



## My Forever Love

*Marsha Canham*

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Ciaran Timberlane is a dishonored knight, living in exile. Amie de Langois is a woman in hiding from her brutal husband, living on Timberlane's land. Timberlane has nothing to lose by defying the law to protect Amie-nothing except his heart...

## My Forever Love Details

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Author : Marsha Canham

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Romance

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## From Reader Review My Forever Love for online ebook

### Dawn says

++Spoilers+++

I really liked this book, although some may not. Although it is a "romance" it is not your typical romance. The concentration is really on the character development which is indeed 3 dimensional and complex. The story is also heavily laden with amazing details of history, scenery and explanations of historical items, which I love. We do end up with ILY's and a happily ever after but not until about 80 %. If you like history and like to read a story that brings alive a medieval setting so real that you feel like you are there, then this is for you, but if you're in it for just the romance, you may feel a bit bored.

A warning: There is violence, battles, and mention of rape and other brutalities that may disturb some. I read that a reviewer was unsettled due to the adultery. I find this does not bother me. And the husband dies in the end anyway.

The story is about Amaranth who when her parents had died at age 12, was under the care of an uncle who sold her into a marriage with a man 3 times her age and was brutalized by him until his death. She was then again sold into a marriage with Odo, who was just as brutal as her previous husband, but younger and handsome. Amaranth figured out his nature right away and on the night of their wedding, attempted to murder him but was unsuccessful. She fled with the aid of a friar who was to take her to sanctuary in a convent but due to fever had to stop at a village to recover. She was discovered there, the village was decimated, and all were killed, but Amanth escapes, barely, laying near death until rescued by the hero. The hero was a Templar who fought in the crusades, but losing faith after witnessing the senseless death and cruelty by his order in the name of God, he leaves the holy lands. He is then excommunicated and kicked out of the order. He suffers nightmares of his time in the crusades and resolves himself to a life alone in a castle, maintaining his monkish vows.

The hero comes across the heroine as she lay dying and brings her back to his castle for healing, but her cruel husband Odo, will stop at nothing to get her back and make her suffer for the humiliation he endured by her ill attempted murder upon himself.

The pace of the story may be slow for some, and the history may not be appealing as well. I for one enjoyed it and the history, although I did wish there was a little more to the romance, but it did seem believable even though it was slow developing. This is clearly a well written well researched book that didn't touch on any of my emotional triggers. I reduced 1 star for the pace and my wanting more time with the H & h. The ending left me wanting to know what happens to the lovely couple after their ordeal.

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### Corrie says

I read this book back to back after reading "My Forever Love" which was the original version of this book. I loved that book, but I loved Marsha's revisions to this even more. There are spoilers in this review so read no further if you don't want to know some of the differences between the books.

The differences were enough to me to justify buying the revamped version with a new name, which I like

better than the original. The lovely new cover is a plus too. Originally in "My Forever Love" Amie's uncle had sold her not once but twice into marriages she didn't want. First to an old man that beat her and second to Odo. She had only been married to Odo, her current husband and the man she nearly killed for one day. In the Dragon Tree, there was no previous old man she was married to and she was married to Odo for ten months which made things much more believable to me. There was obvious hatred in her where her husband was concerned and it was built up over months. Not a day. Much more justifiable!

Also Timberlane knew she was married and Odo was her husband before Odo was let into the Castle where in the original version this information was held back from him until after. I liked that Amie was honest with him.

Also in the first book there was some mystery around Marak which was explained in greater detail in the Dragon Tree. I hadn't realized he was a Saracen in "MFL" where in "TDT" we learn he is a Saracen. There is also a little bit more about how he and Timberlane became friends.

There were other differences such as Timberlane seeming not so cold and wooden. His affection and attraction to Amie didn't seem so sudden as in the first book but felt like a nice gradual realistic build for a man who has not behaved or felt like a man before, but as a warrior monk.

I loved this book and will definitely be reading it again. I've read all of Marsha's books and they just get better and better the longer she writes.

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## **Not Now...Mommy's Reading says**

First of all, the cover of this book is among my favorites. I love how only half of the knight's face is shown, leaving the rest to the reader's imagination. The castle in the background was yet another nice touch. Now on to the story...

I did not find the violence in this story to be one bit offensive. In fact, it only added to the realism in this tale. Some authors get right into the story surrounding the hero and heroine, whereas Ms. Canham treats you to much more than that. Instead of merely stating that the hero engages in battle, you are taken onto the battlefield with him - the descriptions leaving little to the imagination - BREATHTAKINGLY REAL - the descriptions put you in a mind frame of watching a movie rather than reading a book.

