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Kathleen Bittner Roth

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"The sexual tension barrels ahead right to the end." —*USA Today* bestselling author Leigh Greenwood

He stepped off a jewel of a sternwheeler onto one of the most beautiful plantations in all of Louisiana. And into her life.

Celine's breath caught in her throat. Heat smoldered in her belly. What a sensual man. The scion of the Andrews family carried an aura of personal magnetism so powerful, a sensation close to fright swept through her. She stood still and aloof, masking her emotions. His intense gaze seemed almost a physical touch. She held her head at a proud, haughty angle, not flinching from his bold scrutiny.

In seconds, Trevor regained his cool, casual air. A lusty grin caught at the corners of his mouth, and fire danced in his eyes as he bent ever so slightly at the waist, tipped an imaginary hat, and strode casually into the house.

She would never be the same...

From Plantation era New Orleans to the untamed American West, here is the sweeping, unforgettable tale of a headstrong young beauty and the man she is destined to love.

Celine Details

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Author : Kathleen Bittner Roth

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From Reader Review Celine for online ebook

Melody May (What I'm Reading) says

Posted on What I'm Reading

First off, you have Celine who has been through hell and back. At the beginning of the story, she's attending a funeral for her mother-in-law and the day gets worse when she loses the baby, her husband, and father-in-law. Then it jumps a year ahead, and we find Celine living with the Andrews family. Anyway, Trevor comes back to the plantation, sees Celine, and instantly feels a pull towards her. However, she's not sure what think of Trevor, because all the negative things she hears about him. There's also Cameron, Trevor's cousin, and he finds Celine attractive. My first thought was crap not a love triangle. Seriously, I'm not a fan of those things. As the story progresses, its not. Phew. I'm not kidding I can't handle love triangles.

Anyway, Trevor and Celine feel this attraction to one another, but they don't know how to deal with it. So, there is a lot of stupidity that goes on between these two. They tend to play mind games, but no one is really in control of the games. There is huge misunderstanding between these two and it's a wonder how these two even get together by the end of the story.

However, Celine is a beautifully written story. Yes, the some of the antics between Celine and Trevor are a bit tedious at times, but overall a good read. The start was little slow, but not long after the start did it grab my attention. So, if you don't mind starting of in a southern plantation and heading out west, you might enjoy Celine.

Copy provide by Zebra via NetGalley

Donna Frelick says

Great characters, heartfelt romance, tremendous scope and an unusual setting (the American South and West before the Civil War) make this a must read for historical romance fans. The book's only drawback is that it's too short--I didn't want it to end!

Ashlyn Macnamara says

The first romance novels I read were those old, 80s-era historicals. While I still love historical romance, I miss those books, darn it, for their scope, their sweep and their varied settings.

So I was really happy that Kensington picked up this new series that promises a trip down memory lane without some of the negative aspects of those pre-PC stories. With its pre-Civil War, old-South setting, Celine is a book that recaptures that feeling without the more negative aspects of those older romances. The sexual chemistry between the leads is right up the dial from the moment they meet, and you'll find the sorts of situation you'd expect in one of those old plantations. Hero sneaking into the heroine's bedchamber via the balcony? Oh yeah. But the story doesn't remain there. It encompasses the Oregon Trail, encounters with Native American culture, and ends up in unexpected places with plenty of twists along the way. Sweep you have in spades. What you won't find here is a forced seduction as Trevor and Celine work their way towards

their happy ending. And by the time they get there, they have truly worked, changed, and gone through hell.

Erin says

I really enjoyed this book but the ending seemed to wrap up really fast. For as much detail and dialogue was in the beginning half, the second half everything was just jumbled together. I felt there could have been more effort taken to develop some of the later characters and story line.

Florencia says

Wonderful Story! A captivating tale about two Lonely souls afraid to love, to trust, and of getting hurt. The many twists and turns kept me glued to the pages. Great way to start a series!

Baby Shields says

I could not put down this novel. The detail and the drama kept me glued to the pages. The plot takes place in historical Louisiana. There is quite a bit of family drama, action, as well as romance. The love or romance really did not take full effect until the middle of the book, but it had me glued to the pages. I totally recommend reading this book!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

4.5 'left me smiling and wanting more' stars!

Celine is the first book in Kathleen Bittner Roth's *When Hearts Dare* series, and an absolutely wonderful story! It's refreshingly unique, romantic, sexy, and exciting!

Description...

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My quick review...

Historical Romance is probably my favorite genre because not only do I get a great love story, I get to experience it while being swept away to another time and place, and I'm thrilled to tell you that that's exactly the kind story *Celine* is.

Like other reviewers have said, and it's true, the story could have ended at about the 70% mark, but I'm so glad it didn't because, in my opinion, we got a *happily ever after* that, had it taken place any sooner, would have felt forced. And add to that, the final scenes in the book are beautiful and I'm glad I didn't miss them.

The bottom line...

I'm thrilled to have found another Historical Romance author who doesn't rely on all the usual plot props inherent in the genre. I've already read book two, *Alanna*, and just hope there'll be more in this series! Cameron needs a story and I hope he gets it soon!

My sincerest thanks to Kensington/Zebra Publishers for granting my request to read this wonderful story! To show my appreciation for their generosity, I'm giving them an honest review.

Scandal (Scandalicious Book Reviews) says

My complete review is posted on Romance @ Random but the short story is, I really enjoyed this book and I can't wait to dive into Wolf's book next!

Evelyn says

Celine, the steamy first novel in the When Hearts Dare series by Kathleen Bittner Roth, begins in mid-1800s Louisiana. Celine Kirkland, who lost her husband and unborn baby in a horrible accident, went to live on the Carlton Oaks Plantation with Justin Andrews and his family. When cousins Trevor and Cameron Andrews, sea merchants and best friends, return to the plantation, both are quite taken with the beautiful young widow. Celine finds herself strongly drawn to Trevor, but she is hesitant to get involved with him. Trevor begins pursuing Celine, and each new sensual encounter with him, leaves Celine less able to resist his charms. Celine is a very sympathetic heroine as we see her life almost destroyed after the accident. She is a strong woman, however, and we watch her gain strength and confidence as she struggles with her desire for Trevor. Life has even more unexpected twists and turns for Celine, however, which even include an interlude with Native Americans, and it all leads to an exciting and satisfying conclusion.

This was the first book I've read by Ms. Roth, and I was fascinated by her wonderful descriptions. It was very easy to have a picture in my mind of the plantation, a ball that was held, the ships in the harbor, etc. I do wish, however, that the relationship between Trevor and Celine, outside of their sexual encounters, could have been a little better developed in the first half of the book.

I'm giving Celine four stars for the author's rich descriptions, the sympathetic heroine, and the settings that range from the Louisiana plantation to Native American settlements in the west. Originally reviewed for Buried Under Romance www.buriedunderromance.com. I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Sylvia says

This the first book in the When Hearts Dare Series. This book seize and conquer my attention from beginning to end. Celine Kirkland had so many tragedies in her young life. When handsome devil, Trevor Andrews comes home from England. Her resolve and confidence gets tested when Trevor is around. I truly enjoyed Ms. Roth lyrical writing. I received a complimentary copy from the publisher thru NetGalley for an honest review.

Diana Quincy says

I loved the New Orleans and San Francisco settings in "Celine", as well as the strong independent heroine whose character is tested. The chemistry between Celine and Trevor is so sexy and delicious you'll want to savor it. A very satisfying start to this series!

Tamra Baumann says

Celine by Kathleen Bitter Roth was a delight to read! So refreshing to read a sweeping love story set in the Mid-1800's in New Orleans that soon embarks onto the Oregon Trail. The descriptions are vivid and lush. And the details about the Native Americans so compelling, you'll feel you are living the high adventures right along with the characters.

Kathleen Bittner Roth has become an auto-buy author for me! Enjoy!

Jackie (No Bent Spines) says

Copy received via Netgalley + Publisher
2 Stars
Find more reviews on No Bent Spines

Full Review

I almost feel bad giving this book a two-star review. This book could have oh so very easily been a four, four point five star book if it had stopped somewhere around fifty or fifty five percent. After there, it just seemed

forced and, to be honest, I was disappointed. Especially since everything before that was really good. I kept looking at the percent finished in the bottom corner of my Kindle screen and wondering if maybe it was a glitch. But, no. It just kept going on. To explain why I am so freaking frustrated, I will be spoiling just a bit. **BUT THERE WILL BE WARNINGS AND I'LL MAKE THE SPOILERY TEXT WHITE ON MY BLOG SO DON'T LEAVE!**

Now that I've said all that, let me back up a little bit and explain what the heck is going on here.

After a tragedy that caused her to lose her husband, child and father-in-law, the only family she has left in the world, Celine is lost and broken. Justin, the father to the love interest in the book, finds Celine and takes her in, takes care of her and gives her a place to live while she gets all her chicken in line. The longer she stays at the family's lovely plantation (can I live on a plantation? I mean the house the land *starry eyes*) the more the family grows to love her. The less they want her to leave. And then the oldest son comes homes and stirs everything up. Suddenly, nothing is as clear as they once were to Celine.

The sexual tension in the first part of this book, y'all. I mean it was something to behold. And it was really amusing. I found their characters very life like and both of them really likeable. They seemed real. I loved the interactions with the minor characters they had. **LIKE THE DRESSMAKER AND LINDSEY! I LOVE THEM, Y'ALL!** Those two were my favorite. None of the characters in this book were lacking a backbone. I mean yes, they had their moments, but doesn't everyone?

If you've noticed, I haven't actually said anything too bad about the book. So are you wondering why I'm giving it such a low rating? It's because I pretty much hate the whole second part of the book. There were a lot of miracles (I don't even know if that's the right word) that I felt just shouldn't have happened. Like (view spoiler)

The second part of the book had Wolf, who I really did like. He was a great character. But I would have gladly sacrificed him if the book would have just stopped where I thought it should have instead of going on. And just not have some of the things happened that did happen.

So basically, this was a really well-written book. The writing, word choice, characters were all pretty great. It's just I was mad half of the book.

Sharon says

I love Kathleen Bittner Roth because she reminds me so much of Kathleen Woodiwiss. Beautiful love stories set against exciting backdrops sweep me away. Once you start a KBR novel, you won't be able to put it down until you're finished. And Celine is one of her best!

Gina says

The first 3/4 of the book I would rate a 3 - 1/2 stars. However, the last 1/4 of the book, it was just too much drama and it just didn't fit the characters' personality.

