



The Renegade's Heart

Claire Delacroix , Deborah Cooke

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Released from the captivity of the Fae, Murdoch Seton wants nothing more than to forget his lost years. Undertaking a quest to recover treasure stolen from his family seems the perfect solution - but Murdoch is not counting upon a curious maiden who holds both the secret to the theft and his sole redemption.

Isabella is outraged to find her brother's keep besieged by a renegade knight - especially one who is too handsome for his own good or hers. After a single encounter, she becomes convinced that his cause is just and decides to unveil the true thief, never imagining that their single shared kiss has launched a battle for Murdoch's very soul.

As the treacherous Fae move to claim Murdoch forever, Isabella seeks to heal the knight who has stolen her heart. But will Murdoch allow her to take a risk and endanger herself? Or will he sacrifice himself to ensure Isabella's future?

The Renegade's Heart Details

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From Reader Review The Renegade's Heart for online ebook

Candace says

Isabella of Kinfairle is the sister of Alexander, the Laird of Kinfairle. She is studying to be a healer under her sister-in-law, Eleanor. Murdoch is on a quest to find a family relic. He is also under the curse of the Fae Queen. Murdoch has until the new moon to choose death or being a play thing of the Queen.

Isabella and Murdoch meet during his quest for the relic. They make a pact with each other -- Isabella to prove her family's innocence and to help Murdoch find the relic. When she drinks wild thyme tea Isabella is able to see the Fae. She vows to help Murdoch against the Fae Queen. Murdoch and Isabella's love grows during the quest.

Will Isabella and Murdoch succeed in finding the family relic? What threats do the Fae Queen hold against Murdoch and his love for Isabella? Do they have a love that will stand against all obstacles?

This novel is heavy in magic and the Fae (fairies). Characters from other novels make an appearance in this book. I read one book (The Beauty Bride) before this novel which helped me track some of the characters. I am missing books between these two novels. Still, I was able to comprehend well enough to follow the plot and subplots. I look forward to reading the novels I've missed and the future novels to come.

Melinda says

The Renegade's Heart is the story of Murdoch and Isabella. This book focuses on the Fae and the darkness and evil that they possess. Murdoch is convinced that by finding a family treasure he believes has been taken by Isabella's family will break the curse the Queen of the Fae has on him. Isabella loses her heart to this man as she tries to discover the secret and mysteries of Murdoch while discovering the truth of the missing artifact. A clash between families, as well as a clash between humans and fae are all present in this book. Claire Delacroix is an amazing story teller and has drawn me into this magical worlds found in her books.

Renae Rogers says

I was really excited by the cover of this book. And the premise. But this book was a DNF for me. I found the main character so presumptuous and insufferable that I decided not to suffer him any further and stopped reading. I realise that's a shame and the book scores highly and other people seem to like it. But I have so many books on my phone to read and only so much emotional energy to expend. My prerogative, I guess.

Debbie says

The Renegade's Heart by Claire Delacroix
Audible edition narrated by Saskia Maarleveld
11hrs & 10mins

The narration provided by Saskia Maarleveld is marvelous, her melodious voice is the perfect instrument to portray all the characters females and males, young and old plus those feisty fae characters too. Her pronunciations are superb, her accent is excellent and the whole package allows the listener to be absorbed by the experience and feel a part of the story.

The Renegade's Heart is the first in Claire's The True Love Brides series, companion to the Jewels of Kinfairlie series. Fans will recognize some of the characters and definitely the (in)famous Lammergeier Family. Enjoy all of Claire Delacroix and Deborah Cooke's offerings here on her website.

