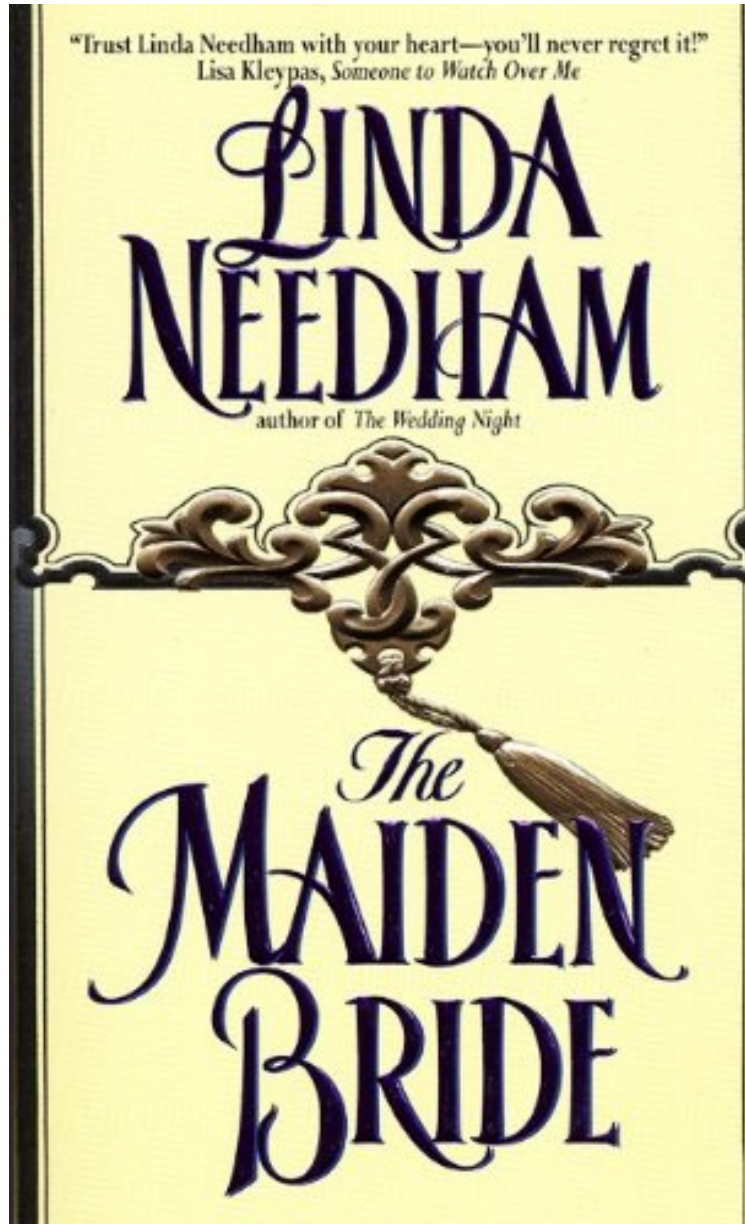


[Mobile pdf] The Maiden Bride (Avon Romantic Treasure)

## The Maiden Bride (Avon Romantic Treasure)

Von Linda Needham

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**Von Linda Needham : The Maiden Bride (Avon Romantic Treasure)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maiden Bride (Avon Romantic Treasure):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Another

winner from Linda Needham! Von Barb Warner Deane Linda Needham's latest book from Avon, *The Maiden Bride*, is a wonderful medieval and sure to please all of her fans out there who wait patiently, and not-so-patiently, for each of Linda's newest books. It will also attract more fans over to Linda's camp because of the beautifully crafted prose, the dark and brooding hero and a wonderfully intelligent, independent, and practical heroine - my favorite kind!

