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Constance O'Banyon

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ECSTASY'S TIES

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LOVE'S BONDS

Emerald-eyed Season Chatsworth had defied her father's plans for her future; she certainly wasn't about to obey a stranger's commands! Escape was all the spirited young woman could think of--until she gazed into her handsome abductor's eyes and lost her will to resist. His searing touch and devouring kiss kept her by his side with more force than manacles of steel. Then the moment came when Season no longer rebelled against the cruel fate that linked her to the Raven; now she was forever bound to him by passion's VELVET CHAINS.

Velvet Chains Details

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Author : Constance O'Banyon

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From Reader Review Velvet Chains for online ebook

Stacey Merritt says

One of my first Historical romance novels I read when I was 17 and I was hooked ever since...I have read this book probably 5 times throughout the years since I've owned it 24 years now. YES, I still have the same book from 24 years ago!!! I read a lot of paranormal such as Larissa Ione or Nora or her Robb but when I come across a romance novel about pirates or ships and such...I get it and devour it. ALL thanks to this book. My FAVORITE romance novel of all time!!!

Regan Walker says

Superb Storytelling in this Privateer Adventure from the American Revolution

Set during the American Revolution, 1779-1781, this tells the story of Lady Season Chatsworth, a young English beauty who fakes a tumble in the hay with the stable boy on their English estate to avoid a dreaded arranged marriage. Her reputation in tatters, her father the duke sends her away to America to marry her cousin, Sir Edmund Kensworthy, captain of His Majesty's Guards in New York. But her reputation as a loose woman, false though it may be, has followed her to the Colonies.

Both Edmund and his handsome friend Lucas Carrington, to whom Season is immediately attracted, assume she is free with her favors, much to her chagrin. Meanwhile, there is an American privateer called "the Raven" terrorizing the British and winning the praise of the patriots.

This is a great story of a worthy heroine who is constantly faced with the foibles of men who underestimate her. She put up with so much one could only wonder at the wisdom of a 19-year-old girl. When she is captured by the Raven and held for exchange of an American prisoner, the adventure begins and Season finds herself in love with the masked man who takes her innocence.

O'Banyon vividly portrays the emotions of the Colonists with the British living among them. Our hero is a spy as well as a privateer and I loved that! This is one that will hold your interest. And though I might not have wanted to wait until the very end for Season to learn The Truth, I cannot deny I was absorbed enough to hang in there.

A few nits: With her careful attention to historical details, it was surprising O'Banyon got the forms of address wrong for the British nobility. If her father was the Duke of Chatsworth, their surname would not be "Chatsworth," and she would not be "Lady Chatsworth" (that would have been her mother); she would be "Lady Season (surname)." Also, I just have to say that naming your daughter "Season" in England at that time (when "Season" referred to the London social season) would be like naming an American girl "Cotillion." Seemed bizarre and it distracted. But these were minor in the scheme of the whole story.

Sydney Nicholas says

This was my first romance novel, mostly because it has been passed down through the women in my family

for years!

Nessa says

AFTER READING O'BANYON'S STORY I AM BEGINNING TO SEE A PATTERN, AND IT'S NOT ADVISED TO READ HER STORIES CONTINUOUSLY WITHIN DAYS OR YOU WILL BE QUITE VEXED WITH THE ALMOST SIMILAR PLOT. WHILE I AGREE THERE IS ANGST TO THE STORY, I CANNOT APPLAUD THE ROMANCE FOR IT WAS STILTED AND DIDN'T FLOW SMOOTHLY WITH THE CHARACTERS ONLY HURTING EACH OTHER AND NOT CONFESSING THEIR TRUE EMOTIONS.

MAY CONTAIN SPOILER! CAUTION BEFORE YOU READ AHEAD.

