



## Highlander for the Holidays

*Janet Chapman*

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## **Highlander for the Holidays** Janet Chapman

After a brutal attack, Jessie Pringle moved to the small mountain town of Pine Creek, Maine, to start over. But she never expected to meet Ian MacKeage, who had seemingly stepped right out of the Scottish Highlands. As drawn to Ian as he is to her, Jessie finds it more and more difficult to deny her own desires...

Then, on one of her long walks through the wilderness, she meets a kindly hermit who sells her a walking stick-one imbued with a magic that may allow Jessie to finally be rid of the pain of her past, and build a future with Ian.

## **Highlander for the Holidays Details**

Date : Published October 25th 2011 by Jove Books (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780515150087

Author : Janet Chapman

Format : Mass Market Paperback 325 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Contemporary, Holiday, Christmas, Science Fiction, Time Travel

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# From Reader Review Highlander for the Holidays for online ebook

## Kelly Rhinesmith-klupp says

This was a bit slow-quick. There was the "hurry up and get to the point" and the "wait... what just happened?"

I loved Toby and Roger. I would love to see them more in whatever series they might end up!

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## Dianne says

**"It is with my deepest sorrow that I am to inform you of the death of our beloved: Janet Chapman passed away on Saturday, October 28, 2017 with a long battle of cancer. She was surrounded by her loved ones. Janet was a truly marvelous woman, I will greatly miss her. Please pray for her husband and family. ~Vanetta "keep sprinkling the magic"'"**

**This is one of my very favorite author's -as a matter of fact, I just finished a re-re-re-read of almost all her book, last week. I had a suspicion that something like this was going to happen when her next books publication date kept changing and Amazon made it "not available" instead of pre-order. I will miss this author's wonderful way with words, magic, and love -nobody can ever take her place.**

**I always hope that I stay alive long enough for my favorite author's to finish their series -but I have never thought about the fact that \*they\* can die before they have finished. This loss brings that fact home to me**

Review:

Janet Chapman does it again. This is the one author of a very few, that I know will never ever disappoint me. Ms. Chapman can take an unlikely pairing of people and twine their stories and lives into something delicious and sexy to read. Moreover, "Highlander for the Holidays" is no exception. A lovely, sweet, and somewhat surprising love story mixed with a very non-taxing rather easy to solve the mystery. This was just what I need during the holidays.

This is the story of Jessie Pringle and Ian MacKeage and the magic that surround TarStone Mountain and all the MacKeage's. Jessie has lived through a brutal attack that left her husband and unborn child dead. She suffers from memory loss as well as horrible flashbacks. Ian is suffering from the knowledge that he is filled with the magic that will keep him tied to TarStone Mountain. Now Jessie's memory is coming back to her; with a little help from the Hermit/Druid Jessie meets, and what she is remembering will be very dangerous to her health AND Ian's indeed.

This is one author that I can highly recommend for all kinds of Romance readers. Ms. Chapman's books generally have it all. There are impossibly wounded characters that generally have some sort of chip on their shoulders. Strong women characters, very sexy headstrong and opinionated men, time travel, magic and But not vulgar sex, just truly romantic and soul healing loving.

Even though this book is part of a long-running series, there will be no problem reading this as a standalone.

Please take my word for it...if you like this book, please try the earlier books. I don't think you will be disappointed.

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### **Carolyn says**

Another of my favorite "feel good" series. It is all about the magic. Oh yeah, and highlanders! Gotta love highlanders!

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### **Michelle the Romance Witch says**

Wow sooo cool and what a twist... though i saw it well before the hero or heroine it was a fun little change. Took me so long to figure out who this Ian was since i knew it couldnt be the one i was thinking of. Waiting to read it kept me wracking my brain to figure that one out but by the time i was through the first few chapters i had it all figured out. We really need a Family tree of all these Wonderful Clans and how they all come together.

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### **Lis says**

This was a refreshing return to Maine and Mt. Tarstone. The story focused on Jessie who was drawn to Pine Lake and relocated from Atlanta based on a brochure she had seen. First night she meets Ian MacGregor and the rest of the story is how she is instantly adopted into the clan and all the pieces fall into romantic place. She gets a little nudge from the mysterious hermit Roger now and then, to help her work thru her past and the danger she and Ian still face. These books always end with the HEA and leave you all warm and fuzzy.

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### **Sandy M says**

I'm always wary after a number of books in a series that they can and will start to sound the same, nothing new going on, and everything becomes boring. But I have thoroughly enjoyed this series from the beginning. Janet Chapman has kept the characters and the storylines fresh and she's kept these brawny Highland heroes true to their ancestry and homeland, though they've been in the modern-day United States for several decades now.

