



The Snow White Bride

Claire Delacroix

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The Laird of Kinfairlie has helped his sisters, each a gem in her own right, to find husbands. Now the laird himself seeks to wed, and pins his hopes on The Snow White Bride.

Lady Eleanor knows better than to dream of romance and love. Married twice to secure her father's alliances, she has learned that she is desirable only for her fortune. When the Laird of Kinfairlie's sisters ask her to wed their brother, Alexander, Eleanor agrees, expecting only to save herself from danger.

But Alexander is like no man she's known before, a man more interested in courting her smile than her obedience, a man who values her counsel as much as her newly awakened passion...and a man unaware that Eleanor is the key to a fortune that could ensure the future of everything he holds dear.

Now, ruthless enemies will stop at nothing to secure Eleanor's capture. Will she dare to trust her new husband before it's too late for her, for Alexander, and for Kinfairlie?

The Snow White Bride Details

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From Reader Review The Snow White Bride for online ebook

Beatriz says

¡Qué libro más lindo! Si hay un fuerte en esta autora son sus personajes, sobre todo sus protagonistas femeninas. En este caso, Eleonor Havilland es realmente una superviviente de sus dos matrimonios anteriores, en que el maltrato y la crueldad eran pan de cada día. Con doce años se concertó su primer casamiento con un amigo de su padre que tenía sesenta y dos y, a partir de ahí, ella sólo conocerá el lado amargo de los matrimonios de la época... hasta que el destino la puso en el camino de Alexander Lammergeier, el joven y pícaro *laird* de Kinfairlie, que en las dos entregas anteriores fue quien arregló los matrimonios de dos de sus hermanas con métodos muy poco ortodoxos.

La relación de ellos avanza entre la desconfianza, una poderosa atracción, la intromisión de las hermanas, conspiraciones y las argucias de un temible enemigo que no cesa en su empeño de arruinar la vida de Eleonor a beneficio propio. Pero sobre todo avanza gracias al empeño y tozudez de Alexander de devolverle la sonrisa a su amada y ganarse su corazón.

Un digno cierre para esta trilogía que me gustó mucho. Leí que hay un relato corto posterior, que cierra una de las historias secundarias, pero lamentablemente no está traducido al español.

Alisa says

From the previous books, despite knowing the pressure he was under, I thought Alexander was pretty hopeless. Now that has all changed. This book really brings Alexander to life and let's you see the the real man underneath all the responsibility and shuts down the constant berating from his sisters. I liked Eleanor and thought she was perfect for Alexander, but was so annoyed with her constant lies. When she finally told the truth things worked out well, but getting the truth from her sometimes was like pulling teeth. Overall, really good book with lots of action adventure and a couple who deserved a little happiness.

Maura says

Alexander, having been not so smart about how he arranged his two sisters' marriages has the rest of his sisters in a panic about how he'll arrange their marriages. So together, they scheme to get him married to a woman who just arrived seeking sanctuary. Eleanor has been married twice and abused in each marriage. She's running from her dead husband's brother (of the Black Douglas clan with whom Alexander's family is allied) who also has plans to marry her. This is primarily because of the large fortune she comes with, provided she gives birth to a son. Their scheme works and Alexander and Eleanor marry, but he soon learns about the deception and is livid, threatening to end the marriage. Eleanor doesn't want that because she's finally being treated well and is feeling safe and secure. So Alexander and Eleanor agree to try the marriage upon the condition that Eleanor deal with him in honesty from there out. A promise that Eleanor has a lot of trouble keeping. Eleanor also feels upset by Alexander's promise to win her heart.

So the past two books I'd been saying that I wanted to see Alexander get his comeuppance. He was a clueless arse when he arranged his sisters' marriages and did not seem particularly apologetic about it. He does indeed get a taste of his own medicine, but somehow the author made Alexander absolutely sympathetic...maybe because in comparison to Eleanor he was. I first struggled with the idea that Madeline and Vivienne, who

