



Moonlight on My Mind

Jennifer McQuiston

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To ruin a man's life once takes a regrettable mistake.

To do so twice takes a woman like Julianne Baxter.

Eleven months ago, Julianne's statement to the authorities wrongly implicated Patrick, the new Earl of Haversham, in his older brother's death. The chit is as much trouble as her red hair suggests, and just as captivating. Now she has impetuously tracked him to the wilds of Scotland, insisting that he return home to face a murder charge and save his family from ruin. A clandestine wedding may be the only way to save her reputation—and his neck from the hangman's noose.

Julianne has no objection to the match. More and more she's convinced of Patrick's innocence, though when it comes to igniting her passions, the man is all too guilty. And if they can only clear his name, a marriage made in haste could bring about the most extraordinary pleasure...

Moonlight on My Mind Details

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Author : Jennifer McQuiston

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From Reader Review **Moonlight on My Mind** for online ebook

Caz says

I've given this a B- at AAR, so that's 3.5 stars.

This is Ms McQuiston's third book in the series that began with *What Happens in Scotland* and continued with *Summer Is for Lovers*, and it presents a decided change of tone to that of the previous books.

Moonlight on my Mind is more of a romantic mystery than a straightforward romance, and while I found it to be a fast-paced and enjoyable read overall, I came away from it not completely convinced by either the mystery or the romance.

Our heroine is Miss Julianne Baxter, who was one of the secondary characters in **Summer is for Lovers**. In that story she is presented as a beautiful, vivacious, and slightly fast young woman who is very well aware of her personal attractions and the effect she has on men, and who flirts her way through life with an eye to making an advantageous match.

At the beginning of this book, she is very much the same Julianne when we meet her at a ball given by the Earl of Haversham at his country house in Yorkshire. Deeming the earl's heir to be an ideal match, Julianne decides that the best way to secure his notice will be to make him jealous by dancing first with his brother, Mr Patrick Channing. Patrick, who has just returned from the stables (indeed, he spends most of the book in a state of dishevelment!) when Julianne grabs him, is well aware of the sort of young woman she is and her reasons for singling him out – but he dances with her anyway, steals a toe-curling kiss, and then leaves her to her machinations.

Eleven months later, Julianne is nearing the end of a trying journey to the small Scottish town of Moraig in order to find Patrick and bring him back home. The day after the ball when they'd danced, Patrick's brother Eric was shot and killed, and Patrick is the prime suspect in his murder should the authorities rule that Eric's death was not an accident. Julianne was the only witness to the incident and her information, coupled with the fact that Patrick was seen covered in blood, served to worsen the case against him. Not wanting to inflict his presence on his grieving family, Patrick removes to Scotland, and no-one but his father – who believes him innocent of the crime – knows where he is.

Given the circumstances, Julianne is the last person Patrick either expects or wants to see in Moraig. In the intervening months, she has come to the realisation that she was wrong about what she saw and knows that Patrick is innocent. She feels guilty for her actions and wants to make amends by helping him to prove it. On impulse, she travels to Moraig to break the news of his father's recent death and to tell him that he needs to return home immediately, for the sake of his mother and sisters, if not for himself. He is naturally suspicious of both the information and her motives – she practically accused him of murder, after all.

Patrick has had enough of her meddling and wants nothing more than to get rid of her as soon as possible. He doesn't want her help, fearing that any more of her interference will just make things worse, but has no idea how to stop her from getting involved. His friend, James MacKenzie (hero of **What Happens in Scotland**) points out that there is one very efficient way of preventing Julianne from saying anything to make things worse, which would be to marry her, as a wife cannot be compelled to testify against her husband.

The idea appalls him – but makes a certain kind of sense. Patrick doesn't like Julianne, but can't deny that

he's attracted to her and would find certain aspects of being married to her to be no hardship at all. Persuading her that her unchaperoned visit to both the village and his home threaten to compromise her reputation, Patrick and Julianne take a trip to the local blacksmith to tie the knot.

