



The Highlander's Bride

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BOUND BY DUTY

Highland laird Conor McTiernay had always dreamed of an enduring love. But the reality of women who desired him only for his title and lands made him swear off marriage forever. That is until he first set eyes on the Englishwoman his men found hiding in the forest. Beneath the dirt and grime it was clear Laurel Cordell was beautiful. But would she prove to be yet another beguiling seductress or had Conor finally found the one woman who could lay claim to his heart?

DRAWN BY DESIRE

Laurel trusted that the Scottish chieftain would keep her safe from the cruel laird from whom she had escaped. Looking deep into Conor's silver eyes she saw not only his calculating warrior ways but his quick arousal to passion. But before they can explore the growing desire between them, their newfound love is threatened by secrets from her past. . .

The Highlander's Bride Details

Date : Published December 1st 2009 by Zebra Books (first published June 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Michele Sinclair

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review The Highlander's Bride for online ebook

BookLover says

I just couldn't get into this story. Didn't really connect with the characters and the story didn't draw me in.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Why, why did I read this??

That's not a rhetorical question, I'm pleading with one of you to give me some idea why I bothered with this trite, badly written nonsense. Right now the only explanation I can offer is that I didn't read the negative reviews before purchasing. As for continuing to read it after realizing it was going to be bad, well...I paid for it, I was damn well going to finish it.

I go into every romance anticipating, nay, *expecting* some cheese and purple prose, but stumbling onto bad writing, a boring plot, nonsensical, contrived hurdles, and annoying characters *on top* of corny dialogue and platitudes....I mean, damn. Laurel is a medieval Mary Sue, so annoying with her "feisty" attitude (more like childish overreactions), her strength and loyalty and bravery and knife throwing and intelligence and, oh, let's not forget, stunning universal beauty. Every man wants her, every woman wants to be her, and the only thorn in her perfect side is Conor, an emotionally-stunted, controlling douchebag. There is absolutely no depth here. That's not to say Sinclair didn't *try* for depth, but Yoda's wisdom rings true here. Trying does not equal succeeding. Conor has turned away from the idea of marriage because he wants what his parents had; a love match. Every woman he's met up until the beginning of the story has only been interested in his wealth and title, not in him as a person. With this in mind, one would think that when he realizes Laurel *is* interested in him as a person, and couldn't care less about his wealth and title, Conor would be elated and go after her. But he doesn't! For some stupid ass reason, he's still anti-marriage.

That doesn't make any sense.

But that's not the only nonsensical aspect of this book. Laurel finds herself falling in with the McTiernays after being abducted and beaten by Keith Douglass. Laird Douglass, Keith's father, threatens to go to war with Laurel's grandfather if Laurel disobeys him. After Laurel escapes from the Douglasses, she refuses to tell anyone who her grandfather is because she believes that revealing that information will put her grandfather in danger.

Uhh...how?! There's absolutely no explanation as to why telling Conor who her grandfather is would put said grandfather in danger. In fact, what's more dangerous is her sitting around on her ass on McTiernay land, waiting for spring to come so she can run away....

How does running away protect anyone? Laird Douglass threatened to make war with Laurel's grandfather *if Laurel disobeyed Laird Douglass*....I think stabbing his son and running away could be construed as disobeying him, so how is disappearing going to protect fucking *anyone*?!

Here's what someone who *isn't* a complete moron does:

Runs away from abusive Douglass clan at first opportunity. Happens upon clan of decent highland Scots who offer her friendship and protection. Decides to confide in handsome, kind Scottish laird and hope that his influence can help protect her and her grandfather.

Is that really so fucking difficult? Laurel's dumb ass ends up creating more trouble by keeping silent, then Conor, when he realizes who her grandfather is, decides to play a few games himself and by the time all is said and done, I wanted nothing more than for the two of them to ride over the edge of a cliff together so I wouldn't have to think about them continuing on in their bubble of petty manipulations and idiotic, misplaced shows of nobility.

