



Bedazzled

Bertrice Small

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Building on the popularity of her bestselling Skye O'Malley historical romances, this second volume of Small's Skye's Legacy series (after *Deceived*) begins in 1625, and follows the volatile Lady India Lindley in her conversion from an innocent, headstrong English heiress with forthright views about fashion and romance, into the beguiling, sensual, diplomatic wife of the mysterious Caynan Reis, ruler of the Barbary state of El Sinut. Because Small is compelled at the outset to explain how her current crop of characters relates to the individuals portrayed in her earlier books, the novel's beginning is dragged down by references that would boggle an experienced genealogist. The plot finally acquires a breathless pace when Lady India, attempting to elope with a questionable suitor, is kidnapped by Ottoman pirates and becomes the body slave of the local ruler. She thus finds herself in a cross-cultural adventure that mimics her aristocratic ancestors' experiences. Small contrasts two vastly different 17th-century venues--Europe's lavish upper class with its religious and political conflicts and Barbary's exotic El Sinut, an Islamic state with entirely different customs concerning marriage, costume and worldly affairs. Small knows how to tweak the historical romance formula with just the right touch of originality, when India is kidnapped yet again and brought back to the family manse in England. The inevitable happy end has the correct mix of suspense, sensuality and romance. (July) Copyright 1999 Cahners Business Information.

Bedazzled Details

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From Reader Review Bedazzled for online ebook

Donna says

I have read every one of the Skye O'Malley series and now I am working my way thru the Skye's Legacy books. India is so much like her great grandmother. She is headstrong and determined to live her life her way. Bertrice Small has always had a way of making you feel connected to the heroines in her books. I wanted to cry right along with India when her son was taken from her. I can't wait to see what the next book has in store for me.

Fairyposs says

Lady India Lindley elopes with Alasdair on her cousin Thomas ship but is hijacked and given to to the Bey Caynen Reis. Thomas rescues India by kidnapping her and returns her home where her baby is taken away from her and she's married to Deverell (the Bey).

Judy Kieffer says

Book is okay does follow the Skye O Malley series well

I did enjoy the book. Differently follows the series over well and the book is very good. would recommend the series to everyone who enjoys romantic books

Cem73 says

De tous les B. Small que j'ai pu lire c'est le seul livre où :

1_ les personnages ne sont pas tête à claques (par contre le fait que notre héroïne ne reconnaisse pas notre héros sans sa barbe, c'était quand même un brin limite lol)

2_ l'histoire n'est pas noyée par l'Histoire

3_ Point le plus incroyable : il n'y a pas de partenaire multiple ni infidélité!!!!

J'ai adoré ce livre :)

Sarah says

Oh my god. Bertrice Small. Why did I even try?

Um, it's a Bertrice Small book. I went into it expecting it to be pretty bad. And it is. Bad and dated and full of revenge sex. Also, set in a harem, so there is this one scene that, had it not been paraphrased by the female participants in conversation with other women, would have been straight-up erotica rather than romance. Not

that that's a bad thing. It's just that at some point, you reach a level of graphicness that pulls a book out of the romance genre and pushes it over into erotica. And Bertrice Small? Bertrice Small is the queen of this stuff.

Anyway, it's set in the 17th century, but it's a 17th century that never ever happened. Filled with silly names and impossible doings and punishing kisses and kidnappings and DRAHMA. Seriously, so many llamas it could be a petting zoo.

Sweet baby Jesus, but the genre has changed in ... this was published in 1999? What!?! I thought this was from the '70s or '80s! Bertrice Small must be stopped!

Naksed says

Bedazzled is one of Bertrice Small's "harem" books. She has written several of them and almost all her main heroines, from Janet Leslie (The Kadin) to Jasmine Leslie (Wild Jasmine), have spent some time in a harem or two :) In this one, it is India Lindley who finds herself kidnapped by pirates while on the high seas and taken to a remote coast that is part of the Ottoman Empire. There, she falls under the spell of the local "dey", Caynan, who is not what he seems. This was a very silly, highly enjoyable swashbuckler of an adventure that was fast-paced and riveting.

