



La promesa

Brenda Joyce

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Orgullo...

Después de su asombrosa travesía de vuelta a Inglaterra desde China, el momento de triunfo que experimentó Alexi de Warenne se desvaneció rápidamente. En su fiesta de bienvenida, su amiga de la infancia, Elysse O'Neill, empezó a coquetear con uno de sus compañeros de navegación, obviamente para castigarle a él por el tiempo que había pasado en el mar. Pero cuando Alexi encontró a Elysse resistiéndose desesperadamente entre los brazos de aquel hombre, se precipitó la tragedia. En pocos días Alexi tuvo que casarse con ella para salvar su honor... y luego abandonarla.

Y engaño.

Elysse de Warenne reinaba en los círculos de la alta sociedad con su ingenio y su elegancia, pero los rumores de que era una esposa abandonada la perseguían despiadadamente. Elysse nunca iba a reconocer la verdad: que no había visto a su marido desde hacía seis años, ¡y que ni siquiera habían consumado su matrimonio! Cuando Alexi volvió inesperadamente a Inglaterra, Elysse decidió hacer lo que fuera necesario para recuperar a su marido y ocupar el lugar que le correspondía a su lado...

La promesa Details

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From Reader Review La promesa for online ebook

Glenda Mcalpin says

I regret spending so much time on this one. Where was the real romance? Alexi irritated me so much because he was so cruel throughout the book until the end. The scenes, especially the ones that were supposed to be sensual, just weren't. I was severely disappointed.

Alba M. says

Prometí hacer la reseña más tarde, y ya me he leído tres libros y he dejado atrás esta reseña sin hacer. Pero allá que voy.

ARGUMENTO:

En el prólogo de este libro le echamos un vistado a la infancia de Stephen, un niño normando. El padre de este se ha visto obligado a entregar a su hijo al rey, en lo que Stephen pensaba que era para convertirlo en soldado, pero en realidad es su prisionero. Desde que llega allí cree haber encontrado en el príncipe Rufus un amigo, pero pronto se da cuenta de que en realidad Rufus no es su amigo, solo es un asqueroso al que le gustan los niños, y no de una buena forma...

Pasando esto conocemos por fin a nuestra protagonista, Mary, hija de un rey escocés que está prometida a Doug y van a casarse en pocos días. Ella está emocionada porque sabe que casarse por amor es algo raro pero ella y Doug son amigos desde siempre y también se han enamorado. Mary y Doug quedan para encontrarse en el bosque una noche, unos días antes de la boda. Ella sabe que no pueden reconocerla así que se viste con ropas de la lechera y corre por el bosque para encontrarse con su amado. Pero lo que Mary encuentra es un campamento normando. Sabe que si la ven, la secuestrarán y después obligarán a su padre a ceder más tierras al, ahora rey Rufus, así que ella intenta escapar pero una ramita rota la delata. Es entonces cuando Stephen y Mary se encuentran cara a cara y las mentiras llenarán cada paso en el camino de la vida de estos dos.

Quisiera decirles que amé a un solo personaje, a uno, pero la verdad es que he amado y odiado a todos, pero sobre todo a Mary y Stephen. Ambos son insoportables y ambos son monísimos, sí, lo sé, suena de todo menos coherente. Vereis este libro está dividido en tres partes así que la historia se me ha hecho un pelín larga, demasiado extensa para mi gusto, creo que ha llegado a un punto que la autora quiso alargar tanto la historia que se le ha ido de las manos. Es por eso que en la primera parte odié a Mary, en la segunda parte odié a Stephen y en la tercera parte los odié a los dos. Es que la autora creo que quiso que no acabáramos de decantarnos por un bando, lo que está muy bien porque en esencia, eso es lo que Mary tuvo que aprender, que ni Escocia tenía toda la razón ni los ingleses la tenían tampoco. Pero aún a pesar de la lección que teníamos que aprender, me jodió mucho porque me destrozó un poco el libro.

Sufrí, de esto pasé mucho. Me hizo sufrir Mary, sobre todo al final porque me dio un poco de pena, sufrí por Stephen cuando ella no hacía más que despreciarlo cuando era tan adorable con ella, y sufrí por los dos porque estaba hasta el mismísimo y quería que se arreglasen de una puñetera vez.

