



Keeper of the Dream

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Blessed with the Welsh gift of "sight," Lady Arianna saw the vision in a golden bowl. A knight with eyes gray as the English sea that had captured her, his sword about to pierce her heart. And she trembled, not with fear, but with a desire that engulfed her very soul.

On the treacherous border of Wales, Raine, the Black Dragon, rides his charger toward Castle Rhuddlan and the lady within. Illegitimate son of a Norman nobleman, his past was scarred by denial and mistrust, and now his future lies in the conquest of a kingdom--and a woman's love.

As the battle trumpet sounded, Arianna, her Celtic pride unyielding, saw her dream take flesh: Raine, the enemy who inflamed her blood with desire; Raine, the lover she must gentle and tame, and then, as ancient hatreds threatened their lives, either cherish...or betray.

Keeper of the Dream Details

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From Reader Review Keeper of the Dream for online ebook

Crista says

Penelope Williamson BLOWS ME AWAY! What a gifted and unique talent she has. This was my 2nd novel of hers that I've read, the first being Once In Blue Moon, and I can say with certainty that this author is the "real deal".

In Keeper of the Dream, we are transported into the medieval period. Lords and Ladies, Knights, bards, mystical "Merlins", and unforgettable battles. This is my favorite period, and this book is reminiscent of Kingdom of Dreams by Judith McNaught and all medieval books by Julie Garwood...my favorite.

This is a forced marriage book....another favorite subject of mine. Raine is the illegitimate son of an Earl and is a feared knight, the Black Dragon. Arianna is a Welsh princess. They are forced to wed by edict of the king and Arianna's father. It is not a union that either is excited about..at first.

The chemistry between these two is intense to say the least. Arianna spends the greater part of their first meeting, and for some time following, trying to kill him whenever she gets the chance. He spends the greater amount of his time trying to bend her will and get her to submit to him...not an easy undertaking.

Williamson's books are not short. They are not quick, easy reads...but they possess a smartness and depth that is quite simply missing from historical novels written today. She takes her time weaving this story together. We see the progression from hate to lust to love in very slow, clear, and detailed ways that make sense. These are two intense individuals who become multi-dimensional...another rarity in romance novels.

This is a beautiful and memorable love story. This is a book worthy of your time. This is a keeper.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Medieval Wales. Castle Rhuddlan is attacked by the English and Lady Arianna is captured along with the castle. Raine, the Black Dragon, is the bastard offspring of the Earl of Chester and a favored knight of King Henry's.

Apparently a well loved book of many romance readers. I liked it. It was fairly typical of the historical romances of the 80's and 90's. This is not a bad thing for me personally. I love many of the romances written during those times. Somehow I missed this one though. But I can now claim it. Lady Arianna bugged me to some degree but I kept reminding myself of when the book was written. Raine was your typical uber-alpha jerk but he had his reasons. Don't they all? Overall it was a good read and I would recommend it to those readers who love the historical romances of the past.

Vishous says

This would have easily been 5 stars from me, however, I had some troubles... Most of my troubles were literally in reading/understanding. English is not my native language, but I understand it and speak it just fine. First 50% of the book I was tapping my dictionary app like crazy, marking almost every other word. I understand this is a pretty "old" book (HR from 1992.), and I understand words are "old/archaic" here, but seriously, it frustrated me so much I thought I would go crazy. It killed all the joy of reading for me. It's not the books fault, it's mine. I am not fluent in old welsh/norman/english vocabulary. The second half I simply gave up and thought "what the heck, I'll just make logical conclusions what could that word mean".

What I loved was that it wasn't perfect at all.... Nothing in the beginning or later was perfect... Even their sex in the beginning was somehow "forced" and not gentle or fixated on her bliss at all...

Honestly, I loved how he treated her, even when he wasn't being nice... I even wanted him to be meaner, to punish her more, because...

well....

let's face it...

I wanted to slap that stupid woman from first page to last.... And I even cried for her, which makes me even more angry because I did not love her at all.

She understands how she has to act toward him, yet she magically fu@ks up every time! I mean.... If you realize what is expected from you and what is your duty and would never dishonor your family, why do you act like some spoiled brat then?! Why are you surprised when he loses his trust in you over and over again if you constantly go against him!!!!

GRRRRRRRRRR.....

But I also must admitt, as a woman, I felt her pain in some situations... Wanted to shake him and make him see how stubborn he is and how he is hurting her...

...ahhhh... the HR bliss of stubborn people....

I would say I loved the writing style, but I didn't know what half of the words meant and while I waited for explanation to pop out I had to reread the sentence all over again.

So, if this ever gets published on my language I will most definitely reread it and try to enjoy the story how it should be....

Dawn says

I am not very good at writing reviews unless it's a bad one. LOL. All I can say is that this is a well written, well edited historical romance that has a bit of magic, folklore and is certainly an emotional rollercoaster. The characters are very believable and well developed. There is a lot of passion and lust, but also such strong love that was written in the stars.

I liked that the love was not your typical love at first sight deal as in so many romance novels. The love shared in this one was hard earned. I also love the mixture of Welsh folklore.

