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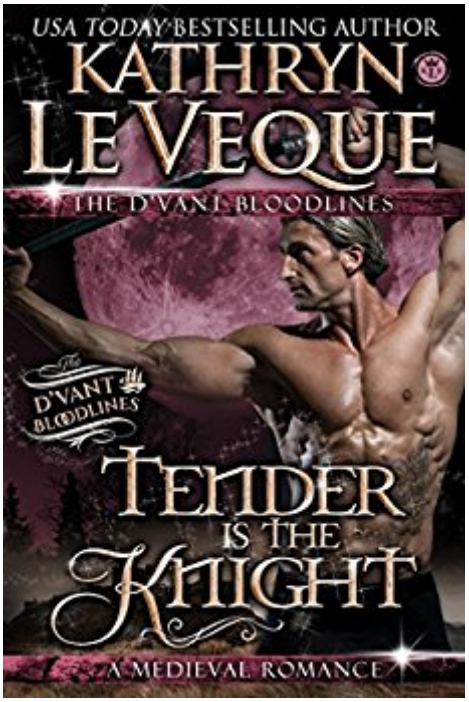
Tender Is The Knight (The D'Vant Bloodlines)



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Synopsis

1228 A.D. â “ After a vicious battle with old adversaries that sees his father killed, Sir Dennis dâ ™Vant finds himself the head of the House of dâ ™Vant. A house descended from the kings of Cornwall, they are a proud but warring people. Their most hated enemy is their neighbor to the north, the rich and cunning Earl of Cornwall. Dennis, however, is not like his forefathers; a giant of a man and a skilled warrior, he is also quiet and gentle. He does not possess the same fiery instincts of his family and for that, he is often looked upon as weak. But Dennis is anything but weak; he is brilliant and introspective. He knows what it takes to achieve real peace. When his father is killed, he sends an offer of marriage to the Cornwall to cement a peaceful alliance between the two warring neighbors. Dennis is trustworthy; the earl is not. Little does Dennis realize that his offer to marry a woman of the earlâ ™s choosing will change his life more drastically than he could ever imagine, and put the House of dâ ™Vant in danger of being wiped from the face of the earth.The Lady Ryan de Bretagne is the daughter of the earlâ ™s captain. Having no daughters himself, the earl chooses Ryan to marry into the hated House of dâ ™Vant. Ryan is a feisty, head-strong woman and wants no part of the marriage, but is forced to wed the giant knight with the mysterious gray eyes. When he takes her back to St. Austell Castle, she is introduced to a shocking new world of women who dress and fight as knights, of filthy keeps and filthy men, and of a people who want to hate her simply because she is related to the Earl of Cornwall. As Ryan struggles to become acclimated to her strange and frightening new world, the Earl of Cornwall works in secret to destroy the treaty he has agreed to fulfill, thereby eliminating the House of dâ ™Vant once and for all so he can confiscate their lands. At the heart of all of the earlâ ™s animosity is a terrible secret that binds Cornwall to the House of dâ ™Vant, something so awful that it cannot be spoken of. But those who know the secret know how very shameful it is to both sides.Join Dennis and Ryan as they face one crisis after another, from pirates that lay siege to St. Austell Castle, of dark family secrets, and to wars in Wales when Dennis is forced to fight for the king in order to save his beloved castle. But no obstacles are too much for Dennis and Ryan to overcome because beneath the hatred and deceit, murder and lies, a love stronger than life itself binds them together even as their two worlds try to tear them apart.

Book Information

File Size: 3076 KB

Print Length: 262 pages

Publisher: Dragonblade Publishing (June 15, 2014)

Publication Date: June 15, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00ENNUTVU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #29,381 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #203 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Historical Romance > Medieval #238 inÂ Books > Romance > Historical > Medieval #1478 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Customer Reviews

My first Kathryn Le Veque books were the DragonBlade trilogy. I really enjoyed those, and ended up reading several of her other stories recently. That was a mistake, because each of the last 4 or 5 had such similar plots that they grew ridiculously predictable. However, this is the worst one I have read yet. For the most part, I liked the hero, Dennis. It’s nice to have a hero that is strong, but gentle - good at battle but he doesn’t look for it. And at the beginning of the book, he was strong and determined. Unfortunately, as soon as he married Ryan, he became a milquetoast. Ryan, our "heroine." was a spoiled, self-centered, stubborn, willful brat. She fought her husband’s orders at every turn - always to her detriment and the risk of those around her. Yes, he gave her orders - it was the 13th century, for pity’s sake. And as much as we might not like it with our present day mind-set, women were chattel and under the jurisdiction of their fathers or their husbands. Of course, we love it in a romance novel when the hero is swayed by the heroine, but there IS a limit. Also, I am sick of being TOLD how brave, strong and intelligent the heroine is, only to constantly have her behavior completely contradict this.* Spoiler alert *The worst example of her stupendous self-centered and willful behaviors - not to mention her stupidity - is when Dennis had to go to London to seek help from the king in order to save his fortress and his men - as well as his wife. He formed the plan of going to London to offer the king his fealty and his service in the Welsh wars, in return for garrisoning royal troops at his home in order to hold off his archenemy’s determination to destroy him and his family.

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