Me ha encantado la historia, al margen de la extensión y los innumerables puntos de vista de personajes y giros dramáticos que le dio la autora pero, todavía tengo un "pero" más. Y es, EL FINAL.

Vamos a ver, estaban a matar Stephen y Mary. Ella acaba de volver de que la mandase a tomar por el puto culo, destrozada porque echa de menos a Stephen pero también dolida porque no la creyó. Hay un cúmulo de

sentimientos contradictorios, de nuevo, se aman y odian y claro, verás yo, después de todo el ruido que montó Stephen y todo lo que dijo odiarla y lo que ella lloró porque no la creía esperaba, ESPERABA QUE LES COSTASE ARREGLARSE SABES? Lo normal. Pero no, joder, en esto que de repente no se miran ni a la cara y a la siguiente se meten juntos en la cama porque dice no poder mantenerse alejado ¿¡ah pero si pudiste mantenerte alejado meses!?! Que justificación de mierda ha hecho la autora y que final más cutre después de la brasa que nos dió para que estos dos estuviesen juntos. Decepcionante. De lo más decepcionante.

Que sí, ha acabado bien, como yo quería pero aun así ha sido de lo más rápido de arreglar después de que tuvimos que esperar hasta las últimas 10 páginas para que estuviesen juntos y tranquilos...

Aún así recomiendo la historia porque ha estado bastante bien, solo que se necesitan nervios de acero para no chillar de impotencia.

LuvGirl says

2.5 stars. I don't know what is was about this book, but it did absoulutely nothing for me! It had all the themes I love but still fell short of engrossing me in the story. I think it has alot to do with the way the author writes. Her style is too simple for my taste. It also annoyed me that the hero thought the heroine was cheating when she wasn't. And it was way annoying that she didn't say it was a lie. She just let him think that she had lovers while he treated her horribly and cheated on her. I'm sorry to say this story did not draw me in as I would have liked.

Kim says

This was one of those stories where you hate the heroine and love the hero and then, love the heroine and hate the hero. I have to hand it to Mrs. Joyce for holding tension throughout the story. I was on pins and needles hoping that soon they would make up. Well.....It came to late for me. I was passed the point of no return after he continued to treat her like crap to the last 20 pages. In two pages he decided he loved her and then he says the magic words (I love you) and SHE forgives him. Okay he did find her but that french guy saved her.

Claudine says

I found the first two parts of Alexi and Elysse's story to be very frustrating with their stubbornness and jealousy that kept them apart, it was the third part when Alexi finally admitted to his love for Elysse that made the story OK for me. Brenda Joyce has long been a favorite author of mine but I can say that The Promise wasn't all I was hoping for with Alexi and Elysse. I enjoyed "the promise" of those two from the other deWarrenne Dynasty books, their chemistry was right but for the story to take the twists that it did for them to come to their final conclusion I don't know if it was worth it.

?Karlyn P? says

My first thought when I finished 'The Promise' by Brenda Joyce was that they should have titled it 'The Fear

of Rejection'. Why? While the meaning behind the title 'The Promise' does resonate through the book, it is the couple's utter fear of rejection that hits you over the head in nearly every scene.

The Promise tells the story of childhood friends, Alexi and Elysse, coming to realize that they mean much more to one another than just friends. The prologue begins with a great little scene with these two as young children playing around castle ruins, and it is here where Alexi promises to always protect Elysse. In the next few chapters of the book, Alexi, a strapping young captain with his own cargo ship, has just returned from a 2 ½-year journey. His childhood friend Elysse has grown into a stunningly beautiful young lady and a master manipulator of men, bending them to her ways with innuendos and flirtatious banter. Alexi, knowing how Elysse flirts and leads men on when she herself is not interested, refuses to be another one of her entertainments. However, Elysse is truly smitten and knows in her heart that Alexi is the man she will always love, but is upset that he only sees her as a family friend. To bring Alexi to heel, Elysse shamelessly flirts with one of his best friends. Then a tragic incident leaves Alexi and Elysse heavily at odds, married to each other, and thus living in a miserable sham of a marriage.

