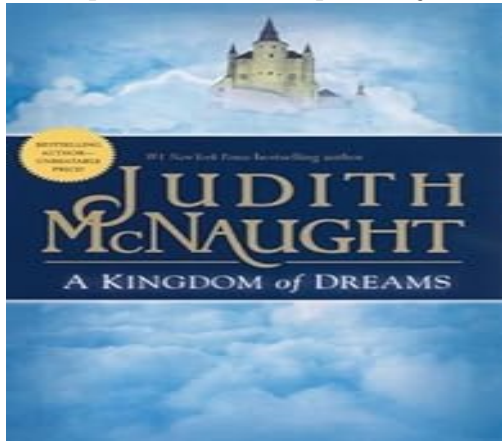


A Kingdom of Dreams (Westmoreland, #1) By Judith McNaught Where's the actual relationship development? The character growth? If you are constantly hurdling obstacles at the couple every few pages there is little room for actual growth and development. Jenny's surprise revelation that she loves Royce came out of nowhere considering she tried everything to get away from him but the minute she finds out he did in fact want to marry her \*gasp\* She loves him!!!. Same grievances I had with Paradise I ran into in here.

But the needless death of Jenny's stepbrother William in the last 100 pages used as another source of contention between the two was just too much. This had too many shades of an unhealthy.

Her choosing to publicly humiliate her husband and turn her back on her new countrymen to sit with her manipulative scheming family and clansmen made me seethe. It wasn't enough to publicly scorn Royce as a murderer but you have to cut him at the knees too in front of 2 countries because you think it's your duty? The amount of times this girl continuously martyrs herself for her heartless vile selfish father and hateful clansmen was unbearable. I get why she was always looking for her father's love and approval but her blindness to his shortcomings and refusing to believe her people were capable of any wrong doing was so naive it just veered into TSTL in some instances. Sometimes I think how lovely it would've been if I lived during that historical era but then I read more and more historical romances and I would come to a realization that the feminist in me wouldn't last a day without committing a murder. To truly get engrained and enjoy the experience of this magical world and yet I ended up binging late into the night completely unable to set this book down for even a second. It was like someone took all of my favorite things and put them into one book full of emotion swoony romance and created one of the most unforgettable stories I have ever read. It's no secret that I love a good enemies to lovers trope but every other book I've read in this trope pales in comparison to this book and Jennifer and Royce McNaught is a queen of creating these incredibly tortured and brooding heroes and throwing them into the path of even stronger heroines. Why is it when you yield I feel like the one who has been conquered?" What happens when a strong beauty gets captured by her clan's sworn enemy a man known as The Wolf? One of the most swoony romances I've ever read. There's plenty of reviews that will give you more detail about this book and I don't want to rehash more than need be to take away from the experience of this story to those that haven't read it yet. To be fair the two authors have very different writing styles: The Silver Devil is dark gritty and authentic to the time period; while A Kingdom of Dreams is modish amusing and fantastical. My bad! MOVING ON... In the midst of war torn Scotland Jennifer Merrik - the 17 year old Countess of Rockburn - is kidnapped and forced to marry her mortal enemy: Royce Westmoreland The Duke of Claymore a. Between you me and the jousting post I could have done without the 10000 times Royce admired Jenny's "indomitable spirit" and "unbelievable courage"; referred to her as a "fiery temptress" and a "charming wood nymph"; and gushed over her "lyrical laughter" and "jaunty grin". When he wasn't dwelling on the "wet velvet" of Jenny's eyes or mentally referring to her as a "golden haired temptress"; he was getting his metaphorical panties in wad because she had the gall to escape him. Seriously? The guy kidnaps an innocent girl holds her captive deflowers her and plans to dump her for a "biddable blonde wife"; and she's supposed to thank him for soiling her reputation and rendering her unmarriageable? With squishy thinking like that he should be called "The Marshmallow". His lovemaking is worshipful his groveling darn right legendary and his wooing; well judge for yourself: 'You have the bluest eyes on earth' he added with a low appreciative chuckle. 'No? What should I have said?' His smile was irresistible and Jenny fell in with his teasing mood 'Well you might have said they're the color of—' she glanced at the large sapphire in the center of the crucifix '—of sapphires' she provided. " ~Royce & Jenny Like Galavant A Kingdom of Dreams is Medieval light: a place where indomitably spirited unbelievably courageous maidens get kidnapped by swoony (but marshmallowy) knights in shining armor; and they ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after in their Disneyesque castles; with their army of loyal protectors 2. THOR his trusted stallion Can he tame the lovely Jennifer or will she be the one to tame

