



## Knight of Desire

*Margaret Mallory*

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### FEARLESS IN BATTLE

His surcoat still bloody from battle, William FitzAlan comes to claim the strategic borderlands granted to him by the king. One last prize awaits him at the castle gates: the lovely Lady Catherine Rayburn.

### TENDER IN BED

Catherine risked everything to spy for the crown. Her reward? Her lands are declared forfeit and she is given this choice: marry FitzAlan or be taken to the Tower. Catherine agrees to give her handsome new husband her body, but she's keeping secrets, and dare not give him her heart. As passion ignites and danger closes in, Catherine and William must learn to trust in each other to save their marriage, their land, and their very lives.

### **Knight of Desire Details**

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Author : Margaret Mallory

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## From Reader Review Knight of Desire for online ebook

### Terra says

Knight of Desire by Margaret Mallory is sizzling must have summer read. Delicious from page one to the very end, this is one love story you won't soon forget. A Debut book by this author that will leave you hungering for more.

William FitzAlan is a Knight of renown and high on the King's list of best of the best. A man with no title, lands nor wife, he is surprised when the King hands him all this on a platter for being who he is, a devoted Kings man to the death.

Catherine is Lady of Ross Castle and a close friend of the Prince. She is also the battered wife of a sniveling coward who rules this Castle and a man that has little to no scruples. When Catherine is trust into a plot to overthrow the King and Prince she knows where her allegiance falls and betrays her husband.

The story starts really quickly with the death of Catherine's husband and William's acquirement of lands, title and wife if he will have her. The king has given William two choices as to what he may do with the Lady of Ross Castle and he wonders if he will regret his choice for quite some time.

This is a delicious romance that flows smoothly from beginning to end, action packed throughout and sit on the edge of your seat fascinating that you won't be able to put it down. Even now with having finished this book I am craving more, ever so much more that I read the excerpt for the next book which is due out in December and wonder if I can indeed wait that long without going stark raving mad.

Our Author is new and this is a Debut book and one that surely make you come back for more. She has included all the best of deceit, love, pain, doubt, intrigue and so many more emotions that you will constantly be driven to go from one page to the next and wish you could read this in all one day. It will be very hard to put this one down even for the must have potty break.

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### D.L. says

Overall I enjoyed Knight of Desire. It definitely passed the put-down pick-up test. Most of the story is told from William, our hero's point of view. I enjoyed watching his feelings and understanding of Katherine evolve. While there is a lot of action, William and Katherine's relationship changes very slowly. The main conflict in their relationship is their lack of trust, so the book is rife with misunderstandings. They weren't the wall-banger, TSTL types of misunderstandings but I did start to find them tiresome. William spent most of the book either confused or oblivious, but is never an overbearing ass-hat hero. I found Kate's character more off-putting. She is clearly a strong woman able to endure a lot of hardship, but she didn't seem active in making her and William's relationship work until way into the book.

I was a bit hesitant about this book since it's my first medieval romance, but I'm glad I got it. I think my decision may have been influenced by its gorgeous cover and the rave reviews it received a few months ago. There wasn't too much detail and realism about the time period, but this worked for me since I find too much realism distracts me from the story. It was a fun read and I'm really excited for the next book in the series, Knight of Pleasure. The hero, Stephan, is introduced in this book and became my favorite character, so I'm

thrilled he gets his own story.

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### **Fani \*loves angst\* says**

A very enjoyable medieval romance, with a hero who might be boorish and taciturn but was less alpha than your usual knight. The heroes were likable and believable and though the hero was a bit of an ass for some part, he made up for it in the end. Their main problem is the lack of trust between them, which -stupid as it made him feel at some times- was in tandem with what they knew of each other. It was a sweet, emotional story of two lonely people that found themselves in a forced marriage and tried to make the best of it.

