

A Medieval Romance Like No Other...

# Defiant

**A woman with a mission...**

After seeing women brutally raped and sold into slavery, the enchantress Gwyneth of Windrose vows to do anything to set them free. Even resort to seduction, deceit and murder. Or kidnapping a man and forcing him to marry her.

**A man who has been wronged...**

Disguised as a commoner, Jared the Hawker hides in the shadows to avoid being thrown back into prison for a murder he did not commit. Night after night, he sits at a tavern, gathering information to clear his name, until the most beautiful woman he has ever seen seduces him into drinking a tankard of drugged ale. He wakes up and finds himself bound in unholy matrimony.

A peasant whore is raped in the woods in broad daylight.

A noblewoman becomes an accidental murderer.

A man is wrongly imprisoned for his brother's death and is locked up for three years.

A woman, who doesn't want to be married, kidnaps her husband-to-be.

A man, with revenge on his mind but lust in his heart, is driven by love.

Such is the setting for an exciting new historical romance novel by author Jessica Trapp, entitled *Defiant* (Kensington Books, December 2010, ISBN 978-1-4201-0095-2). It's her fourth novel, each of them set in Medieval Times. *Defiant*, like her previous critically-acclaimed and award-winning books, explores how two strong-willed, well-defined characters find a way to overcome overwhelming odds and unusual circumstances to consummate an intoxicating love.

"*Defiant* depicts strong characters enduring conflict and overcoming obstacles to discover that love trumps all," says the long, red-haired author. "I am fascinated, from all the research I've done over the years, with the social mores and societal limitations placed upon men, women, and marriage six centuries ago. It's a special period of time that conjures up images of knights, noblemen, and subservient women, but my story instead explores a different side, where women can be strong and independent and where men are the ones manipulated by the beauty and cunning of women."

The Houston resident began her writing career with the publication of *Master of Pleasure*, which placed in over two dozen national fiction-writing contests. Her degree in pharmacy aside, Jessica draws on her research, sense of escapist fantasy, and her own marriage to her high school sweetheart for inspiration.

"I met my husband at age 13, and got married on my lunch break when I was 17 (but don't tell my mother, she thinks the other wedding was the real one)," says Jessica with a grin. "I write of young, intense love that endures because I experienced it. During Medieval Times things moved

quickly at a younger age. I've been married for nearly a quarter of a century now and I am as crazy about my husband as I ever was. Maybe more."

**Several interesting themes explored in *Defiant* include:**

- How two young people, physically drawn to one another despite circumstances that put them at odds with each other, find a way to forgive, change, and evolve into a loving husband and wife.
- How class and sex greatly dictate who we get to marry.
- How a woman of the 1400's can overcome society's expectations and restrictions to secure a life of happiness, freedom, and fulfillment.
- How roles could be turned upside down for men and women.
- How young lovers learn to trust one another – and themselves.
- How things aren't always what they appear to be, and often a mistaken identity or a misunderstanding of the truth can twist one's world upside down.
- How the lack of justice often left woman and children at the mercy of men and had no rights against a false accusation.
- How two women overcome class differences -- but are drawn together by circumstance – can be best friends.
- How guilt, fear, lust, revenge, and jealousy can each passionately drive one to succeed or fail greatly.

*Defiant* brings to life a beautiful, virgin, teen-aged heroine who was way ahead of the times she lived in. She wanted to live freely and independently. As noted in *Defiant* (quoting *Wives of Bath by Chaucer*), "What women most desire is sovereignty over their husbands or the ones they love, to have the mastery, to be above." Gwyneth saw men as unfaithful brutes who dictated the terms of her existence, noting: "Most men didn't take responsibility for their families, cheated on their wives, and seemed ready to rut with any female who would spread her legs or pay them any attention."

Can a woman live a fulfilling, independent, passionate, romantic life? Can she get away with kidnapping and even murder? Can she learn to love a man on equal terms?

The story's action unfolds like foreplay for its climactic conclusion, entralling the reader with intense action and fast-paced, witty dialogue.

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# Jessica Trapp

## Biography

Jessica Trapp met her husband of 22 years at the age of 13. They got married during their lunch break while she was a 17-year-old college freshman. She knows about young romance firsthand and she also knows what continues to fuel it two decades and one child later. Jessica draws on her inner romantic to create exciting historical romance novels.