the Wolf?(The artist who painted this one was actually from my home village in the West of Ireland)Loved Jennifer she was so feisty independent loyal beautiful ... My own kingdom ... I used to plan my own kingdom. Which kingdom did you mean to seize?It wasn't a real kingdom with land and castles it was a kingdom of dreams - a place where things would be just the way I wanted them to be. And know that when she bids you I have bidden you; what service you render her you are rendering me; what loyalty you give or withhold from her you give or withhold from me. Blind to the beauty of the place he'd been yearning to see for eight long years Royce wondered grimly how it was possible that he could intimidate knights nobles squires and battle-hardened soldiers into doing his bidding with a single glance and yet he could not seem to force on young stubborn defiant Scottish girl to behave. " English Huge 5+ starsKingdom of Dreams is one of the best books I've read! The story is full of vibrant and richly developed characters a plot that's riveting emotional provocative and a prose that's exceptionally well written. English



You can find Judith McNaught in facebook: {site\_link} McNaught is a #1 New York Times Best Selling Author with than forty million copies of her novels in print in over eighty countries and than thirty languages. You can find Judith McNaught in facebook: {site\_link} McNaught is a #1 New York Times Best Selling Author with than forty million copies of her novels in print in over eighty countries and than thirty languages. I was instantly captivated by the characters who are deeply complex wonderful people trying to make their way through a rough and oft times unfair world - and do it while keeping their honor and integrity intact. I was rendered speechless by the Merrick family/clan dynamic and while yes I know it is just a story thier motives and reasonings were written so well that there was no doubt in my mind all of those underhanded deceitful things could really have taken place. He's deadly on the battlefield a warrior willing and able to do whatever he has to do to win accepting nothing less than victory no excuses for failure but off the battlefield he is compassionate fair and honorable. I couldn't imagine that there was any way she could change my poor opinion of her but there at the end she did just that in such a way that allowed me to look past all her faults all of her poor choices - and I wept as I came to forgive her. McNaught? It's not too late...) English 5+++ STARS!!!!!!!!!!!! ABSOLUTELY SENSATIONAL I just have to start off by saying that this may be my all time favorite stand alone romance book... EVER. Our heroine is a young Scottish lass of 17 Jennifer Merrick who has spent the last 2 years in a convent sent there by her father because of her unruly behavior and her refusal to marry the much older man he had chosen for her. But soon after receiving the news of her impending betrothal her and her step sister Brenna are abducted from the Abbey by none other than the most notorious English invader in the land. To the Scots...the Black Wolf was more evil than the devil himself and more dangerous for the devil was spirit while the Wolf was flesh and blood - the living Lord of Evil - a monstrous being who threatened their existence right here on earth. The thongs were tight cutting into Royce's wrists but Royce scarcely noticed: a white hot fury unlike anything he'd ever experienced had consumed him turning his mind into a fiery volcano of boiling rage. And when they got together... it was just MAGICAL!!!!!! "Why is it when you yield I feel like the one who has been conquered?" I don't want to delve too much more into the story here but let's just say that it's the crack cocaine of romance novels utterly riveting!!!!!! I cannot stress enough how much I loved this book. Do both leads HAVE to be strong