After a disappointing wedding night, the awkward newly-weds then travel to Yorkshire in company with MacKenzie, who continues on to London in order to set certain legal proceedings into motion. They arrive at Summersby to a cautious welcome. Many of the family members and friends who attended the late Earl's funeral are still at the house, and are not at all pleased to see Julianne again – even less so when they learn she is now Patrick's wife.

Julianne is made of stern stuff, however, and refuses to be intimidated or belittled by any of them, even Patrick's snide cousin Jonathon Blythe, whom she begins to suspect of more than being merely envious of Patrick's new wealth and position.

I felt, while reading the book, that it didn't quite know what it wanted to be – a mystery or a romance. The *whodunnit* worked well, but the romance didn't quite do it for me. Patrick and Julianne begin the book wary of each other, although there is an undeniable undercurrent of attraction running between them. But I didn't get a real sense of their relationship developing. It *changed* certainly, but the changes felt choppy, rather than organic. Patrick went from distrust (with a fair bit of lust) to liking/admiration and then love but each step just 'happened' rather than evolving. Julianne changes most throughout the book, and I particularly liked the way Ms McQuiston presented her as a multi-layered character, the outer shell of inveterate gossip and outrageous flirt masking a more thoughtful, intelligent young woman who is capable of admitting her mistakes and trying to make them right. She is also a perfect complement to Patrick in that, as a second son who was determined on making his own way in life, he hasn't much idea of how to go on now he is an earl – whereas Julianne is very much up to snuff when it comes to the behaviour that is expected of a peer of the realm and his wife.

As I've said above, **Moonlight on My Mind** is an enjoyable read, but it was full of plot-holes big enough to drive a fleet of trucks through, the biggest of which was that Julianne's so-called evidence is flimsy at best and utterly ridiculous at worst. I found it really difficult to believe she could have levelled such an accusation at Patrick, especially given that she knows the evidence wasn't actually hers to give. The willingness with which the dowager countess handed over the reins of the household to Julianne seemed implausible, given the circumstances, and even though I didn't suspect the identity of the villain until near the end, I found the resolution to be a bit too far-fetched for my taste.

On the plus side, the writing is good, as is the characterisation of the two principals, both of whom are far from perfect and feel that little bit more real because of it. I enjoyed the way Patrick developed from a man who had little patience or interest in titles or society into one who realised that he was more than capable of running an earldom; and Julianne's transformation from spoiled brat to a capable, loving and loyal wife was very well done indeed.

So I'm giving the book a recommendation despite the flaws I've mentioned. I enjoyed it enough to have read it in one sitting, and I think that in the final tally, the positive points outweigh the negative ones.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Julianne Baxter went to Scotland to find Patrick Channing, the man she accused of murdering his brother.

When the coach pulls into town it hits a dog and she finds Patrick when he arrives to care for the dog. Patrick has set up shop as the town veterinarian. Julianne has bad news and Patrick must come home and face the consequences. Patrick has bad feelings toward this woman who claims she saw him shoot his brother and yet he is attracted to her at the same time.

I will readily admit I disliked Julianne a lot through much of the book. While I never actually fell in love with her character I did warm up enough to be satisfied. The mystery of "whodunit" surprised me. I had my own theories and they were dashed. Overall, it was a good read and I would recommend it with caution that the heroine will not be exactly likable.

Kat ~ Forever Book Lover ♥ says

Jennifer McQuiston has penned yet another page turner. I think I enjoyed this one the best, but then I think I said that when I finished the first two books in the series. You are in for a wonderful tale: murder, secrets, lies, marriage of convenience and that's all within the first few chapters. Fall in love with both Julianne and Patrick as they fall in love with each other. Julianne is a strong willed character, she's well developed and will Stand By Her Man. Patrick, he is quirky, has a sexy rakest personality, he weds for her silence, but finds those vows are more than just words.

The author grabs your attention from the beginning and holds you until the very last page is turned. You don't need to read the first two books to enjoy this one. Download a copy or pick up the paperback- sit back and enjoy a fun filled adventure.

