



Return of the Highland Laird

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An untimely tempest transports two miserable and lost souls to England's Abbey Wood where they stumble across each other's paths. Lady Jane, a battered woman and accused murderess—Laird Alexander, fleeing his keep after blaming himself for the accidental death of his wife.

Both souls must heal their wounds. Both souls have reason to keep their identities hidden. This misshapen pair discovers each needs the other—though neither is willing to admit dependence.

Alexander must return to his kin and resume his laird's mantle. Lady Jane must clear her name and find forgiveness. But before healing can begin, it is essential they learn to trust...and love.

Return of the Highland Laird Details

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Author : Amy Jarecki

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From Reader Review Return of the Highland Laird for online ebook

Nicole Laverdure says

Journey of healing! One of my favorite Scottish romance authors, Amy Jarecki, wrote another captivating novel! RETURN OF THE HIGHLAND LAIRD is the fourth one in her Highland Force series. I loved her characters Alexander MacLeod, once, a clan Laird and Lady Jane; a short novella of healing, trust and forgiveness! Alexander is grieving his wife which had been an arranged marriage, but still feels responsible for her death. Wanting to heal his loss, he decides to leave his clan; but find himself stranded in a small isolate village, where he is battered and robbed by thieves and left for dead. Jane, a Countess, is living in that village, under a secret identify in fear of being accused of murder. He then seeks refuge near her home, but she doesn't trust him! They will soon discover, that they both hiding dark secrets that they don't want to share. Follow the journey of two wounded souls who will finally share trust, forgiveness and tenderness. The plot was well developed and the characters nicely blended into the story! I strongly recommend Return of the Highland Laird a short novella of a hundred pages. Again, Ms. Jarecki didn't disappoint me!

Kathy says

Amy Jarecki has again told a story that captures the attention of the reader. I could imagine myself living in the little home in the forest and loving my small but fierce dog. A fast pace novella that left me feeling happy for the characters.

Anne says

A different story and just as good as the others. Wonderful characters and story love it! Looking forward to the next one in October! One of the best highlander series! Highly recommended

Linda says

"Before I go, please tell me one thing."

The candlelight flickered amber in her eyes. "Yes?"

He licked his lips and glanced toward the coveted, yet sacrosanct bedchamber. "I would like to know the given name of the woman who can kiss me so passionately she makes me want to climb to the rooftops and roar."

Her cheeks turned the color of her mantle and she grasped the latch. "Jane," she whispered.

"Well then." He stepped in and touched his lips to her forehead, "Goodnight, Lady Jane."

RETURN OF THE HIGHLAND LAIRD by Amy Jarecki is the fourth book in her Highland Force series and continues her tradition of writing awesome Scottish romances. This entry is novella-length at only 108 pages; however, the plot is still solidly crafted and the characters are likable, realistic and well-developed.

RETURN OF THE HIGHLAND LAIRD can be read as a standalone even though there are interconnected characters. I highly recommend reading all the books in this series, though, as they are all fantastic! Here is the recommended reading order of the Highland Force series:

1. Captured By The Pirate Laird
2. The Highland Henchman
3. Beauty and The Barbarian
4. Return Of The Highland Laird

RETURN OF THE HIGHLAND LAIRD is set on the north coast of Scotland in 1587. It's the story of Laird Alexander MacLeod of Raasay and Lady Jane Whitehaven.

My full review has been posted to Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Check it out here:
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>

Marta Cox says

My first book by this author but apparently the fourth in her Highland Force series and a novella so a great way to sample the authors style. I don't read a lot of historical fiction but when I do I pick the likes of Monica McCarthy or Karin Tabke because I enjoy a spicy romance with lots of action. I had seen Ms Jarecki get some very good reviews so was very happy to sit down and see what all the fuss was about. If strong highlanders and stubborn heroines appeal to you then this short read might just be what you are looking for. Alexander is the Laird and clan chief to the Macleod's but right now the last thing he wants is to be home as his wife has recently died and he can't quite forgive himself for being unable to save her. Oh theirs was not a love match as it was arranged but he respected his wife and was grateful for the son she bore him. Seeing her plunge to her death whilst unable to prevent it has awakened all manner of feelings in Alexander from grief to guilt and he has sailed away to give himself time to come to terms with the anguish he feels. Caught in a storm Alexander is washed ashore at a village where the Scots are feared and reviled and he is cruelly set upon by cowardly thieves .