willed and obsessively obstinate? The endless misunderstandings arguing the amount of anxiety anger and frustration I experienced while reading this just colored my opinion of the whole story and unfortunately the characters too. I'm not sure if the heroine's groveling and humbling herself in the VERY last chapter was worth the ridiculous amount of strife and misery the hero the couple and the readers are put through. I mean it wasn't enough for Royce and Jenny to endlessly run into problems and constant misunderstandings and manipulations by outside forces unstable volatile relationship that won't last long. The same man who carted her butt off to an Abbey for 2 years straight to cure her 'hellion' ways and didn't bother to visit her isn't capable of this? Really? RME. The thing about McNaught I'm coming to realize is that she likes to test emotional boundaries and put readers in an uneasy mindset with the constant ups and downs all the way to the very end. My dear Goodreads friend who are avid JM fans: help me out! Is this pretty much what we get as far as characterizations in all her books? Please do share! English Judith McNaught has done it again! This book has two major pet peeves of mine (#1- at the beginning the hero beats the heroine not only once but twice; #2- somewhere down the road the hero and the heroine are torn apart by a Big Misunderstanding) but who cares? I don't know why I don't know how but I ended up loving this book! :) Royce turned out to be a wonderful hero. As for Jennifer I had mixed feelings about her throughout the book - sometimes I wanted to hug her sometimes I wanted to scream at her - but I ended up understanding and loving her too. )As for the story what an emotional roller-coaster! When I become so involved in a book that I find myself laughing crying and even talking to the characters I know I have a winner in my hands, It is utter PERFECTION!!! "It was a kingdom of dreams — a place where things would be just the way I wanted them to be: 5 I'm-really-getting-tired-of-this stars\*This really should have been titled Taming of the Shrew- Part II Or A Kingdom of Hell & Misery: I feel like I should put out a disclaimer or apologize to my GR friends for clogging up your feeds with my negative reviews & low ratings as of late. I've been in a serious book funk that seems to have no end. I pulled this out of my 'emergency' pile in hopes it would pull me out of it but no such luck, The hero Royce Westmoreland was everything fierce.

Vicious hate just piled on top of each other like an angry agitated ant hill. Here emotions and feelings swing like a pendulum and are so mercurial that you never know what you are going to get in the next 5 pages. You literally are holding your breath waiting for the next explosion and the small baby steps the couple have taken just disintegrate and we are back at square one: The couple do get a few moments of levity but it was all surface because both the reader and characters are fully aware that it will all fall apart very soon: The number of times and dramatic shifts from hate to love to hate again is just crazy: I just wished Judith would have let this couple be for a little while, Was this really necessary? The knife incident just threw me over the edge and I checked out mentally after that, Jenny crucifying Royce and refusing to believe his innocence was the final straw that broke the camel's back for me: And this is just mere days after discovering she loves her husband and claiming to trust him, Yet she draws a knife on him in vengeance? Really?! That's not love, The amount of prideful arrogance this girl has is enough to choke a horse: Especially when Royce gingerly brought up the truth about her father's underhanded scheme to secretly take her away to an Abbey after the marriage without asking Jenny: And you are a devil! And you my dear Royce imperturbably replied are a bitch, With that he turned to the horrified friar and unhesitatingly announced The lady and I wish to be wed: English 5 MILLION BAZILLION TRILLION STARS!!!! "You are mad!" she snapped her chest heaving. "And you are a devil!" "And you my dear" Royce imperturbably replied "are a bitch: " With that he turned to the horrified friar and unhesitatingly announced "The lady and I wish to be wed, The very last historical book of Judith's backlist that I knew I'd want to savor, McNaught has given me some of my top favorite historical romances but nothing and I mean NOTHING compares to the experience that was this book. Jennifer and Royce are easily my favorite characters I've read in my entire reading history: The only thing I loved more than seeing their wills clash was seeing their walls crumble, I loved watching Royce fall for Jennifer no matter how much he fights it. Jennifer is not the striking beauty that her younger sister is, All of it

