



Bride of the Lion

Elizabeth Stuart

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In an age of chivalry tainted by bloodshed and betrayal, two unlikely lovers are swept up by a passion strong as steel, sensual as velvet, and eternal as the stars...

Jocelyn Montagne

Reckless, exotic daughter of a Celtic noblewoman and a Norman knight, left to guard her father's fortress, she fought brutish takeovers with a dagger. But nothing could defend her from the brooding magnificence of the invader who quickened her wild Welsh blood and stole her tender soul.

Robert de Langley

Faull of arrogance and outlaw vigor, the fabled Lion of Normandy would hold his old enemy's daughter hostage for his plundered lands - until he decreed that he must keep them both.

Tossed between vengeance and lingering desire, war made them enemies, and passion possessed them.

Bride of the Lion Details

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From Reader Review *Bride of the Lion* for online ebook

KatieV says

I've read 2 of Stuart's 5 books and, so far, her heroes are some of the most reasonable/fair men in Romance land. The 'big misunderstanding' is pretty much avoided or dealt with quickly by *gasp* actually communicating. This novel is highly driven by outside forces (political/historical) and focuses on how the H/h manage to survive the very dangerous and unsure times they are living in by supporting one another through some serious crap. It's really very strange to find a healthy relationship in a medieval (or romance in general). Very, very strange.

The hero, Robert, is almost too perfect. He's the legendary brave, honorable, trustworthy man who does not change his loyalties when the political tides shift. I'm almost glad for the (view spoiler) because it made him seem more fallible and was nowhere near as disturbing as I'd assumed it would be. Robert did have trust issues with women because of his first wife, who was quite the piece of work. He's also adheres to another common trope - 'I'll never love again'. However, he still retains enough common sense to recognize a woman worthy of trust and his fear of loving is not just the typical weak 'one woman hurt me' type. He's lost a lot of people he loved in the violence of the times, most particularly a 4-year-old son (not a spoiler, revealed very early on).

The heroine is the unwanted youngest daughter of the man who took Robert's holdings while he was in Normandy fighting for the king, even though he was supposedly an ally of Robert's and pledged to secure his lands - not take them over. The h is unwanted/unloved by her father because her mother was not the mother of his two older children, a woman he loved. Her mother was a Welsh noblewoman he married simply for political reasons and neither loved the other. Plus, apparently, there was some big deal about Welsh women being shorter and having darker hair than the ideal willowy, blond English rose type he and the English in general preferred. I did have a problem with how much emphasis was placed on the fact that the h was not as beautiful as her fragile, blond older sister. The h has some serious issues/insecurities about her looks and worth because of how she was raised, but when things are seen from her POV I feel like we get a very distorted view of her. The H finds her extremely attractive and her description sounds very attractive. You just have to try and overlook all her insecurities, which do wear a little thin at times.

Misfit says

Being very behind in reviews, and being that I've put this one off too long and I've forgotten most of it already. For those interested, I'd steer you to KatieV's review, which sums it all up quite nicely. I do like this author a lot, but for some reason this story and this pair didn't click for me.

Sebastian says

I was really liking this book until this happened;

"He hesitated, wondering if Jocelyn would believe him about anything ever again. He had caused her a great deal of hurt—and all for nothing. For a fruitless effort to distance himself with a woman he couldn't even bed until it was Jocelyn herself he had imagined in his arms."

On top of that;

"Jocelyn, there is something we need to speak of." His tone was serious and she opened her eyes. He was staring at his hands, scowling fiercely. "Judas, madam, I don't even remember her name! That woman at Leaworth. I am sorry you had to—"

Judas, douchebag, not giving a fuck about the random woman you fucked won't stop you from ruining the book, Judas, asshole, what a letdown, Judas.

Award for strong self respecting female of the year;

"Oh, Robert, if I'm baseborn you'll need to marry someone else! I understand that, honestly I do. Only let me be your mistress. I know you have other women, will reconcile myself to being one of them somehow. Only don't bring the others where I will have to see them. I..."

Then, apology of the year;

"Robert turned her over to face him. To her amazement and hurt he looked as if he were fighting a laugh. "After what you did to that poor creature at Leaford do you think there've been women foolish enough to frequent my bed?"

"I need to tell you something, Jocelyn," he murmured. "I had meant to tell you that night I came back from Leaford. I didn't take that woman for wanting her. I took her because she was there, available and attractive, but I didn't want her. I wanted only you." "I... I don't understand." He frowned. "I didn't want to care so much, to need any woman so much as I was coming to fear I needed you." "That time before Christmas," she said, thinking back. "That's when it all began to change." He nodded. "You did give me a scare, madam, set me to thinking thoughts I didn't want to have."

Thanks but no thanks, douchebag, cheating is cheating unless someone drugged you and raped you, obviously not the case, fuck you and fuck your doormat wife willing to forgive you.

"I believe you've done it, Robert," she said, in a strained, choking attempt at lightness. "You've come up with the only possible excuse a man could make for taking a mistress, the only excuse a wife would not only accept but be flattered to hear." That's only you showing your nonexistent self respect, doormat, his excuse is insulting to anyone else's intelligence, bye. Stopped reading after that.

