



Stealing Heaven

Madeline Hunter

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Nationally bestselling author Madeline Hunter has thrilled her legions of fans with sensuous novels of intrigue, adventure, and romance. Now she weaves a spectacular tale of an English knight, a Welsh rebel, and a relationship that would defy their world and everything they believed possible between a man and a woman...

Stealing Heaven

Marcus of Anglesmore was not at all happy about being betrothed by the king to a woman he'd never laid eyes on. So when the brooding English knight accidentally came across her in a moonlit garden, he was both surprised--and delighted. Intelligent, charming, and beautiful, she was the most captivating woman he'd ever met. But the magic of that enchanted moment is soon shattered by cold reality: Nesta is not the woman he is to marry, but her sister. Of all the women Marcus might desire, none could be more dangerous than the wild and tantalizing Welsh witch with secret ties to both rebellion and king. For Nesta, no one could jeopardize her plans more than a man who would know the secrets of both her heart...and her body. Yet the course of their lives--and the destinies of their two nations--will be forever altered as they defy everything to surrender to the most daring seduction of all...

Stealing Heaven Details

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From Reader Review Stealing Heaven for online ebook

Susan says

Exclnt: lv, deceit, manipultns, faith, brains, brilliant tacticians! Opposg Marcher Lord Marcus & Welsh Nesta are great! 2nds like Rhys' & M's frnd David...

Sheila says

I've become a big Madeline Hunter fan. She always delivers. In Stealing Heaven the author not only entertained me but enriched my understanding of the British Isles in the fourteenth century. Bravo! An all around great historical romance.

Kit says

A beautifully told love story during the tumultuous history of Wales and England. Marcus was wonderful yet in a modern perspective Nesta's self destructive loyalty to revolution can get a little wary (as some reviews got board with her) yet understandable given her status in Wales. As always, MH delivers a great read-smart, very sexing with a wonderful ending.

Brenna says

As far as romance novels go, I was incredibly impressed by this one. She's not as funny as Johanna Lindsay, but still has excellent dialogue as well as believable and smart - really clever - characters. The intrigue of the plot was as good as the romance of the plot, making it a well-rounded story about pre-Elizabethan plotting and highly sensual people. Rather than making the main characters' attraction to each other the entire action, she uses it to heighten and push the action. A really nice surprise.

Sarah says

Nesta's heart is caught between loyalty to her homeland, and Marcus, the man who holds her heart. If her treason is discovered, Marcus could easily hold the sword that ends her life.

Darla says

I totally loved this book! I loved Marcus, especially now that he's all grown up and sexy and masculine!! I really loved Nesta too, I loved her fire and determination and sex appeal in a time when women weren't supposed to be as brazen as she was!! I thoroughly enjoyed the passion the author created in this book between these two, it was amazing and it kept me coming back for more just to see what would take place next! I couldnt put this book down because I was dying to see how the seemingly impossible situation that

was between Marcus and Nesta could be overcome. In the end I was completely happy, and even more so that like the last book, previous characters made appearances. I love how the author ends one couple's story, but doesn't make them "disappear", so it's like the series is a continual thread of all their lives together in this ever growing extended family. Marcus and Nesta's story takes place 10 years after book 2. I am about to start the 4th book in the series, and I am extremely curious to how much time has passed. I strongly suggest anyone reads this book!

Adele says

4,5 stelline

Ridley says

So, after my teenesque righteous rage flame out over Phantom Waltz last night (I've since washed off the eye makeup and restyled the emo hair out of my eyes,) it was a relief to grab this bad Larry and enjoy it thoroughly. I wavered between a four and a five, and still do, so it's absolutely a 4.5.

Marcus of Anglesmore has been ordered by King Edward to marry the heir to an important Welsh estate as a way to stave off any rebellion from the restive Welsh marches. Nesta meets him by accident one night when he sneaks into the garden of the London home she and her sister are staying in. They share a long kiss, some words, and he leaves feeling much more excited about the marriage. Nesta, however, neglects to mention that he's kissed her, the king's former dalliance, and not her sister, whom he's meant to be betrothed to.

The book's action then centers around Nesta and Marcus fighting love and duty in equal measure. Pretty much every allegiance either has sworn to uphold - Nesta to the Welsh rebellion and Marcus to the king and England - stands in opposition to their attraction.

