



Cruise to a Wedding (Best of Betty Neels)

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A double wedding would be twice the fun

Everybody said that Loveday was good in a crisis. So when her old friend asked for help, Loveday was only too willing to lend a hand.

Rimada was desperately in love and wanted to get married, but her guardian, the overbearing Baron Adam de Wolff van Ozinga, didn't approve of her choice. Loveday agreed to take charge of Rimada's illicit wedding plans. Adam was going to discover he wasn't a match for Loveday Pearce...or for true love!

Cruise to a Wedding (Best of Betty Neels) Details

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Author : Betty Neels

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elstaffe says

Not the craziest Neels I've read (which is not saying all that much). Still made my hand twitch until I got out a pen to annotate it, though.

Allison says

Too much planning in this book for me.

Livia says

Having completed ESMERALDA by Betty Neels a few days ago and loving it, I was prompted to ask my fellow Neels readers if they were acquainted with the married characters Adam and Loveday Ozinga. My reader friends indicated that their story is CRUISE TO A WEDDING. Aha, another two book connection.

It is rapidly becoming a fact that Betty's books need to be read in order. In Cruise to a Wedding, Loveday is the close friend of Rimada, the ward of Baron Adam de Wolff van Ozinga. Adam controls Rimada's purse strings and when she wants to elope with a penniless young doctor, she seeks the help of her friend Loveday. The wedding is to occur on a cruise to Portugal but Adam gets wind and makes plans to nip it all in the bud. When Loveday and Adam discover each other, all bets are off and unexpected romance is on.

Naomi says

A reread from several years ago. A nice little escape during a busy week.

First finished reading December 8, 2012
Reread November 22, 2015

Pamela Shropshire says

First, let me say that this is not, and never has been, my favorite Betty Neels book. Loveday annoys me. Adam annoys me. Rimada annoys me.

Loveday Pearce is a Theatre Sister in a London hospital. Her best friend there is a Dutch girl, Rimada de Wolffe. Rimada is wealthy and has a guardian (and frankly needs one). She imagines herself to be in love with Terry, one of the housemen, and wants to marry him. Loveday is sure this is NOT a good idea UNTIL she meets said guardian and Rimada tells Loveday that Adam said she, Loveday, was bossy. From then on,

Loveday is determined that Rimada will marry Terry, even though she strongly suspects Terry is just a fortune hunter.

Seriously. Would you aid and abet your bestie in marrying someone who only wants her money, just to spite someone else??? I HOPE NOT.

Now. Having said that, there are some REALLY lovely things in this book: witty, if snarky dialogue; food; clothes; and especially descriptions of Portugal! It makes me want to buy a plane ticket tomorrow!

Luckily, Adam steps in and interferes with Rimada's plans (even though I think he goes over the line a bit when he allows Rimada's mother to blame Loveday for the botched wedding plans). Rimada ends up with a rich guy who loves her in spite of her dimness and will always take care of her.

There are more snarky comments than kisses between the H/h. In spite of the good bits, for me , this one still goes into the bottom third of the Canon.

Kobie says

3.5 seemed modern for Betty. copyright is 1974 and mentions George Michael. I found the friend aspect of story annoying, but still love Betty.

Janice says

Another good book

It now come in to the 70s of the books but by today's standards dated but an enjoyable read

Kay says

4 Stars ~ Lovejoy is the head nurse in charge of a very busy operating theater in a London hospital. Her closest friend, Rimada, is a Dutch nurse working in the same hospital. Lovejoy is more level headed than Rimada, who comes from a wealthy family and really doesn't need to work. Until she's 25, Rimada's cousin acts as her guardian in charge of her trust and it was at his urging that she took up nursing in England. Lovejoy is amazed at how often her friend falls in and out of love, and now, after only a few short weeks Rimada is declaring her love for a new doctor, Terry, and they want to get married. The thorn in their happiness is Rimada's guardian, Adam, who flatly forbids them to marry. Lovejoy knows very little about Adam, until he shows up in her operating theater as a very highly skilled and sought after surgeon. Adam is incredibly handsome, but he takes too much pleasure in baiting Lovejoy's temper and she finds herself siding with Rimada just to annoy him. So she helps her friend plot her elopement on a holiday cruise, but as the ship departs from port, much to everyone's surprise, Adam appears.

Betty Neels has a great sense of humour and it shines in this story. The sparks fly between Adam and Lovejoy from the moment they meet. He loves to wind her up always hoping he'll get her laughing with him.

It's easy to tell that Adam adores her, but of course, Lovejoy has no clue. Adam's quite the plotter and he almost plots himself out of the picture! I found myself chuckling out loud as Lovejoy had him on a merry chase. These two have roles in Betty Neel's "Esmeralda" where they take great pleasure helping that hero win the girl.

