



22 Nights

Linda Winstead Jones

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Their lust could bind them for life...

Just when the lovely Belavalari has given up on Merin—the dashing general to whom she lost her maidenhead—he appears in her native village, with orders from the emperor to return with Bela as a prospective empress. Fearless and skilled with her magical sword, Bela embodies everything Merin could want in a soldier. Except that she's female. And already married—he's horrified to learn—to *him*.

For her own reasons, Bela drugged him all those years ago and performed the Turi marital rite. Now, to sever the bond forever, Bela and Merin must remain bound together by a short rope for twenty-two days—and *twenty-two nights*. That is, if they don't kill each other first.

But on the horizon looms a cutthroat enemy. Now the pair will have to rely on each other—and the magical sword—to make it through alive and to experience the strength of the ties that bind.

22 Nights Details

Date : Published December 2nd 2008 by Berkley Sensation (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780425224915

Author : Linda Winstead Jones

Format : Paperback 310 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Fantasy Romance, Paranormal Romance, Magic

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From Reader Review 22 Nights for online ebook

Barbie says

I found this at the dollar store...thinking to use it as a bingo prize. I decided to read it after Jason read it. To be honest, I don't like cheesy romance novels, but this was really good! The married couple wish to "divorce" from each other, but have to go through a 22 day ceremony to decide if they truly want to end their marriage. During this time, they truly fall in love. And yeah, there are some steamy love scenes. It's a sweet love story and was better than I thought it would be. Maybe all couples should endure 22 Nights bound together...the divorce rate would shrink!!!

Diana says

General Merin has come to fetch Bela as a potential bride for the emperor when he learns shocking news: years ago Bela drugged him and married him. In order to obtain a divorce, the pair will need to be tethered together for 22 days. Also, another potential bride, Leyla, struggles to survive against a murderous plot.

I liked this much better than the first installment--less confusing and more approachable characters. The destined daughter plot actually opens up a lot of interesting future storylines, especially with a new prophecy about three people who will be instrumental in destroying the half-demons. Bela and Merin are both very likable and I highly enjoyed reading about them.

Blodeuedd Finland says

First I just want to take up this whole paranormal romance genre, well ok, this is fantasy, with romance. I would just rather have it called fantasy romance then. Because to call it paranormal gives it the wrong feeling, in most fantasy I have read there is magic, sometimes hidden and sometimes not. Nothing paranormal about that. When it takes place in this world then yes do call it this. But here I always gets confused, is it set in our world or not. Here it is not. Therefore my little fantasy speech.

Second, this blurb is misleading and it made me not care for the second storyline. I wished she had not made it like that. There is Bela and Merin. And suddenly there is a woman called Leyla who is having sex with this guy Savvyn. Why I thought, and read past that to get back to Bela. But Leyla kept coming back and then I understood that this book is actually 2 books in one in a way. They are about the same thing though so that is what they have in common.

I wished that could have been mentioned so that I would have cared more for Leyla. As for the cover that is Bela and Merin.

But ok, the story is that the emperor wants a bride, and he sends out sentinels to get him 6 brides so he can choose. Bela, is one of them. But when general Merin arrives he gets a surprise. He sure remember the woman who jumped him and then left. But he did not know they were married. A divorce is in other so he

can bring the bride to his emperor.

The second story is about Leyla, a widow who has been called forth as a bride too. A bit older, and with a younger lover who she now must leave. She sets out but it's a dangerous journey to the capital.

Bela is a bit spoiled now and again. She wants to be a warrior and she dresses and act likes a man. The she suddenly goes soft, and I don't know about that whole thing. But I still liked her. Merin too. As for the whole lovestory, well yes I knew they would be together but I don't know if I cared.

Leyla and Savvyn was different. I did not care for them at first, though I wish I had. But their lovestory was more intense, and I longed for these too. They had more obstacles to get trough and that made them real.