I really enjoyed the story of Ciaran Tamberlane, a man who had lost faith in his God and almost in himself and Amaranth de Langois, the hunted bride of an abusive husband. I fell in love with Ciaran from the moment he was introduced - quiet, yet commanding...the physical description given of him by the author was enough to make me weak in the knees. Black hair, green eyes, tall and muscular...YUM!!!

Amaranth was most certainly courageous in her attempts to escape yet another abusive marriage.

The only thing that prevented me from giving this story a five-star rating was that by the time Tamberlane and Amaranth got around to declaring their love for one another...the book was ending. It's like I was so caught up in the story of how he came to be a excommunicated knight and she a woman on the run and then there was Marak, of course...that by the time the two confessed their feelings for one another, I was like, "Okay, now their story begins." But it doesn't. Don't get me wrong - the love scenes, though few, were wonderful and the attraction between the two was quite obvious from start but I just wanted more!!! \*whine  
However, this doesn't dissuade me from ordering every title by Marsha Canham from Amazon.com tonight.  
\*laugh

## WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

I read this for my Series Headway pick.

This review is for the original My Forever Love and not the revised Dragon Tree.

*"A man can lose his way in this world so easily," he said softly. "He can see horrors that make him question his sense of worth, his sense of well-being, his sense of what is right and wrong. He can be overcome by greed, by lust, by the lure of another man's possessions. He can have everything he owns, even his name and his reputation taken away from him in the blink of an eye. But the one thing, the only thing a man cannot have taken away from him is his honor. That, he has to give away."*

Oh how I miss historicals that actually feel like historicals and have research and setting to them. Canham did an excellent job placing me in the times, this is a little brutal and gory with the what the heroine faced in her marriages and the fighting scenes, but medieval times were a bit like that. The first half was a little slow and I started shipping Marak and the heroine for awhile because of much more flushed out their relationship was. While the setting, scene, and secondary characters were vividly painted, the romance fell short. The hero and heroine's relationship felt more like insta-lust and then their bonding felt pretty rushed at the end. Separately, the heroine with her black widow ways and fighting spirit and the hero with his excommunicated warrior monk status, were fascinating but together their romance lacked spark.

The author addressed the romance issues in this and has heavily revised the story, I'd recommend reading the newer version if you have choice.

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## Misfit says

This book is set during the reign of Richard the Lionheart, and specifically while he's off crusading and left evil Prince John in charge. The heroine is married (not of her choosing) to an evil minion of John's and she's escaped his clutches and finds herself under the protect of a disgraced Templar knight. It's all too complicated to explain. If you like those medieval knights of yore, evil bad guys and a nice bit of romance and action and adventure, this book should suit. I enjoyed it, but it didn't rock my world either.

Dead tree copy purchased at a FOL sale, Kindle copy obtained via library loan.

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## Pamela(AllHoney) says

One of my favorites by Marsha Canham. The heroine, Amaranth, is running from her abusive husband and the hero, Ciaran, an excommunicated Templar knight, who is quite a tortured soul, gives her sanctuary in his castle.

This has a bit of a dark feel to it but not too dark. It is one of those books that made it on to the keeper shelf without hesitation.

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## Keri says

For MC this is a surprisingly short read, as she normally goes the epic route for book length. The book takes place right after The Black Wolf's book and happens in tandem somewhat. Ciaran, the Dragonslayer was a Crusader and a Templar, but the outright torture and killing of innocents was taking his soul so he refused to do "GODS" work anymore. For that reason, he was sent home from the Crusades in disgrace and excommunicated from the church. His parents turned their back on their only son. An uncle took pity on him and sent him out to a remote castle. Ami is on the run from her violent new husband of one night, but that one night was enough to let her know she wouldn't survive another one. So she bashed him in the head and took off. She ends up in a small village that is under Ciaran's control. That doesn't stop the Oro the Red Boar...can we say Carrot top meets the Hulk ugly here and Ami's husband, from killing everybody in the village looking for Ami. By some miracle she manages to escape and ends up being rescued by the Dragonslayer himself. So their story begins as they fight their attraction to one another and keep Oro from finding Ami. Heads up ladies, Ciaran had taken a vow of chastity to become a Knight's Templar, so that added a bit of a twist where Ami had been married to two horrible brutal men and tender as a marshmallow Ciaran hadn't ever...well you know. :-)

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## Kari says

This is the story of a medieval knight and the lady he rescues from an abusive husband. I liked the book and I love this author's other works. Tamberlane and Amaranth were wonderful characters. I just wish there had been more scenes involving their personal relationship, maybe more dialogue or events where they get to know each other better. It felt more like pure physical attraction, I wasn't feeling the love between them until the very end. The descriptions were great but would've fit better in a longer book. The beginning was a bit slow for me, but I did enjoy the last part of the book and was sorry to see it end.