Lady Eleanor Bayard was married by proxy to William Nicholas Bayard, although she had never met him. When she learns of his death following the great plague, she decides to assert her rightful claim as his widow to Faulkhurst Castle. Granted this property by her craft king, she takes her little ragtag band of misfits across the countryside to the Northwest Coast of England to her deserted, crumbling castle. Eleanor knows the castle is in need of a lot of work and a lot of people to fill it and the surrounding village, so she plants the seeds of gossip along her trek. By leaving hints that the new Lady of Faulkhurst will be tithing to her tenants for five years, instead of the other way around, Eleanor is able to attract more and more misfits to join her. However, the greatest misfit of all is waiting for her deep in the shadows of the castle - "Nicholas," who agrees to be her steward when he can't scare her off, but who is really her tormented husband. Nicholas has pledged himself to complete the rebuilding of the chapel at Faulkhurst before he dons a monk's robes and sentences himself to life in a monastery. He is doing a self-imposed penance for the terrible life he led which he believes resulted in the plague that took the life of his young, illegitimate son. He does not want to have anything to do with Eleanor, even more so after he discovers she is his wife, but he cannot leave her to endanger herself or the children and innocents with which she surrounds herself by letting her live in the ramshackle castle. So, he takes on the role of steward and starts to set to rights the very destruction that he himself wrought on the castle and its belongings. Even with such a dark, brooding hero, there is so much humor in the interactions between Eleanor and Nicholas that I found myself laughing out loud. She is a feisty and intelligent woman; Nicholas has had little contact with such females in his life of battle and decadence. He is headstrong and opinionated about the way his castle should be run, but doesn't want to reveal his identity to his wife. She is headstrong herself, but also optimistic and genuinely good-hearted. The various thieves and cutthroats that show up at the doors of the castle, in answer to Eleanor's prayers for tradesmen, make for an entertaining little troupe of secondary characters. The sexual tension in this story is wonderful, especially because the hero and heroine become friends and develop a strong sense of trust and affection before they ever get to a bed. In fact, Eleanor's concern that her unconsummated marriage puts her claim to the castle at risk creates some humorous and tense moments for Nicholas. Those of you who know and love Linda's work will not be disappointed by *The Maiden Bride*. If you haven't read any of her books, but are a lover of medieval, historical or just general romance, please pick this one up. It's sure to bring a smile to your face, a tear to your eye, and a quick pit-pat to your heart. Great work, Linda! Barb Deane Copyright © 1999, Barb's All Romance Book Store. All rights reserved.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good read Von Ein Kunde In 1351 England, Lady Eleanor Bayard learns she is a widow even though she never met her spouse, having married him by proxy. Eleanor thinks her husband died in Calais. Needing a place to live, Eleanor travels to the Faulkhurst Castle, former home of her late spouse. Lord Nicholas Bayard feels guilt over never meeting his wife, let alone sharing a wedding night with her. He believes she died from the plague. He is wandering all over his rundown castle when Eleanor arrives. She thinks he is an unemployed knight and offers the angst-laden Nicholas a job as her steward. He is shocked by her positive, uplifting attitude, but hides his identity from her because he feels he has no time for a wife in his present circumstances. However, as Nicholas and Eleanor fall in love, he wonders what will happen to his heart when she learns of his deception. Medieval romance readers will long relish Linda Needham's touching tale, *THE MAIDEN BRIDE*. The story line is fast-paced and filled with the nuances of mid-fourteenth century English life. The lead couple is a delightful compassionate pair whose droll repartees will give much pleasure to sub-genre fans.

Harriet Klausner 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well-written characters and a unique perspective Von ladybug10 Imagine being wed and bedded by proxy, losing your entire family to the Black Death, and then being granted a run-down estate as your widow's portion by a king with a hidden agenda - rebuilding a kingdom devastated by the Plague. Imagine having an epiphany on the battlefield just as you are about to slay a child, abandoning the only career you know, as a warrior, and trying to rebuild your humanity, only to watch your dreams die off - again, in the Plague. Imagine getting a second chance to do it right. If you can imagine all these things, you have the feeling generated by this novel, and you are in for an enjoyable read about a hero and a heroine who are trying, like so many others in the novel, to make their second chances work. I liked this book for its character development. Told alternately from the hero's and the heroine's point of view, it was fun to see the male versus the female perspective on an unexpected situation. The hero's character, strong to begin with, undergoes even more of a transformation. The heroine is written with optimism, strength, intelligence, and integrity - and not one to easily get her feelings hurt like so many other romance heroines. The author gives us a glimpse of day-to-day medieval life and the devastation wrought by the Plague in 14th century England; my only regret was that there wasn't a little more history woven into the story - the setting was ripe for it. An enjoyable story!