had already been through the uncertainty and all those other negative feelings of being tricked into marriage, had no problem doing it to their brother. Am I supposed to believe these people love each other and can do this to one another? This isn't a little prank - this is tricking someone into a lifelong decision. But I could understand their motivations. Although why they'd arrange for him to marry a woman who had been through two marriages and had not born a child and could therefore possibly be barren, I don't know. What flabbergasted me was Eleanor's behavior. Okay, I'll concede that she had been abused, she was scared and she was looking for security in her life...but I'm not prepared to believe that deceiving and hitching yourself to a complete stranger is the way to go about it. More than that, Eleanor admits that having interacted with Alexander, she had never met a man who was so kind to her, so honorable and treated her as though she had value beyond her looks and money. So how does she reward that? She allows him to think that he got so drunk the night before that he forced himself upon her, taking the virginity she no longer has and then forgot about it entirely, so he'll do the honorable thing and marry her...even though none of it is true. She lets him feel guilt and horror at the idea that he abused this kind woman to whom he promised he wouldn't. She lets him be prepared to go down on bended knee and promise to make up for his actions the previous night. She is absolutely prepared to go through the rest of the marriage letting him think it began so horribly. This - to the man who was kinder to her than she remembers anyone else being. And when he begins to suspect, she tries to continue the lie. And she barely feels any guilt for it.

The truth comes out pretty early, but after the way she was willing to treat Alexander, I could not warm up to her. And the fact that she continues to keep secrets, only revealing what she must when Alexander begins to get upset just perpetuated that dislike. And it solidified again there during the epilogue when (view spoiler). It bugged me to no end that she could basically lie and keep a secret from him that long after promising to deal with him in honesty. So much for her word.

So despite the fact that this was a very well-written story with some pretty exciting suspense, angst and even a nasty villain, this book ended up being 2 stars only because I hated Eleanor. Otherwise would have been a 3. Oddly enough, I did like Alexander...the author did a fantastic job of making his point of view understood and his reasons for his actions seemed totally understandable. And the way she puts them in comparison to other guardians made him seem downright angelic, even though we know he wasn't.

? Kimberly says

The Snow White Bride was my favorite of the Jewels of Kinfairlie series and while each will work as a standalone, the series itself is about the Laird of Kinfairlie arranging marriages for his sisters. I loved getting to know each of them. In Snow White Bride, Madeline and Vivienne decide it is time their brother was wed. When a young woman is in need of protection, they hatch a plan. Delacroix writes such vivid characters and I adored the siblings banter and bickering. I listened to the series on audio and Saskia Maarleveld brings the story and the characters to life.

The Snow White Bride had suspense, danger, and a swoon-worthy romance. Eleanor's story touched me. I admired her bravery, strength and grace. I found myself hoping she would find her happy. Her story has some dark moments and I will warn you, while not overly detailed it is upsetting. (view spoiler) I have always admired Alexander, the Laird of Kinfairlie. Despite what his sisters say, he is honest, charming and sexy. He cares deeply for his homestead and those in his keep. I loved that we had villains, danger and unexpected surprises throughout the tale. As the couple became acquainted and learned to trust we hit a few obstacles but they communicated and did not run around acting like ninnies. I loved the mixing of humor, heat and conversation allowing their relationship to feel genuine. The last section had me biting my nails,

crossing my fingers and even shedding tears. The Snow White Bride was delightful and loved spending time in the medieval halls of Kinfairlie.

Audio provided by publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Bethany says

I liked Alexander and Eleanor together. Eleanor at times was annoying though. Alexander kept telling her to be honest and she kept lying. Her character flip flopped too much on things. I liked Alexander though. He was consistent in his character. The overall story was good, although it's a stand alone I didn't understand some of the context of the series. The language was a little bogged down with the author trying to write the dialogue in old English, which I appreciated but sometimes didn't make sense. Not bad for another free ebook!

Katy says

This book was a little dark for me, as far as Christmas reads. It was a full-length novel, which certainly makes a difference. There is more time for balance. But regardless, it was much darker than I expected it to be. I wanted jolly. I wanted HOHOHO. Instead, I got rapey dead husbands and a manipulative heroine I wanted to punch in the face.

