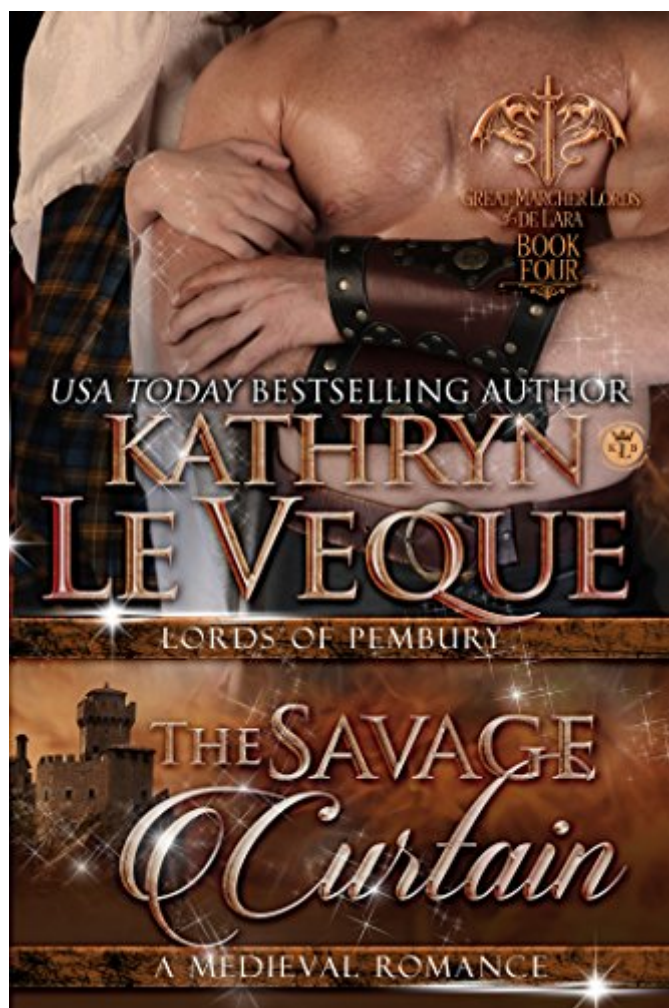


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The Savage Curtain: Book Four Of The Dragonblade Series



Synopsis

1333 A.D. - At the conclusion of the English victory of Halidon Hill, King Edward appoints Stephen of Pembury the Guardian Protector of the newly captured city of Berwick. To cement this victory, he orders Stephen to marry the defeated Scottish commander's daughter, the Lady Joselyn de Velt Seton. In a marriage meant to symbolize the English domination over the Scots, Stephen is nonetheless attracted to his new bride; a petite, raven-haired beauty with pale blue eyes. Joselyn is a lady with a horrific past and dark secrets of abuse. She is resistant to the marriage at first but eventually her attraction to Stephen proves too much to resist and the pair fall deeply in love. But even as their love blossoms, Scots insurgents counter attack Berwick and Stephen is taken prisoner. As the Guardian Protector of Berwick, he is a mighty prize for the Scots and his public execution has been ordered. Stephen's old friends, Tate de Lara (Dragonblade) and Kenneth St. Hever (Island of Glass) must plot Stephen's rescue even as Joselyn and unexpected allies launch their own rescue attempt. It's a race against time to save Stephen from the executioner's sword in this tale of conquest, dark secrets and everlasting love.