Tin says

I've sat down to write this review three times now and my mind is, at once, lost for words and full of praise. How do I find the words to say just how much I loved this book? And how do I find the words to explain why I loved it so much? How do I talk about how much I love this author, who continues to **wow** me with every book she has published? How do I write about my excitement over her future projects, knowing that she continues to raise the bar with each story she tells?

For **Moonlight on my Mind**, Jennifer McQuiston tries her hand at writing a murder-mystery: Patrick Channing is accused of shooting his brother after a heated argument -- to make matters worse, one of the guests claims to have witnessed it: Julianne Baxter. Never proven guilty, Patrick retreats to a small town in Scotland where he quietly practices veterinary medicine. Now his father has died and Patrick the new Earl of Haversham.

Julianne Baxter has braved the wilds of Scotland to seek Patrick out, and bring him home. Eleven months ago, she declared with certainty that she had seen Patrick point the gun at his brother and shot him. Now, however, after eleven months had passed, Julianne is not all that certain about her version of the events. And she needs Patrick to help her sort through her muddled memories of that time.

Seeing Julianne again rips open the wounds that Patrick is slowly trying to recover from and brings to the surface all the sad memories of his brother's death -- now, he learns that his father has died and he is the new Earl. It is a moment that fills Patrick with sadness, dread and apprehension: his father, the one man who

defended him and believed in him is dead, and he must return to his home to assume his responsibilities as new Earl, but this also means he must face the accusations and judgement of his peers, friends, family and neighbours. It would also mean dealing with Julianne Baxter, the most maddening, infuriating and most beautiful woman he has ever met.

Not that he blamed them. It had been his rifle, after all. His bullet that had struck his brother in the chest. His guilt to live with, even as his father had battled to save the remnants of what was now -- but should never have been -- his birthright.

- Chapter 4

Allies or enemies? Julianne serves as both protagonist and antagonist in this story -- and I wasn't certain I would like her because she's so wilful and flighty, but Julianne redeems herself in this story. She's a germaphobe and a pampered city girl, but she readily steps out of her comfort zone in order to look for Patrick. She thought she knew what she saw all those months ago, but time and circumstance has made her reconsider her previous testimony. She has come to find Patrick because she feels responsible for the dire situation Patrick's family is in. His family's future is being threatened by calls to resume the inquest into Patrick's involvement in his brother's death -- if found guilty, the title and the estates would all revert to the Crown, which would leave Patrick's mother and sisters ruined. Julianne knows she must do something, but she isn't sure of her part in Patrick's life -- as the lone witness to his brother's death, one word from Julianne could mean Patrick's salvation or damnation.

She'd hoped, she supposed, she would have arrived in Moraig to find Patrick Channing as unlikable and unredeemable as the London gossips claimed him to be. Then it would have been easier to forgive herself for her role in all of this. Instead, she'd found a man who devoted his life to saving those whom fate had frowned upon. She'd ruined his life, and he'd gone on to make a new one. A *good* one.

- Chapter 6

A marriage of convenience. Patrick and his friends all agree that marrying Julianne would be his best legal move (and defense) because a wife could not be compelled to testify against her husband. Julianne believes it would be easier for them to travel together if they were married (and it would also save her reputation after being caught by the village vicar). They claim a different reason for entering the marriage, but, deep down, they recognise the spark of attraction that began all those months ago at the house party that precipitated the tragic series of events.

I loved the conflict their marriage presented. Julianne could not be compelled to testify -- but it didn't mean that she could not testify *willingly*. I wondered if McQuiston was going to take her story down that road. I think I would have loved reading some courtroom drama. ^_^ The plot thickens when, early in the story, we discover that Julianne isn't an entirely credible witness because of her poor eyesight -- I wondered about the legal (and social) ramifications her testimony would create if she reveals her problem. The marriage protects her from having to reveal this -- but the truth still remained elusive to our hero and heroine: they know Patrick did not do it, so who did? And for what reason?