Lastly I recommend reading the authors afterword which explains some historical inaccuracies and the basis for which her ideas for the plot are formed.

This book is 500 pages and contains a lot of adult situations.

Nymeria says

A campy mammoth of a medieval romance.

A book you enjoy despite wanting to slap both leads several times.

A fun read from start to finish in all its over-the-top glory.

Misfit says

Arianna is the daughter of the Prince of Gwynedd, who has some power of sight, and who for political reasons is wed to the forbidding knight Raine, the Black Dragon, the illegitimate son of the Earl of Chester. Of course our heroine is stubborn to a fault and of course she hates the Normans who have invaded and plundered Wales, and of course she most especially hates the man she's to marry. While this story contains many of your standard HR plot twists, i.e. stubborn beautiful noblewoman forced into marriage for the sake of peace with a man she hates, although strongly attracted to at the same time, hero with the black hearted evil brother, etc., what brings this story out of the three star category is the wonderful addition of the "magical" and mysterious squire, Taliesin. His antics kept me thoroughly entertained throughout, and I especially loved the epilogue with Taliesin.

All in all a highly enjoyable romance for a rainy Sunday afternoon. Not the best in this genre, but certainly far above many others I've come across. My only quibble is a couple of the sex scenes between Arianna and Raine were a little bit too, well, ahem, detailed for my tastes and I would definitely not recommend this book for a younger reader because of that. But, if you're in the mood for a medieval romance light on the history and heavy on the bodice ripping this would probably be right up your alley. Four stars.

Glamdring says

What can I say? This book is one of my favorite historical romance, I reread it many times in French, this was my first read in English.

Penelope Williamson weaved her romance with the England/Wales history as well as the Celtic mythology and she really makes you believe that those two were meant to be together.

Raine is the strongest, fiercest knight on the battle field and though he clearly has jerk-ish tendencies deep inside he is the true knight in shining armor and he found his match in Ariana who is loyal and as fierce as he is.

I absolutely loved how they fell in love and Taliesin and his antics are just hilarious.

Lorka says

I read so many reviews on this book complaining about rape... So I didn't really know what to expect as I started reading it. But as I got half-way thru the book, I realized the 'rape' was more a matter of a stubborn hostage bride not wanting to consummate the marriage. She was such a bitchy bitch, she should have considered herself lucky that she didn't get beat actually. I think it was written historically correct for that time period, so it was not an irritant for me. What did irritate me though was how wishy-washy the heroine was with her loyalty. Claiming profound loyalty to her new husband one second as she was buying fabric to make him a banner to hang up in the great hall... and then 5 minutes later deciding that she would keep secrets about her cousins that were causing havoc for her husband. I hate misunderstandings or not being fully honest storylines :/

Princessjay says

The good: Above-average writing. A good sense of historical setting. I could feel the dirt and smell the grime. The last third of the book settles into something resembles a true loving relationship. --Well, if it were *badly* written, I would not have felt the urge to at least skim this to the end, and would have been spared much finger-trembling rage. *GARH!*

The bad: the forcing together of a harsh, autocratic man and a "feisty" woman, in which they have nothing in common aside from all kinds of quivering at his touch and frequent f*cking, in which he grinds her down and she loves him for it -- oo little wife, how you defy me, but look, I will conquer you completely both in reality AND in bed, "cupping your sex" while I berate you to make my point that you still get wet. Aside from their frequent sex trysts, what reason has she to feel compassion for him and his crappy childhood? Has he shown her any particular kindness or worth, or is restraint from violence sufficient to woo her oh-so-soft-yet-feisty heart? But nooo, this was Destined and Meant To Be, and their Connection was evident when first they set eyes on each other, and she will eventually Crack his Hard Shell and teach him the Joy of Love. Again and again and again. I kept thinking, ok, another argument, another bout of sex, feels like an ending, wha--ANOTHER argument, another bout of sex, whoa--*ANOTHER*... ad infinitum.

All this, plus the poor bastardization of Taliesin, Welsh mystic wizard-bard that he was, into some kind of a comic sidekick boy-matchmaker.

The loathsome: several sex scenes in the first 2/3 of this novel borders on rape, all described as though they were *delicious*. YMMV, but I find such couplings repellent and hateful.

I SHOULD give this 2 stars for the ending... but no. I DISLIKE 2/3 of this book. Dislike. So there!

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrarkyker says

You guys! Another older favorite of mine is only .99 right now! This is on my keeper shelf, it's a medieval,

and only .99! Admittedly, I haven't read it in a few years now so I can't promise it holds up but it is a medieval and it is only .99!

Amazon Link

Jultri says

Too much of a bodice-ripper for me. Marital rape was followed all too soon by love struck heroine's adoration of the hero. I gave the novel up completely after hero's gory account of his slaying of h's kinsman, which seemed like an aphrodisiac for both to jump and hump one another. I just realised why I prefer Regency to Medieval HR. I think the latter period is too brutal for my delicate self.

K says

3.5 stars

This one is a little hard for me to rate. It had moments of greatness and some moments not so great.