Her fourth book, *Defiant*, is due out in December 2010 from Kensington Books. Her debut novel, *Master of Pleasure* (Zebra, 2005) finished in over 25 national fiction-writing contests, including first place finishes for The Silver Quill Award and The Golden Pen Contest. Jessica's other two books – *Master of Desire* and *The Pleasures of Sin*, also received critical acclaim and numerous awards including Romantic Times's prestigious K.I.S.S. (Knights in Shining Silver) award.

Her writings have been described as a “bold, unabashed voice” and “beautifully evocative” by judges of contests sponsored by Romance Writers of America.

She writes historical romances that are striking for their sensuality and filled with strong conflicts between her heroes and heroines, each jostling for dominance in the relationship. Jessica believes a dynamic romance is one where two opposing characters are transformed into two people who share love and passion.

Her tagline is: “Get Trapped In A Book,” and it's easy to see why. All of her books involve intricate plots involving romance, power, and family.

On her fondness for writing, she says: “I've always had a mad crazed obsession with words. I've been reading since I was three and scribbling stories about dangerous, sexy men since Rhett Butler caught my attention in sixth grade. Life's too short to not go for your heart's desire.”

Jessica's long-flowing red hair reaches past her hips. She almost resembles one of her story's characters – vibrant, attractive, passionate, determined. When she's not spinning tales of forbidden Medieval Times romance, she dances (Nia and Raks Sharki), enjoys a challenging game of chess, putters in her garden, or lounges about while consuming copious amounts of Earl Grey.

As a dancer she has performed on stage in Israel, New York City, Seattle, and Houston. She is a member of both the Romance Writers of America and the Romance Writers of Australia.

She graduated from the University of Houston with a B.S. in Pharmacy. Jessica worked in the health industry as a pharmacist for five years prior to becoming a full-time mom and writer.

She volunteers for charity works such as beach cleanups, Trees for Houston and a humanitarian organization which provides bibles and free medical care for women who have been condemned to a rural African village because of being accused of being witches.

Although she was born in Waco, Texas and grew up all over the state, she feels San Antonio, where she graduated from high school, is home. Jessica resides with her husband and 13-year-old son in Houston, Texas. For more information, please consult: [www.jessicatrapp.com](http://www.jessicatrapp.com).

# Jessica Trapp

## Q&A

1. ***Defiant* is your fourth novel. What inspired you to write it?** *Defiant* is about true love and the roles men and women played six centuries ago in a society that limited whom they can wed. Uncomfortable situations bring out the best and worst in people and I love fish out of water/marriage of (in) convenience stories, where two people are forced to share intimate space with no prior notice. I have read several medieval romances where the hero swoops in, conquers the castle and coerces the heroine into marriage. I thought it would be fun to do a role reversal where the heroine steals a man and forces him to marry her instead. Given the politics and roles of men/women during the middle ages, it was challenging to create a character who would actually believe that she could get away with doing this.
2. ***Defiant*, like your previous books, is set during Medieval Times. What draws you to that period?** It's a writer's playground. Castles. Swords. Hot heroic men in leather who passionately aspire to setting social injustices right. Life was lived intensely and powerfully. Intense and enduring romance, in a time of discovery and in a period of history that saw long battles and short lives, was to be revered.
3. **Your story is about a relationship between two people who don't know whether to trust and love one another or to harbor ill will for perceived wrongs done to each other. Why is their relationship so complicated?** Both of them have had their trust ripped away by the opposite sex so they each tend to see the world in stereotypes and always suspect the worst in others. They have to overcome their past and learn to accept each other as real people. They are drawn to one another physically and emotionally, but their pride, ignorance, and inexperience stand in the way.
4. **You describe Gwyneth as a beautiful, alluring young woman who can put a man under her spell with just a flick of her long, golden hair. Do men simply fall over themselves just to please a pretty lady?** Some do. Some don't. I've seen men act in pretty deplorable ways. But real heroes have more self-respect than that and aren't so simplistic. It's natural for a man to turn his head when a vixen walks by, but a man worth falling in love with is more interested in a woman for her heart and brain. If she looks nice, that's a bonus.
5. **And you describe Jared as one who is strong-willed, with radiant green eyes, and a massive, muscular back. Do all women secretly want to be rescued by such a man?** Probably not, but it sounds really fun to me. \*grin\* I think it is normal for women to fantasize about being with the ideal mate--maybe a tall, dark and dangerous alpha male who is amazingly kind and makes them feel safe. But... well... the notion of perfection is elusive. What is right for one woman might be wrong for the next. Fortunately, even if we can't find the perfect mate in real life and do just fine on our own, we can sure have a lot of enjoyment escaping into a world of strong women and heroic men.
6. **Part of *Defiant* offers social commentary on the role and expectation of how a woman should behave. What was it like for women six centuries ago?** This is an interesting question. On one hand, women were esteemed and treated chivalrously--something modern society has lost to a certain degree. But on the other hand, they didn't have many options if they didn't have a father, brother or husband to take care of financial matters. Noblewomen were expected to marry and produce male heirs for their husbands, but being a wife/mother was highly regarded as a position of honor and respect.
7. **Your book also rails against an unjust judicial system that often locks away the mistakenly accused or those guilty of minor infractions. Could one find true justice back then?** One of the

