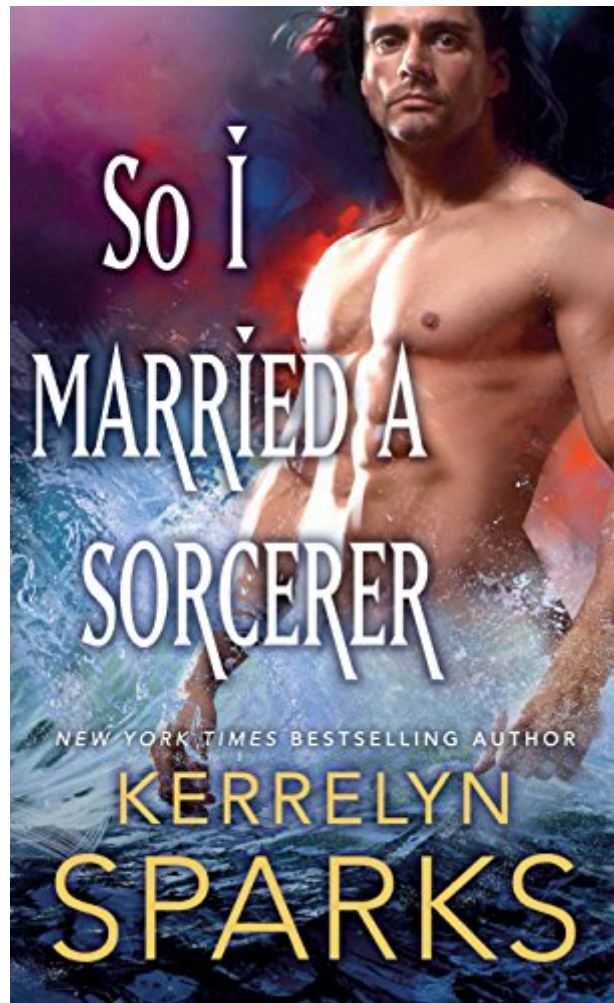




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So I Married A Sorcerer (The Embraced)



Synopsis

“Mixed with paranormal romance and humor” Sparks clearly has a style [that] readers love. •USA Today’s Happily Ever After blog From the New York Times bestselling author of the Love at Stake series comes a novel of the Embraced •an epic tale of two star-crossed lovers destined for doom •or desire Growing up on the Isle of Moon, Brigitta knew that she was born with the magical powers of the Embraced •even if she did not know how to wield them. But she has finally learned the truth: Brigitta is the lost princess of the kingdom of Tourin. She was sent into hiding as an infant to escape the wrath of her half-brother, the king. And now he knows just where to find her. . .Rupert is a notorious pirate and sorcerer. He’s spent most of his life plotting revenge on the evil king •and Rupert believes that Brigitta could be the key to finally destroying his enemy. But what begins as a kidnapping of the innocent beauty escalates into something deeper, and more passionate, than either captor or captive could have imagined. Rupert soon vows to protect Brigitta against the king •but will they survive long enough to find their happily-ever-after. . .or does fate have something else in store?

