



Highland Conquest

Alyson McLayne

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HE WAS LOOKING FOR VENGEANCE

Laird Lachlan MacKay never planned on leading his clan, but when his older brother was murdered, he was left with no choice. His vow to avenge his brother has led him to the MacPherson clan—and their bewitching healer, Amber.

INSTEAD HE FOUND HER

Amber MacPherson is desperate. Dressed as a boy to escape her clan's treacherous leader, she runs right into Lachlan—who orders her detained. At first she causes him nothing but frustration, especially when she blackmails him into helping her clan. But when she's threatened by the same man who murdered his brother, Lachlan will do whatever it takes to keep her safe—and by his side.

Highland Conquest Details

Date : Published February 6th 2018 by Sourcebooks Casablanca

ISBN :

Author : Alyson McLayne

Format : Kindle Edition 386 pages

Genre : Historical, Romance, Historical Romance, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Highland Conquest for online ebook

Cree says

Just what I needed.

Dianne says

Alyson McLayne has brought romantic history to life with **HIGHLAND CONQUEST** and if you have never been drawn to the genre, trust me, you will be now! Men in kilts, powerful warriors, women made of the sturdy stock needed to stand toe to toe or side by side with their men, you will find no shrinking violets or dashing dandies here.

Lachlan MacKay is a man on a mission of vengeance. Amber McPherson will be a prisoner no more. Their meeting was one of chance as Lachlan scouts the fortress of his enemy, the same monster who held Amber captive after defeating her clan. Disguised as a boy, Amber literally bumps into Lachlan and so begins their sometimes unusual relationship that centers on helping their clan, dancing around their growing attraction and their ability to drive each other to distraction.

Pages of action, beautifully detailed scenes and characters that are both humorous at times and deadly at others. It is easy to imagine the world they live as well as the strength and clan loyalty it took to survive. It was also easy to imagine how dangerous any injury could be and how “healers” were either suspect or heroes. And the romance? Priceless! Sure, there was that “something” from the start, but it grew slowly as Lachlan and Amber continually danced around the truth. Amber has her own fears that were completely believable and Lachlan, well, a man in his position had to be careful when choosing a wife, and besides, he wasn’t ready...or was he?

Ms. McLayne’s world is a wonderful escape into another time filled with adventure, danger and, of course, romance. ALMOST makes me want to go back in time ... almost...

Highly recommended, for this standalone or better yet, the entire series!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Sourcebooks Casablanca. My review is voluntary!

Series: The Sons of Gregor MacLeod - Book 2

Publisher: Sourcebooks Casablanca (February 6, 2018)

Publication Date: February 6, 2018

Genre: Historical Romance

Print Length: 384 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

LInda L says

Love these Highland stories -- this one had some humor, and I especially liked that Amber wanted a man who could make her laugh. I agree. There was an awful bad guy, a beautiful heroine, a handsome hero, adorable children, strong handsome relatives -- what else do we need? Just the beautiful Highlands, a little history, a bit of a story -- that's enough. Amber was a healer, which added another twist to the story -- especially when she does surgery, etc. I'm guessing there will be more of these -- right, Alyson??

Barbara Rogers says

Series: The Sons of Gregor MacLeod #2

Publication Date: 2/6/18

You are in for a wild ride with this wonderful book. The heroine is strong, smart and sexy without also being stupid and reckless as you see in so many books. The hero is also strong, smart and sexy without being overly domineering. He tries to be domineering, because he wants to protect her and her clan, but is smart enough to know that, ultimately, the decision is hers.

This is my first read by this author, but it will definitely not be the last. I look forward to going back and reading the first book in the series. I didn't feel left-in-the-dark when I read this book without having read the first one, but I did feel as if I missed a lot of the history of how these men came to be 'brothers'. I want to know them better and I think that first book will provide that 'knowing'.

Laird Lachlan Mackay's brother was murdered at the hands of Machar Murray and after five years of searching, Lachlan has found him. Lachlan's men are in place and they are ready to lay siege to the castle. Suddenly, they see a man – maybe a boy – slide over the castle wall and take off on an old nag. They can't let him go because he could give away their positions. The only thing they can do is grab him off his horse and take him back to their camp. The prisoner may be small, but he's determined and fights to escape.

