



The Maiden and the Unicorn

Isolde Martyn

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The Maiden and the Unicorn is the winner of the 1999 Romantic Book of the Year Award from *Romance Writers of Australia* and was nominated for the *Romance Writers of America's Best 1st Novel and Romantic Times Best Historical Novel* awards.

In this lavish epic, Isolde Martyn enriches history with an exquisite love story, vividly bringing to life a medieval world of deadly intrigue and passion, in which one woman has the power to alter the fate of a nation--if she doesn't lose her heart.

The year is 1470 and the legendary Wars of the Roses threatens to tear England apart. In the middle of the conflict is a most unlikely heroine. For Margery, the beautiful and spirited ward of Warwick the Kingmaker, freedom is the only prize worth having. But it is a prize that could cost her her life.

Sent to France on a mission for King Edward IV, she finds herself the target of a man who may be one of the king's most dangerous enemies. Sir Richard Huddleston is bold, enigmatic, and devastatingly handsome. He is used to getting what he wants, and he wants Margery to be his wife. But what else does he want? Margery suspects that Richard has abandoned the king and the house of York and is conspiring with the rebel queen and the traitorous house of Lancaster.

Caught between her role as a spy and a fierce passion that neither she nor Richard can deny, Margery finds her heart exposed to the ultimate danger: falling in love. Yet she cannot admit her real mission to Richard. For if she stays true to her noble cause, she'll save many men...and lose the one that matters most.

The Maiden and the Unicorn Details

Date : Published August 3rd 1999 by Bantam (first published 1983)

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Author : Isolde Martyn

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From Reader Review The Maiden and the Unicorn for online ebook

Darkpool says

Well researched, and well written. Even tho this is romantic fiction, I'm not embarrassed to have it on my bookshelf.

Venetia Green says

I really wanted to like this book. The author knows her period intimately and includes an amazing depth of historical detail (clothing, town-scapes, personalities of famous historical figures). Perhaps my favorite touches were the author's apt analogies and descriptions. For example, the queue into Exeter is a "bubbling brew of panniered donkeys, driven livestock, jammed carts and Devon curses." However, not all the historical research in the world could make up for a fatally flawed plot. The hero and heroine argue viciously and unremittingly for no particularly good reason. Perhaps this was designed to provide tension in place of a strong plot, for at the point where I gave up halfway, the heroine seemed to have drifted along for most of the story, pushed with the political tide and possessed of no clear-cut purpose.

As I said, I gave up almost exactly halfway through. It may be that I am doing the remainder of the book a horrible injustice through my comments. The author shows a huge amount of promise, and The Lady and the Unicorn was her first book. I will certainly read some of her later works in the hope that her plot-lines improve!

Mbmoore123 says

Heroine and plot would get it high marks. supposed hero and his treatment of her are about a negative 10.

Stacy says

Sexy historical romance fiction.

Heather says

"theMaiden and the Unicorn" is set during the period known as the War of the Roses and is seeped in historical detail which I really enjoyed. However, this was basically an antagonistic romance, with Margery and Richard arguing through most of the book which became rather tiresome. There were times when I really wanted to hit Margery. She was stubborn and her own worst enemy. Richard was more likeable, but rather arrogant. Overall, a forgettable read.

Jennifer says

I wanted to like this book because I liked her other, but parts of it were SO confusing. Why did they keep arguing? So, I gave up with only about 25 pages left.

Maryanne says

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Nicola says

As I'm not usually a romance reader it wasn't a bad story. I did have trouble with the amount of latitude that Margery was given considering her background tho'. But overall a good read.

jennifer croy says

Very long winded

I expect history and detail in the books I read, regardless of genre. That said, there comes a point where ones love of history is dulled by "too much of a good thing". This was far more a historical fiction than a romance

Tristen says

In audio

What a wonderful retelling. You know the characters and the settings yet this is a piece of pure fiction set with historical facts.

There is enough fact for you to believe, enough description to feel authentic.

Tricia says

For some reason I really struggled with this book. It was ok but I did not find myself engrossed in it. It has the usual romance story and it appears to be well researched. Almost all of the characters and events in the book really happened.

Despite that I found the main characters annoying and their constant fighting annoying. I know these kinds of books have a love/hate thing happening but it seemed a bit excessive for this kind of book.

I do like historical romances but this one didn't quite hit the mark for me.

Cphe says

Set during the time of the War of the Roses, Margery the illegitimate daughter of Warwick the Kingmaker is used as a pawn in the struggle for the crown.

It's quite a well written romance with a lot of detail for time and place. It does have a taming of the shrew theme, with the two main characters Margery and Richard virtually arguing from the beginning to near end. It did make some tiresome reading in places.

It's a story that I had read years ago and enjoyed immensely at the time but found the style to be a bit dated and flat the second time around.