McQuiston does an excellent job of unravelling the mystery: systematically and methodically. As Patrick and

Julianne were comparing notes and memories of that morning, as more and more pieces of the puzzle were revealed and were falling into place, the love story between the two was also growing and deepening. And it's a lovely, lovely story about a man who couldn't care about baths and personal hygiene (despite being a doctor) -- but who was willing to endure being groomed because of love. And about a woman who was fastidious and neat -- but was willing to get blood splattered on her dress (and doesn't clean up first) in order to chase after a lead that would save the man she loves.

Like the ripples caused by a single drop of water, every moment that Patrick and Julianne spend with each other affects them from the outside in. Patrick changes from a man without much purpose to one with goals and direction. He stops being a man content to escape, to a man determined to confront the problems he faces. The love that happens between the two of them doesn't make sense: *they're supposed to be enemies. They're supposed to be polar-opposites. They're supposed to hate each other.* I really did not expect to enjoy them as a couple -- this very odd/unlikely couple -- but, you know what? Jennifer McQuiston writes this particular aspect of the story so, so well.

Her eyes met his in an ominous flash of green heat. "I've seen stables with cleaner floors than yours. For heaven's sake, you're likely to give Gemmy fleas. You need a housekeeper."

"I've a wife." He shrugged out of his shirt and tossed it away, perversely enjoying the way her eyes widened to follow the article's deliberate, ceremonious path to the floor. "I've been told they are nearly one in the same [sic]."

At her strangled gasp, Gemmy hopped down from the bed and slunk for the shadows. *Smart dog.*

- Chapter 7

Love proves to overcome all those differences -- and Patrick and Julianne fall in love not blindly, but with eyes wide open: aware of each other's imperfection; aware of the uncertainty the future holds. They might not have deserved each other to begin with, but they have proved their worth by the end.

He dwelled a moment on her scent. Even her fragrance was a poor match for him. She smelled clean, like soap and spice, heated to the point of combustion. He smelled of his daily activities: sheep, sweat, and probably something worse.

And yet ... as always, there was this odd, nettling attraction he felt in her presence, a surprising flare of interest that defied a scientific explanation. His thoughts were usually more ordered than this. More focused. Certainly more logical. For some reason, being around Julianne made him less like himself.

Or was it that she made him feel more?

- Chapter 7

Moonlight on my Mind is also a riveting story about second (and third and fourth) chances: Julianne, because of her brashness and impulsiveness, has made a lot of mistakes but she is never fazed or discouraged

from trying again (and again and again) until she got it right.

This is the third book in Jennifer McQuiston's Second Sons series (and it's awesome).

ARomanceLover says

I really loved the writing in McQuiston's previous two books so I was looking forward to this one. I listened to it on audiobook and was disappointed that it wasn't as good as I was expecting. It was a good story but not as beautifully written and original as the previous books. I did like that the heroine was very fastidious, it was an interesting quirk and the hero was a vet which was a cool job for a younger son. Overall, it didn't live up to my expectations but I liked it well enough.

Nancy says

This refreshing historical romance is a fantastic blend of traditional historical romance with unexpected plot twists and characters.

Despite his nobility, Patrick, the hero, is a veterinarian (swoon). He was the spare heir, and when his brother dies in an apparent murder (of which Patrick is suspected of), he becomes the heir apparent. A good deal of politics of the time is inserted into this book, but rather than boring the reader with details, McQuiston cleverly drops the pertinent information in, drip-feeding us what we need to know (and leaving out a good deal that we don't, of which I was very appreciative!).

Julianne is a different kind of heroine. When we're in her point of view, she's a very typical English miss. She's been prepped to take on a household, marry a title, she's clever...all the things you'd expect in a plucky Regency heroine....but then we see her from Patrick's point of view: She's spoiled, big-mouthed, fickle, unreliable, and a general pain to deal with. I loved this!! It gave me a fresh perspective on the genre which I needed, as I was getting a bit tired of the stories set in this time period. I'm still not sure how McQuiston did this so flawlessly; she really made me love/hate/understand/scratch my head at Julianne. Kudos - that's never happened to me in an historical. (*happy dance*)

Patrick was fantastic from the start. His explanations of the day his brother died are so realistic and wonderfully written that I felt for him. I wished his brother was still alive, that his family wasn't so broken, that he was able to practice closer to his family - I just wanted his life to be perfect!

