

The Best Intentions: The Huntresses: Book 1

Sarah M. Eden

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In unforgiving nineteenth-century London society, people find strength through their shared struggles in Sarah M. Eden's novel *The Best Intentions*.

In London society, even the smallest secret can cast you out and subject you to mockery—and both Gillian and Scott hide *large* secrets. When a chance encounter draws them to each other, they decide how much they are willing to risk and reveal to be together.

Gillian is guarded, traumatized by her father's abandonment and harsh treatment when she first entered London society. She struggles to trust Scott but is won over by his gentleness. And Scott struggles with feeling like a burden, a result of mistreatment by his uncle. He is reluctant to allow Gillian to help with his dire financial situation, but finds no judgment with her. Rather, Gillian's experiences make her sympathetic to Scott's fears, and they vow to support each other against society's cruelty. As the two complement each other, their romance becomes more satisfying; it is an inevitable extension of their personal growth.

In this historical tale, not every historical term is properly contextualized. But while the secondary cast is abundant, each member contributes to the tale. Gillian leans on her group of friends—called the “Huntresses” because of their leader, Artemis—and realizes that she is deserving of the same happiness that she wishes so badly for them. And under the motherly influence of Mater, Scott learns that family is not always determined by blood.

The Best Intentions is a swoon-worthy, thoughtful Christian romance in which two haunted people learn self-acceptance and trust.

VIVIAN TURNBULL (November / December 2022)

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