



Heart's Ransom

Kathryn Loch

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The Magna Carta was only the beginning. After King Henry forgets his promise to uphold the Provisions of Oxford, a young, powerful Marcher Earl, Talon Montgomery joins forces with Simon de Montfort leading an all out rebellion. Thanks to Montgomery's strategies, Montfort wins the day and takes Henry and his son, Edward Longshanks, hostage to ensure the Provisions are followed. Montgomery rejoices, knowing the Provisions will bring justice and law to a nation. It is only after the battle does Montgomery learn his precious eight year old daughter, Rose, has been abducted. Talon Montgomery now faces a terrible choice, turn against his allies and against everything he believes in or face the murder of his daughter.

A widower, Talon's daughter is all he has. Desperate to counter their hold over him and certain his dead wife's curse is exacting her vengeance, Talon abducts the daughter of his Welsh enemy, Gwenillian ap Powys, only to discover he has brought into his home a fiery spirit of a young, beautiful woman who refuses to be cowed.

But Talon's counter means naught. He has picked the wrong enemy and Gwen's father orders the assassination of his own daughter, placing Talon squarely in the middle and the risk of dying himself should he decide to protect her.

Talon cannot bear to see such a strong spirit destroyed but neither can he find his missing daughter. His desire for Gwen grows daily. How can he protect the young woman with a death writ over her head when he cannot find his own daughter?

Heart's Ransom Details

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From Reader Review Heart's Ransom for online ebook

Jenn - Reviews says

This book was given to me in exchange for an honest review.

Well, what can I say? Let me stop my heart from beating so fast. What a fabulous story!

Kathryn Loch has written a wonderful tale of romance set in 13th Century England and Wales. The historical accuracy is very impressive as the story of Talon and Gwen develops. King Henry has reneged on his promise to uphold the Provisions of Oxford and Earl Talon Montgomery leads a rebellion whereby Henry's son, Edward, is taken prisoner. Little does Talon know his own daughter has been abducted also.

Gwen is the daughter of his enemy whom Talon suspects of taking his little girl. Betrothed to a horrible man she is on her way to marry him when her party is attacked by Talon and his men and she is kidnapped. Little does Talon realise that's exactly what Gwen wants.

Slowly, Gwen melts Talon's heart and heals it after a horrible first marriage. Talon also comes to realise what a treasure he has in Gwen. However, his heart will never be completely healed until his young daughter Rose, is returned unharmed from her abductors. But who has her? Despite being gone for a while, no ransom note has been sent. What is really going on?

This is a historical romance filled with action, intrigue, love and healing. I strongly recommend this fabulous tale.

Caron Pescatore says

This is the second book I've read by this author. The first one, *By Any Other Name*, I finished right before I started this one. I loved that book so much it inspired me to immediately read another book by Ms. Loch, which is how I came to read *"Heart's Ransom"*. And I was not disappointed!

What a story! Again Ms. Loch weaves a wonderful story around a plot that is both dynamic and engaging. The plot is chock full of excitement including sword fights, betrayal, political intrigue, and an evil vendetta. *"Heart's Ransom"* clearly demonstrates Ms. Loch's superior knowledge of the unstable political climate of England during this period. With mastery she weaves historical facts in with fiction to create a medieval story that is superior in every way. The characters are all fully developed and I was easily able to relate to them.

Talon is a quintessential tortured hero. He suffered extreme emotional trauma from his first marriage and, as a result, has walled off his heart to all, except his beloved eight year old daughter, Rose. Gwen is an absolutely wonderful heroine! She is strong, courageous, loyal, smart, and extremely intelligent. She is the perfect match for Talon! Gwen, once she realizes the torment that Talon suffers, declares war against Talon to claim his heart! Poor Talon did not stand a chance.

But, the main characters of this story are not the only ones that are captivating. Ms. Loch includes a whole cast of supporting characters who are all as equally well drawn and dynamic as the h and H. This book is one that you not so much read, as experience.

The story drew me in and evoked emotions that ran the gamut from sorrow, fear, anger, to extreme joy. The only complaint I have about the book is that it had to end! I loved these characters so much and am so reluctant to say goodbye to them that I plan to read the sequel, *"Heart's War"* immediately.

Again Ms. Loch has provided me with a few hours of pure enjoyment, and I look forward to many more. Ms. Loch has very quickly become one of my all time favorite authors of medieval romance. This book is a must read for any lover of that genre!

Peg says

This was a riveting read, filled with action, romance and mystery. I found the story line intriguing, and fell In love with the characters. The book is very enjoyable and well worth you time. I have read several of Kathryn Loch's books and have yet to be disappointed.

Leslie Mesmer says

I enjoyed this book but had a slightly difficult time following the political and strategy in the story.i also felt that as far as Gwen and Talon went the romance got lost in the historical parts.

The kidnapping of Rosé right at the beginning and then the kidnapping of Gwenn drew me into the book immediately but then other than mentions of Talon's heartbreak over Rose having disappeared she pretty much disappears from the story. I also had a hard time believing Gwen would so easily accept the fact of herself being held captive.

I did lose interest with the story while Talon was gone but again the story drew me back in towards the last third of the book.

I did become drawn into the story enough to want to pick up the second book Hearts War because I have loved The author's other love stories. Especially the more current time love stories.

Elizabeth Bennet says

Ransom Heart was a beautiful story about forgiving yourself and loving again. Talon was an awesome H and his relationship with the h is comfortable and sweet. Gwen was beaten repeatedly by her father, enough to leave several scars on her back, and is now being sought after by him to be killed. When Talon and Gwen's paths meet it is a sense of protectiveness Talon feels for Gwen.