Hahaha How to completely ruin a good book in a few sentences by Elizabeth Stuart.

shms says

3.5* stars. Really well crafted tale that draws you in and keeps you reading. In no way am I a history buff and usually I skim any 'technical' parts of books because I'm usually more interested in the characters. In this case I enjoyed it and was interested in how the historical facts were played out within the tale.

Linda Sims says

WELL WRITTEN

This is the first read for me by this author, she hasn't written that many books but she's certainly very talented. This story set in the twelfth century is a tale of love, murder and betrayal. Robert de Langley the Lion of Normandy is determined to regain his lands and properties back from a Norman knight William Montagne. While William is off to meet the king Robert takes his chance, and pretending to be delivering supplies he gains entrance to the castle which very quickly falls to him. Williams youngest daughter Jocelyn is brave and not the slightest bit afraid to stand up to Robert. Her two siblings Brian and Adelise are older. But Brian is with their father. Adelise although older and considered more beautiful than the dark and exotic Jocelyn, is reduced to constant bouts of crying leaving Jocelyn to deal with the invaders alone.

Jocelyn had never been her fathers favourite, she was the child of his much despised second wife. In fact he treats Jocelyn little better than a servant. She's attracted to Robert, but when King Stephen hears of the escalating trouble he arrives and pronounces a solution. Robert will marry William's eldest daughter. But Adelise is horrified and runs away. So Robert is forced to marry Jocelyn.

While this is really well researched and written, it's meant to be a romance and to a degree it is. But the author seems more preoccupied with the historical details happening at that period in history and the fight for the throne of England between King Stephen and Henry of Anjou (the future Henry II). I did like the two main characters but any problems between them were to quickly glossed over SPOILER..... Shortly after their marriage while Robert is staying elsewhere Jocelyn arrives and finds another woman in his bed. His excuse given to Jocelyn was "she was there and she was attractive, but I only thought about you" the matter was immediately forgotten, really! It was things like that I didn't like. But I still thought that overall this is a good book, more so if you're really into this period in history, as there's plenty of detail.

Regan Walker says

Unquestionably One of the Finest Medieval Romances!

You know you've read a great novel when you don't want it to end. Winner of Romantic Times' best Medieval Historical Romance for 1995, this is an enthralling 12th century tale from one of the best historical romance authors.

Robert de Langley became famous as the Lion of Normandy as he fought at his father's side for King Stephen—until he died in a fiery inferno surrounded by Henry de Anjou's men in a church in France. But the Lion didn't die. He survived to return to England with one goal in mind: to retake his family's castle, Belavoir, from the dreaded Lord Montagne who has seized it and to continue the fight against Henry de Anjou, now duke of Normandy. When Montagne leaves on a trip to London, Robert and his loyal men take the castle by treachery, much to the delight of all at Belavoir—all except Montagne's daughters. Left in charge by her father, though she is his least favorite because her dark coloring reminds him of his Welsh second wife, Jocelyn Montagne makes it clear to Robert that while the castle is rightfully his, she will fight him to protect her sister and their virtue.

Stuart has a gift with words. Her descriptions take on a lyrical quality as she reaches for ways of describing what her mind sees that bring the scenes to life in a vivid way ("Jocelyn held her breath, watching as Robert de Langley surged across the plain like an angel of death. His sword rose and fell with a grace that was both beautiful and terrifying to behold, with a stark economy of motion that was unstoppable.") It's a pleasure to read a story that draws you in on each page. And she does not neglect the developing romance between a hero who has long ago stopped trusting women and a woman who is worthy of his trust above all others but believes no one wants her. There's lots of history here, too, as Henry Plantagenet (Henry II) seeks the English throne. (If you like history with your historical romance and not some vague background, you'll like this story.)

You won't regret getting this one, I promise.

Stuart only wrote five historical novels before retiring to raising a family. During the years she wrote romance novels, she gave us some of the finest. All her novels are on my "Best Romances" lists on Amazon and my blog. All, save the first, were written under the name Elizabeth Stuart.

RECKLESS ANGEL (1988, writing as Elizabeth Awbrey)

HEARTSTORM (1989)

WHERE LOVE DWELLS (1990, winner of the RITA Award for Best Historical in 1991)

WITHOUT HONOR (1994)

BRIDE OF THE LION (1995, winner of the Romantic Times' Best Medieval)

Nessa says

A SOLID 4.5 STARS.

THIS ONE STARTED OUT SLOW BUT, THE ROMANCE BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS WAS A CALMING ONE AFTER ALL THE TEMPESTUOUS ANGST OF 1900S ROMANCES WITH OVERLY DRAMATIC CHARACTERS THAT FOCUSED MORE ON HURTING THAN LOVING.