There was also much focus on something that I guess will happen in another series. I then hope she writes that one cos else it will be strange.

But it was a good little story. I just wish tI would have known about the two storyline plot. I did get caught by surprise about the whole sex thing with two strangers that did not seem to have anything to do with Bela and Merin. Oh and yes it was a lot of sex too. But it fitted the mood and what happened trough the book.

It is a book that I am sure lovers of romance in a little fantasy world can like. Cos there is plenty of that. Some hardships, and danger too. This is book 2 in the trilogy Emperor brides, but you can read any of them in any order really. Well perhaps not book 3, but we all know who people will fall for in the beginning with these books anyway.

Cover thoughts: Love it, those colors, yes perfect. But it looks a bit strange to the side.

Why I read it: My book

I don't know if to give it 2,5 or 3. That whole storyline caught me so unaware really and therefore my hesitation. But now you are warned.

Katie(babs) says

Tearlach Merin is a general under Emperor Jahn, who rules over the land of Columbyana. Merin is next in line for the Minister of Defense, which he longs to be. Late at night, the present Minister comes to him for help. Emperor Jahn has finally decided to take a wife and has decreed that six women be brought to him by the first night of the Summer Festival. He will choose one of these women as his bride. Merin is asked to escort one of the women from her home back to Columbyana. The one whom Merin must fetch is Belavalari Haythorne of the Turi clan. Merin knew Bela when she was just a girl of seventeen, and now six years later, he wonders if she is just as wild as she was then. Since the Chieftain, who happens to be Bela's father, knows Merin, he will go and hope they don't kill him at first glance.

It takes Merin five weeks to ride to the Village of Turis where he is met with hostility because of his position with the Emperor. Bela saves Merin's life when she informs her parents and brothers that she and Merin are married in the way of Turis customs. The last time Merin was in Turis, Bela gave Merin a drug and proceeded to give her virginity to him. Bela wanted to get the matter of her virginity out of the way because

she felt that marriage and family was not for her, and wanted to be like her brothers and ride horses and fight. She kept that night a secret for all this time, but now that it is out in the open, both she and Merin must go through certain steps to dissolve the marriage. In order to end their marriage, they must be bound together by a rope for twenty-two nights. They cannot cut the rope, and if they do, they won't be able to get a divorce for another three years. Both Merin and Bela are less than pleased because that means working and sleeping beside each other, as well as bathing together.

Merin decides he will do the best he can under the circumstances even though Bela treats him with disdain. She is afraid that Merin may try to do more than just sleep next to her. Bela is curious why so many women seem to enjoy the sexual act since her experience with Merin all those years ago was painful. Merin sets out to show Bela that sex is a lovely thing, and starts with kissing, and that of course leads to other things. Even though Bela starts second guessing her relationship with Merin, another man comes along threatening Bela's village, and wants Bela as his wife as well as her magic sword, Kitty, who speaks to her. Merin and Bela will have to figure out a way to save her village and find out the secret of Kitty and why it chose Bela as its master.

Linda Winstead Jones returns to the world of Columbyana in the sequel to UNTOUCHABLE (August 2008)with 22 NIGHTS. This fantasy romance that has a touch of a medieval feel to it has some interesting characters, as well as the situations they place themselves in. In the beginning, I did enjoy the bantering back and forth between Bela and Merin, but then Bela started to grate on my nerves. She seems to contradict herself when it comes to men and sex. One moment she wants to be like the boys; the next she wants Merin to show her what being a woman is all about. His lessons in sex did amuse, but even that got old after awhile. These two had such animosity towards each other that it was quite sudden when they admitted their love to one another. I just did not find that believable.

