



Nina Kimberly the Merciless

Christiana Ellis

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Nina Kimberly the Merciless Christiana Ellis
She's on a mission... To kill the man who loves her...

Why?

Because he's an idiot.

Nina Kimberly The Merciless is the story of a teenage barbarian princess who must rid herself of an obnoxious royal suitor, replace him with a hero, and then grow into her destiny as a...

Well, that she hasn't decided yet.

Nina Kimberly the Merciless Details

Date : Published 2006 by Christiana Ellis

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Author : Christiana Ellis

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Humor, Audiobook



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From Reader Review Nina Kimberly the Merciless for online ebook

Bryan457 says

Nina Kimberly the Merciless is a barbarian princess who would like to kill the royal pain in the behind, King Francis. But she can't without destroying her own people in the process. So she sets out on a quest to find a way to kill him.

This podiobook has a gory beginning. Nina chops off somebody's head in the 1st paragraph. This is the only gore in the podiobook.

5 stars to the interaction between Nina and Francis, I loved that part. 3 stars to Tiernon the dragon. he proved to be a decent character.

What I didn't like:

1. I really hate the romance device where 2 people meet and fall madly in love, then have a big misunderstanding until they resolve it at the end of the book. I hate it. I loathe it.
2. Excessive, lengthy, boring conversations made up 50% or more of this book.
3. The ending.
4. Nina goes from being a barbarian who chops off heads without the slightest qualm, and thinks pillaging is a public service, to a little teenage girl who explores her feelings and admires people who do good and noble things, and this change happens for no reason.

Sara Testarossa says

This podcast novel is at turns hilarious, exciting, and dramatic - sometimes more than one of those at once. I enjoyed the writing style, it worked well for the story in audio. The plot was a blast and took some great twists and turns. In terms of characters, I really loved Tiernan, his complexities, and unpredictability. I had mixed feelings about Nina for a while but she grew on me as she grew. I definitely understand her motivations, given her background, and enjoyed her as the central character. The ridiculous Francis was a headdesk-worthy source of amusement and groaning. I had mixed feelings about William too but appreciated his role in the story. And Manny was great, I only wish we'd seen more of him. What a fun story!

Marciealana says

She's not a princess, she's not a barbarian, and she certainly doesn't need to be rescued.

It's a light read/listen, but the humor is priceless. The plot twists are wonderful and a bit unexpected as well. The ending came all too soon and wrapped up a little too neatly, but left me hoping for more.

David Henry says

Good story but like many books it ended rather poorly.

Simon C says

Generally entertaining stuff. I thought the ending was nicely handled and there was a likeable collection of characters. Perhaps the biggest problem I had was that apart from the very start, Nina isn't especially merciless and the book doesn't seem sure which way it should go and how far. I also thought portraying a character as a surfer dude just didn't work and became a bit grating. Overall, though, it was an amusing and quite original book.

Deoro says

Cute idea and somewhat unusual plot. Light reading with lots of magic and dragons.

Josh Hamacher says

I can not fathom all of the five-star reviews here and on Amazon. I managed to slog through about the first third of this book. I haven't yet given up and may come back and try to finish it but after that third I just had to take a break and read something else.

What don't I like? The plot, the characterization, pretty much everything except the actual writing. The writing is fine; simplistic, like it was written by a talented junior-high student, but perfectly readable in the "it effectively tells a story without getting in the way" sense.

But the plot and the characterization? Shallow stereotypes as far as the eye can see and an extremely annoying "protagonist" who is a cross between Conan and Paris Hilton. Throw in "the friendly dragon", "the comic relief", "the hero/love interest", all in a stereotypical "medieval" fantasy world. Ugh. Not a page went by where I didn't roll my eyes. And unlike most readers I didn't even find it funny - I think I laughed twice in the first third of the book.

Alan says

A fun comic fantasy novel. Longer review here:
[http://eyesandearsblog.blogspot.com/2...](http://eyesandearsblog.blogspot.com/2011/07/the-dragon-and-the-princess.html)

J.L. Hilton says

Refreshing, laugh-out-loud funny, and unpredictable, this is an amazing first novel by Christiana Ellis. Before I was halfway through, my tween daughter stole it from me and read the entire thing in ONE DAY

before I could get it back. And then when I was finished, she took it back to read again and to keep on her own bookshelf. She said it was better than "Series of Unfortunate Events" - which is one of her favorite series - because it wasn't miserable ("All that sad stuff gets OLD"), and it was better than "So You Want to Be a Wizard" because it's so funny! "While cool, it wasn't better than Dragonlance," she said. But I think it's quite an achievement that Ellis could even come close to seasoned writers Hickman and Weis.

