



Hard Day's Knight

Katie MacAlister

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Men in tights never looked so good. At least that's Pepper Marsh's first impression when she attends a jousting competition at the Renaissance Faire in Ontario. An unemployed and unattached software engineer, Pepper has had enough of the computer geeks in her dating pool. She yearns for a man of yore. A man not afraid to stare death in the face ...and laugh at it. A man with a big lance...

Pepper's cousin has promised to find her a knight in shining armor, on the condition that Pepper walk around in wench garb. With her mind on her embarrassingly revealing bodice, Pepper promptly steps into the path of an oncoming steed...and is rescued by sexy Englishman Walker McPhail. Once the wild man of jousting, Walker has let a brush with death keep him out of the ring. Though his emotions are clad in almost impenetrable armor, Pepper finds Walker infuriatingly sexy--and she's about to go medieval on his heart...

Hard Day's Knight Details

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From Reader Review Hard Day's Knight for online ebook

Anzu The Great Destroyer says

Oh yes.... Another one of my damn mistakes. I saw the book cover and I thought wow this sounds like fun. Again I blew it! No fun at all!

So, first problem. Girl wants to date an alpha hottie. Idea? "Renaissance Faire". Really? That's the place to meet hotties? More like losers... Katie MacAlister tried to implement a few of them here and there, some pretty eyes, some round asses and yet I didn't find them hot. AT ALL. The only stallion was Walker, who ended up being an idiot. Why you ask? Because he fell in love with the most stupid woman who ever lived on our planet. Yes, that's Pepper if you haven't guessed it.

The story sucks ass. Bigtime! At the beginning of the book I thought hey maybe it's a slow start. I'll just wait till I get to the funny part. And I waited. And waited. And eventually the book ended. And no funny part came... Dammit! I can easily compare this book to a time when I got myself a glass of Coke, but I forgot it on the counter. The next day I tried to drink it. Bad idea!

So this book can be compared to that exact glass of Coke, but after a week. See? Even the glass feels bad about it...

As a proud cat owner I felt offended by the creature they presented in the book. The creature named Moth or whatever. What the hell was that thing? I mean I never saw my cat being so retarded like this one. I don't think any cat can be like this... And Pepper, the Queen of All That Is Stupid, acting all Sherlock Holmes and pretending the Moth is Watson was just horrible. I wanted something funny not damn kids shit!! And don't get me started on her fear of getting eaten by horses. I swear to God all the characters in this book are retarded.

Now I found the idea of jousting interesting but since I wanted to have a good laugh while reading the book I found it irritating that the author kept on insisting on this, adding way too many details to it until I lost interest. 75% done with the book and I couldn't wait to finish it and pick up something else to wash away the sour taste.

Another biiiiig problem was the "dirty-talk" they were having in bed. I don't think I was ever so disgusted or turned off towards something that's supposed to be passionate. Of course we are talking about good stuff, not porn. I can guess your faces you little disgusting perverted creatures! I'm talking about nice books! Ok, now that we settled this, let's get back to the problem. Wtf?!? It was simply horrible. I don't know what Katie MacAlister's fantasies are but I'm guessing they're not good... I'm still finding it difficult to erase some words from my head after reading this book.

I tried so hard to find some good stuff for the top 5 quotes, but eventually managed to get just a few ones. The entire book is full of strange strange stuff... How can we forget quotes like:

"I melted into a big old puddle of Pepper goo", or

"It was time to unleash Pepper, Warrior Princess. Aiaiaiaiai!", or my personal favorite

“Ladies first.”

“That’s Sir Lady to you, buster.”

That one’s a classic.

Now the best way to prove you just how gay this book is I will use my latest invention. This is the premiere of something so great it will spread chills around your body! Wilson!!! Bring forth the Gay-O-Meter!!

whispers and awe sounds in the background

As you can see the tests proved it all. The book is dangerously gay I might add. The Gay-O-Meter is never wrong! Thank you Wilson.