Lady Jane has recently been widowed but it's not as straightforward as it might seem . For years she was married to a cruel and sadistic man who frequently beat her and when she finally sought to defend herself in a cruel twist of fate her actions ended her husbands life. Shocked at her husbands death she has allowed a trusted servant to hide her in nearby woods but Lady Jane knows if she is discovered no one would view her actions as self defence and her life would be forfeit. When a badly wounded man shows up at her door Jane has no wish to get involved and does all in her power to persuade the man to leave but Alexander is not really fit to travel and against all her better judgement Jane allows the man to stay. As his strength slowly returns Alexander is intrigued by the woman who clearly has secrets but as he has no wish to reveal his own he doesn't push the lass too hard but the past has a way of catching up and for Jane that means deadly consequences!

I found this worked very well as a standalone although its highly possible that one or even both of these two characters have been in previous stories in this series. I would not describe this particular story as bring action packed but it was a nice simple plot that was well written and very easy to lose yourself in. A story that flowed well with main characters that were very likeable. Alexander was not written as a brash or arrogant hero no, he is quietly spoken and forceful in a manner that never felt too pushy. It's fun to read how perplexed he is at Janes basic lack of knowledge when it comes to what to most in that time would be basic survival. Jane has led a sheltered upbringing and coping with everyday tasks is quite a challenge to her and whilst I don't wish to include too many spoilers I think it's fair to say that she's definitely no Martha Stewart!

A nicely paced story with a sweet romance and I do love a hero with a twinkle in his eye! It's not overly sexy so those who cringe or try to rush that side of a romance won't be too put out by the antics of this couple. Loved the dialogue and the hero has a way with words to impress any woman. Interesting supporting characters who I'm sure will feature in subsequent books and yes I'd happily read more from this author. If you are a fan of highland romance then it's well worth giving this author a go as I'm sure most romance readers will be as impressed as I am.

Eclipse Reviews says

And the amazing series continues with Laird Alexander Macleod. In a desperate attempt to escape the death of his wife, Alexander embarks on a one man journey to nowhere. He ends up in deep trouble when his ship anchored in an English town. Mugged and beaten to near death, his attackers dumbly what they fought was just a body in the doomed woods nearby. It is here where Alexander stumbles into the cottage of Jane. Alone and in hiding, she fears that Alexander will bring death with him. She tries to send him on his way, but with his injuries, Alexander is unable to go far. In good faith he offers Jane his labor in return for a place to heal. But the feelings that is stirred up, Alexander finds himself in an even greater peril. Can he return home and leave this enchanting beauty behind? Or will she be the death of him?

It takes an amazing writer to grab you by page three and just keeps you up until you devoured the last page. Each and every book in this series had that very effect on me, which is why Amy is one of my favorite authors, and this series is on my top list of Historical Romances. As each page unfolds the characters quickly earn their place in your heart. Alexander reminded me so much of his father, and yet he had his mother's charm to capture a lady's heart. Jane was the silly noblewoman trying to make it out in the woods all alone, and had me laughing a few times. Amy's talent to enthrall have once again proven to be very powerful, a great novel with an amazing plot and perfect execution. The only sad part was that it was over far too quickly for me. I can't wait for her next releases, and just losing myself in them again. Well done Amy.

Belinda says

This was my first book by this author. It was full of adventure and romance. I like the characters and storyline because it kept me interested. You meet highland Laird Alexander who was sailing his small boat and was stranded at the coast of England. A storm brought him there not to his liking. First he met with some thugs who beat, stole his coins and little boat. He then was dumped in some woods so he could die. But Alexander didn't succumb to his injuries and found his way to Abby Woods. He was taken in by a beautiful woman named Lady Jane who was hiding there because she was being sought after she accidentally killed her husband who beat her. Now she has a man to take care of and must keep her secret. When Alexander and Jane become intimately involved, can Jane trust this man who stirs her soul? Will Alexander still love her after what she has done? Please read this exciting tale of love and redemption of two people who were meant to be. Thanks Net Galley for this ARC title for an honest review.

