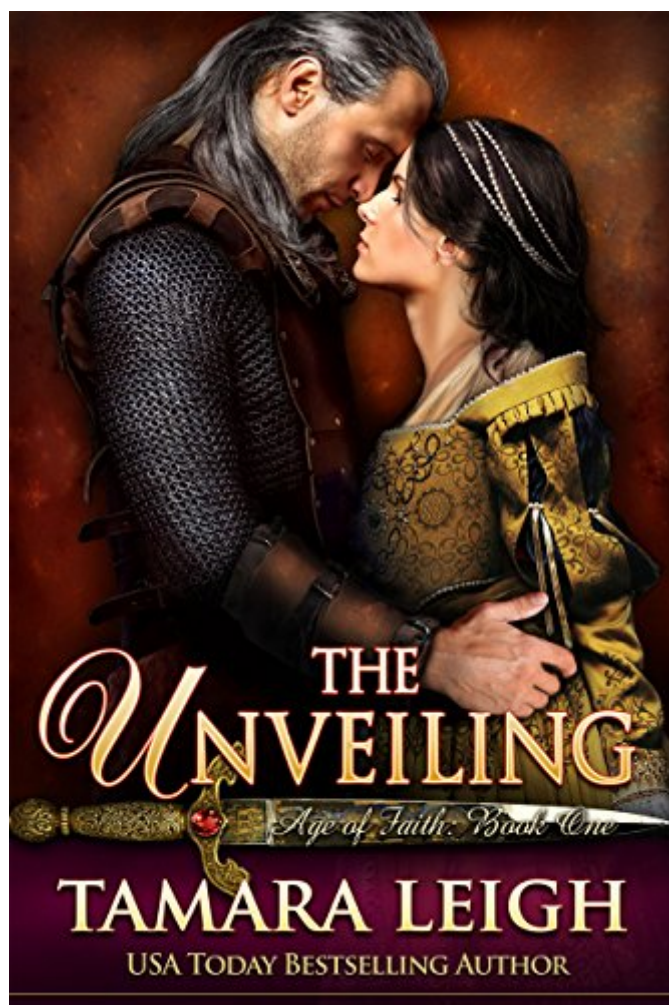


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THE UNVEILING: A Medieval Romance (Age Of Faith Book 1)



Synopsis

12th century England: Two men vie for the throne: King Stephen the usurper and young Duke Henry the rightful heir. Amid civil and private wars, alliances are forged, loyalties are betrayed, families are divided, and marriages are made. For four years, Lady Annyn Bretanne has trained at arms with one end in mind—to avenge her brother's murder as God has not deemed it worthy to do. Disguised as a squire, she sets off to exact revenge on a man known only by his surname, Wulfrith. But when she holds his fate in her hands, her will wavers and her heart whispers that her enemy may not be an enemy after all. Baron Wulfrith, renowned trainer of knights, allows no women within his walls for the distraction they breed. What he never expects is that the impetuous young man sent to train under him is a woman who seeks his death—nor that her unveiling will test his faith and distract the warrior from his purpose.

Book Information

File Size: 1425 KB

Print Length: 308 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Tamara Leigh; 2 edition (December 29, 2013)

Publication Date: December 29, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008R54ZWO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #24,149 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #103

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book! It drew me from the start and compelled me to keep reading to the point where I was reluctant to put it down. I fell in love with Garr and Annyn quite quickly and couldn't wait for them to get together. The chemistry between them was just incredible. I must admit that I couldn't wait for Garr to discover Annyn's deception so that things could swiftly develop between them and I wasn't disappointed. For lovers of historical romance with the benefit of Christian worldview this book is for you. I have to confess that I have not been interested in historical romance for sometime now but Ms. Leigh's writing now has me hooked and craving historical romance once again. But not just any historical romance mind you. Historical romance the Tamara Leigh way.

This is the first book I read by this author, and I enjoyed it very much. I thought the theme of the hero being a trainer of future knights was a unique and appealing one, I enjoyed best the part where the heroine trained under him disguised as a boy, the part which led to her discovery that he could not have been the villain she thought him to be - and that she wasn't able to kill in cold blood, even for revenge. I loved the way Garr pushed his pupils beyond their limits, how he always took care of them, showed he was capable of all he expected of them and more, looked for the forming of their character as well as their physical and fighting abilities. I liked the morality of the characters, a theme that is present in all the books of this series: they have a personal relationship with God even while they reject doing his will (the heroine goes on a quest of revenge even as her conscience tells her that it's not for her to avenge her brother). The hero wrestles with the white lie he told about the death of the heroine's brother and the problem of whom to give his allegiance: King Stephen or Duke Henry. I also approved of the fact that Annyn turned away from her murderous intent on her own. I think the book achieved a good balance of sensuality without being explicit, and I applaud the author for using the theme "girl-dressed-as-boy" with good taste (not encouraging the modern idea of cross-dressing enhancing attraction). The backstory of the tragic marriages of both the hero's and the heroine's parents was a little disturbing (as well as the violent death told from the dying character's POV in the prologue), but it fits the era and helps the hero and heroine overcome their problems by setting an example of what to avoid. There were a few points I thought unrealistic and points I would have liked to be developed/described more. It is said that the hero's father took him (and his brothers) away from their mother at an extremely early age (four, as contrasted to the usual age of 7-8) to begin their training, with only rare and short visits home thereafter - and yet, it is stated several times that it was the mother who instilled the belief in and relationship with God into his son. I have 3 children and I'm quite convinced a child can't develop this sort of morality/faith before age 4. Also, in the beginning the hero has a very bad view of women, thinks they turn a man

away from his purpose; doesn't want a relationship beyond the mere physical with a woman; has a cold relationship with his sisters. However, at the end he is able to build a strong relationship with his beloved, and I don't see the process of changing this attitude, or even thinking on it at all while he realizes his feelings for the heroine and wrestles with his own anger towards her. The internal conflict shifts to the political level - how to counteract Duke Henry's plan to wed Anny to a villainous character and preserve the planned alliance.

While this was interesting, it was VERY wordy. It was a slow read, I kept putting it down. Once 1/2 way through the book it started to speed up and got very good, but it took a while. Also, the female at times was whinny, and was like a bulldog with an idea and you wanted to smack her. I mean stop beating a dead horse when it's dead, LOL, get to the point. I really liked the development of the lead male however, he had qualities we all want to find in a man whether husband, father, friend. I will probably check out the next book and see if that one is a little faster read.

I loved these books and read all of them; as well as the feud series (yet to be finished). I gave these books 5 stars. The books were written very well. Hardly any typos or grammatical errors, this really helped in the flow of the reading. Nothing worse than becoming engrossed in a book only to have your attention drawn away from the story and your focus turn to spelling, grammar, and proofing problems. I found myself twice reading until 4am to finish the story. I found each story unique, a single pattern was not used for all five books, though the theme of turning to God as our guide through uncertain times stayed the course in all the books. Another thing I appreciated in Tamara Leigh's writing was that the characters stayed true to themselves. Not that any of the characters were all villainous or virtuous, but they stayed within the realm of believable. One author who has a long series had one of her main characters stray so far from his established morality that I stopped reading the series, as did others. Another thing I loved about the books and her writing in general, was the little gems into what life might have been like during the 1100s: sleeping on pallets, how they took showers, etc. I would have to say though the greatest thing about her books is her wonderful almost fairytale love stories without the explicit love scenes, pages where full of story and plot. I do feel there is one more story in this series that really needs to be told, not Sir Durand's, but Lady Isobel's story, surely after her regret at how she treated her husband (even under the circumstances), and successfully raising 5 children she deserves a happily ever after.

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