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## Mary23nm says

I read My Forever Love, not the revised.

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## ?P?NaR De?iRmeNci ? says

Benim Ebedi A?k?m

Marsha Canham

Hmm

?lginç bir kitapt? san?r?m

Ba?ta fena halde zor okumaya ba?lad?m sonra hikaye kendine çekti

zorlu bir hayat iki hayat? biraraya getirdi

Tanr?ya inanmay? ona hizmet etmeyi b?rakan tamberlane yak?p y?k?lan bir köyde yaral? bir k?z? kurtar?r.

K?z?m?z kocas?ndan kaçan onu öldürmek isteyen bir Ladydir

fakat bu iki yaral? yürek birbirlerine çekilir

Koruma ve sevgiyi gören Lady için ondan etkilenmemek zordur

bana göre de zordu özellikle baz? sayfalar gerçekten çok iyiydi

hikayesi ilerleyi?i yava? olsa da s?cakt? bana göre

sevdim

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## Linda says

With an odd mishmash of characters and an endearing romance, MFL was a story of redemption. Ciaran Tamberlane would have given his very life in service to God. He was a Templar and a monk; he had sworn his allegiance to serve both his Lord Savior and King Richard. This was before traveling in the Crusades where he witnessed his holy Brothers kill people mercilessly. **Brutishly. And without remorse.** When he witnessed a final *potential* atrocity, he sided briefly with the enemy. For this he was ostracized, excommunicated from the Order and deemed a traitor by the Templars. If not for his uncle's assistance, he would have had nothing.

Elizabeth Amaranth 'Amie' de Langois had her fill with savageness but it was in the form of two husbands. She was originally married off to a wicked, bloated man several times her age who beat her endlessly. - Remember, women were considered chattel during that era.- Then she was passed on to a younger man, closer to her in years but no less cruel. It was a politically-motivated marriage. On her wedding night, she hit him with a heavy candlestick to protect herself. It was either her or him and she intended to survive. With the help of a friar she hurriedly left, only to be pursued. Her husband would not stop until she was dead.

Amie and Ciaran first *met* when the young woman was left for dead. All of the villagers in one of Lord Tamberlane's outlying hamlets were slaughtered by Odo de Langois's assassins. His lordship had saved her from certain death and brought her back to his castle -his sanctuary- to allow his childhood friend, Marak, save her life. Ciaran needed to know what happened and why.

\*All of what I have told you up to now is in the first few chapters.\*

**Ciaran:** gruff, defender of the unfortunate, serious, a sometime drunkard and lastly, a loner. Marak wanted to help him. When possible, he gently introduced Amie into Lord Tamberlane's path. Ciaran was confused. War did strange things. He was trained as a priest but no longer agreed with the beliefs that were passed down to him. His life had been devoted to celibacy and he was taught from an early age that women were temptresses and best left alone. But Amie was different. *Not everything was as simple as once before.*

I enjoyed the secondary characters. Amie formed a peaceful friendship of sorts with Marak. Marak was a holy man, *an albino* and possibly agamous if you believed Roland. Roland was flirty, good looking and Ciaran's squire. *He was a lady's man.* Then there was the quiet Inaya and her young son, Jibril. She had been disfigured during the holy wars when a poisoned arrow had pierced her cheek. Ciaran had saved her life and was 'awarded' her in order for her family to save face.

I was pleasantly surprised with Marsha Canham's meatier romance. I had not read anything by this author before now. There was some minor gore -how could you not have it when discussing the Crusades?- but everyone's *actions* pushed the narrative along. There was a brief lesson on England's royalty; a 'game of thrones' if I dare say so. There were also nuggets of truth, some gentle humor and, of course, a love story.

\*Thank you, Christina, for suggesting the title of this story.\*

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## Lyuda says

Wonderful medieval romance -a potent combination of page-turning action, true-to-period brutality and gore, and tenderly blossoming romance. When added to this a cast of well-developed characters, great attention to historical setting, the story becomes a true winner for me.