Donna says

A delightful, rather predictable, old-fashioned romance. I loved it!

Tonya Warner says

Definitely enjoy the writings of Betty Neels.

Loveday Pearce might be considered a bit of a busybody by the Baron Adam De Wolff van Ozinga where his niece, Rimada is concerned, but he takes his duty as guardian very seriously. Loveday might think she is helping her friend to escape to a wedding, but she ends up with one herself.

Fiona Marsden says

While I was reading this book I kept visualising this conversation between Betty Neels and her publisher.

M&B: Have you thought of writing something a little different Betty, something that isn't all Holland and Dutch doctors.

Betty: Everyone loves my Dutch doctors. Although a good few come from Friesland which isn't quite the same thing you know.

M&B: That's true...but you know...variety. Have you thought of setting the story somewhere different.

Betty: I've done some completely set in England.

M&B: Yes, well...cruises are very popular at the moment...we'd like to see what you could do with a cruise story. Some of our other authors have done cruises and they are very popular. Madeira, Portugal, the Mediterranean.

Betty: You want a cruise story.

M&B: We knew you would see it our way.

Betty: (mutters under breath) I'll give you a cruise story.

Anyhow that's how it went in my mind.

So what did we get? Heroine is nursing in England and her best friend is Rimada, the ward of Adam, a distinguished Dutch doctor. Rimada wants to marry a loser and Loveday isn't all that happy. Enter Adam being all macho and guardianly and sets up Loveday's back. Okay, to spite Adam (who is strangely attractive despite his autocratic horribleness) Loveday will help Rimada to a runaway marriage with loser Doctor boyfriend.

Finally we get to the cruise. They will go on a cruise and Rimada will marry at Madeira. But first we have to go to Holland and check out Adam's lovely house.

Yes we do get to go on the cruise...for a couple of days...and guess who turns up on the cruise...Adam...with news to blight any loser eloping Doctors hopes. Rimada has lost her fortune. Suddenly loser Doctor isn't so keen.

So they hop off the boat at Madeira. And they don't get back on. They do the tourist thing at Madeira and then fly to Lisbon, do the tourist thing...and yes...back to Holland.

(At this point Betty, in the politest way is no doubt saying "suck eggs" to M&B under her breath while telling her editor the cruise story is going swimmingly.)

So there you go...Adam is the usual irritatingly enigmatic Dutch doctor (or is it Frieslander) Loveday is the usual English nurse and the ending is the usual Happy Ever After.

Thus endeth the required cruise romance.

Michelle says

Lovely

If you enjoy your romances clean, light, fluffy and vintage then you will enjoy the wonderful work of Betty Neels

Mudpie says

Loveday, out of spite for Adam the guardian, decided to help Rimada elope, EVEN THOUGH she had misgivings about the relationship and especially Terry the Terrible...

While Adam did everything nicely, he was gentlemanly, masterful in arranging things and basically showed what a great surgeon and head of the family he was; it disturbed me that he had no qualms using Loveday in his machinations! First, he liked to Terry that LOVEDAY was an heiress, and Rimmy had lost her fortune. So much so Terrible Terry turned his slimey attentions to Loveday - even after the holiday was over and they were back in the hospital working. Silly girl still went on a date with him and had to avoid him subsequently.

When Loveday faked a headache, he changed her delicious meal room service to a horrid one, and took away

her ONLY BOOK, argh! Petty and mean...he crossed the line in my opinion!

THEN Adam was happy to let Loveday be the scapegoat. He let his aunt believe Loveday was the bad influence on Rimmy who planned the elopement while on cruise...which she DID. But rather than clear the air, he'd rather let Loveday shoulder ALL the blame so as not to spoil the relationship between mother and daughter. Argh! With such a "warm" welcome, I don't blame Loveday for wanting to leave ASAP! Poor girl had to walk in the drizzle, with a luggage and overnight bag, catch a bus AND train just to get to the airport. And when Adam finally found out, all he did was laugh at "intrepid" Loveday!

I really hate the hero who announced to the world he's getting married...except the woman he wanted to marry did not know it yet. WHAT IF the woman said no? He must have been damn cocky to believe she'd say yes!

So forgive me if I didn't quite believe Adam here when he said he wasn't sure of Loveday.

PS. I get very creeped out when the heroine's younger sister announced that the hero "turned me on"! It seemed to be a hip/cool thing to say, but like one mother declared, it was vulgar! Strangely when it's said by other nurses it's ok and even understood because our RDDs are hot, hot, hot. I get it. But now some young teen declaring this of their potential brother-in-law!

Rimmy and her mother were very annoying TBH. Adam spoilt her too!

PS2. Loveday was afraid of heights and flying, but before the cruise she flew to Schipol with Rimmy and no mention of her fear!