The plot: Lady Eleanor has led a truly awful life. And I mean just terrible. Unnecessarily so. Seriously. I'm not talking about a mean husband who drank too much and was unfaithful. Because that is indeed terrible. I'm talking years and years (I believe she was first married at the age of twelve) of violent and rapey husbands who enjoyed being violent and rapey. Eventually, Lady Eleanor finds a way to run away after her second husband's death. It's been made clear that she is about to married off again to a horrible monster of a man, this time, her dead husband's brother. She ends up in a church and is found by Alexander's meddling sisters. Once they decide that Lady Eleanor is a decent enough person, they scheme to get her married to their brother Alexander. They, including Eleanor, decide to do this in a sneaky completely shitty way that I absolutely do not agree with. I hated that we were supposed to be understanding and not hold this against Eleanor because of her past. A horrific past does not give a person the right to manipulate and force someone else into something they do not want. Honestly, it gives her less of a reason. She, better than anyone, should understand how it would feel. Anyway, the two of them end up married and the rest of the book is about a bunch of questionable things happening around Eleanor that make her look her guilty and up to no good. It went on way too long, to the point in fact, that I started to wonder if Eleanor was actually the culprit. Then, of course, it comes out that she wasn't and they fall in love and blah blah blah.

So much of this book was just unnecessary. I didn't understand it. I literally put down my kindle and stared into space every few pages while this manipulated marriage was happening. Eleanor suffered greatly at the hand of two men she was forced to marry and yet thought it perfectly okay to force a man she finds honorable into a marriage he didn't ask for. Or want. Or initiate. Yes. That makes total sense.

And Alexander, to his credit, handles it very well. I'm not going to lie, if it had been me and I found out that I

was tricked into marriage with someone I knew for a day by my sisters and said stranger, I would start throwing shit. I don't care how attractive my now spouse is. To make things even worse, their marriage made him an enemy of him of a seriously evil Laird that he had survived by *not* pissing off, starting a war/feud that Alexander could not afford to have. Literally and figuratively. But no. She tricked him into marriage with someone he knew for less than 24 hours. Even the good deed she thought she was doing for him by marrying him was ruined by the fact that she never told him about it! Instead....SHE LIED! *Until the damn epilogue.* Ugh. This woman.

I think I would have enjoyed this book if Lady Eleanor wasn't so awful. I'm sitting here trying to think of something to say about the actual romance in the book but all I can think about is how much I hated her. So she defended him in a conversation. So what. She was so damn manipulative. Put it this way. I disliked her so much, her terrible past couldn't even make up for it. I can excuse a lot of shit from someone who has suffered. But even knowing all she had been through, I still didn't like her. I mean, I'm sorry she suffered and I'm glad she found someone who treated her well, but she went about it the worst way possible.

I really liked Alexander. He wasn't my *favorite* or anything, but he was a really decent guy who cared for the people around him, even to his own detriment. He was kind, caring, and protective.

Any stars I have for this book are because the writing was fairly well-done. If Eleanor hadn't been the absolute worst, this could have easily been a four-star read. Eventually, it was romantic. The sex was fine. And there was a nice HEA. Plus, *Christmas!* Christmas is my favorite. And I look forward to an entire month of Christmas themed romance.

Moyy says

This is why I don't take goodread reviews at face value. Why are there so many negative reviews?

This book was endearing. It is a romance after all.

Eleanor was broken - not able to understand wholly of love. Alexander seeks to mend her and even through his frustrations, he remains positive and willing, always.

This was very much a fairy tale story. Though nothing close to a snow white story I would have expected (in truth, this book never claimed to be a retelling).

I'll note that this is the first and only book I have read in the series thus far.

Anna says

Well...this wasn't bad in the sense that the grammar, vocabulary, or anything like that was bad. It was just...melodramatic. I mean, I know you tend to sign up for some drama when you pick up a trashy romance novel, but this was a bit extreme in the heroine's tragic past thing. It was just kind of a lot, and she bounced back from what one would consider severe trauma pretty damn quickly. With very little actual therapeutic intervention. Or something like that.

But, it was a quick, easy read, and I finished it in less than a day, so there's that. I guess it was ok, just not my

cup of tea with the extreme drama- though I guess that does mean it is what it says on the tin. And I did pick up this book for free, so no real complaints there.

Angela_t says

Would have been a 4.5 stars if the heroine didn't lie so much

I could understand withholding the truth in the beginning since she didn't know the hero. But time and time again he proved himself to be fair and just in his dealings and STILL she keeps lying!!! After the first two times it just got annoying. There are plenty of other scenarios to great a little tension but being a compulsive liar shouldn't be one of them.

I like my hero's OTT alpha and although this HERO was not it, his sweetness was endearing and I found myself liking his character. At the same time you get that he is no pushover whatsoever.

If you are into sweet romance with a little drama, intrigue and a little action, then this book is for you.

What was disappointing was that the knowledge of her wealth is left till the epilogue. I would've preferred to see how the Hero dealt and lived with all those richness.

