



The Bedeviled Heart

Carmen Caine

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Scotland, 1479

Cameron Malcolm Stewart, Earl of Lennox, had made his peace with destiny. It was not his fate to love as other men.

Each of his politically arranged marriages had ended in disaster. And though he had never touched a one of his wives, he had come to believe that sharing his name would consign a woman to an early grave. So, on the sunny spring day Cameron encounters a delightfully devious, bright-eyed lass selling charmed stones in one of Stirling's alehouses, he tosses her a shilling, thinking only to steal a kiss. But it is a kiss that will change his life forever.

To care for her ailing father, the precocious Kate Ferguson has resorted to swindling the drunkards of Stirling. But a chance meeting with a handsome and seductively mysterious outlaw named Cameron ends with a kiss that changes the course of her destiny.

But as dark times descend upon Scotland, Kate is inadvertently caught in a deadly web of court intrigue spun by the royal favorite, Thomas Cochrane. And as King James III falls prey to his fear of the Black Arts, accusations of witchcraft and treachery abound. The fate of Scotland hangs in the balance, and while Cameron vows to defy destiny itself to hold Kate forever in his arms, he must unravel the plots of nobles and commoners alike to protect the country that he loves.

The Bedeviled Heart Details

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Author : Carmen Caine

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From Reader Review The Bedeviled Heart for online ebook

Regan Walker says

Superb Love Story from 15th century Scotland!

Ever wonder what a 5 star historical romance looks like with no love scenes? Well, this is it! Oh there's lots of kissing and wooing but we're not shown into the bedroom when the action happens. And though I might have liked to see those scenes, I truly did not feel deprived in this case. I just loved this story from old Scotland...a true historical romance superbly told with wonderful characters, with the history of the time many layered like a rich tapestry. I highly recommend it.

Set in Scotland in 1479, it's the second of Caine's Scottish Medieval series and tells the story of Cameron Malcolm Stewart, Earl of Lennox. Cameron, a handsome Scottish noble, has been married and made a widower 7 times, never consummating the marriages before his brides died. So, he reasonably believes his marrying any woman condemns her to an early death. On one spring day near Stirling Castle, Cameron encounters a young woman, Kate Ferguson, who is selling charmed stones in one of Stirling's alehouses. He tosses Kate a shilling in exchange for a kiss. He is charmed by her winsome ways. Later he ends up helping her ailing father and finds he can't stay away from the lass. She thinks he's an outlaw, and against her better judgment, falls in love with him. Meanwhile, Kate and Cameron are caught up in the intrigue swirling around King James III's court. As the king falls prey to his indulgence in the black arts, accusations of witchcraft and treachery abound. The fate of Scotland hangs in the balance, and Cameron attempts to unravel the plots while trying to hold together the country he loves.

The fast paced story will have you reading late into the night. It is very well done. Personally, I can't wait to read the rest in her Highland Heather and Hearts (Scottish Medieval) Series:

The Kindling Heart
The Bedeviled Heart
The Daring Heart
The Loyal Heart

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

4.5

I really enjoyed this one. I read the first book (The Kindling Heart) a couple years ago, but its a story that stuck with me. I remember Lord Cameron in that book and always planned on reading his story, now I'm wondering why I waited so long to do it. I really loved him in this one. And his heroine, Kate was so easy to like. She's a feisty little thing. They had such great chemistry and I loved them together.

While this is the second book in the series, it can stand on it's own. It has its own plot and while previous characters show up, they are independent enough from the story that you won't feel like you're missing anything if you read it out of order. I love that. Cameron, Kate and Julian really made the book for me. I didn't love all the political intrigue, but it was nice when you finally see Cameron start to take command, he

can be intimidating when he wants to be.

Overall, a fun medieval story! I can't wait to read Julian's story, I loved him in this one.

Content

Romance: Clean, mild innuendo. Premarital, closed door intimacy.