To say I hated the characters would be giving them too much credit. These are not characters, they're shallow caricatures. Despite Sinclair's attempts to make us believe Conor is interested in Laurel's strength, it's clear by his behavior and actions that he sees her as nothing more than pleasing arm decoration, and Laurel, despite the assertion that she is strong and independent, is manipulative and infantile. She bounces back and forth between love and hate for Conor so frequently that she comes across as slightly unbalanced. She goes from raging condescension one moment to fawning adulation and sweetness the next, and everyone loves her for it. It's sickening.

The peripheral characters exist merely to worship the protagonists. In particular, to worship Laurel. Seriously, *everyone fucking loves her*. It's annoying.

While the story and characters suck, the writing is also bad. The grammar isn't the worst I've seen, but it would definitely benefit from an editing session. There were frequent comma issues and instances where a word is repeated word in a sentence repeated <--- like that. There are plentiful simple typos that wouldn't be difficult to fix, and I found a couple spots where sentences weren't even finished. Can anyone make sense of this: *"Although usually played in early fall, today's games, having vowed to be no different despite the cold conditions."*

??????

The worst part of the writing, however, is the style. Simplistic, redundant, tiresome, and cheesy, the writing made me want to give myself a lobotomy with a rusty screwdriver.

"He kissed her slowly, taking his time, letting her feel the endless need and love inside him."

There are numerous references to "endless love". It got to the point of making me angry every time I read it. Then there's also the standard romance fare. Things like, "he was undone", she "spiraled into oblivion" or "shattered into a million pieces", "igniting into flames", they "completed each other", he was hers, she was his, etc.

"Just being with her was enough to make him whole."

"He felt as if he had left his body and his soul had met with hers on another plane."

Oh, and let's not forget Laurel's achingly poetic description of Northumberland:

"England is beautiful but, just as these picturesque highlands are hard and rocky, the Hills are also difficult. Much of Northumberland is made up of salt marshes, peat bogs, and broad rivers. But there is also beauty to be found in the green wooded valleys and deserted beaches."

I cannot be the only one who thinks that sounds like something straight out of a travel brochure.

I'm not in the mood to say anything nice about this book. It was tedious and insulted my intelligence. If you value good writing, decent characterization, and an engaging plot, don't torture yourself with this book.

MsRomanticReads says

This story was adorable and just what I needed. Conor McTiernay, laird of a powerful clan has vowed *never* to marry. Well you know what people say about never saying never. Enter Laurel, a bonnie English lass. She appears badly beaten and disheveled in the midst of Conor and his brothers on their travel home from their brother Colin's wedding. She begs them for help to allow her to go with them. Connor is instantly attracted to her and vows his protection and then some *cough*.

Conor was boorish, stubborn, argumentative, *insufferable* but oh so sweet when he wanted to be. I loved Laurel from the beginning. I loved how she made Conor's head spin and how she won over everyone in Conor's clan despite being English (like everyone believed). The quips they threw at each other had me chuckling through the story. The development of their romance was equally satisfying. A great read and I look forward to the rest of the series.

Anne-Marie says

For some unknown reason, I felt like giving this book a chance. It had fairly good reviews and the bad ones were written in languages that I did not understand. So, I picked it up, read the first page and suddenly had the urge to barf all over the buxom maiden clinging to the Laird. The story has potential, but the writing is just plain awful.

After 30 pages or so, I was about to give up. Every single sentences bothered me. Even so, I continued reading, thinking it might improve with time, or this case, with pages. But NAAAYOOO

After 30 more pages, I dropped the book. I didn't get used to the writing. It just kept bugging me to the point where I stopped reading all together. I couldn't take it anymore.

My one star might be a little harsh, but I'm an avid reader. I can count on one hand how many books I didn't read till the end with fingers to spare.

Becca says

I'm stopping this and marking it as a DNF at 20%. I've read several books by Michele Sinclair and really enjoyed them, but this first book was rough. Really rough. I was cringing as we are introduced to two perfect characters who fall instantly in love, have stupid arguments, and can only think about getting naked together. The writing is repetitive, cheesy, and inconsistent. Plus, you jump between character heads from paragraph

to paragraph. I'll keep going with the series since book 2 was so good, but this was is a big NOPE for me unfortunately.

Zoe says

Reread it and I don't know what I was thinking giving it 4 stars. Will have to re-write my review at some point.

