



## The Highlander Who Loved Me

*Adrienne Basso*

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**A HIGHLANDER IS ALWAYS WORTH WAITING FOR**

*Scottish Highlands, 1329.* Sir James McKenna, second son of the powerful McKenna Chief, knows he has found his destiny when he falls in love with sweet Lady Davina Armstrong, niece of the Armstrong Chief. Orphaned in childhood, Davina has always felt like an outsider, and with James finally feels that she belongs. But their plans for a happy future are shattered after a brutal attack by a band of rogues. Horrified, Davina's overprotective family quickly shelters her from everyone—including James...

Five years later, James is a changed man. His fighting skills sharpened to perfection, he is hardened by the war and destruction he's endured as a Scottish knight—and by the loss of Davina. Weary, he returns home—and is shocked to find Davina there. Is it too late for them to start anew, or will the past dare to lay claim to their future once more?...

## The Highlander Who Loved Me Details

Date : Published December 29th 2015 by Zebra

ISBN :

Author : Adrienne Basso

Format : Kindle Edition 336 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical

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## **From Reader Review The Highlander Who Loved Me for online ebook**

### **Mimi says**

Romantic attraction, villains, challenges, danger . . . all of this and more in a fast-paced plot with some unexpected complications that challenge the ups and downs of Davina and James' relationship. Looking forward to more books by Adrenne Basso!

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### **Maria11 says**

Received an ARC from NetGalley for a honest review.

This was a Scottish romance for sure. Lots of handsome men in kilts, a woman in distress, and a mysterious villain. I loved the development of the heroine. Davina started out as just a weak mouse, but as the story goes on she grows and gets her footing and becomes a strong woman. James is the man and once his broken heart mends he turns into our Scottish alpha male! Their chemistry is outstanding and the loving is hot! Our mystery villain is a surprise! Looking forward to the next story about Malcolm! Great Story, Read!!

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### **N. Kuhn says**

So different, than your typical highlander story, this book seriously pulls at your heart strings and emotions. The pull between these two is undeniable, yet ignored. Strong characters, a fantastic plot and more, this book has everything you could ever want! This was a first for me by this author, yet I'm intrigued! I can't wait to read more and it seems I'm in luck, as there's an extensive back list. But the character development, the plot, the romance, all of it will thrill, chill and excite you!

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### **Kat says**

This wasn't an extraordinary book, but it was quite entertaining and a quick read. I enjoyed the McKenna family and am looking forward to reading Malcolm's book next.

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### **Esther says**

NetGalley for an honest review.

This book had potential and started out at a good pace with promise, but after a quarter of the way through I became irritated and found the heroine's actions bothersome.

The story begins with when they first meet and fall in love. James is travel with clan Armstrong and meets Davina who is the the lairds niece. They encounter some drama with Davina's sister who is beautiful, but selfish and mean. James comes to realize he loves and wants Davina for his wife. But something sad and tragic happens that traumatizes Davina and she wants nothing to do with James or anyone really. James was a sweet, patient and wonderful hero. He does all he can to try and change Davina's mind but eventually realizes nothing will and leaves.

Fast forward five years. Davina has lived as a recluse with hardly any human contact. But she comes to a point that she decides that it was time to endeavor to live again. She receives a invitation from James mother to come visit during Christmas. Malcolm, who is James brother, is sent to bring her to their home. Davina who has been fearful of any male contact for five years seems fine around Malcolm. In fact she is comfortable enough around him that she flirts with him.....WHAT....and Malcolm finds her attractive and thinks she would make a good wife and mother for his daughter (his wife died). When they arrive at James and Malcolm's home Davina receives a shocking surprise. Yes, James also arrives home after five years of fighting in the crusades.

What transpires from this point on just doesn't work for me. Davina is okay with Malcolm, will not marry him or anyone but seems fine with Malcolm wooing her as James looks on. Davina was not very likable in they was she behaved and in how she treated James. We have Davina's character going from a frightened victim, to being fine with Malcolm and then she proceeds to seduces James. All within this very short timespan?!?!? Some of the secondary characters were likable and the mystery was good but in the end I found the romance side of the book just didn't work for me.

