



Spring's Fury

Denise Domning

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Nicola of Ashby stages a daring escape to avoid marrying the man who killed her father. To no avail. Even trained to the sword, she cannot elude marriage to this knight who is as much her match as her mate.

Until Gilliam FitzHenry besieged Ashby and claimed it as his own, he had no hope of home and family. Now, Nicola's home and hand are his, but if he is to ever own her heart it will take every bit of his natural talent for taming wild creatures.

Spring's Fury Details

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Author : Denise Domning

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From Reader Review Spring's Fury for online ebook

Voirrey says

I enjoyed this further development in the story of the brothers that we could almost see coming in Winter's Heat. Nicola desperate to avoid this marriage which she is being forced into by her overlord, as is his right in the period, the compromise reached, her realisation that she is wanted for her knowledge as much as anything, and her realisation that she may not be blameless in the deaths we saw in the closing chapters of Winter's Heat.

I also really enjoyed watching both her and Gilliam help Jos grow into what fate has decreed he must be.

Again, the details of life at the end of the twelfth century all rang true to me, which makes reading these such a pleasure.

Macpudel says

Spring's Fury was unexpectedly good. Denise Domning really did her homework on the medieval period. Not having read the previous Graistan Chronicles, I wasn't sure what to expect. With an unwilling bride and a determined claimant, I was bracing myself for my least favorite expression of the romance genre, marital rape. But no! Then, I was expecting a variant of The Taming of the Shrew (not a favorite either). But no! There are plot twists which lead to an unconventional but believable Happy Ever After for the couple. I didn't give it four stars because I found it hard to get into, and the hero's family, having had their stories in books 1 and 2, I suspect, were not fully fleshed out here and intrusive to the story.

Frances Shellings says

Its a battle on every page!

How can she marry him after what he has done? Who wants a woman so independent anyway? How can she escape? With her will strong and her pride fierce Nicola will do anything to keep what is hers. And having trained like a soldier since childhood she is capable. But one man is set to make her his own. Will her plan work to get away? Is her plan a good one? Or is she jumping from the pot into the fire? On the day of her forced wedding all is revealed. Those trusted betray, those thought malicious are kind? How is Nicola suppose to figure out her own feelings when they are a jumble mess?

Gilliam has never hoped for any future. Then a future is tossed in his lap. All he has to do to achieve this is marry. But Gilliam wants more. As he rebuilds what he tore asunder he also wages war on his ladys heart. How did noone see the beauty she was? How did no one see the true gem she was? Yes she is aggressive. Yes she is ferocious. But also kind and loyal and willing to protect those she loves with her life. Now just to win her heart, because without her knowing she already holds his.

Nicki says

[He does marry her against will, but he doesn't force her to consummate the marriage, despite the customs of the time. It might seem strange to like him for not being a rapist, but so many of the noblemen in th

Joy says

At first, Niccola bugged me. She seemed too irrational. I was glad the story took turns I wasn't expecting, and the central couple became a love I could root for.

So far, this is my least favorite of the Graistan Chronicles.

Dawn says

No stars. Did not finish. Boring. Not my thing.

Christine says

I purchased this as a boxed set of 5 novels for my Kindle. I'm glad I did, Denise Domning is a new author for me and weaves an interesting tale with believable characters and plots. The setting for each is the 12th century which, to me, is interesting as well. I enjoy historic fiction and don't really have a favorite "place in time" as long as the plot is believable.

The pace is good and moves with a comfortable flow. The challenge to many novels with a conflict between the main characters would be not drawing it out too long with the "same old, same old" interaction. I'm a "build a bridge and get over it" kind of person. Life is too short to hold endless grudges. The author did a great job overcoming the conflict without drawing it out too long.

This is book three of the five in the series and follows a noble family; however the novels can also stand alone. I like that aspect as it allows the author to touch on other events in previous novels without long, drawn out explanations. I have read three in this series so far and have enjoyed each.

