

You and No Other

Cynthia Wright

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"I find that I am in love with Mademoiselle de Fleurance," said St. Briac to the King. "I came here to ask her to be my wife."

What a thrill to hear those words from him! Yet Aimee was certain that he spoke them out of pity, not love. St. Briac knew that only his own marriage proposal could keep the king from seducing her -- a fate she was desperate to avoid.

Aimee tried to tell herself that she felt nothing for St. Briac. Gratitude, yes, for saving her from the King. But nothing more. Then she thought of the brilliance of his turquoise eyes. The strong, slim outline of his body. The taste of his lips.

And she knew her fate was locked in his heart....

Cynthia Wright weaves a captivating tale of passion and intrigue in the royal splendor of the court of King Francois I.

You and No Other Details


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Author : Cynthia Wright

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From Reader Review You and No Other for online ebook

Leslie Parrish says

"I first read You And No Other many years ago, when it was released in paperback form. It has always been on my "top five" romance novel list. In recent years, with the explosion of older titles being re-released in e-book form, I've had a chance to revisit some of those older titles. Sadly, out of my "top five" list, this book is the only one that kept its spot.

When I sit and wonder why this book was so special, then and now, I know it comes down to the hero. Yes, the French setting in the court of Francois I was really unique and incredibly well researched. Yes, I liked the heroine, Aimee, who was spunky without being annoying. Yes, the plot was very cute and there are some genuinely funny moments when Aimee is desperately trying to avoid the attentions of the king, who thinks she is her sister.

But the real heart of this book is in the hero, Thomas Mardouet, seigneur de St. Briac. In an era when alpha males grunted their way into nearly every romance novel, he was a deliciously refreshing, sexy, witty, intelligent, charming, breath of fresh air. Reading the newly released e-book, I fell in love with him all over again.

I remember loving Surrender The Stars almost as much as I loved this book, so I am going to seek it out and download it for a re-read. Hopefully it will be as fun, entertaining and delicious as this book, which I highly recommend."

Lori McD says

3.5 stars

A bit syrupy sweet for my taste, but overall, a fun romp of a historical romance. This tale is set in 1526, when Francois I (King of France) has just been returned from being held by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and ruler of Spain. Charles and Francois don't see eye-to-eye on the Bourbon district, taken back by France in a recent war. But Charles isn't just letting Francois go; it's an exchange - Francois' 2 eldest sons (8 and 6 respectively) are to go to Spain under guard in Francois' place. Before agreeing to this, Francois had to sign an agreement to give Bourbon back, along with some trivial other conditions. Francois knows he can't just turn Bourbon over to Charles V, and so through-out the book, he's mourning the loss of his sons and relishing his freedom. It's a fine balance, and one that's not resolved at the end of this book.

This book is really about Thomas St. Briac, a boyhood friend of Francois, and a man of property and nobility. Thomas doesn't try for favors from the king, and he's not all that comfortable at Court for too long; he's not into the politics and jockeying for position and favors.

Francois and Thomas meet Aimee, our Heroine, near one of the king's hunting lodges in Nieull. Aimee's family lives nearby, and she loves to be outside and roam Nature. Her younger, blonde sister Honorine came to fetch her at their mother's request. But as usual, Aimee lingered... long enough to prevent the king and Thomas from getting a large stag they were hunting. Aimee is all opinions and stubbornness, even though she's a delightful innocent. When the king and Thomas come upon her, they think she's a saucy wench out to seduce them, so they stop and chat. Except that during the chat, Aimee (who obviously doesn't recognize the king) makes many disparaging remarks about Francois, which causes Thomas to chuckle and Francois to

become furious. In a huff, Francois rides off, leaving Thomas to deal with her. There's the instant-spark thing happening between Thomas and Aimee, and he quickly discovers that she's an innocent and had no true intentions for stopping them, other than saving the stag. Before he leaves, though, Thomas can't help giving Aimee a good and proper kissing, which leaves them both a bit breathless - Aimee because she's not been kissed like that before, and Thomas because he realizes his attraction to her is more than simple lust.

