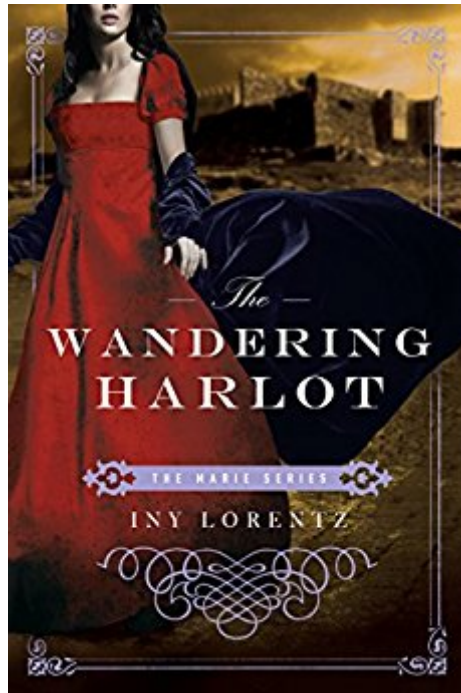




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# The Wandering Harlot (The Marie Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

In 1410 in Constance, Germany, the beautiful Marie Schœffer's luxurious life as a merchant's daughter is destroyed when her ambitious father arranges her marriage to a lawyer from the Black Forest named Rupert Splendidus. Her childhood sweetheart warns her of the attorney's sly character and is tragically proven right the day before the wedding, when Rupert accuses Marie of unimaginable behavior and has her thrown into a dank dungeon, where she is brutally attacked by his henchmen. Unfairly condemned and banished from her home, Marie is forced to become a wandering prostitute to survive. The clever and kind Hiltrud befriends Marie, and the strong-minded pair sets out on spirited adventures—bedding counts, meeting scoundrels, and tricking foes—as Marie plots the ultimate revenge on the men who stole her honor and her family's fortune. Set against a richly detailed historical backdrop, this is the dramatic tale of one woman's quest for vengeance, redemption, and real love.

## Book Information

File Size: 1830 KB

Print Length: 498 pages

Publisher: Crossing (June 24, 2014)

Publication Date: June 24, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00HJJGKGI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #11,959 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > German #16

in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Romance > Historical Romance #17 in Books >

Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > German

## Customer Reviews

The Wandering Harlot is simply written and largely historically accurate. It is interesting for the way it

illustrates the lot of women who found themselves outside the acceptable roles, whether by choice or not. It is a tale of revenge rather than a romance and the romance element is the most underdone. Perhaps the heroine is luckier in the fictional world than she might have been in real life but the plot is not entirely outlandish and the novel does not romanticise the lot of harlots. It does avoid salacious sexual detail. This is not an erotic peep show but a more serious attempt to deal with the underside of women's lot in the early 15th century. It's not a brilliant book but worth a read.

Using the totally omniscient point of view, author lets us know exactly how to interpret character, not just with our own perception of situation, characters' words, or action in the story. Compelling story line, but most of the "bad" guys are almost always at a distance from the heroine, and are pure, comic-book evil, with no complexities. Heroine's conflicts and doubts are overly thoroughly analyzed by the story's narrator, so that the reader constantly finds it tempting to skip ahead instead of plodding through what is usually already pretty obvious. Historical scholars may be somewhat put off by what this reader thought were anachronistic elements, like did colleges in the 15th century graduate people they labeled *summa cum laude* (p. 14) ? Did people refer to men as "guys" way back then (p.106) ? Would 15th Century keys be copied by taking a "wax impression" as might be done with our keys today (p. 185)? Would a medieval whore refer to her partners as "two cash cows" (p. 219)? And would a noble lady describe an expedient action as being in accord with "the law of the jungle" (p.444)? Et cetera. However, I thought the historical research was impressively thorough and cleverly worked into the fabric of the novel. Some of these problems may be attributable to the translator, Lee Chadeayne.

Great book. suspenseful and thought provoking. A glimpse at that time in our history.

After reading the beginning section that builds the plot, I had to put down and walk away. The time left women with no power and limited choices. I was angered. I came back to it weeks later to follow the development of the "harlot" through her very difficult life watching her find the strength to survive and find the power to help others while finding revenge.

Marie is the type of character that you can't wait to read what happens next. For a merchant's

properly reared daughter, she is very adaptable to her circumstances and manages to use them in a way to not only save herself, but others too.

Great book...

It amazes me how women were treated back in the day, no matter what country you are in. I feel for these women in this book, and so great full that I was not there in that century. To make a woman wear a yellow ribbon, to show everyone she is a cast out of a city and is a Harlot, whore, wow! Great history lesson in this particular part of the world.

Lots of history, intrigue, sorrow, joy and interest. I found myself enmeshed in the story line. Author is skilled in pulling reader into the lives of the characters

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