This first installment stars Isabella Lammergeier sister to Alexander (The Snow White Bride) and Murdoch Seton. These characters will endear you to them within the first few pages, Murdoch with his arrogant yet honorable air and Isabella with her curiosity. Now if you don't read historical novels everyday it may take you a page or two to get into the dialogue swing of things but once you do you'll find a richly flowing narrative that will bring the action right to you. The plot involves a lot more fantasy than the last one's did so you'll see a fair amount of fairies flying about and raising havoc. The romance is sweet, it's sensuous and it's just a little racy too and I love how Claire describes it to us in her typical perfect time period fashion. Bring on round three and thank you so much Claire for giving your fans what we so appreciate.

It's a bitter homecoming for Murdoch Seton, after 3yrs held captive in the fairy realm he returns to find his father has died, his brother is laird and the coffers at the keep are empty. The relic that cost so much of the treasury has disappeared and with it the wealth and health of the estate. Murdoch is sent on a quest to find the treasure and to punish the villain who stole it. His crusade takes him to Kinfairlie where he's met with falsehoods and deceptions by it's Laird and a fair maiden who intrigues him. It's also become clear to Murdoch that the Elphine Queen who tricked him isn't done with him by far, in fact she's got permanent designs on him.

Isabella is shocked by her reaction to the renegade Murdoch, his mere touch causes shivers that are not from the cold, his heart seems true and his undertaking noble, but can he be trusted with her heart, and her innocence, and will she discover the secret to saving him from the fae Queen before he's lost to her forever. Together they search for the lost relic and what they find will change them, the question is will they survive the fae, and her kin.

Barbee says

The Renegades's Heart is book one in The True Love Brides Series by Claire Delacroix whom I have been reading since her debut in 1992. As always another spectacular read who never ceases to amaze me with her creative imagination and talent! I love she puts some true part of history in her books too!

This book was truly enchanting as well as magical and a wonderful continuation from her fabulous Jewels of

Kinfairlie Series As I was excited Ms. Delacroix was going to continue with more siblings stories in her new "True Love Bride Series".

If you love historical romance with a bit of magic and paranormal thrown in a historical Scotland setting then you will absolutely love this story about a Knight and second son of a Laird. Murdoch Seton whom had been severely injured and fevered in battle but suddenly finds himself totally healed and dancing in an unknown holding. Before long he realizes he has been captured by the evil fae Queen and is in the fae realm whom wants him as her play thing. He promises her anything to be released from captivity to see his family at least one last time, and before he knows it he is released from captivity and is back in the mortal world once again.

Unfortunately Murdoch finds out on the fae world what seems like minutes on the mortal world it has been years. As time moves at totally different rates I. the two worlds. When he seeks his family At Seton Hall it is not exactly the welcome he was hoping for and tragedy has been surrounded his family home as much loss. His brother blames him for many things and tells him to retrieve a treasure with magical healing powers that he thinks was stolen by Laird Alexander of Kinfairlie.

This is where he meets the heroine of this story Isabella of Kinfairlie younger sister of Laird Alexander. The sparks fly as soon as they meet, whom she thinks at first was to be a chosen bridegroom to her or one of her sisters. Isabella a healer eavesdrops and can tell her brother is lying to Murdoch Seton, but know her brother is no thief too! Then to prove his innocence agrees to help Murdoch to find the truth about his families stolen treasure and to prove her brother is no thief.

At first Murdoch seeks to use Isabella as a means to get his families relic back, but then the sparks fly between gentle kisses he realizes his love for Isabella. As she is his only salvation as he falls in love with pure Isabella's good nature, humanity, beauty, spirit and honesty. Also the evil fae Queen still has her evil clutches in him and plans to recapture Murdoch for all eternity or see him dead so time is of the essence!

Can this Knight not be saved in time? Yet he refuses to endanger his maiden Isabella just to save himself. Will Isabella be able to heal him and make him whole again. As Isabella is all that is good and right with the world, as the the Fae Queen is all that is evil and bad with the world! Which woman will prevail? You will have to read this excellent, captivating and enchanting story and find out.

