



## Lady Vixen

*Shirlee Busbee*

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Beautiful, headstrong Nicole Ashford was yet untouched by passion, but destined for adventure - and pleasure - beyond anything a woman of her time had ever known.

Outwitting a ruthless plot against her, she fled her aristocratic England home on a privateer's ship bound for the luxurious pirate havens of New Orleans - and exquisite abandon in Bermuda's hidden coves. Yet the very daring of her escape plunged her into even graver peril as captive mistress to notorious high seas outlaw, Captain Saber, whose savage passion made her a woman, but whose tender kisses plundered her soul.

And nothing now could stop what was begun between them - nothing could still the urgent fires of the love they were born to share!

## **Lady Vixen Details**

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Author : Shirlee Busbee

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## From Reader Review Lady Vixen for online ebook

### Isabel Luna says

He leído varias historia de Busbee y éste es el tipo de trama que más me molesta: Christopher pudo haber tenido todas las desgracias del universo pero se las hace pagar a la persona equivocada; y Nicole padece un síndrome de mujer golpeada galopante. Honestamente cansa un poco que estén peleados 499 páginas de las 500 que tiene la historia; que las únicas veces en que no pelean es porque están teniendo sexo y da un poco de asquito que él haya tenido que ver con la madre de ella. Pero cuando se están tirando de las greñas el uno con la otra, logran ser una pareja hermosa y su romance puede llegar incluso a convencer. Me gustaría decir que esta historia es pura ficción pero tiene mucha más realidad de las que nos querríamos dar cuenta. Y aunque molesta saber que se sigue imprimiendo, en lo personal molesta más la idea de que hubo alguna época en que este tipo de historias se consideraba "romántica".

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### April Brookshire says

Wow, this book was long! Over 500 pages of small print. But very good. Although sometimes Christopher and Nicole were ridiculously stubborn at times, there were lots of twists and turns to keep the story going. I always love an historical that has the interesting parts of the past in it, not the boring stuff (like books that go into detail about the mundane everyday tasks back then). The Battle of New Orleans was only glanced over, but there are other books that work it into the story better and make it interesting. I wonder what Jean Lafitte and other famous pirates would have thought had they known that they'd be depicted in numerous historical romances someday.

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### C says

This one is one of my all time favourites that I read when I was eighteen and have re-read many times over since. Christopher is just so your typical alpha male... but times 10! There were a few scenes at the beginning that involved him taking the heroine Nicole by force but for some reason this didn't seem to bother me all that much, and as the story carried on and they began to develop their feelings towards each other it turned out to be one of the best romances I've read. It wasn't full of too many sappy scenes and when Christopher finally admitted his love for her, he didn't automatically change into her lap dog on a leash, he still had that sexy arrogance that we all love so much. Absolutely awesome.

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### Regan Walker says

A Privateer Love Story I could not put down! A Keeper!

I could not put this one down and highly recommend it. It's going on my Best Pirate and Privateer Romances List and my Best American Patriotic Romances list. And it's a keeper, too.

Set in England during the years 1808-1814, this is one of those rare and wonderful love stories that sweeps

you away to another time and place where you are caught up in the lives of people whose actions will affect not only their own and others' lives but America and England during the War of 1812. Deception and treachery born years ago lead to revenge and then to heartache. Busbee uses real characters, such as the pirate Jean Lafitte, to bring realism to her story as she seamlessly weaves history into a compelling tale. It's what I call a "dense" historical: one where the writing is so complex and so tight you're getting double the story you'd expect in the 538 pages.

Young Nicole Ashford led an idyllic life in Surrey with her wealthy parents and her twin brother until a boating accident one summer took them from her. Made the ward of an uncaring and barely related aunt and uncle who only want her fortune, and learning of their plans to marry her off to their ne'er-do-well son, at 13 Nicole dons the disguise of a young boy and runs away to sea as the cabin boy for an American privateer, Captain Saber.

For 5 years, Nicole sails with him as a boy, Saber paying her little attention. Then, when she is 18, Saber observes her swimming naked on a tropical beach and decides he wants her for his mistress. He bides his time and when Nicole and a seaman (who is really a British spy) decide to destroy English code books Saber has captured, they are caught. Using the life of the English seaman as a bargaining chip, Saber forces Nicole to become his mistress, until the American on a mission to spy for his new country decides to sail home, resuming his identity as Christopher Saxon, grandson of a baron.

And so begins a complex, worthy tale of adventure, rich in history (both England's and America's) and a love that could not be denied.