Debbie says

The Snow White Bride by Claire Delacroix
Narrated by Saskia Maarleveld

Claire Delacroix beautifully continues the Jewels of Kinfairlie series with the recent named Laird of Kinfairlie's love story. Featuring lies, deception, deceit and subterfuge she magically takes me back into the far past with a narrative and dialogue that hinted of the Highlands, with characters so richly developed they have no trouble appearing in my minds eye and backdrops so period perfect I can almost smell the strewing herbs placed on the floor of the keep and the sweet savory scent of the majestic steeds in their stables. Her stars are quite the star-crossed medieval couple and with baited breath and nail-biting trepidation I continually waited for the inevitable doomed other shoe to fall and was pleasantly rewarded for all my anxiety. The Snow White Bride is book three in the Jewels of Kinfairlie series was first published in 2005, re-released in 2012 and available in audible June-2015.

The audible edition is narrated by the mesmerizing lyrical voice of the sensational Saskia Maarleveld whose vocal range perfectly portrayed each and every character from impish young women and children to old men, old crones, adult male warriors and dastardly foes. And her familiarity of Claire's tales and characters only increases the brilliance of her narrations.

The five Lammegeier sisters quite vexed with their interfering brother the Laird decided to play a trick on him when their keep is visited by a beautiful stranger on Christmas Eve. Recently widowed for the second time Eleanor Douglas escapes her deceased husband's family and a dire situation and wanders unexpectedly into the Christmas Eve celebration of Kinfairlie Keep. After meeting the Laird's sisters she decides this is where she'll seek sanctuary and agrees to participate in a rouse they've concocted. And after a night filled with practical jokes and devilment is satisfied to find she's married to the

Laird. Now she just has to concoct a way to keep him.

Alexander Lammegeier is a reluctant and perhaps poor replacement for his father as Laird. There is much to worry about at this festive time of year with the coffers nearly empty and still three unwed sisters to find husbands for but there is also much to celebrate and when he spies a beautiful stranger as part of this celebration his only goal is to see her smile. Unfortunately all turns bitter when he learns he played right into a well-planned scheme that she was a part of. Should he throw her out or is there a good reason for her deception?

Candace says

Alexander and Eleanor

Eleanor is fleeing from Ewan Douglas's castle in the night. She believes her husband dead and she labeled a murderess. Eleanor arrives at Kinfairlie chapel and finds refuge there. The chapel soon fills with the family and villagers because it's Christmas Eve. The sisters of the Laird convinces Eleanor to join the celebration in the hall and to meet the Laird of Kinfairlie, Alexander.

Alexander is in his solar trying to find funds in the ledger. The coffers are empty. He cannot let his sisters or the villagers know because they all depend upon him. Christmas must be celebrated. Alexander closes the ledger and decides to put this responsibility off for another day and heads downstairs to join his family for Christmas Eve celebration.

Alexander notices the stranger in his hall is a noblewoman. When Eleanor sees Alexander she decides coming to the hall was a mistake. She makes to leave just as Alexander reaches her side. He sets a quest to see Eleanor smile. She is determined to flee. When Alexander sees she has no horse upon which to leave, he suggests she stay the night and decide to leave tomorrow. Eleanor agrees to sleep with his sisters in their chamber. Instead, Eleanor sleeps with Alexander to secure the safety of her person.

The next morning, Christmas Day, Eleanor decides to wed Alexander immediately. Alan Douglas, Ewen's brother, rides with mercenaries to claim Eleanor back. He accuses her of murder before the family and villagers of Kinfairlie. Alexander will not believe Alan and refuses to release Eleanor, who is now his wife, to Alan's justice. Alan rides away vowing he will bring Eleanor to justice. What secrets does Eleanor keep that could bring harm to Kinfairlie? Can Alexander trust his wife when he demands honesty between them? Will Alan Douglas succeed in bringing Eleanor to justice? Is that truly his aim or does he mean to obtain another purpose?

Claire Delacroix writes another stunner. I found the characters intertwined and yet, easy to decipher who is who. Because of the way the characters and description is written, this book can be a standalone. The plot is predictable but the reader still was interested in discovering what happens next. The author did include an epilogue which helped draw an ending to this story. There are some unanswered questions but these subplots are so expertly written that the reader does not notice their loss. I look forward to the rest of the Kinfairlie novels with anticipation of good stories. Highly recommend this book.