I read some 1 star reviews and thought man i would hate this book. but it just goes to show that we all relate to stories differently and a 5 star average review doesn't mean it will be a good read every time. (mental note: always dare to try)

back to the book, I really loved the characters. while it is a little odd that the unyielding "warrior" would pop the "my love" hearings so early in the story, the softness of the story was very dear to me.

I do think think though, if you prefer a tougher lady, you will have difficulties liking the book. the heroin is not weak, but she is not the screaming fiery type. I think that's why I like it.

MelissaB says

This was a rough first book by this author. She set up interesting characters but the story and plot were not developed well at all. The leads constant arguing became tedious as well. She must have improved over time because her recent book Christmas Knight was good.

I am not recommending this one, the writing was just not good.

Laura says

This was a really disappointing read!! Seeing this book had a rating of 3.97 I assumed that it would be good. I couldn't have been more wrong! Talk about being misled!!!! To be honest, I really struggled reading it. The only reason I finished it was because I paid for it and don't like not finishing a book.

This book is about a Conor McTiernay, laird of the McTiernay clan, and Laurel Cordell. While on his way back to his castle with his brothers and some of his warriors, he comes across Laurel, dirty and beaten. She had barely escaped from the father and son of the Douglass clan. Apparently the chief of the Douglass clan threatened her grandfather. (It's a bit unclear exactly what she was supposed to do or not do as the author flips back and forth on this). Conor and Laurel are immediately attracted to one another. He takes her back with him to his castle and lands and promises to keep her safe. They eventually marry and the problems with the Douglass' arise again and then are resolved.

First off, can I just ask who the hell typed this up for ebook's?? I read mine on my Kindle (as I do most books I read) and there were sooooo many errors it was ridiculous! I don't know if the print version has the same errors, or if they occurred when typing it up for ebook? If the print version has the same errors, the editor needs to be fired. My dog could do a better job!!!

Also, I really disliked the writing style! It felt amateur and like something I could have written in middle school. Michele Sinclair did not make me feel like I was there in the story. I didn't feel their emotions, or their pain. Everything lacked dimension. In school I remember the teachers always saying "show, don't tell" in regards to our writing assignments. Michele Sinclair could definitely use this grade school advice. Here is an example of what I mean... "Then, one morning, it all fell apart. It started as the best day in her life. Laurel learned she was pregnant. She had been irregular most of her life and so missing her monthly had not been a surprise or a sign that she had physically changed...." It drags on and on from there. The entire book is written like this. When Michelle Sinclair does try and "show, not tell" it's INCREDIBLY cheesy and amateur. An example, "Conor had known that each and every joining he and Laurel were to share over their lifetime would be incredible, but he had been unprepared for this. He felt as if he left his body and his soul had met with hers on another plane." I know that these books can be cheesy, but when she writes things like this, each and every time I'd furrow my brow and stare at the words as if I couldn't believe what I was reading. Not only was it cheesy, but it felt awkward and strange every time she wrote like this. As if she was trying too hard. A couple excellent author's that really have a way with words and a talent for pulling the reader so deep into their stories that you feel all the character's emotions are Nora Roberts and, in this particular genre, Monica McCarty. Check out their novels and you'll for sure see the difference in the writing styles!

Besides the amateur writing style, the whole story is off! Here are several examples...

1. Laurel being afraid for her grandfather doesn't make sense. Maybe the author didn't accurately explain why Laurel would fear for her grandfather to the extent she did. Instead of going to her grandfather and warning him of the Douglass' threat, she is hellbent on leaving Scotland (in the spring --- MONTHS from the time of the threat, which doesn't make sense either), changing her name and her appearance. How does that make sense??? Also, towards the end of the book, it's suddenly stated that Laurel didn't realize her grandfather was a chief of a clan, but I never got that before. Actually, I was under the impression from the beginning that she knew he was a chief. I could've sworn it's mentioned towards the beginning of the book. However, I don't want to waste any more of my time on this book and go back and double check.

After getting to know Conor, she knows she can trust him, so why doesn't she tell him the whole truth about what happened while she was abducted by the Douglass' and about their threat on her grandfather??? It doesn't make any sense!!

