interest and left me dying to know what it is and what its intentions are. Absolutely, the evil in this teaser is a force to be reckoned with. I have a strong feeling Sam will be faced with quite a challenge as his life collides with Heaven’s.

Heaven is caught off-guard by the wickedness that is somehow entangled with Sam...yet from the synopsis, it seems even though Heaven’s world falls apart and she suffers greatly, she still would not change what happens to her. That means Sam...with all of his dark secrets and a dangerous past, is worth it. Who, or what, is Sam? Can he escape the monster stalking his every move? What does this monster do to Heaven, and how does she prevail? Oh! So many questions have arisen from reading “Before,” which I greatly enjoyed. Now, I’m ready for after; I’m ready for “Masquerade!”

Tricia Kristufek says

Heaven's life was perfect. She is beautiful, popular, and just got voted cheerleading captain - all things that any teenage girl would dream about.

Then her world falls apart.

Sam's life is dark. His only shining light is Heaven, and the monster has forbid him to see her again. Even though he is anxious to escape the clutches of the monster, Sam can not forget about Heaven. In his desire to see her 'one last time,' Sam inadvertently leads the monster right to her.

Before is the prequel to *Masquerade* and sets up the characters beautifully. The mystery surrounding Sam, and thereby Heaven's fate, captures the reader and draws them into the world, leaving them desperate for more.

Natshane says

It took me 19 pages to fall in love with this book, imagine what a hundred more would do? I could never ever imagined how 19 pages could have worked me up so much, I was screaming CLIFFHANGER like a maniac in the end, no kidding.

I love how the story was written, 19 pages to introduce us to Mr.Harboursing-Dark-Secrets-And-Crushing-On-A-Girl Sam, and bubbly-I-don't-see-it-coming Heaven (I just can't get over the fact that I am crushing on a guy who I've known only for 19 pages, that must be a new record for me, what can I say? I'm easily attracted to mysterious guys LOL)

Truth to be told, I never expected such a short story to be capable of being so adrenaline junkie and dark, but it exceeded my expectations, and so I would describe this book into two words.

Fast and Furious!

I can't wait for what the next book, *Masquerade* has in store for us, *Fast & Furious 2*?

Before did a great job for reminding me the joy of getting pumped up for the next book.

Reviewed by,
Natasha Anne (Natshane)

Dreamland Teenage Fantasy

Cereja Cult says

[image error]

Veronica Morfi says

Before is the prequel to Masquerade. It allows us a glimpse into the lives of Sam and Heven before...before both of their worlds changed.

The story made me impatient for the first book. I love Cambria Hebert's writing and Sam's point of view. There is a whole mystery surrounding him and even when we see through his eyes we don't get to know a lot, it's really nice.

This is a great story to get you pumped up for the real thing! So, I learn what happened before, now I can't wait to learn about the after. :)