Where are they to go from here? Apparently, Alexi goes to China following the wedding, and stays gone for six years. With gossip hot on her heels about being abandoned by her famous husband, Elysse goes to London and builds a new life with the false pretense that she is a happy socialite wife who takes lovers. (If you are wondering if she does take lovers, the answer is clearly NO.) Then after six years, Alexi – who has turned into a drunk and randy ship captain and still very much in a rage over the incident that ended with him married – finally returns to London.

Up until this point, I thought this book was wonderful, and I was looking forward to seeing how these two evolved from the young, naïve and immature adults we met early in the book. I personally hoped that they would have gained some wisdom with age and life experiences, and therefore they would take a different approach in dealing with their relationship and situation. Instead, we find that these two did not learn a dang thing. Alexi and Elysse are still playing games with each other and refusing to speak the plain truth of their honest feelings. Double standards abound in the rest of this book, including Elysse's belief that nothing is wrong about her cultivated pretense of having lovers as it is what many married couples do. However, she is enraged to learn about Alexi having mistresses – and continuing to have affairs after he returns to London. Both Alexi and Elysse will at times confide their true feeling to friends and family members, but not to each other, which was just frustrating. Their marriage turns into a 'War of the Roses' theatrical display, causing so much unnecessary hurt between these two all because they feared rejection.

I normally love a great friend-to-lovers romance, but this couple wasted an exorbitant amount of time (years!) all because they chose to 'save face' by not revealing too much to each other. Unfortunately, that meant soothing their pride and quelling the gossip was most important to these two thickheaded friends.

This book started out great, but ended with so much unnecessary hurt between the hero and heroine (and many others too!). By the time they resolve their issues, I was convinced that Elysse should just take up lovers for real, and Alexi would be better off leaving for China once again – never to return. I did not buy this love story, as I would never believe these two could turn 180 degrees and now be completely honest with each other. Oh well, it is fiction so of course they will live happily ever after. I wish I could give this one a better review as it started so good, but the non-stop fighting plus an outrageous wall-banger ending moved my overall rating way down.

Lastly, those looking for a steamy sensual historical will be dissatisfied. The bedroom scenes are quick and over in a blink of an eye. The first encounter lasted through one page only.

(This was an ARC copy provided by Netgalley)

Carinae L'etoile says

Years ago in college, I read *The Game* by Brenda Joyce. It was a great way to escape having to write a huge paper. I always thought historical (I always called them hysterical) romances were not my thing, but *The Game* held my interest.

That said, when I stumbled across this story, *The Promise*, I had such fond memories of *The Game* I thought this book would be close to it.

I loved the dialogue...in the beginning. Then I got extremely irritated by how badly the hero, Alexi, treated the heroine, Elysse. Yet she still wanted him. He cheated on her multiple times, had mistresses in London while they were still married and living in the same town. He took pride in humiliating her. They never sat down and talked. While I understand Miss Joyce wanted this book to be a battle of wills, this quickly fell into a world of irritation for me. I read the first 40 pages and could see where this was going. I skipped to the middle (and was not wrong!) and was even more irritated. The ending was just stupid beyond belief and there was absolutely no credibility or redeeming moments. I just really find it very hard to believe.

This novel was such a sad mimicry of Miss Joyce's previous work that I read and really enjoyed, but it was fraught with bad execution.

This romance seemed a lot more plot driven, more than character - the plot was to have the H be a jerk to the h and then give us the obligatory HEA.

I have to say that the moment I realized the hero, Alexi cheated on the heroine, Elysse, it was all over. I dislike a hero that deliberately sets out to intentionally hurt the heroine to exact payment. I think that's what didn't sit well with me. Though I dislike cheating heroes, I can accept reading them when they are somewhat likeable - Alexi was not likeable in the slightest.

This is one of those books where I'd say, "Read the first 20 pages, read the last 20 pages and then come to goodreads to save yourself time for the sh*t that lies in between."

If this is supposed to be the final book in the de Warenne line, it's a really bad way to end the series. Hell, I think I'll take more badly written Dark books by Christine Feehan than read anything else by Brenda Joyce.

I've never been a fan of period romances and I think Miss Joyce just killed the entire genre for me with this book.

