



# A Kingdom of Dreams

*Judith McNaught*

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Abducted from her convent school, headstrong Scottish beauty Jennifer Merrick does not easily surrender to Royce Westmoreland, Duke of Claymore. Known as "The Wolf"; his very name strikes terror in the hearts of his enemies. But proud Jennifer will have nothing to do with the fierce English warrior who holds her captive, this handsome rogue who taunts her with his blazing arrogance. Boldly she challenges his will... until the night he takes her in his powerful embrace, awakening in her an irresistible hunger. And suddenly Jennifer finds herself ensnared in a bewildering web... a seductive, dangerous trap of pride, passion, loyalty, and overwhelming love.

## A Kingdom of Dreams Details

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Author : Judith McNaught

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## From Reader Review A Kingdom of Dreams for online ebook

♥?elody says

\* 2.5 *I'm-really-getting-tired-of-this stars* \*

This really should have been titled *Taming of the Shrew- Part II*

Or *A Kingdom of Hell & Misery*.

No? Too harsh? How about this:

Well this sucks. Another McNaught favorite among many that I did not love. I feel like I should put out a disclaimer or apologize to my GR friends for clogging up your feeds with my negative reviews & low ratings as of late. I promise you I'm NOT doing it on purpose. I'm not one of those reviewers. I've been in a serious book funk that seems to have no end. Nothing is working for me. I pulled this out of my 'emergency' pile in hopes it would pull me out of it but no such luck. \*sigh\* Go figure.

This started out promising. The hero Royce Westmoreland was everything fierce, aggressive, alpha and intimidating that I enjoy. I was not a fan of the slapping incident but he slowly redeemed himself. The whole "falling in love with my captured enemy" was right down my alley of fun. But the heroine Jennifer Merrick and staggered plot made the whole experience quite torturous.

Oh Moses this girl holds a grudge like a dog with a bone. Jesus. I kept having to remind myself that Jenny is only a 17 year-old sheltered girl but still, with that age and her attitude...she took a lot of arrogant liberties and quick to believe misassumptions that made me wish someone would slap some sense and humility into her. And by the way, what woman in 1400s Scotland would have a modern English name like Jennifer? I mean...*Jennifer*? Come on. I googled it and it dates back only to the 20th Century. So uh...WTH? This was a huge gaffe and made me wish the author picked another more accurate name appropriate to the time period. Or one that isn't so ridiculously out of place. It stuck out like a sore thumb. Moving on...

This was literally a Tudor version of Paradise, just switch out the names, setting and era. I've noticed that Judith McNaught likes to stick to a certain formula and plug it into every story no matter the genre. That's fine since she excels at writing tortured conflicted multi-layered characters I can overlook it but I'd like a little more variety is all I'm saying. Do both leads HAVE to be strong willed and obsessively obstinate? The endless misunderstandings, arguing, vicious hate just piled on top of each other like an angry agitated ant hill. Here emotions and feelings swing like a pendulum and are so mercurial that you never know what you are going to get in the next 5 pages.

You literally are holding your breath waiting for the next explosion and the small baby steps the couple have taken just disintegrate and we are back at square one. Where's the actual relationship development? The character growth? If you are constantly hurdling obstacles at the couple every few pages there is little room for actual growth and development. For me at least that's what it felt like here. Jenny's surprise revelation that she loves Royce came out of nowhere considering she tried everything to get away from him but the minute she finds out he did in fact *want* to marry her \*gasp\* She loves him!!!.....*Huh?* The momentum and pacing is complete crap IMO. The couple do get a few moments of levity but it was all surface because both the reader and characters are fully aware that it will all fall apart very soon. The number of times and

dramatic shifts from hate to love to hate again is just crazy.

I just wished Judith would have let this couple be for a little while. Same grievances I had with Paradise I ran into in here, the amount of anxiety, anger, and frustration I experienced while reading this just colored my opinion of the whole story and unfortunately the characters too. When the couple finally reached their HEA I felt totally indifferent and not really caring. I mean it was nice and sure Jenny's gesture was sweet but it didn't wow me, I just felt numb. Like 100 pages too late honey...

