



## The Blood of Roses

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## **The Blood of Roses** Marsha Canham

In a novel that sizzles with passionate intrigue and breathtaking romance, Marsha Canham whisks the reader back to war-torn Scotland as a legendary warrior fights for the two things most precious to any man: his country and the woman he loves.

## **The Blood of Roses Details**

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Author : Marsha Canham

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## From Reader Review The Blood of Roses for online ebook

### Kimberly Carrington-Fox says

Madre mía, creo que he envejecido del sufrimiento lector que he tenido. Qué libro tan estupendo!!! Se cierran todas las tramas del libro anterior a base de sufrimientos y de hostias por todos lados. Y de amor, el de nuestros protas y el mío por Alexander ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥. La pareja es estupenda, con una relación de las que me gusta, muy inteligente, retándose en cada diálogo y pegándose unas sesiones guarreriles que te sube hasta la fiebre (aaaaaaaaaaaaaay, el brandy, qué bien usado está!!!).

Es cierto que aquí hay menos romance (ya nos vienen todos enamorados de antes) y hay mucha política y sobre todo guerra, estrategias, movimientos de los diferentes ejércitos hasta llegar a Culloden (T\_T). Pero a pesar de que eso no sea lo que más nos guste leer, está muy bien explicado y siempre se entremezcla con otras cuestiones para que suframos un poquito más. Le doy las cinco estrellitas porque es un libro que me ha tenido en vilo, enganchadísima a lo que la Canham cuenta (y qué bien lo cuenta!) y sin podérmelo quitar de la cabeza. Qué gustazo leer algo así!!

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### Amanda says

What is it about the Scottish Highlands that speaks to that romantic side of me, that hidden princess that wants to be saved by her gallant prince? Is it the Scottish man..... strong, stubborn, proud, laying down his life for his country, his kin and his one and only true love. In the Pride of Lions and in its sequel, the Blood of Roses, Marsha Canham has transported me back in time to that unique place in history where lairds ruled and battles were fought with swords over land and love.

I have been introduced to another striking Scotsman....Alexander Cameron, a legendary , dark-haired warrior whose destiny takes him to England and to the woman that will change his life forever. Upon meeting the undeniably beautiful but spoiled Catherine Augustine Ashbrooke, feelings arise in Alexander that he has pushed aside for many years. He wins her hand in a duel, yet she has no idea that this stranger will eventually win her heart, her love and her soul. Catherine eventually finds out that Alexander is a Scotsman, a spy in her beloved England. He has no choice but to take her to his homeland, to the highlands, a place he hasn't seen in years. Catherine has been raised to think of Scotland as a cold, desolate place and its people as pure savages who can't even speak proper English. All of this changes as Catherine undergoes a metamorphosis, from a pampered, English child to an empathetic, mature lass. She sees for herself the majestic beauty of the land, the rolling hills and the black lochs, as well as the compassion, honour and pride of its people. There is a powerful love between Alexander and Catherine, one that has him opening his heart and soul to a Sassenach, one that has her yearning for the very man that will battle against her homeland and her people. I enjoyed the banter between these two, reminding me very much of another Scot and Sassenach named Jamie and Claire.

These books are filled with ancient blood fueds and some historical battles that are vividly described by the author. I found myself caught up in the Scottish quest for freedom as they marched their way across England, only to be defeated at Culloden, a horrific ending to a gallant dream for liberty. Yet throughout the stories, there is that ever present sense of hope, hope for independence, hope for peace, hope for a love that is all encompassing and never-ending. I do believe we are all princesses waiting and hoping for our knight in

shining armour to rescue us, to throw us down and ravage us in the wild grass, to take us upon his horse and ride us into the sunset, but mostly, to love us more than life itself. We are all waiting for our Jamie, our Alexander, our champion. I believe I have found my warrior, although I do wish he wore a kilt!

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### **Ann Noell says**

When I started this book I knew it was going to have a sad ending, I know my history and Charles Stuart and his Highlanders do not win their war against England. To me this was so much more than just a romance story, Marsha Canham writing is wonderful! I was right there, I felt their love, their joy, their pain and sadness; the battle of Culloden was heart breaking! After the battle when Deirdre finds her husband Aluinn, I didn't just cry I wept.

This is the first book of Marsha Canham I have read, but it will not be my last!

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### **Dawn says**

WOW!

I love love loved this series. So powerful, so much emotion. Words cannot adequately describe this tale, nor can words describe what perfect writing of this author. Perfection!