2. Immediately upon meeting one another in the forest, Conor and Laurel are attracted to one another. Okay, I can see that. However, this was so ridiculous and unrealistic. Their feelings were flipping back and forth from the first moment. He wants her but won't marry her, something they discuss after only knowing one another a day. She tells him they need to keep their distance if he doesn't want to marry because she wants to marry someone one day and have a family, something he doesn't want. Again, this is after knowing one another a day. Suddenly, once back at the castle he is badgering her into marrying him. Talk about a 180!

3. Conor and Laurel are constantly having these arguments over stupid stuff. And it goes from being about one thing to another. It always ends up being about something that has NOTHING to do with what started their fight. Most of the time they were about the same thing. It was redundant and beyond obnoxious.

4. Here Conor is supposed to be this super badass laird who is cold and feared, but Laurel faints and he starts crying???? WHAT?!? How does that make sense??? It doesn't!! This happened several times. Something happened and he starts crying. That's very uncharacteristic of the original character Michele Sinclair portrayed. If she was going to have him cry, have him do it once and when Laurel nearly dies or something. Have the tears show the reader and Laurel how deeply he loves her since it's something he would never do!

Honestly, the list goes on and on about what was "off" about the story itself, but this is already getting to be a very long review.

The basis is that I do NOT recommend this book. It was not only a waste of money, but a waste of time. I truly enjoy reading. I LOVE to be transferred to another world and escape reality for a little bit. There are very few other things that are better than being sucked into a book and unable to put it down, where when you do, all you can think about is when you get to continue reading and what's going to happen. Not only was this book a waste of time, but it made me NOT want to pick my Kindle up and read and that alone is the biggest crime of all with this book!!!!

Save your money and read something else!! If you're looking to read Scottish Historical Fiction, check out Monica McCarty. I particularly LOVE her MacLeod's of Skye Trilogy. I have listened to the first two books on my iPod while driving (am in the middle of the last one now) and they are fantastic! They are made even better by the narrator chosen. He has a phenomenal voice for books like these and really brings the characters to life even more!! So, if you're looking for a book about highlanders and that's why you're looking into reading "The Highlander's Bride", read the MacLeod's of Sky trilogy instead. You won't be disappointed, but you will if you read this!!!

Debby "Piene Raven" says

(Audiobook Review)

This is the first book in the series and I don't have very much to say in that I enjoyed it very much. I have read other books by Michele Sinclair and am a bit of a fan.

The heroine was a sassy strong-willed person although I didn't care much for the testosterone and dictatorship that was being spued by the hero at every turn with trying to have her as a kept woman in charge of the castle. I think she proved that she could hold her own and taught him a few lessons or two in spite of all of his simple-minded thinking.

It didn't hurt to have the narration done by Anne Flosnik who is one of my favorite narrators.

4.5 Stars

K says

i recommend this book for anyone who is into Scottish romances. the characters personalities makes them feel real and the events that occur are pretty realistic. i had a few good laughs and a few moments where i "awwwed". this book kept me entertained and i read in less than a day

SPOILER ALERT

i really liked this book because the relationship that Conor and laurel have isn't all lovey dovey its pretty realistic they get into a lot of arguments to make it seem like a real couple, its still a romantic story that i found i really enjoyed. when the book kept mentioning that Laurel was big is was like TWINS!!! and i was happy they were fraternal :) i've always told my mom that i'll be giving birth to fraternal twins a boy and a

girl the boy will come first and the girl last. (i've done a lot of studying with my family history and found that on both sides of my family that they have fraternal twins but it skipped my generation so it even more likely that it will happen) Sinclair is an amazing author and i cant wait to continue with this series.

Bü?ra Bal says

- 1- Kaç?r?l?p,kendisini tutsak eden adamdan kaçan güzel k?z.
- 2- a?ka tövbe etmi? klan lideri
- 3- Birbirlerini görünce hissettikleri yak?c? arzu,bilmem uçucu ?ehvet.
- 4- Adam?n evlenmeye yana?mamas?,k?z?n evlenmeden olmaz uzak dural?m halleri.
- 5- Gene de seni koruyaca??m saplant?l? esas adam.

