



## Born to Treason

*E.B. Wheeler*

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Joan Pryce is not only a Catholic during the English Reformation but also Welsh, and comes from a family of proud revolutionaries. But when a small act of defiance entangles her in a deadly conspiracy, a single misstep may lead her straight to the gallows. Now, Joan must navigate a twisting path that could cost her life, her freedom, and her chance of finding love.

## **Born to Treason Details**

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Author : E.B. Wheeler

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# **From Reader Review Born to Treason for online ebook**

## **Erica says**

Read this one on the long trans-Atlantic flight home from Europe. The beginning was a bit tricky, but once I figured out what was going on, I was intrigued by the tale of Joan and her situation. As an active Christian, I tried to think how I would feel and what I would do in her situation. Living in current times, with freedom of religion, it's crazy to think you could be killed for worshipping in a different manner than a political leader; but millions of people lived this way for hundreds of years. It's insane, really.

I enjoyed seeing Joan grow and the sweet romance blossom. Lovely setting - it make me want to visit Wales (I had just barely been in London). Also, a good variety of characters with different strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Wheeler seems to have done a great deal of research and you can tell that from her writing. Very interesting story.

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## **Becca says**

### **MY REVIEW / THOUGHTS:**

This was such a fantastic story about sticking to your convictions and beliefs. While Joan tries to keep her religion close to her heart without getting put to the gallows she takes on a life changing course to stay true to herself and her beliefs.

This setting is beautiful, and the author put me right in the action. There was such a great story of, betrayal, love, and conviction. I felt Joan's love for what she believes in to flow through out the book. Although she knew what she was doing was illegal, she kept with it and love found a way to make things work.

I love how clean this book was and how involved it kept me. I am in love with the ending!!! I have enjoyed Wheeler's story, and know you will you. Take a chance, buy the book! You will not be disappointed.

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## **Adriane says**

Not a bad story, I only wished it didn't take reading halfway into the book to get a real interest in it. I felt like I didn't really know Joan as a person rather than her actions and religion.

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## **Katie W says**

There are many things that I take for granted, I'm just now realizing. I am fortunate enough to live in a place where I can worship who and how I want to, without fear of punishment. Joan isn't so lucky. Living in Wales in the 1500s proves to be a fearful, and sometimes deadly, time. The Queen of England wants to reform religion and those who insist on worshipping as Catholics are tortured and hung. Joan is intent on keeping her faith and in aiding those who are doing what they can to rebel against this, but it's very dangerous. This story

really made me take a close look at my convictions and to think of the lengths I'd go to in order to stand up for what I believe in and I honestly don't know if I would have the strength to do what Joan does.

Joan is orphaned and goes to live with her godparents. She has no idea who to trust in this tumultuous time, yet she is so willing to risk her safety for those whom she deems are in greater need of help. An unofficial betrothal to her father's friend's son falls apart in the past, but Nicholas is intriguing and aloof.

Joan really is a character to admire, especially because she's so young (around 18). I enjoyed the story line, watching the events unfold in a gradual fashion. At times, the pacing seems to meander, but there are splashes of intensity and danger. This will be a definite hit with those who love historical fiction.

Content: some violence and descriptions of violent acts, but it's not overly graphic; heavy religious elements, as that's what this story is about; very mild romance.

\*I received a copy in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Becca McCulloch says**

I rarely give 5\* to a book but this one earned that coveted last star. The research and language are perfect examples of what historical fiction should be. The book grabbed me by page 5 and shoved my "to be read" pile aside. Joan is a strong protagonist who easily carries the novel but it's the history that turns the pages. The persecution of Catholics and desire for a Welsh printing press made for high intrigue and a deeply human and relatable story.

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### **Mandy Al-Bjaly says**

I absolutely adore historical fiction novels. They are so much more powerful than textbooks because we not only learn about events, but also the minds, hearts, and living conditions of the people involved in and around those events.

In a historical fiction novel written right, we feel everything like the people living in the time would feel it.

When I read "Born to Treason," by E. B. Wheeler, I learned about the fear, violence, desperation, and confusion surrounding the Welsh Catholics during the English Reformation. I never knew anything about the cruelty and violence of this time period. In fact, when researching about it online, it was really hard for me to find information about Protestant violence towards Catholics. It was easy to find information for the opposite, though. The author makes it clear in her explanation of the time, though, that violence happened on both sides.

I think it is easy when reading history to make judgments about one group of people or one religion based on certain events. But, reading a book like "Born to Treason," reminds you that there are good people who want what is right everywhere. Perhaps more importantly, you are reminded that what is "right" doesn't mean the same thing for everyone, and that the true answer is sometimes unclear.