I kept questioning was the payoff worth it? Jury's still out. I'm not sure if the heroine's groveling and humbling herself in the VERY last chapter was worth the ridiculous amount of strife and misery the hero, the couple and the readers are put through. It wasn't worth it for me. I mean it wasn't enough for Royce and Jenny to endlessly run into problems and constant misunderstandings and manipulations by outside forces, but the needless death of Jenny's stepbrother William in the last 100 pages used as another source of contention between the two was just too much. Was this really necessary? The knife incident just threw me over the edge and I checked out mentally after that. Jenny crucifying Royce and refusing to believe his innocence was the final straw that broke the camel's back for me. This made my blood boil and stressed me the HELL out. I mean she pulled a damn **knife** on him. And this is just mere days after discovering she loves her husband and claiming to trust him. Yet she draws a knife on him in vengeance? Really?! That's not love. Not my definition of it at least. I can't and won't overlook that. This had too many shades of an unhealthy, unstable, volatile relationship that won't last long. What got under my skin was that Jennifer didn't even hesitate or bother to ask Royce what happened. Instead she's quick to pounce on the man she supposedly "loves" and attacks him with a knife with zero hesitation.

Bitch **GOODBYE**. I don't care if it was a family member she was grieving over you don't attack or try to kill a person you love without demanding an explanation first. It's disgusting, needless and not my cup of tea. And if that wasn't enough brutal misery, her choosing to publicly humiliate her husband and turn her back on her new countrymen to sit with her manipulative scheming family and clansmen made me seethe. The amount of prideful arrogance this girl has is enough to choke a horse. It wasn't enough to publicly scorn Royce as a murderer but you have to cut him at the knees too in front of 2 countries because you think it's your *duty*?

The amount of times this girl continuously martyrs herself for her heartless vile selfish father and hateful clansmen was unbearable. I get why she was always looking for her father's love and approval but her blindness to his shortcomings and refusing to believe her people were capable of *any* wrong doing was so naive it just veered into TSTL in some instances. Especially when Royce gingerly brought up the truth about her father's underhanded scheme to secretly take her away to an Abbey after the marriage without asking Jenny. She doesn't think he's capable of it, oh no her father would NEVER take her choices away from her.

The same man who carted her butt off to an Abbey for 2 years straight to cure her 'hellion' ways and didn't bother to visit her isn't capable of this? **Really?** RME. Okie dokie. I tried to sympathize with her but there was little room for me to even do that because of her prideful attitude & stubborn idiotic ways. And the stunt her father and Malcolm pull at the tournament just made me wish they would all get trampled. This was the first book where I loathed the Scottish characters and was rooting for the English, pillaging and snobbery and all. Usually the roles of hero and villain are reverse when it comes to this historic rivalry. I appreciated that JM went a different route. There are villains on both sides and a lot of animosity which I found accurate. I just was hoping to get something a little more along the lines of The Raider or Perfect same idea of captive falls in love with his captor and sworn enemies thing. But the balances in there were way better. I guess I am a little softhearted when it comes to angsty stories after all, and I love angst! But not this kind. I just can't stand a book packed with vicious attacks, name calling and scathing retorts. That can only go so far.

The thing about McNaught I'm coming to realize is that she likes to test emotional boundaries and put readers in an uneasy mindset with the constant ups and downs all the way to the very end. I can appreciate that..up to a certain point. I had a handful of her HR on my TR list but now...if it's the same dynamic & same outcome in every book I'm not sure it's for me. I need more satisfaction, conviction and payoff in my readings. And ones that don't make me feel like absolute shit while reading it. And most importantly characters I don't want to physically strangle. Life is stressful enough yo.

My dear Goodreads friend who are avid JM fans: help me out! Is this pretty much what we get as far as characterizations in all her books? Please do share!

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## **Bgurl (don't h8 me cuz I'm honestful) says**

**A Kingdom of Dreams by Judith McNaught:**  
**3 "More \*Galavant Than \*The Tudors" Stars.**

**Hells yeah, I want to go there!** I don't really have a choice. Before cracking open, *A Kingdom of Dreams*, I read Teresa Denys' masterpiece, *\*The Silver Devil*, and in a Medieval romance face-off; McNaught's version loses hands down.

**To be fair, the two authors have very different writing styles:** *The Silver Devil*, is dark, gritty, and authentic to the time period; while, *A Kingdom of Dreams*, is modish, amusing, and fantastical.

