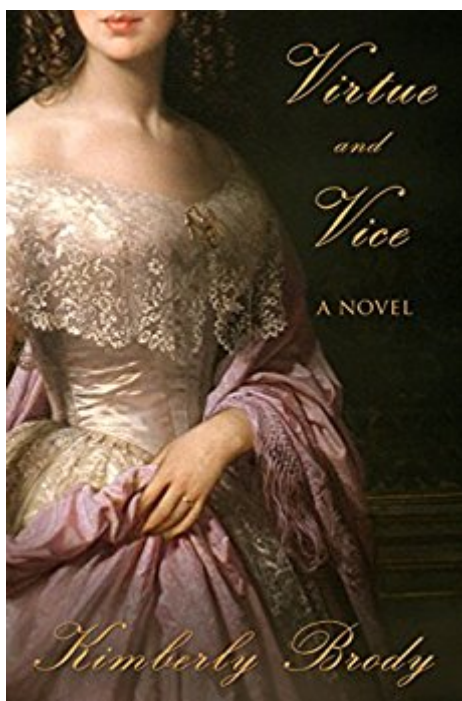


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Virtue And Vice



Synopsis

WARNING: Not recommended for readers who aren't comfortable with explicit love scenes, whipping, and sexual assault. When Isabelle Beaumont's father betroths her to a dreaded Parliamentarian for economic gain, she vows to find a way to thwart the marriage, no matter the cost. Believing her only recourse is to break the terms of the betrothal agreement, Izzy plans to sacrifice her virginity before her wedding day dawns. Her scheme is simple enough. She'll join the villagers in their May Day celebrations, and there she will choose the man who will take her virtue. Ramsay Maitland is on a crusade to prove his betrothed an unsuitable bride. Despite the political advantages of the match, he has no intention of taking a royalist courtier as his wife. His objective is diverted when, at a May Day festival, he meets an alluring woman who appears more than willing to fall into his arms and into his bed. Passion ignites when Ram discovers his mystery maiden is the one woman he swore he'd never desire his betrothed. Determined to master the woman who has stolen his heart, Ram will chase his elusive bride from the lush landscapes of Cornwall to the debauched court of Charles II. In a bid to claim her as his own, he vows to bind her to him with sensuality and desire. But can enemies become lovers when past secrets and court intrigue threaten to destroy their new-found love?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First off, this novel is very well written, with none of the grammatical, spelling, or other issues that usually come along with an author's debut novel. As to the story itself...the heroine, Izzy, is quite immature at the beginning of the novel, I can see why one reviewer mentioned nearly hating her. But through their unfolding story, the heroine and hero grow and mature. Both are flawed characters, which is why it was so satisfying to read as both of them learn to look at the world, and each other, differently. By the end of the book I found Izzy quite loveable. The hero, Ram, is a super alpha male and the chemistry between the two is sizzling and jumps right off the page. And the secondary characters in this book are well fleshed out as well. The characters, the slowly unraveling plot, and the attention to details of this time period (1660's) make it a 5 star book for me. Once I read the first few pages I couldn't put the book down, and I love when I feel that way about a book, especially when it's a 400 page book, which is unusual to find these days. I've seen a couple of reviews that place this book in the "bodice ripper" category. I have to agree. There is nonconsensual sex, angry sex, and a love/hate relationship between the hero and heroine that is reminiscent of the old bodice rippers. What makes it different though, is that their love story is told through both characters' perspective. These days we're used to reading romance novels that tell a story through the eyes of both characters and it's natural that an author writing today would continue that trend, unless she was specifically trying to create an old school BR in 2015, which this author is obviously not.

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