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BARON OF BLACKWOOD: A Medieval Romance (The Feud Book 3)



Synopsis

THE FEUD England, 1308. Boursier, De Arell, Verdunâ”three noblemen who secretly gather to ally against their treacherous lord. Though each is elevated to a baron in his own right and given a portion of his lordâ”™s lands, jealousy and reprisal lead to a twenty-five-year feud, pitting family against family, passing father to son.

THE PRIZE England, 1333. When Lady Quintin Boursier leads an army against the Baron of Blackwood to demand the release of her abducted brother, she finds the same fate awaits her. Now she must free herself and discover where Griffin de Arell holds her brother before her familyâ”™s lands are forfeited. But as the long winter nights unfold and those prowling the black wood move the feud nearer its deadly end, Quintin realizes she may have wronged her captor. And he is as much a captive to herâ”™she whose secret will spoil the prize others seek to make of a woman no man should want.

THE VICTOR Baron Griffin de Arell protects those who belong to him, and now that the tempest who dared put a blade to his throat is his, he intends to protect herâ”™if only from herself. However, Quintin Boursier yet has games to play. Though Griffin resists her wiles, when it appears her familyâ”™s lands are forfeited, a glimpse of her womanâ”™s heart tempts him to make the lady his in truth. Now with the enemy responsible for inciting the feud determined to claim her as his prize, Griffin must join his grudging allies in bringing peace to their lands and protecting the woman who first set herself at his wallsâ”™then his warriorâ”™s heart.

Join Griffin and Quintin in the third and final book in this best-selling medieval romance series as the Boursiers, De Arells, and Verduns seek the light at the end of their long, dark feud.

NOTE TO READER: Welcome to the third book in The Feud series. As with all series shouldering an overarching plot, there will be some redundancy in storytelling. This is to orient the reader who read the first books months or years earlier and to ground the reader who enters the series out of sequence, allowing each story to stand alone. Of added benefit, pivotal events are experienced from a differentâ”™often more informedâ”™point of view. In Baron Of Blackwood, the love story begins the day Lady Quintin Boursier first encounters Baron Griffin de Arell when she rides on his castle to demand the release of her brother. This event falls four days after the abduction of Bayard Boursier in Baron Of Godsmere. Since my stories areâ”™above all and wondrously soâ”™romances, the first half of Baron Of Blackwood focuses on the developing relationship between Quintin and Griffin. Why did she draw a dagger on him? Why did he refuse to allow her to return to Godsmere with her brother? And what about Lady Thomasinâ”™s observation of how often they did not kiss when they clearly wished to? Now thereâ”™s quite the taleâ”™ |

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Customer Reviews

SPOILERS BELOW I have mixed feelings about this book. I thoroughly enjoyed the first and second books. What made this book challenging was the first half of the book trying to fill in missing details of Griffin/Quintin's relationship during the events of Books 1 and 2. On the one hand, I understand why the author chose to do this, but it removed any suspense--you already knew what was going to happen. By the time things picked up in the middle, I could appreciate the backstory from the first half, but I wish it had been told in flashback interspersed with new material specific to Griffin and Quintin's story. Overall, there was a lack of plot tension or much action in the book. In the first two novels, we saw more of the villains, had more intrigue about 25 years of plotting and planning, who was involved, how did Frances Cartier fit in, etc. There was 0 mystery in this book, as the second half was just the three barons plotting to expose him. There were no separate scenes with the villains making sinister plans cryptically told by the author, no confrontation with Edward (which would have added some needed drama), and the characters from the previous novels were more or less cardboard cutouts because the author had to juggle 6 leads plus supporting characters. Any surprise was ruined by the characters already knowing the answer, rather than

having to learn on their own. This was handled with so much more finesse in the first two books. As Cartier is revealing his evil plot of how he and Agatha manipulated everyone involved, it felt more like tying up loose ends, (conveniently) through the villain's braggadocio. Cartier was so menacing in the first two novels, and at points, even had brief moments of humanity. He was a caricature in this novel, albeit a sadistic one.

This is the final volume of The Feud trilogy, and I strongly recommend to read the books in order, because of the complex plots, the returning characters in each and because there is a mystery plot arc that concludes only in this book but information is scattered in the previous books as well. The story is about the third couple's romance: Quintin Boursier and Griffin de Arell; and about the final defeat of the villains who caused so much suffering throughout the trilogy. I very much enjoyed reading this book. Tamara Leigh always creates honourable heroes and heroines who are subject to temptations and try hard to do the right thing, although sometimes they fail and have to ask for - and accept - forgiveness. Another aspect I appreciate is that although the desire between the protagonists is described, the relationship is not primarily on the physical level: appreciation of the other's character and commitment to the other person is very much in focus. Sex scenes are not described in detail but there is indication to strong attraction and pleasure found in intimacy - as it is customary in the author's books. Some reviewers point out that during the first half of the book events from the previous books are retold. It's true, since the beginning of the relationship between Quintin and Griffin occurs during the course of the first novel, when Quintin rides to Griffin's castle believing he holds her brother captive and demands his release - and during her subsequent captivity in his fortress. But although some important events are known to the reader before they occur in this novel, we see a lot of crucial events that occurred out of sight in the previous stories, and there is also new inside point of view information on those events we knew about.

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