That night, Aimee and her family travel into Nieull to meet the king. Luckily, the encounter Thomas first, who laughingly tells her family Aimee's encounter with the king earlier and suggests that she remain with him while the rest of her family is presented to the king. No need to cause a scene, after all. Aimee takes offense (she can be prickly), but Thomas soon has her laughing... so much so, that Aimee's "intended", a man older than her father, takes offense and make himself known to Thomas as Aimee's finance. Aimee has already gotten out of marrying the man once, but her mother is determined that her 18-year old daughter be settled. Meanwhile, the king takes a liking to Honorine, a lovely blonde - just his type. Before departing, Thomas tells Aimee that she should take Fate into her own hands and fight for what she wants.

So when a note from the king for a Mademoiselle de Fleurance arrives later that evening asking the lovely Mademoiselle to join his royal court and entourage to Chambord, Aimee seizes it as her opportunity for escape. She knows it's intended for Honorine, but she decides it's a sign from God - a way to get out of the house (as her mother wanted for her) and way to escape marriage. So Aimee packs her bags secretly and sneaks away. She's not sure how to keep up the farce, because she knows she has to stay away from the king as long as possible; but she's determined.

Except, of course, Thomas discovers her. He's furious, but amused; he agrees to help her, but not to lie to the king for her. What ensues is a midnight tryst in a garden, where both Thomas and Aimee are attempting to hide their identities from the king, but end up in full-blown passion. But it doesn't take long for the king to discover her; rather than being angry, as she feared, the king is actually enchanted, thinking that Aimee wanted badly to join his court. When the king attempts to bed her, Thomas bursts into the room and announces that he wants to marry Aimee - with the king's permission, of course. Which is finally granted, saving Aimee from the king.

And this is where it gets a bit dicey... Both Thomas and Aimee feel something more for one another, but neither is willing to admit it to themselves much less to one another. So we enter a long stretch of watching them fight and fuss and steam and stew, because Aimee thinks Thomas is only being noble and protecting her, while he continues to pursue his affair with a married woman at court. Thomas thinks that Aimee has no feelings at all for him, which frustrates him to no end, because he's too noble to force her, and yet he's drawn to her and her endless schemes. When a mother-daughter pair shows up, claiming that Thomas is already affianced, based on an agreement between parents from long ago, Thomas begs Aimee to keep up the "farce" to scare them away. (Even the king is amused, but he tells Thomas he must handle it himself.)

So, of course, Thomas and Aimee end up married. And really, that's only 1/3 of the book! There are numerous scenes where Thomas has to rescue Aimee from something or someone, always showing up just in the nick-of-time. And lots of Aimee's wild schemes.

The HEA is fun and full of adventure, but as I said, it's a bit syrupy sweet and pushes the bounds of what the king would probably do if Thomas went against his orders in the way that he does. But hey, it's a romance, right?

Shauni says

You and No Other is the Crown Jewel in Cynthia Wright's illustrious writing career. As a Romance Novel it fulfills all the requirements A Hero to die for, a stubborn Heroine. Great secondary characters (If one can call France's most charismatic King a secondary character), forces willing to keep the couple apart, Court Intrigue, Family Dynamics and oh yeah a glorious setting. Re Reading this book almost 30 years after it was written did not diminish the sheer wonder of the story.

Thomas Mardouet, seigneur de St. Briac has it all. He is gorgeous, well established and a life long friend of the King of France. Secure enough to actually turn down positions at court. He is the hero every girl dreams of and many women secretly yearn for. Charming and charismatic he launches himself into the reader's heart and never leaves. Thomas was happy with life, his family and friends.. when a chance meeting with a local wood nymph changes everything.

Aimee de Fleurance, oldest daughter to what seems to be a typical family of that era.. needing to broker a marriage for their oldest child that ensures financial security for the family and allows her to live the life she is supposed to live. Aimee, is not willing to settle for life as the wife of a man older than her father and rather decrepit and disgusting as well. Grasping at an opportunity to good to be true she rushes headlong into life at court. Except she is supposed to be her sister, whom the king has designs upon. Not the wood nymph who unknowingly insulted him.