Still, the part after the middle where the adventure overtook the romance let me down somewhat; too much focus on politics and too much time for the heroes spent apart, is not my idea of a romance. Just when I was getting frustrated though, the romance picked up again and everything turned out as it should be. Overall, I really enjoyed reading this one.

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### **Laura V. says**

Me revientan las historias del macho celoso que tiene esa necesidad de orinar alrededor de la chica para marcar su territorio. William es tan inseguro de sí que vuelca todos sus problemas en Catherine y es ella la que paga el pato.

Él no puede venir y acusarla de adúltera, de infiel, de deshonesta y luego rogar una y mil veces por su perdón que no lo quiso hacer que la ama que todo va a ser mejor. Porque si Catherine de verdad quisiera dejarlo no podría, no tiene una posibilidad real de salir de ese matrimonio maldito de celos eternos. Así que él puede pasarse la vida acusándola de lo que se le antoje, siendo el marido celoso y desconfiado que demostró ser que ella no va a poder hacer gran cosa. El único "plus" es que ella lo ama, LA DIOSA SABRÁ PORQUÉ, pero de eso solo resulta una existencia miserable, porque William tiene más herramientas para hacerla sufrir. Porque sus acusaciones dolerán más porque ella de verdad confía en él y él no puede confiar en ella aún cuando se han conocido durante el mismo tiempo y ella le ha contado todo hasta lo que sabía que no tendría que haberle dicho porque William no ha dado evidencia de ser la clase de persona donde pueda una relegar sus problemas.

Me apena que Catherine esté encadenada a ese matrimonio, con las promesas de William de que todo va a ser mejor, que va a cambiar, que solo la ama a ella y quiere que solo lo ame a él, y esto y aquello, pensar que porque Catherine es bella, demasiado bella para su propio bien, siempre va a estar sujeta al prejuicio ya innato de William de que está intimando demasiado, de que no se da cuenta, de que esa sonrisa que le dio al otro hombre no será una promesa en realidad de encontrarse más tarde y esto y aquello.

Lo peor de todo es que la novela ni siquiera es buena. Ni Catherine es la gran cosa ni William el gran héroe o lo que sea, están tan pobemente esbozados que me enojo por los dos únicos pensamientos que William tiene en la cabeza, los dos únicos bocadillos que consiguió decirle a Catherine porque al parecer en su cabeza no tiene espacio para nada más. El contexto histórico es un eco lejano que intenta hacer su gran aparición pero solo confunde y terminás con ganas de que el libro fuera más corto y tratara de otra cosa. Como de William muriendo, por decir algo.

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Knight of Desire is the first book in the medieval series "All The King's Men" which is set around the same time that her "Return of The Highlanders" series. This book and this series is set around the time when King Henry IV took the throne and which deals with the Wales rebellion. I don't get a chance to read too many books around this time era and I had such a wonderful time with this book, it swept me back into this majestic period of history in England. Margaret Mallory has a almost magical touch when it comes to writing medieval era romances and I really got a kick out of her "authors note" that she put at the end of the book that explains some historical figures that we see in this book. Including King Henry and his son Harry and some of the Wales rebellion leaders.

This book begins with a prologue where our hero and heroine meet for the very first time. Lady Katherine, is to be married at sixteen to a man who frightens her but this is what the King is asking of her, and she is loyal. But the night before the wedding she wants some freedom but a knight....Sir William. William knows the risk of escorting Katherine, but fears what could happen to her if she doesn't have protection. So he goes out with her so she can enjoy her last night of freedom. There is a strong bond that forms between William and Katherine, a friendship of laughter and understanding. But Sir William goes off to war to fight and gain his own lands and Katherine is to be married to Lord Rayburn.

