



## Blackheart

*Tamara Leigh*

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## **Blackheart** Tamara Leigh

Desperate to put an end to the humiliating rumors surrounding his lack of an heir, Lord Bernart Kinthorpe orders his virgin wife to the bed of his sworn enemy, Lord Gabriel de Vere. Though Juliana expects to feel revulsion and pain in the arms of the blackheart responsible for her husband's impotence, she discovers a man of passion and honor. When Gabriel de Vere learns that the sensual lover who had come to him in darkness is the wife of his enemy, he vows to take back the child stolen from him. Yet something about the woman he abducts turns him from vengeance. But the flower of their love will have to be carefully nurtured if they are to triumph over Lord Bernart and raise the child of their love as fate has intended.

## **Blackheart Details**

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Author : Tamara Leigh

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## **From Reader Review Blackheart for online ebook**

### **Diane Madison says**

The plot was very original and kept me reading even when I had things I should be doing instead. I want to read every book this author has written.

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### **Marylin says**

Oh my Oh my!

Tamara Leigh is a skilled storyteller. Each of her books are an invitation to travel back in time to an era we can only imagine. She brings the medieval world, to life.

From the pageantry of the customs, to the action of the fighting, as well as the language of the time, there is nothing left amiss.

Tamara Leigh weaves a tell so vivid you'd think it's real, and you don't want it to end.

In this story, you'll find intrigue, drama, the desire to right wrongs, strong relationships, and struggles over passions which are too fierce to ignore.

Can a wrong be made, right? Can love triumph?

You will only know if you pick this book up and read it.

I highly recommend this and ALL of Tamara Leigh's books. Her storytelling will captivate you so much, you will not want to miss one of her books!

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### **Glenda Parker says**

I've been waiting for this one to come out. I really enjoy medieval romances, although I'm very happy I didn't have to live back there. This book was well worth the wait; it is well written, heartbreaking, and full of drama. Faith was interwoven throughout the story as a tapestry. You are going to love this book.

Gabriel was the first son of the Baron of Wyverly but he is called into his father's presence to be told he and his oldest brother are not sired by their father, a whoreson, as such Gabriel would not be the heir.

Heartbroken he leaves his home and continues his training. Now years later he is invited to tourney with a man who was once his best friend. Both of them had been involved with the Crusades, both were captured and held until the king rescued them but his friend was wounded and blamed Gabriel for all that had happened to him. He now seeks revenge. When he arrives at the tournament he finds the woman he once cared about but she has become cold and seems to blame him for the man her husband has become, believing Gabriel to be a coward. Has she become a whore as his own mother was?

Lady Juliana is married to Baron Bernart of Tremoral. He was unable to consummate his marriage and has made her life a life of abuse but now he is demanding she gives him a son. He has planned for her to steal a son from his enemy Sir Gabriel. When she refuses to sneak into his room and seduce him, her husband uses her blind sister, Alaiz to blackmail her. Bernart is to get him drunk and she is to go to him in the dark and keep her identity from him. Juliana is able to go to him the first night and keep her secret but the second night he is waiting for her. He takes measures to keep the girl she believes her to be from getting her pregnant the second time but soon realizes who he has been with. Juliana conceives and when Gabriel hears of it he steals her away.

A tale of hatred, revenge, and betrayal with an innocent Juliana in the midst. God has a plan for these two; a plan for good and not for evil, a hope and a future. God has a plan for you too. You might not be fighting knights and weapons but we do have an enemy and God has already fought this battle and won it for us, trust Him and give Him your heart and He will turn your life around.

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### **Mikal Dawn says**

Tamara Leigh has outdone herself. Again. I don't think I'll ever have enough of her tales on my bookshelf or in my heart.

Lady Betrayed may begin with the reader's brow raised, but Leigh sensitively, sweetly, romantically, and compassionately pulls it off.

Well done!!! ♥

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### **Kirsi Johnson says**

Happy to return once again to the world of the Wulfrith knights! Lady Julianna and Gabriel's story is for sure strewn across a rocky path, but there is, as one would expect, a satisfying happy ending. I will say that this story has left me hoping there's another book in the near future that might have a tale of love between two of the supporting characters--I'm rooting for you Sir Erec and Alais!!!

Note: This is a clean read, insofar as there are no explicit scenes nor any crude language. That said, the topics broached in this story lend themselves to a more mature audience.

