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Brilliant, Outspoken, Willful - No One Dared Challenge Stunning Miranda's Wild Ways... Except Jared Dunham.

Betrothed to this wildcat in a pact that allowed Miranda to remain mistress of her ancestral home off the New England coast, the roguish merchant adventurer turns his wife's burning rage to searing ecstasy as he fires her most wanton desires.

But time are dangerous - Napoleon is plundering the continents and seas. Miranda's spirited ways and breathtaking sensuality will plunge her into perilous escapades of brutality and erotic discovery - from the war torn Crimea and the savage slave breeding farm to a terrifying capture and grueling trek to Istanbul.

Unconquered Details

Date : Published February 12th 1984 by Ballantine Books (first published December 12th 1981)

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Author : Bertrice Small

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From Reader Review Unconquered for online ebook

Teresa says

Really Good! Would like to read it again!! :-)

Heather says

Amazing as always!

My favorite author of all time. Simply fantastic! Her grasp of combining history with fiction is incredible. The details are always such that you feel like you are there. Three cheers for Bertrice Small!!!

Naksed says

It pains me to give a low rating to my favorite historical romance writer but hey, I have to keep it real for my fellow readers. If you are already a fan of Bertrice Small, you will find Unconquered hard to swallow. Despite some wonderful writing, her trademark kick ass heroine and her joie de vivre, the book meanders through unnecessary fourth, fifth, and sixth acts, when it should have been wrapped up eons before.

For those readers unfamiliar with Small, this would definitely NOT be the book that could convert you. Try Blaze Wyndham if you are into the Tudors, or the Kadin, if harem romances are your thing.

Unconquered, set during the Napoleonic wars, is foreign territory to Small, who is usually so good at weaving history with her romances. Additionally, there is a bleakness and cruelty in this novel that was unusual and uncomfortable for this avowed Small superfan. Sure, she has never shied away from icky topics. Rape, incest, pedophilia, sadism, slavery, torture, have all poked their ugly heads in her novels but here, they overtook her usual wonderfully whimsical stories. I swear, some of the things Miranda went through reminded me of Justine, that horribly wonderful novel by the Marquis de Sade, except all the gruesomeness was not tempered by his genius philosophical rantings.

Unconquered is definitely not my favorite of Small's novels. I don't regret reading it because there were lots of redeeming passages, but I would not recommend it unless you are a die hard fan.

Chris says

Ned. Titel: de lokroep van haar hart

Sarah Mac says

This book...well, it was an experience.

Spoilers.

The first half was boring to the extreme. (Seriously, skip to pg 200. You won't miss a damn thing.) But suddenly the author realized she'd forgotten to include a plot, so she decided to make up for lost time. A rough incidental outline would look something like this:

First half: Miranda & Jared talk. Miranda & Jared get married. Miranda & Jared have sex. <--Snoozeville.

Second half: Adultery, bisexual villains, riding crops, drugging, rape, slave farms, breeding huts, murderous S&M, mistaken identity, more rape, castrations, gay pedobear, rape (again), pregnancy abuse, sexual healing, kidnapping, drowning, duels, head-crushing carriage accidents, side characters dropping dead for no reason other than eliminating them from the story. <--WTF did I just read?

Y'all know I love books with whackadoodle crazies, but this one...it's several crayons short of a rainbow. (And if that metaphor makes no sense, too bad. Neither does *Unconquered*.) The pacing was terrible & the main couple had no real chemistry.** The secondary characters were somewhat better (Mirza in particular), but I felt little for Miranda & absolutely nothing for Jared. He was a useless lump who served no purpose but to pull out his wang. He never managed to locate his wife or progress beyond booze-soaked moping for her supposed demise. His protestations against the redonk "I must sleep with that skanky ho for king & country!" spy plot were thinner than tissue paper, & he couldn't even kill the bad guy in a duel.*** Even worse, neither he nor Miranda displayed constancy of thought or deed; rather, they jumped from one conclusion to another at random, & there wasn't much relationship development to speak of (though Miranda does manage to squeak out some maturity by the end).