**In television terms,** *The Silver Devil*, is *The Tudors*; whereas, *A Kingdom of Dreams*, is *Galavant*. Though, both shows are, indeed, set in Medieval times, only one of them has knights that act like this:

**But, hey! What do I know?** I've never met a Medieval knight. If they truly do dance like lunatics whilst pillaging and plundering, then I apologize. My bad!

## **MOVING ON...**

**In the midst of war torn Scotland,** Jennifer Merrik – the 17 year old Countess of Rockburn - is kidnapped and forced to marry her mortal enemy: Royce Westmoreland, The Duke of Claymore, a.k.a: "The Wolf". Upon joining together in unholy matrimony, Royce and Jenny view their alliance as more battle than bliss. Thus, the two headstrong individuals commence upon a long, hard journey toward happily ever after.

**Between you, me, and the jousting post,** I could have done without the 10,000 times Royce admired Jenny's "indomitable spirit" and "unbelievable courage"; referred to her as a "fiery temptress" and a "charming wood nymph"; and gushed over her "lyrical laughter" and "jaunty grin". Had Royce suddenly waxed poetic about Jenny's ability to converse with blue jays and befriend baby skunks, I wouldn't have been surprised.

**As for Royce being "The Wolf",** well, that's a misnomer. When he wasn't dwelling on the "wet velvet" of Jenny's eyes, or mentally referring to her as a "golden haired temptress"; he was getting his metaphorical panties in wad because she had the gall to escape him. Seriously? The guy kidnaps an innocent girl, holds her captive, deflowers her, and plans to dump her for a "biddable, blonde wife"; and she's supposed to thank him

for soiling her reputation and rendering her unmarriageable? With squishy thinking like that, he should be called, "The Marshmallow".

**Girlish musings and childish snits aside**, The Marshmallow still manages to be pretty swoon worthy. His lovemaking is worshipful, his groveling darn right legendary, and his wooing; well, judge for yourself:

" 'You have the bluest eyes on earth,' he added with a low, appreciative chuckle. 'When you're angry, they're the color of wet blue velvet.'

Jenny rolled her eyes in disgust. 'Wet velvet?' she repeated wryly, wrinkling her nose. 'Wet velvet.'

His white teeth flashed in a devastating grin. 'No? What should I have said?'

His smile was irresistible, and Jenny fell in with his teasing mood, 'Well, you might have said they're the color of—' she glanced at the large sapphire in the center of the crucifix '—of sapphires,' she provided. 'That has a nice ring to it.'

'Ah, but sapphires are cold, and your eyes are warm and expressive. Am I doing better?' he chuckled when she voiced no further argument to wet velvet.

'Much,' she agreed readily.' ~Royce & Jenny

**Like *Galavant*, *A Kingdom of Dreams*, is Medieval light:** a place where indomitably spirited, unbelievably courageous maidens, get kidnapped by swoony (but marshmallowy) knights in shining armor; and they ride off into the sunset, and live happily ever after, in their Disneyesque castles; with their army of loyal protectors, 2.5 male heirs, 3 mythically named horses, a sky full of talking blue jays, and a BFF baby skunk.

**If that's the type of Medieval romance you enjoy, then Judith McNaught's, *A Kingdom of Dreams*, is the book for you.**

TO READ MY REVIEW OF BOOK 2, click link below:

**Whitney, My Love (Westmoreland #2):** [Click Me Baby!](#)

\**Galavant*, ABC. 2015-Present. Television.

\**The Tudors*. Showtime. 2007-2010. Television.

\*Denys, Teresa. *The Silver Devil*. Ballantine Books. 1984. Print.

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## **Kristen says**

### **Huge 5+ stars**

*Kingdom of Dreams* is one of the best books I've read!

The story is full of vibrant and richly developed characters, a plot that's riveting, emotional, provocative, and a prose that's exceptionally well written. To top it off, this book has one of the best ending I've read. It was amazing, extremely poignant, and very powerful. I'm still an emotional mess hours later.

Judith McNaught is an exceptional storyteller and I'm embarrassed it's taken me so long to read one of her books.

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**Mo says**

### **5 DREAMY STARS...**

Loved this one. This is the second book I have read by this author and it will not be the last.

Royce Westmoreland .

aptly named THE WOLF

Scottish and English wars and hatred have abounded for years.