I was worried about reading this series for a variety of reasons. But I am so so glad I endured the pain and emotions to complete it.

The hero, although a former rake, and widower, made me swoon. One of the most wonderful heroes I have ever read about.

I am looking forward to the 3rd book and plan to read more of this author's work in the future.

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### **Stevie says**

This and Pride of the Lions were hidden treasures. I fell in love with the story almost immediately. I fell in love with the character as the story progressed. They were vivid and well written. The second book I am so tore over because I know history the results of the final battle of Culloden, yet so moved by the story line I found myself putting the book down only to pick it back within seconds. This was a wonderful romance, with substance and an adventure with authentic facts and real stories and accounts from history. I was compelled through this book and my heart broke with the fall of Shadow and all of Scotland. I wish more than anything she would have written at least one more, which I thought the third installment was a continuation of Catherine and Alexander but it wasn't. I am left haunted by the story and empty thinking, okay what is going to come close to this story now.

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## Mojca says

The sequel to *The Pride of Lions* whisks us back into war-torn Scotland of 1745-46, for us to once again join one of the leaders of the second Jacobite rebellion ('The Forty-Five or *Bliadhna Theàrlaich* Charles' year in Gaelic), Alexander Cameron, and his English wife, Catherine, in their fight for Scottish freedom, their lives, and their love.

We saw them fall hopelessly and helplessly in love in the first book, so the author was now free to more fully delve into the background story, the history of the final rebellion. The story begins just a few days after the first book ended, in Blackpool, where Alex had sent Catherine to be safe from the upcoming war, then proceeds with intertwining scenes of rural (and still peaceful) Derbyshire, England and the battles both on and off the field in Scotland. Until the Scots (oh, ye, foolish, foolish Bonnie Prince Charlie), cross the river Esk (in the middle of winter, might I add, and march into England.

And there's only one person in England whom Alexander Cameron wants to see.

The reunion is hot, sweaty, rapturous, tumultuous...and bittersweet when Catherine is once again left behind, only to follow her husband (with good reason!) as the Jacobite army retreats (still in the middle of winter!) back to Scotland.

And it's in Scotland that this story comes to a close on April 16, 1746, on the barren, windswept, gore-filled field of Culloden...and to a second close, a little happier one, at dawn on a field near Achnacarry Castle in Lochaber.

This book is much more historically oriented, yet the detailed descriptions of the politics of the time, military tactics, battles, and troop movements, don't slow the pace, on the contrary in fact, and offer an even more realistic background to the touching love story between Alex and Catherine.

There is enough of their "interaction" to satisfy our curiosity, and the true facts of the history unraveling around them add a touch of truth to the fictitious romance, the constant threat of danger keeping the reader at the edge of the seat, hoping against hope sometimes, that these two truly star-crossed lovers might actually get to have their much deserved HEA.

The narrative of the rebellion ends with the horrific battle on the plain of Culloden Moor and its gruesome aftermath (having seen Culloden the reading experience was all the more chilling for me), yet Ms. Canham chose *not* to start with the battle itself, but to bring goosebumps on the skin and chills down the (at least this one) reader's spine through Catherine's ears as she listens to the distant rumblings of the cannons and then...

*She ran to the front door and flung it open, straining now to hear and identify the cause of yet another shocking sound: the sound of absolute, deathly silence. (p. 480)*

And at this (eighth read of this story) that this reader lost it. I've seen Culloden three times already and every single time I'm amazed by the fact that even though the road passes just alongside the battlefield, the visitor can hear only the wind sweeping across the plain, billowing in the grass. That sentence perfectly describes that feeling of isolation and silence I experience everytime I stand there at Culloden.

In the next paragraph, the reader is thrust straight in the middle of the battle without having been given a moment to brace, to prepare for the pointless, tragic, wasteful loss of life and humanity on that moor. The reader is in the thick of it alongside Alexander Cameron, as he charges with his clansmen, as he plunges in the middle of the scarlet-clad soldiers, as he slashes his broadsword, roars the *cath-ghairm* of his clan...

And when it ends the reader accompanies Catherine and Deirdre onto that same field, as they stumble over the dead and dying, make their way between torn limbs and dead horses, in their desperate search for their husbands.

And we're once more whisked over the Highlands into Lochaber, walking alongside the vanquished Camerons, alongside Gentle Donald on his stretched, and Alexander enduring the fever brought forth by his wounds, share his desperation, his anguish, his *need* to see Catherine, to let her take the pain away. And knowing the heartbreak that awaits him at home.