Lady Katherine has had to bear years of her husband forcing himself upon her, beating her for the lack of a child but finds a way to get pregnant and now she has a small son she loves and adores. But now Rayburn wants a second child and she doesn't know if she will survive his beatings once again. So when she realizes that her husband is a traitor to his King, she reports him to the King knowing that he is working along side with the rebels. She received notice that her husband has been killed and one of the King's men, a loyal knight, will be taking over the lands and will be the one to decide her fate. Sir William doesn't know if he can trust Rayburn's wife, considering she betrayed him even if it was due to her loyalties to the King. But when he sees her, he recognizes her as the one whom he protected that one night and one he never forgot even after all these years. So he has two choice send her to the tower in London or...marry her.

At first, Katherine is apalled that she will have to marry again especially to a man that is a stranger to her. But she soon realizes that Sir William is very different from her late husband...he is kind and gracious to her son. Soon a slow trust begins to form between them, but there is still a level of miscommunication between them. And when they both make mistakes, they soon realize that they need to embrace their marriage and come to an understanding and acceptance. But the battles with the King's enemies will prove to push the love they have found to the brink and they may lose each other just as they have found each other again...

What a tremendous and beautifully written story that I devoured. I honestly didn't want to put this book down and breezed through this audio book. I have had this trilogy on my TBR for the LONGEST time, in reality...years. I will admit, that the covers that Forever designed for these books are stunning and just makes you want to buy them so they can look pretty on your shelf. But I adore medieval romances and Margaret Mallory is so talented at writing these books and the time era that she has chosen for this trilogy is one of my favorites. There are so many unique dynamics that bring this book together.

One of my favorite aspects was seeing all the secondary characters and where as some of them are actual

historical figures. Such as King Henry IV and his son Harry. Prince Harry we see quite a bit of in this book, he and Katherine were childhood friends, and we see how he plays a pivotal role in the story and the development of the plot and some of the Wale rebels machinations. I was fascinated by Prince Harry to be honest. I so don't like his father since he was very cruel. But his son, was the opposite. Of course, he was a warrior and at the young age of eighteen, he already was in charge of England's armies and despite how youthful he could be...he was cunning and so intelligent yet charming and kind too. I was really intrigued with how Mallory developed the plot because...seriously...it didn't turn in the way I expected it and she always does this to me. She turns my world upside down with twists and plot developments that take those unexpected turns. The historical aspects of the story are one of my favorite elements of this story. Its so rich with history and details and I was really intrigued with how she handled the rebellion of Wales. This is such a fundamental part of England's history and she wrote it so well. I found myself really intrigued with the leaders of Wales who are in charge of this rebellion and now I want to pour through historical books to find out more about them. This is the true talent of Margaret Mallory, when she wants me to pour over history books....you just know how well she pens a story.

The romance between William and Katherine isn't a easy road for either of them. The first half of the book, the focus is them learning each other and boy the misunderstandings and miscommunications are ridiculous at times. If they were to just sit down for five minutes, it would be resolved. But then its a romance novel...so its not going to be that easy. But they do find some common ground and boy does the hero let Jealousy get the better of him. We see him face up to why he is feeling jealous of the Prince....so much that he almost wants to attack him even though its obvious they are just good friends. Katherine has her own issues of course too....she hasn't emotionally recovered from the abuse she was dealt by her first husband and at times she does take it out on William, even if she doesn't realize what she is doing at first. They both have to learn about trust and honesty and being open with each other if they want their relationship to work. But they do make it work and find some common ground although....the learning aspect of their relationship was so dramatic at times that it could be a bit frustrating. This aspect of the story is the reason this book isn't a five star read. Lack of honesty and communication can drive me up the wall.

Overall I fell in love with Knight of Desire....its a tale rich in history, vibrant in sensuality, stunning in detail and endearing in emotion, simply a romance to remember!!!UNFORGETTABLE!

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## Ridley says

Huzzah for enjoying a free book!

Mallory's debut medieval pairs the wily Lady Catherine with the honorable, but stubborn and insecure, William FitzAlan in a hasty marriage. Catherine's husband had betrayed the Crown, but Catherine had been sending the prince messages behind her husband's back. The day the king's forces catch up with and kill her traitorous husband, she's offered a choice: live in the Tower of London, or marry William, who the king gave her lands to. Reasonably, she agrees to marry.