I also had NO idea who the killer in this novel was. It seemed pretty obvious, then I was given pause. Then I thought the next obvious, and again...given pause. When the killer was finally revealed, I had to scrape my jaw off my Kindle so I could finish reading. I didn't see it coming, but when I look back, there's a couple of extremely subtle hints McQuiston placed in there that I didn't miss, per say, but I certainly overlooked them in favor of the obvious choice. Again - well written!

My only complaint was the acceptance Patrick's mother had of his and Julianne's marriage, and her immediate takeover of the Countess role. I understand it was part and parcel of a marriage, but with their history, I really expected a little more hostility or perhaps motherly concern. I didn't find her to be a plausible character. For someone in her position, the Dowager Countess (Patrick's mother) had no problem handing

over the reigns of the entire household to a nineteen-year-old girl who, for all intents and purposes, accused her now-husband of murdering his brother. It just didn't ring true.

All in all, I enjoyed this book. I read it straight through in a day, and I think it's a good use of your book money. It's on sale for less than \$5 at all retailers, so go get yours. I don't think you'll regret it!Jennifer McQuiston

Romily Bernard says

So, truth in advertising, I critique with Jennifer, but Julianne is one of my absolute FAVORITE heroines. It's an incredible book and the perfect ending to this trilogy.

Gaele says

I am completely loving the opportunity to follow Jennifer McQuiston's publishing journey: the third title in this Second Sons series is as enjoyable as the first two, and there is the added bonus of getting to catch glimpses of characters highlighted in earlier works as they appear in this story.

Julianne was a memorable guest at a house party at the Earl of Haversham's estate, particularly after she named Patrick, the earl's son as the murderer of his brother Erik. When the earl suddenly dies, Julianne heads to Morag Scotland to track Patrick down to inform him of his inheritance.

Patrick, for his part, wanted nothing to do with the earldom or society: after convincing his father to support his veterinary studies in Turin, he returned to England expecting to set up a practice. While that dream was not supported: men of the Ton do NOT work in trades, he still kept his hand in the field within his father's stables. When the potential for him to be arrested and charged with his brother's murder was feeling eminent, he fled to Morag Scotland: and has been serving as the local veterinarian for the town, scraping by as he waited for his father to clear his name.

Julianne was an interesting character: a touch flighty but determined and despite thoughts to the contrary, quite intelligent. While dancing the fine line of propriety as a young, unmarried woman, her unchaperoned carriage journey via public conveyance to Scotland to hunt down a man she barely knew would bring her utter disgrace.

The two have an unmistakable chemistry, from their first encounter nearly a year earlier to the forced proximity of their situation: although they are often at cross-purposes with the secrets that they have, and the preconceived notions about each other. Yet, someone did murder Erik, and the Earl's decline was far too rapid for anyone's comfort. This story is less light-hearted than the earlier works in the series, but the characters truly do come to light and life throughout the myriad of twists and turns to find the one (or ones) responsible for the two deaths.

With clever asides of veterinary treatment and a three legged doggie companion, a victim of a coach for hire, and the obvious affection between Julianne and her father as well as Patrick and his sisters and mother, the story will have you wondering who did it, and hoping that the truth would come out before a trip to the gallows becomes the solution. McQuiston's stories are emotion-filled with a solid sense of characters, place

and time: always giving at least one dislikable character set to provide conflict and dissent among those who are destined to be together, even when they don't see it.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via Edelweiss for purpose of honest review with Tasty Book Tours. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Arshia says

The best book in the series! Julianne was introduced in the previous book and I couldn't decide if I actually liked her. However, as I read more about her in this one I fell in love with her character. She was complex: emotional, loyal, naive, misguided, stubborn... Oh so many things that it was a pleasure to read about her. And then there was Patrick!! He was the opposite of the perfect, composed, gentlemanly hero. He was disheveled most of the time, very interested in saving the lives of his animals and his own.