What started out as a time travel romance with the first book in the series has turned into one with magic dancing through these characters generation after generation. This time around it's Ian MacKeage who must take responsibility for the magic coursing through him, especially after he meets Jessie, a woman both physically and mentally scarred after enduring a tragic and brutal attack.

Jessie has uprooted her life and come to TarStone Mountain Resort in Pine Creek, Maine to start anew. Since the death of her husband she's felt out of sorts and out of place, not belonging any longer. So after perusing a brochure, she just knows this wonderful, magical place is where she needs to be, despite the flack she's getting from family and friends. They want her to stay put, forget what happened, and go on with a life she'll never be happy with.

But the moment she sets foot in Pine Creek, Jessie knows she's done the right thing. And on her first night there she meets a man. Ian MacKeage. An old-fashioned, handsome, sexy Highlander. Which throws her into a panic wondering how he might react to her scarred and deformed body. Well, at least the place feels like home - especially when she finds the perfect house - and she figures Ian probably won't bother with her again anyway.

Good thing Jessie figures wrong. Ian is completely taken with her, even more so after witnessing one of her flashbacks, which totally incapacitates her and requires her service dog, Tobias, to stand guard over her until she's back on her feet. While Ian has his own demons to fight, which have caused him to spend more time on TarStone than in his own home after his return from Afghanistan, he still wants to get to know Jessie better. He also wants to prove to her that her disfigurement and scars don't mean the same to him as they do to her. Ian MacKeage is the kind of man any woman would love to have in her life, accepting, nonjudgmental, loving, protecting and the list could go on forever.

Of course, with all the magic swirling around the MacKeages and TarStone, things get a wee off track at times and they have to find their way through, hoping they're headed in the right direction. An ancestor of Ian's - we're talking from way back - meddles something fierce. He's a hoot of a character, but Jessie learns and Ian knows not to second guess the man when it comes to his hints about the future. The scenes and descriptions of Camp Come-As-You-Are are fun and just the vehicle Jessie needs to know why Ian looks past her physical impediments and sees who she is inside.

The only thing that left me scratching my head and wondering about is near the end when Ian takes Jessie to the summit of TarStone and through his magic, which he now embraces, find out what happened that night four years ago when she was attacked. I know it's his magic behind all of this, but I don't understand his taking on the mountain to do it. Nothing more is said about that once he drives his staff into the rock and the magic takes over. We find out what happened to Jessie and who's responsible for that night, but that's all. Unless something just went right over my head, which is possible!

But even that doesn't take away from the enjoyment of this book for me. It's wonderful seeing the entire family again, catching up with them and their lives. And this book also has more of a Christmas feel to it than its predecessor, *A Highlander Christmas* - which I also enjoyed quite a bit - especially Jessie and her Christmas tree.

If you've not started reading this series and you're a Highlander fan like me, you need to get with it. You have a lot of fun and magical reading ahead of you!

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

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### **Danielle Gypsy Soul says**

I read the rest of this series a really long time ago so I didn't remember a lot of it but I wanted to finish this last book. I should have known when I didn't really remember this series that it wasn't one I really liked. This book was just okay. I think the most frustrating thing was that the parts of the book with the most "meat" were all off stage. When the heroine finally remembered what happened it was off stage. When the hero and his relatives caught the bad guy it was off stage. The fact that the villain was so horribly obvious didn't help either. Also why do they all still have Scottish accents if they are from Maine? I also didn't really get the fight at the end. I'm not sure why she got so mad at him and why he stayed away.

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## **Branwen Sedai \*of the White Ajah\* says**

*"Healing one's self is nearly impossible-and far less rewarding-compared to the magic that's created when two souls combine their strengths and heal together."*

Jess Pringle has moved to the isolated small snowy town of Pine Creek, in Maine, to start over. She experienced a terrifying brutal attack four years ago that left her both physically and mentally scarred. She is ready to put the past behind her. So moving away from the city and living life in the wilds of Maine is just what she thinks she needs to start over. But she wasn't expecting the warm-hearted and hot-blooded Ian MacKeage to burst into her life and force her to face past horrors so she can finally heal.

This is not only one of the best Christmas stories I have ever read but it may be one of the best romances I have ever read and I was certainly not expecting that when I picked it up! There was of course the beautiful and rich setting which took place at Christmas time and I loved that, but I was actually really more impressed with the two main characters, Jessie in particular. Jessie has a lot of physical ailments that resulted in what happened to her before moving to Pine Creek and I honestly can't remember reading a romance where the main *female* character was scarred or disabled. The male characters, yes. But the female characters? It was refreshing to read about and grow to know a woman who *wasn't* physically perfect and watched her grow and deepen as a character as she grew so much stronger in mind, body, and soul. And the romance between the two of them was so vivid and painstakingly gorgeous that I kept thinking I was reading something written by Nora Roberts! Which, as she is my favorite romance author, is a high compliment indeed!