So begins what I love to refer to as a comedy of characters. This book is by no means a comedy or a joke but it is humorous to watch the incredibly respectable Thomas get involved in one scheme of Aimee's after another. From Aimee's scheme to escape her family which lands her directly in Thomas' path to Thomas' desire to help a friend.. one unique adventure after another. These two are just plain fun!!

One of the reasons why this story spoke to me so strongly was the way they overcame their obstacles. And believe me they were fraught with obstacles, Aimee, escaping her family, hiding from the king.. Thomas, falling for Aimee and not having a clue, in a way, to him at least he was betraying a friend. Villains, politics and more. Each obstacle was overcome with a touch of elegance, a touch of slapstick and all round commitment to the characters. They weren't put into positions that were false, you could see Aimee pulling one of her schemes and I could almost hear Thomas saying in a mock Cuban accent "Lucy you have some splainin to do".. It's not that it was overkill it was just fun. And Thomas, believe me he was just as bad.. his grand plan was the most bizarre and fun and yes erotic of all.

And over all the fun the story told a love story, one of respect and admiration, love and lust.. things we all want in our lives. A generous man who loves us..

There is of course something just so romantic about the setting of this book, from the French Court, which to me just yells romance to a castle in the French Countryside.. The setting was created for love. I can see my family history being replayed in this story.. But then that's the French in me.. I see possibilities..

The thing is this book almost defines "pure romance". The characters most definitely drive the story. To me that is what a romance book is about. There can be subplots and secondary characters but the story is told around the hero and the heroine. There are many many books today that are what I call plot driven. In some ways they are similar but there are those who prefer them because they don't understand the true beauty of a book about people falling in love.. and this book, shares that with us wonderfully.

If you want to read more about Thomas and Aimee you can see them for a little bit in Of One Heart. I am so glad I revisited this charming couple, I find I already miss them. I know it won't be another 30plus years before I read them again.

Shauni

grins I don't usually rate my reviews.. but this book gets 10 swoons (on a scale of 1-5 of course) but seriously, this book is completely swoonworthy, have your swoon pillows ready

*** If you are interested reading about Cynthia's adventures through France as she fell in love with Francois I be sure and check out her website..

<http://cynthia-wright.com/>

You can also find her on Facebook and twitter..

<http://www.facebook.com/cynthiawright...>

@Cynthiawright1

AnnMarie says

The joy of an audio book is that if you are lucky, not only do you get to listen to a fabulous book, but it is also narrated by a talented person. Cynthia Wright has written an amazing story. Aimee de Fleurence is being forced into a marriage to a horrid man, and she will do anything to escape that fate. That escape comes in the form of joining the King's court using her sister's invitation, and keeping herself well hidden to evade discovery. Her sister was to become one of the King's 'women' and although Aimee admired her King, she hoped he wouldn't discover that she had taken her sister's place. He would either be furious at the deception and force her to return home, or he would expect her to take her sister's place in his bed. Neither option was acceptable to her. She just hoped she could get far enough away from home to be able to slip away from the travellers before that happened.

Unfortunately for her she is discovered before that, not by the king, but by his good friend Thomas St. Briac. He is infuriated with her for putting herself at risk, and despite her being a thorn in his side, he does his best to keep her hidden from the King. His plans go awry though, and in order to keep her from the King's bed St.Briac tells him of Aimee's plight and then does the unthinkable, tells the King he wants to marry her. That keeps the King happy, but he is shocked to discover that Aimee is less than pleased. Even though she won't go through with a wedding, she knows that now she must find a way to break off the engagement without damage to either of their reputations.

She wouldn't be adverse to marrying him, IF he loved her. But knowing he barely tolerated her made her determined to get away from him as soon as possible. Circumstances occur that turns the situation around, and St.Briac is the one needing her help by remaining betrothed to her.

