



Betrayed

Bertrice Small

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As the undisputed queen of sensual romance, Bertrice Small brings history to life through indomitable women who live with wit, intelligence, and courage and who love with fierce delight. Now she sweeps us to a time and place of fiery power struggles, where one woman holds the key to a country's future--and to her own consuming passion.

When Fiona Hay offers Angus Gordon her virtue in exchange for a dowry for her sisters, she so intrigues the rogue that he demands a higher payment: She will be his mistress. Thus begins a battle of wills and sensual delights. Destiny soon draws the ardent lovers into the turbulent court of King James. But soon the king's political schemes force Fiona away from the man she loves . . . and into the arms of a wild and passionate Highlander, The MacDonald of Nairn. Will this coldhearted and callous betrayal forever destroy Fiona's chance at happiness?

Betrayed Details

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Author : Bertrice Small

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From Reader Review Betrayed for online ebook

Leigh says

I remember reading this many times in college. I know almost everybody loves Angus the Hero (or was he? lels) but he was not really in the book much of the time (I wonder where he was haha). I love Collin (the 2nd lavah of Fiona). And I think I remember that I hated the ending. Just. Geez. Wish it ended differently.

Serena Miles says

que libro mas toston, lo he abandonado porque es imposible leerlo

Rebecca Steiner Murray says

Wonderful historic romance

No one tells a story better than Bertrice Small. I wish there could be more, but alas Bertrice passed away last year.

Jolinda Eibert says

A little raw at times--but loved the story. Those Stewart kings were devious buggers!

colleen dejohn says

Great

As always it was a wonderful book. I have been reading her books for years. The only one's I don't care for are the very sexual one's, I'm more about the story

Shalon says

Eh

Regan Walker says

4 and 1/2 stars! Gripping Story Related to Border Chronicles Series

This romance is well named for it seems in it everyone is betrayed or betrays or both. It's a gripping story of love denied and reclaimed with all of the historical details and sensual scenes Small's fans have come to love. Like all her stories that I have read, this is not a typical historical romance. The hero and heroine are separated, people you come to love die...yeah, it's a Bertrice Small story.

We first met Fiona Hay at the court of James I in "The Border Lord and The Lady," book 4 of Small's Border Chronicles series, where she appears as the beautiful mistress of Angus Gordon, a clan chieftain and friend of King James. Then suddenly the MacDonald of Nairn steals her and we hear no more. I was so curious I tracked this book down...this is her story. For those fans of the Border Chronicles, I highly recommend reading this along with that series perhaps before The Border Lord and The Lady.

The story begins in 1422 when then Prince James is a captive of the English throne. Fiona Hay is 15 and the eldest daughter of her parents, who are both dead. She has 5 sisters and promised her mother on her deathbed that she would see them all married. One has been wed but she has four more to see to the altar. In order to pay their dowers she has stolen cattle from 25 year old laird Angus Gordon. When she is caught, Angus exacts as a price her maidenhead and takes her as his mistress. Right away I didn't like him, as she was an innocent just trying to care for her family. He could have made her his wife, as his sister urged him to do, but no. I felt he deserved to lose her.

Two years later James Stewart is now on the throne of Scotland and Angus visits him at court taking Fiona his mistress and parading her as such before all at court. While he has fallen in love with her he won't tell her and he has yet to marry her. When King James sees that Colin MacDonald, the laird of Nairn, is taken with Fiona, he takes advantage of the chance to plant a spy in the Highlands and sends Angus off on a mission and tells Fiona the laird of Nairn will abduct her, but that she must go with him. He also tells her that he has picked a bride for Angus and it isn't her. She is distraught but feels she has little choice. Colin MacDonald loves Fiona enough to steal her but not apparently enough to allow her the man she loves. Thus, three men, none of whom is deserving of her, have betrayed poor Fiona. But the worst betrayal was the king's for he lied to her repeatedly for his own selfish gain causing her much heartbreak.

Pregnant with Angus' child, Fiona finds herself in the Highlands and hand-fasted to Colin MacDonald, who thinks the child is his. The story kept me reading late at night as few have. I had to know how this would turn out. I did think that Small had Angus and Fiona too long apart. She was too long with the wrong man though he turned out to be a good one. I found myself hurrying through some chapters looking for Fiona and Angus to be reunited.

What I found a bit hard to believe: If you were betrayed by your king, would you name your child after him? I don't think so. And why would Fiona believe that Angus, who she knew loved her, wouldn't help her if she got word to him she had been stolen? There were explanations, but I wasn't quite convinced. I also could not see her going along with the abduction. There were times I wanted her to not just be angry but to act on that anger. Instead she always adapted to the circumstances. But that is just me.

I still loved this story!

Jean says

Bertrice Small captures the character of the real King James I so well. I love her writing for its historical accuracy.

Els says

My honest opinion of the book: if you're looking for a quick read (however quick almost 400 pages is to you) and don't quite care about structured character development, then "Betrayed" is a nice afternoon read and better than your average romance novel.