THOR, his trusted stallion

Can he tame the lovely Jennifer or will she be the one to tame the Wolf?

(The artist who painted this one was actually from my home village in the West of Ireland)

Loved Jennifer, she was so feisty, independent, loyal, beautiful ...

**"My own kingdom ... I used to plan my own kingdom."**

**"Which kingdom did you mean to seize?"**

**"It wasn't a real kingdom with land and castles, it was a kingdom of dreams - a place where things would be just the way I wanted them to be."**

**"The amusement fled from Royce's face and with a groan he pulled her roughly against his chest, crushing her to him. "Jenny," he whispered hoarsely, burying his face in her fragrant hair. "Jenny, I love you."**

**She melted against him, molding her body to the rigid contours of his, offering her lips up for his fierce, devouring kiss, then she took his face between both her hands. Leaning back slightly against his arm, her melting blue eyes gazing deeply into his, his wife replied in a shaky voice, "I think, my lord, I love you more."**

"You are mad!" she snapped, her chest heaving. "And you are a devil."  
"And you, my dear, ...are a bitch."

*"Behold your new mistress, my wife. And know that when she bids you, I have bidden you; what service you render her, you are rendering me; what loyalty you give or withhold from her, you give or withhold from me."*

"Jenny," he groaned ...  
"Jenny," he whispered hoarsely...  
"Jenny," he murmured hotly ...

He could not stop saying her name.

"I hate you." She said with deadly calm.  
"A perfect basis for the perfect marriage."

In all his years of aimless sexual encounters and torrid dalliances, nothing had ever approached the shattering ecstasy he'd just experienced.

The things they say about you, the things they say you've done - they aren't true. I don't believe it.

Blind to the beauty of the place he'd been yearning to see for eight long years, Royce wondered grimly how it was possible that he could intimidate knights, nobles, squires and battle-hardened soldiers into doing his bidding with a single glance, and yet he could not seem to force on young, stubborn, defiant Scottish girl to behave.

"What were you thinking about just now while you were looking out the window?" To his surprise, the question flustered her.  
"I—wasn't thinking."  
"Then what were you doing?" he asked, his curiosity aroused.  
A rueful smile touched her inviting lips, and she shot him a sideways look before turning back to the window. "I was... talking to God," she admitted. "'Tis a habit I have."  
Startled and slightly amused, Royce said, "Really? What did God have to say?"  
"I think," she softly replied, "He said, 'You're welcome.'"  
"For what?" Royce teased.

**Lifting her eyes to his, Jenny solemnly replied, "For you."**

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**Alex ? Deranged KittyCat ? says**

**DNF - 11%**

**Bad, bad Alex!** You should really stop trying to read Outlander-like books. They are not for you.

You see, I really enjoy a historical romance every now and then, so I'm fully aware that this kind of books tend to be misogynistic (time period and all that). I can overlook it. What I deeply dislike is when the physical punishment of the woman is involved. I'm beginning to understand that this is a huge pet peeve for me, so I'm going to avoid it from now on.

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**Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

Thanks Ash for the recommendation or I wouldn't have read it otherwise and that would be a shame! Also a pat on the back for me since I found this gem at Half-priced books.

This story can best be summarized with two words: **Total escapism!!!!** There's a reason historical romance reigns ahead on my favorite genre list and A Kingdom of Dreams is the perfect example! I loved the family/clan dynamics, court politics, and the *depth* the author portrayed these complex characters. This story was exactly what I needed to get away from all the terrible contemporary romance I've been reading.

**What made it a 4?** That would be Jenny. Her clan loyalty was admirable, but terribly misguided! How could she be so clever when it came to escaping, tricking Royce again and again, but not see that her father and family didn't care about *her*, just the value she could bring to them?? What a TWAT! There was a scene close to the end where I was just about to say "EFF this SHIT, if something doesn't happen soon, this book will end up in the fireplace" but thank goodness Jenny came to her senses.

Royce is a total sweetie and if I were to go back in time 600 years, I want him.

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**Mona says**

**AMAZING, *fabulous*, OUTSTANDING read, that deserves a happy dance!**

**\*\*Some spoilers ahead\*\***

To say I was captivated from beginning to end, is a serious understatement. I physically couldn't stop myself from devouring every word written. Not to add any updates or even add this book to my CR list. My eyes were drying out (seriously, I used eyes drops) from not blinking enough and lack of sleep. It wasn't a pretty sight...