I definitely recommend this amazing book and look forward to reading the rest of The True Bride Series:

The Highlander's Curse book 2

The Frost Maiden's Kiss book 3 TBR 8/26/ 2014

The Warrior's Prize book 4 TBR 12/2014

I know I will be keeping all four on my keeper shelves!

Loved it!~B

Sarah Greenwood says

2016 Bookworm Bingo Challenge – A book about a curse or prophecy. Historical highland romance with a

paranormal twist – loved it! There is a good balance between the historical world and the fae world. I don't think it really matters if you have read the others in series or not as feel that this could be read as a standalone. Does make me want to check out the rest of them though.

Murdoch has been set free from the fae world so he can return to his homeland. He should have known though that the fae Queen wouldn't give him up so freely. There is always a catch it seems with the fae, nothing is quite as it seems. The Queen wants him to stay with her so plants a curse on him that will slowly turn his heart black making his only choice to stay alive to go back to her – or is it? On route home he meets an old friend, Stewart, who informs him it has been three years since he was last seen. What felt like weeks held captive in the illusion of paradise with the fae was really a lot longer. When he gets within the keep he learns that his father has passed and brother is now the laird. He also finds out that their sacred relic has been stolen. So he, along with Stewart and two squires, set out on a quest to return the relic in hope it will bring prosperity back to his lands. First point of call is to go back to the people who sold the relic in the first place. If past stories are to be believed then they have gone back to their old habits of stealing. He will find the truth and the relic no matter what; he just wasn't expecting to find something worth a whole lot more in the process.

Isabella is intrigued by Murdoch the first moment she sees him through her window. He appears so bold in his actions with wanting to speak to her brother no matter what. When he gets inside he stumbles across her in the corridor outside her bedroom. Just this brief meeting has her curious so after he follows a servant up to her brother she follows to listen outside the room. She can hear the whole exchange where Murdoch is almost accusing her brother, or their family, of stealing a relic that belonged to his family now. She believes her brother has nothing to do with the theft but something in his voice makes her think he does know something about who might be involved. When the door opens, fearing being caught she rushes back to her room but not before Murdoch catches up to her. He forces her into her room where he confronts her about what she heard. After hearing his story she has this need to help him. Believing in him when it may appear he does not. Murdoch is just seeing this situation as something he can use to his advantage. He thinks to seduce her into finding out information. One stolen kiss though is enough to make both start to feel more than they first thought.

With the fae not playing fair and confrontation from all sides it will be a race against time for them to find the relic and figure out a way to save Murdoch. They may end up getting some help from unusual sources. If Murdoch can just be the real man he has always been, someone Isabella has seen from the start, then he may just find a way out and get everything he has always wanted.

Intrigue, danger, passion and romance make for an interesting read. Setting the scene for what's to come in the rest of the series and I can't wait to check them all out.

I received this ARC from the author for my honest review.

<https://readingnook84.wordpress.com/2...>

Sheila says

Murdoch is under a curse of the Fae Queen. He has only one more moon to live and he will either die or become fae. Neither choice appeals to him. Before his fate is decided he will do one last quest for his brother--bring back the religious relic that was stolen from them. Going to the Kinfairlie to retrieve the relic, he meets Isabella, the laird's sister. She knows her brother is lying but also telling the truth. She decides to

help Murdoch in his quest.

I enjoyed this story. It was not one that I could not put down but when I picked it up I was reluctant to leave Kinfairlie. This is a new series with characters from previous books. I have not read the previous books but I had no problem following the story and placing the people where they belonged. Isabella is a heroine worthy of her knight. That Murdoch is the right one for her is not to be questioned. They complement each other well.

The secondary characters are interesting. Some have had their stories told. Some will have their stories told in this series. Their personalities are glimpsed here and whet the appetite to see more of them. There is a paranormal element in this series with the Fae. Some set up of the future stories is laid here. I'm anxious to see how they end.

Good world building is done here. I am going to say you should read this story first then go on to the rest of the series. The rules of the Fae and mortal worlds are laid out here.