themes in *Defiant* is lack of justice. In that era, women and children were often at the mercy of men and had no rights against being falsely accused. My heroine's larger story goal is to rescue women and give them life skills so they do not end up as beggars or whores.

8. **Jessica, you write of romance in your novels. But it sounds like your own life reads like a fairytale. You got married at age 17 after meeting your husband at the age of 13. How do you draw on the youthful love you experienced when writing your books?** I'm an old fashion romantic. I believe in love at first sight, being swept away by passion, two become one, and all that stuff. Championing one's spouse, growing together and walking hand in hand on the path of life is part of my experience so it's part of my books. My husband is my real-life hero.
9. **Throughout *Defiant* you paint an ugly picture of men, that all they want is sex at any price. Aren't some men out there gentlemen?** Most of the book is written from Gwyneth's point of view and she has a very limited knowledge of men. She tends to think of men as foppish, shallow and untrustworthy, so when the hero is interested in something more than physical beauty or what he can get out of her, he fascinates her.
10. **You also paint women as both manipulative creatures who use their beauty to get men to do their bidding and as victims to a male-dominated society that treats them no better than children. Have things changed over half a millennium?** Here in the US we tend to be sheltered from the plight of women in other parts of the globe, but forced marriages, sexual slavery and female genital mutilation is still practiced in modern society. I just saw a video of a teenager being flogged in January of this year for running away from her husband. In some cultures women who are unusual become outcast from their family and are forced to live in villages reserved for condemned witches.
11. **Which writers and books have most influenced your writing style?** I am a very eclectic reader and read everything from romance to science fiction to literary fiction to nonfiction, so I don't think I can pick out just one writer. I have studied writing under many teachers, but the one that comes strongest to my mind is Rita Gallagher, one of the founders of Romance Writers of America. She was an amazing woman who taught me a great deal about writing and about life.
12. **What trends do you see in the historical romance genre?** It seems like a lot of stories are getting away from being true love-conquers-all romances anymore. I recently read a book where it was unclear who the hero was until nearly page 300. Even after the reader figured out which guy that she would end up with, he seemed to be more of a love interest than a true "hero". It was a good book, but my preference in romance novels is for a story that solidly focus on the relationship between the hero and heroine.
13. **What type of research did you undertake to write your book and what little-known facts intrigued you?** I've taken several trips to the UK, including one to Wales where we went to see Careg Cennen near the village of Trapp. It was the inspiration for the castle in my first book. I have spent hours studying, flipping through books, going to art museums and talking to people. For this book, I enjoyed learning about hawking. Goshawks have been used for centuries and falconry is an ancient sport. The relationship between the falconer and his hawk is very different that of, say, a dog. It's more of a partnership. Hawks can (and will) fly free if they no longer trust or respect their falconer. Little known facts: buttons were really, really rare and expensive.
14. **Early in the story a stranger comes to the aid of a woman being attacked in the forest. But such help would come with consequences. Why does it seem when one sticks his or her neck**

**out to help another it comes back to haunt them?** I think that many people feel moved with compassion to help another. However sometimes, because they do not know the details, risks and other circumstances, they get themselves involved into a bigger problem than they anticipated. Ultimately, even though sometimes it bites us in the butt, I believe that we will always reap what we sow so we have to keep sowing good seeds. There is a quote that I like but I have not been able to find out who the author is. It goes: "Everything Will Be Okay in the End. If It's Not Okay, It's Not the End."