This historical romance sure didn't feel historical to me. It was so easy to read. I wasn't bored with politics and wars. There was enough to help me understand but not hate the book. The story and characters are hilarious, charming and an all round joy to read about.

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**Jennifer Merrick aka Jenny**, is a stubborn redheaded ~~wit~~ lass, known for her bravery and skill at aggravating and challenging a certain warrior to the point of no return.

**Royce Westmoreland aka The Wolf**, is a handsome fierce warrior, known for his murderous and barbarian ways. He's feared by all...except for the stubborn and exasperating Jenny.

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When Jenny and her sister are kidnapped and brought before the feared 'Wolf', Jenny knows there is little hope they'll survive the night.

So being a headstrong 'Merrick' lass, Jenny lifts her chin with pride as she bites the Wolf, then knees him in the *balls*.

Who could blame her for all the trouble and amusement Royce endures during her captivity. All she wanted...

When that wasn't granted, she was left with no other choice but to attempt escape...with Royce's prized horse of course.

**And that was just the being of the adventure...**

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A heartfelt love story between two enemies. Jenny bound to honor her family. And Royce's sworn loyalty to his king. An impossible union that may destroy them, or bring peace to all. I guess you'll have to read it to find out...hehehehe!

**Filled with drama, sadness at times and sweet *love*. This book is perfect for all you romantics lovers. So go READ this book...**

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Effie, my offline reading buddy, I loved discussing this with you over morning coffees...while you blurted out bits of the book I hadn't read yet! Thanks for the rec muffin xx

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**Sharon ∞🐾 is an emotional book junkie 🐾∞ says**

Jennifer and Royce are at war with each other, well, technically their countries are. She's a Scottish Countess and he's an English Duke. And when Royce's brother, Stefan, kidnaps Jennifer and her sister, Brenna, things become personal in more ways than one.

Several people recommended this book to me (thank you!) and I can see why! Who doesn't love an enemies to lover story especially with someone as yummy as Royce.

Royce is known as The Wolf and is the King of England's best warrior. He has a ferocious reputation but I loved getting to know the *real* Royce...almost as much as Jennifer did.

Jennifer is definitely a more modern woman. She doesn't take to being pushed in a corner and she freely speaks her mind. It's a good thing Royce likes this...in fact, he's really drawn to it.

It was wonderful reading about Royce and Jennifer falling for each other and all the conflicting emotions going on definitely made things more interesting. My heart did go out to Jennifer as I felt she had the hardest time deciding between Royce and her family.

It was even better reading their steamy scenes even if sometimes things were a bit too perfect. It always made me laugh how all Royce had to do was start kissing her and she melted especially considering some of the harsh things he said to her!

I got a big kick out of all the escapes in the beginning and all the little pranks Jennifer did. The part about Thor was a killer. :(

There are some great characters in the story. Jennifer's Aunt Elinor was hilarious and I loved how she was with Arik. Brenna and Stefan were great to read about, as well as several of Royce's knights.

The one thing that sort of bothered me was what happened with William. It seemed a bit anti-climatic as to the "how" things happened.

I did love the part where she ran out to the field...thank goodness for Stefan but it killed me that it took her so

long!

And the ending? Sooo perfect...her dream kingdom.

(By the way, a little disappointed that there's not a Stefan and Brenna book!)

### **Favorite quotes**

♥ "It was a mistake," he said flatly, "for both of us. It won't happen again."

♥ "Some women need no jewels to make them sparkle. You are one of them."

Jennifer's mouth dropped open in shock and she gaped at him. "Was that a *compliment*?"

♥ "Forty is this many—"

♥ "'Tis fortunate I've never met such a stubborn adversary as you on the battlefield, for I fear I'd have gone down to defeat."

♥ "I was... talking to God," she admitted. "'Tis a habit I have."

Startled and slightly amused, Royce said, "Really? What did God have to say?"

"I think," she softly replied, "He said, 'You're welcome.'"

"For what?" Royce teased.

Lifting her eyes to his, Jenny solemnly replied, "For you."