Their relationship is a fabulous one to discover, either they absolutely despise each other, or they are in the throws of passion with each other instead. St.Briac is a fabulous character whose wit and cheekiness had me smiling many times throughout the book, especially when he was teasing Aimee.

Not only was their the romance aspect of the story to keep me intrigued but also there was some skullduggery, possible treason, and deception afoot that could lead to an innocent man being hanged. There was never a dull moment in this story and the only thing that could make it better, and indeed did, was the

superb narration by Tim Campbell. He portrayed each character fabulously, from the deep, sexy, sometimes cheeky and playful timbre of St.Briac's voice, to the gentle sweet voice of Aimee. The voices of the King, children, the villains, and even an old crone were superbly done as well.

As I said at the start of my review, the joy of an audio book comes from an equally good story and it's narration and I am happy to say that this book definitely had both. I can't recommend it enough. There are only a handful of narrators that I feel are worthy of a 5 star rating, and Tim Campbell is definitely one of them. A 5 star novel with a 5 star narration.

Jill Fetch says

I have read all of Cynthia Wright's books and this one is my very favorite. I love Aimee's pluck and resolve. I love St. Briac's reluctant assistance. I adore the two characters together and I love that they have every day problems. They are fully fleshed out characters and I didn't want the story to end.

Chris says

This was a fantastic read!!

Carol Storm says

After making a name for herself with a brilliant series of American Colonial love stories, Seventies romance giant Cynthia Wright turned to Medieval France for inspiration.

With her striking black hair and green eyes, Aimee de Fleurance was a magnet for unsuitable suitors. Yet when she ran away from home disguised as a page boy, she soon met the most irresistible and absolutely unsuitable suitor of all!

Set in France in the 1500's, this book contains all of Cynthia Wright's trademarks. The heroine is girlish, strong willed, innocent and feisty yet deeply passionate and somewhat impulsive. The hero is older, dark, knowing, wise, seemingly cynical but deeply protective once he falls for the perky heroine. The setting is filled in with incredible charm, the lush beauty of France and the joys of French food and wine seeming to jump right out from every page. Don't miss this delicious love story of Aimee and her gallant lover!

Mhollie says

This is a fantastic book. I read in 1984 when it came out and I must have read it 10 times since then. I love the banter between Aimee & St. Briac and how she drives him to distraction with her crazy schemes. I like to think of this book as a historical romance with a comedy of errors on the side. St. Briac is one of my favorite romantic heroes. I even copied their wedding bands for my wedding. "Tu et nul autre, pour jamais". I just can't say enough good things about this book! Can't wait to re-read it again next year.

Anna Markland says

Really enjoyed this lush, descriptive romance, set in the reign of Francois I of France. Well researched and fun to read. Very appealing hero. Glad Cynthia has reissued this book digitally.

Lorelle says

A delightful love story set in Renaissance France during the reign of King Francois 1. I enjoyed the laughter that the two main characters often shared. Thomas is now one of my favorite heroes.

Shauni says

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Shauni

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Karen says

After reading a positive review of You, and No Other I decided to pick this one up from the Kindle Store. This title has just been re-vamped as an ebook I believe and at only \$0.99 is well worth the read.

An era that I love to read about (the year is 1532), I enjoyed reading a little more about the French Court of this era.

At times I felt quite concerned that this couple were going to get their HEA and felt at times I could easily bump their heads together.

A lovely read though and I'm looking forward to picking up the next in this series.

Ashley says

Aimee is a bookish, sheltered French girl, the oldest daughter, and she's hanging out in the woods reading poetry and snacking (so, being me, except replace poetry with murder mystery) when two men chasing a stag come across her. One, she thinks has a nose as big as a zucchini; the other, though, is super crazy hot. The first, of course, is the King of France (she doesn't recognize him), and the second is St. Briac. The king, who likes to fuck anything in a skirt, is like "hey girl," and she's like "how about no." She doesn't understand their entendres, though, and when the king gets physical Aimee's like "oh I have to go home," and he's like "tease!" and St. Briac is like "good times."