Önümde resmen birkaç kitab?n kolaj? var yani. Ayr?ca ne o öyle daha 50 sayfa olmadan a?k ilan etmeler, çü?. Hiç sevmedim. Yaz?k parama.

Ursula says

2.5 stars.

This story was fine but went on too long. There was so much detailed description and repetition of it all it kind of slowed the narrative. Sweet characters and I love a tough, Scottish laird as much as the next, but it just didn't grab me. It lacked dramatic/sexual/romantic tension. It did not need a ton of artificial angst, but it needed *something*! Sure, the heroes were heroic, the villains villainous, and there was some solid historical background, but a bit too much to and fro between hero and heroine as to who was going to be the boss. Especially annoying that hero did not believe in marriage for himself but would not let anyone else have her. Dog-in-the-manger much. Not my fave Highland historical but not a bad read. I don't think I will be reading any more in the series.

Maggie says

I love Highlanders and I especially loved this story. How cute & sweet! :)

Bü?ra Öztürk says

Mehhhh!

Emily says

Welcome to today's instalment of Emily Explores Sexy Scottish Literature. Previously, I read my first non-Maya Banks historical highland novel and was pleasantly surprised by it so I decided to jump straight into

another one and see if the trend held up (spoiler: it didn't). This rating is actually more of a 2.5 stars but I always feel mean rounding down so here we are.

I have to admit, there isn't much language wise for me to complain about here. I know, usually I spend a whole fucking paragraph ranting about the shitty language and how everyone is trying to sound like they belong in Historical Scotland when really they end up sounding like they belong in a bad children's play. However, this book gave me a disturbingly small amount of language to complain about because there *wasn't any fucking Scottish language happening*. There wasn't even an attempt. The author didn't even try to indicate that any of the characters had Scottish accents at all. It was so goddamn unremarkable that as I'm sitting here right now I'm not even fully convinced it was set in Scotland. Legitimately the only thing that gave away the location was the fact that everyone was fucking talking about plaid all the time. Maybe this took place in Seattle during the 1990s and was secretly just a weird commentary on the grunge movement. I don't fucking know.

On top of that, this book had the biggest fucking case of instalove that I've read in a goddamn long time. I was on page fifteen when these two people decided that they were basically in love with each other. I actually had to stop and check whether or not I'd accidentally skipped fifty pages of the book because it was so fucking ridiculously fast. Not to mention that the main male, Conor, is a fucking arrogant, pigheaded, Neanderthal of a walking temper tantrum with some serious control issues. I wanted to strangle him half the book and I was honestly just waiting for the main female, Laurel, to throw her knife at his face. He was domineering and basically just decided to do whatever the fuck he wanted whenever he wanted.

Which brings us to my next problem with this book. The fucking sexual relationship between these two characters. Conor has basically decided that he's never getting married and he's not interested in having a relationship with any woman. Understandably, Laurel is like "if you're not interested in marriage I'm not going to fuck around with you, please leave me alone." Which he does for about two seconds before he basically mauls her in a semi-public place because he's decided she's his. Now like, whatever. These two characters are both fucking crazy and experiencing this weird as shit attraction that they apparently can't stop. I nearly injured myself rolling my eyes a couple times, but whatever. The thing that made me nearly throw my iPad across the room was the first time they do anything beyond kissing. So there these two are, getting frisky on the dinner table when suddenly Conor decides that he really wants to stick his fingers all up in her junk. Laurel is like what the fuck? And tells him to stop. She says the word "no." Guess how he fucking replies. He tells her that he would never hurt her and then *fucking continues anyways*. I actually had to put the book down and stop reading for like half an hour because I was starting to have horrific Christian Grey flashbacks.

The antagonist was stupid and there was basically no conflict in this book other than the fucking constant arguments Conor and Laurel had. Everything was a miscommunication or overreaction that led to both of them screaming at each other and Conor trying to impose ridiculous rules and regulations while continually telling Laurel that she was going to marry him and she didn't have a choice about it until one of them kissed the other and the whole thing dissolved into them being swept up in a hurricane of passion. By the end of it, I was so done with both of them that I couldn't even bring myself to enjoy their happily ever after ending. Good riddance, the two of them deserve each other.