The hero is passionate and gentle with the heroine then there is a misunderstanding where the hero thinks the heroine betrayed him in some way; he then becomes hard and cold towards her telling her the only purpose she has is spreading her legs for him and bearing him sons. The hero eventually realizes the truth and becomes soft towards her again though not actually apologizing for it... (But to give him credit, I think he does apologize one time for a hurtful thing he said)

...Repeats this about 5 times and right there is over half the book for you.

I really liked the heroine at the beginning of the book. She was always trying to (literally) kill the hero any chance she got and her antics were humorous. But later, at times, she seemed TSTL.

The story did have some good moments that I know will stay with me. I loved both the birthing scenes and scene with the hero on his knees declaring his love for the heroine. I'd recommend this book for medieval romance lovers but if misunderstandings are a pet-peeve you might want to skip this one.

Katherine says

I loved the book, it was so endearing with a touch of fantasy. i just wish the heroine didn't swear oh so much. I'm not against swearing or anything, just that that one phrase she uses so often annoyed the hell outta me. I've read reviews here where it was said that the hero rapes the heroine, I didn't find any such scene - maybe I bought a later edition or something, even during the wedding night, he doesn't rape her.

Regan Walker says

Enthralling Welsh Medieval Romance!

This is one of the best medieval romances I've read but then I'm a fan of Penelope Williamson's historical romances.

Set in the mid 12th century when England was at war with what would become Wales, and the "marcher lands" were the battleground, it tells of Raine, bastard son of the Earl of Chester, and Ariana, a Welsh woman who becomes part of the conqueror's spoils.

Raine's father was a Norman nobleman who treated Raine cruelly (beating him when he asked for a pony on his birthday, confining him to work in the stables, turning him over to their enemies, etc.). Raine overcomes his rude beginning and all he has suffered to become The Black Dragon, a favored knight of King Henry. Raine returns to Rhuddlan, a castle in Wales where he was once held captive, now held by Owain, lord of Gwynedd. When Raine takes the castle, only a young son of Gwynedd and his only daughter, Arianna, remain. Arianna witnesses Raine kill her brother and hates him for it. (She is a seer and had a vision of the Black Dragon and realizes Raine is the one she dreaded coming.)

As the story develops, Henry allows Raine to keep Rhuddlan and gives him Arianna to wed. She hates the Norman who has killed her brother and the start of the marriage is a disaster.

I cannot begin to tell you how well woven this complex tale is, but suffice it to say it is very well done and you will not regret reading it. The characters are well developed (and there are some wonderful ones, not the least of which is Taliesin, the wizard who is weaving his own story). The history of the period so well presented that you feel you are there, which is one of the author's great talents. She takes time for details that make it real. You become a part of the world she has created and it's wonderful. Needless to say, the love story will tear at your heart.

Notwithstanding all the good I can say, I have to record here what bothered me about the story: Raine is supposed to be honorable, yet he took Sybil when he knew she was betrothed to his brother Hugh and also knew he would be leaving for years to try and become a knight, thus dishonoring both Sybil who loved him and his brother. He also set Sybil up for the heartache she endured her whole life. (By Raine's own rules, Hugh could have reasonably sought Raine's death for that.) Raine effectively raped Arianna on their wedding night and she cries herself to sleep without his comfort. Yet the next day she is happy not to be beaten for using a knife on him. Seemed a bit odd. When Arianna is asked to describe Raine to her father, she lists a lot of flattering adjectives ("hard but fair," "brave, generous, gentle") but she forgot "mean and bitter" for he was clearly that. There were many examples of his cruelty to Arianna. She gave her one treasure to buy cloth to make him a banner for his birthday to try and make up for the birthday beating he got from his father as a boy and Raine spurns both her and her gift, ordering it to be burned. When he realizes she's had visions of him that allowed her to share his pain, instead of loving her for it, he gets angry and mean and then ignores her. (I just wanted to say to him, "So you had a bad childhood; get over it!") He was always willing to believe a lie about her and never trusted her though Arianna was perhaps the only honorable one in the story. Finally, the wizard Taliesin (a wonderful character) at times seems to have great power (to cause a storm, to heal, to transport himself instantly) yet he needed Hugh to help rescue Raine, which didn't make sense. Anyway, all these nits aside, it's a wonderful read and you will enjoy it, I'm certain.

Here's the list of her romance novels.

- Beloved Rogue (May 1988)
 - Hearts Beguiled (June 1989)
 - Wings of Desire (under the name Elizabeth Lambert, August 1989)
 - A Wild Yearning (1991) - Winner of RITA Award
 - Keeper of the Dream (April 1992) - Winner of RITA Award
 - Once in a Blue Moon (May 1993)
 - Hearts of the West (April 1995)
 - The Outsider (July 1996)
 - The Passions of Emma (September 1997) - Nominated for RITA Award
-

Kathy says

Raine and Arianna were quite the pair. He the tortured hero, she the spitfire heroine. There were a few parts in the tale where I thought "ew, Raine, did you have to do that?" because his behavior irked me. But, hey, that happens sometimes with me when the hero is acting like a jerk. And I wanted him to stop it so they could get on with loving each other.

I seriously enjoyed this one. Recommend.