This was a wonderful Christmas romance that delved deep into the spirit of the Holidays and also demonstrated strong characters and a great story. I loved it!

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## **Sara says**

Let me just begin by saying, there's nothing like starting a series with the very last book! Yep, you heard that right. It's number 8 in the Highlander Series. I gather from a quick browse on Barnes and Noble that our hero is actually a son of one of the couples in the first books of the series. So if you're familiar with the series you won't find any comparisons from prior novels in this review. Nope. Instead I'm gonna break down why reading the last book in a series made me hungry to go back to the beginning...

...Because you know I already have Charming the Highlander on my Nook. Yep, I'm good like that.

Without Further Ado...The reasons why I'm starting this series...

Complex Females. Jessie was messy. Not only was she recovering from a failed marriage and devastating loss of a child. She lost both the unborn child and (soon to be ex) husband when an unknown assailant attacked them in their home. Leaving Jessie riddled with traumatic flashbacks, disfiguring scars, and leg issues.

Now, before you go thinking "This is too much for me" or "I don't like my romance heroines so tragic" Know that such events only lead to Jessie's character seeming more spunky, funny, down-to-earth, and

vulnerable. She seemed real. And this accessibility was because of her soap-opera like past rather than in spite of it.

The Dog. Loved the dog in this book. Toby was as much of a main character in this book as his human counterparts. I don't know if it was Ian's innate connection with animals...or all of the various expressions Chapman gave Toby. But when Jessie starts talking to her dog like a person and he begins to respond (doggie style, no talking animals up in here)...You won't think it's weird at all. Mind you he doesn't speak, but as a service dog trained to protect and comfort his owner a correctly placed tail wag can speak volumes. Bringing him into the story not only added a 'cute' factor but depth as well.

Hot Scottish Men. Let's just repeat that statement. Hot, Scottish, Men. When you hit the scene where half the clan is splashing around a pool...the first time in a very long time I wished I could hop into the book. All those abs...

The premise of this series is that warriors from 18th century (or so) Scotland are tossed forward in time to find the women they are to love. Granted Ian isn't an original clansman...instead a first generation child. The clan mentality with all its protective instincts and hearty family ethics are very much present in the tale. It's like reading a historical romance with modern amenities. Very, very fun.

My only caveat with this tale was that we didn't delve into Ian's issues (war, being the prodigal son) as much as I'd have liked. I'm not sure if there was more prepping in earlier books(?) but reading this as a standalone I felt as though I was constantly being reminded of Ian's issues without really seeing evidence of them.

Magic. So color me shocked when real magic began to happen in this book. Lead by Roger (the original Laird of the clan) the paranormal aspects were slowly seeped into the novel. Again, I think because I was so late to the game with this series I was really able to appreciate how well Jessie was integrated into the magical elements. I was new to them too and felt fully prepared when the big magic hit. I loved that. So many times in a series the reader was fully inundated into the world so you miss how choppy or quickly new characters are hit with the world. So I was so happy to see how smooth it all was. And how much I loved the character of Roger. You gotta read this to see him...I enjoyed him so much!

In the end this wasn't the most "Christmas-y" of reads. True, it happened over the holiday. But could easily be read as a juicy winter read. Don't be put off from the title simply because you didn't have time this season...Or if you're new like me, use the year to catch up and enjoy Jessie, Ian, and Toby next year. If you can wait that long!

<http://thelibrarianreads.wordpress.com>

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## **Christine Seybolt says**

One word describes New York Times bestselling Author Janet Chapman's eighth installment in her highlander series latest release, **HIGHLANDER FOR THE HOLIDAYS**...Phenomenal! Released by Pocket Star Books this past October fans have been in desperation for that hottie highlander Ian McKeage and he is now here spreading a magical cherry this holiday season.

Jessie Pringle has headed north to the quaint country town of Pine Creek, Maine after seeing the resort brochure. After a severe attack has left her scared emotionally and physically Jesse decides she needs a fresh

start and away from the coddling her family and friends keep heaping on her. It is time to get back to living no matter how painful or scary it might be. What she never expected to find was a true-blue highlander who seems to have stepped right out from the Scottish highland mist. Inexplicably drawn to Ian Jesse is not sure what to make of him and his seemingly calm and gentle understanding. For one thing this hottie highlander has won over her service dog, Toby, which is highly unusual. If that was not enough to make a young girl shake her head and wonder she meets and old hermit one day out walking Toby and he gives her a walking stick, but this is not any ordinary walking stick. soon Jessie discovers that maybe there is more than meets the eyes in the beautiful country side of Maine. It is the season of magic and anything could happen.

