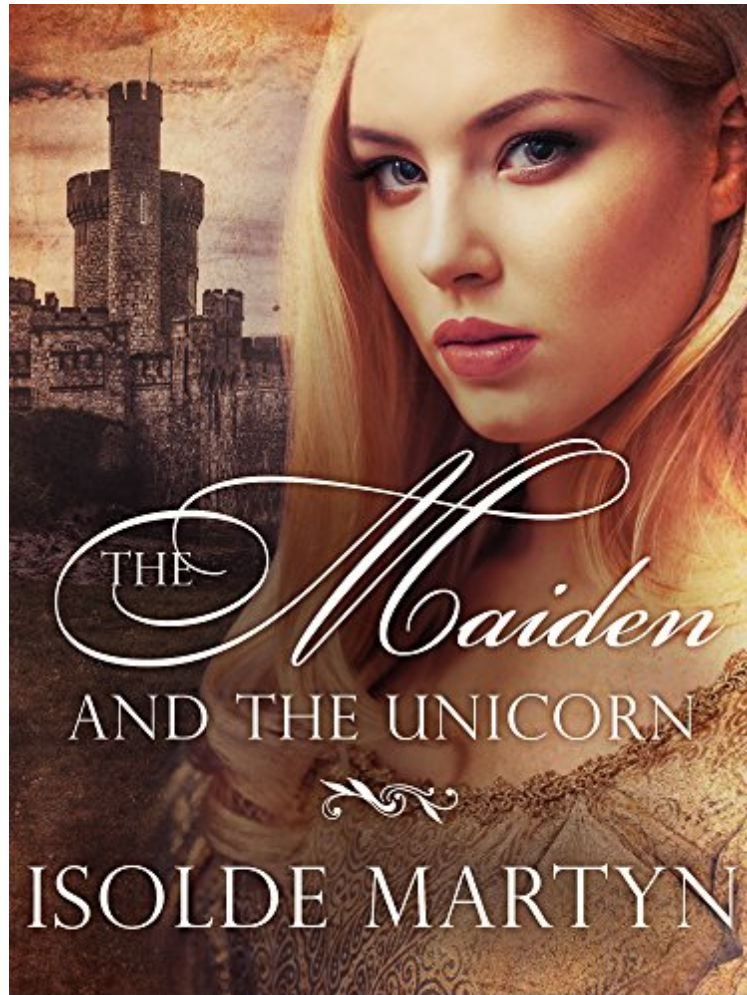


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## The Maiden and the Unicorn

*Von Isolde Martyn*

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**Von Isolde Martyn : The Maiden and the Unicorn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maiden and the Unicorn:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. In the tradition of Sharon Kay PenmanVon Ein KundeIn 1470 England, the civil war that has ripped England appears to be waning as the War of Roses seems virtually at an end. The House of York appears to be the victor over the House of Lancaster. However, King Edward IV soon finds two of his allies (his jealous younger brother and his cousin the kingmaking Earl of Warwick) have joined forces to depose him from the throne.The schism especially pulls Margary apart as she is the monarch's mistress and Warwick's ward. Edward uses Margary as a spy since she has access to her guardian. On a regal mission, Margary journeys to France where the ruler wants a revolution in the island across the Channel. Sir Richard Huddleston, who has loved Margary from afar for several years, sees the opportunity to abduct