...That being said, I've read worse. It could've been improved by spreading the WTFery more evenly throughout. But I've never tried Ms Small before; perhaps this sort of bizarre pacing is the norm, in which case I'm emotionally prepared for my next attempt. *shrug*

2.5 stars, rounded up for the (eventual) goofy lolz.

**"Wildcat" is a stupid nickname to begin with, & repeating it 700 times doesn't make it cuter.

***The Russian ambassador's *wife* did it for him. Nice one, James Bond. :P

Kristen says

Standard fare. I loved the food descriptions!

Tutti Dolci says

2.5 stars. Had a few good moments, but with all of the unnecessary descriptions of unimportant details and

the silly twists and turns for the heroine, this story eventually became an eyeroll-worthy mess.

But I did love the hero. So there IS a plus.

Dianna says

Whirlwind of nothing

I swear this story was so terrible. It started out so good and then just horrifying. One thing after another. Endless tragedies. She was a whore by the end. I mean just so stupid. It had so much potential. I've read tons of historical romance novels. This is the worst I've ever read

Rebecca Huston says

One of Ms. Small's better, earlier romances, before the rot set in. Miranda and Jared's marriage is a forced one, and not at all easy, especially after he turns up missing, and Miranda goes chasing off after him. Naturally, as in nearly all of Ms. Small's works, there is plenty of sex, imprisonment in a harem, kinky sex, and some history for good measure. Those who like their erotica with plenty of the exotic should enjoy this one.

For the complete review, please go here:
<http://www.epinions.com/review/Unconq...>

Jim son of Jim (formerly PhotoJim) says

Hated it. Perhaps it is my hatred of historical romance novels in general. When people make fun of 'bodice ripping' books where his 'purple headed pole' probes at her 'secret love grotto', they are thinking of this book. Yes, it really does say 'secret love grotto'. The plot was preposterous. From the first unlikely marriage to the deus ex machina at the end. Very unsexy sex scenes don't help. As much time is spent describing the clothes someone is putting on (that are of no importance) as the brutal rape and murder of a pregnant woman (that has far reaching implications). Political intrigue, cross continent slave marches, forced breeding huts, kidnappings, twin sisters, seduction, deception, and tea parties all thrown together in a rather untidy mess if you ask me. Oh well, I'll give Ms. Small another shot as she was recommended to me, but if that one fails to pan out, she's off my list for good.

Greyland Reviews says

2.5 stars

Those first two hundred pages were... XP
But after that I just flew right through it.

Shannon says

It was so amazing, in that at first Miranda didn't love him at all. But then she warmed up to him and when she was taken, Miranda and her husband was doing all they could to get back to one another. It was the AWW factor kicking in.

Jimenight says

Just simply YUCK, ho-rri-ble. The only thing I could think every time I turned the pages was WTF?! It's a book full of adultery, rapes and even incest and pederasty.

Simplemente PUAJ, ho-rri-ble. Lo único que podía pensar a cada vuelta de página era ¡¿WTF?! Se trata de un libro cargado de adulterio, violaciones e incluso incesto y pederastía.

Por el puntaje del libro es evidente que a muchas les gusta pero si bien no soy una persona celosa, sí soy posesiva. Mi pareja es MI pareja y jamás podría compartirlo, por eso y porque cuando leo un libro me compenetro con los protagonistas es que se me hizo imposible disfrutarlo. (view spoiler)

Algo con lo que coincido con otras reseñas es sobre el exceso ridículo de descripciones, literalmente: párrafo tras párrafo sobre la comida servida y como si ello no fuese suficiente, incluso se describe lo que cada uno se servía en el plato. Además me sorprende que haya quedado alguien vivo con la evidente ansia homicida de la autora, ¡pero si hasta perdí la cuenta de los que murieron!

En fin, que me encanta cuando los libros commueven mis sentimientos pero lo único que provocó este fue bronca e indignación. (view spoiler)

Michele bookloverforever says

at one time one of my favorite authors. used to escape from my brutal and miserable first marriage Into a world of make believe...

N. says

[Mizra stole my heart and it pained me that she didn't stay with him, even after he sexed her to bring her back to life. I shit you not. (hide spoiler)]
