



The Brat

Lynsay Sands

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Whether her heroes are English lords or sexy vampires, this classic historical romance from Lynsay Sands proves that the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author has what it takes to captivate her readers. In this delightful tale of medieval passion, a loyal knight competes with a dangerous villain for the affections of King Edward III's comely goddaughter—who is not really the petulant brat she first appears to be. If you love the historicals of Julie Garwood and Jill Barnett or are a fan of Lynsay's Argeneau vampire paranormal romance novels and want to experience another side of their talented author, make a date with *The Brat!*

The Brat Details

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? ?randi says

♥♥♥♥ - for this book as a stand alone. But since these last few Sands books have been the same plot every time with many identical elements and events, I should have given them all 1 star.

Oy vey! Where to begin? I'm coming off of my 6th straight Lynsay Sands novel (7 read total plus one short story, as of 01/15/13) and for starters I would not recommend you reading consecutively, any of the books I mention below. There are too many similarities and whether the book is good or bad will quickly not matter if you're reading the same thing again and again.

I should note that being critical of the books I read is not desirable to me but as I've read the same story, some nearly verbatim a few times, for no less than 4 books and arguably it's been the same general story in all 7 books (the short story being the only exception), I feel criticism is now obligatory. The other books I'm referring to are the Madison Sisters and The Devil of the Highlands series and while some are worth reading, I feel compelled to tell you that you will be reading essentially the same basic plot, and many plot elements over and over. Some are better than others. A few are tiresome. And some are decent. What you do now is up to you.

The basics of The Brat are these. It's a historical (Medieval) romance that takes place in the late Middle Ages. It's 1351, approximately one year after the end of The Black Death, which claimed about half of the nation's inhabitants. King Edward III is King of England and constantly away at war but has taken in his 10 year old goddaughter, Murie, after her parents both die. Murie is tenderhearted and finds herself constantly bullied by those at court. Under advice from a friend she quickly learns to be loud, fuss and cry or avoid others completely. People assume she's been spoiled by the doting King because of her behavior and this earns her the undeserved nickname "The Brat." 10 year pass and Murie feels mostly alone and wishes to marry and leave court life, a life she's always hated. She boldly proclaims in front of the Queen that she'll never marry and she's more that content to forever stay at court. Murie knows the Queen doesn't care for her so she expects the Queen will demand that Edward force Murie to marry. He does and Murie wails in front of everyone and all the eligible bachelors flee for fear of being saddle with her. Edward tells Murie she may pick her groom so when a when an opportunistic brother and sister overhear Murie's conversation with a friend revealing that Murie is really a gentle and kind girl, nothing like the rumors say, they decide to trick her into marriage. They tell her that on St. Agnes Day if she eats rotten food before sleeping she'll dream of the man she's supposed to marry. The siblings plan to present her with the rotten food, doctored with something that will make Murie extra groggy, and the brother will sneak into her bed chamber, kiss her awake and make sure Murie dreams of him. Murie is very superstitious but protestingly agrees to participate. Meanwhile Balan Gaynor, whose land has been devastated by the plague and his father's neglect, is at court seeking a rich wife. Balan and his cousin Osgoode also overhear Murie's conversation and are happy to learn Murie is actually kind and could be a candidate for his bride. Balan wishes to woo her but when the cousins learn of the siblings plan for St. Agnes night they stake out the halls hoping to interfere. Balan, who is reluctant to get involved finds himself in Murie's room, knocking the scheming brother unconscious and kissing Murie himself. Murie wakes the next day, reveals that she dreamed of a man and then is surprised to find him that very day. She is introduced to Balan and there are several chapters of good stuff from there. This part of the book was all new, refreshing, exciting, original and entertaining and it remains so until about page 158 (chapter 9) at which point the same old story gets told, again. I will add that I LOVED page 262 when Balan tells Murie he loves her. Just simple and sweet and full of awesomesauce.