15. **Defiant also shows us the fate of different classes. Why do the noble or rich always seem to be viewed differently by society?** Maybe because we have a tendency to think that having money will solve all our problems. But it doesn't. Those who are in the upper class deal with different issues and the same issues of the human existence.
16. **A number of times in the book we see people wrongly accused of something. Was lying such a common practice back then?** It seems to be a very human trait for people to not take responsibility for themselves if they know that there may be repercussions. In relationships--social, friendship, romantic--certain things are "expected" and dealing with diverse people and circumstances sometimes force people to behave one way or another. I enjoy exploring characters who deal with moral dilemmas where every choice they make may be wrong. For instance, my heroine steals the hero and forces him to marry her --her actions are wrong, but she does this for good reasons.
17. **Jared, the hero in the story, served three years in prison for the murder of his brother, a murder he did not commit. How does one live knowing his real killer is loose while he had to toil in misery until he could escape in hopes of clearing his name?** I think it would be hugely frustrating and very tempting to take revenge on someone when the truth came out.
18. **Defiant is also about friendship and the spirited kinship between the noblewoman Gwyneth and the harlot Irma. Together they lived with a dark secret. How can two people of very different upbringing remain such close friends?** There is great strength in diversity. I have a lot of friends who are very different from me. They light up my brain with their uniqueness and interesting perspective.
19. **Which are more fun to write – battle scenes or love scenes?** I enjoy writing scenes that have conflict in them. Sometimes that conflict is physical, sometimes psychological, sometimes external and sometimes internal. I'm not sure I have one particular favorite type of scene to write except ones where the characters are at odds with each other or themselves so that they are forced to grow as people. Love scenes that double as a psychological battlefield are awfully fun to write though.
20. **Life back then seemed so different than today. In which times would you rather live?** I'm not sure. With phones, cell phones, pagers, TV, Internet, email, message-boards, insta-this, insta-that, coupled with a lack of chivalry, manners and respect for each other I think that modern society can get kind of noisy and complicated. We have issues these days--like an alarming divorce rate --that were nonexistent in the middle ages. On the other hand, modern bathrooms, better health, more sanitary living conditions and women not being stuck with an abusive husband is a step in the right direction. I'm not sure I could make it through the day without Starbucks and my iPhone, but sometimes I long for a more simple, back-to-the-earth, sort of life too. I'm fascinated by rainbows and roses.

## **“He Said/She Said”**

### **Conflicting Views of Men and Women**

The “Battle of the Sexes” continues in 2010 but certainly going back to Medieval Times, the roles, expectations, and societal norms of men and women differed greatly. Women didn’t feel in control of their life back then but the heroine of a new novel tries to change all of that in *Defiant* by Jessica Trapp.

The main character, Gwyneth, says: “Women, were forced to open their bodies for a man’s brutish lusts, whether by coercion, compensation, or wifely duty... We’re to be chattel and broodmares.”

Gwyneth assumed and feared the worst about marriage – that sex would be unpleasurable and that she’d live a meaningless life in complete subjection to her husband. Because she felt this way, she hatched a plan to avoid marrying someone her father had arranged her to wed. She drugged a brothel patron (Jared) and forced him at sword point to marry her. She meant him no harm but sought to use him to gain control of inherited land that she could only acquire under marriage. She then planned to quickly annul the wedding and retain her land.

Jared couldn’t understand how she could trick, drug, and kidnap him. T, he says: “Her wide blue eyes bespoke innocence, but her hips, tiny waist, and perfectly sculpted breasts seemed made for pleasure.”

Baffled, he wondered why a beautiful noblewoman, who had suitors aplenty, forced a man from a brothel to marry her. He decides to take his revenge on her by not annulling it. Gwyneth had never seen a man quite like him before and wanted him tied up for her own pleasure, as husband she could totally control. She was used to using her beauty to manipulate men.

But the virgin made two miscalculations. She never imagined she would fall in love with him or that he’d come to love her. Further, she thought “she could use him for what she needed and then just wish him away, dispose of him and pretend she had not degraded or harmed him. She wanted to do whatever she desired, treat him as less than a man – and then to suffer no consequences for her criminal, unethical, and dehumanizing actions.”