The book's strongest quality is its historical details. Hunter's voice and dialogue is pitch-perfect for the period in diction and syntax. Attitudes and values match the century. As head over heels as Marcus is for Nesta, his duty is to marry her sister, and he doesn't reconsider that duty at all in the face of romantic love. He doesn't consider marrying Nesta until any chance of marrying her sister fails, and then only pursues it because it fits his plans. This is not an anachronistic story about two lovers who toss everything away to be together, but instead a story about two strong-willed people working to stick to their principles while getting what they want.

Now, I consider this a strength, but I can see where other readers would find this frustrating. For the entire book, neither gives up their plans. While Marcus is working to deflate any rebellion, Nesta is working as hard to build it up, and they're quietly betraying each other the whole time. This doesn't end until one legitimately outwits and defeats the other.

What saves this from being exasperating is that Hunter makes both causes sympathetic, though you know which way the wind's going to blow, and their efforts in earnest, while having them openly acknowledge both that they want and love each other but won't be swayed from their causes. Nesta was a strong heroine, but she could admit her feelings, as could Marcus. It was honest deception, somehow, and I appreciated that she got to be a worthy adversary to Marcus.

This might be my favorite of her medievales. I'm a sucker for a strong, proud heroine who never backs down.

YMMV.

Debbie Dodd says

I enjoyed reading.

Jubee says

A must have series for your library. Can't go wrong with Madeline Hunter! She's my go-to read every time.

Starlyn says

love story with a twist, this one is set in England and Wales in medieval times.. kings, lords and all that... girl gets guy...quite a bit of sexy stuff, good visual imagery in the words, you can put yourself on the dirt roads and the high hills and stone castles

Gerrie says

I have been loving this series and the way Madeline Hunter brings 14th Century England alive. However, this is my least favorite of the three books I have read so far in this series (the first two being *By Possession* and *By Design*). Ms. Hunter is a terrific writer, and creates compelling characters with great depth. However, I didn't find the characters as compelling here as in the first two books. Part of it is that the story is told mainly from the point of view of the heroine, Nesta. So, we don't get as deep an insight into the hero, Marcus, as I would like. Also, Nesta is sworn to continue her father's crusade to free Wales from English rule. Although a lot is made of her commitment (and is the explanation for her actions throughout the story), I felt the background of the Welsh oppression by the English was not flushed out enough. I wish there had been more of this background to explain and justify Nesta's repeated betrayals of her love for Marcus in favor of her commitment to the Welsh cause. As a result, at times I found her repeated choosing of the cause over Marcus irritating. Finally, I just found it hard to warm up to Nesta as a character, despite all the explanations given for her actions.

However, Ms. Hunter is such a good writer that I can still rate this book higher than I usually would when I don't particularly like the hero or heroine. It's was actually more of a 3.5 star read for me, but I'll round it up to 4 stars because of the high quality of the writing, and wonderful use of history.

nicpref says

Marcus (Joan's brother) and Nesta's story.

Minna says

Ms. Hunter did a good job establishing the time period, with what seemed to this amateur reader to be historically accurate details and setting. Her research into the Welsh rebellion was well done. The writing was fine, with well-written dialogue between the two characters.

However, this book severely fell short for me with the main characters. First of all, I'm unsure how two people so diametrically opposed politically and continuously determined to undercut and betray the other could sincerely fall into a romantic partnership. Secondly, it was very irritating to me that Nesta's every thought, objection, opinion, and action was overridden by Marcus's magic P. He seemed much less affected, which left her looking spineless and weak. Perhaps this was also historically accurate but it was hard to read. I probably rolled my eyes at least twice a chapter. Then there was Marcus: who, despite being a self-avowed righteous and honorable man, had no qualms about (view spoiler).

I hate to give such a low rating to a book written by an author I very much enjoy, but I just couldn't stand either character, and that really ruined my enjoyment of the novel in general.

Jackie says

As in Hunter's BY ARRANGEMENT, much of the plot depends on the hero totally deceiving the heroine, something that I find quite annoying. At least in this book, the the reader is made aware of the deception, and the hero isn't doing it just because he doesn't want to share with the heroine, or thinks she's too fragile or stupid to understand. Still, not my favorite trope...