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### **Danielle says**

**"You are mad!" she snapped, her chest heaving. "And you are a devil!"  
"And you, my dear," Royce imperturbably replied, "are a bitch." With that, he turned to the horrified friar and unhesitatingly announced, "The lady and I wish to be wed."**

This is an oldy but a goody. I love these enemies-to-lovers stories, and JM seems to dish them out on silver platters. She always has the perfect amount of conflict to keep me invested. Not to mention, her heroes make me drool.

I'll admit that this isn't my favorite by JM, but it's certainly one of the best historicals I've read. It's up there near *Prisoner of My Desire*; pretty close to the rapey books in my heart.

Bad ass heroine meets bad ass hero. And it was delightful. The heroine was sent to an abbey, although she

isn't nun quality in the least. She gets captured and taken to Royce's camp. Some attraction begins. Some sizzling chemistry. And then some steam. But a misunderstanding has them hating one another, while they are forced into a marriage...

A great one by McNaught that you shouldn't miss if you love medieval.

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**Chantal ♥? says**

### **5+ CAPTIVATING STARS**

*"Jenny, I love you."*

*"I think, my lord, I love you more."*

**This book was an exhilarating start to the Westmoreland saga.**

Royce (the Black Wolf) Westmoreland, the Duke of Claymore find his destiny when his brother Stefan, kidnaps Jenny and her sister from her convent school wearing a nun's outfit of all things.

They both know of each by reputation only and each have already strong preconceived ideas of one another's character. And these ideas are not Favourable to say the least.

Jenny is frighten but she is strong. Her family motto is:

*"If it's the Lords will that you die at the hand of your enemy, then do it bravely. Die fighting like a warrior. Like a Merrick!"*

She has embraced this and fights her invading enemy with everything she has.

But will it be enough?

Royce is captivated by the brave and proud Jenny. He knows that in order to gain favor in his new "Kingdom" he needs to find a middle ground with the neighboring clans. And Jenny is to be used as a pawn in this age old power struggle.

They share a very volatile relationship. One that would set the foundation for many generations to come.

This story was an riveting thrill ride of historical proportions. Every scene in this book was captivating and engaging. From fighting to making love, this book has a little of everything.

The scene that will always stand out for me is when her family fight Royce in a type of mock battle.

**I will never forget what took place that day! It was so well written, I felt so many emotions in those moments, it was tangible vivid and real to me!**

That scene, those words....OH MY GOD!

*"Royce is letting them kill him...he is out there on that field, dying for you. He killed your brother and he's paying..."*

She then goes down to see her husband in the middle of battle and her family yells out for her to

*"Use it...use the lance, Jennifer."*

And she just "knelt before her husband in a public act of humble obeisance...."

## **IT WAS EPIC!**

**Just read this book!**

**It was an amazing book worth a read and a reread to me.**

**This is my 4 time reading it in fact.**

**If you read historical at all and you haven't read this one, then I can honestly say you are missing out on an fantastic story.**

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## **Jilly says**

I liked it. I just didn't love it.

Sometimes I think that when I see all of my friends have given a book 5-stars, I go in with my expectations way too high. Or, it could be that I just like to be a jerk.

The problem I had with this is book is that I didn't like the heroine, Jennifer.

It started out well. I liked that she was figuring out ways to escape her kidnappers. I liked how hard she fought. But, after a while, she got real old real fast.

I get that she didn't like her kidnapper, Royce. I mean who would like their kidnapper? And, I get that she ran away from him. Who wouldn't run away? But, let's be real for a minute. She was going to marry an old leach because her father wanted the alliance. A man that she said made her skin crawl. And, she was totally attracted to Royce, flirted with him, and then she slept with him. And Royce was like the sweetest thing ever to her. He was nicknamed "The Wolf", but as far as I could see, this guy was more like a wolf puppy who was eating out the palm of her hand. He treated her like his first crush, not a prisoner. I think she was actually better off with him than the old creeper she was going to be forced into marrying by her father. Considering how women were treated back then, it was like she won the lottery or something.

So, she ends up having to marry Royce (not a spoiler, happens first page of the book) and she acts like it's a death sentence. *Oh no, I have to marry the guy that is rich, adores me, has treated me like a princess, and is great in the sack! What torture!* And then, when "stuff happens", she won't give him the benefit of the doubt at all. She automatically hates his guts and tells him so at every opportunity. She even goes out of her way to publicly humiliate him. By the end of the book, I really couldn't stand her.

