



The Rose of Blacksword

Rexanne Becnel

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CAST TOGETHER BY THE FATES ...

With glittering amber eyes and hair of gleaming mahogany, the beguiling, nymphlike Lady Rosalynde of Stanwood could entice a man to deeds of reckless daring. And none was so ruthless, bold, or dangerously seductive as the condemned outlaw known only as Blacksword. In return for safe escort to her ancestral castle, Rosalynde was forced to marry the black-hearted rogue, never dreaming that holy wedlock would fan the flames of unholy desire.

The fate of his noble name rested on his massive shoulders. Savage fires of vengeance seared his soul. Wielder of the coveted Blacksword, Sir Aric of Wycliffe vowed death to the treacherous enemy who sought to destroy him. Until his heart was bested by the enchanting maiden who'd saved him from the hangman's noose. Bound together by ancient custom, the brazen knight demanded no less than his sweet Rose's total surrender. But even as revenge and honor warred within him, he would be undone by the most seductive conqueror of all ... wild, irresistible love.

The Rose of Blacksword Details

Date : Published December 12th 2011 by Dell (first published May 2nd 1992)

ISBN : 9780440209102

Author : Rexanne Becnel

Format : Mass Market Paperback 437 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Medieval, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review The Rose of Blacksword for online ebook

Kaza says

First Romance book I ever read. I loved it at the time. I still really like it.

Nessa says

DNF

Before I began this book, I scoffed at those who gave this story a 1 star. Now I understand why. I enjoyed some of Becnel's books however this one was terrible. It wasn't so much the plot but more the heroine is such a SHREWD AND A TOTAL SELFISH BITCH.

UNGRATEFUL is more like it. After saving Aric from the gallows, she demands he escort her and Cleve back to her home and he reluctantly agrees. Along the way, Rose was compromised BUT SHE WAS A WILLING PARTICIPANT. Guess what, when they get back, Aric was flogged and became a house slave. He is adamant to have her as his wife as they are technically married by HAND FAST a pagan marriage ritual at the hanging site.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY ARIC pursues her when she keeps denying their relationship and he suffers often because of her. Well I gave up reading when it was just too painful to see them.

Regan Walker says

4 and 1/2 Stars! Captivating Medieval from 12th Century England

Set in 12th century England, this is the story of Lady Rosalynde of Stanwood, a young beauty whose father consigned her and her young brother to live with their aunt and uncle when their mother died years ago. And now Rosalynde must travel home to Stanwood Castle to tell her father her brother has died.

On the way to Stanwood, outlaws set upon Rosalynde and her knights. She and her page escape, but the page is wounded and Rosalynde seeks the only help she can find—that of a condemned criminal—agreeing to handfast with him to save him from the gallows if he will help her get home. The outlaw they call Blacksword is really Sir Aric of Wycliffe, a knight of renown, who is none too happy about being nursemaid to a lady and her wounded page—he seeks only vengeance on those who falsely accused him of crimes. But when he learns that Rosalynde is now her father's only heir, he decides to seek more than a reward—he wants to make their handfast a real marriage to gain her and her lands.

This is a great story, well told—a page turner. Though there is no real history, there is a genuine historic feel and a real historic setting. Sir Aric is a noble knight but also a wily one, and Rosalynde (“Rose”) is not indifferent to his wooing. But her father sees Aric as a criminal and requires him to work as a servant at Stanwood Castle. Aric stays, rising to become a man at arms constantly reminding Rosalynde that she is his wife.

Lots of action, mystery and adventure with an exciting ending. I recommend it.

V SB says

Dnf.. don't get me wrong I'm so totally in love with Medieval stories and hot alpha knights.. I got that with Aric. The problem I had was with Rosalynde.. she was just either too naive, immature or too dumb if you ask me.. she willingly sleeps with Aric then later accuses him of ruining her life?? Lookie here lady - you should have thought of that BEFORE you slept with him and ogling his body... argh! She ruined the story!!!

Beatrice Holley says

What I will say is that this is most definitely a romance novel of the early '90s, and it brings me back to my teenage years immediately!

I have to give it to Rexanne; right to the end I did want to know what would happen next, so I give her top marks for that. I think it's the style and language that we've all (most of us?) moved on from now. Where else would you encounter words such as 'slaked' or 'burgeoning' in a love-scene?

