



The Saxon

Margaret Moore

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Endredi

Endredi haunted his every waking thought...a sun-burnished Valkyrie with a beauty as wild as the open sea. But Adelar's deepest passion was also his darkest secret. For the woman who held his heart belonged to his lord.

Adelar

Always would Endredi remember the boy who had awakened her to love. Yet she cursed the fates who brought her face-to-face with Adelar the man, for she was now nothing more than a bartered bride in a Saxon stronghold rife with danger and deceit.

--sequel to THE VIKING by the same author

The Saxon Details

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Kerrie says

Just like a tub of low-fat Cool Whip - sweet, not too heavy on the stomach, absolutely no nutritional value whatsoever, and FLUFFY!!! :D

Really, that dude on the cover (how can anyone be so beefy AND wispy-looking at the same time?) says it all about this book. A beta hero for the ages. The Love For All Time between our hero and heroine is based on when they were young tweens and she was in his daddy's camp as a Viking prisoner of war (or something - this book doesn't explain shit very well). They kissed. ONCE. No nasty or anything. So, not a lot to go on here.

But she escaped, and years later, she turns up at his thane's fortress as the new bride (to forge alliances with the Danes) and Adelar the Saxon is all a-twitter and verklempt that his One True Love is another man's wife.

Now here's where it gets wacky.

The thane, Bayard, is dying and can't seem to procreate, which would mean his worthless nephew Ranulf would inherit. So he has a Cunning Plan™!!! (Yes, there was a character called Baldrick, but he didn't have any delusions of smrtz.) Since he and Adelar are cousins and *look alike*, Adelar will take his place in the marriage bed and make that baby boy, and Bayard will spend the nights with a serving girl who's got the hots for our beefy Saxon. **WHAT COULD GO WRONG????**

Well... the women aren't fooled for one second, but the guys tell each other that everything is going according to plan. Cuz if Bayard knew that Endredi knew it was Adelar from the get-go, that would bruise a dude's ego, you know? Anyway, as Endredi starts to turn into a huge pregnant moo, Adelar takes off since the pain of seeing a son he can never acknowledge would be agonizing. Totes.

Time passes, and it all comes down to the Danes outside Bayard's fortress ready to take it over since the thane is rumored dead. Bayard is almost there, but not quite, so he hauls himself off his deathbed and goes in for a last hurrah at the same time that Adelar shows up and does some serious damage to the Danes, being the studly ZOMG Saxon warrior that he is when he isn't standing around tearful and hand-wringing over his Lady Lurve.

All the baddies in the story get their just desserts too, *in case you wondered*.

So my main gripe was the writing: it was pretty choppy, shit jumped around, and this period of history is confusing what with Saxons, Mercia, Wessex, Danes and whoever else all being their own damn countries (or wanting to be the one to rule England) and at no point did the exposition clarify anything. I finally gave up and just rolled with it. The WTF-goofiness of the switching identities subplot was both excruciating and enjoyable at the same time (in a so-bad-its-only-sorta-good way). So I wouldn't recommend it for awesome storytelling or crackerjack writing, but it was a little trainwrecky.

Trudy Miner says

In 902 A.D. in Wessex, the Dane, Endredi, is bartered in marriage to Bayard of Wessex in order to secure peace between the two previously warring peoples. Unfortunately, Adelar, Bayard's cousin was a childhood friend of Endredi when he passed through her country many years before. Once reunited again, Adelar and Endredi realize that the attraction they felt as children now has grown into something more mature as adults. But since Endredi is married to Adelar's cousin, neither would dishonor Bayard in any way. Fate has a way of intervening though. Bayard needs an heir to prevent Ranulf from inheriting and enemies were ever ready to pounce. Bayard realizes that he is dying but Adelar refuses to take command so Bayard is hatches a plan.....

A moving love story set in the tumult of the early Middle Ages, this story will keep you turning the pages.

Barbara Van Zandt says

couldn't put down cried laugh

Elizabeth Rose says

I loved this book, and must say this was the book that inspired me to write romance many years ago.

Melissa Hinton says

It was ok, even though Endredi was sleeping with a man who wasn't her husband and he was ok with it. The 2 men tricked her at first but when she realized what they had done, she was ok with it. She was in love with Adelar when they were younger and he was in love with her as well so everything worked out good for them in the end.

Julie says

quite a good read

Terri Pray says

One I read sometime back, though it took me about four chapters before I recalled the book.

Not a bad read, a few places where the story jumps around a little, but all in all enjoyable. However, not something I'd re-read.