Now, while I enjoyed this book in general it's extremely difficult to not be disappointed and irritable after reading the same plot repeatedly. It's also hard to remain kind and not be acrimonious when for the life of me

I'm baffled by how Ms. Sands has managed to write the same book 7 times, some of them insufficiently, and there were published and highly rated here. I'm not focusing on trivial aspects when I make these distinctions either. Some very specific scenes play out in more than one book. For example, in *The Brat*, Murie has to rescue her husband again and again, which also happens in *The Devil of the Highlands* series, but more specifically she strips nearly naked and arrives back at the castle rain soaked a see through chemise, much to the soldiers delight. This exact scenario plays out in *The Hellion and the Highlander* when Averill must rescue her husband who has been injured and rides back to the castle soaked and nearly naked. There is a scene in *The Brat* when Murie has to get stitches and though not verbatim it was very reminiscent of the same scene again from *The Hellion and the Highlander*. These are just two examples but read consecutively you notice a great deal more.

My final thoughts are that this book on its own is decent, good even but not great. Compared to the 6 others I've read it ranges from similar to identical in plot and even some scenes. So while I would recommend this book and the *The Hellion and the Highlander* (as well as the Madison Sisters series) but none highly, I caution you to leave plenty of time in between reading ALL of these books or ended up bitter Betty like me.

Valia says

Huh!

This book left me making this sound too many times to count.

I unfortunately did not find the superstitions of the heroine cute. I found them to show her lack of knowledge and they showed how much of a twit she was.

The hero...I cannot even remember him(I made it a priority to forget as much of the book as possible).

Tracy says

For the Romance Book Club I run we each read a different Lynsay Sands book and then compared the plot lines. We found more similarities than differences and discovered that we didn't mind that. Knowing what you're going to get can make for an enjoyable read. We all thought the books were good, lighthearted and entertaining. Good for a beach read or vacation book.

The story of *The Brat* is this. A Lord down on his luck goes to court looking for a rich bride. Through a course of mishaps and metting he ends up married to *The Brat* who is the King's Goddaughter. On the journey back to his kingdom there are many more mishaps and adventures as well as a mystery that were very entertaining, the way she saves him after finding him in the river was amusing and unexpected. She is of course not what she appears to be and they quickly come to love each other.

I would recommend this if you are looking for a fun, easy read.

Dhaverma says

I was so disappointed with this book. *The Brat* could have been a great idea! Send a true Brat to the hero and have him turn her. That would have been better than this sappy story.

Maqluba says

sorta funny, sorta boring, sorta repetitious, sorta everything really...it was fun to read for a little while but then I just got irritated by the h&h so I just wanted to finish and get over it..

I gotta say for a guy that's described as "shy" he sure is a handsy fella lol

Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

3 Meh stars

Didn't love or hate this one..Not super exciting but pleasant read.

The heroine was a little TOO superstitious at times but instead making her character quickly and different she just came across a bit naive and annoying.

Figured out who the villain was by around 60% after which I started losing interest due to the lack of suspenses :(

Wouldn't really recommend.

Rebecca (everyday reader) says

Another great historical romance from Lyndsey Sands. I love the acting job by Murie, such a 'brat' but not.

Cherise says

This one is a train wreck for me because I didn't like either main characters. The premise seems sound, but the development is absolutely awful and juvenile at times, I did so many eyerolls they were probably at risk of falling out. Absolutely incredible, and not in a good way.

This might be me being a snob, though, as there are quite a few funny moments, yet I didn't like them enough to make up for an awful story. I actually might like this better if it's set in the paranormal world, as the h's supposedly quirky obsession will make more sense since I can reason it away with out of the world culture.