There is also the impossible perfection of both leading lady and leading man. I read the description of Blacksword (Aric of Wycliff), and could only shake my head in disbelief. But then again...have you checked out actor Joe Manganiello lately (Alcide from the TV series True Blood)? So they DO exist!

4* out of 5 for suspense/momentum

1* for the purplest prose I've read in the past decade

3* for giving me a reason to Google pics of Joe Manganiello!

merilie Gonzales says

The Rose of Blacksword.

First time reading this author's books. I loved it. Very romantic, but a lot of trials to get to the hea. If you enjoy medieval romance give this one a try.

Martha says

3.5?

Fairlita says

What I learned from this book:

So European tradition used to be acquainted with contract marriage, too! They called this ancient (and perhaps pagan?) tradition *handfast*, and in this book, it lasted for 1 year of marriage legally recognized by people. Should the couple decide to let it go after the duration, it's ok for them to separate in good terms.

D.D. Chant says

I'd like to start off by saying that I love medieval books and liked the plot of this story, it was interesting and fun and I really wanted to see what would happen next.

This is the tale of 19 year old Lady Rosalynde who, along with her 8 year old brother, lives with her Aunt and Uncle. When her brother dies she is determined to be the person who breaks the news to her Father and, with the consent of her Uncle and Aunt, she leaves to travel to her Father's castle. On the way the camp is attacked and her maid and the soldiers are killed leaving Rosalynde and her page Cleve the only survivors. They manage to escape but Cleve is wounded and it becomes clear to Rosalynde that they need protection.

Enter Blacksword, a mysterious man that Rosalynde saves from hanging by agreeing to be handfasted to him. This decision is made in desperation and in the hope that Blacksword will be so grateful that she saved him from a hideous death that he will agree to protect her and Cleve until they reach her Father's castle. Blacksword is not quite as he appears and found himself at the point of hanging for a crime he did not commit when Lady Rosalynde made her somewhat impetuous entrance into his life.

Sounds interesting right??? So why the absents of stars???

Simple really: the plot is often pushed to one side so that we can concentrate on something much more important.

What, I hear you say, could possibly be more important than the plot???

Well...the hero's muscles.

Yes you did read that right, Blacksword is well fit and just to make sure you don't forget that it is mentioned constantly. He has, from what I can gather, the sort of rock hard and bountiful muscles that would make Hercules weep with envy. Strong, bulging, corded...you name it he's got it! He also has some awesome angles and planes!

He also never tires, can drag a sixteen year old lad around on his back all day without really noticing it but struggles with such easy tasks as keeping his shirt on. This guy is invincible...so how did he manage to get trussed up like a turkey and handed over to the authorities by the baddies??? I'm not really sure because apart from that one instance he has never failed at anything from what I can tell. Even when bound securely men tremble under his harsh gaze.

Now please don't get me wrong, I like some eye candy as much as the next girl! But all I heard about were his freaking muscles and it got less impressive every time. Average page:

Rosalynde is mistrustful wishes she could tell Blacksword to hop it, a page about Blacksword's shoulders and how they make Rosie all mushy inside. Other stuff happens, BTW Blacksword also has, like, totally awesome thigh muscles too and they make Rosie feel faint. Blacksword pretends to be mean and scary because it's safer for Rosalynde and Cleve to be in fear of him, also Blacksword's abs are like a washboard dude and...that's right...Rosie just wants to melt after seeing them.

Too much, way too much.

But I wanted to know what happened next so I carried on: after all I still had the plot to look forward to right???

Then the plot began to unravel. Our delightful hero Blacksword, whose character we know nothing about at this point because being totally hot and having huge muscles is apparently more important than having a personality, turns out to be a landless knight and hasn't got a lot of cash. At first he doesn't believe that Rosalynde is a lady and is quite willing to leave her high and dry despite the fact that she saved him. Then when he realises that she is who she says she is he grudgingly agrees to get her home spurred on by her promise of a monetary reward. That's when our charming hero starts to think, after all Rosalynde's brother (her Father's only male heir) is dead and as he (Blacksword) is handfasted (married pagan style) to her he actually stands to gain a lot if he can force her to stay married to him. So the graceless git starts to be nice to her, after all now she's useful to him it's worth making the effort isn't it?

All bad enough but then everything fell apart completely.

Rosie, having a shrewd idea why he's suddenly being so nice to her, hates him even more (with good reason if you ask me!) and she didn't like him, didn't trust him and certainly had no thought of staying married to him before he turned into a slimy scumbag. It is at this point Blacksword kisses her.