Anyway, Aimee's family, including her much sluttier sister, go to a reception for the king. Aimee's parents have decided to marry/sell her off to an older drunk asshole, so they're "engaged" but she'd rather die. Aimee sees Thomas, St. Briac, again and they talk/flirt/argue. The king falls for Aimee's younger sister (in a side-

piece kind of way) and when he's getting ready to leave, he sends a messenger to bring her along. Aimee is the one who greets the messenger, though, and she's like "sweet! I can get out of here and no one will know!" I mean, of course, other than that the king wants to bang her sister and not her, so that's a big problem with her plan.

Thomas discovers Aimee's completely insane scheme and she begs him not to tell the king what's going on, and then offers herself to him in repayment, and he's like "girl when you're under me it'll be because you want it." Anyway, as they duck around the king and try to keep him from finding out she's not the right sister, Thomas is slowly falling for Aimee and ends up banging her in the garden one night while they're hiding her from the king. Aimee, again, super unsophisticated, is like "Oh yes this is what fuck buddies do, no pressure," and Thomas is like "yep" and the two of them are clearly catching feelings. Thomas's mistress is also with the court (she's married to someone else, so there's no pressure for the mistress to marry Thomas) and Aimee is crazy jealous of her. Also, Aimee goes to the local village and is drugged by some fruit and very nearly gang raped by two assholes. Thomas saves her and is like "seriously you have zero life skills, holy shit." She doesn't regain consciousness for like two days and Thomas is very concerned and everyone else is like "yep y'all in love." And of course the king finally manages to arrange a "visit" with his newest side-piece and when he sees it's Aimee he's like "I mean you're cute too" and is about to have sex with her (Aimee thought that sex would be fine but it's because her only partner's been Thomas and she loves him, she didn't realize she couldn't just have sex with a stranger and it would freak her out) and Thomas arrives right before it's gonna escalate to rape and is like "so LOL guess what, Aimee and I have been, y'know, having sexy garden times" and the king's like "no prob, bro, hands off, y'all have fun."

Then two women, a mother and daughter who "look like bloodhounds," according to the text (they ain't pretty), arrive at court and announce that Thomas was betrothed to the daughter by their parents when Thomas was a child. Thomas's parents are conveniently dead and can't contradict this bullshit, and of course he's a good target because he's loaded. Aimee's trying to get away from court, since she thinks Thomas is an asshole who doesn't love her, and she's decided to somehow get to a nunnery for a second before moving to Paris, but Thomas is like "...I mean what if I say that I'm in love with Aimee and that's why I can't marry this hosebeast." Eventually Thomas comes up with the idea that if he and Aimee are caught in bed together, that should put off the bloodhounds, but Thomas's mistress (who has figured out Thomas belongs with Aimee and is being super nice about all this) arranges for the king and the bishop to also see it, so that now Thomas and Aimee HAVE to get married.

So they do, but without declaring mutual love or anything, so Aimee still thinks it's a marriage he never wanted, and she's still super jealous anytime Thomas even looks at his mistress. After a few days of honeymoon bliss, they're fighting and both depressed. Thomas, meanwhile, is involved in some political shenanigans. The villain of the book, a total dickface, comes in and basically calls Aimee a fugly slut and the king's like "show your face here again and I'll have you hanged, asshole."

So Thomas takes Aimee home with him, and they reconcile, and then Thomas has to race to Paris to save one of his friends from being hanged by some assholes/the villain. Aimee's pregnant, but then she finds out some info Thomas needs and rides after him (without miscarrying??? girl you better be careful) and she and some friends, including Aimee's bitch sister who came for a visit and to start some shit and then had a crisis of conscience and is good now, help save Thomas's friend. And yay everyone's happy again.

Debbie says

Fabulous, fabulous book! Loved the banter between Thomas and Aimee. Loved the story. Can't say enough about it. Historical fiction books are one of my favorite genres (spellig) of books. Especially when there is a

budding romance involved.

Marisa Wildrick says

Loved it!
