



A Rose for Lancaster

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A York woman and a Lancaster man are forced into a marriage contract to please King Henry VII.

Blanche Langley is swept into King Henry's ambitious maneuvers to secure the throne. Tensions flare as a plot to overthrow the king is discovered.

As the York forces gather to make one last effort to win the throne, will Blanche betray her king and her husband, Giles Beaufort?

A Rose for Lancaster Details

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Author : Christine Elaine Black

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From Reader Review A Rose for Lancaster for online ebook

Leanne Davis says

A rose for Lancaster is an epic-like novel in novella length. From start to finish it brings the reader into the Tudor age with romance, adventure, and intrigue. Blanche and Giles relationship is believable and poignant as they meet and marry quickly for reasons that fit the historical time, but soon it is love and devotion that motivates them. This novella takes place over several years, including royal intrigue, war, betrayal, and all wrapped up with a surprising revelation. Christine Elaine Black is an incredibly talented writer to tackle the magnitude of this historical time, with the surprisingly complicated plot she wove, in this length she did, and not a word of it is rushed. It felt like a long novel, so well written and worded, without a wasted word or scene. I absolutely recommend this read. She does not disappoint in her historical setting and characters. Ms. Black is one of my favorite historical writers. I loved and highly recommend her novels, Maximus and Taurus, and was just as satisfied with this novella!

Suzanne Steele says

I love these historical fictions and this one was a great read...

Val says

The author has set her novella in 1486; the Wars of the Roses have ended with Henry VII seizing the throne and most male Yorkist nobles dead or exiled. The country is not yet stable and the Tudor dynasty not yet firmly established. (Prince Arthur is born in September of that year.)

It tells the story of Yorkist noblewoman Blanche Langley and Lancastrian nobleman Giles Beaufort. They marry by order of the new king. It is a political marriage, but they have a strong physical attraction towards each other.

I don't read many books in the romantic genre, but would say that this is a good one, from my limited experience. The attraction is shown well and the difficulties arise from the social and political situation of the times in a credible way.

The historical setting is impeccable. The author uses the way women were often political pawns through marriage, that their rights to inherit were often precarious, the Yorkist and Lancastrian conflict still simmering at the time and lots of details of buildings, furnishings, clothing, transport and attitudes of the time. I was a little dubious at first about the 'lacy underwear', but in fact the stiff, structured undergarments we associate with the Tudors date from the extreme fashions worn in the reigns of Henry VIII and his offspring, earlier underwear was lighter, looser, lacier and probably much sexier.

Terri Rochenski says

What did I think. What did I think. Hmmmmmm

Once again I'm wishing GR did 1/2 stars, because this totally deserves a 4.5.

LOVED the story - I'm a royal sucker for any romance during the Tudor era. Sigh. Love how Ms. Black wove fiction with history to make a story that could have been MUCH longer. There is a ton of inner & external conflict that could have been delved into, enough to satisfy any thick-book-loving mommy like me! Seriously. Tons. BUT, this is a novella.

Sigh.

The scenes she did show us were just that - shown with very little telling. I saw, tasted, & heard them all - enough so that I wanted more.

MORE I say!

Anyhoo. This was the first story I've ready by Ms. Black and it will most definitely NOT be the last!

Jade Onyx says

Intrigue, mystery, suspense, romance -- you name it. Black delivered! You won't be disappointed!

Hunter Jones says

I love this book!

April Hollingworth says

Review Courtesy of April Hollingworth

Beautiful and elegant this is a wondrous story of love, honour, loyalties and family. And of how one can easily destroy everything around you, unless you're brave enough to stand up for what you believe and want. A must read novel, it is uniquely brilliant and compelling. I loved it.

Opening Scene:

~Blanche~July 1486

I had never before rejoiced upon hearing of a man's death but I prayed for the Lord's forgiveness.

My Review:

Set in Tudor England 1486 - 1491 this is the story of Blanche Langley and Giles Beaufort. Blanche is from the house of York and Giles is from the house of Lancaster to sides fighting against the other. When Blanche is informed that she has to marry a Lancaster she is not impressed even though he is handsome and strong. But as she gets to know him she finds the prospect of a life with him more appealing. But life is dangerous with Yorkists gathering allies against the King. Can these two find happiness together when they're from warring families one fighting for the King and the other against.

So beautifully told, I found myself transported back in time. Wishing fervently for a happy ending for this

unlikely couple. When a whisper of a rumour can lead to your death.

Memorable Scene:

"The king orders me to marry Somerset within the month. Does he not know the man dies?" I shrugged in confusion.

"I am Giles Beaufort, heir to Somerset."

"That's a lie. Somerset died without heirs."

The youth shifted his feet but held his ground. He stood a head taller than me, and his shoulders attested to a promising stature. "I am his son and heir. The king granted me my father's lands, titles and all preferment."

"His son by whom?" A bastard child claimed Somerset's title and the conquering king of England expected me, a descendant of Edward the third, to marry a commoner.

"His fourth wife."

"When did the marriage take place?"

Giles Beaufort had the decency to look embarrassed. "The eve before his death."

"Your father was betrothed to me. It's impossible for him to have married another. The Pope would not allow it."