Oh, God!

I thought after putting the book down and indulging in one last, cathartic bout of crying that was a combined result of the emotions this story evokes and the *Pearl Harbor* soundtrack that seems to fit so well, I'd be back to normal. Not yet, so you'll have to forgive this rather strange review. Typing and trying to read the screen is tough though a film of tears.

Anyway, as mentioned before, the last battle on the British soil was just the first climax of this novel which ends with the final confrontation that's been building since the first book—the fateful night in which Alex won Catherine in a duel.

The epilogue is bitter-sweet, so many lives and so much love lost, yet the glimmer of hope is there, a steady guiding light on the horizon.

This is a truly beautiful and amazing story.

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## LadyCalico says

I read and rather enjoyed several Canham books, but compared to her other books that I have read, this one was very disappointing. I could characterize the others as quality bodice rippers, but this one is a below average bodice-ripper--quality, creativity, and originality are sorely lacking. This turned out to be a sequel to a previous book which probably should have been read first since this one does not stand alone well. There are some references to material in the previous book, but rather than enlightening, they are just confusing. The first book, in which the couple meet/battle/fall in love, probably contained all the character-development, since Canham's usual talent at drawing interesting, three-dimensional characters was noticeably absent here, and the characters were just not made sympathetic or even interesting. In this book the couple are already married, so there is little romantic tension. They immediately get caught up in the 1745 Scottish rebellion, so here is little interest there, since I know enough history for the history itself to be a spoiler. Plus, as boring books with boring characters go, this was a long one. The book seemed to go on and on but never did catch my interest, so slogging through pages and pages of repetitive verbiage was tedious and it took me forever to finally finish it--something I was most anxious to do and get it over with. The novel could have been greatly improved by the Reader's Digest condensed version. Probably to make up for the lack of courtship and romantic tension the author substituted way more sex scenes than the usual

Canham novel, but they were just the same old, same old, same old repeated ad nauseum, and she could have cut out at least half of them to make for a faster-paced, less boring book. Plus, there were just too many silly, stupid coincidences in the plot, and I hate silly, stupid coincidences. An author might be able to get away with one, but after three or more, the silly, stupid coincidences add up to a silly stupid plot.

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### **Krista Baetiong Tungol says**

Reading this book is like feeling a poignant hush in the air as it takes you at the heart of the Jacobite rising of 1745 and relives all the important events of the period in a rather explicit manner—including the devastating loss and gory details at the infamous Battle of Culloden—that it seems to cut off your sense of detachment as a reader and demand you to take sides. At least that is how it felt like for me.

There has never been a more disturbing book and it has affected me the way I should've had had I lived in that exact period and seen the monumental defeat of the Jacobites firsthand. For me, the author has effectively breached emotions, especially to those who are forever sympathetic to the oppressed and disapproving of tyranny; she has also touched the general sentiment of readers that relish on the “what ifs” and “should/could/might have beens” of the world. And to be honest, I did spend some time actually fuming at the Bonnie Prince for his intransigence and lack of military foresight! Not that it matters now, anyway, but this was one of those (rare) preposterous moments when I had allowed myself to turn into a nit-picking bookworm and rant at a long-departed someone.

Now, on to a more objective commentary:

The fusion of historical events and literary imaginings is commendable. Miss Canham has obviously spent so much time on research with her full account of events, wins and losses from warring parties, military strategies and routes, the number of troops and movements on both sides, and even what usually happens in an army camp, and allows her made-up characters to blend in with these facts as effortlessly as if they had also been part of history. Also, while this period viewed women as weak, coddling individuals whose sole responsibilities included tending the homes and caring for their children, the author has created characters like Catherine and Deidre and introduced us to historical icon Colonel Anne who do not easily succumb to male dominance or intimidation and are astute enough to know the consequences of being at war.

The author is also skilled in stage-managing her own plot; just when you thought that you've already followed what goes in her mind and correctly predicted what will happen next (as she subtly gives away clues after clues along the way), she'll give us a totally different progression of events that only proves how shrewdly ingenious her literary sense is. Well, I think she's not one to spoil her own story!

Personally, I don't think a lot of sex is necessary (I know, I know, this is a romance novel), but the story focusing on the lost Jacobite cause is so heartbreaking I'm willing to overlook the fact that practically every character in the book has given us a preview of his/her scorching intimate moment.