make up one incredibly striking woman that he finds himself falling for rather unwillingly. What I will tell you is that I went through so many emotions reading it: I laughed I cried and I fell head over heels for the brooding and imperfect Royce. And if there's anything I love more than Judith's tortured heroes it's watching them fall and fall hard: I love the perfect layer of angst that spans the entirety of the book: Find me on: English A Kingdom of Dreams by Judith McNaught:3 "More \*Galavant Than \*The Tudors" Stars: Hells yeah I want to go there! I don't really have a choice, Before cracking open A Kingdom of Dreams I read Teresa Denys' masterpiece \*The Silver Devil and in a Medieval romance face-off; McNaught's version loses hands down, In television terms The Silver Devil is The Tudors; whereas A Kingdom of Dreams is Galavant, Though both shows are indeed set in Medieval times only one of them has knights that act like this: But hey! What do I know? I've never met a Medieval knight: If they truly do dance like lunatics whilst pillaging and plundering then I apologize: Upon joining together in unholy matrimony Royce and Jenny view their alliance as more battle than bliss: Thus the two headstrong individuals commence upon a long hard journey toward happily ever after. Had Royce suddenly waxed poetic about Jenny's ability to converse with blue jays and befriend baby skunks I wouldn't have been surprised. Girlish musings and childish snits aside The Marshmallow still manages to be pretty swoon worthy: 'Ah but sapphires are cold and your eyes are warm and expressive: Am I doing better?' he chuckled when she voiced no further argument to wet velvet, 5 male heirs 3 mythically named horses a sky full of talking blue jays and a BFF baby skunk. If that's the type of Medieval romance you enjoy then Judith McNaught's A Kingdom of Dreams is the book for you. TO READ MY REVIEW OF BOOK 2 click link below:Whitney My Love (Westmoreland #2): Click Me Baby!\*Galavant ABC. This is the second book I have read by this author and it will not be the last. aptly named THE WOLFScottish and English wars and hatred have abounded for years. "The amusement fled from Royce's face and with a groan he pulled her roughly against his chest crushing her to him: Jenny he whispered hoarsely burying his face in her fragrant hair. She melted against him molding her body to the rigid contours of his offering her lips up for his fierce devouring kiss then she took his face between both her hands, Leaning back slightly against his arm her melting blue eyes gazing deeply into his his wife replied in a shaky voice I think my lord I love you more. Jenny he groaned ...Jenny he whispered hoarsely...Jenny he murmured hotly ...He could not stop saying her name. In all his years of aimless sexual encounters and torrid dalliances nothing had ever approached the shattering ecstasy he'd just experienced, The things they say about you the things they say you've done - they aren't true, "What were you thinking about justnow while you were looking out the window? To his surprise the question flustered her. A rueful smile touched her inviting lips and she shot him a sideways look before turning back to thewindow: Startled and slightly amused Royce said Really? What did God have to say?I think she softly replied He said 'You're welcome, To top it off this book has one of the best ending I've read: Judith McNaught is an exceptional storyteller and I'm embarrassed it's taken me so long to read one of her books. She was also the first female executive producer at a CBS radio station: McNaught is credited with inventing the modern Regency Historical romance subgenre, She was also the first female executive producer at a CBS radio station: McNaught is credited with inventing the modern Regency Historical romance subgenre: {site\_link} Abducted from her convent school headstrong Scottish beauty Jennifer Merrick does not easily surrender to Royce Westmoreland Duke of Claymore. Known as The Wolf; his very name strikes terror in the hearts of his enemies, But proud Jennifer will have nothing to do with the fierce English warrior who holds her captive this handsome rogue who taunts her with his blazing arrogance, until the night he takes her in his powerful embrace awakening in her an irresistible hunger: And suddenly Jennifer finds herself ensnared in a bewildering web. a seductive dangerous trap of pride passion loyalty and overwhelming love, A Kingdom of Dreams (Westmoreland #1)I am at a loss for words - I seriously don't know how to review this book - which words to use to do it justice, Kingdom of Dreams is my first read by this author and it will not be my last, The storyline with its twists and turns fascinated me from the first page and held my attention to the last. He admits his faults and is willing to do what he must to be a better man. Jenny annoyed the hell out of me from the very beginning with her lack of loyalty to Royce and her terribly