Julianne is the star witness of Patrick's brother's murder, she believes she saw Patrick kill his brother. But as time has gone by she has come to doubt her original statement. So she finds him in a corner of Scotland and asks him to come back and save his family. She recklessly journeys to Scotland without any real plan other than to find Patrick. She isn't a planner that's for sure. More of a grab-life-by-the-horns type of person. Very persistent, and that persistence ends up helping Patrick in the end.

What interests me in a novel is the journey of the characters, how they grow and change. Patrick is suffering from his brother's loss, he is constantly looking over his shoulder to be branded as a murderer, and then the girl who could damage him the most comes to tell him his father has died. It's a lot to deal with, yet he deals with it. He makes some unscrupulous decisions but that just defines him as a better, more human character. He isn't perfect and that's what I loved about him. Both of the characters have plenty of flaws but they love each other despite their flaws and more because of them too.

Chu says

Review Originally Posted at: Book Freak

She accused him of murdering his very own brother eleven months ago, and now she's here, coaxing him back to England and claim the title his father left because of his demise.

She might start out like a manipulative, conniving, spoiled member of the ton, but as the story progress, I have to admit that she's got one strong indomitable spirit that will make you pin for her. So despite the fact that she had cost him his exile in Scotland away from his family, this girl would make it hard for you to hate her. I love her strong personality, determination, and courage. Although, she has a penchant for cleanliness, and of course speaking and following her own mind rather than obeying.

If Julianne loves clean, and tidy – Patrick, the new Earl of Haversham is the complete opposite. He doesn't mind the dirt and the blood and he was completely content in staying in Scotland, playing veterinarian, until

she came back into his life once again, insisting that he come back with her to face a murder charge and save his family from ruin. A wedding might only be the way to save her reputation, after the vicar saw her in his home, and of course, it will save him from being hanged.

Julianne quickly agreed, much to my surprise. Every day, she is more convinced of his innocence. Every day, they grew closer to each other – spending time in and out of bed, knowing each other intimately and personally. Now the only problem that is hanging between them is for him to clear his name, and she might know the only person who can help them.

I just love the surprising twist that I didn't see coming – just when I thought I figured out who the culprit is, Ms. McQuiston did a turn that had left me dumbfounded (I-should-have-known-that-moment). One surprise came after the other, and finally, it was a total relief when the culprit has been found and the mystery of the murder has been solved.

Jennifer McQuiston brings in the right amount of romance, thrill, suspense and steam that makes this regency romance a delight. It was a complete page-turner that had me hooked all afternoon. Lovers of Regency romance will surely enjoy this read!

🌟Complimentary Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.🌟

Aoi says

Jennifer McQuiston's books are certainly a breath of fresh air in the musty halls of historical romance. A very believable 'who dunnit' mystery intertwined with a marriage of convenience tale.

The only thing that pulled the rating down was the lack of swooniness in the hero.

ShoSho says

This was my third book by Jennifer McQuinston and IMO her best book.

I enjoyed the whole book. I loved the heroine from the start, she was a strong unique character. She was a fun character to read and unlike most people I liked her better than the hero.

I loved the mystery part of the book, it's very rare that I can't guess the plot and this book was one of them. There was an interesting twist.

Best of all there was sweet little epilogue to wrap everything up.

Lover of Romance says

Almost a year previous, Julianne spoke a true statement from what she knew, and it resulted in Patrick fleeing to Scotland, an innocent man who didn't do anything wrong but see his brother be killed. Julianne has gone up to see Patrick, to make amends and bring him back to his family, and to make sure he is exonerated.