I also found the mystery surrounding Bela's sword, Kitty, a bit distracting, but since the plot was quite dull with just Merin and Bela's antics, Kitty brought some action to this story. There is also a secondary story I found more interesting than Bela and Merin's. Lady Leyla Hagan, one of the prospective brides for Emperor Jahn, has a bit of an adventure. As she is traveling to possibly meet her new husband, she is attacked by an immortal assassin who was paid to kill her. She, along with her younger lover, Savyn, run to safety. Leyla has a special power where she can erase memories or make people do what she wants. She made Savyn forget their relationship before she left on her journey. She, being an older widow destined for greatness, couldn't have Savyn heartbroken. But as they both try to escape from a crazed killer, Leyla comes to rely on Savyn more than ever. Their story was a bit more poignant and emotional, whereas Bela and Merin's was a bit too childish.

Linda Winstead Jones's 22 NIGHTS does have action and magic, but the story was missing something and just couldn't keep my interest. Perhaps those who are fans of Jones's work, and this world, will enjoy 22 NIGHTS better than I did.

Nancy says

General Merin didn't realize he'd wed Lady Belavalari when he visited her village several years ago, so when he's dispatched by his emperor to summon her as a potential bride, he seeks dissolution of his unwanted marriage. Clan ritual has Merin and Bela bound together with a rope for 22 nights, performing chores by day and sharing a cottage by night. If they are still bound at the end of the ordeal, the marriage will be dissolved. Can they resist their attraction to each other, even when Bela's magical sword draws them

together?

Nytetyger says

YAY! Another new series set in the same land as all the others I have read by this author and using a lot of the old characters. In this one, there are two distinct stories, not linked at all until the end when you find out why they are being told together. For the first, a General goes to retrieve one of the hopeful brides for his emperor, only to find this daughter of a rather important clan chief and he married a year ago when she drugged him and took advantage of him so that she could claim that, unflowered, she had no need to be so cosseted and thus could become the warrior she wanted to be. To dissolve this marriage that neither purportedly wanted, they are to be tied together with a length of cord for 22 nights and after that, should they still wish to be divorced, the marriage will be dissolved. HINT: They fall in love again and live happily ever after. Story two is of a wealthy widow with a magical power that is fascinating who is also headed to the Emperor. Her pack train is attacked and she and her one time lover must escape the assassin and HINT TWO: they too fall in love and live happily ever after. Yes, they have predictable endings, but the story is actually pretty well done.

Angela Blount says

A fairly solid 3 1/2 stars.

I'd generally describe this as a highly accessible fantasy romance. I'd read one of the author's previous books, *The Moon Witch*--and while this story doesn't seem related, the feel was very similar.

Also similar to *The Moon Witch*, there is a primary couple the readers follow, and a secondary couple whose story and relationship is at a different stage. You don't discover until close to the end that there is actually a closer relation between the two couples than the simple fact that the women are both wife prospects who the Emperor has ordered to compete in his somewhat eccentric bridal contest.

This reader had a bit of trouble warming up to the personalities of the two separate female protagonists. Bela starts out as overly brash, immature, insecure, and oddly irrational. Leyla is a cooler, more level-headed presence, but her motives are a bit nebulous and frustrating. Merin and Savyn rang more true as characters, and as men--at least in this reader's opinion. (Although, I probably would have preferred the book be shorter and focus on one of the couples only.)

It gets slow in a few places, and there was just enough needless repetition/recapping from previous scenes that it occasionally got on my nerves. But overall the writing is quality, and the relational dynamics are interesting enough to carry the plot-lines.

IslaRose says

Ok so I found this book at the Dollar Tree..... it wasn't as good as it looked. I love Savyn and Lela but the other two just get on my nerves. I have no desire to read the next one or the one before cuz the whole plot

was just stupid.

Rachel says

Wonderful stories!! I think I was most happy with Savyn and Leyla's story. Even though she scrambled his memories, he still loved her anyhow. Merin and Bela's story was cute with the whole binding of the rope, but at the end I was disappointed in how the marriage ended anyhow. And then had to remarry. And im getting a little sick of Rikka and her trouble she's always making. Such a shame the bitch didn't die down in Level 13.

