



## Lady in White

*Denise Domning*

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## **Lady in White** Denise Domning

A Widow with Nowhere to Go

Commanded by Queen Elizabeth into marriage with a man made monstrous by a childhood accident, Lady Arabella Purfoy dares not refuse. With neither family nor allies to shield her from the plots that whirl around her, Belle must give fortune, family and even her body into the care of her new husband's steward, Master James Wyatt.

A Man Sworn to Expose Her

Master James Wyatt is certain that Lady Purfoy is a Protestant spy sent by his queen to prove his Catholic employer, Squire Nicholas Hollier, a traitor. Jamie will do anything, even pretend to be Nick, to protect his dearest friend from the tides of treachery that threaten to destroy them all.

## **Lady in White Details**

Date : Published October 2nd 1999 by Denise Domning (first published 1999)

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Author : Denise Domning

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Medieval

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## **From Reader Review Lady in White for online ebook**

### **Misfit says**

Freebie today, but the new cover is atrocious.

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### **EileenNH says**

#### **Good representation of the Era.**

This was a realistic fictional story about the complications of the Reign of Elizabeth I. The changing of one's religion and the support of the various factions at Court were hard to keep track of and hard to keep ones head and property.

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### **Monique says**

This is the second and last book in a series by Domning that began with the last book I reviewed, Lady in Waiting. I probably wouldn't have read this one if not for the fact that I borrowed both of them via my kindle in a package deal, but I ended up enjoying 'White' more than 'Waiting.'

In 'Waiting,' we learned that the main male character's brother, Nick, is an invalid and trying to gain his Lordship back. Due to the events of that book, Elizabeth decides that in order for his title to be restored, he must marry and try to produce an heir. Nick doesn't like this idea because he's already (inappropriately) in love with someone else. And, the woman he's to marry ALSO falls in love with someone else. Again, this is a 'love and marriage but ZOMG OBSTACLES!' story, but I found the main love story (between Nick's promised wife, Belle, and his steward, Jamie) to be more believable than the love story in 'Lady in Waiting.' I did, however, miss the court intrigue. There is some attempt to add drama and danger through a character sent by Elizabeth to spy on (Catholic) Nick, but it never feels as dangerous as the potential traps set out in the first book.

There's also some random ghost stuff, which the author explains in both pre- and post-story notes. It's only a few pages and doesn't have that much of an impact on the plot, and I certainly wouldn't say it's scary (although the characters seem to think it is!)

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### **Michele Lacroix says**

Okay I read this book before I've read book one, but that doesn't matter. I loved this book with all it's complicated relationships. By the way this was another free book from Amazon.

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## **Jess says**

I'm trying to find an author that combines a depth of plot and character with romance (though I don't want a romance novel) that doesn't have a lot of sexual content. So I keep trying. This wasn't it. It did have some nice plot and character elements, but I didn't necessarily find James to be incredibly likable, and some of his behaviors didn't have a distinctive reason. It also seemed like the characters behaved according to their time and customs except when it was convenient. But you know, I've read a lot worse. It did have some sexual content that put me off for a third star, but it had an interesting historical perspective.

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## **MaryD says**

Sequel to "Lady in Waiting", this is Nick's story... and Belle's.... and Jamie's... and Cecily's. What a confusion of love, loyalty, and compulsion, but the story resolves itself in full if not completely "HEA".

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## **Carlie Van Amerongen says**

I was surprised when at about the middle of the story I found myself wanting to know what happened next, because in general, this book is beyond bad.

I give it a tentative two stars for the plot, but I almost had to take one away for the overuse of the words "yon" and "nay."

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## **Sally Hannoush says**

It was too confusing- should I have read the first book before this one for it to make more sense? We are introduced to too many character too quickly so it was hard for me to keep straight who was who and what their role was suppose to be. This book just wasn't for me- my own opinion - because of the start of the story threw me off the whole book.

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## **Ana T. says**

I enjoyed Lady in White even more than I did Lady in Waiting. Lady in White is Nick's story, or at least it is supposed to be Nick's story because what happens is that he is not the only hero in this book.

When Kit made his bargain with Lady Montmercy in the previous book, one of his goals was to have his brother Nick married to the Lady's daughter Arabella. The dowry would allow Nick to regain his title and build the family's fortune. While the contract between them was dissolved when Lady Montmercy's real reasons were revealed, the queen decided that the marriage should go ahead as proof of Nick's (a catholic) good intentions towards his monarch. And that is how Arabella (Belle) newly widowed and with a young daughter finds herself on the way to meet her new husband accompanied but his right hand man – Jamie.

Belle and Jamie have a problem from the very beginning; they are immediately attracted to each other. I had a bit of trouble understanding how this could come about so soon but since they start spending more and more time together I really started seeing the attraction. But they are both honest people and determined to fulfill their duties so they don't reveal their feelings to each other.

When they arrive at Nick's castle their welcome is less than warm as everyone is catholic and Belle and her family are seen as the enemies. It is also obvious that despite the queen's command and the presence of one her spies to witness the marriage and the bedding Nick is hoping to escape from it. In the previous books we were aware that Nick had a lady love, Cecily, with whom he hoped to marry, he finally does in the beginning of this book (the first chapter is wonderfully atmospheric and seems right out of a gothic novel) and that will be just one more problem that they will have to deal with as they try to comply with the queen's wishes and the fact that her envoy would like none better than have some treasonous act to report.

So this ends up being as much Belle and Jamie's story as Nick and Cecily's. Jamie tries to protect his friend to point of pretending to be him when it was needed and Belle goes along with the deception because she recognizes that Nick is a good man and is trying to do the right thing by his wife and his name. When Jamie and Belle confess their feelings to each other they are torn between what they feel and what their duty is. Will they be able to find a way to be together? We can't help but wish that they all may have their happy endings, because they are all very nice people caught in a desperate situation, but it soon becomes obvious that that is not going to happen. This whole story has a much more suspenseful feel than the previous one, a lot more subplots, and I really enjoyed that. There is also a ghost in the story and while its presence is more of an atmospheric feel for most of the action in the end it's the ghost that is determinant for the well being of one of the main characters.

I have really enjoyed Denise Domning's stories, both the medievals and now these. I have now added her books as Denise Hampton to my WL and I fervently hope that she decides to write new stories in the future.

Grade: 4.5/5

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## **Elis Madison says**

Arabella Purfoy is in deep...

The Queen's summons arrived just after she and her daughter were booted out of their house by her stepson. On the way to the Queen, she and her daughter Lucy fell ill and had to hole up in an inn until they recovered. So now she's late—and without appropriate court attire—and just in case that's not dicey enough, she learns her mother is cooling her heels in the Tower for some bad acts. Belle isn't especially concerned for her mother—they're not close—but she does worry about how her mother's ~~shit~~ bad acts might splash back on her and her beloved daughter Lucy.

At the end of *Lady In Waiting* we left Queen Elizabeth I mightily po'd over a really creepy plot to deflower and publicly ruin one of her ladies in waiting. And one of the plotters was Kit Holliers. One of the goodies he was promised in exchange for his bad acts was Arabella's hand in marriage to his disfigured, reclusive brother Nick. Kit saw it as a way to help his brother regain the family's lost title. The Queen sees some advantage that escapes me here, and decides that commanding a marriage between a rather impoverished Protestant widow and a Catholic subject who wants his family's title back will somehow gain her something. So she tells Belle that she can marry a reputed monster or she and her daughter can join her mother in the Tower. Belle answers as she must. James Wyatt, Nick's sexy steward, acts as Nick's proxy.

Nick, meanwhile, does what HE must. He loves Cecily, his mistress, so he marries her in a Catholic ceremony before Belle arrives.

Questions of bigamy, adultery, and all other sorts of treason prevent the star-crossed lovers from going with their hearts. Toss in a little intrigue by a fellow who wants to convince the queen that Nick has conspired against her, just to keep the plot thick..

I loved the tangle the author developed here. Normally I want some kind of mystery or danger to keep the story moving, rather than just watching the romance inch along. Here, while there's not a great deal of danger, there's plenty of knots to unravel before we can possibly find the HEA, and it works.

There's also a little paranormal side to this story—I'm not into that. The ghost story here did tie up one loose end, but—maybe it's me—it still didn't quite feel organic with the rest of the story. And I want to think that after we die, we'll have better things to do than hang around our old digs and give people the willies.

3.5 stars. Paranormal romance lovers will probably like it better.

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### **Nancy says**

A well-written touching book.

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### **Jeanne says**

#### **A truly twisted tale of true love times two!**

This was a gripping tale of a life long love, royal insecurities, abuse of power, loving forgiveness, guilt driven deeds and finally true love rewarded written by a truly talented author who spins some of the best plot twists I have read. She is in league with Kathryn Le Veque!

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### **Betty May says**

#### **Good read**

I found this book to be a good read. The characters could have more depth and detail. In my opinion the plot

was good but not believable. There were too many times when the hero and heroin just seemed to waste a great experience. I did enjoy the story.

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**Irène Wadowski uliasz says**

j'ai autant aimé lire ce livre que le précédent voire même plus car il y a plus d'émotions dans celui-ci

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**etherealfire says**

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