I started off hating India, the spoiled, selfish brat who would defy her family and even turn thief in order to pursue a highly unsuitable love interest. It is a testament to Small's writing that India came off so realistically. I have actually known several girls in real life who were spoiled heiresses running off to elope with gold diggers, and India is described to a tee. I was not even sure if I wanted to continue with the story until it took a twist for the better and she ended up in the harem. The relationship between India and Caynan was a nicely drawn slow burn (although not too slow) and very romantic. But what I liked best was that the author shows India's gradual maturing from a hateful, selfish girl to a strong woman who would not hesitate to bear great pain for her loved ones. She did this very realistically and by the end I came to love India.

A couple of negatives for me were that India's parents, Jasmine and Jemmie, who I had come to love from the previous books in which they were featured, Wild Jasmine and Darling Jasmine, come off here as monsters. What they do to India is absolutely unforgivable and worse, completely untrue to their character development in the previous books. The author always has gone to great length to draw parallels between Jasmine and her grandmother Skye O'Malley, whose namesake book began the whole O'Malley series and its numerous sequels. But the actions of India's mother are hypocritical, weak, and horrendous and she has never been farther from Skye O'Malley than here. For fans of Small who have followed the series chronologically starting from the matriarch Skye O'Malley's namesake book to all her descendants, this will be a blow. For others, this book can be read as a stand alone and they probably would not be shocked by the actions of India's parents in the context of 17th century England, where social mores would harshly punish any young woman who defied conventions.

Another disappointment was the botched ending, which unfortunately seems to be a weak point for most books that start out great. It is like the author ran out of steam. I know this is a completely unbelievable, escapist fantasy of a swashbuckling bodice-ripper but even in the context of the story, the ending of the book makes no sense. Would you not recognize the great love of your life simply because he now has a scar running down a side of his face and his hair is cut short? Laughably weak plot contrivance.

All in all though, this was a very enjoyable book and I would recommend it.

Denise says

Wonderful!

Angela says

Skye's daughter India

Eliza says

I was not prepared for how bad this book would be. I should have done some research before setting out with a different author that I was unfamiliar with. I wanted to read a romance, not a straight up porn in words. Not only that, but in the way that Beatrice Small wrote this book I seriously had to continue to question whether hers was a pen name and she was actually a man. There is so much chauvinism in this book that I just about gagged. Not to mention to the degradation of women.

The book was so difficult to navigate in the first dozen pages that I considered putting it down before even beginning. It was so boring I about cried. Then after pushing through the slow start I figured I was getting somewhere when she finally settled for an obvious liar. This was so disheartening to the promising character that India had started out as, besides being too spoiled rotten for my taste... But then to sacrifice all that potential to make her into a harem whore???

After which, her family which in the beginning so open and loving suddenly became this atrocious group of people who were unwilling to allow her child to remain with her? I don't understand the absolute vacillation of the story. If I had to hazard a guess I felt like one person began the book and failed to make it worthy, so another took up the cause and figured with loads of perversion and male chauvinism it would be made better, and a last had to quickly wrap things up because someone realized that the book was less than worthy in all ways.

Seriously would reconsider if you are considering this book...

Laura says

[Jemmie took Rowan away. (hide spoiler)]

Dione Brown says

Repetitive

I am a huge Skye O'Malley fan but these stories are becoming so repetitive. I really want to read the next book but I am all Ottoman Sexed out. And is Adali ever going to reveal the truth about Fortune?

Jill says

Okay, okay, I confess, I picked up a trashy romance novel. Sometimes, a brain just needs some rest. Honestly, I am not quite finished with it yet, and am not sure if I will finish it. It's a little lengthy for a trashy read.

But, if you want to read about an English girl who goes to elope with her lover in Italy, and en route, gets waylaid by pirates, and sold to a local ruler with a harem, whose spunkiness he finds alluring, and who she in turn finds herself strangely drawn to in spite of his roughness and arrogance... Then this is the book for you!

Wendi says

So far I like it. I had a hard time believing that India could sneak away so easily, but it quickly got better.

Gwen says

Un des premiers A&P que j'ai lu et que j'ai adoré !!!

Chubby Lady says

[Of course this series is part of the Skye O' Malley Legacy and other components involved are being abducted to become a sex slave in a harem by a powerful dey but luckily India is spared and basically does housekeeping as well