Do you believe in Magic? I certainly do. *HIGHLANDER FOR THE HOLIDAYS* is a fantastically bewitching installment in Chapman's charming Highlanders series. Chapman is an extraordinary story teller with her magnetic imagery wrapped around perfect wording that engages her readers from the get go. I was drawn to the aspect of the service dog, Toby, a broad chest barrel of a Rottweiler that would make angels fear to tread with just one snarl. In Chapman's genuine of setting the tone early we learn that Toby is ferocious in his guard for Jesse with a heart of a warrior that deeply adores its owner. Yes, the dog captured this readers heart but Jesse Pringle is such a strong unique character that I wanted to learn more about her, too. The more this reader read the more I became obsessed. Jessie Pringle is not your carbon copy alpha female character or heroine. From the beginning we are shown and brought along on Jessie's fearless journey. This heroine is not typical with her physical impediments but even more so is that she is hindered by the emotional scarring from the attack. Jessie is a one and a million woman who fights to regain her independence, her understanding of what happened to her. She is bound and determined to show others, but primarily herself, that she will never give up and be that broken shell of a woman again.

The one thing that will turn any reader away from a prominent book is its lack of characterization. *HIGHLANDER FOR THE HOLIDAY* is not short on some of the most fabulous characters that readers have come to enjoy. Along with Ian MacKeage and Jesse Pringle we are treated and reintroduced to the MacBain and more of that fabulously formidable MacKeage crew. The wily affectionate hermit that has his very own agenda sells a magical walking stick to Jessie. He is one of those characters that adds the comedy element, cracks the ice and will crack readers up. I do not know about you but I am a dog lover. I would have to, own two miniatures Dachshunds Magnum and Velocity along with a slandered gingersnap Dachshund named Bullet. My little guys would be very upset if I did not give props to Toby, the massive toffee and cocoa coated Rottweiler, Toby. The dog is an intricate character being Jessie Pringles service dog with a heart of gold. He stills every scene he is in and makes readers see a deeper traumatic side of our heroine. Without Toby, Jessie would not to function normally...or what she now considers normal. His is the fiercely loyal canine you want in your corner.

Any book that starts with a highlander is a very good book in deed. Add in a plot of a woman fighting to get her life back to normal all the while fighting against elements of her scared body, emotional damaged to being attacked and letting people get close to you than you have the beginning of *HIGHLANDER FOR THE HOLIDAYS*. The plot is intense but entertaining as readers participate in the struggle, conflict and overwhelming fight that set the tone for Chapman's heroine to overcome. Fighting for what you want makes all the trials and tribulations worth the pain when you achieve your hearts desire.

As a reader we look for books that emotionally strike us. Chapman's writing is concise and tight with intricate detailed imagery that leads readers into a believable imaginary world of the authors making. Chapman delivers as always. Her strong story lines, fleshed out characters with an intensely gripping prose prove why Chapman is one of today's bestselling authors.



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**Barbara says**

Really enjoyed this story. It was extremely well written and very lighthearted.

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**Debbie Dodd says**

I enjoyed reading.

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**Katie(babs) says**

This started out as a cute holiday contemporary then ventured off in the the Twilight Zone.

First off the hero is Scottish, I totally get that but he's been born and raised in Maine in some small, backwater town and but still has a Scottish accent (ala Jamie from Outlander) with all the "ye's" and "ochs". All his male counterparts talk the same. Is it because they have a clan in this town? If so, wouldn't they have some sort of Maine accent, not a Scottish one?

Hero's Scottish ancestor from some past century pops up and knows the future and all about the heroine. Also has a fetish for her cell phone. he gives her a magic wand type staff, which she loves because I think it's reminds her of the hero's staff, if you know what I mean.

There's a mish mash of so many genres that don't work. Contemporary, historical romance, time travel, thriller, suspense, you name it.

The villain who has caused the heroine a world of woe is so easy to figure out from the beginning.

A very strange book that is very out there with the plot.

Am I missing something because this is the first Chapman book I read.

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**Cheryl says**

Timing worked out really well for this one since I actually got to read it for the holidays. I can't recommend her books highly enough if you need a break from the cares of the world and need something with a story that transports you into the story strongly enough that everything around you just goes away and the next thing you know hours have gone by. There are not many book that do this for me but all of Janet Chapman's books do. Start at the beginning and then just enjoy

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**Barbara ★ says**

[I can totally understand Jessie not having the surgery to fix said boob right away. After all, she'd

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