Linda says

Laird Alexander Macleod's grief over the loss of his wife and the guilt he feels for her death leads him to

sailing his skiff by himself, unfortunately , right into a storm that lands him on the shores of England. Alex seeking a meal , drink and lodging finds his way to a tavern but a Scott in England, not very welcome in 1587 so he gets his one drink and told their is no room at the inn, but the seedy characters get a good look at the Gold in his purse and decide that it should be theirs and not his; attacked and mugged and left for dead in Abbey woods, with no money, and no weapons he once again wakes and is indeed of Shelter. Alexander struggles through the woods with his injuries to come upon a crofters cottage, in pretty bad condition but will at least shelter him from the weather. He is suprised to find it occupied by the Countess Lady Jane, but the pain of his injuries has him passing out cold on her floor, he find himself waking on her floor several hours later , not only is Jane lying to him about his Identity, but so does he they both have much to fear and protect . Jane is a wanted women, severely battered by her husband, she killed him in self defense, she is a wanted women and if found will most likey face death herself. Alexander engratiates himself upon Jane, the cottage needs repair, he needs shelter and food so bartering his services to repair things around the cottage and small farm works in both their favors.

However Alexander is having a hard time keeping his hand off of Lady Jane, to spite his grief over the loss of his wife the attraction he feels toward Jane is much greater than he every felt for his wife. When danger arrives for these two however the unsaid truths and lies almost lead t tragedy ! Great novella, just the right amount of danger, romance and hot Scottish men!

Arc provided by Rapture books via Netgalley for an Hones review.

Farrah says

Another wonderful addition to this fantastic series, Return of the Highland Laird was a lovely novella. With sweet romance and secrets of the past, this book was an enjoyable read and I really liked it.

Jane and Alexander were in a similar situation, running away from the death of a spouse and seeking solace in solitude. Until they met each other. Jane was a likable heroine. Despite living in fear for years, she survived and eventually learned to find happiness again. Alexander was sweet and very loyal to those he cared about. Both were great character and I liked them.

The romance was sweet. I liked that it built up slowly as Jane and Alexander came to trust each other. It was sweet, but with some heat as well, and I thought they were a lovely couple.

The plot moved quickly and I was hooked the entire way through. I really enjoyed the story and the ending was lovely.

Return of the Highland Laird was a wonderful historical romance novella that I really liked. Romance lovers, this is a book worth checking out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Marcela (BookaholicCat) says

Originally posted at The Bookaholic Cat

4 ½ Stars

Return of the Highland Laird is the fourth book in the Highland Force series by Amy Jarecki.

Laird Alexander MacLeod of Raasay is devastated after he was unable to save his wife when she fell to her death. Theirs was an arranged marriage and their relationship wasn't one of love but one of respect. Still, his guilt for being unable to protect her and his need for solitude let him to the rash decision of sailing the six-men birlinn all by himself. Decision he soon regrets when he is hit by a storm and is forced to land on the English coast. Alexander has the misfortune of landing in Bees, a town known for its thieving population and for its hate for all things Scottish. Instead of finding refuge from the storm Alexander is robbed, mauled and left for dead.

After stumbling all night, Alexander finds a rundown cabin in the middle of the forest.

Lady Jane Whitehaven suffered eight years of abuse from her husband, the Earl of Whitehaven, until the night she accidentally killed him in self-defense. Jane knows the courts won't see it that way and knows she will be executed if she is apprehended. That night, Mr. Cox, the head valet at Buttermere Castle, helped her escape and since then she has been living in hiding. The last couple of months haven't been easy for her, but she has done the best with her new situation.

Lady Jane is afraid of helping Alexander when he comes knocking to her door, but she can't leave an injured man to fend for himself. She provides the help she can and in exchange Alexander will help her fix the dilapidated cabin.

An arrangement that was supposed to last for couple of days, turns into weeks. The more time they spend together the more they want to be together, but they both have secrets, secrets that could turn deadly if they are not honest and careful.

I met Alexander in previous book, Beauty and the Barbarian. I liked him then, but wasn't crazy about him. He was a good Laird, a good brother and it was obvious he respected his wife but was not in love with her; apart from that I didn't know much about him to get a better picture. After reading Return of the Highland Laird I'm a little bit in love with him. Alexander is sweet, caring, protective and hot as hell. I really liked his inner strength and how loyal he is.