The book shines on the virtues of its plot. There's angst, yes. Catherine was abused by her previous husband and is not terribly keen on the whole wife thing. William doesn't trust her or women in general. But the plot keeps twisting and turning, with running away to an abbey, royal visits, kidnapping, intrigues, and bad guys getting what's coming to them. She drops clues and builds foreshadowing subtly. Never did I think I had the next step all figured out, but neither was I ever totally surprised.

None of this book is groundbreaking. You know these guys. She's spirited. He's alpha. There's a ton of misunderstanding and groveling. But the plot moves so well, pulling us along a surprising journey, that the stock characters are acceptable. They're not cardboard cutouts, but this is not a character study by any means. I enjoyed Catherine's poise and spirit and William's drive to do the right thing and ability to apologize when he's done quite the wrong thing, but they're very familiar characters to me.

Regardless, I look forward to subsequent books of hers. She has a good voice for medieval romance, if maybe a touch too modern.

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## HÜLYA says

Arzu ?övalyesi

Margaret Mallory

Orta Ça? romanlar? okumay? gittikçe daha çok sever oldum..Nedense bu dönemdeki romanlar?n konular? bana daha etkileyici geliyor..O dönemde ya?am ko?ullar?n?n daha çetin olmas?ndan tutun da tarihin sihirli yapraklar?nda güzel bir yolculuk yapm?? oluyoruz..Margaret Mallory bu roman? Gall ?syan? zamanlar?nda kurgulam??..Roman?n kurgusunu oldukça be?endim..A?k,Sava?,?syan,?hanet,Sadakat temalar? üzerine kurguluydu..Ayr?ca ara?t?rd???mda yazar?n ilk roman? oldu?unu görüyorum.. Arzu ?övalyesi All the King's Men serisinin de ilk kitap? üç kitapl?k bir seri bu..?lk romanda William FitzAlan?'n hikayesi var ikinci romanda da Karde?i Stephen'in hikayesi..

Kitab?n çevirisi bence iyi idi.Hikaye çok ak?c?yd? çevirden rahats?z olmam için garip kelimelerin kullan?lmas?,yazar ile arama girilmesi yeterlidir..Fakat Arzu ?övalyesi Ba?ar?l? bir kitap idi..Özellikle kapa??..Orjinal kapaktan daha iyi idi bence..

Hikaye de bask?n bir kad?n karakter vard? bu historical romanlarda s?rad???d?r.. Yani Alfa karakter...Erkek

kahraman?m?z ise Beta karakter daha az bask?n..Roman? okurken kad?n?n gözü pek acar olmas? ho?uma gitse de baz? yerlerde beni sinir etti...Fakat fazla takmamaya çal??arak okurken zevk ile okudumsa da..Kocas? ile olan ili?kilerinde kendince buldu?u çare pek ho?uma gitmedi...

K?saca Konuya Gelirsek:

William FitzAlan gözü pek, cesur bir topraks?z ?övalyedir..Kral onu son hizmetin de ödüllendirerek Gal s?n?r?nda toprak verir..Ödülüünü kontrol etmek için gitti?inde de onu ba?ka bir ödül daha beklemektedir..Topraklar?n? ald??? soylunun güzel kar?s? Leydi Catherine Rayburn..Catherine'nin kaderei sadece ve sadece ona ba?l?d?r..William daha onu görmeden nikah?na almaya karar vermi?tir..Kaley'e var?p da onu kar??layan güzeller güzel kad?n? gördü?ünde ?ok geçirir..Çünkü y?llar önce Catherine evlenmeden bir gece önce aralar?nda s?ra d??? duygusal bir yak?nla?ma olmu?tur..O geceyi aradan y?llar geçse de unutamam??,kar??la?t??? kad?nlarda o geceki güzel k?z? aram??t?r..Fakat Catherine onu tan?mam??t?r.. Fakat Catherine kocas? Lord Rayburn'un hainlik ve ihanetlerini Kral'a bildirmi?,kocas?da öldürülmü?tür..Geçmi?te kocas?ndan inan?lmaz ?iddet ve zülüm gören bu genç kad?n?n hayat? cehenneme dönü?ür..William kocas?na ihanet eden bu kad?na güvenebilmesi kolay de?ildir..Bir yandan y?llarca bereber çal??t??? kader arkada?? Edmund'da Catherine'ye cephe alm?? William'a onu kötülemektedir.. Catherine William ile evlendikten sonra yeni kocas?n?n ilk Rayburn'e benzemedi?ini hatta sevgi dolu oldu?unu fark etmesi uzun sürmedi..Fakat ya?ad??? çok çetin evlilik ?artlar? onu da güvensizle?tirmi?ti...