Emily says

Murdoch is on a quest to reclaim a stolen piece from his family. Having been captive to the Fae Queen for the last three years, he questions everything. Murdoch finds himself seeking help from Isabella, the sister to the man he believes has stolen his property. Isabella doesn't believe her brother would do such a thing, but Murdoch enlists her help as well as tries to find a way to keep her close. Everything is not as it seems though and Murdoch and Isabella find themselves on an adventure of a lifetime.

I liked both Murdoch and Isabella. Isabella is frank and not a woman looking to land a husband. Murdoch is a whirlwind, he is on a mission but at the same time is charismatic, you want him in every detail of the story. Wonderful read, had a lot of twists and a slightly different angle for historical fantasy stories.

Zoe says

Interesting read with a fair maiden and her knight with a paranormal flair.

I found Isabella and Murdoch's story refreshing. They were a good couple, neither was annoying or overbearing. I am not certain about the paranormal bit even though I do think it is an interesting story line.

I am not certain about Isabella and Murdoch's characterization. They seemed to behave inconsistently. I didn't feel that I knew them as characters when I finished the book. But they were not annoying so I thought ah well, I will work it them.

The romance bit is one of the major story lines, since Isabella and Murdoch didn't really have any conflicts, they spent time together trying to save Murdoch from the evil fae queen. I think this is the reason why I couldn't rate the book better. I want my love story!! lol

Heather says

Claire Delacroix has a gift for telling enchanting, beautiful stories that will leave the reader spellbound as the plot and characters unfold. She has a unique ability to tell stories within stories with characters whose wisdom shines through the pages of the novel. Her books are also unique in the way they transition so seamlessly between both a "real world" and an imaginary world of the fey. *The Renegade's Heart* is a captivating romance to be lost in.

While *The Renegade Heart* is the first in a new series, it continues on from the *Jewels of Kinfairlie* series, and readers of that series will enjoy learning more about the beloved characters from Delacroix's past novels.

In *Renegade Heart*, Alexander's three youngest sisters remain to be wed. Isabella and Elizabeth dream of a handsome knight to sweep them away into the wedded bliss that their older sisters have found. When such a dreamy knight appears on the keep's doorstep demanding to be heard by the laird, Isabella's curiosity leads her to following the handsome knight to learn if he's come for an offer to wed. What she overhears leaves her both startled and confused. Something's amiss in *Kinfairlie* and Isabella's sense of justice will demand action, even if such action can greatly put her at risk.

Murdoch Seton cannot believe his good fortune when he awakens back in the land of the living. Could it have been this easy to escape from the fairy queen? Has she truly granted his one wish to return home? On hurrying back to his family abode he learns that much has changed since his departure and more time has passed than he could have imagined. Instead of the warm welcoming he was expecting, he is shunned from a home with a quest he feels compelled to complete to help the people of his land and regain the good graces of his family. Now he will do whatever it takes to regain the family heirloom that's been stolen, but the tables turn and he's quickly overwhelmed by challenges beyond his darkest nightmares. His return to the land of the living was not without cost. With time limited, he must restore this last request for his family before all is lost. Not all of what befalls him is tragic, however. A beautiful maiden with fiery determination may just be the very thing which saves him. Now Murdoch can only hope that she won't pay the ultimate price for her assistance. For any defiance of those of the mortal and immortal realm will hold serious consequences for the naive young maiden with a heart of gold.

What follows is a love story so bewitching that it's impossible to put down. The plot is full of twists and surprises. The characters also show an unparalleled intelligence that leaves the reader well satisfied that misunderstandings will not linger and that the power of love will outweigh all the forces against it. There are many story lines in play that keep the pace exciting and the plot reveals thrilling. The chemistry between Isabella and Murdoch fairly leaps off the page. They are a pair beautifully matched that the reader cannot help but cheer for. While the addition of the fey will require a reader with an appreciation for the make-believe, the story is so beautiful and enchanting that it's a must read.