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## Tracy Emro says

\*\*I received an eARC of this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*\*

3.5 Stars

I liked this book, but I didn't love it. I had a hard time liking Davina, I thought she was very self centered and selfish - you would think that she was the only one hurt by the "event".

Davina and James share a past, they fell in love and then a tragedy stuck. Davina was traumatized by the event and in my opinion treated James very badly. James for his part tried to talk to Davina and finally was left with no choice but to leave her.

Fast forward FIVE years. Davina has been a recluse for the past five years because of the awful event that left her terrified of men. She has finally agreed to venture out of her home to go visit James' mother for the holidays. James' brother Malcolm comes to fetch her for the visit and decides that she might make a good wife and mother to his daughter.

As they travel together to his home, they are attacked but Malcolm and his men are able to fend off the brigades. For some unknown reason - Davina is comfortable with Malcolm and even though she will NEVER EVER marry - seems to be able to be in his company and even flirt with no real problems. The night they reach his home, James returns. James has been away for five years fighting in the crusades - he has not been home since the terrible event that happen to him and Davina. His time away has changed him from a carefree young to a battle-hardened man.

When he sees Davina with his brother, he is angry - but pretends that he doesn't care. Davina is terrified when she sees James and faints (WTH?) - this is when I really started to dislike her - she had NO REASON WHATSOEVER to fear James, he almost lost his life defending her and instead of being grateful - she turned him away. Now five years later - she is scared of him?

Anyway - James' parents think that the attacks on Davina are personal and suggest that she marry one of the brothers. James says he is not interested, but doesn't want Malcolm to marry her either. Malcolm starts to woo Davina - who is dead set against marrying anyone. James, who doesn't want to woo or lose Davina to his brother takes her out to gather Christmas greens with his young niece and the two share a moment. Later Davina decides that she must find out if she can be intimate with a man and sets out to seduce James?!? I was astonished by her about-face - five years she is terrified of men and a week ago faints when she sees James, but now she is ready bed him?

From here, they quickly declare their love for each other and agree to marry - but someone is still trying to get to Davina. The rest of the book they are in love and trying to figure out who and why someone is trying to go after Davina. Personally, I found the mystery more interesting than the romance.

I am interested to find out what happens with Malcolm and will definitely read the next book.

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### **Vika aka ? of GIF & Grumpy Smut-ateer \*P/T Freebie Fairy says**

Och, lasses were we born in the wrong century! It has been a really, really long while since I have delved into a historical romance, almost as long as our MCs were apart in this second chance romance in the wonderful place that is Scotland. This book was just a perfect recipe of possessive alpha male warrior, strong women and those that overcome, wondrous light humor that makes your heart sing with Scottish folklore ballads. The author not only created rich characters but her appreciation of the land shows through the writing. Her descriptions of the land's riches (man am I a sucker for a nice scenery) almost makes you think you are there, but enough of my crooning over wonders of Scottish landscape.

Being a second son and in a way a spare to all that is McKenna heritage is a bit demoralizing for James, but as a dutiful son he follows through his father's orders when he sends him on a protection run as the Armstrong clan heads back to their home from a funeral. Fortunately for him he runs into a most delightful woman, Lady Davina Armstrong who is a niece to the Armstrong Chief. Now I'm not sure whether that is a protocol but he is so smitten with Davina that he remains many months at Armstrong Castle courting her. Davina is an orphan and placed in care of her uncle from a young age. All she has known in life is playing second best to her boisterous and over the top full of diva cousin, which comes as a surprise to her when Davina is the one who catches James' eye. Their romance blooms and there is this one quote that perfectly describes their courtship that makes me go all 'aww'.