Aralar?ndaki tutkunun alev almas? da uzun sürmedi..Tutkular? her ne kadar onlar? yak?nla?t?rsa da en büyük problemleri güven idi..

Oldukça zevk alarak okudu?um bir roman oldu..Serinin devam?n? merakla bekliyorum... Keyifli okumalar...

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## Katyana says

This was an interesting book.

It was a fun, fast read, but it was largely sort of... \*shrug\* Let's start with the good stuff:

### **Catherine was a badass.**

I really liked the heroine, Catherine. She was in a shitty situation, but she was clever, resourceful, determined, and never gave up. She made the best of her difficult, dangerous life, and managed to take good care of the people who were important to her. It was nice to read about a heroine I actually admired. She didn't need to wait around for anyone to save her; Catherine saved herself. On multiple occasions.

### **Real historical detail**

It was fun reading a bit about the young life of Henry V, and the actual historical figures from the Welsh and Northern rebellions. Obviously, creative license was taken, but still, I enjoyed the setting and the research that went into it.

## Great secondary characters

Everyone from the housekeeper (Alys) to the hero's brother (Stephen) to the heroine's son (Jamie) to the estranged mother (Elanor) was fun to read about. They all brought dimension to the story, and I enjoyed reading about them.

Now for the stuff that I think could have been better...

### **Men suck and should all die horrible, flaming deaths.**

I felt that the above message got to be a little tedious... at times, I felt the message repeated over and over with all the forcefulness of an anvil to the noggin. The one (and really, the only) thing you could count on in this story is that the men would be a constant disappointment to Catherine. Okay, not the children (Stephen, Jamie... and maybe you can include Harry too, as the book mentions multiple times that he is just 18 and is not yet wise in the ways of the world / women). Apparently, males are born intelligent and sweet, but somewhere along the way, morph into douchecanoes. This is true for nearly everyone in this book, from Catherine's father to the king to the hero (William). They certainly didn't all mean to be condescending douchebags, but hey, they can't help being born men, right? \*wink wink\*

It got tiresome.

### **Expounding on that last one a little William stressed me out.**

I really wanted to like him. And in truth, I did like him. But he was hypocritical. His family were traitors to the crown, but he worked hard to distinguish himself and prove his loyalty, so he expected to not be judged by his family and their actions. But he refused to trust Catherine, because the man she was *forced by the King to marry* ended up being a traitor to the king (that's not really a spoiler, btw... it happens in ch 1). This, despite the fact that the king and prince learned of her husband's treachery *from Catherine herself*, so they were able to catch him in the act and that was that (also not a spoiler, you can read it on the back of the book). She has done as much as he has to prove her loyalty. But because she's a woman, and all the men seem to think that she should somehow managed to not betray her husband AND (paradoxically) not betray the king, she is to be viewed with contempt.

William is also dumb. Sorry, but he is. It really is his superpower - he can say amazingly dumb things that leave my jaw on the floor.

And then, at the end of the book, he gets emo. At that point, I was just rolling my eyes. All the "wah-wah, I have failed you" was a little over-the-top.