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Customer Reviews

"He would regret kidnapping her, she's make sure of that. For he would soon discover that she was not a willing captive."FINAL DECISION: Filled with fun and adventure, I really enjoyed this second book in the Embraced series. The story of Brigitta and Rupert added to the legend in the world of Aerthlan. A paranormal with a historical feel, the book read like an old fashioned serial -- in a good way.THE STORY: In the world where those born when the moons eclipse have magical powers but are hunted and in danger, some of these Embraced have found refuge on the Isle of Moon. Brigitta has spent most of her life hidden in the convent on the Isle of Moon; she is Embraced. On her way to join her sister of the heart, Brigitta finds out that she is a princess whose evil half-brother wants her back to help secure his bloodline to the throne. Just about to be taken by his troops, Brigitta is kidnapped by the pirate Rupert who is Embraced and has the power to harness the winds. Rupert has plans to use her against her half-brother, but has many secrets of his own. Including one which involves Brigitta herself.OPINION: This book is one adventure after another as Rupert and Brigitta meet, deal with Rupert's abduction of Brigitta and then also confront her half-brother. There are sea battles, dangers and, of course, love aplenty. Secret identities, lies, hidden motives, abound along with varying paranormal gifts.Brigitta, along with her "sisters", have been awakened by the events of the first book in the series. They are now aware that they may not be orphans but may have some secret unknown pasts. As the series progresses, I expect that we will learn their stories. Here, we learn that Brigitta comes from a family of usurpers of the throne. There is no happy family ending waiting for her. Brigitta is an interesting mix of naivete and practicality. She has an innocent heart, but at the same time, she has strength and a determination to chart her own destiny. Having a hidden past, Brigitta is just finding out who she is. This is her time to create herself after finally reclaiming her true identity.Rupert has a different journey. He knows too much about the past and it haunts him. His story is not reclaiming the past, but rather his finding freedom from the past that at times overwhelms and smothers him. He also happens to be a sexy, powerful sorcerer who rules the seas. His story here is also a discovery story. Rupert is rediscovering who he should be. In a real way, he is rediscovering himself as well. A man who has kept himself hidden, he might have more knowledge than Brigitta, but he has also been unable to claim his true self.A swashbuckling adventure, the story barely has time to take a breath before a new dilemma arises. It truly feels like an old time serial where the hero and heroine just solve one problem before a new adventure presents itself. I really enjoyed the pacing of this book which felt exciting and fun. I somewhat

expected the ultimate twists and turns of this story, but the frantic pace kept the story moving. I thought that this book picked up the ball from the first book in the series and moved the story forward. I get some sense that there is a larger narrative at work. Perhaps I am wrong, but I think these individual stories might be building towards a bigger conflict or solution. Onto the next book of the series -- next year, unfortunately. **WORTH MENTIONING:** Special bonus for fans who read the first book -- twins! **CONNECTED BOOKS:** *SO I MARRIED A SORCERER* is the second book in the Embraced series. While this book can be read as a standalone, there are overlapping characters so if that bothers you, read the series in order. The romance in this book starts and is completed in this book. **STAR RATING:** I give this book 4 stars. **NOTE:** I received an ARC via NetGalley in order to provide a review. I was not required to write a review or to write a positive review. All opinions contained herein are my own.

I would like to thank Kerrelyn Sparks, St. Martin's Press, and NetGalley for allowing me to read an ARC in exchange for an honest review. Brigitta is on her way to visit the oldest of her adopted sisters when she's kidnapped by pirates! Turns out she's not simply a poor orphan -- she's the princess of Tourin, thought dead these twenty years. When she was a baby, her father took the kingdom by force and sent her away to a convent so she couldn't be used against him. Now her brother, the current king, needs an heir, which he cannot produce himself, and so he is forced to acknowledge her existence and send for her so that he might use her as a "walking womb." But the pirates get to her first. The pirate Rupert steals only from King Gunther of Tourin as he bides his time until he can set his plan into motion and take back the kingdom that rightfully belongs to him. When he learns that the princess is not only alive, but that Gunther desperately needs her, Rupert sees a great opportunity to significantly lighten the king's coffers. Except, he's shocked to discover that the princess is nothing like the monsters who share her blood, and the more he gets to know her, the more he comes to care for her, the harder it is for him to hand her over to her awful brother. But he could never trust her -- and so he can't keep her.