First of all it felt like a hundred or so pages of story were missing: they didn't even like each other what the heck are they doing kissing???

Secondarily, I don't know about anyone else, but if some cad was rotten to me after I'd just saved his life, was mean and grudging about giving me his help and then turned in to some kind of slime machine when he realised that he could get his greedy little hands on my inheritance I would be completely revolted by his kiss, I don't care how big his muscles are!!!

What I wouldn't do is go all gaga about how nice his kisses are and how wonderful it feels...blah, blah, blah.

Anyway back to the story: they stop kissing Rosalynde starts to be revolted (finally!!!) and runs off, stopping and finally falling asleep some way into the forest. Blacksword follows her and, being the gentleman he is, wakes her up and starts kissing her again. At which point they fall into each other's arms and Rosalyn goes from despising Blacksword to vowing to be his wife and sleeping with him. I would like to point out that she doesn't have any choice about sleeping with him as Blacksword doesn't understand the word no. Which, as we all know, is incredibly attractive in a man!!!

So this is where I stopped reading.

I'm kind of angry because I wanted to see where this was going, the plot was good and that's what really gets to me!

But I'm sorry no. Just no.

Carissa says

Medieval historicals are out of fashion right now, but thanks to a loan from a friend, I got to go back 20 years and read this one. It was fun to read something different than today's most popular tropes, regency drawing room and swashbuckler. Predictable situations, but likable characters. Pacing could have been more even and tighter. Some typos, especially in the early chapters. Also, you can play the Lisa Kleypas drinking game with this book, so there is that. -cg

Barbara ★ says

I used to love Rexanne Becnel but I haven't read her in years. I really liked the premise of this story: lady saves condemned murderer by marrying him because she is in a bind and needs his help. He inturn wants her to love him for the degenerate common man down on his luck not the knight he really is. Good story but the author drags it out to long (437 pages) when it could have been condensed some and made for a tighter story.

Lynn Spencer says

I've enjoyed other books by Becnel and she hasn't written any historicals lately that I know of, so I was happy to start a new-to-me read from her. Sadly, it just didn't work out.

The book starts off strong. We meet Rosalynde just after the death of her beloved younger brother Giles. After his funeral, she is determined to leave her aunt and uncle's home, where she has lived since her mother's death eight years earlier, and go to her father. She wants to be the one to tell him the news of her brother's death. Noble of her, perhaps, but certainly dangerous. After all, Henry II has not been on the throne for very long and the disorder from the war between King Stephen and Matilda has not entirely faded. It's not a safe time for a young woman to be traveling.

Even though Rosalynde's loving aunt and uncle take precautions to protect her, she still encounters bandits on the road. As we read through this encounter and see what happens to her traveling party, I was completely sucked into the story and thought that this book might just turn out to be a good, old-fashioned angstfest.

Then it takes a turn. In search of help, Rosalynde stumbles into a village and it all just goes crazy pants from there. It's market day, everyone is drunk and our poor heroine can't find anyone to ask for aid. Apparently, in this particular village, the fair is traditionally the time for handfasting among the village folks but since no couples had come forward, the mayor decided to make it hanging day instead. As one does, I suppose.

The mayor seems exceptionally bummed out that no one wants to handfast, so he offers up the prisoners to the single women in attendance. Crazy, right? And crazier still, Rosalynde decides that handfasting with the outlaw Blacksword just might be the way to get help and safe passage to her father's house. The people in the village, most of whom are drunk by the point, think this is a GREAT idea. Why??!! Well, I can tell you the

main reason that's given in the text and that is this - Blacksword is might hawt. Oh yes. He has so many muscles that they're practically characters in their own right. Seriously, we hear a lot about the muscles in the portion of the book I read.

So, the rejected murderers, thieves and highwaymen get hanged and then the village celebrates with a post-hanging handfasting. And after that, I was just done, done, done. This is just not the book for me.

Noelia Acuña says

4 1/2. During the book I developed a love-hate relationship with the H and h. But in the end, it make me cry and it let me with a feeling of content and very well spent time. I'll re read it some other time.

Lucy Qhuay says

Gosh, no! Just no! O.o

This book started sort of good, though a bit boring, but both Rosalynde and Aric/Blacksword annoyed the hell out of me and I just couldn't keep reading it anymore. --

First, it is absolutely ridiculous to choose a man that is going to be hanged, to one's husband.