Despite all that, I honestly liked William. He was a good man. When he thought LOGICALLY about things, he loved Catherine. But he was prone to passionate anger, and every time, that passionate action / reaction led him in a stupid direction. See above (William is dumb).

### **Seeing women treated like cattle is rough.**

I know it is historically accurate, but still. The way Catherine was treated in the opening couple of chapters... and then the way the abbess told her she should be grateful for it all... it set my teeth on edge. I could never have lived in that time. I would have set someone on fire. Probably a lot of people, frankly.

### **It got a little melodramatic.**

We had barely recovered from one threat to Catherine's life, and the next would occur. I like the drama of *danger* as much as the next person, but at some point, even I have trouble suspending disbelief. I don't blame

William for wanting to lock her in the castle, preferably in a room filled with pillows.

But lest you think that the negatives above really dragged it down, let me reassure you: it really was a fun read. I will be snagging the next book in the series, featuring Stephen, some point very soon.

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### **Nely says**

On the night before her wedding Lady Catherine secretly decides to go on one last ride before she is to marry the man her King has chosen to be her husband. There she meets a young knight (William FitzAlan) who accompanies her on this ride and returns her safely to the stables, but not before leaving them with memories that they think back upon over the years.

Five years later, Lady Catherine betrays her husband in order to protect her king. Her husband was violent and abusive and she has no remorse in betraying him for the traitor that he was. On the day of her husband's death, she learns that his/her lands and castle are forfeit to William FitzAlan. The King has left her with no choice but to either be taken to the Tower or to marry FitzAlan. Reluctantly she chooses to marry William - as for William, he recognizes Catherine as the young girl he still thinks of and immediately marries her despite his doubts as to what type of woman can betray her husband.

Although the main threat to Catherine is easily resolved with their marriage, there are still many other issues that they have to deal with. For one, Catherine has only been to the marriage bed with her late husband and it was not something pleasant for her. So she is none too thrilled about consummating her marriage. Secondly, William has issues trusting her - he is constantly questioning her actions not to mention his closest friend keeps reminding him of the outcome of her previous marriage. As passion ignites and danger closes in, Catherine and William must learn to trust in each other to save their marriage, their land, and their very lives.

I love historical romances - and this one has just the right amount of romance, witty banter and likeable characters. Ms. Mallory definitely did her research when describing the Welsh rebellion of the 15th century as well as Medieval England. This is a well-written story and you will see that the pages fly by with ease. It is riddled with love, lust and betrayal... what more could you want out of a romance novel? I can definitely recommend this to fans of the romance genre and congratulate Ms. Mallory on a very enjoyable debut.

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### **UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says**

*This review contains NO spoilers*

*A little "how I came to buy this book" background:*

A few months ago I was browsing through a bookstore one day, looking for something to scratch my medieval romance itch and I happened upon *Knight of Desire* by Margaret Mallory. I read the blurb on the back and it sounded good to me, but it was the hunky man on the cover that sold me. Yes, I am ashamed (but only a little bit) to say that I am one of *those* women who do in fact allow the cover design to sway my pocketbook. I mean, let's be honest ladies. If you're reading a book and the story is horrible but the cover is

beautiful and sexy and gives you something to drool over, it doesn't feel like a total waste of money. Am I right? I can see you all nodding your heads in agreement. But I digress...So I made my purchase, came home and put the book right up there on my bookshelf and forgot about it.

Then just a few weeks ago, I signed up for a Goodreads reading challenge that required the title of the novel to contain a word, any word, that had to do with royalty, so I went right to my bookshelf and started pulling out books that would qualify and what did my wondering eyes behold? Yep, you guessed it! *Knight of Desire*. I grabbed it off the shelf, added it to my book challenge list and am now sitting here, laptop at hand, hoping that I can find the words to describe this book in a way that will do it justice.