JP says

This was a pretty awesome second book in this series. I'm glad I kept reading through the first book because this one was definitely worth it and I can't wait to read the 3rd book in this trilogy.

Tigger Andrade says

I found this at the dollar tree...thinking to use it as a book to help me accomplish my new year's resolution...and Loved it...I enjoyed the roller coaster ride Bela & merin took me on and I loved Leyla side too... but I didnt like how they just cut it...

Rhianna says

In Jones' Fyne Witches trilogy a pair of twin sons are born to Emperor Sebestyen of Columbyana. Now adults, Emperor Jahn and his moments-younger twin, Prince Alixandyr have begun an adventure to find a bride for the Emperor. There is to be a contest, six women of worth from varying lands are to be brought to the palace to be offered the chance to be Empress. Messengers are sent to the far places at the height of the Spring Festival to return with the ladies in time for the Summer Festival where Jahn will choose his bride. Already Alix has returned with Princess Edlyn of Tryfyn and has found a bride for himself in the exotic Sanura.

Sending General Merin to the Turis to bring back the Chieftain's daughter, Belavalari, seems a logical choice. Six years ago, during the war, Merin spent time fighting alongside the Turi people. It was during this time that an impulsive young Bela chose Merin to take her maidenhead. After drugging the General she performed the Turi matrimonial rights and attempted to consummate the marriage. Thinking Merin would die in the war leaving her a widow her only interest in him was how his death (and the loss of her maidenhead) would allow her more freedoms as a woman. When Merin rides back to the Turis to bring Bela to his emperor he has no idea that he is returning to his wife!

When the truth of the union is revealed the two agree to the process of ending the marriage; twenty-two days and nights bound together with a short rope. For the next twenty-two days the two must do everything

together, including chores and tasks set down for them by members of the clan. When a dangerous outsider comes to claim Bela and her mysterious magical sword, Kitty, the two must work together to unravel the mystery of where the sword came from and why it chose Bela and Merin to be its keepers.

If you've been a fan of Jones' previous books (The Fyne Witches, Children of the Sun and the first in this trilogy, Untouchable) this one may be a little bit disappointing. While it still has some of the elements one can expect, epic storytelling and sensuality, it is lacking in one of the elements Jones usually shines in, strong character development. Bela is fleshed out far more than Merin, which I found to be frustrating because I couldn't understand his motivations much of the time. Though having explanations for her manly ways and attitudes Bela was very one-dimensional and the turn from her rejection of all things sensual to full acceptance seemed forced.

Overall the story was very predictable and I felt as if the side romance (Leyla and Savyn) was more interesting and enjoyable than the book's main story. I wanted to like this one, but there were just too many cliched plot devices for my tastes. As an addition to the trilogy it's not one to be passed over but I suspect it will be the weaker of the three. If you don't mind a predictable story and the use of overused plot devices this one isn't bad by any means, it just didn't impress me. With this one tied up the stage is very well set for the conclusion of the bride hunt in *Bride by Command*.

Tiffany says

I enjoyed this story a lot more than the 1st. Merin and Bela's relationship and adventure was a lot more compelling to read and more enjoyable. In this book you get a larger picture of what conflict will arise in the distant future and it brings the story together and gives it purpose.

Lani says

I've now read all the available books in the The Witch's Saga's. The first three were by far the best, since the bad guy was so evil it was very hard to put down. These though are great too, there is just not that single evil villain that the first ones had.

Jena Johnson says

i loved this book so much. i could not put it down at all lol. its just drags you in the story like your the characters. the story is sometimes very weird like the mountain and the sword. i loved how the two main characters were with each other, that love you but don't want to type of thing. and there are some rituals in this book that all i can say is it's really that easy. its one of those books you really have to pay attention to and that ending was a twist. its got everything i look for in a book. love, magic, and a good plot. i hope you enjoy it as much as i do
