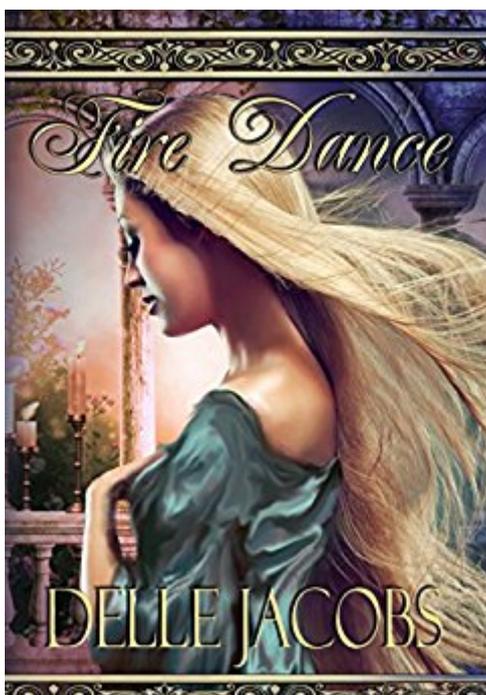


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Fire Dance



Synopsis

A mysterious castle. A deadly gift. A missing, unwilling bride. And a Norman knight determined to conquer all. Ordered by his King to carry out a cryptic command "kill a wicked sorcerer lord, seize his castle, and take his daughter as a wife" Alain de Crency expects a fierce battle. Instead he discovers a defenseless castle, the daughter missing, and the sorcerer dead, shrouded in a magnificent purple cloak. With no knowledge of the evil lurking within it, Alain takes the cloak as his own before investigating the whereabouts of his supposed betrothed. Upon Alain's arrival, Melisande, the sorcerer's daughter who begrudgingly learned her father's sinister trade, hides in plain sight as a servant. But Alain suspects this beautiful blonde knows more than she claims, and he resolves to uncover the truth if he can resist his burning desire for her. Soon Melisande realizes her father's infernal magic reaches beyond the grave and that only Alain can save her people from the menacing evil. But with Alain's new cloak dyed in poison, can Melisande save her people's savior without revealing her dark secrets to the man who's captured her heart?

Book Information

File Size: 891 KB

Print Length: 353 pages

Publisher: Montlake Romance (September 11, 2012)

Publication Date: September 11, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007S0HMEM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #52,969 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #202

in Books > Romance > Gothic #369 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Historical

Romance > Medieval #438 in Books > Romance > Historical > Medieval

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for 99 cents after reading Delle Jacobs's "Loki's Daughters" for free, which is one

of the best romance novels I've read recently. That book was focused around a tempestuous love connection, and the characters had troubled history, but not remotely as troubled as Melisande in this book. I would warn future readers that it was quite upsetting at times-- there could be sexual trauma triggers for some. I don't want to spoil the plot, but it did get *very* intense, like beyond what I could have expected because it was relatively innocent at first. I couldn't put the book down, not because I didn't want to, but because I needed to keep reading to find a place with a tiny bit more resolution to pause for the night. The demons in Melisande's head were sort of confusing at first, but I wanted to trust that everything would work out because I liked Jacobs's earlier book so much. The psychology of Melisande got much more developed and intense, I know some other reviewers said they didn't buy it, but if you read until the last 15-20% (this is how I measure the length of books with the kindle now lol), it gets very vivid and you can put the pieces together. There were a few sections I had to click forward a couple pages because they were a bit heavy on battle plans, but it was paced generally okay. The romance was quite good, but I felt like the major drama started to reveal & unravel shortly after the romance got going, and then the romance never quite picked up again. And let's be honest, that is my favorite element. The book was good, but I honestly liked "Loki's Daughters" a lot more. It had that sort of classic "love that cannot be" plot, but was not quite as formulaic as most romance novels, which I really loved about it.

In the year 1092 A.D., in the land of Cumbria, a young maid stands and watches the self-proclaimed servant of Satan draw his last breath by her hand. The people of his land called him Fyren. She called him Father. Knowing that her death is inevitable but desperate to save her lands and people from the ravages of a war that she can not win, Melisande commands Fyren to the fires of hell and urges her own Saxon knights to give over to the approaching Norman lord with no bloodshed. Then she strips from her body the tells of her identity and disappears into the anonymity of servitude, so the new Lord will never suspect the horrifying secrets and dark terrors that mark her so egregiously. Alain de Crency had never taken a holding so peaceably before, but it seemed no sooner did he enter the castle on orders from his king than the peoples therein kneel to swear fealty. But that is not the only command that Alain must follow, so when he is told that the Lady Melisande, given to him to wed by king's decree, has fled the walls of her home, Alain was greatly discontented. He is tasked not only in securing the lands and surrounding areas for the king's journey towards further conquest, but now too finding...and wedding...the former lords daughter. But the longer he is at his new home, the more a pale, serious, and somber servant girl named Edyt catches his eye and stirs his blood. Flashes of challenge...and sometimes terror...flare in her eye, and the people of

the holding seem to pay great mind to her words. Suspicion roused, he watches the fair maid like a hawk about to swoop down on its prey, even as rumors of sorcery and witchcraft and the evil machinations of warriors and kingdoms tighten their nooses around them both.

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog**Fire Dance** by Delle Jacobs
Publisher: Montlake Romance
Publication Date: August 22, 2007
Rating: 4 stars
Source: Bought from ***Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers***
It is hard for me to put in words how much I absolutely love a book, when it happens. There are only a handful of books that I have ever truly loved, and those books are usually ones that are not reviewed by me, because it is hard for me to say how much I love the book without giving away crucial parts of the plot. Nevertheless, this is one of those books, and after re-reading it several times in two days, I can piece together non-spoiler sentences. This book was the last book I read in 2012.
Summary (from):
A mysterious castle. A deadly gift. A missing, unwilling bride. And a Norman knight determined to conquer all. Ordered by his King to carry out a cryptic command--kill a wicked sorcerer lord, seize his castle, and take his daughter as a wife--Alain de Crency expects a fierce battle. Instead he discovers a defenseless castle, the daughter missing, and the sorcerer dead, shrouded in a magnificent purple cloak. With no knowledge of the evil lurking within it, Alain takes the cloak as his own before investigating the whereabouts of his supposed betrothed. Upon Alain's arrival, Melisande, the sorcerer's daughter who begrudgingly learned her father's sinister trade, hides in plain sight as a servant. But Alain suspects this beautiful blonde knows more than she claims, and he resolves to uncover the truth--if he can resist his burning desire for her.

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