OUR HERO is bent on recovering the home that was stolen by his enemy. He's lost his wife, his son and deep down he's still hurting. A wounded lion if you will. When he storms into the enemy's keep and declares it for his own now, he holds the man's two daughters' hostage. While one was a raging beauty, the other one caught his attention and held it. Robert is not hard to like, I have no qualms about him because for once, he's one of the reasonable heroes in historical romances dating back to the 1900s authors. Normally men like him would be overly arrogant and proud, he would have been very mean and non-repentant to the heroine. But, no. Robert's a good man. He began an unlikely friendship with our heroine (of course there was lust involved) before he married the woman and fell in love with her. Sometimes, love backwards is so much nicer to enjoy. Robert has a mistrust of women after the deceit and treachery of his first scheming wife, who was the most beautiful woman in Normandy. So, meeting Jocelyn helped changed his perspective and heal his heart.

OUR HEROINE isn't beautiful compared to her half-sister but, alone she's still keen on the eyes, especially with her exotic cat eyes that shine green and gold at times. Unlike her fair sister, she's been treated rather poorly by her father and brother, who spurned her for some unknown reason. Poor Jocelyn has grown up wanting the approval of her father, and has striven to be a good child all her life. She also suffers insecurity

issues that are later put to rest by Robert's love. I liked Jocelyn. She's an odd egg compared to all the other fierce and hot-headed heroines I have read these past few days. She's actually CALM and RATIONAL. A beauty with brains. Thank God for a sensible heroine.

OVERALL the romance was sweet and cute. I enjoyed the intimate moments between Robert and Jocelyn as they put a smile on my face too. There was also politics, war and a little of everything in between.

Vanessa says

He didn't even grovel, where was her pride and dignity.

Katherine says

I don't generally like cheating heroes but eh, this book was like a relief from all the dark stuff I've been reading of late. It was rather enjoyable and light hearted with no major angst.

Shefa says

One thing that I love about most Medieval Romances is that, they are full of action, and war. War in real life is a big NO for me but reading a fiction war really made me happy (call me blood-thirsty, I don't care!). Anyway, this book combined both action and romance that I found reading it is very much enjoyable. And although he's kind of a villain in this, I think i like Henry~.

Jules2016 says

It's kind of hard to like a book when you don't like the main characters. This was the case for me, especially where the heroine was concerned. I totally did not like her, at all, not even one iota. Why? You ask. Let me count the ways:

1. She publicly slut shames a woman, causing her to be laughed at by her peers. Let's remember that women didn't have many choices in this era and did whatever was needed to survive. To criticize someone for this, especially a highborn lady to do the slut shaming is a sign of being unsympathetic, cruel and base in my book.
2. She physically assaults and brutally chops off the hair of her husband's lover leaving the woman in tears.
3. She slaps her sister. Yet also coddles her beyond any reasonable level - making her look like a wannabe martyr
4. Taking back her husband after he fucked another woman and never tearing him another one for doing this
5. Let's her half brother into the castle while her husband was away -- knowing he was treacherous and had

been warned not to let him in -- you can guess what he did -- duh!!!

6. As for the "romance" I felt zero connection between the MCs

This book was a total letdown.

Fre06 Begum says

His excuse for cheating was a bunch of crap!

Tina says

SPOILERS:

This is on many peoples Keeper list, best romance list, top romance list, and etc. However, I just didn't care for it and I am saying this without getting to the much talked about cheating, "adultery" part of the book.

My biggest beef with this book is the way the heroine is written in. Its odd too because I really should have felt more empathy towards someone who was so unloved and unappreciated. However, when this is practically shoved down your throat every few pages, it really starts to aggravate...

We get it, she's been so friggin unloved, and no one paid much attention to her all of her lonesome live! Jeez! Pity party in any form gets on my friggin nerves. Then there is her appearance, she's plain except for her hypnotic, witch like eyes. Her older sister on the other hand, literally stuns men with her beauty. She seemed to have it all; her fathers love, beauty, love of the man she (at first) wanted.... But wait, wait.. she can't hate this sister because well, she was the only person who cared for her lonesome self when others ignored her...
rolls eyes

Heroine is only around 17-18 yrs old, and yet she walks around acting like a 30+yr old woman, who knows absolutely everything, and has the patience of an unfeeling zombie. She's (too) wise BEYOND her years. Utterly unbelievable. Again, I rolled my eyes.

Although I did not get to the cheating scene (hero needed to fight his feelings for the heroine - stupid), I read else where from fans that she takes the hero back without much ado (doormat) and makes the other girl (a serving girl) suffer. I DESPISE this behavior, leave the cheating guy alone but take revenge on the other woman?

I am glad I ditched this book early.

Something positive:

Hero and the heroine did not bicker from start to finish.

Maura says

[

Elizabeth Kuetemeyer says

I have never read a book by Elizabeth Stuart. I feel this book was a page turner for me, most books of this type always involve the eldest child with betrothal yet a very nice twist was added with adventure and romance. I love how strong Jocelyn Montagne is yet has this lusting beauty that Robert wants so passionately. I feel a must read for those who love novels from the 1100-1300's era, with Chivalry and family betrayal between war and romance.