*Breathless when she reached him, Davina stretched up on her toes and quickly kissed his freshly shaven cheek.*

*“Och, now, Davina, is that any way to kiss a man?”*

*Teasing laughter bubbled to her lips. "Cease yer bellyaching. Ye are the man who taught me how to kiss, James McKenna, therefore ye've no right to complain."*

*She gave him a saucy wink, then spun around and raced to the trees. Playfully, he gave chase, catching her quickly and easily. Laughing, he drew her close and they swayed together on the uneven ground.*

*"I dinnae teach ye that sort of kissing, Davina Armstrong," he said. "Give me a proper kiss."*

However there are sinister plans, plans to keep them away from each other which do prove successful. After a brutal attack on the lovebirds outside the gates of castle that leaves a lot of scars things fall apart. James can not forgive himself for unable to properly protect and Davina unable to recall what happened to her during that attack. As we are living in historical land that is a big shame upon a lady. Was she violated? No one knows and Davina makes a tragic mistake by locking it all inside her and successfully driving James away.

Five long years Davina is locked inside her head, inside her uncle's castle until an unexpected invitation from the Lady of McKenna castle, James's mother. Vowing to finally live her life she accepts an invitation to visit and finally meet the woman who she kept correspondence with all these years after James ran away and disappeared becoming a knight in the Holy Crusade. Seems easy enough right? Hop on a horse, have a bunch of men escorting you... but wrong they are attacked again on the way and I'm proud to say Davina emerges from her protective cocoon. As soon as she leaves the confines of Armstrong Castle she grows into a real confident woman instead of a scared child she has incarcerated herself to be. The problem is that she has sworn herself off from being an eligible bachelorette, she vowed not to marry and yet... one of her escorts stirs something in her and that escort just happens to be her beloved's big brother Malcolm.

On top of everything who just happens to return home after 5 long years at the same time as she visits Castle McKenna? Yup! You got it James himself. What's more is that now the lord McKenna is set to protect Davida from these curious attacks on her by marrying her off to a McKenna... and so it begins... brother against brothers to win her heart, except doesn't one already own it? Although the book is not really a love triangle theme it has it's elements. Her stay at the McKenna castle is my favorite in the book. We meet so many interesting and quirky characters that I wish that Adrienne Basso will turn this into a series.

*"We probably need not worry about the swimming," she said quietly. "Most likely the fall will kill us."*

*"That's the spirit." James's lips tightened into a cheeky grin.*

This was a perfect read for some Historical good natured drama, with some nefarious obstacles and two people who are destined to be together. Like I said I wish for this to turn into a series! Yup, I'll say it again... PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE turn this into a series.

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## Daniella says

*\*An ARC was given in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to the writer and the publisher for the opportunity to read this.\**

(I originally gave this 3 stars, but after re-reading it, I determined it was more of a 2.75 stars. As a personal rule, however, I round down.)

*The Highlander Who Loved Me* started out as a sweet, poignant story that would have made Mary Balogh proud. At the beginning, we are introduced to James, a second son of the McKenna family, and Davina, the orphaned niece of the Armstrong clan's chieftain.

I honestly really loved the two. **James, for one, seemed perfect. Noble, charming, with just the right amount of naïveté, he was the perfect example of a girl's knight in shining armour.** I appreciated the fact that he was not swayed by the exquisite beauty of Davina's cousin, Joan. Instead, he saw her for the spoiled, selfish woman that she was, and even told her so when she bullied Davina. **However, what really endeared him to me was his immense trust and respect for Davina.** There was one scene where she all but begged him to take her, and he responded in this way:

He heaved a heavy sigh, but kept his distance. Disappointment surged through her.

"Ye make my body sing and my heart soar, **but ye are a lady born and bred and I shall treat ye with the honor and respect ye deserve.**"

There's nothing sexier than a man who knows how to respect his woman. Sigh.

And Davina was equally likeable. Although she was clearly mourning the loss of her parents at the start, **she seemed to have accepted her situation with grace and dignity.** She did not resort to self-pity, but saw herself fortunate to have been taken in by her aunt and uncle.

She shook her head. "There are so many in this world that know the anguish of real suffering. I can hardly place myself among their numbers, fer I have been provided shelter, food, and protection.

You know what? At this moment, I understood why James fell for her. I was convinced that they were really meant for each other.

**But alas, things changed.** *They* changed. Well, you see, something really unfortunate happened. And because of this event, James became a bitter and disillusioned man. And Davina?