I listened to the audio version narrated by Saskia Maarleveld. Her narration is outstanding in its clarity, pace, beauty, and emotion. Maarleveld adds depth to the characters and enchants the reader with her lightly accented voice which fits perfectly with this novel. I would highly recommend the audio version to anyone who enjoys listening to a compelling tale. This has all the delight of a tale told through time and is likely to become a long held favorite novel.

Wendy says

I admit that I opted to review this audiobook principally because I enjoy listening to audiobooks, but actually, the premise of this Medieval/Paranormal was outside of my comfort zone. Initially, I struggled to enjoy it, and had it not been an audiobook, I may not have finished it. But I persevered and ultimately found it to be a passable listen, but even so I had to backtrack a few times to get the gist of the rather complicated storyline.

Murdoch Seton has returned to his homeland after an absence of three years, although to begin with he is unaware of the lengthy time lapse. His father has died in his absence and his brother, now the reluctant Laird, is blaming Murdoch for the misfortunes that have befallen the family. Murdoch, has in fact been ensnared by the Elphine Queen and has unwillingly sold his soul to her in exchange for his short term release to return home to see his family. Unknown to him, his freedom will last only one short month, after which the queen will take Murdoch forever into her fae world. She holds a replica of his heart in a rather macabre orb - throughout the story we get glimpses of the heart turning black and slowly dying within it; at the same time Murdoch's strength is failing.

Murdoch is as yet unaware that he is living on borrowed time, but is determined to make amends for his unintentional desertion of his family. He sets out on a quest to retrieve a stolen holy relic, and is led to Kinfairlie where he meets nothing but cool hostility from the Laird, Alexander. He does, however, encounter an unexpected ally - Isabella, one of the Laird's younger sisters. Although she does not believe her brother to be a thief, she does believe he is lying and so begins to help Murdoch; no doubt the fact that the two immediately click helps her in her decision.

As the story progresses we see more of the fae, an apparently parallel universe of tiny creatures, living out of sight of all but a few of the humans of the medieval keep of Kinfairlie. While I am not a lover of this kind of story, I can see why Claire Delacroix has such a following - she writes well and with great imagination. And if you like fairies and fae creatures then this story might hold some appeal for you. The author does, however, have one particularly irritating writing trait - she uses the character's names so often that I felt like screaming; whilst listening I counted the use of Isabella's name alone, sixteen times in five minutes! Once Murdoch and Isabella embark on their courtship (early on in the book) she becomes 'my Isabella' which had me cringing.

Narrator Saskia Maarleveil does a decent job - she captures the honourable, trustworthy and knightly demeanour of Murdoch Seton particularly well, with her slightly husky tones. Her portrayal of most of the characters is good and each one is different enough so the listener is able to differentiate between characters at any given time. Unfortunately, her regional accents - particularly the Scottish and Irish ones - are very disappointing.

Ultimately, **The Renegade's Heart** was just an 'okay' listen. I doubt that I will become a follower of Ms. Delacroix, although if you are a fan of paranormal romances, then this title may work for you better than it did for me.

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Ok this is my fault that I bought this ebook. So I won't return it. I have been exploring other Genre's to read

but this was an epic fail. I just can't seem to get into the Fae and Elf's. So that's my fault but the story is the authors fault. It really didn't seem to make much sense. I keep feeling like I had missed something. I think there needed to be more backstory and development of the characters. Maybe its just me so I won't go into details and let other readers decided for themselves!!

Becca says

Well, I just gobbled this up rather quickly! It has been awhile since I've read a Delacroix book, and *The Renegade's Heart* reminded me why I love Delacroix's books and made me feel slightly insane for waiting this long to read it.