The reversal of roles appealed to her, to force a man to marry her, rather than the other way around. It gave her a spark of power.

Gwyneth believed it “a horrible thing, to be a women, the weaker vessel, unable to fight being taken like an animal.”

Jared never trusted women, for, “Long ago he had learned that women were faithless and untrustworthy – especially those who were clever or beautiful – and Gwyneth of Windrose was both.”

Irma schooled her friend, Gwyneth, on men, having been with so many as a whore. She said, “a woman must exhibit the right mixture of boldness and shyness but to never care about a man’s opinion for they are mindless dolts who care only about their fleshly desires.” Irma also has her perspective on the gender differences, when she concludes: “Honor is for men, women have better ways.”

She didn’t count on her own feelings of desire and lust betraying her, or a man showing her he was not like the rest and that he desired her not just for her unrivaled beauty but for the loving, passionate, and justice-driven woman she had become.

## **Select Excerpts**

### **Redemption**

If he was quick, he could reach forward and pluck a single lock of hair without her notice as she passed by. He would braid it and keep it nearby to remind him that there was more to life than kneeling on cold stone floors and endlessly reciting Latin chants; a future he deserved, but one he looked forward to not at all. Still, it was his duty to mend the strife he had caused between him and his brother. His duty to pay penitence for the woman and babe he'd killed.

### **A Life of Purpose**

There is a place I know, women who have been wronged by men – a noblewoman such as yourself could work to set things right. You could use your dazzling beauty to charm your way into places that plain-faced peasants like me cannot go.” Irma thumbed the mole on her chin. A tear flowed down Gwyneth's cheek, but inside she felt a glimmer of hope that seemed to have been all but dead this past year. That her life could be more than an endless parade of silly feasts with gossiping matrons, leering men and giggling cruel girls held appeal.

### **Guilt and Anger**

His mind drifted to the facts he knew: his brother, the woman they had shared, his brother's death. He growled. This was his own doing. If he had not been sucked into Colette's spell, he would never have been suspect to the murder.

Colette was proof of the wicked entanglements of women-of the agony they caused, of how they snared a man's mind and soul by ensnaring his body. In his experience, women used their power—displaying a luscious shoulder here, a slim ankle there—to sway a man's mind, to think illogical thoughts until all his life was destroyed.

Colette's glossy black hair, husky voice and feathery fingers had been intoxicating. He had loved her passionately—until she had betrayed him.

### **A Better Life?**

The stench in the brothel: sweat and sex and cheap toilet water grew more rank as she moved into the main chamber. The vulgar way the men's eyes roved over exposed skin and the degrading way women's bodies were used for men's uncontrolled brutality disgusted her. Frequently, she had urged Irma to leave, but her friend always smirked at the thought.

### **In Control**

After a few moments, she stopped and stared at him. He was tied securely and completely helpless. She didn't have to charm him – he was hers to use as she wanted! All her life she'd been under a man's thumb in one way or another – first her father, then (now that her father was in exile) Lord Montgomery. All her life, she had manipulated, wheedled and coaxed men to do her bidding. And here was a man that she did not have to do that with. He was hers for the taking – to do with what she willed. She could undress him, wash him. Kiss him.

### **Revenge On His Mind**

He had no interest in a whore or, indeed, any other woman. Love was an illusion and lust beguiled a man's soul. His Aeliana, loyal and sagacious, was the only female he could trust. Even his own mother had not wanted him. He unfairness of being imprisoned ate at him. All passion had been swallowed up by the thirst for revenge. The scars surrounding his wrists and ankles – red and bumpy – and the white ones on his legs drove him to that end.

### **Looking To Break Free From Her Clutches**

Taking a breath, he focused on getting free from his bonds. He could tell the rope was frayed, and had began to come unraveled. Surely it was only one more stroke. One more rip.

He watched her walk across the chamber, back straight, shoulders rigid. Her hair, a curtain of shimmering satin, cascaded down her back and skimmed the tops of her thighs. Everything about her bespoke privilege and haughty imperiousness. She swiveled, looked over a shoulder at him. Of a truth, she was glorious. A seductress who was used to having her way with men, of laughing at them, trifling with them, bending them to her own devices.