Language: None-mild, no swearing that I remember, but some crude name calling

Violence: Mild. Some mild fighting and mild descriptions of "witches" being burned

Source: Amazon Kindle Unlimited

Nominated for a 2014 Swoony Award.

Jennette says

4.5 I really enjoyed the Earl.of Death stuff then right before the end the story loses momentum. It feels like the author had ideas to start and then was ran out or maybe her mind had already moved on from this project and she was just rushing to finish for the sake of being done. I still enjoyed it but not quite a 5 star for me.

Chandra says

AUTHOR: If you are a true Scottish Highlander romance reader at heart, this is a book for you. Carmen Caine writes the Bedeviled Heart with an excellent balance PERIL, ACTION & ADVENTURE situations and of course L'AMOUR.

GENRE: Historical romance

SETTING: 15th century Scotland, time of King James

CENTRAL FEMALE CHARACTERS: Kate is a smooth talker and can guide your attention in any direction that she chooses. She does not always tell the truth but will do whatever is "reasonably" necessary for the survival of her father and herself.

CENTRAL MALE CHARACTER: Cameron believes he has been cursed. He is a good hearted down to earth man who prefers to avoid the pompous and arrogant ways of people at the King's court. But when Cameron loves someone, Cameron loves someone.

SYNOPSIS: From the very beginning she lies and has no idea who she is talking to. He catches her in a few lies but oh for a kiss. She takes her hard earned money to provide a better place to move her father. He stumbles upon her again and helps her relocate her father. The woman who she rents the small room has suggested a serving job at the palace.

SEXUAL EXPLICITNESS: Measured from Inspirational romance (not explicit) to Erotica (hot, steamy and sizzling).

Romantically and passionately "tasteful". (Quote) "Her breath quickened and his own matched it as the kiss deepened, and he plundered her lips with a raw, urgent hunger, and then crushing her against him, he lifted

her in his strong arms and carried her..... (Tasteful)

WHAT I LIKED: Her smooth talking ways (so funny). He just keeps on giving and giving and giving. What a man !!! From one job to the next she goes as he tries to avoid telling her his secret.

WHAT I DID NOT LIKE: Absolutely nothing!!!

I give this book (5) stars because I am a true fan of Scottish Highland romance books. There is absolutely nothing that I did not like about this book.

Patricia A Spring says

Historical romance

Love the writers stories with historical facts along with romance. An easier way to learn some history because it's far more interesting in this format. The author lets the reader know in the beginning what is fact and what is story

Edith Boucher says

Comme le 1er, bonne structure. Dénouement positif attendu mais pas de manière simple. Des moments tristes, émouvants.

Deborah says

Ugh. This would of gotten more stars if it would of had a little less lust and a little more love. Less premarital relations and more chastity. Less darkness and more light.

I really liked the two main characters and totally rooted for them. It just wasn't how I like my romances written about.

Kathryn Powell says

It is a rare day that I pick up romance novels, and even rare that I don't read them without laughing over cheesy scenes, horribly inaccurate written lovemaking, or some little sappiness in them. To say that I am not a connoisseur of romance novels is a fair statement. Still, on the rare occasion I spot a novel of interest, I might be so inclined as to read it.

The Bedeviled Heart is the second in the series (something I was unaware of when I picked up the novel for a mere 99 cent on Amazon special), and while the romance pair themselves don't exist, the novel does have a bit of truth set into it. Set in 15th century Scotland, this novel does a fairly decent job of displaying political

events of the time, setting us with Cameron Stewart, a cousin to the then King James III of Scotland. Throughout the story, we're given a startling interesting view of the politics that go on at court. King James III was not a particularly liked King and Caine's book seems to be well thought out and well researched.

