



Beast: Great Bloodlines Converge

Kathryn Le Veque

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The blood lines of seven great houses come together in the greatest knight of them all. Prepare yourself for the BEAST.

Editorial reviews: "This is truly vintage Le Veque. This is the type of book that put her in the forefront of Medieval Romance writers. There is love, romance, political intrigue, knights fighting, knights drinking and laughing, a king that will grow up right in front of you. There is drama, suspense, silliness, honor, chivalry, love and legend."

He bears the name of de Russe, but the bloodlines of seven great houses converge in the greatest knight England has yet seen. As the uncle of Gaston de Russe, the Dark One, Sir Bastien de Russe beholds a great and terrible legacy, one that makes him both the target and the leader, the hunter and the hunted. His story is the most powerful of all.

1431 A.D. - As the premier knight for the Duke of Bedford, Bastian has been assigned a great and terrible task - he becomes the jailer for the Maid of Orleans, Joan of Arc. At first her enemy, he comes to know the woman who has fought so hard to free France from English rule, and an odd but symbiotic friendship grows. On the day Joan is taken to meet her death at the stake, Bastian is both her escort and her comfort. But before the flames are lit, Joan begs Bastian for one last favor. Reluctantly, he complies, but the rumors are already flying fast and furious about the English knight and the Maid. Some say he loves her; some say she has bewitched him.

Hoping to remove Bastian from France and from whatever spell the Maid may have cast upon him, the Duke of Bedford makes arrangements to return him to England and to a new assignment - as the protector of young King Henry VI. Additionally, Bastian is awarded a bride for his services in France, but it an award he doesn't want. His bride, Lady Gisella le Bec, daughter of the great Richmond le Bec (from the novel GREAT PROTECTOR), has no desire to marry a man who was rumored bewitched by the Maid of Orleans. With neither Bastian or Gisella having any choice in the matter, a hasty marriage is made.

Thus begins their saga.

Through triumph, intrigue, battles, and grief, Bastian and Gisella come to know one another and in spite of everything, a powerful love begins to bloom. But Bastian still has a promise to fulfill, a promise he made to the Maid just before she died, and it is this promise that drives him to risk both his life and Gisella's. From the dungeons of Rouen to the royal halls of London, don't miss this deeply romantic and exciting adventure.

Great passion and great benevolence abide in the man known as the BEAST.

Beast: Great Bloodlines Converge Details

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From Reader Review Beast: Great Bloodlines Converge for online ebook

Petula says

Bastian de Russe is the last jailor of the Maid. He has been disgusted with the way the young woman has been treated during her questioning and imprisonment. Because he has tried his best to be fair to her, he has been accused of having a deeper relationship with her. Consequently he is being sent back to England for a duty that is not worthy of his talents.

His overlords insist he takes a bride. He has no interest in marriage but cannot refuse.

Gisella le Bec is a beautiful woman who has been ordered to wed the Beast. There are unsavoury rumours about him, but like her husband to be, she must obey those in positions of power.

The bloodlines these two have are from the greatest knights England has ever known. There are a lot of dangerous political pitfalls that come with being so close to the crown, especially when said crown is worn by a boy surrounded by advisors who have their own interests to protect.

Once again our author transports us to a place full of adventure and romance. Although this is not a typical romance. Our hero would be horrified to be called romantic, (he is of course) .Our heroine is a force to be reckoned with in her own right. She has spent her formative years in the political arena and can see pitfalls that her warrior husband might miss. I would advise you to have a box of tissues handy when you read this. I cried a lot in places. This is medieval adventure romance at it's absolute best.

Liette Bougie says

It's my first experience with Kathryn Le Veque. I've heard lots of good things about her and her books and took a chance. I didn't regret it. BEAST is an interesting story with characters you'll love to love or to hate. You are pulled into the story right at the beginning. The characters are well-developed, rich and the chemistry between the various characters is great. Through her descriptions, it was easy to imagine the settings, the people. The writing is, generally speaking, very good (I did spot a few typos along the way and a bit of a problem with the French wording – my mother tongue is French – but nothing to stop me from reading the story). I will definitely look into her other books.

