



This Heart of Mine

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Velvet de Marisco proves herself every inch Skye O'Malley's daughter. Be it Alexander Gordon from the Scottish Highlands or the Grand Mughal of India, each man must win her heart before they can claim the sensual joys of her passionate and erotic desires....

This Heart of Mine Details

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Author : Bertrice Small

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Polyamorous, Harem, Erotic Romance

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From Reader Review This Heart of Mine for online ebook

Rose says

I loved reading this as I learnt a bit about the history of The Spanish Armada.

True to Bertrice Small books there's lots of erotic scenes which I like!

I don't like Alex Gordon's typical scot attitude.

And why does Skye laugh knowing the French king raped her daughter?? That part annoyed me in the book, how the French king knew Velvet was married and pregnant with Alex's baby and yet he still seduced her!

I loved the Mogul, now he truly loved and worshipped Velvet, it's a shame she couldn't remain with him rather than return to Alex!

Not the best of the O'Malley saga books.

Maryann Korzeniewski says

Story of Skye's daughter Velvet.

Susan Saxx says

I started dipping into this book for 2 reasons: it had been given to me by a friend, and it was by BERTRICE SMALL, one of the pioneers of our modern day erotica. Days later, I was still reading. This book, along with Velvet, Alex, Akbar, Alanna and Ranald (whenever I choose to visit them) is now on my keeper shelf. Thank you, Ms. Small!

Kbee says

Velvet is following in her mother's step...

Kidnaped and returned home, kidnaped again dealing with King de Navarre in France etc...

Verneda says

This was the first romance book i ever read and to be honest it was way out of my age level. The plot in the story was good and even though she had two love interest you loved both. i think this book was really good although it was so long.

Jackie says

This is my favorite book!

Lindsay says

Enjoyable fast read. Seemed to parallel a lot of the previous book about her mom.

Betsy says

Ah, to have a life like this- Rich, Beautiful, And wanted by every man who sees her!

Oda says

Velvet is terrible. Alexander Gordon is worse.

Mona says

Beatrice Small is one of my favorite authors of Romance. She knows how to tell a story to make you laugh and cry all at the same time. She makes you fall in love with the heroes and heroines and absolutely loath the villains. She is truly amazing and you would be entranced to read any one of her books. I know I am! I can't wait for her new ones to come out!

Berlinda Maombitho says

nice although too much description a whole page describing a dress or what they ate loved the sex scene. its my first bertrice small and i wouldn't mind reading another

Quinn Zellers says

I love Bertrice Small!

Great book! I've read it several times before. I love reading about Skye O'Malley and her offspring. I will read it again.

Theresa says

been looking for this book at my library - can't find it anywhere - guess I'm gonna have to look into buying it.

Angela says

I love the O'Malley Saga

Naksed says

I was simultaneously so angry and sad reading this book that I was on the verge of giving it a low rating. But I reconsidered because I realized that it is far far better for a book to move me in any way, even if it is in anger or sadness rather than joy and contentment, than to bore me to tears, which is what happens with most of the romances I start these days, never to finish. Basically, my main problem with this book is that there is a love triangle where the heroine has to choose between two big fat jerks. They both let her down. They both betray her. One was slightly less jerky than the other but guess who she ends up with? Still, this book managed to wrench some tears out of me and it is not that often I get so invested in characters or their story so for that, I will say that it was at least an okay read. Definitely not the best Bertrice Small I have sunk my teeth into, but not the worst either.

The best parts of the book were the main female character, and the historical fiction centering on real life monarchs of the sixteenth century. The impossibly named Velvet de Marisco Gordon is one of those strong resilient heroines that Small could spit out in pretty much all her books, really refreshing when there are so many doormats and martyrs in contemporary romance books. I loved her as I do most of Small's heroines. Just really kick ass, adventurous, resilient, and so modern in her outlook on men, love, and life. She is a survivor. Like so many times, Small introduces her when she is a bit of a spoiled, headstrong chit of a girl and allows us to get to know her as she matures and evolves into a truly admirable, strong heroine rising up to the challenge when the going gets tough instead of wilting like a fragile flower. The men in the book are the ones who are cowards taking the easy way out, hurting Velvet in the process. She was so much better than the love objects she was given a choice of that this was the most maddening part for me.

As to the historical fiction part, I am one of those readers who relish it, especially the whimsical way in which Small writes it. This is so not Wolf Hall but still I delighted in it because Small describes and writes about Queen Elizabeth, James Stuart, and Henri de Navarre, as well as their courtiers, like they are old friends of hers. You can really see the passion and joy she has for history. I feel like if someone had encouraged her, she could have written a straight historical fiction. There is a short episode in the book alluding to the doomed romance between real life historical figures Walter Raleigh and Bess Throckmorton. I could just see Small itching to develop that story. The snippets she gave us were so poignant I really wish she had researched and written a book about them, perhaps even a non fiction book.

Aside from the European courts, Small was as usual fantastic in writing the harem part of the book. While a lot of romance books describe these sort of situations in a very racist or at least racistish way, pitting the supposedly savage, dark sheikh with the civilized, beauteous European woman, Small always approached this subject matter with delicacy and an understanding light years ahead of her contemporaries. Akbar, though a sixteenth century Indian ruler with a harem of hundreds, is far more educated, civilized, tolerant, and tender than the other hero of the piece, the brutish, impatient, stubborn, and arrogant Scot Alex Gordon. Certain passages describing his views on religious tolerance, and his respectful treatment of Velvet as an equal partner, really made me like him, which made his horrendous about-face all the more devastating.

Overall, This Heart of Mine was an okay read. At 576 pages, it tended to drag on, especially towards the end.

There was a sixth and seventh act that were really unnecessary, and the villains of the piece really did not get their comeuppance, which is a pet peeve of mine. Fans of Small's Skye O'Malley series would probably like it. I don't regret reading it but I will not be re-reading this again.