Now that *that's* out of the way -

#### *My Review:*

I had no idea while reading this book that it was Margaret Mallory's debut novel. That says a lot about the writing, the storyline and the characters. This type of storyline was fairly new to me and instantly caught my interest, holding it from the first page to the last. Things start moving very quickly in the story which was nice. Often times a novel with a complex plot ends up reading like a history book with dates and place names tossed at you. This is not the case with Mallory's writing. She brings the story to life, artfully weaving a tale that sweeps you away to another time. You can imagine yourself being there through it all – the battles, the intrigue and the passion.

All of the relationships in *Knight of Desire* were beautifully written which is why I came to care about the characters, not as characters, but as people. I enjoyed the deep, longtime friendship between Catherine and Prince Harry, the mother/child bond of Catherine and Jamie and then the love/hate marriage between Catherine and William. Their emotions were honest in that they felt the kinds of things that real people in their situations would feel; hurt, betrayal, mistrust, doubt, fear – but there is also hope, faith, desire, passion and most importantly, love.

I regret having waited so long to take this one off the shelf! I'm definitely looking forward to reading *Knight of Pleasure* and *Knight of Passion*, as well as her upcoming Highlander series.

**Note** - my original rating for this was 4 stars, but as I sit here reading book 2 in the series, I see what an excellent job Ms. Mallory did 'pre-developing' the characters, Stephen and Jamie so I'm changing this rating to 5 stars.

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#### **Samantha says**

So I totally loved this book. I'd read the first book in Margaret Mallory's other series *Return of the Highlanders* and enjoyed it, but I definitely loved this book more. It kept me reading late into the night and all the next day until I finished it. And it left me sighing and psyched to read the next to books in the *All the King's Men* trilogy.

The book starts out with a highly romantic prologue. And then it's right down to business. Our hero, William FitzAlan, rides up to Ross Castle ready to claim the castle as his own, as well as the recently widowed lady of the keep. The king has given him both as spoils of war. William is not a warrior brute however; he wishes to marry the Lady Catherine Rayburn to save her from the Tower, and so that she and her young son will not

be thrust out of their ancestral home.

After escaping a terrible marriage by sharing her husband's rebellious plans with the Crown-due to her spy intel, he was slain in battle-the last thing Catherine wants is to be married again. But to protect her young son, and possibly her life, she acquiesces to William FitzAlan's proposal. So bam! Our hero and heroine are married in the first few chapters. I like this storytelling device, as it lets the relationship get developed right off the bat and the romance can get underway. It's also just a romance novel trope I love; marriage of convenience or necessity, that has ABSOLUTELY nothing to do with love. At first ;)

I loved the characters. From our leads to the supporting characters, Mallory has done a fantastic job developing them all. Catherine is a complex, much more interesting heroine than we sometimes get in historical romances. She is a spy, she has survived terrible ordeals, and she is a fiercely devoted mother. She knows how to rely on herself and also how to form important alliances. She even has male friends and associates who are not romantic interests! Imagine that! Catherine is fiercely loyal to England and knows how to run a household and manage an estate. Her beauty is far from her only asset, which is admirable, especially for a woman living in the early 1400s. William is very knightly and honorable (which I find oh so romantic). He definitely has his flaws, but he is always trying to redeem himself, and to become more understanding of others. William and Catherine's relationship is very dramatic and tempestuous, but also hot and realistic. Yes, there are a lot of arguments and misunderstandings, but there probably would be when you're forced to marry someone the very day that you meet them! The cast of characters includes Catherine's darling little boy, a smart and mischievous young man called Stephen, a host of loyal servants, and a villain who reminded me of Thomas from *Downton Abbey*. Then there's a host of real historical figures, like Prince Harry (later Henry V), the Tudors of Wales, and Prince Owain Glyndwr.