Rebecca Larsen says

5 Stars

This is one you won't want to put down. Intriguing and full of action, this book will keep you entertained. I loved how Bastian & Gisella managed to work through their problems while falling in love. I cried when Bastian's father passed. I enjoyed the medieval time period and the historical characters that Mrs. LeVeque incorporated into her tale.

kattie says

Beast

I loved this story, I recommend everyone to read this book. I look forward to reading more of her books.
Kattie

Maria says

Classic Le Veque

This was classic Le Veque throughout. It kept me enthralled during my entire time reading it. Bastian de Russe's bloodlines were impeccable. No other knight had so much reverence throughout his family line. The greatest of knight's ran through his veins.

Giselle Le Bec came from a well respected line of knights herself. Those bloodlines were not as extensive as Bastian's, but extremely honorable in their own right. Having to wed a man who has had rumors running rampant about himself and not truly knowing if she should believe them.

A knight's honor and code is his bond, and Bastian did not disappoint. He upheld his honor and code no matter what. It was so admirable to witness this through the words of this magnificent author, who painted a vivid picture of the story of The Beast. The author brought forth past noble knights, which just amplified the greatness of this story that was told in grand Le Veque fashion.

You must pick this story up. It is fascinating on it's own, but if you have read her past stories, it will come to mean even more. There is such angst in the story, but also love and humor that will keep you turning the pages to find out its ending.

If I could give this more than 5 Stars, I would without hesitation. Kathryn Le Veque has told a magnificent story of the grandest of knights.

Kathy Brickert says

Excellent

All of Kathryn's books have such a realism to them that at one point or other, they make me cry. Actually, it was at several points in this book! The story of Joan would make anyone cry and Bastions admiration of her makes a wonderful part of the story. As usual, a great read!

Nicole Laverdure says

A Masterpiece of writing! 6 stars

I am overwhelmed by emotions! I knew that Kathryn Le Veque, was a very talented writer, but, this time, she has outdone herself! Again, I really felt the rich and strong emotions of her new book the BEAST! It was

so touching that I cried during some scenes. Lovers of Medieval romances will fall in love with the hero and heroine. Sometimes, I find it hard to describe all the emotions that I felt while I read, but I will try to condense it into my review. Sir Bastian de Russe is called the "Beast" because he is a warrior who has the bloodlines of seven powerful knights running thru his veins. Bastian was the "Crème de la crème" knight! This story starts in the year 1431 - Bastian had been assigned the duty of being the jailor of Jeanne d'Arc, the Maid of Orleans, and he had become sympathetic towards her. He feels some compassion for her because he is a fair and kind knight under a Beast exterior. You won't be able to resist his charm! For his service rendered, he has been granted many rewards, but there was one reward he did not choose or want: he is given a marriage contract to a mysterious lady he never met. As soon as he meets his betrothed, Gisella le Bec, everything goes wrong... Gisella is a stubborn, headstrong, and independent young lady and quite a handful for Bastian! Slowly, tenderness, patience, and passion will reunited two beautiful souls who never wanted to get married. Follow their journey that will be filled with danger, action, secrets, betrayal, and passion. I loved the beautiful chemistry between Gisella's brother Gannon and Sparrow, her confidant and friend. Loved the tender moment when Bastian meets his father, Braxton! Beautifully written by Kathryn Le Veque, I consider the BEAST a masterpiece to highly recommend!

Joyce Neigebauer says

Must read

Enjoyed the author she has a way of continuing to write about a family and how their adventures are brought together all the time

Lily says

This was a tale of epic proportions that had me enthralled from page one. It centers around Bastian de Russe named The Beast due to his being the greatest knight England has ever known. Descended from the bloodlines of great knights of the past, Bastian is the epitome of honor, strength and fortitude. This story takes him on quite a journey from fulfilling a young woman's last dying request to protecting a young king to finding the love he never expected to have. Filled with lots of intrigue, suspense, passion, humor, loss and love, this novel sweeps you into the drama of the time period. It is both fascinating in the details and rich with compelling characters and a gripping story line. If you love all consuming historical romance, then this book is a must read.

susan stacy smith says

Beautiful story

Great book this story is so clearly beautifully written and touching I swear I didn't want this book to end it even made me do some research as I read

Kiesha ~ 1Cheekylass says

3.5 - 4

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

Mostly a story about how a medieval knight who was tasked with watching over Joan of Arc befriend her, taking her heart from the pyre, and trying to secretly bury it in Winchester, per her request.

A forced marriage along the way, a boat load of characters, and some clandestine wheeling and dealing between French knights and English knights.

The romance is a small portion of this with a very real feeling 1400s feel, the author knows her time and place.