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## **Karla says**

**Re-read...AGAIN!! One of my favorite go-to-comfort-inspiring reads! How is it possible that it keeps getting better?! One of the best fight-to-the-finish love stories! It doesn't come easy and it comes at a cost, but it's so worth it!!!**

**5 Stars!!** I am a blubbering mess. The last six paragraphs in the book, before the epilogue, where Royce contemplates the recent events in his life, just undid me. This is an intense, well written, passionate romance.

A wonderful journey, as Royce and Jenny discover that you can't always believe what you hear...sometimes it's just better to listen to your heart!

Yes Taryn, I am in love with this book too!

*“His hair was black and his black cloak was billowing out behind him, blowing eerily in the wind as if it had a life of its own. Firelight danced across his swarthy, hawklike features, casting shadows that made him look positively satanic; it blazed in his strange eyes, heating them until they glowed like molten silver coals in his bearded haggard face.”*

**Royce “The Wolf” Westmoreland**

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**Karen says**

[image error]

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**Dina says**

Judith McNaught has done it again! This book has two major "pet peeves" of mine (#1- at the beginning, the hero beats the heroine not only once, but twice; #2- somewhere down the road, the hero and the heroine are torn apart by a Big Misunderstanding), but who cares? I don't know why, I don't know how, but I ended up loving this book! :)

Royce turned out to be a wonderful hero. After a less-than-thrilling introduction, he slowly (but steadily) started to grow on me, up to the point where I understood and forgave everything he'd done. That's not to be taken lightly, because I never - or should I say, *almost* never - forgive a hero who raises his hand against the heroine.

As for Jennifer, I had mixed feelings about her throughout the book - sometimes I wanted to hug her, sometimes I wanted to scream at her - but I ended up understanding and loving her too. (BTW, I think "Jennifer" is an unusual name for a medieval heroine but I'm not an expert in History, so I'm not sure it isn't appropriate.)

As for the story, what an emotional roller-coaster! When I become so involved in a book that I find myself laughing, crying and even "talking" to the characters, I know I have a winner in my hands. I didn't always agree with everything Royce and Jennifer did but, in a sense, their actions were consistent and "right". And what they did in the end... What a scene! I still feel a tug in my heart remembering it. *\*sighs\**

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**UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says**

I am at a loss for words – I seriously don't know how to review this book – which words to use to do it justice. *Kingdom of Dreams* is my first read by this author and it will not be my last.

I was instantly captivated by the characters who are deeply complex, wonderful people trying to make their way through a rough, and oft times unfair world – and do it while keeping their honor and integrity intact. The storyline with its twists and turns fascinated me from the first page and held my attention to the last. I was rendered speechless by the Merrick family/clan dynamic and while yes, I know it *is* just a story, thier motives and reasonings were written so well that there was no doubt in my mind all of those underhanded, deceitful things could really have taken place.

Royce is an amazing man. He's deadly on the battlefield, a warrior willing and able to do whatever he has to do to win, accepting nothing less than victory, no excuses for failure, but off the battlefield he is compassionate, fair and honorable. He admits his faults and is willing to do what he must to be a better man. In my eyes, he is the perfect hero.

Jenny annoyed the hell out of me from the very beginning with her lack of loyalty to Royce, and her terribly misplaced devotion and trust in her clan and family. I couldn't imagine that there was any way she could change my poor opinion of her, but there at the end she did just that in such a way that allowed me to look past all her faults, all of her poor choices – and I wept as I came to forgive her.

What an emotional rollercoaster ride we take with Jenny and Royce who, though they don't know it at the time, are perfectly matched. What one lacks in strength, the other makes up for. What one can't grasp, the other understands with crystal clarity. While Royce and Jenny believe their lives full and complete, they discover that apart they can exist, but only together do they truly live.

In all honesty, there are no words to describe how much I love *Kingdom of Dreams*. It's been several days since I finished it and I'm still recalling events and conversations, still laughing out loud and still struggling to hold back the tears.

My only regret is that we didn't learn more about Arik, that quiet, giant of a man. I am certain that his untold story is one of sadness, loss and the need of his own Happily Ever After. (Are you listening Ms. McNaught? It's not too late...)