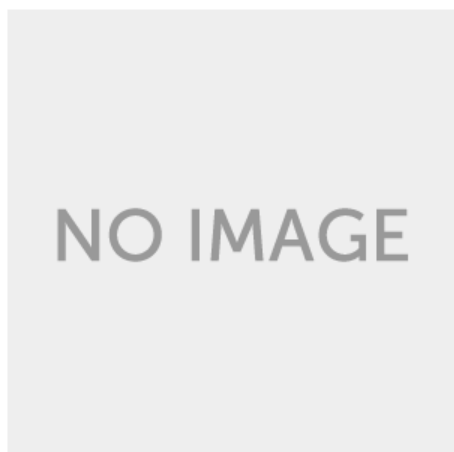
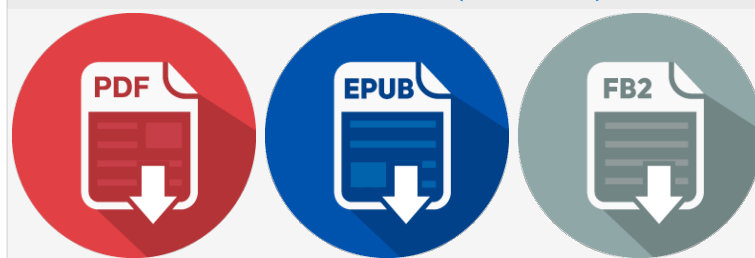


## Rogue *by* Claire Delacroix



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## Reviews of the *Rogue by* Claire Delacroix

Risa

I am a fan of Claire Delacroix, but this novel had me wondering what in the world was going through her mind as she wrote this. I read some of the negative reviews and thought they were a little over the top (because it had a 4 star rating), so I decided to give it a try. I made it half way through the book and I am still confused as to what is going on. The main character (Ysabella) is a brat. She is hateful, self-centered, and spoiled--even if not by material things. I thought she would get better as I read--wrong! I would not even consider this a romance. It's more of a historical mystery. Yes, there is some kissing, and other things behind the scenes, but there is not a positive relationship between the 2 spouses. I just kept wanting Merlyn to tell Ysabella to go to the devil, but so far it hasn't happened. Much to my disappointment, I am giving up on this book. Glad it was free!

Zolorn

The *Rogue* by Claire Delacroix (Deborah A. Cooke) is a 2014 publication.

I was intrigued by the combination of historical romance, colored with Gothic elements, and a paranormal tint, that this book promised, in a medieval setting, no less! I had a feeling this book was right up my alley and I was right.

Merlyn marries Ysabella in a rush, as he immediately desires her and wants her for his own. However, Ysabella soon discovers her husband's dark secrets and flees Ravensmuir. Merlyn does not attempt to lure her back and five long years pass, before he appears to Ysabella, pleading with her to help him.

Furious with him, but sorely tempted to succumb to his charms, Ysabella refuses him, only to lose him forevermore when he is found murdered. But, perhaps most shocking of all, is that Ravensmuir is now belongs to Ysabella.

Now life will be much easier for Ysabella, her sister, and young brother. But, upon arrival at Ravensmuir, Ysabella is greeted by an old enemy and will find the walls of Ravensmuir are haunted with more secrets than she could ever imagine...

First of all, I loved all the character's names, which gives the story a real Medieval quality, and the way Ysabella narrates the story feels so authentic.

There is mystery, suspense, a slight paranormal tinge, as well as plenty of secrets, intrigue, and double crosses, but of course there is also a love story that endures many hardships, but one that will triumph in the end.

Ysabella is one stubborn lady, and at times she carries things a little too far. She barely knows her husband when they marry, and immediately he begins to behave oddly, which gives her reason to believe he has lied to her, and is involved in a dishonest trade.

Unable to live with him under those circumstances, she leaves him, never giving him an opportunity to tell his version of events.

Naturally, there was much more to the story than Ysabella knows, and now the secrets entombed in Ravensmuir will reveal her husband's true nature.

Ysabella and Merlyn suffer from that age old problem... a failure to communicate. While Ysabella comes off as a bit self-righteous, if her husband had confided in her to begin with, things might not have spiraled out of control. Naturally, Ysabella was annoyingly stubborn, to the point of overkill, and the conflict did linger on longer than need be, both characters were in the wrong.

But, it was fun seeing all the secrets they both held slowly reveal themselves and watch them fall in love all over again.

But, the love story is only part of the story, which is very absorbing, rich in details, and loaded with drama and mystery.

Overall, this is my kind of story. I love Medieval stories with the Gothic and paranormal elements included, and this story has all that, plus a little bit of fiery passion to put the icing on the cake.

JUST DO IT

Ysabella was the oldest of her mother's children and in the village square when a group of finely dressed horsemen rode in. The new lord of Ravensmuir Merlyn had come to seek a maid to marry. Merlyn saw Ysabella and she intrigued him immediately. Ysabella was not a maid who could hold her

tongue and when he spoke to her she was forthright in her manner and did not bow to his obvious wealth and power over them. Merlyn decided that she would be his wife and they went to the village priest to be married that day. Because of the secrets and lies that her new husband Merlyn would keep from her, she left him to return to her mother's home. 4 years passed and Ysabella, her sister and 4 year old brother lived in poverty with barely enough to eat. Her husband Merlyn came to her asking for her to return with him and she would not. Then his sergeant came one night to tell of the death of his lord Merlyn and that she was now the lady of Ravensmuir and sole owner of the property. The story unfolds.....

Thordigda

The setting is medieval Kinfairlie and Ravensmuir, also the setting for her True Love Brides series, which take place at a slightly later time. It is the telling of Ravensmuir' s beginnings. Stories told in the first person as this one is, are not my favorite reading. However, seeing the tale unfold from Ysabella' s perspective is valuable to the telling. Merlyn Lammergeier, the lord of the manor sees a kindred spirit in illiterate peasant, Ysabella and immediately marries her. However, after a fortnight, she leaves him after discovering his trade in fake relics. Five years later she is living in near poverty with her sister and young brother. Merlyn returns, wanting to tell her the truth about his occupation. They never forgot each other but Ysabella continues to refuse him. Things change when Merlyn is stabbed in an attack and killed (or is he?). He has named Ysabella as the new owner of Ravensmuir, due to the family's sorry status, she accepts. The story becomes action packed after this, not lacking for villains and there are several. Is Merlyn really dead? Who is Ysabella, her parentage is questionable? Is her brother really her brother? Will she ever forgive Merlyn? Read this entertaining book to find out.

Oparae

I recently finished the audiobook version of this story. Yes, I was frustrated by Ysabella and Merlyn's inability to trust each other enough to clear the air of their misunderstandings and share their secrets with each other. But that only served to build the tension as their story progressed. I loved the description of Ravensmir and also the imagery associated with the meaning of Merlyn's last name. I I actually looked up that bird! Having read a couple of the companion books in the Jewels of Kinfarlie series, I now need to read more of these intertwined stories to see how everyone fits together. If you get this book, be sure to but the audiobook version as well. This is one of the best voice actresses I've ever heard. While this is a complete, stand alone novel, it has whet my appetite for more as I want to see how the lives of others play out.

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