It was as if I never knew her at all. She became this skittish, nervous girl who wallowed in self-pity. Okay,

I'll admit, *that* was justified; she had a good, logical reason for becoming that way. Okay, fine.

But you know what was *not* logical? **The inconsistencies in her character later on in the book.** You see, Davina here vehemently swore never to marry because of the said incident, but there were instances in the novel when she would be extremely aware of another guy (I won't tell you who it was). **She even allowed him to flirt with her. In James' presence, no less!**

The way the writer tried to justify this was to show that Davina *had* to be civil to this guy, since he held an importance position. But fuck, **I don't care if God, Himself, told her to flirt with the dude, that was just plain wrong, man.** Did I mention that James was in there, observing her laughing back at another man's jokes?

**I WANTED TO MURDER HER.** Where did the sweet Davina go? Who was this insensitive bitch who was oblivious to James' feelings? And you know what really made me rage like hell? She was even contemplating marriage to the guy! **EVEN AFTER IT WAS ESTABLISHED EARLY ON THAT SHE COULD NOT MARRY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** This inconsistency grated on my nerves. It was all I could do not to throw my Kindle against the wall. I never felt so betrayed.

Aside from the characterisation, I also had an issue about the length of the book. I feel like the story was dragged on for longer than was necessary. Also, the steam factor was rather lacking.

So after all these complaints, why the 2.75 stars and not a DNF? Well, **that's because I loved James and the secondary characters.** Interestingly enough, James' parents played a crucial role in the latter half of the book, and that made me get to know them better. They were really delightful. Moreover, I feel that, despite its flaws, **the story itself was indeed well written and properly structured.** The mystery element was nicely integrated in the overall flow. I did not guess who the villain was until the last few chapters.

Overall, I enjoyed this book, even if there were some moments when I raged at Davina. My love for James and his family all outweighed my hatred for her.

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## **Bambi Unbridled says**

The Highlander Who Loved Me is a solid Highland historical romance set in 14th Century Scotland right after the death of Robert the Bruce. Sir James McKenna, a second son, is sent to travel with the Armstrong clan by his father to both solidify their clan alliance, and spy a little along the way to see if there is talk of challenging the new young king's rule. James quickly falls for Davina Armstrong, an orphaned niece of the clan laird. However, just as James and Davina agree to solidify their relationship, they are attacked brigands. The aftermath of the attack drive James and Davina apart.

I really liked James' character. He won brownie points right off the bat by noticing that the beauty held by Davina's cousin, Joan, was only skin deep. James was honorable in his treatment of Davina, refusing to seduce her without marriage vows. Then after the attack, Davina's rejection and James' overwhelming guilt for not being able to protect her drive him off to the Holy Land to fight in the Crusades. James returns 5 years later as a hardened warrior, bitter and jaded.



For the five years while James was away, Davina's has kept herself shut away in the Armstrong hold, refusing to leave the protection of the castle. She is skittish around men and unknown situations. So it's surprising to everyone that Davina accepts Aileen McKenna's invitation to McKenna keep for the Christmas holiday. I had a good emotional connection to Davina's character from the start of the book, but it waned a bit as the story continued. I was pulling for her to overcome her fears, but I didn't really like the love triangle aspect with James' brother, Malcolm.

The plot conflict involving the repeated attacks involving Davina was what really drove the story. I kept turning the page trying to discover who the actual villain was, and didn't figure it out until almost the end. I would have like to known what happened to the brigand leader, as that part of the story seemed to dangle at loose ends. The one thing in the story that I was uncomfortable with was the rivalry that existed between James and Malcolm. Right from the beginning, James resents Malcolm as the heir and is quick to let that jealousy show. For me, this cast a shadow on his character as it was not in line with the honor I saw in how he treated Davina. Things became even more complicated when that love triangle arose. However I believe if Malcolm had known the history, he would not have pursued Davina with such dogged force.

Overall this was a solid read that I enjoyed. It was perfect ending to this holiday season as I enjoyed reading about the Highland Christmas traditions and the legend of the mistletoe. I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. 3.5 stars / 3 flames.