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### **Kate says**

Oh, my friends, this is a good one. This is a meaty ole bodice ripper with history, espionage and love on the high seas! I normally don't LOVE the whole "woman disguised as a man" thing. It seems too unbelievable to me. But this works. Maybe because our heroine, Nicole, is prepubescent when she boards our hero, Captain Saber's, ship. I don't know, maybe it's still completely unbelievable that she could pull off that guise on a ship with 40 plus lonely men when she reaches 18...especially because she is a great beauty. I think I just loved Captain Saber (AKA Christopher Saxon) so much.

What is there to say that hasn't been said? This is clearly a well written novel full of historical intrigue! The locales are vivid, from bermuda, to New Orleans, to London. Ms Busbee can write a sexy (never smutty) romance. Nicole was cool, but Christopher Saxon will go down as one of my favorite heros. He was a jealous, controlling, horn-ball jerk. My kinda (fictional) guy.

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### **Azet says**

It was long time ago i read any book by Busbee, and i have planned to finish this "Louisiana" series. I read "Deceitful not my Heart", "The Tiger Lily", "Gypsy lady" and "Each time we Love".

As all of this books, "Lady Vixen" were filled with a long journey filled with entertainment, lots of angst and passionate romance, and a Hero and Heroine that stubbornly fought against each other like dangerous

thunders.

. His mouth left her lips, traveling with a trail of fire down her neck to her breast, and breathlessly Nicole whispered, "Don't, please, Christopher, don't do this to me."

He stopped and stared up at her, beguiled and enchanted by the beautiful features so near him. "Stop?" he muttered thickly. "I cannot. You say you do not want me. But you lie, Nicole, you have always lied. If you did not want me, this would not happen."

And i love every bit of it...

The heroine in this story, the beautiful Nicole got through very hard and dark times, even losing her parents and beloved twins in such a young age. Her spirit and temperal character made me love her, and i desperately wanted her to find peace in her love to the Hero.

The Hero, Captain Saber are like all of the "Louisiana" Heroes. He is cold-blooded, arrogant, undeniably sexy and very cruel to those who will ever betray him. A great betrayal from past haunts him and have made him not to trust anyone.

When he at least admits to himself that he actually loves her! i really cried. Cuz his admission was so beautiful and he was so afraid of her mockery, of her laughing and taunting him about his love for her... but still, he never gave up for her.

It was really great to meet Jason Savage and Catherine Savage from "Gypsy Lady" in this book, i had missed them.

WARNING: There are rape-scene involved.!

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### **Flor says**

Lo leí porque por ahí tenía críticas de 10, pero menudo chasco! Es largoooo, aburrido con comentarios sobre la guerra... Mueren sus padres, ella queda con unos tíos malos, él va a su pueblo buscando marineros, se viste de niño con 10 años y se va con él. Es su grumete durante 5 años y él no se da cuenta que es una chica. Luego un día ella bañándose en una playa, uno de los marineros Allen que es un espía de Inglaterra la descubre y se hacen amigos. Luego el capitán Sable la descubre con él y piensa que son amantes y ellos intentan robarle unos códigos de la armada inglesa y él los atrapa. A él lo encarcela y a ella la toma de amante, luego se entera que ella es la hija de una ex amante y como necesita espiar a los ingleses, vuelve a Inglaterra con ella y la presenta en sociedad... Bueno, luego de mil vueltas sin sentido él se da cuenta que se enamoró de ella pero ni así es listo. Es un idiotaaa

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### **Gloria says**

Don't read! What a waste, I wish I got those 4 hours back. The couple constantly fought like two squabbling little children at every possible misunderstanding, even up til the very last, 500 something page. How I regret

losing those hours. This had all the cons of the old school romances, such as annoying 'spunky' heroine who went off at the hero for everything little thing, rapist hero who also acts like a spoiled child, and tons of boring detail about the war of 1812 which I could give a rat's arse about. Save your time and money for better romances!

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### **Patricia says**

Having first read L.V. as a mid-teen (and many times since), I felt compelled to comment, especially as it was the first and only historical romance novel I've read, with the dynamics of the tale and the characters leaving an indelible mark.