Azet says

I had read "A Lady at Last" about Cliff deWarenne as a hero and it was in there i got to know his ten-year old son,the mischievous and wild-hearted Alexi deWarenne...

and in this book is about him as the hero with the passionate deWarenne blood,because when a deWarenne falls in love,he falls in love once and forever...

She turned, trying to unlock the door, but her hands were shaking so badly she couldn't turn the key. He grabbed her from behind.

"Stop," she screamed. He lifted her off her feet, crossed the room and threw her down on the bed.

"He is in love with you. I read the fucking letters. And you love him. Damn you! Damn you to hell, Elysse!" he roared, towering over the foot of the bed. "You are supposed to love me!"

Elysse O'Neil is a fascinating heroine.Her being so spoiled and selfish from the start to a graceful brave lady in the end,doing everything in her power to win the man she loves,and her and Alexis adorable child-hood friendship was so adorable and beautiful i easily melted.I love the fact that the seven year old spoiled Elysse had snobbed off Alexis on first-sight and when the 12-year old Alexis had with eagerness tried to impress her by telling of his wild adventures on the sea with his father,and poor girl did she become fascinated with him,and since then they had become inseparable friends.

Until one horrible accident,resulting Alexis to marry her for protecting her honor.And for their friendship to be destroyed when he leaves her for six years,the outcome being a thundering war between them where they both deny their love for each other.

I can understand why many hate this book,because Alexi stays unfaithful during their separation,but the fact was that Elysse would have taken lovers too,if it hadn't been for her being a virgin.But she did kiss them. But i am glad that she had many pretend-lovers resulting to Alexis thinking that she also remained being unfaithful and for him being so jealous!

Their situation were so complicated,their relationship so destroyed,and with pride they both denied their hearts.They wanted to hurt and humiliate each other,that it actually didn't matter to me.

Their sexual chemistry is SO HELLUVA BOOM BOOM HOT and so so so...yeah hot.

It was sizzling and intruging and i enjoyed all their steamy-scenes,their arguing,their conversations,their glances...their everything and most of all the hot immense angst!!!

This book is filled with it and with Alexis deWarenne as the hero there is no surprise at all.

His sexy seduction,his passionate nature,his described looks,his desire,his everlasting love and his SUCH INTENSE JEALOUSY just made my day!!!!His heart is so savage-like i were many times afraid of him and so nervous for Elysse,and I AM ONLY JUST A READER!

I truly love the ending to this book and were so happy for Elysse and Alexis..they finally deserved their happy ever efter!

Eylül Esra says

Kütüphanede gördü?ümde s?rf meraklan al?p okuyay?m dedim. Sonuç: Elinize geçerse al?p okuyun. Güzeldi. Ama niye her ?ey bir anda oldu bitti anlam?? de?ilim.

¶nci Puyan says

4,50 stars

<http://illekitap.blogspot.com.tr/2017...>

¶ncelikle 4,50 vermemin tek nedeni Elysse'nin kaç?r?lma olaylar?n?n biraz fazla y?zeyssel ve oldu bittiye geldi?ini d?¶nmemdendir. Yoksa kitap ok iyiydi :)

De Warenne serisinin son kitab?, 11. kitab? Yemin ile seri normalde bitiyor ama Pegasus serisi 4. kitaptan yay?nlamaya ba?lad??? iin ilk  kitap sonradan ?kt? ve ben de seriyi bitirip ba?a d¶nerek ilerlemeye karar verdim. Yani Trkiye'dr yay?nlanma s?ralamas?na g¶re.

Neyse, ?mkans?z A?k kitab?n?n ilk k?sm?nda yazar?m?z Brenda Joyce'dan okurlar?na bir not vard?. Notta henz Alexi ve Elysse'nin a?k?n? yazmaya haz?r olmad???ndan o kitab? atlad???n? yazm???t?. Neden haz?r olmad???n? anlad?m. nl Alexi gibi efsane bir adama ve Devlin gibi bir mthi? bir adam?n e?siz k?z?na yak???r bir hikaye olmal?yd? ve bence olmu?tu da.