But they are found alone at his residence, with the local Pastor witnessing. So Patrick convinces Julianne to marry him to save her reputation, but he is marrying her for more reasons that she realizes. Patrick at first is outraged to see the one woman who ruined him. But he starts to soften toward her, when he sees the woman that is beneath the outer layer, a woman of passion and warmth. As Patrick and Julianne journey together to see that Patrick is proven innocent, intrigue and turmoil surround them, but then a deep desire only binds them stronger. And only when they learn to trust in that bond, will they be able to find a future...together.

Moonlight On My Mind is the most recent addition by Jennifer McQuiston. The more I get a chance to read this author, the more I am impressed. Each new book is just better than the last one, and Moonlight On My Mind was brilliant! When I read the synopsis, I didn't know if I would like it or not. But after reading the first chapter or two I was totally into the story and I had no problem reading it. Even though officially these three books aren't part of a series, they are connected to each other. Each of the heroes are close friends, and I enjoyed seeing a bit of the past two heroes a bit involved in this one.

The story sets off drawing the reader with Julianne and Patrick being forced to help each other, and we see a flicker of sparks between them. The plot thickens even more when they end up getting married, and go back down to his family's home. We see their relationship deepened further when the conflicts surrounding them rises. Patrick is determined to find who murdered his brother, before the law comes after him. There was plenty of shocks and surprises and the ending really blew me away, I definitely never expected that little surprise, but I do love it when a story turns out in a way you least expect it. Adds a certain thrill to the enjoyment of the story.

Overall I found Moonlight On My Mind a enticing and sensual romance that is packed with intrigue, danger, and plenty of romance for any reader!! STIMULATING TO THE END!!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

4.5 refreshing, romantic, passionate stars!

While I thoroughly enjoyed the first two books in this *connected-but-not-a-series* series, *Moonlight on My Mind* totally blew those out of the water. It's not as light as the first two – nor is it dark or depressing - it's perfect, and it's in a class of its own.

Description...

To ruin a man's life once takes a regrettable mistake.

To do so twice takes a woman like Julianne Baxter.

Eleven months ago, Julianne's statement to the authorities wrongly implicated Patrick, the new Earl of Haversham, in his older brother's death. The chit is as much trouble as her red hair suggests, and just as captivating. Now she has impetuously tracked him to the wilds of Scotland, insisting that he return home to face a murder charge and save his family from ruin. A clandestine wedding may be the only way to save her reputation—and his neck from the hangman's noose.

Julianne has no objection to the match. More and more she's convinced of Patrick's innocence, though when it comes to igniting her passions, the man is all too guilty. And if they can only clear his name, a marriage made in haste could bring about the most extraordinary pleasure...

My review...

This truly is an awesome story with great characters, lots of passion, and a completely intriguing 'whodunnit' with enough twists and turns that kept me guessing at the killer's identity right to the very end!

Julianne is a walking contradiction of what a "lady" should be, and I loved her after I got over hating her. Her passion, her devotion to Patrick and her need to do the right thing made her a woman I could adore. And Patrick is such a swoon-worthy man who also has a deeply ingrained - and at times annoyingly honorable - need to do the right thing, even if it means a trip to the gallows.

Apart they are amazing people, but together ... unstoppable and a perfectly matched *happily ever after*.

The bottom line...

Jennifer McQuiston is a breath of fresh air in the historical romance genre! She has such a talent for storytelling, giving us charismatic, tormented in-their-own-special-way characters we can't help but connect to and, ultimately, fall in love with!

My thanks to Avon Book for providing a copy of this wonderful story in exchange for an honest review! It was such a pleasure!

Lisa Kay says

★★★★? (This is a review of the audiobook.) Nicely narrated by Lana J. Weston. I did NOT like the heroine in this book until right towards the end, and let me tell you, Ms. Weston did her voice perfectly: snooty, vain, and stuck-up.

I was surprised that this author could *almost* make me do a 180 degree turn around on this heroine. I was sure this was going to be a three-star book. However, she deserves credit for that, and for the surprise reveal at the end.

I enjoyed doing this as a "Buddy Read," too.

If you want a different heroine, this is the book for you. (Some people dropped out of the "Buddy Read," due to the heroine, so that tells you a lot.)