What was Rosalynde thinking? o.O The man definitely looked dangerous and he was being accused of murder and thievery and she suddenly decides to marry him because he may be willing to help her reach her father's house. Does that make sense? o.O None!

He could have been a psycho and she and poor Cleve would be in serious trouble! --'

Then, even though she supposedly hates him, she has sex with him, forgetting everything that she was raised to believe and the repercussions of the act. o.O

I find it hard to believe that a gentle-bred lady would be so willing to ruin her reputation and risk total scandal for a few minutes of pleasure, without any guarantee that she would be left with a decent husband. And, furthermore, if you hate someone, will you have sex with that person? o.O

I know that one needs not exactly love the other person to be intimate but one won't be intimate with someone one hates because one will have no pleasure with it and the purpose of being intimate is to have pleasure! --'

So, of course this is all ridiculous!

And the day after their sexual intercourse, Rosalynde totally flips out and screams that Aric ruined her and that he won't touch her ever again.

Excuse the hell out of me, but she was more than willing to be "ruined" and to jump into his pants, so to speak! o.O

This is just freaking annoying! :S

And then, in the part where I stopped reading this disaster, her father's knights or whatever they were, arrived and as she was freaking out and Aric was holding her, those said knights were going to kick his ass, bluntly speaking, because they thought he was a common crook, seeking to rape her.

And she thought he deserved to get his ass kicked or to be arrested because he had had sex with her. o.O So, basically, he was going to be unfairly screwed once again and this time because of some pathetic brat was having one hell of a fit and didn't have the guts to tell her father's minions that he did nothing wrong. Oh God, give me strength!

GONZA says

Way too long and she is horrible and I can't stand her, while he is controversial about his own thinking, so I probably was not in the mood for appreciate two schizophenic characters.

Lady Rosalynde di Stanwood ha il potere di stregare gli uomini, ma non ne è consapevole prima di utilizzarlo per costringere Blacksword, assassino e ladro condannato alla forca, a riaccapagnare lei e il suo paggio alla dimora paterna.

Sir Aric di Wycliff vive solo per un caso e dedica la rinnovata esistenza alla vendetta nei confronti di coloro che lo hanno incastrato portandolo sul patibolo, fino a quando attraverso l'Handfasting, il suo destino viene irrimediabilmente legato a quello di Lady Rose, dalla quale pretenderà una resa totale.

La trama non era male, Rose viene attaccata e la sua scorta decimata mentre torna dal padre per informarlo della morte del suo unico figlio ed erede; quando riesce a mettersi in salvo si reca nel paese vicino per cercare di avvertire lo sceriffo del villaggio e cercare una nuova scorta, ma dopo una serie di misunderstandings si trova a dover scegliere tra tre condannati a morte una papabile guardia del corpo.

Ai tempi se una donna del villaggio voleva salvare la vita ad un condannato bastava che lo legasse a sé attraverso la cerimonia pagana dell'Handfasting, matrimonio che durava un anno e un giorno se nel frattempo la coppia non si era recata in chiesa per ratificare il patto avanti a Dio.

A questo punto inizia il lento declino del libro: Rose è una di quelle verginelle che prima cede e poi si dispera, mi dispiace metterla così, ma una persona che cambia idea ogni 30 secondi e poi si fa comunque guidare nelle scelte dalle sue ovaie non merita il mio rispetto per quanto resti sempre un personaggio di fantasia. Dal canto suo Blacksword sembra uno che non abbia chiaro nemmeno cosa voglia per colazione, figurarsi dalla vita. Passano 300 pagine a rinfacciarsi l'Handfasting ed a ricattarsi e sinceramente sono veramente noiosi.

Quando poi finalmente i nodi arrivano al pettine e Aric si rivela quale cavaliere sconfiggendo il marrano che l'aveva derubato della sua spada e della sua vita tutti vivono felici e contenti, ma avrebbero potuto farlo 200 pagine prima senza tirarla troppo per le lunghe.

Nel mio giudizio sarò anche acida ma leggere questo libro è stato abbastanza NOIOSO, probabilmente il prossimo libro della Becnel non finirà nella mia libreria e nemmeno quelli prima, peccato perché il medioeval romance di solito mi piace, ma in questo sembrava che l'autrice avesse fatto scrivere i dialoghi ai bambini dell'asilo.
