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The Pagan's Prize (Captive Brides Collection Book 3)



Synopsis

The bold Viking warrior Rurik traveled alone on a mission of conquest. But along the way a golden-haired captive inflamed him with longing. He took up his sword to defend her...and then swore to claim her for his own. A beautiful Russian princess betrayed by treachery, Zora spurned the powerful man who held her prisoner and vowed never to yield. He had been sent as a spy to pave the way for her people's surrender. But his furious hunger for her heated touch and her aching need for his burning caress led to a fiery passion that was a greater prize than any kingdom. **Best Medieval Historical Romance of the Year Award from Romantic Times** "Another fine example of Ms. Minger's amazing talent. I thoroughly enjoyed it!" - New York Times bestselling author Johanna Lindsey "Brilliantly imaginative! The Pagan's Prize will totally engross the reader." - I'll Take Romance "Five stars...It is filled with rich detail that takes the reader on a rare trip to Russia in the eleventh century and is told so skillfully that the reader feels as if they have been there. The Pagan's Prize should be at the top of your shopping list!" - Affaire de Coeur "Outstanding! This is a well-written, moving story that shows the tremendous skill of the author. Marvelous barely describes my feelings." - Rendezvous

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About Miriam Minger
Miriam Minger is the bestselling author of emotion-packed action adventure historical romances that sweep you from lusty medieval times to Regency England and with some dangerously seductive 18th century tales in between. With two dozen books published in five languages, Miriam is also the author of contemporary romance, romantic suspense, inspirational romantic suspense, and children's books. She is the winner of several Romantic Times Reviewer's Choice Awards including Best Medieval Historical Romance of the Year for The Pagan's Prize and a two-time RITA Award Finalist

for The Brigand Bride and Captive Rose.~~~~~Keywords: Medieval romance, viking, medieval russia, viking romance, medieval historical romance, arranged marriage, castle, wicked stepsister, wedding, alpha male, aristocrat, nobility, wealthy, rich, exotic, kiev, concubine, varangian, sword, marriage, family life, princess, romantic, action adventure, historical romance best sellers, sensual romance, historical romance virgin, love, novels, medieval marriage, medieval suspense, historical romance books for kindle, medieval adventure romance, medieval adventure, medieval romance books, viking historical romance, top 100, medieval wedding, medieval lord, viking lord, medieval intrigue, historical romance castle, historical romance family, deals in books

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Customer Reviews

This was my first by Minger and it's a worthy Viking tale with a twist--it's set in Russia in 1024. Viking warrior Rurik Sigurdson, a Varangian (mercenary) on a mission for Grand Prince Yaroslav, ruler of Rus land (Russia), plans to spy on the armies of Yaroslav's enemy--his younger brother, Prince Mstislav. In the process, Rurik unknowingly captures Princess Zora, Mstislav's much loved bastard daughter. Rurik believes she is the concubine of another man who he can use to gain intelligence.

Zora has temporary amnesia that puts her in a dazed state most of the time. In a harebrained plan to find out who her lover is, Rurik makes love to the dazed woman only to realize she is a virgin (really it's rape since she couldn't knowingly consent). Zora wants to escape to return to her father and her betrothed, but Yaroslav (her uncle) forces her to wed Rurik. I loved Zora. She was feisty and courageous and took no guff from Rurik. That is, until the marriage, after which she crumbled whenever Rurik touched her. Rurik was a reasonable man and a strong leader of his people, though he treated women as mere comforts (until Zora). He kept 6 concubines who had given him 5 children. Into this comes innocent Zora. There were some improbable moments (like when his concubines were fine with being married off to Rurik's men), but it is well written, fast paced and held my interest. Her other Viking novel is TWIN PASSIONS, which I plan to read.

The More I read of Minger the More I like. I really enjoyed this book. This is my first "Viking" book and I loved it. I loved the storyline, this book really has it all. The heroine Zora is betrayed by her half sister and narrowly escapes rape, being rescued by Rurik (the Hero). These two have a REAL love hate relationship! Rurik being loyal to her Uncle the current Ruler of Rus:)(Russia) and Zora being loyal to her father who is challenging her uncle for control of Rus. There is Much this couple has to overcome. Zora is so brave and headstrong, but not so much that she doesn't see what's right in front of her. Rurik is wounded, but a totally acceptable Hero. I thought that Rurik having "women" would make me dislike him, but in reality, it was accurate of the times. Of course he would have concubines! There is lots of action in this book as well, battle scenes and such, very realistic, loved that too. I rated this book 5 stars because I think it has everything a reader would want in a book. Again, I'm left wanting more to the story, I guess I will just have to keep on reading her books! :)

I admit, I was not really expecting much from this one, but from the start it was surprisingly well written, the characters were well formed, staying consistent to the person they were written as. The short term amnesia and the rapid change of heart from planning wholeheartedly to escape and then suddenly being in love was... a bit much, but at least she was written as a fiery, quicksilver girl, so you can at least kind of... see it. I did not find Our Hero's actions nearly as noble as it seemed the author was trying to say they were (I'm sorry, if she doesn't have her wits about her, it's *not* consensual) nor do I find the know-it-all male version of the romantic hero to be particularly attractive. But hey. Well written, even if I didn't want to be BFFs with the characters.

Wow! The Pagan's Prize is a quick-moving and exciting story. It's so easy to be caught up and start feeling like you live in 11th century Russia, or Rus, with these fantastic(and/or treacherous) characters. I loved how Miriam Minger included bits of information regarding how life was like in those times, along with how people referred to themselves and each other. I really felt educated after finishing and was never bored or bogged down with the details. The heroine was a fine example of a strong, yet vulnerable woman who speaks her mind and defends her beliefs, sometimes even to a fault. She is a proud woman who holds herself in high regard even being of "lowly birth". There is such delicious tension between the main characters, yum! You just know it's about to get really good!!! All in all, it was another example of why Miriam Minger is such a superb story teller.

The Pagan's Prize (Captive Brides Collection)What can I say, I love viking stories. No doubt about it, Lord Rurik was one hot sexy Viking and Zora was one lucky lady!! He was stern but he also possessed a soft heart and that's just the way I like my hero's. Zora was a sassy spitfire and she let him know right from the get-go that he could order her around all he wanted, but she was not a meek female. Sparks flew between them in and out of the bedroom. Great read!

Really enjoyed this book third in trilogy. Story line was good and characters where believable and had depth. I highly recommend this book the love storey is wonderful and who doesn't like a Happy ending. Will go with this Author again really liked her work.

A very good book had a hard time putting it down! Always kept you wanting to know more! Enjoyed the book and author

Miriam always delights me with her slight twists on reality. This tale is told so well with the blend of period terms that make it hard to put down.. The underlying lack of trust in our lead characters is understandable, but does get a little bit tiresome toward the end. Blood and gore on the Russian front, and where were the Knights Templar when the travelers needed them?

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