



Beloved Vagabond

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She soon regretted her careless words

In anger, Lynn had called the dark Gypsy stranger "one of the dregs of society." Much to her horror, this had provoked him to bodily kidnap her. The final blow had come after their Gypsy wedding.

But she was powerless to escape: the Gypsies watched her by day, and Rad kept her imprisoned--in his arms--by night.

He told her nothing of himself or his life, but Lynn began to understand his enigmatic, almost dual personality--and the gentle, aristocratic half attracted her very much

Beloved Vagabond Details

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From Reader Review Beloved Vagabond for online ebook

April Brookshire says

This book was offensive and obvious in its plot. No real mystery since there were too many hints of the misunderstanding.

I kept trying to keep in mind how old the book is whenever gypsies were portrayed badly. Apparently, they're not concerned with bathing. Lots of prejudices, but maybe that was just the time.

I'm not sure if the hero was much better than his brother considering how awful he treated the heroine at first.

But at the same time I felt sorry for him. It was love at first sight for him and the heroine attacked him while he was still in that mesmerized state.

Probably more 2.5 Stars

Diya says

Do not recommend this book.

I don't know for why I continued reading this book SHOULD have quit from get go. This was terrible terrible book despite everything being implied from rape etc it made it more uncomfortable reading. Utter waste of time I regret reading it.

Lede says

Heroine is Kidnapped, raped(multiple times), smacked around, falls in love with rapist and lives happily ever after. A perfect foundation for a good marriage and a wonderful story to tell the grandchildren!

Modern dark romance books where the h falls in love with her rapist/kidnapper/abuser are very popular, so we can't even blame this on the time it was written. Its amazing seeing how themes are repeated over the years in romance books, they mark the shifting or stagnant nature of our relationship with each other.

Julz says

I just want to say that I LUUUUUURRRRRVVVV this book cover (the Mills & Boon, not the HQN - yuck!). I just want to curl up with it and snuggle. The hero...I want to lick him. Just ignore all those pilgrims in the background. That being said...

Methinks if I was a gypsy, I wouldn't enjoy this book. Apparently they are a bunch of dirty vagrants that don't even brush their hair. We're told over and over how much this heroine is disturbed by having to associate with them. ~Sigh~. This book could have been done so much better. I thought it would go in a different direction, that the hero would be a *Proud Gypsy!* (said with bravado!!), and that the little miss would learn to love her kidnapper and his people. That kind of stuff. It wasn't to be so...or maybe it was, but by the time we got there I failed to notice.

I can't say too much or I'll totally give away the already transparent plot. I should warn that there are a lot of hard limits for some of our more gentle readers. There is a lot of non-con throughout the first half of the book at least, and the hero was an aggressive uber alpha...until he wasn't.

I still love the idea of this story and we did get what was promised. This is one that I'll probably read again, if for no other reason, just so I can look at the cover again. Mmmmmmm.

Chitra *CJ* says

"Beloved Vagabond" is the story of Lynn and Rad.

Our heroine is an English orphan is on a vacation when she comes across some gypsies, one of whom kisses her without consent. When she encounters him again, she tries to shame him by calling him a "gipsy vagrant, the dregs of society" and he responds by kidnapping and whisking her away to his tribe.

Thus begins a crazy journey between an angry hero and a stubborn heroine.

The negatives

The heroine: Stubborn, haughty, opinionated and short tempered- she never thought before she spoke. Looked down upon gypsies and shamed their poverty and lifestyle. Struck the hero the first time she met him as he's a "filthy gypsy"

The hero: Angry, vengeful and secretive. My main problem with him was the non-con sex and marital rape which took place (some might say semi consensual, I disagree), there was also spanking and threats of violence.

The positives:

The angst in this one is heavy. The hero is hell bent on teaching the heroine a lesson and keeps slapping her preconceptions back at her, trapping her in his world, smashing down every chance of escape. She is in solitary confinement in the first half, often wishing to die, and even though you know she was wrong in her views about the gypsies, nobody deserves that treatment. She also constantly labels him a thief, which he soon starts accepting in jest.

The conclusion:

Stockholm Syndrome takes over, and she falls in looooveee. The mystery at the end is predictable and they get resolved pretty easily, wrapped in a tidy little bow.

My problem with it:

(view spoiler)

Overall, is not for everyone. Multiple triggers and bipolar characters. Leaves you feeling..meh.

Safe

2/5

Julz says

3.5 stars

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Jacqueline says

One of two gypsy themed books that I am rereading. I really enjoyed this one better than The Bartered Bride. That one had a lot of dated political stuff in it. This one concentrated firmly on the main couple.

Fair Warning: This one is totally non PC. There is kidnapping, rape, spanking and probably some Stockholm syndrome. The heroine spouts stereotypical racial slurs over and over. She did have some slight justification the first time but should have followed the 'if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all' rule early and often. But we are looking back on things from 30 years on and PCness does change and grow and that's usually a good thing. Still I think this might have been the author's views a bit since the hero never let her out to mingle with the gypsies and seemed to be ashamed of them himself.

So I'm giving this one 4 stars for the OTT old skool crazy of it all. This guy really kidnapped her and raped her although he did marry her first. The rape scenes, and there are more than one, are all pretty much closed door. He was one of those who was all 'why do you say things that you know will force me to lose my temper and assault you?' I think in reality Anne Hampson was writing about a guy who was probably into BDSM in a world where that sort of thing was not accepted in main stream fiction.

So super crazy for all you lovers of vintage WTFery.

Margo says

[Hampson is a tough read anyway, and this is the book that people seem to refer as "the one where he rapes her." Considering how much dubcon/noncon Hampson indulges in, this means I can pretty much guess that A., this is going to be seriously toxic, and B., I'm gonna give it a one-star. Also, my psychic power tells me that the depiction of Gypsy lif

Pam says

This is the worst HP it deserves a negative number but lowest i can give is one. Really is the worst I have ever read and i have read a plethora of HP almost 80 to 100 a year for the last 6 to 8 yrs. First the Hero is an absolute hideous excuse for a human. He abducts or kidnaps the heroine. He mentally abuses her for weeks, he threatens to whip and beat her when she stands up for herself . He then rapes her not once but twice on different occasions because she angered him. I also hate the Stockholm syndrome idea. How could anyone fall for a man who imprisons u for weeks forces a marriage on u and rapes u multiple times. Women are meant to be loved honored and cherished. I am sad i own and read this book. It is not because I detest the subject but I do not even believe it was written well. There are parts just skimmed or jumped over like why she thinks she loves him. I do not know if I will ever another from this author:(

Dianna says

Trigger warning: this book, and this review, deal with attempted rape, spousal rape and violence against women.

This is a long review, since I'm summarising the book, and I have a great deal to say about it. The short version is: hero abducts, marries and rapes the heroine after she mistakes him for the gipsy who tried to rape her a couple of days earlier. The heroine falls in love with his nobler qualities as they travel across Ireland, in search of the hero's identical twin brother. The book ends with the revelation of the hero's twin, and that the hero is a rich, noble land owner. The book is offensive and wrong and the worst thing I've read in recent memory.

Long version:

Lynn, 24, takes herself off to Ireland for a two week driving holiday. She's contemplating her life, and her choices for the future. An office colleague has proposed marriage. He's not great looking, but they are both children from broken homes, and Lynn would quite like to live in a house rather than a bedsit with a shared bathroom down the hall.

I can't fault this as motivation. Lynn's working in an office (her role isn't defined) and this book is set before anyone started the conversation about pay equity, so even if her prospective groom isn't in a more senior position to her own, he's potentially earning double her salary. Lynn will never reach an income level where she can afford better than her current standard of living.

And who knows? Romancelandia may have some sort of salary bonus scheme for ordinary men who manage to get a heroine down the aisle. I can imagine it funded by the League of Other Women, and I support their initiative. I can see their annual general meeting, held in some swanky and exotic location, where they read the list of potential heroines they've crushed. And then they celebrate by drinking champagne and flirting with hot men.

Back to Lynn, who is feeling sorry for herself, when the car goes bung.

She's on a quiet country lane, and there's a gipsy camp nearby. Lynn thinks caravans are pretty, so she's not immediately horrified of what exposure to this band of alternate lifestyle-dwellers will do to her.

Until, that is, a handsome gipsy man follows her when she walks away from car and camp, and attempts to rape her. She'd got evil vibes from him immediately. He had rough, cruel features and dirty clothes. He is swarthy. This is never a good sign.

Fortunately, Lynn is saved when a gipsy girl turns up. Lynn runs to the main road, gets a bus back to her hotel, and arranges for a garage to collect her car, fix it, and return it to her. This all happens with an interesting amount of speed, lack of fuss, or commentary on expense.

By this stage in my reading I am Very Worried. This book, with its cover of heads sandwiched between a stately home and a gipsy caravan, seems to be headed somewhere I'm fairly certain I won't like.

I'm not faulting Lynn for not calling the police over her attempted rape, or mentioning it to anyone. I could wish otherwise, but it's also grimly possible that Lynn has forgotten several near misses in her 24 years. These might just be things that happen to her on a regular basis. Or, not so close to what she would have been led to expect from gipsies, that she doesn't think it's worth making a fuss over.

With her car restored to her, Lynn drives on to her next stop. She tours the gardens of a stately home, Ballytara Abbey, and eavesdrops on a conversation about the owner, while staring at a portrait of a young woman through the drawing-room window. Here are the pertinent facts:

1. The owner has restored the portrait of his mother to pride of place in the house. For years, it had languished in some dingy stately outhouse, because of Shame.
2. The owner is rich, and the price of a ticket for a garden tour goes to charity.
3. The owner is single, and plans to fall in love once, and at first sight.

The next day, Lynn hires a horse at the local stables. She leaves her car unlocked and with the keys in the ignition. I don't know why. Perhaps she had some premonition that she was about to be abducted, and thought she'd best make it as easy as possible for her abductor.

Out riding, Lynn encounters the gipsy man. He's looking cleaner and his features are more noble, and how did he manage to get here? When he comes close she strikes him across the face with her riding crop. She calls him a dirty gipsy and the dregs of society.

He's really cross.

He chases her down, drags her off the horse. She then answers all his questions about her car, and how single and alone she is. He then takes her to a nearby gipsy camp. There, Lynn sees dirty, ragged children. Some of them are only half dressed! She's locked in a grotty caravan that smells of mildew and cooking grease.

Her abductor's name is Radulf, Rad for short. He conveniently has a conversation in English with an older man, Olave, so that Lynn can learn that Rad is searching for someone, and that he means to teach Lynn a lesson she'll never forget! Olave reminds Rad of his position, but Rad doesn't care. No one whips him and calls him the dregs of society and gets away with it.

There's a lot of emphasis placed on just how alone Lynn is. Sure, she has her job and her friends, but she seems to have completely lost contact with her parents. When she was about 18 they divorced, and each remarried and moved to another country.

When Rad comes into the caravan, Lynn applies a few more racist insults, and is very put out that Rad is taking the role of the injured party, given he tried to rape her a couple of days ago. Before Rad can really get into his plan to rape her out of her bigotry, some gipsy women come knocking on the caravan door.

They're insisting on marriage before the raping commences. So Lynn gets into a fancy gipsy dress and goes through a probably not legally binding marriage ceremony.

I'll note that Lynn doesn't refer to the sex between her and Rad as rape. It doesn't happen on the page, all sex in this book is implied. Rad points out that it could be worse. He's threatening to whip her as well as rape her, if she doesn't learn to mind him. Although, he also tells her he doesn't want to ruin her beauty, so the threat to whip her as she has him isn't really on the table.

By this point, I can't quite believe I'm still reading. And it doesn't get any better. Lynn, locked in the caravan all day, takes to cleaning it as best she can. She contemplates escape. She also contemplates how Rad isn't as dirty and crude and ignorant as she'd first thought. He looks at her with respect (WHAT?) and shares her distaste for the dirty caravan. And there's that nobility she keeps detecting in his features. It must mean something, but what?

It's really awful. Especially when the hints start up that Rad isn't attempting to rape the bigotry out of Lynn (which is horrific enough) with respect to the gipsy people, but only where it is specifically applied to Rad.

And there's so much bigotry. Lynn wants to wash her hair. Do gipsies have shampoo? Lynn suspects, from her observation of the women, that they never wash or brush their hair. And none of this is delivered with any empathy for the poverty Lynn can observe from the caravan window. She assumes that poverty is a choice. She's like the worst kind of interloper, who wants only the tame exoticism of a different culture, because she finds everything else too confronting.

I know I shouldn't be so down on her because she's a product of her time. I know that the point isn't for her to find anything positive in the way the gipsies live. She's locked in a caravan, there are no opportunities for her to integrate, and it would feel false if her views did change. She's not in the headspace to be anything other than miserable.

But I'm reading this knowing that Rad is the rich owner of the stately home. So Lynn, who is scared and miserable but instinctively knows that Rad is better than his surroundings and the company he keeps, is eventually going to have her world outlook confirmed.

This is such an uncomfortable book. Rad subjects Lynn to two rapes and two beatings. The beatings are delivered as punishment: Rad spanks Lynn when she lashes out at him verbally. I really hate that word. Spanking has such different connotations in romance, but here it is most certainly beating. Rad is angry, and he's intentionally inflicting pain.

After the second attack, Lynn is sobbing and distraught and says she wishes she was dead. This book may hold back on presenting violent acts as truly violent, but it does at least present Lynn's emotional pain.

The rapes and beatings stop. There are hints for the rest of the book that Rad is feeling somewhat helpless as to how to get the relationship he wants after this bad start. There isn't any sense that Rad feels any remorse. He sees his anger as a regrettable part of his nature, but he sees his actions as just. He's unhappy. He gets the occasional viewpoint, but only so he can describe how beautiful Lynn is. What I latched on to was that love at first sight hint from the scene in the Abbey grounds. Rad's story is clearly that he fell in love with Lynn, and that his rage was so out of control because she immediately and harshly rejected him. If I could look at the spankings as an effective method of moderating his beloved's behaviour, and the rapes as a standard romance shortcut in an era where women could only safely have sexual desires after a long courtship followed by marriage, I might have felt some sympathy for him. But I can't.

Rad and Lynn are getting along a little better over the next couple of weeks, as they start touring the gipsy camps of Ireland in Lynn's car. Rad won't tell her what's going on and whenever she asks him about money, and where his nice stuff comes from, he maintains that he stole it. They laugh about it a little, but Lynn is never far from thinking that Rad might be into some deep criminal activity. However, that hasn't prevented her from falling in love with him.

Lynn has convinced herself that Rad has a dark side and a gentle side. She's seen the worst of him, but she's in love with the man with the noble features who is now only unkind to her when she touches on forbidden subjects. This isn't a particularly healthy relationship, but I kept desperately trying to see it within the context of the period when the novel was written. I'd almost succeeded, too, until I was struck down by the appalling ending.

Rad takes Lynn to a remote seaside cottage, and it's beautiful. Rad's able to convince Lynn that they aren't there under false pretences, although he does claim that the place is owned by 'a friend.' They play house, and it's almost a normal relationship, except that Rad is still treating Lynn like a prisoner who will escape if he lets his guard down. When Lynn doesn't escape when an opportunity arises, he does finally admit that he is looking for someone, and that he will get around to telling her everything. They have consensual sex.

The next day, Rad is off pursuing another lead. His target has recently beaten a gipsy woman so badly that she almost died. Later that night, Lynn hears Rad return, but he goes to bed in a different room. She assumes he's being considerate of her sleep.

Next morning, she encounters her first would-be rapist, and realises her error. This man isn't Rad, this man is Rad's twin brother. And he's delighted, because now he can rape her, with the bonus enjoyment of raping his brother's wife.

As the raping commences, Lynn gets in a lucky shot, and the evil twin falls and hits his head. Lynn ties him to a chair (not well) and he's awake and just about to free himself and recommence the raping (now with bonus kicking!) when Rad arrives. Now we get the full history.

Rad and Alban's mother (Alban is the rapist evil twin) 'married' a gipsy and was cast out by her noble family. Her husband (or something) left her, and then she died in childbirth. The twins were given to different foster mothers.

Alban's foster parents died in a fire and it was assumed that he died too, so when the noble family came looking, all they found was Rad. From 16, Rad was raised to be a gentleman and heir to a fortune, but his

touchpoint was always his gipsy heritage. I would have cared more for how difficult that must have been for him if he'd managed to not be a violent rapist.

Alban's whole deal is the bitter discovery that he was left out, and his claim that he is the elder twin and the heir. I don't even have to summon up sympathy for Alban. He's attempted to rape the heroine twice, and hospitalised another woman. Who, incidentally, was the girl who rescued Lynn from the rape at the beginning. He'd initially assumed that she was dead. He'd come to the beach house to hide out from the police, as he was expecting to be arrested for murder. He felt no remorse over killing her.

The woman has decided not to press charges, so Alban is not facing any criminal prosecution. But Alban does mention that his bad ways, thievery and seduction, have led to him being an outcast from his people. The girl he's beaten had said 'not again' in the beginning scene when she rescued Lynn. It's a safe bet that he's raped other women. While he's good looking, 'seductions' that will get you thrown out of a close-knit community are highly like to have been forced.

It all comes out, and Lynn has to calm Rad down, since he's angry over that first encounter. Obviously, the bad start to their romance, where Lynn whipped him and said mean things, and he raped her and beat her, is all Alban's fault ...

Rad reiterates that Alban has a half-share in his inheritance, which isn't anything that Alban hasn't heard before, although now it appears this has finally sunk in. However, when Alban asks if he'll be welcome at the Abbey, Rad says, umm no, you've 'frightened' my wife twice. Interesting way of putting it.

The plan they settle on is that Rad will give Alban a big bag of money and Alban will go to Australia to start up a timber business with a friend. On behalf of Australia: thanks a bunch. We definitely appreciate the arrival of deforesting rapists. The big bag of money isn't the half-share, Alban says he wouldn't be capable of handling that much at this time.

I don't care, Anne Hampson. I don't care how sorry Lynn is for him. She's sure that his finer features and handsome face, and the genetics from his mother, a sweet girl, will come to the fore. She thinks Alban just needs compassion and forgiveness, and he'll turn into a loveable human being who will someday find romance and settle down with a nice girl. I think he should be in prison.

Lynn also accepts, without any protest, that her would-be racist will be staying the night while she and Rad settle down to telling each other how in love they are.

This is my biggest disagreement with romance, where love either resolves a characteristic I don't see as a character flaw, or forgives something that I can't reconcile as forgivable. I'm all for romance turning characters into their best selves, but that's not what's happening here.

While Lynn isn't completely certain that Alban will be rehabilitated, she's lost perspective on what is right, and forgives more than she should. The character flaw she's resolved is that she's now sweet and kind instead of sharp and judgemental. The sympathy she shows for Alban while she's cleaning his wound and he's unconscious is the most terrifying thing. It's meant to demonstrate the positive lessons her suffering has taught her. She's now able to put others first and see the good in people, but all it shows me is that she no longer considers her own safety and wellbeing.

And then there's Rad. His determination to ensure his brother got his fair share is his only noble quality. The rest is a pretty shell around his darker nature. Lynn's fallen in love with his good side, and is sure she'll be able to keep him good, since she knows what sends him bad. This is their happy ever after: they'll go and be

rich at the Abbey, and Lynn will only get raped and beaten when Rad uses her as an outlet for the occasional racist slight that his money can't always shield him from.

Nooran Reviews says

MY BEST BEST BEST (AND) AMAZINGLY FIRST BOOK I'VE EVER LOVED ♥

Jasvin says

Love it, read this book in 1984. still like it and remembered the story to detail.

Sarah Mac says

This story is a good plot-bunny, but the MCs are too stupid to be tolerated. I understand Lynn's behavior, at least to a certain extent. But her repeated refusal to clarify why she slashed his face was just plain dumb. And Rad...good lord. *facepalm* You hate the gypsy half of yourself & are so resentful of Lynn's reaction that you treat her exactly like her inaccurate prejudices dictate...? WHAT. Either turn the other cheek & be what she doesn't expect from an uncouth gypsy, or admit you dislike that part of your heritage & act like the sane, semi-normal individual that you resent her for not believing you are! I know Logic 101 is a class many Harlequin characters slept through (if they even bothered to attend), but even by HP standards these chuckleheads win some sort of produce-pelting parade.

Anyway. The only person whose actions made any sense was the creepy brother. He was a rapey nutball with anger issues, but at least one could see how he became that way.

That being said, AH's portrayal of gypsies is truly awful. She makes no real effort to redeem Lynn's misconceptions & Rad's brutality is given the pat explanation of 'gosh, I'm sorry; I really do hate when my father's blood rears its ugly head, so thank god we can start over as decent rich folks who wash their hair regularly!' ...Yup. I'm not often offended by vintage paperbacks, but c'mon. That's just cringey. Or lazy. Either way, it's bad.

Overall, I was disappointed. Bland 2 stars.

Chantal ♥? says

Oh I wish I could say this was the only book that I read about a heroine falling for her rapist but it's not and it was worst that they just glossed over the fact that that is what he was!!! He condemns his twin brother at the end for trying to rape her when he did in fact rape her!!! Did the author get amnesia? Can't tell you that this was a good book at all and the fact that the whole gypsy community knew and did nothing is too gross for words!!!! Another case of guy should be in jail but is not! How is he better and who is to say if the other brother had raped her she would not love him instead!? Just food for thought here as they are twins. And

obviously she gets off on rape! Please let this be the last of these books I read.

JustMeee says

1.5

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