The need to take, to conquer, pulsed through his mind as strong as the throbbing sensation in his groin.

She set the clay jar of poison in the cupboard.

### **A Marriage In Trouble**

He had frightened her earlier-indeed had intended to do so and the way she now trustingly curled against him heightened his guilt of what had occurred between them. Somehow he would right his wrongs, make it up to her. He wouldn't let her go, but like his hawk, he would make her come to understand that life with him was better than life without him. It made him doubly eager to find Rafe's murderer so that he could clear his name.

### **Defiant**

Sweet Mother of Mercy. She was in hell. Jared was a madman.

But he was not observing her with the light of insanity. His eyes were sharp, perceptive – as if he were noticing and measuring her every reaction so he could tailor his punishment, make it worse if he so desired. She was used to men looking at her, but none had ever scrutinized her as Jared did. It seemed that he could see past her skull and into her mind.

Nay. Into her soul. As if he know of every bad thing she'd ever done, every flirtatious manipulative deed she had ever made.

His eyes condemned her.

### **A Supreme Sacrifice**

She loved him; her hair meant nothing to her. Oft it was more of a burden than a pleasure – especially when the minstrels sang of it or men acted like fools. If Irma would have let her, should have cut the mass years ago.

Rising as gracefully as she could, she held the knife and walked into him. Silently, she handed him the blade and sank to her knees in front of him with her back turned. If he went with her, she had no use whatsoever for her long locks or any other ornamentation. She would be rid of the bards singing songs to her hair and of having to preen and flirt with me to get her way. And if this appeased him of his anger, 'twas an easy sacrifice.

She grasped the mass of hair in her hand and held it up, and offering, gladly given in exchange for his presence at the prison. "Cut it."

## **Jealousy**

“My brother and she were to be married. But I took her.”

“Did you love her?”

Pain lurked in his eyes. “She was beautiful-nearly as beautiful as you-and I was taken by her smile and glittery clothing. Rafe always seemed to have everything-the land, the keep, our mother’s love, so when she came to me, I didn’t resist. I thought she wanted me the way I wanted her.”

## **Plot Summaries Of The Other Works Of Jessica Trapp**

### **1. The Pleasures of Sin RT K.I.S.S. Award**

Banished to her family’s castle tower for refusing to marry, Lady Brenna spends her days indulging her secret passion for painting provocative works of art. If they are discovered, Brenna knows she will hang. But her life changes the day England’s most notorious privateer, James Vaughn, the Earl of Montgomery arrives to claim Brenna’s younger sister as his bride. Brenna knows her sister will be no match against such a man. To save her, Brenna dons the wedding veil and marries the brute herself.

Known as The Enforcer, James Montgomery has been charged with ridding the land of rebels disloyal to the king. He’s not amused to learn he’s been tricked into marrying the wrong sister. In retaliation, he decides to tempt his new wife until she begs to be taken to his bed. Yet, James soon finds that it is he who is enticed. But when a secret about Brenna is revealed, James discovers that all of his love may not be enough to save her.

### **2. Master of Desire RT K.I.S.S. Award**

Lady Ariana of Rosebriar is a woman with a past. She killed her abusive husband to protect her son. And now she is being blackmailed. A Lancastrian rebel will reveal her crime – and destroy her life - unless she delivers messages to enemies of the throne.

Gabriel of Whitestone is a bounty hunter loyal to the king. To care for his family of seven siblings, he must capture his half brother’s murderer, the infamous Spy of the Night. Only then can he claim her and for his family – and make her pay for her crimes of murder and treason.

Sent to a chapel to steal a scroll of secrets, Ariana falls into Gabriel’s clutches – and it isn’t long before unquenchable desire draws her to him, making her body his willing captive, though her soul can never be tamed. Putting both honor and duty at risk, Gabriel struggles to win the trust of his brave, resourceful, and irresistible prisoner. But can love keep them together, when murderous forces conspire to tear a country apart?

### **3. Master of Pleasure**

By order of the king, Lady Meiriona is to be given to a bastard warlord in marriage. Rather than see his daughter and his lands in the hands of a Yorkist, Meiriona’s father ambushes Godric of Montgomery when he comes to claim her – but only after a kiss she’ll never forget.