Amber MacPherson has spent five long and dangerous years protecting her clan from Machar Murray – who has taken over as Laird of their clan. He's murdered the old Laird and all of the warriors of the clan, including Amber's father. Murray also has an obsession with Amber and he fully intends to have her. So far, she's managed to escape by pretending to be a witch because Murray is very superstitious. That all ended tonight – she found herself locked in his bedchamber – awaiting his return. Niall, the aging steward is helping her escape – through a secret tunnel – dressed as a man. Then, she's caught, tied, and imprisoned in a camp of warriors intent on attacking her clan stronghold, MacPherson Castle. They are going to attack her people – her clan. She MUST escape and help the injured since she is their healer.

The siege of the castle goes well, with few injuries, but the villain escapes. As Lachlan and his men settle in, Machar continues to try to get to Amber and to murder Lachlan. As the weeks pass, they find more and more of the villain's hidey-holes, but not the villain. Amber nor her clan will be safe until Machar is caught!

Lachlan and Amber become closer and closer even though each of them has vowed not to marry. Each has their own deeply held reasons for not marrying and for denying that they care for each other. Actually, they don't even recognize that they do for a very long time. Everybody else can see it, but not them.

The villain is crafty and sly and he could have done so much to help the Highlands if he'd only turned to that instead of villainy. Machar digs hidden tunnels, uses poisoned arrows, sets traps for Lachlan's men, kidnaps children and whatever else he can do to create havoc and get Amber.

Lachlan's description (to himself) of Amber is that she is honest to the point of being rude, loyal to the point of putting herself in danger, funny to the point of being outrageous and so clever she made every other person in her vicinity look addlepated. WOW! Her clan simply calls her The Pride of Clan Macpherson and they all love her.

The entire book is exciting, well written, well-paced and the love story is heart pounding. The characters are very relatable, likable and fully developed.

Please check out my reviews at:

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BarbBookReview>

"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Linda Adams says

Excellent

This book is absolutely awesome I've read her first book in the sons of Gregor McLeod and it was awesome this one about Lachlan is more awesome I know that's poor grammar but it is this is the type of book you are so sad that it ended I want it to go on and on you just fell in love with Lachlan he was just adorable so cute and Callum I can't wait to read his story I've already pre-ordered his story you got to write faster Allison because I can't wait I was laughing out loud I felt so stupid but it was funny really funny in some parts but the whole book was just awesome the storyline was different but very good her characters are so well-defined you feel like you know them they're like a friend you also feel like you're in the book with them I just can't say enough I can't find the perfect adjectives to describe how wonderful this book is I know I'm going to read it over again because the first book I've read three times but anybody reading this I'm serious this is one of the best books I have ever read she is an awesome awesome writer

J.A. Kenney says

Lachlan MacKay came seeking vengeance but found love instead. Amber was desperate for any escape but found a hero.

The romance is a good one without being too fast or unreasonable. Lachlan and Amber find themselves working together for the good of their clan. Both characters were very good, the powerful warrior laird meets the protective clan healer. Neither was weak or cliched which added to the complex relationship between

them.

Highland Conquest was action packed and fast paced. For certain sections is seemed more a historical adventure novel than a romance. The tension caused by the almost thriller like conflict with the evil Laird Murray made it unique in this genre.

Overall it was a very good read, and a pleasant introduction for me to both a new series and a new author.

This is my first foray into this series and Alyson McLayne. However, the story is stand alone and there was sufficient backstory to follow the links and references to the larger series.

Gretchen (About That Story) says

A tough Highlander and a fiery healer created the perfect combination of animosity and passion. From their first intense meeting I was all in. This was an awesome story with drama and heat and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Amber and Lachlan had an unconventional first meeting and I was excited about where it would all go. I loved Amber and her strength, doing everything for everyone. She was fierce. I really liked Lachlan too, he was so sweet yet commanding. I enjoyed their chemistry and the build to their relationship. They both have things they believe they want from life and it makes things fun, complicated, and heated all rolled into one. I enjoyed all their ups and downs.

I liked the plot, the main characters, and the time period and challenges the characters faced. I liked the secondary characters as well adding a lot of fun to the mix. There were nice details and a good build. I thought there was a really good balance of heat, emotion, and humor, and thanks to a bad guy, quite a bit of drama.

This was an awesome read! I love a strong heroine that can stand her ground. Amber and Lachlan had a fantastic story. **From the animosity to the heat, this was incredibly entertaining!**

Complimentary copy received for honest review.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Highland Conquest by Alyson McLayne is book Two in "The Sons of Gregor MacLeod" series. This is the story of Laird Lachlan MacKay and Amber MacPherson. I haven't yet read the previous book, so for me this was a standalone book.