Spoilers This was my first foray into the work of Kerrelyn Sparks, and I daresay it won't be the last. I've seen her books around (I swear *The Vampire with the Dragon Tattoo* was inescapable a few years ago), but, I'm ashamed to say, because of those stupid titles, I definitely judged the book by the cover -- and was far from impressed. But I saw *So I Married a Sorcerer* on NetGalley

and figured I could give Sparks a shot since it was free. And to my surprise, the contents didn't reflect the stupid title at all. Well, there was a sorcerer, who did get married, but you know what I mean. It was a matter of tone, and I expected a tired plot with undeveloped, reactionary characters who cared more about having sex than being responsible and honorable people. But not in this book. Brigitta was a wonderful heroine, kind and sweet yet strong and determined. Not exceptional, perhaps not even all that memorable, but entertaining to follow through the duration of the book as she gained courage and a sense of identity. Her power as an Embraced was interesting, a combination of empathy and psychometry. A bit boring, perhaps, compared to everyone else's, but it was integral to the plot and development of the characters, so I thought it was well-utilized. Rupert, too, was a good hero, tortured and conflicted yet compassionate and honorable. He made more of an impression than Brigitta, mostly because his power to control the wind was AWESOME, but I still don't think I'll find myself revisiting him in future. I didn't 100% buy their falling in love. More like 99%. I'm not sure why; there was lots of internal dialogue, it wasn't necessarily sudden. It was almost like it had become an afterthought. Through the first half of the book, not much is happening besides them being on a ship, getting to know each other and weighing their options. Then while they're on Rupert's Island, there's a plot shift; Brigitta jumps into the love grotto with both feet, but Rupert, while mostly on board, is still hesitant to take the plunge. But at the same time, his identity is revealed and the bigger plot moves forward, leaving the smaller falling-in-love plot behind and not *quite* finished, in my opinion. The pace was steady if not fast. As I allude above, the plot was pretty clearly divided into the first half at sea, falling in love, the second half in Tourin, defeating Gunther. Some readers might not like that, but it didn't bother me. If the whole stone-reading premonition game hadn't been mentioned in the beginning, I could have said the competition was rather shoe-horned in, but I think as it is it just needed to be mentioned sooner. What *was* shoe-horned in was the Chameleon. I really don't think he was necessary to Brigitta and Rupert's story, but I'm assuming he's part of a bigger picture, a recurring antagonist throughout the series, so Sparks probably just wanted to keep his thread intact so he stays fresh in mind. The biggest problem I had with this story was its ambiguous time period. For all intents and purposes, I believe it's historical-medieval? but there was a sense of

modernism that I just couldn't shake. The speech patterns and word choices didn't seem completely suited to the setting, but what really threw me was Rupert's predilection to use the word "crap." Specifically, "holy crap." Technically, as far as I can understand, the word "crap" has been around a long time, but I just can't imagine it was ever more frequent or more casual than it is today. It's not a word that I, personally, associate with the medieval time period, and it stuck out like a sore thumb. But it's Sparks's story that pulled me out of her world from the ground up. English isn't even a thing there, so maybe "crap" is more common. Whatever. Speaking of her world-building, I'm impressed. She's not Rowling, but she didn't do half-bad. She committed, and by the end, I was itching to study a map and go backpacking. Overall, I'm very interested to see where this goes. I'll check out the first book and watch for the third to become available. Oh, speaking of "you could read this as a stand-alone if you really wanted to," Sparks tells you what you need to know, but as soon as I read that Leo's touch killed every woman except Luciana, I was like "yes, please."

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What a great addition to the series!!! This book drew me in right away and kept me up all night reading til I just now finished. It was charming, sweet, angsty, romantic, a bit humorous, and a touch of action thrown in to keep me happy! I really liked how it was written with dual POVs. I just love being able to see both sides of the story. I loved Brigitta's character's strength, courage, wit, kindness, boldness, and loyalty. Once she realized the kind of heart and man Rupert was, she began to trust him and help him with his life's mission. Rupert's past broke my heart. All that he had lost at such a young age and all he had to endure....gah!! It just made me love him because he turned out to be a wonderful man!! I admired his strength, courage, bravery, nobleness, sexiness, and compassion. I'm glad he followed his gut and heart, trusting in Brigitta because he deserved to be happy. And what/how he treated his enemy at the end?! Man!! Was NOT expecting that!!! so can't wait until book 3, Eight Simple Rules for Dating a Dragon, is released! This is my honest review for receiving this ARC from NetGalley. Thank you Kerrelyn and NetGalley!

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