Sold into slavery in the East, Godric becomes the plaything of an Arab princess and when she gives birth to his daughter, he is given the child and set free. Seven years of his life have been stolen – and nothing will stop him from exacting his vengeance upon the woman who betrayed him.

Over the years, Meiriona's dreams have been haunted by Godric's passionate touch. On the day she becomes the wife of another man, he returns to ruthlessly take what is his. Though Meiriona vows to resist her captor, a traitorous hunger for him consumes her. The slightest surrender of her body inflames Godric's soul, setting a battle-scarred warrior against a new foe-his own heart

# Awards & Critical Acclaim For The Works of Jessica Trapp

## 1. *The Pleasures of Sin*

“This highly sensual battle-of-wills/captive-captor romance is highly reminiscent of early Johanna Lindsey, with its biting repartee, heated love scenes, and even a tied-up heroine. If you’re looking for a new twist on a classic, this is it. -- **RT Book Reviews, Kathe Robin**

“If you like medievals, strong characters, silly situations, bondage and a lot of hot sex...I recommend this book. Actually, I highly, highly recommend this book. I know that many of you will enjoy it.” -- [www.themysticcastle.com/forum](http://www.themysticcastle.com/forum)

K.I.S.S. Award from the Romantic Times (Knights in Shining Silver)  
Finalist in the Write Touch Contest.  
Finalist in the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence, Historical Category.

## 2. *Master of Desire*

“A wonderfully well-written book that reminded me why I began reading romance novels to begin with. Ms. Trapp is definitely an artist and a blessed addition to this genre of writing.”  
--**Romance Reader at Heart, Kristal Gorman**

“Powerful emotions pour from the pages of Trapp’s adventurous captive/captor tale. The strength of her characters sets the book on fire, and as passion explodes between them, readers will breathe a deep sigh and continue until the last, touching page of this irresistible read.”  
--**Romantic Times Book Club, Kathe Robin**

K.I.S.S. Award from *Romantic Times*.  
Finalist in the Passionate Plume Contest.  
Finalist in the Beacon Awards.

## 3. *Master of Pleasure*

“Jessica Trapp mixes passion, betrayal, abduction and revenge into a tasty brew.”  
-- **Hannah Howell, best-selling author**

“A sensual feast, spiced with delicious humor, raw emotions and hero and heroine so real they’ll linger long after you put down the book.” --**Amanda Scott, best-selling author**

“A hero to dream about and a willful heroine – all the stuff romance readers have savored for decades...” -- **Kathe Robin, Romantic Times Book Club**

“Loved it, loved it, loved it! Make room on your bookshelves because this one is a keeper.”  
-- [www.ouceuponaromance.net](http://www.ouceuponaromance.net), **Robyn Roberts**

First place: Golden Pen Contest; Jasmine Contest; Orange County Rose Contest; Four Season’s Awards; Duel on the Delta; Heart of the West Contest; Opening Gambit; Silver Quill Award; Gotcha Contest; Hot Prospects Contest; Where The Magic Begins Contest

## Medieval Times Factoids

- Following the rule of Charlemagne, Christianity spread throughout Europe which served as a unifying force for the continent.
- Unmarried women holding lands were powerful and had the same rights as men. However, when a woman married, she forfeited her lands and rights to her husband.
- Occupations held by medieval women included shopkeepers, bakers, spinners, alewives (those that brewed ale), farmers, and silk weavers. There were even some women writers. Being a spinner was the most common occupation.
- Young single women often wore their hair loose, but once married almost all Medieval women wore a linen wrap to cover the hair. This was a sign of modesty, and a clear sign to other men that they were already married.
- Innovations in architecture, warfare, commerce and the arts began during this time period.
- While medical care could be found during medieval times, quality medical care was rare to nonexistent.
- For most of the medieval period in most of Europe, the structure of society was determined by how hard it was to provide a steady food supply.
- The knight is one of the most recognizable images from the medieval period, but becoming a knight was not as simple as putting on a suit of armor
- A knight's training began at an early age. At age 7 a boy would join with a knight becoming a page. This page would serve the knight until he became a squire at age 14. While the squire was still a knight's assistant, he would learn how to fight, wear armor and to act like a knight. Then when the squire turned 21, he would become a knight.

Source: [www.medieval-period.com](http://www.medieval-period.com)