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### **April says**

4+ Stars

Lady Betrayed is a Clean Read Rewrite of Blackheart; and the last of Leigh's rewrites from her general market publications. I would think this one had to be one of the harder ones for her to do because of the situation our main characters find themselves in. While this novel does have aspects that touch on faith, and the moral struggle that her hero and heroine struggle with, this novel would not fall under the heading of inspirational fiction but that of a Clean Read Romance. That said, let me say that I believe Leigh did a fantastic job with the rewrite. Not only did this novel grab my attention but had me up late finishing it. While there was a section towards the middle that seemed to slow down for me, still I could not put it down.

Juliana is a woman forced by her husband into a situation unimaginable; from his bitterness, anger, and lust for revenge comes forth the catalyst for our story. While, Gabriel is no innocent, he is not the blackheart he is made out to be. The way Leigh handled this situation was tastefully done. She showed the struggle both characters faced with the circumstances they are wrapped up in and their desire to do what is right, while battling their desires that are wrong. In all this, showing that even when you have "messed up" you need not continue in that same path but can choose a better way. I was not sure how Leigh would work it all out, but I knew that she would.

A side note, there is a tie in for this novel with Leigh's Age of Faith series! Sir Erec Wulfrith, son of Helene and Abel from The Kindling, makes an appearance several times. Leigh said she does not currently have a story in mind for him but one never knows! Currently she is working on Book 7 in The Age of Faith series, The Awakening; I am looking forward to its release!

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## **Marguerite Gray says**

Always a good idea to read a book by Tamara Leigh. Once again the Medieval atmosphere surrounds the characters and their unique dilemmas. I wonder what the next novel will hold!

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## **Regan Walker says**

Medieval Romance at its best!

Tamara Leigh has written a classic--a real "keeper" in medieval romances and I'm ranking it up there with the best.

The story is of Gabriel de Vere, the oldest son of a Norman lord who rejected him as his heir to a barony in England because on her deathbed his mother confessed to having had other lovers. Since Gabriel and his younger brother Blase have her dark looks, the father wonders if they are really his. He chooses as his heir the fairer third son. Gabriel leaves, vowing to make it on his own. He succeeds, becoming a powerful knight fighting in the Crusades and gaining the favor of King Richard who gives him a castle and estate in Normandy.

Gabriel's close friend, Bernart Kinthorpe, blames him unfairly for a wound that robbed him of his manhood in the Crusades. When Bernart returns home, he marries Gabriel's betrothed Julianna without telling her they can have no real marriage. Since Bernart cannot consummate his marriage to Julianna, he decides to gain a son with another man's seed. Out of revenge, he picks Gabriel, so that he can take from him what he feels Gabriel robbed him of--the capacity to sire an heir. So, he lures Gabriel to his castle in England with a high stakes tournament and then, using threats against her much loved sister, forces Julianna to go to Gabriel's bed in the dark of night disguised as a castle wench. Julianna complies, though she is against the whole idea. (She is a faithful, albeit virgin, wife.)

Believing Bernart's lies about Gabriel, Julianna initially has no feelings for Gabriel other than disdain, but soon discovers him to be a man of courage and honor. In their moments of passion over the week he's at her husband's castle she gives her heart to Gabriel. When Gabriel discovers the ruse, he vows to claim any child that results and have his revenge on both Julianna and Bernart who he sees as co-conspirators.

The author captures well the 12th century, balancing the language of the time with a need to be understandable to modern readers. Hence we know clearly what is going on but we know we are back in the time of Richard the Lion Heart. Great attention is given to castle life, preparation for battle, food, dress, customs and the history of the time so that you feel you are living it. But since this is a romance, the love story is central and this is a good one that kept me reading late into the night (always a good sign).

The characters are well defined and you care about them, the love scenes realistic, and the tale very well told.

You won't regret reading this one!

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### **English says**

I just did not care for this book. It wasn't just the plot, based around an adulterous liaison, as I will not abandon a book just for that. Although the two sex scenes were, er, borderline detailed/graphic.

Maybe its just that the whole thing seemed very overdone and melodramatic. To the point that it just became quite unlikely. A reviewer once described one of these books as 'full of unnecessary angst' and I almost wonder if that might apply here.

I mean, seriously, apart from all the agonizing by the heroine about escaping, whether or not her baby would be taken /mistreated and falling in love with an unavailable guy, there's a kidnapping, attempted rape, attempted murder , a siege, hints of domestic violence, and not just one but two possible deadly enemies. Its not always immediately obvious what everything really adds to the story, so it all came over as a bit OTT to me.