There's a story here, just not one I found too entertaining; medieval mundane.

Carolyn says

The "Beast." The most powerful knight England has ever seen. Bastian de Russe is six foot, six inches tall, has black hair, a square jaw and sky blue eyes which reflect a razor sharp intellect. But what truly makes this Knight a cut above all the others is his direct bloodline to seven of the greatest, most famous knights in England's illustrious history. Descending from the William de Wolfe ("The Wolfe"), Christopher de Lohr ("Rise of the Defender"), Bhrodi de Sherra ("Serpent"), Braxton de Nerra ("The Falls of Erith"), Sean de Lara ("Lord of the Shadows"), Ajax de Velt ("The Dark Lord"), and Brandt de Russe ("Lord of War: Black Angel"), Bastian de Russe is simply the perfect Knight.

Our heroine, Lady Gisella le Bec, is the daughter of the great Richmond le Bec ("Great Protector"). No slouch in the genes department here either.

The book begins with Bastian de Russe as Joan of Arc's chief jailor. Horrified by the injustice he has perceived from the treatment and trial of the Maid of Orleans, yet intensely loyal to England and his vows as a Knight, he befriends the young girl he has been ordered to guard and eventually lead to her death. Because of his friendship, rumors abound that the Maid has bewitched The Beast, which sets up all kinds of conflicts. The opening scenes of the book, with Bastian keeping vigil over the Maid's last night, her heart rendering requests of him and his witnessing of her brutal death, sets up a powerful plot.

"The Beast" truly grabs you from the very first page and keeps you spellbound throughout. This book is filled with adventure, danger, tenderness, passion, deep intrigue and mystery. It keeps you guessing from the first to the last page, never knowing which way the story will turn or how it can possibly end. Ms. Le Veque is a master wordsmith and her descriptions of the time period are so vivid that you have no problem easily picturing them in your mind or feeling them in your heart. Her characters are rich, well developed, and multilayered. The chemistry between the two main characters was sizzling. There is also just the right amount of humor added when needed. Ms. Le Veque also weaves historical figures seamlessly into the storyline, which enhances and adds a fascinating spin to it.

This is more than an ordinary love story. It is a remarkable story of two people who are meant to be together, through heartache, loss and tragedy.

There are very few authors who have the talent to write such unique, gripping stories which will make you laugh, cry, worry about and truly feel you are part of a rare experience. Kathryn Le Veque is one of those authors. Actually, she is in a class unto herself. Brilliant!

"The Beast" will stay in my mind for days. There is no doubt I will re-read it many times. For the story and the characters have done more than fill my time. They have touched my soul.

Regan Walker says

4 and ½ Stars - An Arranged Marriage Neither Wants Leads to Love between a Noble Knight and His Lady

This is the 3rd in the de Russe series. Set in 1431, it's the story of Sir Bastien de Russe, first knight of the Duke of Bedford, who, while fighting in France, was assigned the job of guarding the captured Maid of Orleans, Joan of Arc. During the course of her captivity, they became friends. Before he death at the stake, she asks Bastian to bring her remains back to England to bury. He doesn't do that, but he does bring back a piece of her.

The Duke of Bedford, orders Bastien to London to become the "Lord Protector" for young King Henry. For his service, Bastien receives lands, the title "baron," and the hand of Lady Gisella le Bec. Bastien and Gisella get off to a bad beginning when Bastien shows up at the manor where she lives and she is engaged in a play he finds appalling.

While neither desires to wed, they quickly get over that and a sweet romance develops. Le Veque does an excellent job of portraying their budding romance. For all his bravado with his men, Bastien is a softy when it comes to the women in his family and, uncharacteristic of a warrior, he is comfortable showing emotion, both tears and "giggles."

It's a tale with many characters, some no doubt from earlier books in the series, and some historical, but it can be read as a stand alone. Le Veque develops the secondary characters well. There is much action and intrigue as the French patriots who want the part of the Maid's remains Bastien took from France and his new wife misunderstands his feelings for the Maid.

This is a long one at 418 pages and a lot of it is taken up with medieval life, the food, the travel and the obligations of a knight serving nobility, and the relationships between Bastien and his family, all of which are well described. The ending was sweet and the epilog endearing. Fans of Le Veque's work will love it.

The de Russe Legacy series

BLACK ANGEL
DARK KNIGHT
BEAST

Heather says

I was enthralled from page one....an epic story.
