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Roberta Gellis

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Alinor Details

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Author : Roberta Gellis

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From Reader Review Alinor for online ebook

Misfit says

This was a very nice follow up to Roselynde, with Alinor mourning the loss of her beloved (and much older) Simon, who for protection against King John marries Simon's former Squire Ian, who always loved Alinor from afar. There are many (almost too many) misunderstandings between the two as are afraid to admit their true feelings for another, but some WONDERFUL arguments as well! Oh, the names they call each other and then make up.

I did think the characterization of the evil King John a bit over the top, but otherwise very pleasant and entertaining reading.

Colette says

This was the first Roberta Gellis novel I read back in the 80's - I loved this series then. I should reread it now.

Margaret Slusser says

Love These Books

Always always a wonderful read. I read these books over twenty years ago and I am enjoying them yet again.

Barb says

This is the second novel in the Roselynde series by Roberta Gellis. If you are a fan of historical fiction don't let the fact that this book was published by Harlequin scare you off. This is a well written work of historical fiction.

If you haven't already read 'Roselynde' this review may have *.*.*.*SpOiLeRs*.*.*.

Gellis reunites us with the headstrong Lady Alinor Lemange, recently widowed by the passing of her husband Simon. Alone Lady Alinor finds herself once again vulnerable to the avaricious motivations of King John. She soon marries Lord Ian de Vipont only to find that the king has turned his animosity toward their union.

Gellis does an excellent job of creating battle scenes with sometimes crude but realistic details. She has painted a frightening picture of a greedy and powerful king and an interesting and taut story surrounding Alinor and Ian.

I like the inclusion of the author's note where she explains that she made King John the villain of her story

though he is not viewed that way by historians. I also liked the glossary of medieval terms.

This is not an historical fiction where the author uses the known record of events and inserts motivations and dialog. Gellis creates fictional characters and inserts them into history while using artistic license with her characterizations of historical figures. If you dislike that type of historical fiction you may want to choose something else.

I love the details of the boar hunt, Alinor's wedding and the preparations required, the battles during the tournament and the siege at one of Alinor's keeps. I enjoyed the characters Gellis created, I especially enjoyed the relationship between Ian and his squire Geoffrey. The romance between Alinor and Ian was a little bit stretched at points but I liked the characters and the writing so much that I didn't let it bother me.

I would recommend this to readers who like lots of medieval details and a healthy dose of fiction in their historical fiction. I will be reading the next in the series.

Hillari Delgado says

Reading 'Alinor' again after some ten years reminds me how very good Roberta Gellis's work can be.

'Alinor' is the second book in Gellis's medieval 'The Roselynde Chronicles.' Recently widowed, Alinor, Lady of Roselynde is besieged by problems on all sides, not least of which is King John's lethal enmity. Ian Lord Vipont, Simon's former squire, now a power in the land, offers Alinor a solution: marry him. Each believes the other is marrying for expediency. Can they discover their love for each other before war, politics and deadly threats separate them forever?

Gellis's works are more accurately called 'historical fiction' than 'historical romance.' A biographical note says she began writing historical fiction after being disgusted by the historical inaccuracies in popular fiction of the time. While the working out of the relationship between the protagonists is central to the story, it is played out against and amidst historical events and a network of family relationships.

Gellis's medieval works are chock full of the details of everyday life in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Want to know what people ate, how they dressed, how a jousting lance was held or how a squire was trained for knighthood? You'll find out here, the details skillfully worked into the story as a rich tapestry to create a living world rather than as information dumps. As an example, Gellis's description of a jousting tournament is the most detailed and gripping I have ever read.

If you enjoy being immersed in a long ago period, you'll likely enjoy 'Alinor' and the other volumes in 'The Roselynde Chronicles.' If you prefer more of a costume drama, meaning modern-seeming characters and situations with a few horses and 'my lord's for color, these books be too detailed for you.

Even better is Gellis's ability to get inside the thoughts and emotions of her characters. This means the emotional conflicts between Alinor and Ian make sense. Rather than the usual romantic convention of a silly (and often selfish) dispute between lovers that could be solved if only they'd spend five minutes in conversation, these conflicts grow out the weaknesses, vulnerabilities and psychology of real emotion. They draw the reader into the story because they are so relatable.

For example: the supremely confident and always in control Alinor finds herself uncertain and unconfident

in her dealings with Ian, leading to complex misunderstandings and even a separation. Gellis supports these events by showing that as happy and successful as Alinor's first marriage had been, because of their age difference, 'there was as much of father and daughter between us as of husband and wife...I love you, Ian, as a young woman loves a young man--and for me it is the first time of such loving.' Love makes fools of us all, even masterful Alinor.

In another passage, Ian watches his squire imitate his master in carrying out the duties of a good knight and master. Ian reflects on men 'imitating and imagining, we imitate ourselves into manhood.' There is a touching authenticity and understanding of the human psyche here that makes these characters more than paper dolls in armor.

'Alinor,' book two of Roberta Gellis's 'The Roselynde Chronicles' receives my highest recommendation.

Bookworm says

I had great expectations from this book. The premise is that the heroine is marrying for the second time and because the husband was the hero of the prequel she must have loved him truly. So could she find the same happiness with the second man? I am sorry to say that the book fell short of the expectations. The heroine's concept that the sex is in the same category as eating or drinking begins to grate on your nerves after a while because she continuously harps on it. My major gripe is that the author is determined to turn Ian into a mere shadow of Simon. Its as if she is trying to console the book 1 fans that the heroine is only marrying a younger and more beautiful version of Simon while Simon is cheering on from the grave. And the book is like taking a history lesson and somethings like talk of the upstanding members and bride and groom doing a striptease for the guests on the wedding night made me uncomfortable!Okay it was not really striptease but they stripped down!