This is what I loved most about Talon, planning to abduct Gwen was on his agenda but upon learning that her father seeks to kill her, without hesitation, he vows that she is safe with him. I love my H to contain this trait. Talon is a widower and had a very bad marriage. He did gain a daughter from all the misery he suffered and the story starts out by her being abducted.

Although I loved the H, being perfectly honest there are several times I felt this book mimicked By Any Other Name. The abuse was similar as was the lack of confidence in her beauty due to the scars. I took away a star because I would have liked more originality in that respect. I also feel that her H sometimes have trust issues and tend to doubt the h. The fact that they sleep next to her but yet not confide gets a little annoying. This could occur with one H but this is the third book I've read by her and all three H had the same problem.

I really hated when Talon caught Gwen looking at a picture of his wife and went off on a tirade. It was short lived as that was when he finally opened up to our h. Overall I did enjoy the book but felt it important to mention the flaws as well.

InD'tale Magazine says

The novel's exploration of law, class, and social justice could easily be applied to the United States' current condition.

Read full review in the November 2013 issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Nadia says

Nothing really new about this story, although hero and heroin are interesting characters. its quite mild story actually even with the heroin survive some torture, not many angst scene.

Lilosshadow (ReNee) says

A Gripping Love Story from Start to Finish...

I am going to make this short and sweet. I have read four stories by this author and she never disappoints! I am a longtime lover of Medieval Romance and this has everything a great one should. Handsome warrior of a knight, lady in distress, betrayal, battles, court intrigue, and most of all LOVE. It is a story rich in character development and I love how the hero feels very deeply. This author reminds me a lot of Kathryn Le Veque's stories. If you love KLV you will love Kathryn Loch too! I can't wait to read the next story in the series.

Check out this GREAT story, you won't be sorry!

Happy Reading!!

Emmy says

As much as I've enjoyed many of Kathryn Loch's books in the past, at 8%, this one had hit too many of "buttons" already.

1. A hero that is so beautiful he must be an angel fallen to earth or something. (I've never understood this btw, it's basically just a bad pick-up line.)
2. what basically amounts to inst-love
3. behavior that does not belong in the time period. (or in this case, was unrealistic given the situation, no matter the time period).

So this is going to have to be a pass for me. :(

Mary Berg says**Exceptional Book - Fun Read**

I loved the main characters, Talon and Gwen. Ms Loch really made them fully real - ringing with a wide range of emotions. The book had a beautifully woven backdrop in history that didn't seem contrived. It carried a nice sense of the era without distracting from the plot. The plot stayed dynamic and never lagged. Great job. I would read it again.

Jo Notary says

429pgs, Historical Romance, Magna Carta and King Henry,

Michele Lacroix says

I couldn't put this book down, that's how good it is. I loved the characters and the plot was great.

Diane Hoover says

The book started strong but by chapter 3, the writing became disjointed. Any emotional connection I had waned, leaving a book that was more work to read than it was worth. Sad ... because the plot was a decent one. Ultimately, I felt like Talon was disconnected. Super strong warrior and military genius on the battlefield but utterly incapable of solving the disappearance of his daughter. Really??? He had way too many blind spots for such a warrior. And Gwen was too much of an old soul. Disappointing read.

Carolyn says

Oh, this was a GREAT MEDIEVAL BOOK! The mystery kept me guessing and I can usually figure it out way before the end of the book. Lovely romance.

Zoe says

Kathryn Loch writes beautiful medieval stories. Her stories do not have evil villains or jerky heros. It is like reading King Authur, Lancelot and all the roundtable knights where chivalry played an important role and knights seek the ladies' favors. I understand why ladies like a brooding or tortured hero. And Ms Loch's heros are a little tortured, fear not, fair maidens. They are just also knightly and do not fret so much over feeling protective of their ladies.

The book features a beautiful first half, where Talon the hero and Gwen the heroin, came together in love, but not in marriage. Talon abducted Gwen believing that Gwen's father abducted his 8 year old daughter Rose. He is a respectable knight and treats the lady and her maid well. Gwen, being the lady that she is, gracefully did not go nuts about being captured by her family's enemy. She realizes quickly that the man who abducted her bears her no ill will and accepts the situation with grace and dignity. Tender feelings grow and I enjoy reading about them coming closer to each other.

The 2nd half of the story however, is the missing star that I took away. It is not poorly written. It is just the story centered on politics and Talon and Gwen are separated for a long time. We then read about their lives separately, Talon being kept away on King's business, facing political struggles, Gwen being attacked by Talon's enemy and barely survives. The principal characters of the second book in this series, Bryn and Rose, also make an appearance because Bryn saves Rose from her abductor. Lots of things happening but none of it directly relates to the romance. I was not disappointed but a little distracted, yeah. These events are necessary for the story to progress but it felt like it was moving slowly for me.

Talon and Gwen, remind me of the lead characters in Amanda Quick's Desire, only roles are reversed. In Heart's Ransom, Talon is the one who has the holding and Gwen takes refuge in his keep. In Desire, hero is a landless knight and is granted the island of Desire through marriage to the heroin. But both stories make me feel the same way: 2 strangers who did not meet in the best of occasion, getting to know each other and caring for each other. As a reader you learn to care about the characters, but they don't fight about their independence (not overly much). They fight for each other, fight to have and to hold. I find that very romantic. (OK I know.....I am saphead.....)
