



Always

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Always Details

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From Reader Review Always for online ebook

Judy says

Rosamunde is the illegitimate child of King Henry. Her mother was deeply loved by the King.

Aric has just found his fiance cheating on him with another man in a stable. He goes to his friend Robert to drown his sorrows in drink and proclaims never to marry. King Henry has other plans for him and drags Aric and Robert off to the convent.

Rosamunde is to say her vows the following day and then she will be a Sister. Father has a different idea. He is marrying her off this very day.

As another Sister explains the bedding to her, you will laugh until you cry. The Sister cannot go by experience of course so she starts by telling her what she heard while eavesdropping at her parents door as a young girl. Then they compare the mating to the bull and cow in the barn. When Aric and Rosamunde go to consummate, she says things that can remove the mood for any man. Comparing him to a cucumber and Angus the bull. To top it off you have King Henry banging on the door telling them to get it done and stop talking, the King thinks five minutes is more than enough time for that. As he listens and shouts by the door and adds his thoughts to what he hears it gets funnier and funnier.

Aric is thinking maybe he should have stuck with the other woman even if she did cheat on him.

There are some trials in the book as well but mostly a funny and moving story.

Julie says

Rosamunde may have been naive, but her stubbornness and temper balanced out what she didn't know. Aric was stubborn and blinded by his insecurity of being cheated on, yet he could be taught to rewire his thinking, although I think it took him longer than necessary to come around.

Their relationship started backwards with marriage first then getting to know the other, but from the first awkward, seriously hilarious bedding scene, through many misunderstandings, to finally coming to accept one another, there was never a dull moment to be found.

Kristi says

I did the audio in this one which was wonderful. However I wasn't really a fan of the story or the characters. If I'd had another audio book to listen to while cleaning I would have DNF this one.

Angela says

The hero of the story, Aric, ruins this book. He's moody, jealous, irrational... Honestly, I can't think of a single redeeming thing about him. The story itself is pretty weak, and extremely predictable. I kept thinking that there must be a twist at some point, but nope. It all plays out about how you'd expect.

Also, the idea that a bull wouldn't harm someone if they fed it apples is maybe the stupidest thing I've ever heard. Word to the wise: don't try this at home!

Desi says

3.5 stars. Some very amusing scenes here and there. Just the right amount of royal intrigue to hold interest yet not be tiresome. And no overly annoying characters.

I didn't feel any particular emotional connection to the characters, but it was fun to romp through their world. A nice light read.

Kimia Safavi says

I love Lynsay Sands's book, but this one was not my favorite with heroine being airheaded and hero being mean at first and then jealous.

I must it was very funny and sexy but not my favorite.

Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

This is one of those stories where you're just sitting there, screaming at the characters to effing communicate because that would solve all their problems. That, and the hero not acting like a jealous arse the entire time because his previous betrothed couldn't remain faithful. Also, I knew who the culprit was almost from the start. I hate that.

Susan says

Fun book, with the author's trademark humor and bit of intrigue to spice up the romance. Rosamunde has been raised at the convent and is just hours away from taking her vows when her father shows up. He is determined to marry her off and has brought the groom with him.

Aric had just ended his betrothal to a woman who was unfaithful. He's seriously considering remaining unmarried when the king arrives. The king won't take no for an answer and Aric soon finds himself married to the beautiful but innocent Rosamunde.

The first part of the book deals with the beginning of their marriage. Rosamunde is incredibly naive and the marriage instructions she received from the nuns were heavy on the anything to do with the marriage bed is sinful. The consummation scene, where they are rushed through it by her father, was awkward for both of them and set them up for more difficulties to come. The journey to their new home is an exercise in

frustration for both of them. Aric feels badly about what he did and isn't sure how to fix it, plus doing it on the journey is just too awkward. He's attracted to her, and increasingly frustrated by his inability to do anything about it. Rosamunde has gone from a life of purpose, working with the convent's animals and other participation in convent life, to being allowed to do nothing. She's bored and frustrated and wondering just how miserable her future is going to be.

Once they reach their new home, Rosamunde's frustration continues to grow. Aric is busy learning the land and people, and is gone all day. Rosamunde was never taught about housekeeping matters and feels totally useless, especially since Aric won't even let her go to the stables to help with the animals. The arrival of his father and his friend Robert, along with Bishop Shrewsbury, brings some changes. The king has died and there is the possibility that Rosamunde is in danger. She has also reached the end of her patience and is determined to return to her work in the stables. There is a hysterical scene dealing with Aric's reaction to finding her there, and the compromise his father helps him find. This doesn't work out quite the way he intended and between the horse in the hall and her veterinary practice Aric is ready to blow. It takes his father, Robert and the bishop to calm him down in a scene that had me laughing out loud.

All of this does start to open Aric's eyes to the differences between Rosamunde and his former fiancee. He has been taking out his loss of trust in women on Rosamunde, who does not deserve it. I really enjoyed seeing him try to repair their relationship. This brings them back together physically, and Aric finally gets a chance for a re-do of the consummation, only to run into the roadblocks laid by the nuns and bishop. The chemistry between them is hot, and once Rosamunde gets a taste of passion she's all in. It was pretty sweet to see the two of them begin to actually get to know each other and the feelings between them grow.

But things are about to get really complicated. There have been several attacks on Rosamunde and Aric is determined to keep her safe and discover who is behind them. Unfortunately for him, she doesn't believe that she is in danger and resists all of Aric's attempts to protect her, setting up some very frustrating times for him. Called to London for Richard's coronation, there is yet another attack, this time on Aric. When they finally reach court, Aric believes he will finally be able to get at the truth. It's really interesting that it's through an unexpected encounter that Rosamunde discovers the truth. The final confrontation is intense and nervewracking as Aric and Rosamunde have to work together to end the threat. I loved seeing them finally come together with all their issues finally overcome.

Jen Davis says

You know that a book is not the right fit for you when you spend the entire thing waiting for the hero to stop being an idiot. For me, generally the hero of a romance is the most important part of the story and Aric was just a big, fat fail. The book begins with him swearing off marriage because his betrothed cheated on him. But the King rules out his plans for an extended bachelorhood when he decrees Aric shall marry his illegitimate daughter, Rosemunde.

So Aric is against getting married from out of the gate, but he can't deny an edict from the crown. That sets us up for loads of fun. He's essentially a prat to his new bride from the word go. He's not trying to punish her or anything, but he figures that if one woman cheats, they're all going to cheat and he behaves accordingly.

Rosemunde, on the other hand, is too good to be true. She was raised in a convent and found her joy and contentment in tending to wounded animals. She instantly accepts her father's demand that she turn from her

path to become a nun and marry a stranger. She embraces her duty to obey her husband completely. And she believes everything she is told about what constitutes a sin and what her duties are to her husband.

The entire book centers around Aric telling her what to do. Or more often, what not to do. No time in the stables. No pants. No ladders. No going anywhere alone. No listening to the Church. He basically treats her like an idiot who needs protection from becoming a slut. And she is so devoted to being a good wife that she accepts it all, even as it makes her totally miserable.

Who wants to read that?

There is also a sideplot featuring someone trying to kill our heroine... or so Aric believes. The villain is painfully obvious from the beginning, though the "why" is less so.

It turns out that this book is a reissue from about 15 years ago. I didn't know that going in, but it doesn't surprise me in the least. This was just not for me. Neither main character had any depth; I had no emotional connection; and really all I felt reading it was irritation.

Rating: C-/D+

**ARC Provided by publisher*

Naksed says

I like humor in HR. They don't all have to be epic, five hankies read. I have literally laughed out loud at some of the stuff Judith Mcnaught and Lisa "Oscar Wilde is my hero" Kleypas come up with. But a convent-bred medieval virgin who tells her husband to whip out his cucumber and wiggle his seed on her so they can consummate their marriage is not my cuppa humor. I honestly didn't make it past the second chapter :(This is my second DNF of 2016 involving cucumber in sex play.

Jane Stewart says

It was ok as a typical romance novel, but nothing special.

This might be good for borrowing, but I wouldn't recommend buying it. I had no major problems, but it didn't grab me or entertain me as much as other romance novels. Rosamunde was the illegitimate daughter of the king and grew up in a convent. Just before she was to take her vows, her father arranged a marriage for her. Her husband Aric was previously engaged to someone who cheated on him. He feared Rosamunde would do the same, so he kept her in the keep and wouldn't allow her to work in the stables or go anywhere. She was bored and unhappy. Later Aric changed his mind and let her work with animals which was her passion. She became happy.

One subplot was Rosamunde not knowing anything about sex. One of the nuns gave her misinformation which made for some humor during the first couple of sex scenes with her husband. A second subplot was someone trying to kill Rosamunde and Aric.

Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: six. Setting: 1189 England. Copyright 2000. Genre: historical romance.

For a list of my reviews of other Lynsay Sands books, see my 5 star review of "Love is Blind" posted 1/22/07.

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Always by Lynsay Sands

Publisher: Avon

Publication Date: November 24, 2015

Rating: 2 stars

Source: eARC from Edelweiss

Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers

Summary (from Goodreads):

New York Times bestselling author Lynsay Sands returns with the unforgettable story of a reluctant bride and groom who soon find common ground in the bedroom . . .

Bastard daughter to the king, Rosamunde was raised in a convent and wholly prepared to take the veil . . . until King Henry declared she would wed Aric, one of his most valiant knights. Suddenly she found herself promising to love, honor, and obey.

Rosamunde's education had not covered a wedding night, but the handsome warrior she was now bound to seemed intent on giving her a lesson in the art of pleasure. In no time, Aric was certain she would surrender to the irresistible passion he promised.

And while Rosamunde's spirited nature often put her at odds with her new husband, his mastery in seduction was quickly melting her resolve—and capturing her heart.

What I Liked:

I know two stars isn't the worst rating ever, but I am SO SAD that I didn't like this one more. I know I really wanted to love this book, going into it. The cover is amazing, the premise sounds so wonderful, and I love Lynsay Sands - but this book wasn't that good, or close. So disappointed!

Aric, knight of King Henry, is determined never to marry, after he finds his betrothed with another man in the stables. But he can't say no to the King when King Henry orders him to marry his illegitimate daughter, Rosamunde. Rosamunde grew up in a convent, caring for animals. She is sweet and naive, and very, very misguided. Marriage to someone who was prepared to be a bride of God, who is afraid of marital relations, who doesn't want to be married, is not what Aric had in mind. But Aric and Rosamunde can't help the potent attraction between the two of them, nor their budding feelings. Can they start over before it's too late?

Things I did like. Let's see, From the start, I LOVED Aric. His voice is hilarious! He is calm and the silent brooding type, but he also has a temper and can be very grumpy. Apparently I like the grumpy types? He marries Rosamunde and treats her well (in my opinion), and he isn't terribly demanding or forceful or anything like that. She could have done much worse and could have been even a little bit more grateful. Aric is one of my favorite historical romance heroes for the year. Too bad he got paired with... Rosamunde.

What else did I enjoy... well, if there is one thing that Sands can do REALLY well, it is write hot intimate scenes! This book was odd in that Rosamunde had no idea what marital relations consisted of, so the first time was really awkward. The second time was comical. But when Aric started to show her how it's done... the scenes were really hot. I'm sure any and all of Sands' romance novels are really, really steamy. She never disappoints, in that area!

There was a satisfying ending, as one might come to expect, in historical romance novels. I liked the ending. I also liked how much comedy and humor was in this book, despite the ominous climax. Still, everything leading up to the ending was interesting, and the ending was a good one.

What I Did Not Like:

I think the heart of my problems with this book were with Rosamunde. I have been having an issue with female protagonists, in the past few books I've read (YA, adult, doesn't matter). With Rosamunde, I couldn't stand her naivete. I understand that she was raised in a convent, so I knew and understood that she would be ignorant in some matters, but goodness, she was so air-headed!

Air-headed is a good way to put it. She's also a bit selfish, expecting special treatment at some times, but then expecting everyone to let her do her own thing because that's how she was raised in the convent. No honey, you're married now. I don't think she ever fully grasped the fact that she's married, and her husband is trying to protect her from people who are trying to kill her.

That being said, she never gave a thought or care to Aric and his protection of her. She did anything and everything she wanted, no matter how irrationally it was. I don't want to give specific examples, but trust me, you probably would have wanted to kill her yourself by the halfway through the book. She does so many selfish things, and then turns around and blames Aric, gets mad at Aric, makes it seem like Aric's anger is misplaced.

And then Aric goes and forgives her every time. I personally think that if I were Aric and married to her, I would have sent her back to the abbey after one night, the King's wishes be d***ed. Ahhh! It's so frustrating, how awful of a character Rosamunde was!