Top 5 quotes

#5 *“Aha! Got you now, you demonic imp in feline form.”*

#4 *“If I see the men in the white coats, I’ll let them know you’re ready and waiting. Until then, good night.”*

#3 *“You’re jealous because Farrell kissed me first, and you wanted to do that because you rescued me, and therefore by rights I was yours. Not that I buy into that whole guy-owning-a-woman thing, but I admit that a little bit of possession is kind of sexy. However, you’re obviously too much in denial to admit that you want to kiss me.”*

#2 *“If I knew where he was right now, I’d be wearing testicle-shaped earrings.”*

#1 *“Alas that you’ll never taste the dew on my berries, you unmuzzled, pox-warted, boiled-brained pustule on the buttock of a skainsmate!”*

Evie Upadhyay says

This is a silly, fun romance book with many laugh out loud moment. The book is a light read and I like this book from the other books written by the same author. I did notice that the writer uses female characters who are ignorant or don't have enough information about the male main character and end up making a mess out of the situation a lot. I have noticed this in other books written by the author too. She deliberately creates a situation in which the character is given less information and as a result, she acts stupidly and ends up in a bigger mess than usual. And I don't believe the side characters, they gossip about everything but not the hottest and juiciest gossip of all. That's just stupid.

Nancy says

This was a fun book and I think that this is the best one that this author has written,

Sarah says

Possibly the worst book I've ever read - and a ridiculously inaccurate rendering of what goes on at a renaissance faire, to boot. The sex scenes aren't even sexy - "happy juice," anyone? Yech. The main enjoyment I had out of this book (which was considerable, I'll admit) was reading passages of it out loud to friends for public mockery. Skip it unless you've worked at a ren fair and want a good laugh at all the inaccuracies.

Beth Devlin says

Oh, yes. Our heroine decides to leave the "computer geeks" she works with and goes to find a "real man" at a... RENAISSANCE FAIRE? Dude, I have worked at a Ren Faire. Yes, there is a certain amount of hotness with the guys in tights and accents and such. But in reality, these guys are also completely geeky.

Silly plot aside, this book is BAD. No one (even at Ren Faires) speak like these characters, and the sex scenes are decidedly UNsexy. No one should ever use the term SQUELCHY, okay, people? Ew, just writing it gave me the shivers. Gross gross gross.

This book is kind of funny if you're a Faire person, because it's so off-the-mark. And the writing is seriously atrocious. But I would say 99.89% of the world should just pass on this book.

Ari says

4.5 stars

This is my second Katie MacAlister book and she once again, did not disappoint.

MacAlister usually writes strong and confident women who are unbelievably ridiculous in their hilariously amusing moments.

Here we have Pepper, who is determined to pull off her happily ever after and fairy tale story with Walker, a grumpy and very sexy knight in shining armor. They're a perfect match, and for every corny line that was written, a warm and emotional scene was added in. They complement each other really well, and pull off that happy ending without a hitch—and a few stray pets along the way.

Reading this story was like living a little slice of a fantasy world, considering the setting.

If you want a sweet, funny book with some deliciously smoldering moments, give this one a chance.

After reading *Hard Day's Knight*, I have an unbelievably strong urge to visit a Renaissance Faire.

Aberforth says

I went into Katie MacAlister's Hard Day's Knight desperately wanting to love it. It's not often that I see a faire based book that doesn't involve some sort of cheesy-ass time travel. Maybe I set my expectations too high. Maybe this person's experience of a renaissance faire is entirely different than mine; I don't know. (I doubt it though - I've performed at renaissance faires for enough years that I seriously doubt it's THAT much different at her home faire.)

If I were to judge renaissance faires based on this book having never been to one, then I would come to the conclusion that they are all about jousting and the Wenches' Guild. There's a mention of brightly colored tents as well, but those seem to disappear after they initially set up the book. Most of the book centers on jousting, which I know very little about so I won't really be able to go into details on that one. Pretty much all I can say is that it was a HUGE jousting competition with teams from all over the world (though they only seem to interact with three teams- the elitist team, the good guy's team and the good guy's ex-wife's all-female "men suck, grrr!" team.)

Beyond that, the heroine in the book was a member of the Legion of Wenches (in the real world known as "The International Wenches Guild") The funniest part of that?

She's never been to a renaissance faire.

o.O

Seriously, who joins the Wenches' Guild without ever having been to a faire and without knowing what you're getting into? I mean, her cousin talked her into it, but still, the internet is available. Do some research!!! She naturally finds herself shocked as she's dragged away from her new jousting boyfriend to go on a "Promenade" *cough*WenchWalk*cough*, where she's expected to sing bawdy music and kiss random guys she's never met. If I had to sum up the entire non-jousting part of the book in macro-ese, it would be "My shelf: let me show you it." (Though, to be fair, that does actually kind of describe the Wenches Guild. >.>)

Through the entire book, this woman is just so obnoxious about the whole faire thing. Hell, they even set it up in the beginning that she's only going in the hopes of finding true love. *eyeroll* She's really close-minded about the entire experience and doesn't open herself up to anything new (...well, except her legs, which she opens up quite easily, actually. She and her jousting boyfriend have some cake-and-bake action within two days.) Her cousin has to drag her to go do anything new. Plus, throughout the book, the girl is stuck babysitting her cousin's parents' cat who is the spawn of Satan and tears everything up, though he loves the hero. And actually, based on the heroine's experiences and thoughts, I figured this book was set out to make fun of the IWG, but no, apparently the writer is a member of the IWG, so there goes that theory.