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Customer Reviews

...gawd I absolutely loved this sweet love story. To marry the daughter of your defeated enemy is to ensure peace. Sir Stephen of Pembury is ordered by King Edward III to such a marriage, following the victory of a month long siege against the Scots. Sir Stephen is a kind hearted, benevolent Knight. He is noble and good. He is a gentle giant of a warrior. He's also a Healer/Physic and very capable in his field. And even though he is honored by the generosity of the lands and titles bestowed upon him for his loyal service to King Edward, he is opposed to being forced to take a wife. Nevertheless, being sworn to do his duty, (which always comes first), he marries the Lady Joselyn... a Scot. Lady Joselyn Julia de Velt Seton has been sequestered in an Abbey for eleven years. She was planning on taking her vows to become a nun and now finds herself in an unwelcomed marriage. However in spite of all her loss, sadness and humiliation, she finds an unexpected world of joy has opened for her, through her new gentle husband. But Stephen questions where Joselyn's loyalties lie. With her Scots people that he is warring with?? Or with him..her English husband who is killing her people in this war?? The reader cannot help but like Stephen's character. He's a loveable, kindhearted gentle giant when it comes to his new wife. He adores her. He's a serious, intelligent commanding force of a Warrior on the battlefield. I absolutely adored him! This Author describes Joselyn so perfectly. Living in an Abbey for 11 years makes her so tender hearted and kind. And even though her heart is always in the right place - - even though she always means well...she nevertheless always finds herself in serious and dangerous situations at the excuse of trying to "help" her husband. I loved her character while being exasperated with her determined goodness that always makes matters worse! Sometimes the situations are humorous...sometimes dangerous. I loved how Ms. Le Veque painstakingly draws the reader into this sweet and intriguing plot and leads them, inch by wonderful slow inch, through each step and phase of progression. There's no rush and because of her talented capabilities..because of her expert writing, the reader has no choice but to feel connected as one with the main characters...there is no other alternative than to fall into the emotional excitement facing Stephen and Joselyn. The journey is absolutely exquisite and delightful. I loved the attraction between Stephen and Joselyn and how it gradually grew into an inferno. The ending of this story is so bittersweet upon learning which life paths each of the children followed. Ms. Le Veque left no holes or loose threads. Her strength of vision to the ending is unparalleled.

I love this author's work. This story was packed with action, and the romance that was woven in among the historical facts, was without a doubt, beautiful and well written. The thing I can say that drove me nuts was the phrase "cornflower blue eyes," which was over-used to the point of annoyance. I would suggest the author do a word search on her copy - to see the unbelievable number of times the phrase was used, and change it. If that were done, the book would easily garner 5 stars from me.

Third book in Dragonblade series. Actually another book *Fallen Knight* is left off this list but should be in the group somewhere between *Dragonblade* and *Island of Glass* the second book.(with Sir Kenneth). I read it out of sequence and was not lost but it keeps the timeline better if that matters to you. *Savage Curtain* has Sir Stephen and it brings all characters back together. Kathryn Le Veque writes a fast paced action story that takes place in the dark/middle ages with knights in armor. Love stories all that have depth and character development and some plot them. This plot is one of a Scottish lass who is a victim of crimes against her as a child is married by arrangement of King Edward to one of his knights to reduce hostilities of so the King hopes. So the story weaves between the political and personal with twist and turns one does not necessarily see coming.

When you have already loved not one but two books by the same author, at the third one you have very high expectations ... and once again, it went beyond! For centuries, the city of Berwick, due to its eminently strategic position as a border town between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, has been the scene of many battles and sieges. The time is AD 1333, the aftermath of the Battle of Halidon Hill. This story opens just after the English troops retake the city and the Scots surrender after a long and arduous siege. Scotland has suffered humiliation once again. These are hard and brutal times! This is an epic tale full of passionate love and bitter war where the scenery and the action are so vividly depicted that you feel transported to another time and place. The story is long, complex and full of incredible depth but it never gets slow or boring at any time. There are ample medieval battles to appeal to male readers, and abundant romance and sentiment to touch every female reader. The first couple of chapters are dramatically intense and rough but events get better for a time. However, as the story continues danger and uncertainty arise. The Lady Joselyn de Velt Seton and Sir Stephen of Pembury are ordered to join their destiny to ensure peace. As an English knight, Stephen has a duty to his king but Joselyn does not. They are thrown together very unwillingly into high drama and an impossible situation. When it could be a disaster, it is anything

but. Two people sworn to hate, forge a love so deep and without reserve that it rises above any obstacle. They both open their hearts to love that they never expected or even suspected could exist. You cannot but fall in love with them ... well I did! The building relationship between the hero and heroine is beautiful to watch. I love characters that act, react and evolve as the story progresses. This book is a perfect example of that and it grabs at emotions in a very positive and exciting manner. Ms. Le Veque's characters are, as always, extremely well done. They have an emotional depth and reasoning behind their actions. I love her fertile imagination and her very special way she tells her story. She always seems to be able to bring something different to each book, something that you cannot find anywhere else. This was a fantastic and captivating tale with characters both enthralling and endearing. A good deal of suspense and danger keep the book going with numerous twists and turns and even a touch of humor in the dialog from time to time. She weaves here an original tapestry where she interlaces very skillful fiction with actual history. Despite the fact that this book is the third in the Dragonblade Series, not once did I find myself lost or feeling that something was missing. All I know is that I want to read Tate de Lara's and Kenneth St. Hever's stories too and I will as soon as I can. I want this wonderful adventure to continue. For now, I give it 5 stars.

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