OUR HERO is fighting for his own cause, he lives a double life, known to most as the elusive and mysterious "Raven" and his true self as Lucas Carrington, a Virginian planter. As the Raven, he's clearly a most wanted man who is deeply involved in the political war going on between the English and the Americans. When he was introduced to his cousin's fiancée, he finds her to be a convenient pawn that will secure him the freedom of his detained uncle but alas, Silas was executed before the Raven could save him. Drifting upon his pain, he takes out his revenge upon Season and only earns her wrath later. The Raven finds himself falling for Season despite himself, and no woman has ever succeeded to capture his heart, until her. Throughout the story, we will meet several of his past dalliances and I can only attest to feeling quite bitter on Season's behalf at his past promiscuity. When the situation calls for him to release her to the care of Lucas Carrington, he reverts to his other persona and frankly while I do realise his double identity, I was quite annoyed and frustrated when he becomes almost like a stranger to me. Clearly, he's the same man but when he was Lucas Carrington, it's almost like he really is another man. I didn't quite like it when he finds himself competing with himself 'The Raven' for Season's love and attention. I didn't really understand his reason for thinking he had to compete with himself at all when Season loves both of him. As a man, I would say he is quite an honorable and responsible character, but when it comes to love...he clearly needs a lesson in it because he's terribly botched it up at every turn. I can say that his character holds appeal, because there is a mysterious air surrounding him that just pulls you in, making you want to know him, capture him and win him.

OUR HEROINE is quite a delightful beauty and while I was sometimes irritated with the way she handles her emotions and rages towards The Raven, I just wished that she could have handled it with more tact and pride, instead of just screaming 'I Hate You! You're Evil! I Hope You Hang!' right after a passionate round of love-making and such. It's stupid, because she is obviously spouting words of hurt that she doesn't mean, and honestly it only made her appear really cheap. Same goes to Lucas Carrington's behaviour. When Season finds herself abducted, I won't say that she resisted much...and can't help but wonder if that's even a normal reaction but oh well...The first time she met Lucas Carrington when she was introduced to her betrothed, it's clear she's taken with him. The reason she was sent to America was because she spurned her initial fiancé, a man old enough to be her grandfather, and a lecherous one at that. Indeed, she does have spirit and that's always a welcomed personality for my heroines. I felt sorry for her, when she struggles between accepting her love for the Raven and falling in love with her husband, Lucas Carrington later. Okay, you might be puzzled why she is suddenly married to him. Well, after the rendezvous with The Raven, she finds herself pregnant with his child and Lucas, already in love with her and well, technically he's the father of her child...marries her to save her honor, but also it was an excuse for him to possess her, coward that he was. You can imagine her ire when she discovers his double identity, yet I was surprised that she didn't explode in

rage for his duplicity like I expected a normal person would. Although, Lucas did have his reasons for hiding his identity. It depends on whose perspective you prefer to see it from.

OVERALL this was quite a long, adventurous story filled with passion, angst and romance. The only thing that didn't sit well with me was how tiresome their fights were. It was always right after they made love, and when either of them feels the prick of loving someone....ughh can you both just say 'I love you' already?! I believe is a hit or miss with some people, for me I liked it despite the frustration it caused me because it's a classic story written before the 2000s. That's always a treasure for me.

Slayermel says

I really enjoyed this book, and could not put it down. Constance O'Banyon is a great story teller, and this book was a real page turner.

The characters were very likable and had a lot of depth, which keeps you hanging on for more.

The story is about Lady Season Chatsworth who is kidnapped by "The Raven" a notorious pirate. The Raven wants to use Season as Ransom to free a fellow American patriot, but as time passes and deals fall through he does not seem to want to hand her back over to the British. Lots of steamy love scenes.

Daneesha says

Started off strong, sagged in the middle, and could have been about 50 pages shorter. Still, I enjoyed it.

JoAnn says

One of my favorite books of all time!

Booked says

description

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side with more force than manacles of steel. Then the moment came when Season no longer rebelled against the cruel fate that linked her to the Raven; now she was forever bound to him by passion's Velvet Chains.

Cindy Woods says

Mixed feelings

I have so many issues with this book it is hard to review. I basically enjoyed it very much.....but I detested the inferences of the happy slaves and the martyred heroine because she helped out one day doing manual labor...heaven forbid! Also, hated the Raven and Lucas 's deception if you truly love someone why would you lie...and then to lie repeatedly having the audacity be angry at her when she questioned him. I would have dumped the guy. Why didn't he just tell her who he was? I don't believe I would recommend this book.

Elizabeth says

This was one of my first historical romance when I was a teen, from there on I'm hooked. I love pirates historical romance.

Michele says

No Spoilers :)

I absolutely loved this book. I've read it several times and am looking for a digital copy for my tablet.

Mary23nm says

[The thing that ruined it for me was that the heroine, Season, made love with two men, who turned out to be the same man, and she never suspected! Yes,the Raven (the pirate), wore a mask during the day and came to her at night unmasked, in the dark and also spoke in a

Katrina Shelley says

First Historical Romance I ever read! Near and dear to my heart . . . paved the way for my dream of becoming an author!
