



The Sweetest Hours

Cathryn Parry

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Real life is no place for fairy tales...

Kristin Hart has romantic notions of Scotland. Yet she never expects to find a real-life Scotsman in her Vermont hometown! Despite her instant connection with him, Malcolm MacDowell isn't the Prince Charming she thought. Because no prince would shut down her factory—the one that means everything to her town.

Really, she has no choice. Kristin hops on the next flight to Edinburgh, determined to convince Malcolm her workplace should remain open. But the distraction of the man is almost too much. Still, the magic of the Highlands makes anything seem possible...even a happily ever after of her own.

The Sweetest Hours Details

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From Reader Review The Sweetest Hours for online ebook

Christy Olesen says

A good "take me away" story, which I especially liked because of the contemporary Scottish hero and location.

Raina Lie says

quite sweet

Harlequin Books says

Received 4 stars at RT Book Reviews

Jackie says

A sweet story by a really sweet fellow-NECRWA member. Malcolm, a Scotsman, comes to Vermont to do due diligence in a factory buy-out, and meets Scots-crazy factory engineer Kristin. He's adopted an assumed name, and because of non-disclosure clauses, doesn't tell Kristin what he's really doing at the factory. He's only there for a day, but the day ends with a dinner with Kristin's family, and a sweet goodbye kiss.

When the sale of the company (and the layoff of all its workers) is announced, Kristin discovers a new product line her old (now dead) boss had been developing, and determines to go to Scotland to convince the new owners that it would be worth it to keep the VT plant open to produce this new line ("Born in Vermont"). Little does she know that Malcolm is the nephew of the owner of Sage Industries, and that she'll need to convince him, as well as the owner, that her business plan is sound.

Kristin is a bit too naive/innocent to appeal to me, although I can see her appeal for women readers who actively embrace the good girl role. It was hard to understand why Malcolm saw her as a big risk-taker, someone who embraces life, when her interior thoughts present her as so shy and cautious, even with his backstory baggage which has made him an uber-control-safety kind of guy. Still, both Kristin and Malcolm are appealing characters, and their slow-build romance has real warmth and charm.

Harlequin Books says

"Malcolm shows real emotional depth in caring for both Kristin's and his family's feelings, as does Kristin in her determination to save her friends' jobs. Charming, yet flawed characters make this book a keeper". (RT Book Reviews, rated 4 stars)

Barbara says

Sigh.... Everyone woman should have a Malcom dropped on her doorstep. A wonderfully romantic hero and a fun read. Loved it.

Elisabeth says

Good Romance with men with accents and far away travels! Liked it quite a bit!

Gail says

Nice story. Part travelog of Scotland, part "Save the 'ranch'" story (with a factory playing the part of the ranch). The hero & heroine both had some past angst but it didn't overwhelm the plot. Just a Good Read.

Susan says

Good book. Malcolm has come to Vermont under an assumed name to work out the details for the purchase of the factory where Kristin works. He isn't able to tell her why he is there but spends time with her as she shows him the factory. He also meets her family when he is stranded while waiting for his driver. There is something about Kristin that draws him, but he feels very guilty about what is going to happen to her factory.

I really liked both Kristin and Malcolm though each certainly had issues that worked against them. Kristin had worked outside Vermont for awhile but something happened that sent her back to her hometown. There she got a job as an engineer at the town's main employer, a factory that makes body care products. She's happy with her work and glad to be near her family. If she sometimes dreams of something more exciting she just ignores it. When she first met Malcolm she was drawn to the hint of Scotland she heard in his voice and his sexiness. Under the impression he was a marketing consultant she showed him around the factory and helped him get the information he was looking for. She took him home for dinner that night while he was stranded, where he learned of her fascination with all things Scottish. She said goodbye to him later, never expecting to see him again. A few weeks later she learned of the sale of the factory and its closing. She decided to go to Scotland and appeal to the purchaser to try to keep the factory open. She was dismayed to see Malcolm and learn of his deception. She managed to get the CEO to consent to hear her out and he assigned Malcolm to work with her. Kristin had the opportunity to get to know more about him. She was torn in her opinions because, on one side he was her ticket to the big boss and she needed to keep him on her side, but she was also attracted to him. I thought she was a little naive in her certainty that she could get them to reopen her factory, but she certainly had the determination to make the attempt. I loved seeing her stand up for herself against him and insist that she would do what was necessary. I also enjoyed seeing her continue her search for her own family history and her insistence that she was not wrong about the information she had. I loved seeing the effect her personality had on Malcolm and his darker outlook on life. I also liked seeing the way that she loved so much of what she saw in Scotland. She did have a fear of being too far from home for long and resisted Malcolm's attempts to get her to stay in Scotland. Her feelings for him were

growing and seeing how hard he was working to help her only added to those feelings. I loved seeing the way that she showed him how much she cared before she went home. Then she had to decide if she could overcome her fears enough to go after what she really wanted.

Malcolm feels he has something to prove to the head of the family business and works hard to keep his emotions out of his business activities. This proves to be impossible when he meets Kristin. She is different than any woman he has known before. He knows that the factory will be closing and feels terrible guilt about it after spending time with Kristin and her family. I loved seeing him deal with her family and their Burns Night celebration. After returning to Scotland he tried to find a way to get her to come there. He was stunned to have her suddenly appear at their company headquarters. I loved his feelings of guilt over what had been done as they made him more determined to find a way to help her. One of the things he discovered was that he liked spending time with her. She always made him forget his problems. It was fun seeing him deal with her plans to drive herself out into the country, looking for a particular castle. Malcolm had to step outside his own comfort zone while dealing with her. He and his sister had been kidnapped as children and he still holds himself responsible. It has made him somewhat obsessive about safety. I loved seeing the way that he would do things to try to make her happy even though it was hard for him. Because of his feelings for her he really wanted to find a way to keep her factory open. It was eating him up that he was having so much trouble. I really liked the way it was his sister that helped him see the solution to both his problems.

Michele says

I won this book in a GoodReads giveaway and I am so glad I did. What is not to like -- Scottish castles, a pretty & spunky woman, a handsome and rich Scottish man and a romantic love story. Actually, there was one thing I didn't like and that was the sex scenes. They were not nearly as graphic as other writers make them but still too much for me and not necessary to the story and the enjoyment of it.

Other than that, the reader is treated to fun characters, great descriptions of Scotland and an (almost) fairy tale story. Kristin works as an industrial engineer for Aura Botanicals in Vermont. They make quality shampoo and body products. One day she finds Malcolm, a handsome man with a wonderful Scottish accent, in the plant and he says he has been hired as a consultant. The reader soon finds out there is much more to Malcolm and why he is in Vermont.

As the story evolves, we find both Malcolm and Kristin in Scotland where the reader is treated to Scottish life, castles and a Scottish wedding. The interaction between them is at first based on business but develops into something much more personal.

As it ended, I was already wanting more!

Jennifer says

I received this book as a free giveaway. It came with a personalized note and autographed copy from the author. The characters, Kristin and Malcolm ("Geroge"). Kristin will travel great lengths, across country, to save her town and company. Malcolm helps her realize her great potential and romance blossoms. Great read till the very end.