"Betrayed" started with some interest, Fiona and Angus are the classic couple in denial. Angus is rugged, charming and above all caring. Fiona is a spitfire and the perfect match for Angus. But she's also a survivor which is what kept me reading. Her sense of familial obligation tended to be a bit tiring in the book but it also made her all the more likable because of her convictions.

My gripes with the book though concern the annoying history parts, not to say that I dislike history, because of how recklessly they're thrown in. Instead of weaving details in conversations or adding small pieces here and there the reader is bombarded with sometimes almost five pages of genealogy and fragmented history that sometimes has no context. At times "Betrayed" reads like a sensationalized history blurb.

My gripes concerning Fiona, the main character, are that Mde. Small wrote her as a rock of a woman. She was the foundation for her family, the stronghold for their protection and a fierce woman. In the later half of the book this changes so that we no longer hear about her sisters, there is very little struggle for Fiona to break the figurative bonds that she is held by and some of that spark dies. I have to say I wasn't completely satisfied with the lack of momentum at the end of the book and how neatly Mde. Small tied to whole book up.

I found the relationship of Angus and Fiona believable. The fealty of Angus and King James Stewart believable. The loyalty of Fiona to Stewart wasn't as believable (although her motives to help the king were reasonable). And the relationship between Fiona and Collin made me roll my eyes.

I know I've downplayed this book quite a bit but I wanted to give an honest opinion because "Betrayed" sets itself up to be quite the saga and doesn't quite deliver. But it was a nice divergence and better (as I've said before) than the common romance novel.

Last annoyance about the book - the forced dialects were obnoxious. Less is definitely more in this case.

Mathilde says

Literally the worst book I've ever read. Me and my friend read this as a joke, and their was definitely a lot to laugh about!

Gabrielle Dela Cruz says

Rating: 4 stars

I think that this book was overall intriguing. If you are seeking for a heart-wrenching story full of betrayals and hurt then this would be good.

I loved Fiona's characteristics; humble and prideful. And I've also loved Colin so far, he's such a daring, determined guy, and to me it's so sweet how he loves Fiona unconditionally. This book didn't feature much about Angus sadly, but I loved him too. The events happening from one event to another, was great and didn't get me bored. The ending was a satisfaction and actually humorous, but left me wanting to see a more glimpse of their lives afterwards, but I just know that their lives would be happier now, which satisfied me enough. :)

Rinji says

The title Betrayed truly suits this wonderful novel. From the first page it caught my attention and I hated for it to end. It is definatly a book I will pick up again and read. Bertrice Small wrote a wonderful historical fiction novel when she put this to words.

Maryann Korzeniewski says

Good story set in 16th century Scotland!

Bloomie says

This author's novels are my guilty pleasure. Not the greatest things ever written, but enjoyable all the same. This one was somewhat of an exception. I found the writing to be a bit of a better quality than some of Mrs. Small's other novels and the story slightly more engaging. Would recommend to those who enjoy Scottish historical fiction and reading about simple lives of the past, not necessarily constant adventure.

Naksed says

It has been a long time since a book made me cry. Yes, I have read plenty of books that have saddened me, and moved me. But outright cry? Very few.

Bertrice Small's books have been a guilty pleasure of mine, mixing romance with meticulous rendering of history, usually centered on real life monarchs of Medieval England and Scotland. I have enjoyed them all but never until Betrayed did I actually shed tears. I will not spoil the book. Just be warned, readers, that it is

not your typical bodice ripper with a HEA ending.

The novel purportedly follows the life and loves of our 15th century Scottish heroine, feisty country girl Fiona, but for quite a bit, the romance aspect is on the back burner as Small leads us through a historical fiction focused on the return of James I to the throne of Scotland and the manner in which he ruthlessly ruled with an iron hand, annihilating all those who would oppose him, whether his own family members or rebellious clansmen of the Highlands. It was a fascinating inside look at Scotland and in particular the Highlands, an area and era of which I know very little, if anything, about.

The historical fiction parts of this book were therefore the most interesting to me, even if it they relied more on the author's whimsical interpretation than actual fact. Small has an obvious passion for her subject and it shows. It did not even matter to me that there were clunky and implausible plot devices to move the romance along and have the heroine be at the right time and place in order for her to witness the real life historical events that Small so obviously delighted in writing about. Things like the fact that Fiona would be able to serve as one of the Queen's ladies even though she was the mere mistress of an unimportant nobleman. Or that she would be brazen enough or educated enough, given her background as a country girl who had not been taught to read or write til her teens, and that only at the whim of her lover, to speak out about deep-seated political issues before the King or high ranking Lords. There are many things like that that may be bothersome to readers but I simply did not care. I loved the character of Fiona and rooted for her all the way, and I was fascinated by Small's portrayal of James I, one of the best villains I have come across.