Katie says

Overall an enjoyable read. I also liked the historical note at the end because it explains why King John has been historically reviled. Although this is probably me speaking as a modern woman, I wonder how many women, even in that time period, considered sex a biological need like eating. Perhaps that was merely meant to display sense on the part of Alinor. I do wish that the children had more of a presence throughout the book considering what a big deal they make out of Ian liking them though.

Meredith Galman says

I was taken with the historical accuracy and characters in Gellis's Magdalene la Batarde mystery series, so I thought I'd try one of her straight romances. Big mistake. Her attention to period detail is as meticulous as ever, but she takes pretty big liberties with some historical personages, especially King John. It's a big leap from "imposed oppressive taxation; slept with his barons' wives" to "conspired to murder his vassals; tortured and killed whores in his spare time."

More to the point, I truly hated Alinor. I don't care how fiery and tempestuous you are, babe, pull a knife on a guy during a perfectly rational argument and we're done. I also disliked how the author frequently uses minor viewpoint characters to comment on Alinor's actions so they can observe how clever (i.e., manipulative) she is without her having to say it herself (and believe me, she would; she's not shy). Ian is a little better, but his reluctance to speak about his feelings leads to a tedious "I love him/her but I can't say so because [insert bogus reason here]" situation on both sides, leading to contrived and unconvincing misunderstandings.

And not even any hot sex to make up for it.

Letitia says

This was a vacation read and I truly enjoyed it. It's really not a romance because that is secondary to the plot, it's more historical fiction. I enjoy reading a well researched historical fiction and it makes you think about King John. This book portrays him as a decent King, but a lousy person and I tend to feel that history supports this portrayal.

Vleigh says

Overall I enjoyed this book but there were a lot of details about Medieval English and European politics which made my head spin at times. On to the next one!

Amanda says

This author's writing is very similar to that of Bertrice Small. In fact, I often forget I'm *not* reading a book by Small when reading the Roselynde books. That's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just a little weird.

I liked this book better than Roselynde. I'm still not entirely sure I like Alinor, but at least in this book, she showed some jealousy, although she still has the attitude that sex is just like any other bodily function, so she doesn't care if her man has sex with someone else as long as he doesn't love the other woman. Um, no.

I know it was typical in that time period to foster children to other families, but it still blows my mind that at one point, her concern with leaving the country is her children's safety, not that she'll be leaving them for who-knows-how-long.

I'm not sure I like the ending of this book, but at least it's a HEA, for the most part and no major characters die during the book. (Simon is already dead when the book opens.)

Rachel says

This book has everything I don't like in a romance: lack of communication and trust, seething hurt, too much description of things that should be private, and I truly can't read things like "upstanding member" without

just cringing. Somehow, that feels dirtier than just giving the body part its proper name.

SirenBookReviews says

Alinor by Roberta Gellis is a unique view of the courts and life in England during the rule of the infamous King John, Lackland. While this book is promoted as a passionate romance, I believe it should be seen more as an historical novel with some romance woven into it. This in no way detracts from the tale of the Lady Alinor and Sir Ian. However, Alinor is more the story of the English courts and politics during the rule of King John, Lackland.

In Roberta Gellis' novel, the premise is taken that King John was actually a very astute and intelligent ruler. In the many versions of Robin Hood, Prince John is often seen as a usurper who only wants tax monies. Here, in Alinor, he is portrayed as a king who was left a bankrupt kingdom and while still rather lecherous, was certainly not the worst that England had to offer at the time.

The romantic scenes between Alinor and Ian are few and far between. What fills the pages of Alinor is the pageantry, deceitfulness and corruption of the English courts during the rules of Kings Richard and John. This is a story of knights, bandits in the woods and licentious court followers. Roberta Gellis has created a love story of the ilk of Robin Hood, set just a few years later, under the rule of the loathsome King John. Read Alinor if you are looking for a story along the lines of the Sherwood Forest tales and you will be pleased.

Lady of the Lake says

I think that Roberta Gellis who has Masters Degrees in both BIO-CHEMISTRY and MEDIEVAL LITURATURE has done a remarkable job on Alinor..the ONLY thing I can say that drove me a bit to distraction with this book was her portrayal of Isabelle De Clare Marshal (The GREAT William Marshal, earl of Pembroke's wife) I don't understand why she would but she wrote her up as a religious fanatic of sorts, a timid wife and woman who blindly follows her husband without a word..she wrote the lead character Alinor as saying she would not let her daughter Joanna go and foster in Isabellas household because she doesn't want Joanna imitating the weak Isabelle in her ways of not taking intrest in her household and taking all her time with sewing..or some such stupidity. It is a well known fact that William Marshals wife was strong willed and independant she ruled as Queen on her Irish land for heavens sakes! I liked the writing and the history that Gellis put into this Romance/Historical novel but I can't shake that one huge negative of the story in my eyes.

Hilcia says

Love the historical details in this book and Gellis' attempt to capture the medieval mindset. And I still love Alinor. I was as saddened by Simon's loss during this REREAD as I was the first time around. The romance between Alinor and Ian is plagued by one too many misunderstandings and lack of real communication. There is a heavy contrast here between Ian's youth and Simon's maturity. Regardless, this is my second favorite book of the Roselynde Chronicles.