Melinda says

I was glad to see Alexander's story. The Laird who has worked at getting his sister's married off, actually has the tables turned on him. I loved seeing the playboy side of this normally strict structured man. Lady Eleanor has lived a a hard life being treated as property by the men in her life. She has a hard time letting her guard down and trusting people in general. Alexander has a lot to deal with trying to break through that wall as well as trying to figure out what is truth and lies. Remember he still has Kinfairlie to oversee and put their best interest ahead of his own desires. Love these two and caught myself unsure if love would win out in this one. This series has yet to let me down.

Heather says

I have looked forward to seeing Alexander find his true love, and I did hope that his two sisters that he meddled with in their love lives got a bit of vengeance, too. I have to say the way it all played out was interesting, entertaining, and enjoyable. It had the emotional tension I like in romances; the couple definitely had a lot to work through before they could be happy. The story Eleanor tells about her first husband and what he did to her horse was the most heartbreaking moment in the story, but it was also the moment the couple truly connected with no more doubts or fears. I enjoyed their story, it did have some slow moments, but overall I enjoyed their adventure and their love story.

Kathi says

It was a well written story of love. The story had me hooked from the beginning, the middle of the book was slow but then picked back up. It was a fun read.

Dorine says

I read this one in October 2005 and reviewed it for Romance Junkies, so I'm adding my review from that site with permission...

Kinfairlie Scotland, 1421

Running away from her late husband's kin, Lady Eleanor seeks sanctuary in a church. She needs to rest from her journey and then continue her flight. The Lammergeir sisters discover a stranger amongst them the next morning during Christmas Eve services. Curiosity has its way and the sisters besiege the stranger with questions. Wedded twice by her father to men she did not desire, Lady Eleanor explains her situation vaguely to the sisters.

A perfect plan takes form as the sisters realize that this is their chance to get even with their scheming brother. They convince Eleanor to come to the hall of Kinfairlie and meet him to consider Alexander as her next husband. Eleanor is impressed with what she finds at Kinfairlie, but still thinks it may be a fairy tale place in disguise - no Laird is ever this well liked or respected by his people.

Alexander is smitten with the Lady who is a stranger in his abode. Her somber beauty fascinates him and he makes it his mission to make her smile. Eleanor tries to leave, but Alexander's charming appeal convinces her to stay for at least the Christmas Eve meal.

Eleanor has fared badly at the hands of her previous husbands and finds the kindness of the Laird of Kinfairlie intriguing. She cannot outrun those who pursue her and decides that marriage is her only recourse. Hoping for a better future, she agrees to the sisters' plan to trick Alexander into marrying her.

During a night of celebration, they drug Alexander's wine and convince him that he's consummated a relationship with Eleanor in his drunkenness. Being a man of honor, he sees no other way than to marry her. Even though he suspects his sisters' hands in this situation, he cannot deny his attraction to Eleanor. He can only hope they will make a good match, even though one more mouth to feed with Kinfairlie's accounts so low is another problem to add to his ever growing list. The Lady seems to have many secrets and he is determined not to just discover her past, but to make her love him as well.

Will Eleanor learn to trust Alexander, even though she knows she will never surrender her heart to him? Will Alexander discover Eleanor's secrets before danger arrives at his door and all is lost?

Eleanor's stalwart bravery captivated me as she faced the demons of her past. Alexander's understanding, humor, and sense of fairness in the face of much adversity warmed my heart. THE SNOW WHITE BRIDE is a fitting end to the trilogy and yet, I hope Ms. Delacroix has more to tell in future books about the Lammergier family.

Even though each book can be read separately, fans of Ms. Delacroix will want to devour each one. Reading THE BEAUTY BRIDE (January 2005) and THE ROSE RED BRIDE (June 2005) will give you a better understanding of just why Alexander deserves his own partner in life in THE SNOW WHITE BRIDE.

THE SNOW WHITE BRIDE is a fairy tale princess in reverse type of story - with a twist. It's an adventurous tale, filled with past transgressions and a priceless romance about love that heals. It's a very satisfying read and will leave you with that 'ahhh' feeling at the end that 'happy ever after' lovers will adore. Once again, Claire Delacroix fills this final part of her brides trilogy with mystery, humor and a boundless sense of family.

Review by Dorine revisited - Originally reviewed and posted at Romance Junkies on October 15, 2005. Print copy provided by the author for an honest review.