Formerly published under the name, "*My Forever Love*", the book undergone a complete rewrite and was released under a new title in 2012. Please see Ms. Canham's note at the bottom of this review.

Ciaran Tamberlane, a powerful and fearsome knight known as the Dragonslayer, fought at the side of Richard the Lionheart during what is now known as the Third Crusade until the day he lost his faith in both the church and the crown. The pillaging and horror he had seen and participated in became unbearable and, one faithful day, Ciaran just walked away from the battle after rescuing a wounded Saracen woman and her child from his fellow crusaders. Branded a traitor by his peers, excommunicated by the church he lives in self-imposed exile in the secluded Taniere Castle.

While on a hunting trip, his party stumbles across a horrific raid on a small village located on his land. There were no survivors except one gravely wounded young woman. Her name is Elizabeth Amaranth 'Amie' de Langois and unbeknownst to Ciaran, she would be the reason his seclusion comes to an end.

Amie is a woman running for her life, trying to escape her brutish sadistic husband of 10 months. Although, she fears that *people, especially wives, do not run away from a man like him and live to tell it*. And she knows the horrific raid on the village where she found a temporary refuge was perpetrated by her husband and his people trying to catch her.

Most of the story takes place in the Taniere Castle. As Amie heals, her admiration for Ciaran grows and Ciaran becomes more and more invested in her welfare and safety.

The story is not for a fainted heart. But amidst of all the gore and brutality, there is a tender romance that slowly blossoms between a woman who never once experienced desire or passion but forced to endure and a man who in his former life was a warrior monk and taken a vow of celibacy.

### Note from the author:

*Formerly released in print as My Forever Love, The Dragon Tree has undergone a complete rewrite, going far beyond the gentle revisions some of my backlist books have had before being reissued in ebook form. I was never happy with the title, My Forever Love. I was never really thrilled with the cover. And I was nearing the breaking point of the final straw when nothing in the publishing world made sense to me anymore and the stress was showing in my writing. I had always said I would stop writing when it ceased to be fun, and ceased to be an outlet for my vivid imagination. Halfway through the writing of The Dragon Tree (and that was the original working title before some young newbie editor decided it wasn't romantic enough and changed it) I lost steam. I knew I would be retiring when I finished it and frankly, my heart just wasn't in it anymore. Bad thing to confess, I know, but the honest truth.*

*With this rewrite and reissue, my muse is happy with it. I hope I have taken some of the wooden-ness (is that a word? if not, it should be) out of the characters and given them more heart. They deserved better treatment than what they got the first time around \*s\*.*

Highly recommended to fans of medieval romances.

\*Thank you, Christina and Linda, for bringing this author to my attention.\*

## Julianna says

Reviewed for [www.thcreviews.com](http://www.thcreviews.com)

"3.5 stars" This was the first time I had read a novel by Marsha Canham, and although there were, in my opinion, some weaknesses in the story, I was not entirely disappointed. The historical settings, including the brutality of medieval warfare, are described in rich detail, including the appearance of some real historical figures and the use of some medieval terms and dialog. I have a great appreciation for history, and it is clear that Ms. Canham did her research well. In fact, I came away from reading this book with a desire to learn more about certain aspects of the history described. However, for all the depth contained in the history, I felt that the characterizations were rather lacking. I would have liked to see a deeper exploration of the characters and what made them tick, as well as more back story. For instance, at the end of the prologue, we see Ciaran apparently being accosted by two Saracens after walking off the battlefield and fully expecting to be killed, but the author never clearly resolves who these men were or how Ciaran got out of this situation. Another aspect I would have liked to see more deeply explored was the lengthy and loyal friendship between Ciaran and Marak. We are not given much insight as to what sparked that friendship, or what made it so long lasting.