While I typically stay strictly within the confines of historical romance, I occasionally venture into historical romance with a slight paranormal bent. I'm not a vampire, werewolf, or otherworldly creature kind of paranormal fan, but a touch of magic, mystery, or folklore is always welcome if done well. Delacroix has created a rather unique world in her medieval Scottish keep of Kinfairlie and while everything appears normal to most, the mortal world sometimes collides with the world of the Fae, which is how Delacroix weaves in the magic.

Unlike her previous Kinfairlie books, this one featured more magic and the Fae played a pivotal role in the plot. Isabella is a younger sister of Alexander, Laird of Kinfairlie, and she is courageous, curious, and a bundle of energy. Murdoch is a knight with a mission to return a stolen relic to his family, and he thinks Alexander is responsible. Murdoch is not long for the mortal world and he is desperate to see his quest fulfilled, but once he encounters Isabella and the sparks fly, he begins to wonder if she is the key to avoiding the Elphine Queen and remaining among the living.

Murdoch and Isabella have an instant spark, and while I'm usually not one for the insta-love, in this story, Delacroix made it work. Time is short and nothing is as it seems, and when Murdoch and Isabella recognize an attraction, neither tried to deny it and instead they explored further. They communicate, place trust in each other, and unite as a team to take on their fate. I enjoyed that there was a recognition between the two and felt that they were truly made for each other.

If you've read the other stories, you will enjoy this one since many players, including Alexander and Eleanor (*The Snow White Bride*) and Madeline and Rhys (*The Beauty Bride*), and even ghosts from the first series make an appearance. There are a lot of paranormal elements in it, but the romance developed exactly how I liked it. I will definitely be reading the other books in this series.

Hail says

I enjoyed this book. I wouldn't say there was anything special about it, but it fulfilled the promises it made and over all turned into a pleasant read. It does exactly what it says on the tin: Magical romance.

? Kimberly says

Delacroix creates these wonderful stories against the backdrop of a medieval keep and I have enjoyed them

immensely. In *Renegade's Heart* we meet, Murdoch Seton. He is on a quest to recover treasure that were stolen from his family's keep...but there is more to his story. Ensnared by the Fae Queen he must find a way to break her hold.

His quest brings him to Kinfairlie where he confronts Lord Alexander about a stolen chalice. While he believes Alex may be innocent, his instinct tells him that Alex is hiding something. On his way to face Alex, he meets Isabella Lammergeier, Alex's sister, and almost immediately I could feel the intense attraction between them. His first thought is to use this fair maiden to gain answers, but a heated kiss and her feisty personality soon have him yearning for more.

The *Renegade's Heart* was delightful as it weaved several threads together. We have Murdoch's quest to recover his family's treasure and save their home. Then we have his issues with Alex believing him a thief and the budding romance that develops with Isabella. The most exciting and intense aspect of the story for me dealt with the Fae Queen. Interaction with the Fae had me holding my breath and a scene in the woods gave me the chills. I love supernatural creatures but the only one I truly fear are the Fae. The author only reaffirmed those fears.

Isabella was a wonderful heroine. She can be outspoken at times and I loved how she stood up to Murdoch, Alex and the Fae. We get a chance to see characters from earlier tales, and meet a few others along the way. Delacroix shared Murdoch's backstory from his ancestry, battles and of how he became beholden to the Fae Queen. Sometimes he was a little pig-headed, but his treatment of Isabella, and his ability to listen to advice made him a worthy knight. I love when an author allows me to connect with the characters and feel their emotions.

Narrator Saskia Maarleveld has this wonderful tone and accent that makes listening a pleasure. She draws you in and seduces you with her voice. She brings out the character's personalities and her male voices are delightful without the gruff tone we normally get with female narrators.

The *Renegade's Heart* held me captive making me hold my breath, laugh aloud and swoon. The story wrapped up wonderfully and gave us a glimpse of what will come next. I cannot wait to continue this audio series and highly recommend them.

Audio provided by author. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer