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### **Amanda Richardson says**

The Highlander Who Loved Me was a lovely story by Adrienne Basso, I really enjoyed the Scottish, medieval time period, and loved both the hero and the heroine.

James is traveling with the Armstrong clan and meets the laird's niece Davina. Davina knows she isn't beautiful like her cousin Joan, but James sees through Joan's calculating exterior and is drawn to Davina instead. They spend time together and over the next few weeks, they fall in love and plan on marrying, but an attack from brigands leaves Davina fearful of all men and she sends James away.

Five years later, Davina is tired of hiding in her uncle's home. She began a correspondence with James' mother and decides that she will visit James' home for Christmas. She isn't worried about seeing James, he has been on Crusade for the last five years and she really wants to stop being so fearful of men and leaving her home.

Unexpectedly, James' brother Malcolm is attracted to Davina, but she doesn't return his affections, especially when James arrives home for Christmas. They are both flabbergasted to see each other, Davina still afraid of men and James still feeling guilty for the attack on Davina.

Oh, there is so much chemistry between these two and the author really brings both characters to life. As a reader, I was rooting for them to come together and forgive their past mistakes and fall in love again. There is some intrigue on who is behind the attacks on Davina and this makes the story move along nicely. There are some passionate scenes between James and Davina that were very well written.

I highly recommend this book, I enjoyed it very much and look forward to reading more books by Adrienne Basso in the future.

I received a complimentary copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

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## **Yolanda says**

very well written started off very intriguing and kept you going but further on the book Davina was starting to get on my nerves although to be fair she did redeem herself and find her backbone !!!

Nice Novel that takes you back in time and keeps your imagination going .

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## **Les Romantiques says**

Posted on Les Romantiques - Le forum du site

Reviewed by Rinou

Review Copy from the Publisher

I've finished *The Highlander Who Loved Me* since a few days and I'm struggling to review it and say what I thought about this novel. I can't say I didn't like it, because there are numerous points that pleased me, but I wasn't hooked more than that either.

The story begins when James is sent by his father in another Scottish clan to strengthen the bond of friendship and spy a little, and he notices Davina, the clan chief's niece. They fall in love very quickly, but after an attack by rogues Davina rejects James. Five years later, Davina decides to accept James' mother's invitation to come and spend the year's end period with her. She'll be facing James who has just come back from the Crusades.

I really liked James, he's a hero brave, loyal, who suffered a lot from Davina's rejection and his own guilt for not being able to protect her, and if he comes back from the Crusades changed and hardened he's still not too hard. He tries to protect himself when his father decides Davina must wed one of the clan's men, but he can't stay apart either. Once he has decided to re-try his luck, he's determined and doesn't change his mind.

I had more trouble with Davina. I can understand that she was traumatized by the attack and that she is afraid of men to the point of staying shut in at home for five years. I understand less that she rejected the poor hero when just before he was asking for her hand in marriage, but so be it. However I have trouble believing that she could heal in only a few days on the road then with James' family to the point of wanting to seduce James in order to prove to herself she's better. And once "healed" she embraces marital life without any trouble or so.

On the secondary characters side, we have especially James' father who decides, when he doesn't know her and doesn't have her uncle's approval, that to protect Davina from the attacks she must wed one of his sons or another man of the clan. Of course when she says she doesn't want to ever marry he doesn't listen. We have also Malcolm, James' oldest brother, who finds Davina to his liking even if she tries to dissuade him (that must run in the family not to listen to anything), and his four years old daughter who is spoiled rotten.

On the positive side, the story about the attacks against Davina seems at first pretext for the separation then James' father's ultimatum, but finally it's a real plot even if it's not very deep. Likewise the life at this time is quite well described as are the traditions and legends of Christmas that I found interesting.

So I wasn't convinced by this novel which has nevertheless some qualities. The end suggests there will be a volume for Malcolm, but it's quite certain I won't be there.

2,5/5

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## **Julie says**

The Highlander Who Loved Me by Adrienne Basso is a 2015 Kensington publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This story grabbed my attention right away, when James and Davina met and the chemistry between them exploded to life. Then something truly horrible happens and their wedding plans are called off and the two go their separate ways. I felt the set up was ripe for some really great developments and the possibility of addressing some serious topics with love working its healing magic.

But, the story suddenly shifted gears and became something else entirely. Davina and James are reunited after five years, but Davina still insists she can not marry him. However, she does strike up a flirtation with James' brother Malcolm. While, Davina may have initially been flattered, and thought the flirtation harmless, it became apparent that it was serious and the encouragement of it was not all that cool, in my opinion.

For me, the best part of the story was the intrigue that puts Davina in danger, which takes the mystery to center stage, and that was a good thing, because otherwise I may have lost interest or my patience.

Although the tug of war between brothers was uncomfortable for me, and the weird way James and Malcolm's parents behaved by setting up the competition between them was a little unusual, I did enjoy the retelling of the legend of the mistletoe plant and how it became associated with kissing.

James and Davina do finally get their long overdue happily ever after and it's possible that in the future we could find out what happens to some of the other characters in this story and see them find true love too.

The story has merits and faults in equal measure, I think, so I'm going to settle on a three star rating with this one.

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

### ***Summary***

Sir James McKenna is a younger son of the McKenna Chief in the Highlands. James has always had a rivalry with his older brother Malcolm. He then meets Lady Davina Armstrong, and as he is escorting Davina and her cousin Joan home. We see the instant relationship that begins to build between these two. James and Davina spend every moment they can together and they fall in love with each other. But on the day when they make plans for their future and believed nothing could dampen their happiness...the worst happens. They are surrounded by a band of rogues, and James against six men, was too much. Davinia suffered nightmares and withdrew from the world and from James. Davinia was in shock, but her family shelters her

from anyone outside their home. Davinia after five long years, takes James mother's offer on a Christmas celebration at the McKenna holding. She knows that this is what she needs. But upon arrival, she is sought after by Malcolm and then James arrives unexpectedly from his battles down south. By decree of their father....Malcolm and James must both court Davinia and win her hand. Thus the rivalry between the brothers continues, however fated love doesn't go away...and soon James and Davinia rekindle the fire that once burned between them if they can overcome the trials of the past.

### ***The Hero***

James McKenna, has always had to work hard to seek his father's approval. As the younger son, he has needed to prove himself even more than his brother ever has had to do. But when he discovers the love for a sweet and kind woman...he is hooked heart and soul. Until the worst happens, and he is unable to fully protect the woman he loves. When she rejects him and their plans for the future. He leaves Scotland, he heads down to fight in the crusades. He hones his skills in battle, every day building strength and skill. His guilt of that one day driving him to the brink...to prove himself. He becomes hardened by experience in training and a losing battle. He returns home, battle worn and weary. This hero...\*sigh\* is pure deliciousness. My goodness I just wanted to hold him all the book long. He is a fighter, holds his emotions in, and suffers from guilt of the past. But despite his anger toward Davinia, he still loves her and fights for her when he needs to. I loved his drive and determination to win over the woman he loves.

### ***The Heroine***

Lady Davina Armstrong, has grown up sheltered and always looked under from the beauty and grace of her cousin. She is pretty, but not overly so, but she is kind and sweet spirited and couldn't hurt a fly. She has a calm disposition and never seeks out conflict. When she wins the love of James, Davina knows she is one lucky woman. Until the day of hell arrives, and her life changes forever. She is attacked, traumatized and has no memory but has the fears of every man surrounding her. Including her beloved James. She can't ever be his wife in the true sense and pushes him away for his own good so he can find a woman he can be with intimately. But five years pass, and she is still suffers in her own little world and needs escape from it. She needs to get out, explore and get over her fears and fight for her life and happiness. She wants to find joy again and she knows a little trip for the holiday with James' mother is exactly what she needs. Davina is a heroine I grew to really like. Even at the beginning, I liked her. I felt a kinship to her, many of her qualities I felt I could relate to. What we see next is a version of medieval PTSD. And how a young sweet girl reacts to it, and maybe not in the best way, but she eventually works through it. However I think her uncle and aunt and their over protection were damaging to her healing. She really starts to heal the moment she decides for herself she wants more in life and goes after it. This is where we see such character growth and the book surrounds her character. I LOVED that. Even though I liked both brothers, there was something so enchanting about Davina that I was drawn to. And it was an adventure to see her grow and change and become a strong woman.