Teresa says

Liked it very much. Blond hero (always an excellent choice in my book), and he's a good one, too. The heroine got a little bit on my nerves from time to time...it could get annoying how less she could come to terms with what Gilliam did when her father was hardly an innocent and she was already falling in love- but in the end, I could connect to her emotional anguish.

Otherwise, very enjoyable, sex scenes were few, but very steamy for the genre. You can express the Rrrrrrrr-factor without too many words- you just have to choose the right ones. I was fine with what Denise Domning did here, and the sex scenes are always pretty important for me.

I will definitely read Geoff's story, another delicious blonde!

Cayla says

I....give up. I can't get into this book. I've tried. I've fallen asleep sitting up already. Nicola is a very angry girl. Or maybe beyond angry. I'm not sure where she is on the scale. Scathing mad, perhaps?

The synopsis sounded better than the actual book, in my opinion. I've tried another book by Ms. Domning and I just don't think I'm in her "target audience." So I'm going to try another book...by someone else.

Gerrie says

For the time being I am giving this book a DNF. I simply could not get past the heroine. She acted like a feral animal, with no care or concern for the people she injured and killed. Yes, killed. Further, to get out of a marriage with the hero, she decided to marry a man (whom she'd previously rejected) because she thought she could manage him far more easily. And then kill him. It was just too over the top for me, and after about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way through, I couldn't force myself to go on. So, I will go to the next book in this series, because I liked the first two books and the author writes well.

I realize it's a challenge to depict strong, smart, assertive women in a time period where they were little more than chattel, and yet still make them believable within the context of their times. Added to this challenge, the author must do this in a way where modern readers can relate to the heroines as well. The author did it masterfully with Rowena, the heroine in *Winter's Heat*, the first book in this series.

I noticed from the reviews that the heroine starts to change about $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the book (she would have to for this book to be any sort of romance). Perhaps that will be my incentive to come back and try to finish the book at another time.

♥ Vonda M. Reid ♥ says

Overall Rating: 3.85 // Action: 3.75 / Emotion: 4 / Romance: 4.5 / Sensuous: 2 / Intrigue: 3 / Medieval Flavor: 5 / Humor: 8 / Tears: 0

Spring's Fury , Denise Domning's third book in her five-book series, **The Graistan Chronicles**, is another adventure in true medieval-flavored reading. Although the book can easily be read as a stand-alone book, *Spring's Fury* features a hero and heroine that were introduced in book one of the series, *Winter's Heat* . Would recommend reading at least the first book of the series before reading this third book to get a better feel for the events and emotions occurring herein.

Gilliam FitzHenry, the fourth son of Henry of Graistan, has been handed his life's dream -- a keep of his own. Gilliam is having to rebuild Ashby because it had been partially burned down during a siege (that occurred in *Winter's Heat*). Gilliam wants to marry the wild, unruly, daughter of the previous ruler of Ashby, Nicola, because {1} the people of Ashby love her, and {2} she knows how to manage Ashby into

prosperity.

Nicola, however, has no desire whatsoever to marry any man, much less the man she saw kill her father (during said siege). Nicola has been spoiled by her father, John of Ashby, who allowed her to train with his men. In true youthful visions of grandeur, Nicola believes she is capable of ruling and protecting Ashby on her own -- if only her overlord, Rannulf of Graistan, would see the light.

Rannulf, however, is more than willing to marry off Nicola to get the willful, trouble-making, escape-attempting ward off his hands. *Spring's Fury* is an exciting account of how Nicola tries to escape her marriage and Gilliam's efforts to catch and subdue his new bride. The book is full of adventures, romance, and the day-to-day intricacies of medieval life.

The book is also filled with two well-developed, intriguing secondary characters who add depth to the story; namely, {1} Tilda (Nicola's "more sister than servant" best friend) and {2} Jocelyn (Gilliam's weakling-minded squire). A plethora of other villagers also add realism and insightfulness to the tale.

A more detailed, spoiler-ridden synopsis/review of *Spring's Fury* appears at [Wolf Bear Does Books](#)

Regan Walker says

Rich in Medieval Detail and an Exciting Story!