I think Ellis rivals the "big names" because she's offbeat, quirky and unconventional, and an excellent writer. Ellis turns tropes upside down and creates a kind of self-aware, postmodern fantasy story. My favorite line is when the wizard Manny tells Nina, "It has done my heart good to play a small and primarily expository but nonetheless critical role in your larger story." In another scene, the "hero" sums up the angst of the modern male... "I have to say that I'm feeling a little useless here. Here I am, intending to save a king and a beautiful maiden, and now the maiden has saved both herself and the king without my help. Kinda left me holding the bag."

Miss the Merciless is a heroine for the current generation. Nina uses her wits as much as she uses her weapon, and isn't above reveling in the fear her heritage inspires, but we also see her vulnerabilities and insecurities. But to call it a "coming of age" tale doesn't do it justice. Yes, it's about a 17-year-old woman (I won't call anyone who can lop off heads with one stroke a "girl") whose life as a barbarian princess in a small kingdom renders her bitter and self-centered. She learns the value of generosity, goodness, and yes, mercy, during her adventuring with a king reminiscent of a young Hugh Laurie in "Blackadder," a dragon attempting to overcome his misanthropy, and a Robin Hood-esque conman. But one doesn't have to be a 17-year-old (physically or at heart) to enjoy this story. Nina could have been 22, 32 or 42, and the story would have worked just as well.

Clever, easy-to-read, well-written. I would rate it PG-13 for innuendo and violence. Looking forward to more from Christiana Ellis!

Betsy says

I reread this because I needed fun, hilarity, and a gripping plot. Nina Kimberley delivers all these things. Dripping, on a pike.

Nicole says

I was looking for a recommend and someone said to check out common license books, specifically this one. I thought the story was fun, it made me laugh out loud a few times. I'm pretty sure I've been asked by King Francis before, lol. I like the dragon and thought the ending was perfect. Definitely a good book if you want something light and fun.

Gavin says

This was an enjoyable YA fantasy/comedy.

The story followed Nina Kimberley the Merciless, a teenage barbarian princess, as she sets out on her first real quest/adventure. Unfortunately for her a delicate political situation means she is forced to take King Francis along for the journey. A real inconvenience considering the goal of her quest is to find a way to kill Francis, her obnoxious unwanted suitor, without causing a war between his people and hers!

The story was a ton of fun. Francis was the absolute worst companion anyone could possibly have while on a quest. The guy was an obnoxious, oblivious, idiot who drove Nina crazy with his antics. It made for plenty of hilarious moments. As the quest progressed Nina's party grew to include a Dragon, who was trying to learn to see humanity as more than just food, and William, a Robin Hood-esque mercenary.

The characters proved a likeable bunch and each had the chance to change and grow over the course of the quest. By the end I was surprised by how attached I'd grown to them.

All in all I liked the mix of humor, action, romance, and mystery and wish this story had a sequel as I'm definitely not ready to let go of these characters just yet!

Rating: 4 stars.

Audio Note: This was narrated by the author herself. I thought she did an excellent job. It was also a free Podiobook and I was delighted by the quality of both the production and the story. I'll be trying more Podiobooks in the future.

Mike says

I really enjoyed this, in the Podiobook version read by the author, whose voice acting is remarkable.

The clueless Francis is particularly brilliantly characterised. I would usually be bothered by modern American slang in a pseudomedieval fantasy book, but it so perfectly conveys Francis's idiocy.

I occasionally thought that Nina herself was a little fearful for the daughter of a barbarian raider, but mostly what she was fearful about was not physical combat but relationships and complex social situations.

The ending leaves me wanting a sequel. When do we get the sequel, Christiana? Huh? When?

Doug says

Another great story from Christiana !

Ashley Redden says

I thought a great deal of this book overall, but felt that the story dragged terribly with the dialog due to some of the excessive details of facial characteristics etc... I also felt that Nina seemed a bit dense at times when

she was portrayed in the story to be very smart. Overall, a good story.