This book was a quick read, and drew me in right away. I really couldn't put it down, and always wanted to

know what was going to happen next. I loved the complexity of the key characters, Joan, Hugh and Nicholas. Wheeler did a wonderful job of making each character unique. Even characters who were a part of the same cause did not always agree with each other. The choice between treason to the crown and staying true to faith, the choice between fighting and staying silent, the choice between helping friends or turning them in to preserve your life and what you hold most dear, was never easy to make.

Joan struggled throughout the book to find peace in her heart and mind. Her father had died from the effects of torture due to his Catholic devotion. She wanted to help the cause of freedom for her religion and for her beloved Wales. Her heart was also torn by the affections, or lack thereof, from two friends who were so different in their passions, manners, and beliefs.

“Born to Treason” will make you worry, make you cringe, make you angry, make you despair, make you blush, make you hope, make you fall in love, and make you ponder what true courage entails.

I highly recommend this book for its historical value, brilliant images of landscape, insight into life in 16th Century Wales for all stations of people, and for the times you will find yourself clutching your chest, unable to breathe steadily for anticipation of what will happen next, or for dreaming of who the man is behind the mask...

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### **Crystal says**

I felt that this historical fiction was well done. I was able to imagine myself living in the tense environment and could relate to the very human responses and then rational reasoning that the main character of the story worked through.

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### **A.L. Sowards says**

Really enjoyed this one. The writing was beautiful, and the characters were complicated and interesting. I'm not an expert on Elizabethan England and Wales, but it felt like Wheeler did her homework and I loved the historical accuracy and detail. I liked the themes of being true to your beliefs and how different characters pursued that in different ways. I enjoyed the clean romantic element, and how it played an important role, but not the only role in driving the plot.

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### **Tressa (Wishful Endings) says**

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4.5 Stars

BORN TO TREASON was a thoroughly enjoyable story! It's about a young women torn between her religious convictions, political unrest, and two men vying for her heart. Set during the Protestant Reformation in Wales gave the story a constant underlying feel of intrigue and danger. It was a sad, but

beautiful story, with a hopeful and sweet ending. Perfect for historical romance readers who enjoy a touch of suspense.

By the time this story was over, I had come to love these characters. Joan isn't always wise or prudent, but her heart and intentions are both good. She's in such a difficult position believing as she does, without her parents to guide and protect her, and being pulled in different ways. I loved how full her heart was and how willing she was to seek out the truth when it was really important instead of being swept away by others' opinions or desires. Nicholas is such an interesting character. He has so many layers, from his cold demeanor, to one of resolve, to a warmth when his heart is soft and caring, and to that of a fierce protector. Both of them have faced such sorrows and have been left alone, but if they're lucky enough, they can find home in each other.

The plot moved at a pretty good pace. The suspense and intrigue kept the story fairly tense. Then there are places where friendships are created or rebuilt and others of sweet closeness between Joan and her charges or Nicholas. I loved the glimpses of hope, desire, doubt, and then of action that each continued to unveil and develop these characters. This was a fairly quick read at just over 200 pages and it was a story that held my interest from start to finish.

In the end, was it what I wished for? Yes. This was a story told well, with lovable characters, convictions and love to fight for, and a sweet, slowly building romance. Definitely worth reading if you enjoy historical romance!

Content: Some violence, but clean.

Source: Received a complimentary copy from the publisher, which did not affect my review in any way.

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

It took me a little while to get into this book but it happened and I couldn't help but feel all kinds of emotions while reading it. I don't know that I felt a lot of emotional connection to the characters but the subject matter definitely had me thinking and feeling grateful and fortunate.

Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres for this exact reason. I'm able to learn about a period and place in time in a way that brings it to life. I will admit that I'm quite ignorant when it comes to Wales and it's history. I knew very little of the plight of the Welsh Catholics until I read this book. Religious oppression has always existed at some point or another- in almost every country on the earth. It's such a shame.

Joan is a young woman and an orphan. Her parent are both deceased and she is dependent on others for her livelihood. I like that Joan is always trying to help the downtrodden and the sad. She loves her Catholic religion and worship brings her peace. I loved how Joan grows as she makes decisions and learns to rely more on her own merits and judgement instead of others telling her how and what to feel.

I could tell while reading that this author did her homework. The book felt true to the time and I came away feeling like I learned something new.

I just loved this bit from the book. "What the heart wants is not always what our head knows is best for us. Then it takes great courage to follow the course we know is right. Other times, though, it takes great faith to follow what our heart whispers, even when we see no sense or hope in it." (pg. 133)

Content: This book is based around religion so yes, there are religious elements to it. There is some violence and some graphic violence mentioned. Otherwise clean. No swearing or sexual situations.

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### **Miriam says**

I thought this book was very well-written and well-researched. I also thought the telling was very balanced.