She's one of those people that don't deserve the man, who deserves to be alone or dead or both. I wanted to shake her! Even for a historical romance novel, how can she be that dumb and ignorant?!

So all of my frustration is centered around Rosamunde. Which sucks! I liked her until she opened her mouth at the abbey when the King brought Aric to marry her - and that was like, 10% in. Le sigh.

Would I Recommend It:

I can't recommend this novel. I really, really wanted to love it, because it sounded perfect for me (reluctant marriage usually works for me!), I like Lynsay Sands, and the cover is GORGEOUS. Now I refuse to buy this book in print because I didn't like it! Ugh!

Rating:

2.5 stars -> rounded down to 2 stars. I'll definitely keep reading Sands' books, she is a great romance writer and always writes steamy chemistry in her books. But this one was such a disappointment. I had hoped for something so much better!

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

I DISLIKED THE HERO ARIC!!

King Henry II has a beloved illegitimate daughter Rosamunde. Rosamunde has been raised by the Nuns in a Convent. Just as she is about to take the Veil Henry marries her off to Lord Aric Burkhart. Aric has been cuckold by his betroth Delia and now is available to marry King Henry's daughter. The marriage takes place very quickly at the Convent and the Consummation of the marriage is even quicker. The new couple is then sent off to their new castle and land holdings with 4 large bags of gold as Rosamunde's dowry. The King loves his daughter as he loved her mother his mistress. Her death is suspected as a murder, but never proven.

Aric is a Ass hole who treats Rosamunde like a 5 year old child. He is down right mean to her. He never takes into consideration that she was born and raised in a Convent and she is still very young. He starts to come around when attempts are made on her life and then his own life. Their relationship grows. He teaches Rosamunde the truth about the marriage bed. The information she obtained from the Abbess is so funny I laughed out loud. The things she was told were hilarious but true to the times. They soon have a hot, sexy very sensuous marriage that buds into a loving one.

Always, is funny, sad and sensual. The beginning is good the middle is slow and boring but it ends in a bang. The villain is easily revealed if you pay attention to the story. The villain gets a proper end.

On a whole I enjoyed the story once I got over my hatred of Aric. Rosamunde is written beautifully and you see her character develop. Over all I liked Always

Leona (readingwithleona) says

Disclaimer: I received as an ARC courtesy of Avon Books via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review

From the laugh-out-loud moments right from the start to the tender moments between Aric and Rosamunde I was completely captivated. I really didn't know what to expect since I've only read Lynsay Sand's Argeneau series, but goodness was I pleasantly surprised! The opening scene between Aric and Robert, then King Henry, Aric and Robert, had me so engaged with these characters that I readily knew that *Always* was going to be an entertaining read, if not added as one of my favorites.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted on Got Fiction?

I read this one a while back, and I remember enjoying it. It looks like Avon is giving it a brand new cover and re-issuing it November.

Rosamunde is the daughter of the king, the bastard daughter. But he likes her and provides for her. She is raised in a convent, and then one day her father tells her that she has to marry one of his knights, Aric. The problem is that she has been raised in a convent, and instead of becoming a Bride of Christ, she's now becoming a bride to a flesh and blood man.

Aric for his part, has found his fiancee with another man, so he's vowed never to marry...until King Henry declares otherwise. We have an unwilling bride and groom, neither of whom knows what to expect! Especially with the king acting so out of character.

There's a funny scene with the Reverend Mother trying to prepare her for the wedding night, and a cucumber may have been used as a euphemism ;) This scene stuck with me for so long that when we at Got Fiction? used to be called Demon Lover's Books & More, we named an award the Golden Cucumber.

The bedding scene is just hysterical and over the top, in true Sands style. Rosamunde is following the advice of a nun, who compared the bedding to that of a bull. So Aric is trying to figure out how to handle his very willing, but very wrong new wife, when her father the king starts banging on the door bellowing to hurry up already! Oh but this scene was ridiculous! I about died of laughter. This was by far the funniest scene in the book, and I couldn't stop giggling.

I will say that Lynsay Sands has a specific sense of humor that seems just a little too silly for me. I find her books predictable, BUT that being said, I do feel that it's sort of why people go back. Her books always offer the reader a comfortable experience. When you pick up Lynsay Sands book, you know what you're going to get. Many people want that, and Lynsay Sands delivers.

***Review copy provided courtesy of Avon Books

HighlandHussy