11 kitapl?k bir seriyi sadece 3 kitab? kalacak kadar okudu?um ve o  kitab? da okuyaca???m d?¶nlrse yazar? sevdi?imi anlam???s?n?zd?r. Historical Romance trnde sevdi?im yazarlardan biridir kendileri.

Kitaba dair yorumuma gelecek olursak beklentim ok yksekti ve beklentimi kar???lad? ama ke?ke dedi?im yerlerde olmad? de?il.

Kitab?n konusuna de?inmeyece?im arka kapak yaz?s? yeterince a?klay?c? zaten. Daha fazlas? tamamen kitap ieri?i olur gibime geliyor. O yzden kitap konusu iin arka kapa?? okuyun.

Kitaba dair ke?ke dedi?im yer, Elysse, Alexi'nin pe?inden in'e gitmeye karar verdi?inde ba??na gelenlerle ilgili. Ke?ke biraz sava?, vuru? k?r?? ya da daha bir adrenalin ieren k?s?m okusayd?m dedim. Daha yksek dozda heyecan yak???rd? a?kas? ?u kitaba. Onun haricinde zaten isteyebilece?im hibir ?ey yok kitaba dair.

Alexi'nin alayc? tutumu, Elysse'nin meydan okuyan tav?rlar? sperdi. Brenda Joyce'u bu yzden seviyorum. Pasif kad?n karakterler de?il sava??, cesur ve gl kad?nlar? yaz?yor. Bu trdeki kitaplarda bu zellik ok nemli.

Kitaba dair ke?ke dedi?im yer, Elysse, Alexi'nin pe?inden in'e gitmeye karar verdi?inde ba??na gelenlerle ilgili. Ke?ke biraz sava?, vuru? k?r?? ya da daha bir adrenalin ieren k?s?m okusayd?m dedim. Daha yksek dozda heyecan yak???rd? a?kas? ?u kitaba. Onun haricinde zaten isteyebilece?im hibir ?ey yok kitaba dair.

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Alexi'nin alayc? tutumu, Elysse'nin meydan okuyan tav?rlar? süperdi. Brenda Joyce'u bu yüzden seviyorum. Pasif kad?n karakterler de?il sava?ç?, cesur ve güçlü kad?nlar? yaz?yor. Bu türdeki kitaplarda bu özellik çok önemli.

Neyse ben kitab? çok be?endim, ilk sayfas?ndan son sayfas?na kadar zevk ald'm ki zaten iki - üç günde bitti kitap. Ve bence seriyi çok güzel bir ?ekilde kapatm?? oldum.

Severek, zevkle okudu'm ve tatmin edici bir ?ekilde kurgulanm?? bir seriydi. Sizlere de tavsiye ederim :) DeWarren Dynasty 11 kitaptan olu?uyor ama gözünüzü korkutmas?n. E?er tarihi a?k romanlar?n? seviyorsan?z mutlaka tad?n derim :)

Anamaria says

And I thought I had problems with pride and stubbornness...

Filomena says

Penultimo libro della serie e anche questo non delude le aspettative. Quattro stelline e mezzo per quest'altro piccolo capolavoro del genere.

Yvette says

This book was so infuriating to read.

The hero was an ass who thought so horribly of his wife. He put all the blame on her for him being trapped into marrying her. He has mistresses all over the damn place, literally, jamaica, singapore, london....no kidding he's a total ass.

The heroine has a reputation of being a seductress in London while her husband is away (she actually is still a virgin despite her husband avoiding her for 6 years), but she never corrects him or anyone else when they think she has lovers. If she doesn't want people to think that her and her husband are estranged, why let everyone think your having all these affairs? That doesn't make any kind of sense to me at all!! It was so freaking maddening to me how she thought if her husband knew the truth her pride would be crushed because he's mock her for her feelings for him....stupid.

The ending was upsetting. I wanted them to actually work shit out, make him freaking grovel a little, but noooooo....she just jumps into his arms after he rescues her and is totally cool with how he treated her.

This book was so damn upsetting I skipped a lot of their scenes with arguments before I was tempted to toss my NOOK!

Megzy says

I would give it a negative rating if it was possible. Seriously, don't bother wasting your time and hard earned money. I am hard-pressed to find something good to say about this book. I spent more time angry at the characters.