I think that perhaps the best drawn character in the book is Marak. I found him to be an intriguing and romantic character in spite of his physical flaw, indeed he was a joy to read, but sometimes it seemed like he nearly overshadowed Ciaran. I thought that Marak had more and better dialog with Amie than Ciaran did. Also, in general, the dialog seemed a bit unbalanced. In places, it was so beautiful in its raw intensity as to be poetic, and yet in other places I felt the story and characters would have benefited from the use of more dialog. For example, the author gives us a look into both Ciaran and Amie's thoughts after they make love for the first time. Both seem to harbor some insecurities at this point, and I felt that their relationship could have been deepened considerably by a bit of dialog expressing their thoughts and feelings to each other. Another mild disappointment for me was that although Ciaran and Amie obviously develop a deep and abiding love for each other, it is never really expressed in words. I suppose to some extent the dialog deficiencies could be chalked up to Ciaran being a man of few words, but still I've read other introverted heroes who have more to say while still maintaining their brooding state. I was also disappointed that Ciaran and Amie basically had an affair while she was still bound in marriage. While I certainly didn't feel any sympathy for Odo after the way he had treated Amie, I just found myself wishing that the author had waited until Amie was free of any legal obligation in that regard. Lastly, I felt like the emotional problems that Ciaran and Amie both faced were resolved a little too easily. I have a personal preference of watching characters like these work through the issues and grow throughout the story. In my opinion, this type of interaction can really help to flesh out the characters. Also, while the early parts of the book were rather slow, the ending seemed a tad bit rushed. As I got down to the last few chapters, I started to wonder how the author was going to resolve the story in such a short space, but it did ultimately have a reasonably satisfying ending.

While it may seem that I have a lot of criticisms of this book, I still found *My Forever Love* to be an enjoyable and worthwhile read. I certainly did not come away feeling that I had wasted my time like I have on occasion with other books. Ciaran and Amie were both very likable characters. While Ciaran is not a particularly dark and brooding hero, he does harbor a lot of psychological pain (PTSD) from his time in the Crusades. Although some might disagree, I found the fact that Ciaran was not a lust-crazed hero and had maintained his celibacy for such a long time to be rather refreshing and irresistible, though I have to admit a little disappointment over the circumstances in which he gave it up. I had expected something completely different. I also loved his compassion and the fact that he chose to do the right thing even if it went against

the laws of both man and church. (By the way, for anyone not familiar with Gaelic, his name is pronounced like our more modern day name, Kieran [KEE-uh-ran]). For all the suffering and abuse Amie endured, she still did not become bitter or lose her sweetness of spirit, and yet she was also a woman of strength and courage. A great balance that is difficult to strike in a heroine. I also appreciated the forthrightness of the hero and heroine. There were no lies, games or silly misunderstandings. Granted Amie initially tried to conceal her identity, but only briefly, and after that they were completely honest with each other. There was also a very romantic though minor plot point that I liked in which the relationship between a pair of secondary characters is revealed. The overall storyline was enjoyable and engrossing. Prior to reading this novel, I was not even familiar with Ms. Canham's name, but I liked the book well enough that I would be open to reading more titles by her in the future.

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## Tracy Emro says

This review contains spoilers - if you don't want to know - skip this review!!

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This book would have been five stars hands down except for one thing....the heroine was married and her husband didn't die until the very end of the book - like it or not, agree with me or not - that is adultery plain and simple and I can't condone it.

That being said - if I ever did condone adultery- I would give Amie a "free cheat on your spouse" pass before anyone else! Her husband Odo (great name for a villain!) was perhaps one of the most despicable villains I have ever read. The things he did to her were justification for her to leave him in my mind. In a time when women were not partners but chattel with no rights - she was a desperate woman with no choices, no family and in fear for her life - She did not leave her husband for Ciaran - she left for her life with no intentions of cheating or even having another relationship - she was merely trying to survive long enough to enter a convent.

Ciaran had demons of his own and was probably one of the most self loathing, tortured heroes you will ever meet in a book. He was a wonderful man who just couldn't forgive himself for his perceived sins.

This book had quite a bit of blood and gore - but it was necessary for the story and the time. Ms Canham does not shy away from painting a realistic scene and as disgusting as it is to read - it really gives the reader a realistic view of the times.

In the same token, her love scenes are hot and passionate without sliding into pornographic smut. None of the love scenes seemed gratuitous - and none take place until the last 25% of the book. The first kiss doesn't even happen until the final third of the book and even then they don't immediately fall into bed.

Even though I don't like books with cheating/adultery and usually stop reading and return the book if I come across it - this book would be my exception - while I don't agree with it - I can empathize and even understand it in this book - the heroine never wanted to marry Odo and was severely abused to the point where to save her life she had to leave and even then she was almost killed - she didn't leave intending to break her vows or to fall in love with anyone.

I have read the Robin Hood trilogy - in fact Randwulf de la Seyne Sur Mer makes a cameo in this book :)

and the Pirate Wolf trilogy by this author and loved all those books - based I that fact I decided to give this book a try even knowing that there might be adultery - and I can honestly say I am glad I did. Ciaran and Amie will stay with me for a long time.

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### **Carolyn says**

There isn't a book written by Marsha Canham that I have read that I didn't love! This book is no exception. Loved it!

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