I noticed some similarities between *Knight of Desire* and the other Mallory book I've read, *The Guardian*. They both have the rich family life, real history mixed with fiction, and both feature a similar climax, (view spoiler) I like Mallory's style of romances. Every historical romance writer has their formula, and she does hers well. Extremely well in *Knight of Desire*. I recommend it not only to fans of historical romance, but to fans of historical fiction in general. Sharon Kay Penman's medieval historical fiction used to be my go-to; Mallory has a rich level of historical detail and knack for time and place that recalled those books for me. It was also totally refreshing to read a medieval romance novel NOT about highlanders! I don't think I had before! Medieval England, and Wales (where part of this book is set), are some of my favorite settings :)

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### **?Karlyn P? says**

I enjoyed it overall, but at times it felt like I was reading a medieval soap opera. I skimmed the last half. I didn't really care much for hero or heroine, and the storyline had too many little misunderstandings and wrong assumptions.

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### **????ηι?ι says**

Koridorda bi yazar vard? ?imdi ad?n? hat?rlayam?yorum ona benzettim olay örgüsünü çok fazla olay insan takipte zorlan?yor. biri bitiyor biri ba?l?yordu. K?z? kaç?r?yorlar sonra tekrar ba??na gelmeyen kalm?yordu falan a??r? olmu? biraz ama yine de okutuyor kendini. biraz daha sade olsa ?ahsen daha tercih ederdim

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### Carrie says

Medieval isn't my go-to time period for romance novels, but I enjoyed this one quite a bit. It was an engaging book full of well-drawn characters and a decent plot. It's a "typical" romance book, yet there were non-typical events and actions, which I appreciated. There is a strong female lead that nonetheless feels at home in the time period and not a modern transplant. I read through it quickly and was happy to pick it up whenever I had the chance to read. That's the measure of a successful book these days! ;-)

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### Caz says

*Knight of Desire* is a medieval romance set in a period that I haven't come across very often in historical romance – the time immediately following the usurpation of the English throne by Henry Bolingbroke (Henry IV). This story of a young woman who is forced into marriage not once, but twice, is played out against the backdrop of great political unrest in England, and most specifically, along the Western Marches, the borders between England and Wales. The historical detail has clearly been well researched and I especially enjoyed the author's portrait of the future King Henry V, who, at the time this story takes place, is a youth of eighteen and already a seasoned soldier.

Lady Catherine is married at sixteen for her money and lands. Her much older husband, Lord Rayburn, takes out his frustration over his bedroom inadequacies on her and beats her with increasing violence to the extent that she fears for her life. Unable to stand up to him physically, she works secretly to ensure his downfall by spying on him and passing on information of his treasonous activities to the king. Given Rayburn's treatment of her, it's no wonder that her reaction to the news of his death in battle is one of overwhelming relief.

Unfortunately for Catherine, she is not destined to remain a widow for long. Even though she had been instrumental in exposing Rayburn as a traitor to the crown, King Henry is mistrustful of a woman who would betray her husband so easily and is of a mind to have her imprisoned in the Tower of London to await execution as an accessory. Fortunately for Catherine, Prince Henry (Harry) intercedes on her behalf. They grew up together and have remained friends over the years and Harry, knowing Catherine to be loyal, persuades his father to clemency. The king decrees that Catherine's fate shall be decided by Sir William FitzAlan, the man responsible for the defeat of the rebel forces and the man to whom Henry has gifted Rayburn's lands and castle. FitzAlan can marry the lady or send her to the Tower as he sees fit.

Fortunately for Catherine, FitzAlan is a chivalric and honourable knight and he determines he will marry her, sight unseen. Given that her last husband had been chosen for her by the previous king (Richard II), Catherine is naturally not especially sanguine about marrying the choice of the current monarch. She is surprised when William turns out to be young, handsome, and kind. Given she has no alternative but to agree, they are married before the day is out.

**You can read the rest of this review at [AudioGals](#), where I've given a B for content and a C for narration. I've left my grade here at 3 stars because of a serious flaw in the narration.**

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