I have mixed feelings about Lady Jane, I admired her strength, but at the same time I wish she had been a bit more honest with Alexander. I understand her misgivings, her life is in peril and after everything she has suffered it was difficult for her to trust Alexander. Still everything would have been easier if only she would have been able to trust him as much as he trusted her.

There is an instant attraction between them, but because of their pasts their relationship is built slowly. I really liked how things developed between them; it made the relationship believable and swoon worthy.

We see some characters from previous books like Bran, Ian, and Lady Anne. Even though their cameos are short they are powerful. It was nice to see them and see where they are in their lives.

Return of the Highland Laird is novella that feels like a full-length novel. It's a book about redemption, forgiveness and the power of love.

The Return of the Highland Laird can be read as a stand alone, but I recommend you to read previous books too. They are all excellent. Mrs. Jarecki does an outstanding job mixing real events of the time with fiction. I recommend the Return of the Highland Laird to historical romance fans. If you like highlanders this is a novella and a series you need to read.

Maria says

As a novella, Return of the Highland Laird deserves truly 5 Stars, but because it is the fourth book in the series and it was done as a novella (13 Chapters), I am only giving it 4 stars.

With that said, I really enjoyed Return of the Highland Laird. Here is my review:

Laird Alexander MacLeod of Raasay is a handsome highlander who is strong in all aspects, not only physically, but mentally as well. I love a hero like him. I truly felt for him because he was suffering from guilt because he could not save his wife. Theirs was not a love match, but he respected her and she was the mother of their two year old child. Because of the guilt, he flees his clan and his responsibilities for a time. He is caught in a severe storm at sea and is fighting for his life. Alexander ends up in bloody England of all places, no hospitality for Scots there. His adventure begins.

Readers will love the heroine, Jane, former Lady of Whitehaven, because she too is strong, but she truly does not know it. She is in hiding in a cottage in the forest. She is fleeing from her past just as Alexander is. When their paths cross, her journey changes.

The hero and heroine's dialogue was very compelling. This author places her character's inner thoughts on the page so we, the readers, know exactly what the characters are thinking. This allowed for humor and that was great.

There was good tension throughout the story. There were just the right amount of passionate detailed loves scenes to make this novella truly wonderful.

Readers will also see how in tune Alexander is to Jane. Again, I do not like spoilers but I just will share my favorite quote of the whole book. It is a quote from Alexander - "I would like to know the given name of the woman who can kiss me so passionately she makes me want to climb to the roof tops and roar".

I will not go into detail because I do not like spoilers. I believe I have given enough here to peak your interest. I hope in the future this fantastic author continues with full length books instead of novellas. This is by no means a negative, it just shows how good it was and how I, as the reader, wanted it to continue and experience more of the journey along with the characters.

sparklyunikorn says

3.5 rounds up to 4 stars

Setting: Scotland, 1587

What happened after I finished it? I knew at bottom of the page says it's 100% of sort but still I slid my forefinger on my iPad screen, to turn the page, in case there's an epilogue or something because the story's too short and I still want more! What a bummer, seriously.

I happened to like this book after previous book flunked. Everything's fine in *Return of the Highland Laird* -- the main characters, the romance, their interactions, their conversations, their banters, the plot, and the action scenes!

Too bad though it's too short because there's so many unanswered questions and things just ended like that. Honestly, I am quite disappointed. If by means this book is to be short, at least do include the epilogue so there's a closure and doesn't feel it ends abruptly.

However, on second thought, the book's a novella. Of course, it's a short story, eh? Too bad.

Read on your own peril.

**ARC provided by Patchwork Press - Cooperative via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Kindle Freebie through 12/2!!! <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00M...>

An untimely tempest transports two miserable and lost souls to England's Abbey Wood where they stumble across each other's paths. Lady Jane, a battered woman and accused murderess—Laird Alexander, fleeing his keep after blaming himself for the accidental death of his wife.

Both souls must heal their wounds. Both souls have reason to keep their identities hidden. This misshapen pair discovers each needs the other—though neither is willing to admit dependence.