Perhaps it was also that the hero did not remain true to his supposed long-held principles for very long. I mean supposedly he wanted to avoid lechery and temptation and we're told he's meant to be this really honourable man: but he basically succumbed to the first attractive woman that went into his bedroom when he was drunk.

So in some ways, his indignation was rather misplaced hypocritical. The heroine. Well, she was OK, but I never really warmed to her, and the villain came over as cartoonish as it got nearer the end.

Its a shame, because it was set in an interesting period, and could have been quite a bit better, but the central romance and the story-line just did not really keep their appeal or my interest. The ending also seemed a little predictable too.

Finally, I have never heard of anyone being injured the way Julianna was because of an accident on a sidesaddle. I'm not even sure they had sidesaddles in Britain at this time, I once read they were not introduced until about 200 years later.

I will probably read more by this author, as I have her next Age of Faith book (which is a series I king of like), and the first 'Lady' book on my Kindle, but I don't think this one will be a keeper

Borrowed from Kindle Unlimited, and used Audible Credit for the Audiobook.

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### **Juanita says**

I love all of Tamara's medieval romances and this one was just as awesome. I enjoy the way she snatches hold of my attention and carries me into the setting. She has a knack for making me get attached to the characters and feel their parting at the end of the tale. If you have read her Age of Faith series, then -like me- you'll be happy to see glimpses of Wulfrith references and people we miss. And if you haven't read that series, you are surely in for a treat! Happy reading and God Bless!

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## **Pamela(AllHoney) says**

I enjoyed Ms. Leigh's other medievales (Bride series) but Blackheart didn't work for me. Not sure what exactly made it not work but I struggled trying to read it.

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## **Niki Farkas says**

### **Good story !**

Well I love Tamara Leigh's books! I haven't read one I didn't like. I have to admit the premise of the book bothered me. But I couldn't stop reading it. I respect Ms. Leigh's as a person and as a writer, I just knew she would make the storyline work and I was eager to read how she was going to do it! Well of course she did and it is a great read that I thoroughly enjoyed !

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## **Tara says**

I am currently (and happily) stuck in medieval land right now, immersed in Ms. Leigh's ultra-romantic tales. Lady Betrayed is the final clean read rewrite. She has stated this was her most difficult rewrite, and as I was reading it, it was not hard to believe, simply due to the plot of our story!

As with all of her books, I loved this one. It was a bit different, because I was watching a love story unfold that seemed hopeless... and while I wanted the couple to end up together, (not in small part because of her horrid, evil husband), I also wasn't cheering for heart pounding romantic moments, because I knew the couple would regret it and they were trying so hard to withstand the temptation.

All in all, this was yet another medieval story that I thoroughly enjoyed, characters as well as side characters with a depth I expect from Ms. Leigh's novels, and an ending that makes me swoon and sigh with happiness. She never disappoints! And speaking of side characters, I always love hers! They are so enjoyable, that I can't but hope that they one day get their own story. Like Sir Erec...one can only hope he will one day have his own story told—perhaps falling for sweet Alaiz?? Regardless of whose story is next told, if Ms. Leigh is the one telling it, I will be reading it!

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## **Alaska Hults says**

### **Enjoyable Tale**

Strong plot, sympathetic heroes. The bad guys are very bad, and the good guys are very good. The lady is self-sacrificing and feminine and in distress, and the Lord is brave and manly and ready to save his damsel. It's why we read Tamara Leigh. Sex scenes are a tame PG. If you've enjoyed her other books, the one won't disappoint. She does the time period well, describing battle implements in detail.

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## **Elizabeth Newsom says**

From the set-up alone, I was absolutely hooked on this book. I knew Tamara Leigh was a Christian author, so my burning question was: how the heck is this going to work out? This question only burned hotter as the story went on. There's a ton of great tension, and you'll find it nigh impossible to put down ;)

The heroine was very likable and relatable. She's been stuck in a marriage for years with a man so embittered by what he doesn't have that he can't see what he does, but she has a strong desire to remain faithful to him... though when he threatens to kick her sister out, things change a bit.

Then there's Gabriel. He admires Juliana... until he discovers that it's not a poor maid but a married lady who has slept with him. Then, of course, he's pretty mad, and Juliana doesn't explain why she did it, since she told her husband she wouldn't tell others of his emasculation. But even when he's angry and brooding, he still treats her with a tenderness that reveals he does care for her, though he thinks she's nothing but an adulterous, faithless wife.

Overall, I loved both the high-tension set-up and the characters.

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