Upon first glance at the original cover, I was a bit wary seeing as it looks like something that could have ended up in Objectified Scotsman Thursdays. The book itself was well-written, few to no mistakes in grammar, and I applaud Caine for attempting to write out the Scottish accent. There were a few parts however that I had to reread passages two or three times in order to make sense of what was being said. I recognize it's difficult to write accents, but sometimes it becomes detrimental to use an accurate accent when writing. And, I'll admit I was a bit saddened at the lack of any actual scenes of a sexual nature, though sometimes it's best to just allude to those.

I'd recommend this for anyone wanting a historical romance to read, since Caine is masterful enough to blend both the mystery of romance and the stinging truth of history in this story. Now if I could get my hands onto the first and third books of this series.

Zoe says

I read this book a while ago but for whatever reason did not review it. Maybe it was part of a bundle. I don't do very well with bundles.

Cameron was cursed, or so he believed. He had been a widower again and again and again, well, sort of. Because he never really was married to any of those poor souls who died their untimely demise. Women drop dead around him, whoever became betrothed to him, died. So he somehow resolved that he would never marry because at this point, no one would betroth their daughter to him.

Enters Kate, a peasant girl, poor as dirt. She worked in taverns, selling useless charms for a living to support her sick father. OK at this point I already lost interest in Kate. I cannot connect with a heroine who isn't.....well....somehow educated. Kate was portrayed in a rather unflattering light. She seemed rather unsophisticated and was able to charm Cameron because of her...well, ruggedness. Not exactly what I aspire to be so I found her hard to connect with.

The relationship is lukewarm at best. Cameron was a rather "soft" highlander. He was not brooding, not a tall dark stranger. He was just.....unlucky. That gave him kind of a comedy flair. That made his relationship with peasant girl Kate kind of funny. Then I had to roll my eyes when Kate was hired to be the maid for Cameron's intended. I did not know how the story could progress from there. So Cameron's evil intended was going to make Kate's life miserable? Cameron already kind of fell in love with Kate but he was to travel with his future wife home with Kate in tow? The plots are distracting. I do not know what happened to the main relationship, because nothing happened. They met, they liked each other, they kind of flirted, they kind of kissed, they kind of could not be together but they kind of were trapped together somehow. Where is the romance?

As a story, the book might not be too bad. The romance is however, sorely lacking.

Charity Parkerson says

Cameron Stewart (The Dreaded Earl of Death) is cursed. Every time that a marriage has been arranged for him, some disaster befalls each woman. He's convinced himself that marriage to him will mean the death of any woman, but a chance encounter with Kate Ferguson changes his whole life.

Kate is charming and Cameron is so sexy that you will cheer for them through accusations of witchcraft, and the sneakiness of the royal court, all the way to the end. If you love historical romance, then you won't be disappointed in Carmen Caine's "The Bedeviled Heart". This author obviously knows her history and her romance.

?Karlyn P? says

A really good light medieval romance with plenty of cheeky humor and intrigue. Great H/h! Steam level mild (fade to black only) but the tension and romance high. It was fun watching them fall in love around their misguided notions and beliefs of curses. 4.5 stars

Patricia says

What a great story--I am now starting book 3!

Ada Geringer says

The Bedeviled Heart

I have enjoyed this book very much it was very interesting and most mysteries, I can't say when I have enjoyed a book this much. Thank you Ada G.

Nicoletta says

3,5

Erin says

Not your average Scottish Highlander romance. Full of history, intrigue and no explicit sex scenes!

I knew I wanted to read this book when I saw it was Cameron's story. He deserved a happily ever after. I liked the contrast of Kate and Cameron in the beginning of their relationship. She saw it all as luck, and he just kept dwelling on his "curse". But she got him to see it her way...kind of...

Loved the romance! And it was clean. There were no explicit sex scenes. Plenty of kisses and desire, he's a virile highlander, but the details were left to the imagination. My only issue was that they had sex before marriage.

The intrigue was a lot to follow. But it was interesting. And historical, I think. So that was nice. I like to learn things when I read.

Also, fun to see Ruan and Bree show up and still be adorably in love!
