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Winter's Heat (The Seasons Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Her years in a nunnery taught Rowena of Benfield many things, but not how to be a wife to the powerful lord who claimed her as his bride. She vows never to submit to this aloof and ruthless man who claims her. Rannulf of Graistan has been a woman's fool once before and has sworn to never be again, but he cannot refuse the rich estate that this marriage brings him. But a tide of treachery is rising around them and their only hope lays in daring to trust and to love unconditionally.

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Customer Reviews

I really wanted to like this book. The writing style was great but I got so tired of the constant fighting between the two main characters that I couldn't make myself finish it. About a quarter of the way through I thought, ok the fighting can't go on forever, but at 50% when nothing at all had changed I finally gave up and deleted it. I rarely do that for a book but every single chapter was the same. Yet despite their fights they ended up in bed together every night with never ending passion. What the *&^^ Sorry, reality check here. It's not humanly possible to make love passionately with tenderness every night then spend every waking minute trying to make each others life Hell, being mean, petty, hateful and belittle each other. It wasn't a calm relaxing read, it just put me in a cranky mood like

listening to my teenagers fight and bicker. I'm sure it had a warm fuzzy ending but I have the feeling that in a sequel we'd see them in the middle of an angry divorce still intent on their fighting!

Overall Rating: 4.85 // Action: 3.5 / Emotion: 4.5 / Romance: 3 / Sensuous: 2 / Intrigue: 4 / Medieval Flavor: 5 // Humor: 3 / Tears: 2

Readers of medieval romances will want to read "Winter's Heat," the first book in Denise Domning's five-book series, 'The Graistan Chronicles.' This book was so engaging and intriguing that it was almost impossible to put down. Not only did Domning write a book filled with action, suspense, romance and emotion, but she did so while keeping the dialogue, descriptions and feelings true to the era in which the book was set (twelfth century England). The hero, Rannulf FitzHenry, Lord of Graistan, was portrayed as a tortured, yet driven, alpha warrior, who was determined not to fall in love with the heroine. Rannulf had to keep reminding himself that he was marrying Rowena for the lands she would bring to him. Rowena of Benfield, was a strong-willed, sharp-tongued, convent-bred heroine, who wanted to find a secure place in the world -- having been uprooted from her home to be given to a convent; whereupon she then strove to make a place for herself, only to be uprooted again to be married against her will. Domning included several secondary characters that added a lot of depth and interest to the story -- and instilled interest in reading the future books of the series. Rannulf's love of his family was revealed by the male camaraderie that flowed between him and his older, bastard brother Temric and the caring he had toward his youngest brother (and current Graistan steward), Gilliam. "Winter's Heat" is a must read. Domning kept the story running at a fast pace, full of adventure and intrigue. The characters were well-developed and so realistic they inspired strong emotions (whether sympathy or hatred). A more detailed, spoiler-ridden synopsis/review of "Winter's Heat" appears at [Wolf Bear Does Books](#).

I have purchased 5 of Ms. Domning's books titled, Winter's Heat, Autumn's Flame, Spring Fury, Summer's Storm and A Love for All Seasons. I had never heard of Ms. Domning before but I so love the Medieval era. To say that Ms. Domning is such a gifted writer is an understatement of the gravest sort. That compliment does not do her justice. I love this series and am now reading them for the second time. Even though I know what will happen next, it's like reading them for the first time. Every description is so vivid, it's as if I'm there witnessing it all with my own eyes. I HIGHLY recommend her books for those that love romance and the Medieval Era. Ms. Domning has found a life-long fan in me!!!

Looking for a new author, I picked up Ms. Domning's book "Autumn's Flame". While reading this

book I discovered that this was the third book in a series of four. After reading "Autum's Flame" I then purchased the other three books. "Winter's Heat" is the first in the series. Lord Rannulf and Lady Rowena are the main characters and Ms. Domning does a wonderful job of writing their story. Lady Rowena is a strong woman for this era (12th century) and proves to be an important figure in Lord Rannulf's life. I thoroughly recommend this series to all who enjoy the medieval times. "Winter's Heat" and "Spring's Fury" were my favorite two in this series. Oh yea, "A Love for all Seasons" has a surprise for readers.

This was a very good study in how impossible it is to live with a stupid man. Poor Rowena was forced into marriage with an emotionally abusive man. She couldn't win, no matter how hard she tried. He was lazy, and made stupid decisions, but he couldn't stand to be wrong, corrected, or questioned, especially by his new smart wife. I will give the writer alot of credit for understanding how easily some men become infuriated and abusive. I kept trying to read this story, but finally quit because it was ridiculous to read about their passion for each other when the they were injured, imprisoned, the castle was on fire, and under seige. It was too much of a fantasy to imagine such a cold-hearted abusive man could change into such a humble and respectful man practically overnight. Ugh!UPDATE:After reading the comments I wondered if I mistakenly reviewed the wrong book. It has been about a year later and I stand by my review. Rowena's husband is verbally and emotionally abusive. He is unable to have a decent conversation with her so he completely avoids her during the day, and has sex with her every night. He still loses his temper and humiliates her publicly. Every bad thing that happens is a result of his passive-aggressive behavior. He is not heroic. His younger brother is the real hero in this novel.

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