Lachlan is looking to avenge his brother's death and is getting close to doing that. Lachlan and his men are close to attracting Machar Murray but they happen to see a 'young boy' sneaking away from the Castle that they are watching. So they grab him but find out pretty soon that it is women and not a boy. Amber is trying to escape Machar Murray the man that killed their laird, her father and several other people of her clan. Machar has taken a liking to Amber. Machar wants her but Amber has been smart about keeping him at arms length but using the man's superstition of witches to her advantage. But when he ended up locking her up in a room she was helped to escape only to be caught by Lachlan. Amber and Lachlan has a lot in common and

both have a mind set to never marry but the closer they become the more impossible it is to ignore their growing feelings.

This was an exciting story and I will be looking for more books from this author!

Danielle Urban says

Highland Conquest by Alyson McLayne is out of this world good! I have never been more excited to a historical romance. This Highlander tale was deeply engaging. Danger, risks, and romance all in one captivating read. A strong female character took me by surprise. Amber MacPherson is both a lady and a warrior. She can make men listen to her demands. I loved how tough she was. Amber was also a caring sweet woman. Her only worry was rape...a bad man, who is obsessed with her, has scared her from wanting to be intimate with any man, including her fiancé. Her fear was so strong it felt like it was my own fear. Amber is a lady who stands up for women to fight just like their men. Last but not least, is the sexy warrior, Laird Lachlan MacKay. He is attracted to the stunning yet fierce beauty, Amber. Lachlan does not want to marry but he ended up falling for a woman in every way possible...but first they must survive the danger chasing after them. Overall, I highly recommend Highland Conquest to all readers.

I received this copy from the publisher. This is my voluntary review.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance. I received this book for free from Sourcebooks Casablanca in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

I have recently become such a huge fan of this author, the first book just blew me away so I will admit that I was a bit nervous to see how book two would do in comparison and quite honestly I think I liked it even more than book one!! It had all the elements that I love seeing in a highlander romance. A sexy highland laird, a sweet but sassy healer for our heroine and a plot packed with intrigue and suspense and I honestly never knew what was going to happen next, this author just had me going on a roll here and I can't recommend this book enough especially if you are fans of medieval highlander romances.

The story sets off when our heroine is in danger. She is a healer for her clan, but when her father is murdered, and a new clan chief takes over, killing all the seasoned warriors, and trying to force her to his bed, she escapes with some help of her clan. But she is looking to help her clan get free of their newest cruel laird. But then she runs into someone even more dangerous but a man that can become her aid and save her clan.

Laird Lachlan MacKa, has vowed for vengeance ever since his brother and his wife was murdered, and has come to the MacPherson clan to kill their laird for justice for the crimes against his own. What he didn't expect was to see a boy running toward them just as they are about to swarm the keep and the "lad" is about to give away their position. So he captures the lad and takes him to a cavern to be kept away not realizing that this lad is actually a woman who has her own need for vengeance.

But when the enemy escapes while overtaking the keep, both Lachlan and Amber join forces and soon

realize that they have more in common than just a man that has harmed them both, but they discover a love they never expected. But their enemy is crafty and it will take Lachlan and Amber and all of Lachlan's adopted brothers and father to bring their enemy down and finally have the justice they have been waiting for.

This was one hell of a story and I honestly picked it up last night intending to only read "a few chapters" but turned out it kept me awake all NIGHT long because I just didn't want to put their story down. I had such a blast with these fun characters. And I loved getting to know more of the Gregor boys, and seeing the father more. We do see more of him in this story than in book one and I loved the relationship this family has with each other. And how well Amber fits among them. Amber was a hoot, she is a healer of course, but her father taught her how to fight and boy can she pack a punch. I love how cunning she can be and at the same time is full of kindness and compassion.

The romance was simply so sweet and sexy, with enough sass and humor that keeps you entertained all throughout the story. I was so endeared by this story because of the connection that Lachlan and Amber have to each other. And man the feels in this book was to die for.....from making me laugh to making me ball in tears. Yep....this author surely knows how to work my emotions when I least expect it to happen!!

Well worth the read...a romance full of adventure, a sexy setting of the highlands, with passion and zest to make you crave more of this author's work!! SPLENDID!!

[foogallery id="45740"]

Celia Lewis says

Wow! A highland Laird winner.