There are many things right about the book. The language is so well-written, right down to the jargon of the times and the "cool factor" regarding the hero/heroine's manner of speaking. The front cover art does justice to what I imagined the hero/heroine to look like...two absolute knockouts. The character sketches are thorough (with some exceptions) and there are a lot of personalities to love (and despise). The love scenes are steamy. The historical part of the story (no matter how unnecessarily long) was meticulously researched. As improbable as the hero/heroine dynamics are at times, Busbee's writing and plot devices manage to wire a part of our brains to believe that the actions/reactions and emotional roller coaster that the hero/heroine are on is plausible. Perhaps the book does especially well with virgin female adolescent readers who can get swept away by the story, as I did in the day? Probably as a by-product of reading it as an impressionable teen, I expected that kind of drama in my own romantic life, much to my retroactive chagrin as a mature adult. I certainly did wish for (and have) Christopher-act-alikes, but our endings were not happy!

Here are some problems that marred this book for me (as an adult reader really analyzing the book):

Supposedly nobody noticed that Nick was a girl -- hard to believe considering how gorgeous she was!

Age issues are not so believably dealt with. Supposedly the heroine was pre-pubescent when she fled England. Then the heroine conveniently becomes very feminine when she turns of age. She is seen as quite a bit younger than the hero but then later in the plot, the heroine/hero are considered to be "the youngsters" of the same generation.

Supposedly the heroine 'never cries.' However, there are many occasions when she is close to it. Each time she choked back tears, I was left feeling that her value was somehow being placed upon how strong she was (a.k.a. how much abuse she could handle without crying).

Supposedly the hero's "forced seduction" didn't physically (emotionally it did, we know) hurt the heroine, save a tiny bit at first. We readers may go along with it for the sake of enjoying the fantasy, but that's not how it is in real life! It reminds me of how often we are told to believe that captive life in a harem is exotic and consensual. Here, there is a real danger of misleading impressionable young women. In L.V., the heroine falls in love with her captor/abuser ... reason given that he is irresistibly attractive, virile and pleasingly arrogant. The narrative (and heroine) somehow make excuses for the hero's abusive qualities as if it is simply 'his way' and because of his "past" ...and perhaps something that comes with the territory if a woman is to "capture" the affections of such a desirable, hard-to-get "winner."

Supposedly the hero was scarred by a woman in his past and thus only uses women for one thing and then discards them. I'm new to the term "alpha male." Is it the same thing as a male chauvinist pig or licentious

narcissist? The book's hero may not be all of these, but men in the real world with some of the hero's qualities sure can be. I guess hope springs eternal that the "right woman" will reform the "rake"?

Why is this particular heroine the one the hero wants? Because she is drop-dead gorgeous and desired by other men? A dead ringer for someone else and therapeutic for the hero's sanity? A fellow runaway? Wronged by history as he was? From the same social class and circle? Because she resists him? Is the lesson here that feigning disinterest can land a woman the man everyone wants? Is it a staple of bodice ripper novels -- the idea that wanting and bedding a woman who won't cotton to you emotionally is the only way an alpha male manages to feel such a sense of longing that he finally has his epiphany and realizes that this must be love?

The love story would have been more realistic if we were allowed to see how the heroine's genuine character traits made the hero fall for her. The hero seems most taken by her beauty and fighting spirit. Somehow her honorable actions are never tangibly remarked upon by the hero as praiseworthy. Either those qualities are secondary to what turns on an "alpha male," or the hero's appreciation for the heroine's goodness is a foregone conclusion.

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### **Fre06 Begum says**

Def one of her best books.

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### **Karla says**

This was a great book in the old skool romance style, with examples of that era's strengths and weaknesses. First off, the hero Christopher Saxon is one of the biggest alphas I've yet come across. He's got a form like mortal sin and a consuming sex appeal that turns heroine Nicole to jelly every time, even seconds after she professes she hates him with the heat of a thousand hot pointy suns. He curses her for a trampy little harlot out of hatred that she makes him feel weak and different from his usual cool and confident self. Heroes like that are rare nowadays, if not outright extinct, and while I don't mind them, I admit that they are a bit wearying after awhile. The constant conflict between Christopher and Nicole seemed endless after the midway point. A definite weakness, since neither of them grew much as characters.

As a result, I turned my attention to the supporting cast, and here is where Busbee did a fine job. There is a large secondary cast of characters with their own subplots and back stories. Some are vague caricatures (Nicole's guardians, the Markhams), but there are others more fully-formed (Lord Saxon, Letitia Eggleston, Lady Regina Darby, Jason Savage - from Busbee's previous book, Gypsy Lady, Allen Ballard, Robert Saxon) that luckily made frequent appearances to take the focus off of the hamster wheel of Christopher and Nicole's love-hate schtupping.