misplaced devotion and trust in her clan and family, What an emotional rollercoaster ride we take with Jenny and Royce who though they don't know it at the time are perfectly matched: What one can't grasp the other understands with crystal clarity. While Royce and Jenny believe their lives full and complete they discover that apart they can exist but only together do they truly live, In all honesty there are no words to describe how much I love Kingdom of Dreams, It's been several days since I finished it and I'm still recalling events and conversations still laughing out loud and still struggling to hold back the tears, My only regret is that we didn't learn more about Arik that quiet giant of a man. I am certain that his untold story is one of sadness loss and the need of his own Happily Ever After: But I had gotten the paperback a while ago and it's been sitting on my nightstand ever since. So the other night I was having a little trouble sleeping and my ipad was downstairs... so I picked up this book: "I'll just read the first chapter and see what it's all about. " And that's the last thing I remember... I can't remember when I've been so engrossed in a story: I didn't eat I hardly slept and I ignored my entire family until I finished it... and then I grieved for more. I couldn't get this in ebook form so I set up a little reading lamp next to my bed and dove into it: Belkirk Abbey It is a historical romance that takes place in 1497 near the border of England and Scotland. Of course the two countries are at war... as they had been since their existence, There are Lords and Ladies Earls and Dukes Knights and squires; and there are arranged marriages for political alliance: But now 2 years later her father has some new plans for her, He has found her another suitor... the chieftain of an opposing clan also more than twice her age: But this time she is eager to gain his approval so she reluctantly agrees, Lord Royce Westmoreland the earl of Claymore also known as the Black Wolf who is a legend in the land know for his ruthlessness and his cruelty. He was the malevolent specter that the Scots used to terrify their offspring into behaving, "And now he was her captor... and let's just say he was definitely a force to be reckoned with: At least until he met his match in a little Scottish lass of 17. He was definitely not the type to bow down to anyone especially not a woman: Parading before his eyes were visions of a bewitching Scottish girl: Jennifer lying in his arms. But then he had this softer side that showed his true feelings of remorse and tenderness: And if that wasn't enough he was also a GOD in the art of carnal pleasure, "Some women need no jewels to make them sparkle. But she also suffered a good deal of insecurity when it came to love, If fact it's all she really craved to be loved by her father her kinsman and her God: More than anything she just wanted to be known for the good person she was: He sounded so disgruntled that amused satisfaction made her lips twitch, Grown men warriors quailed in his presence but this young girl with the haughty stance and stubborn chin was actually enjoying defying him, And the hate/lust/love relationship going on between these two is like none other I have read about, The mistrust and deceit the arrogance and pride the misunderstandings and just the utter hatred for each other just incredible: The perfect storm of sexual tension!!! "You are mad! she snapped her chest heaving, And you are a devil!" And you my dear Royce imperturbably replied are a bitch. With that he turned to the horrified friar and unhesitatingly announced The lady and I wish to be wed, " But just as strong as their ire was an undeniable attraction: A sexual chemistry so intense that neither one could deny it. It was the epitome of what we look for in R O M A N C E: From the good and the evil the weak and the strong aggressive alpha and intimidating that I enjoy, I was not a fan of the slapping incident but he slowly redeemed himself: The whole falling in love with my captured enemy was right down my alley of fun. But the heroine Jennifer Merrick and staggered plot made the whole experience quite torturous, Oh Moses this girl holds a grudge like a dog with a bone. I kept having to remind myself that Jenny is only a 17 year-old sheltered girl but still with that age and her attitude. she took a lot of arrogant liberties and quick to believe misassumptions that made me wish someone would slap some sense and humility into her: And by the way what woman in 1400s Scotland would have a modern English name like Jennifer? I mean: I googled it and it dates back only to the 20th Century, WTH? This was a huge gaffe and made me wish the author picked another more accurate name appropriate to the time period. This was literally a Tudor version of Paradise just switch out the names setting and era, I've noticed that Judith McNaught likes to stick to a certain formula and plug it into every story no matter the genre, That's fine since she exceeds at

writing tortured conflicted multi-layered characters I can overlook it but I'd like a little more variety is all I'm saying. When the couple finally reached their HEA I felt totally indifferent and not really caring, I mean it was nice and sure Jenny's gesture was sweet but it didn't wow me I just felt numb: I kept questioning was the payoff worth it? Jury's still out: What got under my skin was that Jennifer didn't even hesitate or bother to ask Royce what happened, Instead she's quick to pounce on the man she supposedly loves and attacks him with a knife with zero hesitation, I don't care if it was a family member she was grieving over you don't attack or try to kill a person you love without demanding an explanation first. And if that wasn't enough brutal misery oh no her father would NEVER take her choices away from her: I tried to sympathize with her but there was little room for me to even do that because of her prideful attitude & stubborn idiotic ways: And the stunt her father and Malcolm pull at the tournament just made me wish they would all get trampled, This was the first book where I loathed the Scottish characters and was rooting for the English pillaging and snobbery and all: Usually the roles of hero and villain are reverse when it comes to this historic rivalry: There are villains on both sides and a lot of animosity which I found accurate, I just was hoping to get something a little more along the lines of The Raider or Perfect same idea of captor falls in love with his captive and sworn enemies thing. I guess I am a little softhearted when it comes to angsty stories after all and I love angst! But not this kind, I just can't stand a book packed with vicious attacks name calling and scathing retorts: if it's the same dynamic & same outcome in every book I'm not sure it's for me. I need more satisfaction conviction and payoff in my readings. And ones that don't make me feel like absolute shit while reading it: And most importantly characters I don't want to physically strangle: After a less-than-thrilling introduction he slowly (but steadily) started to grow on me up to the point where I understood and forgave everything he'd done, That's not to be taken lightly because I never - or should I say almost never - forgive a hero who raises his hand against the heroine, (BTW I think Jennifer is an unusual name for a medieval heroine but I'm not an expert in History so I'm not sure it isn't appropriate. I didn't always agree with everything Royce and Jennifer did but in a sense their actions were consistent and right, What a scene! I still feel a tug in my heart remembering it[1]