his beloved and ultimately make her his wife. As Margary falls in love with her jailer, she knows she must somehow complete her mission even if it costs her a lifetime of happiness. Margary realizes that if she succeeds in her royal endeavor, she saves many lives. **THE MAIDEN AND THE UNICORN** is a superb Medieval romance that successfully blends numerous personage and events from history into a fabulous story line. The lead protagonists are a daring wonderful couple, who struggle between loyalty and love in an era fraught with betrayal and danger. Isolde Martyn paints a vivid portrait of fifteenth century England and to a lesser degree France inside an exciting historical romance. Harriet Klausner1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. **A TOTALLY ENJOYABLE BOOK AND A MARVELOUS READ.** Von Ein Kunde Put very simply, I found this book totally enchanting and enjoyable and a marvelous read. It was no surprise that Isolde Martyn won this year's award in Australia for the Historical Romance Novel of the Year. Being a lover of English history, I found Martyn's historical accuracy of the period well researched, and no shortcuts were taken, a failing I find of so many authors of historical romance. On the romantic side of the story, who could fail to fall in love with Richard Huddleston, as I did within the first few pages, and Margery's adventures were a joy! It's a wonderful story, engrossing and entertaining, and I can heartily recommend this book to lovers of historical romance. I now look forward, with great anticipation, to Isolde Martyn's second novel. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A wonderful love story based on fact, richly detailed. Von Ein Kunde The Maiden And The Unicorn is not a bodice ripping romp with characters wrapped in a few quasi-historical facts, but the love story of two real people caught up in the politics and power struggles of the Wars of the Roses. Margery is ward of Warwick 'The Kingmaker' and Richard Huddleston is in the service of his enemy, King Edward IV. Or, is he? No man or woman was safe as Kings and Nobles crossed and double crossed each other for the prize of the English Crown, while across the Channel, King Louis of France, 'the spider king' spins his own dangerous web of deceit. Margery and Richard pursue their disparate ambitions through the corridors of Courts where every shadow may hide an assassin, every smiling face may mask the heart of a traitor, where even pillow talk is dangerous, especially if the woman in one's arms is a spy! Kidnapped by Richard at the instigation of King Edward, Margery is in no mood to forgive the charismatic king, her childhood playmate and the cause of her subsequent humiliation and distress. But now, with Warwick a traitor bound for France with his daughters, the only family Margery has known, she is without a protector and must comply with the King's demand that she become a spy. Her reward, escape from a proposed marriage of convenience to the man she now despises above all others, Richard Huddleston. Too late, Huddleston learns that Margery, long the object of his ambitions and desire, has slipped from his grasp, but with the help of the wily Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the King's youngest brother who brands him a 'traitor', he is able to pursue her to the Court of King Louis where, with Warwick's blessing, Margery is forced into marriage after all. Separated by distrust and conflicting loyalties, neither knowing the dangerous game the other plays, but drawn by a deepening attraction that turns to love, they realize they must trust their hearts if they are to escape with their lives. Martyn wears her deep knowledge of Yorkist England as easily as a second skin so that the protagonists are not cardboard cutouts, but breathing people with a place in history, people one can empathize with if not always like. Not does she fall into the trap of judging Richard of Gloucester as the Tudors reviled him after relentlessly exterminating all Plantagenets and those who could speak for them. Instead, Martyn views him, not as the monster immortalized by Shakespeare, but as he was known in his lifetime, a loyal brother, courageous soldier and able administrator who lived by the mores of his day. Marty's first novel (published in Australia as *The Lady And The Unicorn*) is rich in language and subtleties and not without wit, perhaps not for those seeking a lightweight, throw away read, but thoroughly satisfying. Definitely an author to be watched.

Kurzbeschreibung For Margery, the choice between 'spy' or 'wife', is really no choice at all. When King Edward IV offers her an irresistible challenge to act as his secret courier to France Margery is more than willing to risk her life for the King and escape marriage to Sir Richard Huddleston, the man who kidnapped her to further his political career. Yet upon arriving in France, Margery is shocked to discover that Richard is the man her powerful protector, Warwick the Kingmaker, has decreed she will marry. As Warwick forms a despicable alliance with King Edward's foes, Margery finds herself ensnared in a vicious web of political intrigue. Torn between loyalty to Edward and a dangerous attraction to her enigmatic, traitor husband, Margery's mission becomes a race against time to outwit her enemies and, above all, Richard. This unforgettable tale of power, passion, and intrigue is perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory, Diana Gabaldon and Alison Weir. "A wonderfully interwoven tapestry of a book" Bestselling novelist Barbara Erskine Winner of the Romance Writers of America Rita Award for Best First Novel 2000 and the Romance Writers of Australia Romantic Book of the Year Award in 1999. Pressestimmen "A wonderfully interwoven tapestry of a book with a deliciously contrary heroine...well-researched historical detail [that] left me quite breathless." --Barbara Erskine, bestselling author of *House of Echoes* Don't miss the next passionate, lavish, and unforgettable meeting of romance and history from Isolde Martyn: *The Knight and the Rose*, coming in summer 2000 from Bantam Books Kurzbeschreibung For Margery, the choice between 'spy' or 'wife', is really no choice at all. When King Edward IV offers her an irresistible challenge to

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