Let's talk about superstition. I, myself, can be superstitious at times, I look up astrology when I plan on making a big change, I go worship and pray for good health and such. Despite all that, I cannot help but think our h absolutely ridiculous in her superstitions, as all of her believes are so wildly out of this world it's what we nowadays called old wive's tale. The bad thing to choose this quirkiness to me is the general portrayal of superstitious people in literature in usual cases. I had read tons of books where an old biddy or a servant believing in spitting or rolling in the dirt for good luck, but never in a h to that degree. Same said portrayal usually makes these secondary characters pretty ignorant and slow, which are not characteristics we

desire in a h. Our h here is so unbelievably into this that while for the remainder of the time, she is pretty likeable, I still cannot warm up to such ridiculousness. Given it's the middle ages, it's probably pretty prevalent as science and knowledge are hundreds of years away, but again, to me it's the degree. It just made her wooly headed, spacious, and pretty stupid looking, especially when time and again people tried to stifle their laughter once she explained why she's doing some such ridiculous things.

Our H is also not H calibre. Usually I am pretty happy and smug if our H got rescued by the h no less, yet in here, given all the events and what everyone already know, the action of the H often baffles me. He never even bother to look into the events that are threatening, or even have a thought of why people behave certain way or guess who could be behind them. He literally lives in his own bubbles worrying or obsessing about other matters, and no action was ever taken to reduce future risk or attempt to apprehend suspects (he just went about his own business without a care in the world, not being careful or taking precautions, and even so far as to hide from his men that were worried sick of his safety). This is not a H I want to read about. He's again looking pretty slow as well as weak.

It might not be so disastrous if the plot is less ridiculous, but alas, the mystery is so straight forward I was amazed as I spent nearly the whole book trying to come up with a more convoluted suspect. Towards the end, the couples' actions is getting to be so childish it's bordering to be a joke, and added to that, I do not feel vindicated when we finally are told what is what as it seems not everyone get what the deserves.

I am hoping this is one of the earlier Sands attempts as this one is simply so badly written and thought out it's worst than a juvenile attempt. I seriously just finished the book but had no idea what I've read besides getting a headache from h's attempts to gain good luck charms. At times when major couples' events were so hastily written I actually wondered if we were thrown into a dream world and hence such little details, then left scratching my head wondering why the focus is on every other topic under the sun besides the couple itself.

Anyways the star in here is the motley crew that help make this book slightly more bearable. If not for the fact that I just want to know who dunnit, and hoping against hope I'll be surprised, I wouldn't have bothered to finish it to be honest. I loath the main characters enough to dnf it halfway.

Jill says

I probably would have enjoyed this one more had I not already read 3 or 4 of Sands' recently. The ones that take place during this time period (13th century) are all very similar and the way the characters act and talk don't seem to fit in this time period.

Ruth says

More like a 3.5

Tawnya says

The Brat was an excellent book and also a great personality for Murie to portray. Balan is a great hero for Murie to marry and come to love.

LibraryLass says

My star rating:

Plot: 3/5

Pacing: 4/5

Characters: 3.5/5

World: 3/5

Romance: 3/5

Enjoyment level: 3.5/5 stars

This was an enjoyable light-hearted read. For the most part I enjoyed the characters and the premise. However, I truly felt this was mis-titled. The only "brattiness" to be displayed by the lead heroine, Murie, was at the very beginning. It could have been developed into so much more. But all in all it was a nice way to spend an afternoon.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

The Brat was a cute and funny historical romance set in the 1300s during King Edward III's reign. Sir Balan comes to court and overhears a plot to trick "The Brat", Lady Maurie, into marriage. Lady Murie is the King's goddaughter and desires to leave court but doesn't want to upset her godfather so she connives to have the Queen insist that she marry.

Well, it was fun and entertaining but don't think you are going to be filled with historical accuracy with this one. The conversations are much like we would talk today. But those readers who just want some fun will probably love the silliness and humor.

Lorrie Moar says

This was sweet, funny and sexy. Totally love these books by Lynsay Sands.

Desi says

Not worth the time. Underdeveloped plot. Annoying characters with bizarre motivations. Pretty much silly from start to finish, with little humour to alleviate the wading through.