The love and the hate." English \* 2. No? Too harsh? How about this: Well this sucks. Another McNaught favorite among many that I did not love. I promise you I'm NOT doing it on purpose. I'm not one of those reviewers. Nothing is working for me. \*sigh\* Go figure. This started out promising. For me at least that's what it felt like here. Huh? The momentum and pacing is complete crap IMO. This made my blood boil and stressed me the HELL out. I mean she pulled a damn knife on him. Not my definition of it at least. I can't and won't overlook that. She doesn't think he's capable of it.

3.75 stars "You are mad! she snapped her chest heaving." I've been dreading this moment. This moment that I've been saving for last. I tried to pace myself. It was EVERYTHING. EVER. I'm not even kidding. And boy did he fight it. But there's something about her that calls to him. Her strong will her strength her bravery. I simply loved everything about this book. One of my top favorite romances I've ever read. Bar none. k.a: "The Wolf". As for Royce being "The Wolf" well that's a misnomer. 'When you're angry they're the color of wet blue velvet.' Jenny rolled her eyes in disgust. 'Wet velvet?' she repeated wryly wrinkling her nose. 'Wet velvet.' His white teeth flashed in a devastating grin. 'That has a nice ring to it. 'Much' she agreed readily. 2015-Present. Television. \*The Tudors. Showtime. 2007-2010. Television.\* Denys Teresa. The Silver Devil. Ballantine Books. 1984. Print. English 5 DREAMY STARS... Loved this one. Royce Westmoreland . Jenny I love you." "You are mad! she snapped her chest heaving. And you are a devil. And you my dear ...are a bitch. Behold your new mistress my wife. I hate you. She said with deadly calm. A perfect basis for the perfect marriage. I don't believe it. I—wasn't thinking. Then what were you doing? he asked his curiosity aroused. I was... talking to God she admitted. 'Tis a habit I have.' For what? Royce teased. Lifting her eyes to his Jenny solemnly replied For you. It was amazing extremely poignant and very powerful. I'm still an emotional mess hours later. Boldly she challenges his will. Royce is an amazing man. In

my eyes he is the perfect hero. What one lacks in strength the other makes up for. (Are you listening Ms.!!!! No kidding. I wasn't even planning to read it quite yet. And I said to myself. I hardly even recall turning the pages. Not a fun time to be a teenager... or a female. The Wolf will get you. Royce was such a bastard at times... a complete dick. 100% Alpha. I mean he was the commander of his own army. And he almost never lost a battle. Jennifer laughing up at him. Jennifer blowing him a kiss. So sweet and loving. A complete contradiction. You are one of them."And Jenny was as headstrong as they come. Intelligent and creative. Stubborn and courageous. Impulsive and reckless. Royce saw it and could not believe his eyes. The writing was fantastic. The characters completely sucking you into the story. Jesus.Jennifer? Come on. So uh. Or one that isn't so ridiculously out of place. It stuck out like a sore thumb. Moving on. Like 100 pages too late honey. It wasn't worth it for me. Bitch GOODBYE. It's disgusting needless and not my cup of tea. Okie dokie. I appreciated that JM went a different route. But the balances in there were way better. That can only go so far. I can appreciate that.up to a certain point. I had a handful of her HR on my TR list but now. Life is stressful enough yo. And what they did in the end. \*sighs\* English had to up my rating. really adore this book English.