The hero is very bland. There's not much to his personality other than the fact that he has a "dreamy" British accent. He's kind of playful in bed or when he's trying to get some, but never any other time. He's kind of angry sometimes. The only thing I can tell he's interested in is animals and jousting. We don't learn anything about his non-jousting past or family or anything (which is odd - contrary to popular belief, people who work at renaissance faires actually DO have lives outside of it. They may have families, friends, spouses or significant others, jobs, etc.). They try to give him a troubled past where he's all emo because he broke the neck of some guy while jousting, but it kind of fails.

Really, the whole book kind of fails. Bonus points for attempting a concept that I've not seen before in these things, but it still ended up relying on a lot of the old tried-and-true romance novel cliches as well as failing on the initial idea.

Fani *loves angst* says

DNF at 75% not because it was bad, but because I was no longer in the mood for such a book.

Shannon says

This story had delightful characters and wonderful comedy and really dynamic villains. good stuff!

Suzie Quint says

This is my kind of romance. An intelligent (but not perfect) heroine mixing it up with an Alpha male, who though cautious, isn't really afraid to love a woman. The two take turns chasing each other (though neither runs away very fast or for very long.) The banter is humorous, the sex is hot, and the payoff is love (since the sex starts early.) I'm ordering more of this author's books.

Kimberly says

There are times this reminded me of A Knight's Tale, but I think it's because they're both about jousting. The book kind of dragged until chapter 16 or so. Yeah, I get there's set up and all that, but it felt so predictable. Having said that, the explanations towards the end brought everything together. Honestly, I liked the book but it was just meh.

Sally says

It's light, it's fluffy... Girl meets handsome man at a Renaissance Faire and he is, literally, her knight in shining armor. Yes, it's hokey, yes, there is a totally ridiculous love story mixed in along with jousting. Dorky at best, but I still giggled aloud at least enough to give it a 3 star rating.

Tina "IRead2Escape" says

This was a very interesting book from the beginning. Some of the characters I loved and cheered for and some I didn't like at all and booed. I really liked Pepper's personality and strength. I loved that even though she questioned herself repeatedly she never gave up. Which is hard to do when it seems that no one is on your side, not even family.

I found her cousin CJ infuriating. I can't believe that someone that is supposedly close enough to you to invite you along on a trip could be so callous, mean and disloyal. She constantly put Pepper down, let her feel like an outcast and then had the nerve to chastise the rest of the team for groveling when they made a huge mistake by falsely accusing Pepper. I waited the entire book to find a redeeming quality in CJ, but never got there. Thank goodness the other characters were much more likeable.

Walker, however was scrumptious. How can you not fall in love with an alpha male who is responsible, loyal and loves animals. I was taken by him the first time he let Moth climb all over him without making a cat scarf out of him. The cat truly was a menace. The man had a past, he had baggage and yet he still had a big heart. And he wears tights. Maybe I should start searching for Renaissance faires :)

Another great suggestion Kindle smut!

December says

Excellent read - I finished it in 1 day, I couldn't put it down. A fun, sexy journey. The dialogue is perfect and witty. The plot is titilating with a dash of mystery. The sex scenes are hot! Everything one wants in a romance. Bonus points for appealing to ren fair geeks like me!

I didn't give it full stars because of a couple issues:

She breaks 4th wall and randomly tells reader some jousting info. Only does this once but the paragraph was jarring. Her editor should have worked on that one.

MC and love interest suggest or outright lick each other's bodies with things like frankincense and myrrh massage oil or raspberry scented lotion on which sorta made me gag at the idea. Also, love interest licks toes after she walked around outside (where horses have been) barefoot.

Also a couple euphemisms that we're a bit too much... happy juice?

I don't want to throw you off reading it though. These bits are tiny. The whole read is great and can't wait to sink into another MacAlistar book!

Veronica Rivera says

I started this book earlier but have been under the weather and it took me longer to finish than normal. Katie MacAllister has done it again, granted this was one of her earlier works, but it was good. As always the main characters are lovable and funny, but it is the side characters that rule the day. The main side character was Moth, a big cat that the main character Pepper Marsh was pet sitting that somehow turns out to be the best personality detector any woman would need. Overall good read.