The hero spends more than 2.7/3 of the book sleeping with other woman and being really cruel to his virginal wife who he abandoned right after the wedding ceremony. The heroine was a spoiled brat who cared more of what others thought than her happiness and allowed her mind and heart to be emotionally and verbally misused and abused repeatedly for over 6 years.

There is nothing romantic about this story.

Bronwyn says

will get right to it with my dislike for this book.

'The Promise' is an 80's romance novel throwback where the protagonists show each other contempt, anger and disrespect *and it would have been cleared up in an adult conversation*.

Now BJ creates stubborn male leads, but we tend to sympathize with their characters as we realize that even though they don't want to fall in love , get married etc , they love the heroine and show it by their actions. So for example in 'A Lady at Last' (one of my fave books) Devlin thinks he's too old for Amanda, she needs to grow up etc etc which is why he resists her. Amanda has no problem with that and sets out to seduce him and we get fireworks from the Old World to Ireland. Throughout that book though, we see where he genuinely cares for her.

In the 'Promise' however both leads -not just Alexi- are just stubborn for the sake of being stubborn and proud. Alexi starts off as being sweet yet strong, but by the middle of the book he is terrible. I am sorry folks, but under no circumstances to do I excuse a hero sleeping with and having mistresses during a marriage when he abandons his wife after marrying her.

With that said, the heroine wore me out emotionally with her silliness. I had no problem with her in the first part of the book- at the end of the day, I she was accurately portrayed as a spoiled miss. She was not spiteful or mean to others, she was merely hurt by Alexi and wanted to get back at him. I think that any female with no real independence or autonomy of her own, would resort to flirting to making someone else jealous.

I do have a problem with her in the latter parts of the novel where she embraces the persona of a loose wife. Now Alexi actually took women, which I can not forgive, but for her to want to create that appearance is ludicrous. Like make up your mind child! How can you claim to love Alexi but then want to run around town with men to create the appearance of having lovers? She did this with the excuse that she didnt want anyone to see how humiliated she was. I get that ...but couldnt she have thrown herself into doing charity rather than

dinner parties?! Bear in mind that as a virgin she could have gotten an annulment, but didn't want to because of that being too humiliating. IMO she loved herself and her pride more than Alexi.

Now as the book moves on, Alexi is back in England 6 years later and hell bent on hating his wife, and buys a house to live apart from her. She decides to move in with him, her first move of having sense in the entire book. Then things get a bit strange- she wants him to appear to be the doting husband, yet doesn't want to give up the goodies in bed. That honestly always gets me in historical romances. I mean I could understand if she didn't want to for fear of a foreign disease but to not give it up based on principle is odd to me. I thought she loved him and wanted to reconcile? Wouldn't being in his bed be a start? . Now throughout all of this, Elysse is pretending a tendre for someone else. Then Alexi thinks she is in love with him then gets super mad. And then she is hurt that she is mad. Arrrrrrgggh!

So by the end- he is incensed because he thinks that she is in love with someone else and moves out the house. But the fact that she may love someone else doesn't sit well with Alexi the Adulterer. After all, it's okay for him to soothe his loins overseas and throw his mistress name in his wife's face, but for said wife to find genuine affection is unthinkable.

He drinks heavily, grills the butler, searches through her things, overturns her desk, accosts her when she comes in, and after some tussling they make love. Now this is where the plot goes bizarre. I was at least expecting a good grovel when Alexi realizes his supposed harlot wife is a virgin. Nope. No such thing. He even sees the blood stains the next day and thinks it's because he 'hurt' her in some way. He is apologetic, but because he thinks he forced himself on her.

So he does what any romance un-hero does- he leaves the heroine that he hurt and decides to sail to China. Elysse then does her 2nd and final act of having sense in the book and decides to go after him. We then have the requisite kidnapping scene (I am going to ignore the fact that this silly heroine decides to sail to China with just a freaking lady's maid.)

Another wierd this is her parents are nowhere to be found throughout this. Or his parents. These two kids are just lone ships in the ocean acting like angry hard headed idiots on a collision course.

We have the entire story wrapped up in the last 2 pages and there we go. The Promise. 80s romance redux.