### ***Plot and Story Line***

**The Highlander Who Loved Me** is a truly emotional and riveting romance that I was instantly hooked on. I honestly couldn't get enough of these two and their story. Now technically it can be termed as a "love triangle" but in all honestly it's a very minimal aspect to the plot. From the beginning, you know that this love story is centered on James and Davina. I understand why this author chose to pick the angle of mixing in the brother. In the end it turns out to benefit all three involved. What wins you over though is the beginning blooms of their romance. Its sweet, fun and silly at times.

***Breathless when she reached him, Davina stretched up on her toes and quickly kissed his freshly shaven cheek.***

***“Och, now, Davina, is that any way to kiss a man?”***

***Teasing laughter bubbled to her lips. “Cease yer bellyaching. Ye are the man who taught me***

*how to kiss, James McKenna, therefore ye've no right to complain."*

*She gave him a saucy wink, then spun around and raced to the trees. Playfully, he gave chase, catching her quickly and easily. Laughing, he drew her close and they swayed together on the uneven ground.*

*"I dinnae teach ye that sort of kissing, Davina Armstrong," he said. "Give me a proper kiss."*

We see how after the attack and the separation how their relationship changes. Both James and Davina will learn that they have to come to terms with the past before they can ever embrace the love that has never died. I loved James' family. They were so dynamic and wonderful to read...very lively. The parents, well they are fabulous. The father is just like his sons, but the mother is highly spirited and obviously is the leader of the home in many ways. The oldest brother Malcolm, at first I didn't like him. But boy he grew on me, he is tough and talented when fighting, but he also is a widower and has a precocious daughter he spoils rotten. Malcolm is looking for a wife to be the mother to his daughter. I understood his pursuit of Davina, but he is also respectful and patient with her wishes and needs. I admired that about him.

Now the romance between James and Davina. After they are reunited, it's a bit rocky...okay a lot rocky. James isn't sure he and Davina have anything worth fighting for anymore. Davina really hurt him five years previous when she rejected him. That hurt has festered over the years. But slowly James starts to realize how much she really matters to him and he doesn't want to lose her. But there is also a danger to Davina. A mysterious villain is after her, and James will do anything to protect her.

*"I love ye, Davina. With all my heart and soul. 'Tis time to finally put the past to rest and start the future we both desire." James knew their love was something that couldn't be found with another. They belonged together--in this life and the next. They had from the beginning. It might have taken them longer than most to reach for a life of happiness, but now it was firmly within their grasp, James knew he would never let it go.*

Any one that loves a wonderful historical romance...needs to pick this author up, so brilliant!! I am hoping for Malcolm's story next.

#### ***The Cover***

GORGEOUS....I have a weakness for romance covers like these. So sensual and romantic, I love the blue colors used. And yeah I totally adore the bluish colored plaid. Has a nice touch.

#### ***Overall View***

In **The Highlander Who Loved Me** we find a stimulating and emotionally driven romance of mistrust, anger, pain and we see the healing power of love and redemption. A SEXY PAGE TURNER!!

Books N'Tunes Reading Challenge:

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## **Barbara Rogers says**

\*\*I received an ARC of this book from the publisher and NetGalley in return for my honest opinion. \*\* I received the ARC after the publication date.

Adrienne Basso is a new author for me and I really look forward to reading more of her books!

The book is very well written. The story moves right along and you have to keep turning the pages to see what will happen next. The book has a little of everything you like in a book -- love, strife, an unusual bad guy (you'll be surprised at who the villain is). I won't recap the story in this review, because it is spelled out in the synopsis of the book. Just read it and you will see lots of twists and turns you'll enjoy.

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