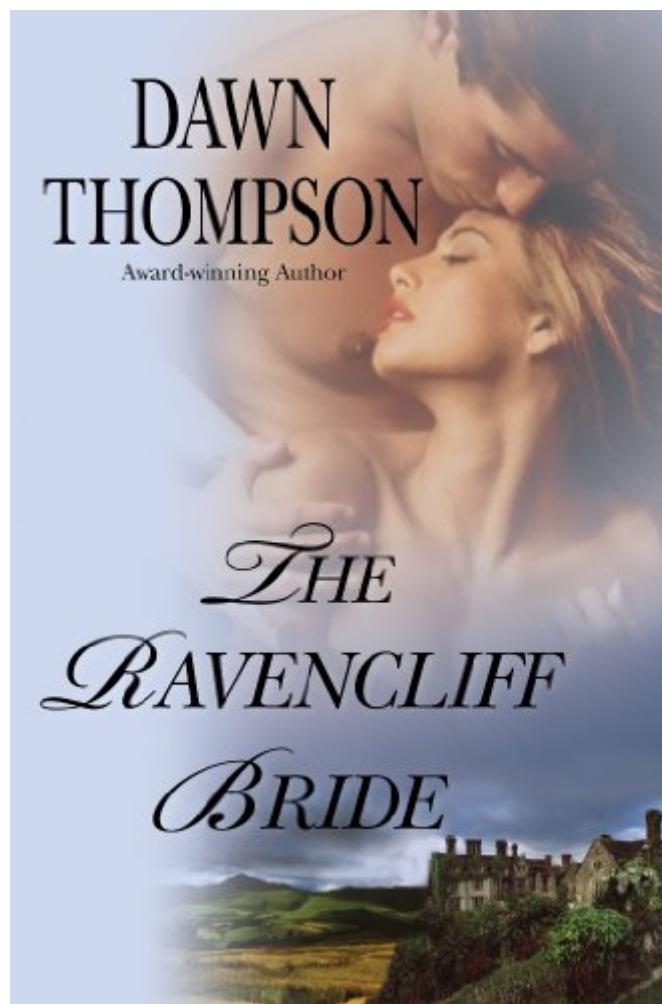


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The Ravencliff Bride



Synopsis

As the coach flies up the Cornish coast, Sara sees the end of her journey: Ravencliff Manor. But what sort of man would rescue her from debtors prison by marriage, sight unseen, by proxy? Obviously, a wretchâ "the same sort of man who lets a strange, wolf-like creature roam his grounds as if it were master. Of course, Sara would have accepted the proposal of the Devil himself to get out of Fleet, so she is resigned to her fate. Then she meets her husband, hair black as sin and a handsome face, and all her assurance vanishes. What strange curse has befallen Nicholas Walraven, and what secrets does he hide? For good or ill, she is nowâ |THE RAVENCLIFF BRIDE

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Customer Reviews

Without a doubt, Dawn Thompson's venture into the paranormal world should cause a big celebration for fans of this genre! With clean writing and a highly imaginative plot keeping you on the edge of your seat from first page to the last, this is a genuine treat and not to be missed! Though she had been saved from debtor's prison and rescued out of the Fleet, by a fortuitous but unusual request for her hand in marriage; by proxy - from a man she'd never met; Sara knew she should be grateful. More than a bit anxious on the ride to meet her husband the new Baroness Walraven viewed a monstrous looking edifice bathed in darkness - Ravencliff. As she arrived at the front door

of this ominous looking structure Sara could only think - she would finally meet the mysterious man who was her husband. At first glance, Sara's imagination could never have conjured up the gorgeously attractive man that was Nicolas Walraven. Although she was certainly attracted, she could also tell from his burning eyes that he felt the same, so Sara found his 'ground rules' of their marriage not only unusual but mystifying. The mystery of why he had plucked her out of prison, when he obviously could have had his pick of suitable brides was intensified. Told there would be no physical contact between them, Sara was more than willing to embrace the one living being that seemed to genuinely like her, the wolf-like dog Nero! When Nero saves her from being raped by Nicolas' childhood friend she is determined to keep Nero safe from the people who seem to want to see him gone - including her husband. It soon becomes apparent to Nicolas and his ever-present valet Mills, that Sara's attachment to Nero could get her killed or worse.

The previous reviews had me convinced this was a great book with an interesting storyline. The book started off great, it drew me in that first chapter. But after those first few chapters, when the story should have really taken off, it seemed to falter. Sara (heroine) is quite stubborn and Nicholas (hero) warns her the house is very old, the housekeeper even explains it's long history to her, about the dungeon and all the secret rooms and hidden passageways, and so Nicholas tells her not to wonder about unescorted. But she doesn't listen, even after she falls into a priest hole and accidentally gets locked in for 36 hrs, and almost runs out of air, she still continues to be stubborn about the situation, exclaiming she feels as if she is still in prison. Other events happen and she continues to do dangerous things she was warned against and her life continues to be threatened because of her antics, very tedious. Nicholas has this childhood friend, Alex. They were extremely close growing up. Nicholas hires Alex as his Steward. Alex "keeps rooms" at Ravencliff cause he basically lives there when he's not running around for Nicholas. Alex is the one who makes the offer to Sara and goes with her to Scotland and stands in for Nicholas to marry her by proxy. In the carriage ride to Ravencliff he is flirting with Sara who is uncomfortable with it. This is where the story begins, but they've already spent all this presumed time together traveling to Scotland and back, and he waits until after she is married and on her way to meet her husband to flirt with her? As soon as they arrive Alex leaves and heads back to London. But when he returns to Ravencliff a few days later he gets drunk and tries to rape Sara, his best friends, not to mention bosses, wife?

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