"The Pope gave his blessing, and by all accounts I am the rightful son and heir. The king has arranged the necessary dispensation."

"How convenient for you and the king." Anger flared through my veins. "My arrangement concerned Somerset, not his illegitimate son." I reeled at the insults heaped upon my family by Henry Tudor. As a true descendant of the house of York, though not close to the throne, it galled me to accept any man from a low ranking family, far less a bastard.

He waited for me to settle. I had read the king's order and I, as a woman, must yield. As a daughter of the losing side in the war of the cousins the road ended here. But political games were common in my father's house and I countered the news.

Laura Strickland says

From the moment I started reading this book, I was captivated by the heroine's situation. Lady Blanche is a woman caught in the politics of her age, a York noblewoman at a time when the House of Lancaster has come to power. As the book opens we see her celebrating her escape from marriage to the aging bridegroom King Henry Tudor has selected for her (he died of the pox), and hoping for a share of autonomy in running her household at Langley Manor. But she celebrates too soon. King Henry, himself having taken a York Queen, has decided all York women of property should be married off to Lancaster men who can then control their fortunes. In the midst of Blanche's celebrations, yet another bridegroom arrives.

He's not as bad as he might be – young (younger than Blanche, in fact) tall, good looking, and reasonably accommodating towards his intended bride. But from the moment he appears, Blanche in essence loses control of her own life. Through the increasingly dangerous tangle of politics that follow she and her husband, Giles Beaufort, struggle to come to terms with their relationship and their feelings for each other. Giles, more than happy with the wife he has been granted, sets out to seduce her. Blanche, however she might enjoy his lovemaking, is reluctant to lay her fiery independence aside. She doubts her husband's fidelity and honesty at every turn until the web of intrigue in which they are caught snares her and she finds herself imprisoned with everything to lose. Only then does she fully realize what is in her heart.

The author has done a fabulous job of giving us an authentic glimpse of English history peopled by living, breathing characters that make it vital and real. Her research is impeccable and I learned a great deal about a period in history that led into the age of King Henry VIII. In fact, readers who enjoy watching the Tudors and similar British dramas could not help but be drawn in by this story. The good news is A Rose for Lancaster is just the first in a series of novellas, so I have the promise of more splendid reading ahead! If you love history, romance, danger and a happy ending, you can't go wrong with this one.

Feminista says

Rating: 3.5 out of 5.

Brenda Perlin says

A Rose for Lancaster by Christine Elaine Black is a great historical romance. This story pulled me in and held on all the way through. Would highly recommend.

C.P. Mandara says

OOh I have a thing about women forced into Marriage... A wonderful book from start to finish!

Samantha says

This was a quick, little romance about Blanche Langley and Giles Beaufort, two imaginary characters on opposite sides of the war between Lancaster and York. Blanche is horrified that she is expected to sully her pure Yorkist white by marrying a Lancastrian when Henry VII takes the crown. Giles, on the other hand, is quite pleased with the rich, beautiful heiress assigned to him.

I'm not much of a reader of romance, but this one was a nice evening read. I, however, am not a good judge of how well-written of a romance it was. Blanche is, of course, a beautiful headstrong Yorkist, while Giles is our dark, handsome, dastardly Lancastrian.

Historically, it was light, though the period was presented realistically. Giles turns out to be the love-child of a surprise, and unlikely, couple. Other than that little bit of far-fetched storyline, I found that the historical characters were well-written.

This is a novella and ends rather abruptly. I would have enjoyed having it fleshed out into a more full length novel. The ending is a little too syrupy sweet for me, but that's why I usually steer clear of the romance genre.

Karla Tipton says

"A Rose for Lancaster" is wonderfully told, and its vivid detail pulls the reader into the experience of living in 15th century England. The compelling romance between Giles and Blanche, who are of opposing families of Lancaster and York, includes a few heart-stopping moments in this dangerous, post-Wars of the Roses era. The twists on "real" history for the purposes of the story are well done and should tweak the imaginations of readers who enjoy a good historical yarn.

Parvathy says

Just experimenting on how it would be like to read a historical novella. This is surprisingly good and the author has managed to capture the essence of that time period within the first few pages. Historical details are entertaining and the love story engaging. The author has managed to add everything required of a historical novel within the 71 odd pages. It has intrigue, action, treachery and romance. A complete package.

Jane Blanchard says

A Rose for Lancaster by Christine Elaine Black is an historical romance with a Tudor theme. Forced into a marriage contract to please King Henry VII, Blanche Langley, a York woman, and Giles Beaufort, a Lancaster man, struggle to maintain their identity and family loyalty.

The author adeptly portrays the personal conflict and mental anguish that each undergoes. We get into Blanche's mind, understand her conflict and loyalty to the York faction, and watch her slowly fall in love with Giles. From the moment Giles sees Blanche, he is stricken with love and relieved that this forced marriage has coupled him with a young and beautiful woman. Will he be able to win her heart?

The story is fast paced. Mystery, intrigue, and romance prevail. I really enjoyed the character development of the leading couple. It was difficult for me to decide which I preferred; though, as a woman, I leaned towards Blanche for her strength and family loyalty.

If you are interested in a light read, I recommend this well-structured story.