A reluctant Laird (gorgeous, sexy, independent), a fierce Healer (gorgeous, sexy, independent), an evil Murderer (brilliant, inventive, persistent) - what could go wrong in this romance -? I simply could NOT put this story down until both Lachlan and Amber were more or less safe... And married. Whew!! Highly recommended! In fact I've already pre-ordered the next story, I'm definitely hooked on this Highland series!!

Reading In Pajamas says

Review, Guest Post & Giveaway: HIGHLAND CONQUEST by Alyson McLayne <https://wp.me/p3d0RZ-aCn>

Publication Date: February 6, 2018

Genre: Historical Romance
Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Cori
Rated 4.5 Stars

I thoroughly enjoyed this highlander romance. **HIGHLAND CONQUEST** is the second book in Alyson McLayne's The Sons of Gregor MacLeod Series, but it can be read as a standalone. I'm a huge fan of highlander heroes and this book definitely satisfied my obsession. **HIGHLAND CONQUEST** captured and held my attention. It was a good mix of danger, passion, humor and romance. This is the first book I have read by Alyson McLayne and I'll definitely be reading more. I have the first book on my kindle and I added the next release to my TBR. I recommend this series for historical romance lovers looking for their next highlander fix.

*Review copy provided by Sourcebooks in exchange for an honest review.

Kindle <http://amzn.to/2EstvaK> | Amazon Series Link <http://amzn.to/2Co1gEm>

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

The Sons of Gregor MacLeod #2, This can be read as a stand alone. This is my first Alyson McLayne book and it won't be my last, I want to read the first book in the series because that brother sounds just my type of hero. Lachlan McKay is a good character, I love how he got awkward around Amber when he would give her little trinkets to try and win her over. Lachlan is the second born son he wasn't supposed to become the Laird to his people but then his brother and sister in law were murdered, Lachlan has never given up looking for the murderer and now it seems he finally tracked him down. Amber is smart and stubborn and hates to her own beauty, it's caused her nothing but trouble. She's even more so stubborn when it comes to Lachlan because she's trying to guard her heart. Amber Macpherson has spent the last five some odd years protecting her clansmen and herself from the evil Machar Murray who killed their Laird, all his lieutenants, and anyone who stood against him; including Amber's father. For the first couple of years Amber had her grandmother there to help her thwart off Murray's unwanted attention, pretending to a witch and threatening to curse Murray kept him away from Amber. After her grandmother's death Amber was only able to fend him off for so long and now she's faced with leaving her clansmen or Murray finally getting his hands on her.

Amber cuts her hair and dresses like a boy and manages to escape over the keep's walls. Amber's escape is waylaid by a group of big highlanders who were getting ready to storm the keep and kill Murray, Amber has no problem with that she just doesn't want them to either hurt or kill her people. Still thinking she's a boy and a risk to their mission leave her tied up. That doesn't hold her she gets back to the keep just in time to learn Murray's escaped. Lachlan feels oddly protective over the woman who dressed as a boy, he admires her skills as a healer and how she treats people and he wants her more than anyone else. With Murray gone the MacPherson's finally have their home back but no laird, Amber kind of bullies Lachlan in to the job, but since he is still trying to kill Murray and Lachlan knows Murray's obsession with Amber is going to keep him close so he becomes the MacPherson's new Laird. They devise a plan to lure Murray back but Murray is smart and sneaky and has had five years to make an escape plan, and all that just makes you hate him more.

The romance between Lachlan and Amber is kind of funny, the attraction is there and Amber almost doesn't know what to do with it after fighting off Murray she has started to view intimacy as a form of abuse, she's

scared of it. Lochlan sees how she treats her other men in the compound when they give her things and so Lochlan tries to be smart about it and just ends up acting like a teenager with his first crush, it's adorable. They can't help but fight with each other and it really build up the sexual tension between them. Lochlan little by little shows Amber by action and by words that she can trust him with everything even her heart.

Overall, it really was a great read. It was funny and romantic, and there were some scenes in there involving Murray that were pretty intense. I loved the writing, the active setting was well done the character building really brought them to life and the dialogue was witty.

Wendy says

Although I hadn't read the first part of the Sons of Gregor MacLeod, the Highland Conquest is very easy to read without having met Lachlan, Darach, Callum, Gavin and Kerr beforehand. You'll meet them in this book as well.

The story starts with Amber, who is helped by her clan members to escape Laird Murray, the leader of her clan, since he has taken over their clan. Laird Murray is a cruel man and he threatens to take Amber as his wife in every sense of the word. As the clan's healer, