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Lynsay Sands

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Circumstances have changed; they're worse. Valoree has been named heir to Ainsley Castle. And the will distinctly states that in order to inherit, she must be married to a nobleman...and pregnant. Upon learning that, the virgin captain is ready to return to the seas, but her crew puts the issue to a vote-and for those rascally cusses she will do anything. Reluctantly, she agrees. If they can find a way-Henry and One-Eye and Skully-to put on her a sweet face that will fool the ton, she will handle the rest. Even with a drunken prostitute as an aunt and her merry cutthroat crew as servants. But to herself she swears one thing: She can only marry a man who fires her blood, a man who is not afraid of a lady pirate.

Lady Pirate Details

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Author : Lynsay Sands

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From Reader Review Lady Pirate for online ebook

Dreamingalice says

I don't even like romance books.

I was out with some friends and picked this up as a joke because it so clearly screamed "stereotypical trashy romance novel" (yknow like the ones you see pent up wives/middle aged women reading in media) and I just couldn't resist the hilariously expressive cover. I steeled myself for a corny, cliché romantic and ~*~steamy~*~ (lmfao) experiment that I could retell to friends for some laughs.

To be honest? For most of the story, I straight up wasn't mad at it. It was silly and corny and melodramatic in the way that I assumed all cliché, mass-market romance novels had to be and, while it did retain this air of casual eye rolling sexism, it wasn't anything I hadn't expected and actually exceeded my expectations on some fronts. The prose wasn't anything to write home about but it was palatable. I even found myself warming up to the inevitable romance between Val and Daniel. It definitely wasn't ground breaking nor would I say I was invested by any measure, but it felt randomly genuine and Daniel's feelings towards Val were surprisingly...sweet. He treated her well and was obviously intrigued by her and she was similarly interested in him. Their ballroom dancing scene was actually sort of nice in the dialogue department and their romance as it began was not as painfully boring to read as I first assumed.

Halfway through I legitimately resigned myself to giving this book 3 stars for being exactly what I thought it would be but OK because of that.

But just when I thought i'd stumbled across a moderately tolerable Trashy Romance Novel with only mild hints of sexism and misogyny... the second half of the book happened.

Not going to go into too much detail because it's not worth my time but basically Valoree gives up being a captain several times because men tell her to and generally goes against her own wishes to please others. She's robbed of her agency as a person multiple times and this isn't even the worst part. I thought this book would be free of rape-y undertones that I know are so prevalent in romance novels. That was sadly not the case. Even though rape/sexual assault is addressed as being a terrible thing to do to a *woman* (key word being) the book does a complete 180 on itself and has Val basically halfway sexually assault/rape Daniel. If it sounds like i'm exaggerating i'm not. She literally even says she's going to do "a little raping and pillaging" while Daniel is tied up and unwilling below her. Not to mention, this is after she forcibly marries him to her while he's too inebriated to refuse and after she tries to have sex with him while he's passed out and too drunk to give consent. Of course, Daniel eventually becomes fully willing in the act (despite having been understandably furious) which is more a result of the need for another sex scene in the book than anything realistic. I was pretty much appalled at this sudden drastic change from sweet, bland romance to gross unhealthy-but-painted-as-healthy relationship.

Oh Lady Pirate, what could have been.

Inka says

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SmartBitches says

Full review at Smart Bitches, Trashy Books

TW: discussion of rape and sexual assault

I've felt like I've had a vitamin deficiency for the past few months, and I finally realized what I needed to correct it. I needed crazysauce. I needed banana-crackers.

Valoree (the names!) is the captain of a pirate ship, the Valor (get it?). She and her brother were the children of some peer or another, and discovered when Valoree was about 8 or so that their guardian had bled their inheritance dry. Nothing left to do but acquire a ship and a letter of marque and go a-pirating to get enough money to restore the estate. As one does.

Fast forward a few years and Val has spent most of her life pretending to be the cabin boy, and then her brother gets murdered in the course of their pirating and she takes over as captain and then the crew finds out that she's a woman and everyone is surprisingly fine with that. Then they find out that according to her father's will, if she wants to inherit the estate, she needs to marry and be pregnant with a potential heir by the time she's 25. At the time she's finds this out, she's got 9 months.

Luckily, at the same time with the same solicitor, Daniel, the Peer of Something, also needs to marry and beget an heir in order to inherit his grandmother's many many many thousands of pounds.

The pirate crew all vote that Valoree should try to get hitched, which she says she's uncool with, but they voted and pirate ships are a democracy (which is accurate, actually) and so they rent a house and acquire an old woman who needs an occupation to pose as Val's aunt and the pirates all play at being servants while they all acquire invites to various soirees so Val can meet a dude to marry.

Val thinks she needs a weak dude because she's all used to independence, and Daniel's like, all strong and alpha and shit, so even though they a) can solve each other's problems b) can't keep their fucking hands off of each other, including dry-humping in the garden, and c) can't stop thinking about each other at ALL, she rejects him several times.

Eventually the pirate crew is like "FUCK ALL OF THIS" and kidnap them both, and somewhere along the line Val threatens to have Daniel hanged (for Reasons) so that sets things back a bit, and then the book hits a point where I just can't anymore.

Daniel doesn't want to deal with Val because she tried to hang him, and she NEEDS to get married and get knocked up, so she has the crew go ashore and acquire a minister and has them get Daniel SO DRUNK he marries her and signs the contract without knowing what he was doing. That's all bad enough, but she also tries to fuck him while he's unconscious (NOPE) and when that doesn't work, she has him brought ashore, lays him out, and waits for him to wake up so she could make his dick work and fuck him that way.

Okay, no. Yes, sure, he's mad but ultimately into it. BUT NO. Just because it's female on male rape does not make it okay. And she married and tried to fuck him while he was too drunk to know what was happening. NO NO NO. Nothing about that is okay, and yes, I finished the book but only out of spite.

Up until the whole rape business, I was enjoying myself. Sands was not taking things seriously and was

letting the wacky flag fly with this crew of pirates who just want their captain to be happy, even in spite of herself. And as the crew and Valoree try to navigate society, wackiness ensues, including using cake batter and raspberries as makeup. Like, some of the details weren't right, but that only detracted somewhat.

But then we get to this whole rape thing and that just killed it dead. I know this was originally published in 2001, and we were still in the transition out of the Old School rapiness. But we were transitioning out, and equating the rape with the comedy and thinking it's funny because it's female on male just is a NO. This made me SO MAD. This was a reissue, and there had to have been the option of reworking it. It wouldn't have even needed a huge massive re-write.

I needed some crazysauce. I got some crazysauce to put on my banana-crackers, but MAN I could have done without the rapiness.

- Redheadedgirl

Desi says

Adequate story. Not as amusing or swashbuckling as I thought it would be but not dull either. The main characters all fell just a little bit short of the mark where I would have cared much about them or their problems. But the cadre of secondary characters was sweet. And the adoptive/you-get-to-pick-your-own family, love and affection was real and prevalent throughout the book.

The "tie everything in a bow" / close off the past grand wrap up off the coast of England (where none of that would have ever, ever, happened as no foreign ship would be dumb enough to be that close), was way too convenient and more annoyingly unbelievable than fulfilling. But say what, it was one of the more engaging scenes under the Pirate column.

To tie off I must note my strong disapproval of the way the marriage itself was handled and the beach "sex" scene. I kept thinking the author would pull back from full on crossing the line with the consummation. But nope. That tractor rolled right on over it.

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

I'm really on the fence with this one. Debated between 3-3 1/2 stars.

The plot line was good, but rather unrealistic.

The humour and sexual "banter" was what took up most of the story.

Historically accurate?

Not really, and had too much of a "modern feel"

Swashbuckling pirate action?

Big NO for this pirate wench..hence drop to 3 stars.

But..if your looking for a light hearted, funny fast read that's what you'll get.

Anne says

2.5 stars (rounded up b/c it's readable)

Well, I'm on a Lysay Sands kick *and* I'm trying to expand my 'knowledge' of Pirate Romance, so I genuinely thought this would be a winner.

Eh. The best I can say is that this was *sorta ok*.

I know, I *know*! You're shocked that 16 year old book called **Lady Priate** didn't blow me away, right?

There were parts that I thought were genuinely cute or funny and they would redeem the story enough so that I could keep reading, but there were also some things that I found genuinely annoying.

I know I've mentioned this before in reviews, but I'm just not a fan of spelling names oddly in books. I mean, I have to look at it overandoverandoverandover, and it just works my nerves.

Valoree. Ugh. Really? The spelling reminded me of how confusing the word banana used to be to me and my friends when we were kids.

Banananananana...wait. How many na's?

Valoreeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

How 'bout just...Valerie? What's wrong with that, huh? I know this may come as a shock, but not every reader likes pretentious spelling.

Then there was *Valoree*, herself. I'm torn on how I feel about her.

I *get* that she's spent the last 8 years on a pirate ship pretending to be a man, so *yeah*, she's bound to be rough around the edges, but sometimes it just felt fake. When she was climbing walls and hiding injuries, it felt like she was tough. But when she was clomping around, guzzling rum, & acting blatantly rude in general...it felt like she was one of those annoying girls who (for whatever reason) constantly and loudly announces that she's *suuuuch* a tomboy.

All. The. Time.

Blech. Like anyone fucking cares. That always made me want to punch 'em in the tit.

Or maybe that was just me.

However.

I loved the way she fought to keep her independence! <--**LOVED!**

I think her plan to try to marry a wimpy man that she could run over was actually pretty solid...at first.

But why marry at all?

I'm glad you asked, random Goodreader!

In order for her to inherit her family's estate, the will states that she must be married to a noble and either have a child or be pregnant with one by her next birthday. Of course, Daniel is a Lord who just happens to have found out (same time, same office) that he ALSO has to be married in order to collect the \$\$ from his grandmother's will. Problem solved for both of them, except she believes he's too dominant for her purposes. Also, she used to be (still is, sorta) a pirate.<--there's more to the story, but that's enough

to get you started.

While I liked her original motives, after a while avoiding marriage to Daniel got on my nerves. They were both very attracted to each other (lots of heavy make-out sessions), he likes her *quirks*, he's funny and easy to talk to, and he keeps asking her to marry him. I mean, I get her initial reluctance, but I think it would have been easier to just let him know that she wasn't going to go along with it if he decided to try to lord it over her when/if they got married. And while I *do* love the back-and-forth thing in romances, if it goes on waaaaay too long or get waaaaay too crazy, my eyes glaze over and I start to check out. By the end? Boy, did this get wacky...

I liked Daniel well enough. Too bad he wasn't paired up with a more likable heroine because he was pretty much what I look for in a fantasy guy. Sadly, Valoree's idiotic stunts towards the end made me wonder what in the world he saw in her. Just...no.

Around the last 30% the story just went completely off the rails and took a trip to WTFland. All these little unnecessary side plots started rapidly tidying up in a pretty unorganic way.

Someone is (maybe) trying to kill Valoree + Her fake aunt has a *secret origin* + One of her suitors may be someone's dead (only not dead) baby + The pirate who killed her brother is still at large + Gotta get preggo! + Will the king charge Valoree with treason? + Can Daniel open up and treat Valoree like an adult human with a working mind? + Valoree needs to stop sulking like a child = **Clusterfuck**.

Still, at the *very* end, Valoree kicked ass pretty hard. To me, it gave some redemption to the asinine way she acted during other parts of the story.

It's a readable story, but ultimately not what I was looking for to scratch my Pirate itch.

{insert syphilis joke here}

Danielle says

A fun, fluffy, sexy romance read for when you just want to switch your brain off! And it was laugh out loud hilarious! I was just cackling to myself at the antics Valoree's men get up to and the predicaments that they wind her up in.

While I've found some of Lynsay Sands' stuff boring and frustrating enough to make me want to throw them across the room, Lady Pirate is one of the good ones. Would definitely recommend!

Age: Adults

Warnings: Sexually explicit content, but the violence is fairly minimal.

Leona (readingwithleona) says

I don't know what it is with me and Lynsay Sands' historical romances, but *Lady Pirate* was my second opportunity to read a historical romance by this author, and I have to say...I am in awe.

It's no secret (well maybe it is to you) that I hold a special place in my heart for pirate stories. I would like to thank Bella Jewel, first and foremost, for providing me a modern day pirate series (Criminals of the Ocean) that has warmed my heart, and has fulfilled every guideline I have in place for a perfect read! What's even great is that I can **now** thank Lynsay Sands for providing me a favorite pirate story from one of my favorite genres.

Lady Pirate met my expectations and more. Even when Valoree (our heroine and sea captain) would irk my nerves with her stubbornness and naiveté, in hindsight, I wouldn't have changed a thing about her or how her actions influenced certain things to happen. Every conflict, misunderstanding, and laughable moment evenly played a part in Valoree and Daniel's rocky, hilarious, and steamy romance. Every piece, no matter my likability of it, worked toward the wonderful end result of *Lady Pirate*.

Would I recommend *Lady Pirate*? Ah, heck yeah!

I would recommend *Lady Pirate* to any of those die hard historical romance lovers (especially fans of the Kathleen E. Woodiwiss and Johanna Lidnsey variety).

I would recommend *Lady Pirate* to those who love their heroine to have a spine and who fully understands what loyalty means.

I would recommend *Lady Pirate* to those who love their heroes to possess an inner strength that doesn't bow to the whims of the society they live in, but is their own man.

And lastly, I would recommend *Lady Pirate* to those who want to read an all around great story that's sure to leave you smiling in the end.

***Originally reviewed at Literary Treasure Chest: [http://www.literarytreasurechest.com/...](http://www.literarytreasurechest.com/)

Cyndi says

Gotta tell you I enjoyed this book. Of course I listened to it on audio so I didn't have to deal with weird-spelling-names. (Valoree?)

It was funny and sweet. Great characters, especially Back From the Dead Red.

Good book, fun read.

Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

So, I didn't like this one *quite* as much as *An English Bride in Scotland*, but it was still fun, if not a bit long-winded for all the loose ends that needed tying up. Speaking of being tied up, the sex scenes aren't intensely graphic as they are often wont to be in this type of story, but they still manage to be steamy. I enjoyed the

romantic pairing in this novel, most especially because their situations were so similar...as were their personalities. I'm definitely going to continue perusing Lynsay Sands' backlist, though I can't promise I'll venture into her vampire stories.

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

How could I not want to read a book titled "*Lady Pirate?*" Especially when it was written by one of my favorite go-to Authors! This was a fun story to read that had me chuckling at the antics that Valoree was going through, all to provide her crew with a retirement plan. I loved that the pirate crew had voting rights and were able to vote that Valoree become a "proper lady" in order to fulfill the obligations stated in her fathers will before being able to secure the estate which would provide a place for her crew to retire. Hil-AR-ious!!

Freaking hilarious! The romance between Valoree and Daniel was funny and yet, hmmm, not. I was a little hit and miss with that one. Mainly due to Valoree's character being so wishy washy about his desire to court her. Really made little sense why she was truly against it. Daniel's character though completely made up for everything that Valoree's character lacked. Liked him very much.

I would say that the supporting characters in this story, as well as the plot twists, are the reason that I enjoyed *Lady Pirate* as much as I did. Valoree tested my nerve a lot of the time but there were some good points about this character, like her strength and independence, plus her desire to jump into the fray. She may have been quite immature most of the time, but she also had that she-rah attitude that endears me to a female character. Overall, I did enjoy this story and its kooky pirate family.

Elle says

Another good whodunit. I was a little frustrated with some factors in the ending, though. The story begins with the heroine and her crew swearing vengeance against the pirates who brutally tortured and killed her brother and most of their crew. Midway thru the story we're told that a member of the crew may have betrayed them to the pirates. In the end, we finally get to see her confront the pirate who killed her brother, and what does she do? She freezes, and her husband shoots the man in the back. No problem with Alvarez dying quickly, but I guess, after reading the horrible way he killed her brother, I wanted to see her do the deed, and I wanted Alvarez to know why he was dying. Also, we never do learn who among the crew betrayed her brother.

Lorrie Moar says

Omg!!! This book was so damn funny, so damn wonderful, just so damn everything good! I freaking love Lynsay Sands and every damn book that I've read of hers!

Susan says

After the deaths of her parents and guardian Valoree was raised aboard her brother's pirate ship. In order to protect her, she was disguised as a boy the entire time, with only one crew member knowing her secret. Her brother's plan was to acquire enough money to restore the estate he's inherited, then retire from the sea. He had promised his crew that they would have a place with him. Just as Jeremy had reached his goal, he was captured and tortured by another pirate, and the money stolen. Valoree took over as captain, determined to avenge her brother and to replace the riches and follow her brother's plan, all the while keeping her secret from the crew. That plan hits a bump in the road, however, when she discovers that to inherit, she must be married to a nobleman and either have a child or be pregnant by the time she's twenty-five years old - only nine months away. She's ready to give it up and return to the sea, but her crew convinces her to give it a try.

Daniel is in a similar predicament. He has inherited the title and the lands, but not the money needed to maintain them. Instead, his grandmother's will states that he must be married and have a child before he can claim the money she has left him. He's not happy about having his hand forced, and his mother's efforts to help are making his life miserable.

Daniel and Valoree meet briefly at the lawyer's office on the day they each find out about the wills' requirements. Daniel is intrigued by Valoree, who is unlike any woman he's ever met and ponders the idea of them joining forces to gain their inheritances. Valoree is determined to find a husband that she can control, retaining her independence. To do so, she must enter society and check out the prospects. There are some pretty funny scenes of the "help" she gets from her loyal but clueless crew members. Her entry into society does not go smoothly, and in each of her attempts, Daniel is there to rescue her. He becomes more intrigued each time and feels an unexpected attraction to her. Valoree also feels the pull but feels that Daniel would not be the compliant husband that she seeks. Her attempt to find said husband results in an influx of worthless fortune hunters and her "interview" process is pretty funny. Daniel has determined that he wants Valoree for his own and inserts himself into her life whenever he can. He also takes advantage of their attraction to press his point. Valoree still resists, until her crew takes it upon themselves to force the issue. The abductions are carried out, but a secret involving Daniel ends up putting them at odds. There are some interesting maneuverings as roles are reversed, and Valoree presses for the marriage and Daniel resists. Valoree's solution is unique but effective, and they end up tying the knot.

But not everything goes smoothly. Valoree's fears are realized when it seems that Daniel has taken over everything in her life. She is left with nothing to do and her resentment builds. It takes Daniel's mother's arrival to open his eyes to what he has been doing. I loved Valoree's reactions to the various instructors and Daniel's cluelessness. Daniel has finally realized that he is in love with her, and his actions were an attempt to take care of her. Unfortunately, Valoree saw them as an attempt to control her. I loved seeing him confess his feelings. Though he wanted to hear that she felt the same, I loved seeing the patience that he had as he waited for her to be able to see it. It took Valoree a while to realize why she was resisting admitting her feelings and I enjoyed the self-examination that had her finally facing the truth.

There was a little bit of suspense/mystery running through the book. There were several "accidents" that happened, putting Valoree's life in danger. The truth behind the attacks came as a surprise as it was not at all what I expected. The final confrontation was good, and I thoroughly enjoyed the punishment that was rendered.

The only thing left was the revenge on the pirate responsible for Jeremy's death. That was wrapped up pretty neatly by the end. It was fun seeing how the relationship between Valoree and Daniel drove their way of

dealing with the threat.

As much as I liked Daniel and Valoree, I think I liked the secondary characters even more. Valoree's pirate crew were hilarious and heartwarming. I loved how much they obviously loved and respected her and the lengths they were willing to go to for her. From the pink livery to their "votes" on what was best for her, she was always their top priority.

Sarah Lafleur says

Surprisingly good. Romance is not a genre I read, but this was fun and easy to read.