Alexander must return to his kin and resume his laird's mantle. Lady Jane must clear her name and find forgiveness. But before healing can begin, it is essential they learn to trust...and love.

Amy Alvis says

This is book 4 in the Highland Force series.

Lady Jane is in hiding after killing her husband. After years of being beaten by him, she finally had enough. Unfortunately others didn't see it as self defense. She had resigned herself to a solitary life. That is until a highlander lands himself on her doorstep almost dead.

Laird Alexander, blaming himself for his wife's accidental death, set out on one of his boats to spend time reflecting on his life. Getting caught in a storm, he is lucky to reach land. Too bad it was English land where he is beaten, left for dead, and all his belongings taken.

Too broken souls come together, but can they heal each other to find that everlasting love?

I will say that I didn't really care for Alexander in Beauty and the Barbarian, but Jarecki redeemed him in my eyes. This is a story of two battered and bruised souls finding their other half and starting the healing process.

Jarecki does a great job of showing Jane going through the healing process and coming out a stronger person. I also think that having Alexander forced to do manual labor sort of humbled him a bit.

I really hope that Jarecki is not done with this series as I have really enjoyed it!

Thanks go to Rapture Books via NetGalley for a copy of the book in exchange of an honest review.

Barbee says

This is a wonderful and enchanting novella by the talented Amy Jarecki. This is book four in the Highland Force Series.

North coast of Scotland 1587, Laird Alexander is grieving after recently losing his wife, even though it was an arranged marriage and he was not even attracted physically to his wife he feels like a failure not able to protect and save his wife! On top of that they have a two year old son together his heir Malcolm.

Laird Alexander is so devastated and deep in grief he just jumps in the little birlinn and gets caught up in a bad storm totally alone with only the clothes on his back, a few weapons and his purse. Due to bad luck he ends up in a town full of thieves in England not a good place for a Scot at the time. The thieves rob him of everything except his clothes on his back. On top of that they beat him badly and leave him for dead in a burn!

The heroine of this novella is Lady Jane Whitehaven who is a fugitive on the run after recently murdering her husband The Earl of Whitehaven. After taking eight years by this monster she finally defended herself but she knows the Courts. Won't see it that way and her dead husband's valet offers a place to hide her in a Forrest most consider haunted.

Laird Alexander finds the broken down house in the woods and asks for help which Lady Jane at first refuses but he sees all the repairs that needs to be done and the woman can't even cook for herself. They both realize they both have secrets and she dies relent and let him stay. Of course living under such close quarters they are both attracting to each other and find love, yet after Alexander is healed and in love he reveals his secrets yet Jane won't reveal and confide any. Alexander is furious and has always known he has to return to his clan and leaves which unbeknown to him leaves Jane broken hearted and vulnerable and eventually caught and brought back to her brother in law the new Earl who is just another abusive monster like her dead husband was.

Will Alexander find it in his heart to forgive Jane? Will he make it in time before Jane is convicted of murder and hung or burned at the stake? It's definitely not looking too good for Lady Jane! You must read this wonderful novella and find out! As always another captivating read by the talented Amy Jarecki. I look forward to more books by this outstanding gifted storyteller.

I thoroughly have enjoyed this entire series and have given each book a five star reviews and have loved

each and every book. I highly recommend you read this series in book order just for a better connection to the secondary characters which some are heroes in the futures books. Of course the choice is yours and you can read any one of them alone too. This is the only novella in the series but it was truly fabulous and definitely got me fascinated right from the beginning to the very last page in the book.

Highland Force Series

1. Captured By The Pirate Laird
2. The Highland Henchman
3. Beauty and The Barbarian
4. Return Of The Highland Laird

**On a personal note: Unfortunately the type of situation Lady Jane found herself in too many women are still physically abused even today. Did you know a female from ages six months to a hundred years old is abused every three minutes on our planet this is a true fact sadly. There are people that can help you so please get help before enduring years of abuse or worse as Lady Jane had. Remember always say NO.

**The National Sexual Assault hotline and Crisis Center is 1-800-656-HOPE is open 24/7 everyday of the year! You can look it up online also at rain.org which is anonymous and will connect you with trained professionals at a crisis center in your area for help. It's a shame they didn't have this type of help in centuries past, but they do now thank goodness. God Bless~B