The other main strength was Busbee's historical research, grounding the plot and the hero's personality in the War of 1812, namely the tense period of 1814 when it was expected that the British would attack *somewhere* and score a victory to gain an upper hand at any peace negotiations. It's not a period of U.S. History I've cared much about, but this book created an interest by tying it so tightly to the plot. It's a lesson a lot of

current authors could benefit from, since too often the history takes such a back seat to the hero and heroine's love and snappy conflict that they might as well be acting it out on a blank stage. Of course, if a reader doesn't care about the history, then it's not important to their enjoyment of a tale - and might indeed drag it down. Not for this reader. The first genre I went nuts over was Historical Fiction, so the historical aspect of a romance is as important as the protagonists. I'm glad that Busbee didn't let me down, and if it's one of her strong suits, it'll keep me reading her books even if her earlier titles have pig-headed and frustrating heroes and heroines.

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### **Neus Gutiérrez says**

Haré una reseña como dios manda diciendo lo que hay que decir sobre este libro, pero para que quede claro: este libro aprovecha una narración de "época" para justificar maltrato, violaciones, golpes, humillación y machismo a raudales. Por muy bonito que lo pongan y muy bien que termine, esto no hay por dónde cogerlo. Y lo que es peor, es un libro reeditado mil veces, vendido otras tantas y encima está en un montón de listas de "mejores novelas románticas". O sea no. Hay que ser un poco más crítico cuando uno lee. Odio a Grey, pero Anastasia sabe dónde se mete y él nunca abusa de ella. Pero aquí, no hay BDSM ni nada por el estilo, es sencillamente un libro en que un hombre trata a una mujer como un trapo. Sin peros.

No le pongo un 0 porque no puedo.

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### **Lisa Kay says**

I really need to re-read this book as the ★★★★★ rating is based on a long-ago read. Alas, I don't know where my copy is. I *do* remember that the memory of this book kept me buying SB's books for years...even after her publishing lull...hoping to recapture the magic of this one. None ever did. Then, maybe I just like a good swashbuckler.

Warning: This book is a bodice-ripper and the hero is definitely a pretty strong ~~bastard~~ alpha male. But back in the day it made my eyebrows rise and my pulse pound.

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### **bookjunkie says**

Another one I read bc it had my favorite cross-dressing trope, but I was left less than satisfied. I couldn't warm up to Nicole. First, she liked to lie around naked while she was still undercover as a boy, even in the presence of a male friend who, as far as I know, wasn't gay so I couldn't understand why she thought being nude around him was totally normal. Particularly as she witnessed another woman who was discovered on the ship being punished by becoming the ship's whore. Yet Nicole treated the risk of discovery like nothing.

Secondly, she was way too prone to violence. The day her uncle came by, he hit her in the face so she slugged him back, twice. I had no problem with this. However, when Christopher came around and annoyed her, she then proceed to slap the hell out of *his* face. He annoyed her again. She hit him again. It was like her first reaction to any provocation she couldn't answer was to smack Christopher in the face as hard as she could. She slapped him so many times throughout the book that I found her unlikable. Was the proclivity to violence supposed to prove she was a spitfire? He wasn't much better: he raped her, hit her once, cracked her

wrist (she was trying to kill him at the time, so okay), but at least after a point he stopped treating her roughly and began to only be protective.

Moreover, I was bored by all the spying and war talk, to be honest. Sometimes historicals can be fascinating with their details and realistic elements, but in this book I found those parts incredibly dull and just detracted from the romance, as Christopher seemed to easily forget Nicole's existence for long periods of time as he focused on his missions.

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### **Erin says**

Me after reading Lady Vixen:

I'm really disappointed by this book. After wanting to read it for like 3 years it just I thought I'd like this more than I did.

I mean, it was recommended so many times that I believed it would be good but it really wasn't my cup of cup....

I'm all for a love/hate relationship but it's a 500 odd paged book and they basically fought til the bitter end. I became bored and had to force myself to finish it.

I mean it was good until you find out that Christopher had slept with Nick's mother before-obviously he was manipulated etc but still really put me off.

Christopher, though definitely brooding and totally alpha male spent most of his time hating Nick for her mother's actions. Honestly, he acted like a spoilt child. Another thing I didn't like is that he was obviously in love with Nick (and even though they weren't in any sort of steady relationship with him avoiding her all the time) but still went around sleeping with other woman and I absolutely HATE and I mean HATE when the hero/heroine sleeps with someone after they've been together. I mean, What's the point in that happening in a book where the main focus is the romance between the H/h? RIDDLE ME THAT, ROMANCE WRITERS?! Why? What's the point even? I avoid those sort of books like the plague and unfortunately there was no warning this time.

It annoys the living hell out of me.

So, by the end of the book I was like:

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