Set in 1194, this is the story of Nicola of Ashby, a tall warrior woman, and Gilliam FitzHenry, brother to Rannulf, Lord Graistan. The story opens as Gilliam is assaulting Ashby manor and kills Nicola's father, calling him traitor. There is obviously a prior history between the characters and prior events have taken place; hence I recommend you read these books in order (this is the 3rd book in the Graistan Chronicles, series list below).

Gilliam intends to marry Nicola to gain Ashby, which he has already started rebuilding after he burned down all the cottages and manor. But Nicola will not marry the murderer of her father so she flees on the day they are to wed. Seemed reasonable to me. Fierce and clever, Nicola manages an escape dressed as a lad and once in the woods, slays four thugs who would capture her for the ransom money. Domning did a great job with these fight scenes...very exciting. When Gilliam learns of Nicola's success, he is impressed and eager to tame the wild woman. He has a history, too, having apparently had an affair with his brother's wife who carried his child. Both are now dead. (We never do get the full story on that one which I assume is in the prior book.)

Eventually Gilliam will force Nicola to wed him and the story of their difficult path to love begins.

Domning takes pains to provide accurate historical details reflecting her deep research into the medieval period. While there isn't much history here the book has an authentic medieval feel in characters, setting and all that goes with it. Domning serves up a worthy hero and heroine, too. I loved Nicola's spirit and her courage. And who could not find Gilliam charming and admire his persistence in taming his new wife? This is a well-written, action packed story.

Lovers of medieval romance will want to read this series—but do it in order!

The Graistan Chronicles (in the boxed set, it's the Seasons Series):

WINTER'S HEAT
SUMMER'S STORM
SPRING'S FURY
AUTUMN'S FLAME
A LOVE FOR ALL SEASONS

Traci says

For half of this book I couldn't STAND Nicola. We get it: you want to avenge your father's death. Stop beating the dead horse and MOVE ON ALREADY because you know the truth. And, as always, she doesn't know or think she could be the least bit attractive to anyone. After the half way point once she and Gilliam realize they are meant for each other and Nicola's... "needs" are satisfied, she's a completely different, and tolerable, character. As always, Domning does an excellent job with the setting and historical backdrop. This book was a nice look into everyday life during the Middle Ages as well.

Not my favorite by a long shot, but not too bad.

Celestine says

Lady Nicola of Ashby is as far from a damsel in distress as I've seen written in historical romance fiction. She is tall of stature, strong and aggressive in her physicality, cunning, and well-trained. Indulged by her father, she had avoided marriage to the ripe old age of 17. Her father is killed in a siege, and Nicola finds she must marry the knight who slayed him.

Gilliam, as the youngest of four sons of a landed lord, never had expectations of property. After the siege where he saved his brother's life, which is a major plot point of book one of this series, Winter's Heat, he is given Ashby and decides to marry the old lord's daughter to ease the transition. She is a harridan, but loves her home deeply. As a knight who fought in the crusades and has had his own level of heartache, Gilliam just wants to prosper and build a bucolic home in his own little corner of the world. The path is not easy, and Nicola hangs onto her hate so long that she endangers those around her.

One of the highlights of the book is the introduction of Jos, a foster child and squire for Gilliam. His emergence as a hearty and healthy pre-teen is mirrored by the growth in the relationship between Nicola and Gilliam.

There are battles and brawls, deceit and redemption in this book. One interesting aspect is the relationship between lords and ladies and the common castle folk who populate the story. The social hierarchy is explored and there are consequences when individuals move beyond or beneath their class. This theme has a fascinating influence on the plot.

Note - for best enjoyment these books should be read in order.

Karen says

Obstinate, intelligent warrior woman, who was raised as a son believed no man should own her, fighting tooth & nail for freedom, causing all who try to control her to rue the day.

An extra son, given the chance to own property, finds ways to manage all manner of hellion beasts. This fierce giant facing his greatest challenge draws out his squeamish squire while earning his reluctant wife's respect, yet he may still loose her.

Love the characters, the conflict, the banter, the village life, hurt by the betrayal. Good addition to the series.