This book has unwillingly brought me to an emotional roller-coaster ride; for me, it isn't just about a romance novel brewed in the middle of a conflict but a testament of the Highlanders' patriotism and fortitude in fighting for what is rightfully theirs.

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## **Kari Kaz says**

As good or better than the first book, Pride of Lions (which should definately be read before). This is a stunning sequel to Alex and Catherine's story. For me, it's one of the best historical Scottish romance novels I have ever read. I was literally an emotional wreck when I finished the book, I was completely caught up in the story. The descriptions were amazing, loved it!

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## **Gina says**

This story is part two of Alexander and Catherine's story. With the start of war Alex sends Catherine away back to her home in Derby. To be honest there were parts of this book i skipped, all the "war" talk (and there was quite a lot of it) was not my thing, but the story of Alex and Catherine was compelling and kept me going. Normally I don't skip parts of books, I just don't finish. I am so happy happy happy I stuck with this book. I came to care about all the secondary characters in this book as well, Diedre, Aluinn, Damien.

The war scenes were hard to read for me sometimes, gruesome and so heartbreaking, but quite necessary for the story of course. I also enjoyed the twists in the story that I didn't see coming. And i really hated the bad guys in this book, I mean really hated them!! I found myself wanting to reach into the book and just stick my sword into them myself! (I can be dramatic).

Emotionally i was there 100%, I laughed, I shouted, I got angry and I cried (oh god did I cry). parts of this book were so sad, I stared at my Nook not quite believing it happened (say it isn't so). In The Pride of Lions, Catherine was immature to say the least, spoiled, entitled and I didn't like her much. She started to mature and in that book and I grew to like her much more, In this book I loved her! And Alexander I just grew to love more and more in both books...

I love Highlander books, I think because I find them so romantic, and they touch a special place in my heart.

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## **Aou says**

I' ve read this one in 1999. :)

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## **Zairobe25 says**

Al inicio del libro casi me da un ictus, pense que me saldría una ulcera del coraje que pase, por un momento la autora logro engañarme con algo que de resultar cierto me habría danado la novela completamente. En este segundo libro nos cuentan como continúa la historia de amor entre Alex y Catherine, de como vuelven a reunirse y de como sortean los peligros, todo ello teniendo como marco el escenario del levantamiento jacobita, un tema ya muy explotado, muy escrito, muy leído, y en esta autora en particular se nota mas cuidado y detalles históricos y eso me aburría, por momentos me encontré leyendo en diagonal, y es que ya no quiero leer mas de Culloden, y además ver morir a unos cuantos personajes a los que les tenía cariñito no fue muy agardable, eso si realista lo fue bastante porque como bien sabemos mucha gente murio en esa carnicería asi que es de suponer que veríamos morir a unos cuantos personajes importantes en la



trama.

Me hubiera gustado un poco mas al final, que fuera mas lejos en el tiempo y saber que fue de ellos mucho tiempo después, pero en general ha sido una historia magnifica y me ha encantado, pero a mi me gustó bastante mas el primero.

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### **Maggie Darcy says**

Una lectura que ha superado felizmente mis expectativas. Mucho mejor que el primero. Lo que más me ha gustado:

- La historia de amor.
- La evolución de Catherine (de niña a mujer xD).
- Unos secundarios a los que sólo puedes querer u odiar con todas tus ganas.
- La historia de amor ^^ y Alex.

Corazón audaz es una perfecta combinación de pasión y aventuras, de ternura y coraje. Todo ello ambientado en una Escocia convulsa, de Dragones y Highlanders. ¿Se puede pedir más?

#Maravillosidad

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### **Yomi M. says**

I didn't like this one as much as the first one because there was much politics. There were also side stories of the other characters in the story which if I'm being honest I didn't like. Sometimes it felt like I was reading Aluinn and Deidre's story and not Catherine and Alex's story. Then there is the ending, I felt like it was a bit rushed and there were some questions left unanswered.

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### **Rebecca (everyday reader) says**

The continuing love story of the beautiful, stubborn english lady Catherine, and her strong, loyal highland husband Alex. There were very detailed accounts of the rebellion and of the horrible mess at Culloden. Together and ripped apart again, the couple realizes that they are safer and stronger together. Lots of injuries, deaths, the end of an old vendetta, a baby on the way, destruction of a beloved home, a paternity secret revealed, traitors on the loose, and bad decisions on both sides. Good read!!

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