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### **Sheila says**

This book is a historical fiction book that was written by someone that knows their history. It is always so obvious when an author has done the hard work to get details right. I have been intrigued for a long time by this time period, the English Reformation and the reign of Queen Elizabeth the 1st. The feeling of great religious unrest is the basis for this story as Joan is Catholic, and her father died revolting against the Queen and now Joan is an orphan living with her godparents. She also meets up again with the man who she thought some day she'd marry, but she hasn't seen Nicholas for many years. He's changed in many ways and Joan isn't sure how she feels about him at first.

This story has a slow start, but as things progress, you get to learn more about Joan and the kind of person she is. The reader soon sees that Joan is truly at heart very kind and caring and wanting to help the oppressed. She is courageous and fights for her beliefs, even with her own life at stake. Though there is some romance in the story, this book's strong points revolve around the adventure and mystery as she becomes wrapped up in the intrigue of secretly fighting for her people, The Welsh, and her beloved Catholic church. I felt on edge a lot while reading this story hoping that Joan and the others would succeed in their quest for freedom. There is some violence as the Queen's men had a job to "take care" of the Papist Traitors who were revolting against the Queen.

There are some twists and turns in the story, especially having to do with the romance that fully blossoms near the end of the book. I can assure you that it will make you smile. This book will make readers of historical fiction and historical romance feel very fulfilled when finished. This clean read can be enjoyed by older teens and adults.

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### **Lu Ann says**

After an awkward beginning, the tales increases in adventure, mystery, and intrigue. This tale takes place during one of the many very difficult times of history. As in most instances, the wealthy prosper - if they do not defy those who have power over them - and the poor suffer inhumanely. It is a time of inhumane torture of those who government feel threatened by, stripping them of all their worldly goods. This story centers on one young woman stripped of her wealth and position after the tragic loss of her father. Thanks to the land she inherited from her mother and for her Godparents - who she had not seen in over a decade- she traveled to a community in Wales that was a better place than she had lived in. She had been betrothed, as a child, to their son. However, time initiates much change in one's life. They had ceased corresponding. Their paths had pursued different paths. When they met again, shocking changes had occurred and other opportunities arose, pulling the two betrothed further apart. As time passed, Joan's began to question her high ideals and what she thought she wanted. She came to accept the fact in order to stay alive she must certainly leave her beloved

Wales behind.

The characters were portrayed well, the scenes were simply detailed, yet, easily envisioned. With the appealing Book Cover and fitting Title, they were effectively eye-catching. There were touches of romance at various stages of the story. As stated earlier, the main problem I had was the sketchy, seemingly awkward beginning to the book. The reader's interest was not effectively captured, leaving a slight sense of confusion for the next couple of chapters. The "flow" of the story was interrupted slightly in a few parts of the story. It was, all-in-all, a very good story and well worth reading.

I feel confident in offering a Strong Four Stars rating.

\*This book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review, of which I have given.

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### **Rebekah Lee says**

EXTREMELY well written. Beautiful style of writing. Exciting, exhilarating, and inspiring. The story makes you think, and does an excellent job of taking you into the time of the Reformation in a way that makes you feel like you REALLY ARE in history. The love story is pretty sweet too. :) Wonderful job.

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### **Karie says**

I really, really enjoyed BORN TO TREASON. Emily is an excellent writer and BORN TO TREASON showcases her abilities admirably. Joan Pryce is one of those characters that feels really true to life--the reader can really get into her head and understand not only what she is feeling, but why she is feeling that way. The details of domestic life in the 16th century are neatly woven into the narrative and bringing to life what it was to live in a manor--the persistent cold and damp, the daily occupations that needed to be performed even by the heads of household to meet everyone's needs, even the relative scarcity of good clothing. Add those to some excellent character and plot development, and there were no info dumps required to get the reader up to speed. I cannot tell you how much I \*loved\* that!

Instead, Emily brought the conflicts of the time to life by letting us see how Joan felt about them, how her loyalty to religion and country called into question her right to exist, according to the policies of the current government. This was difficult for me to read, because I really admire Elizabeth the First for balancing the forces in England and making her reign possible, but I sympathized with Joan and how the policies Liz 1 put in place negatively affected her life. But I truly admired the fact that Joan didn't make any reckless choices, either--she did what she could, but didn't overreach her abilities and resources. She was careful with the people around her, and how her decisions could affect their lives. She had the maturity I would expect from a character her age in that time period.

I had a hard time putting the book down--the entire story was intense, but not overwhelming. Emily, I tip my hat to you. Now will you please write a story about Nicholas? Because he was pretty awesome too, and I think his history would be an intriguing read.

Gentle Reader Alert: I found nothing of concern.

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