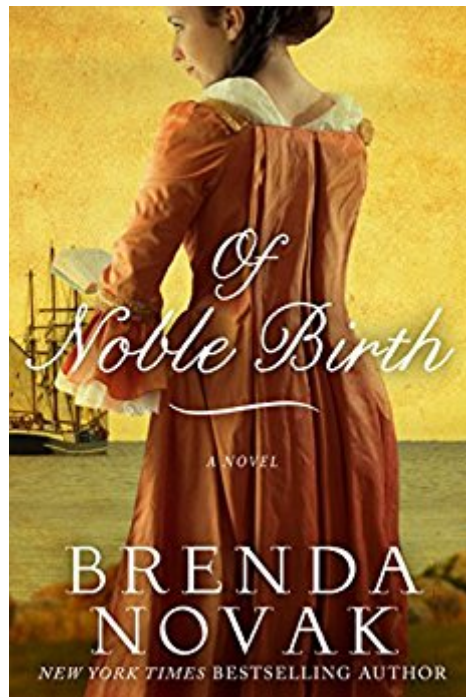


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# Of Noble Birth



## Synopsis

Furious at his aristocratic father for abandoning him as an infant, Nathaniel Kent spends his days exacting revenge in a most lucrative way. The handsome, blue-eyed pirate captain attacks his father's boats, plundering their cargo and reaping the rewards. When Nathaniel takes a lovely seamstress as his hostage, mistaking her for his spoiled and wealthy half sister, he feels elated over his clever capture. But his sense of triumph disappears as he slowly becomes tormented by his rising passion for the spirited young woman. After years of abuse from her violent stepfather, seamstress Alexandra Cogsworth finally planned her escape. But she never intended to wind up as a hostage on a pirate ship. Determined to ensure her safe passage on the Royal Vengeance, she keeps her true identity secret, playing the part of Nathaniel's blood relation. But as her desire for the charismatic yet dangerous Nathaniel grows, the rising current of their mutual longing could sweep them both away forever. Revised edition: This edition of *Of Noble Birth* includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brenda Novak's stunning debut novel, *OF NOBLE BIRTH*, is a fast-paced historical romance, a High Seas adventure with walk-off-the-page characters so vital they'll steal your heart from the first

page! This is one I could not put down. Ms. Novak pulls out all the stoppers, proving herself to be a most skilled wordsmith with her vivid portrayal of characters, time and place. Darkly handsome but marred Nathaniel Kent comes boldly alive, making our hearts race as we follow him along the path to attaining his life-mission: exacting revenge on his noble but utterly cold father. Seamstress Alexandra Cogsworth is his ideal match, and as with Nathaniel, Ms. Novak has created an endearing character, one you'll root for from the moment she walks onto the page. This is one novel without any flaws, everything works just right, casting a magical spell as you read. Ms. Novak sweeps you so thoroughly into her character's lives and world, you'll imagine yourself right there with them. I could almost breathe in the tangy salt air, picture myself aboard Nathaniel's ship, even half-expected to see his shipmates standing in the shadows as I read -- so real are these story-people. Yes, this one has it all: superb characterization, excellent motivation, worthy goals for her hero and heroine, and a fast-paced and gripping plot. OF NOBLE BIRTH offers a vivid story-world to escape to, a romance that will make you believe in love again, and an ending in which everything comes together so beautifully you'll close the book with a great sigh of satisfaction. Don't miss this one --- it'll be sure to win a place of honor in your heart and on your keeper shelf.

I recently discovered Brenda Novak when I read *Inside and In Seconds* and I was mesmerized by her ability to not only transport the reader to the tension filled scenes but also to evoke emotions we so often suppress. When I wrote Ms. Novak to tell her how enthralled I was with her 2 novels she promptly wrote back a thank you and thought I might like one of her first novels, *Of Noble Birth*. I just finished it and I cannot thank her enough for such a thrilling ride. Her writing is superior, her characters are so well drawn you feel instantly as if you are acquainted with them, and the situations they end up in left me on the edge of my seat for much of the novel. I never knew where the novel would go next, the twists and turns were amazing. I would have preferred a few steamy scenes but it was such a phenomenal novel I overlooked that missing detail. The injustices our hero, Nathaniel, must suffer are softened by the love of innocent seamstress, Alexandra. Please do not pass this novel up, it is well worth the experience. I will now read all of Ms. Novak's back list as she is an incredible romance author.

This book was unique. The main characters were so real, I couldn't put it down. Lots of twists and surprises and a great theme. This is not a novel where you skip to the good parts because it's all good. I can't wait for Ms. Novak's next book!

I read a lot of historical (regency) romance novels. I've enjoyed more "classical" regency books by Georgette Heyer and Mary Jo Putney. I've read Amanda Quick and discovered new author Grace Burrowes. I don't need a "high born" hero. The hero in this book is Nathaniel. While born the heir to a Dukedom, Nathaniel was almost killed at birth by his father when the father learned of his infant son's deformed arm. Fast forward many years and Nathaniel is now a man. He was spirited away from the duke by a housekeeper and raised by her. He is now seeking revenge on his father by acting as a pirate and stealing from his father's ships. We also meet Alexandra who is abused by her step-father (he has already locked her in a trunk where she almost suffocated) and forced to work as a seamstress. She is trying to make her escape to a cousin when Nathaniel abducts her in a case of mistaken identity (he thinks she is his half-sister and abducts her to blackmail his father into returning one of Nathaniel's friends). I agree with a previous reviewer that it was disturbing to read about Nathaniel being sexually attracted to someone he thought was his half-sister. At one point, it did seem like he was threatening to rape her. I have no idea how/why she was attracted to him after he abducted her, kept her captive on his ship, implied he or his crew would rape her, etc. Then, he realizes that she is not his relative, so then everything is okay? Also, the focus of the book seems much more on the adventures of the characters (the race away from the seamstress shop when they abduct her, the piracy adventures, firing on other ships, etc.) rather than on the supposed romance. Also, the coincidence of who they capture from one of his father's ships and the traitorous shipment of guns seems way too coincidental. I gave up about 50% in to this one, as it never really felt like a romance and I just could not get into the story.

Nathaniel Kent was born with a deformed arm, which caused his father, the Duke of Greystone, to attempt to smother him while his mother lay dying in her bed. Martha, the housekeeper, rescued him and raised him as her own. Martha died in a carriage accident when he was seven. Nathaniel knew his father was behind the accident and that fact sealed his hatred for his father. As a grown man, Nathaniel has his own ship and he makes his living as a pirate, stealing only from his father's ships. Alexandra Cogsworth is a seamstress who supports her alcoholic stepfather, Willy. Willy is abusive when he is drunk and he is drunk most of the time. After being locked in a trunk for hours, Alexander decides that she will run away to London and beg her aunt to take her to India with her. When one of his crew is captured by Greystone, Nathaniel decides to kidnap his half sister, Lady Anne, in order to bargain for his crewman's release. The only problem is Nathaniel has never seen Lady Anne and they kidnap Alexandra instead. Instead of a quick exchange, they are forced to take Alexandra on the pirate ship. What follows are many wild adventures. Nathaniel and Alexandra

are attracted to each other, but Nathaniel is rather horrified and keeps reminding himself that she is his half sister. Alexandra knows they are not related but she is determined to have a husband and family, not a fling with a pirate. The book is fast-paced and very exciting. I really liked the main characters and the supporting characters are great, too. The villains are indeed villainous. And the ending is very satisfactory. Get the book. You won't be sorry.

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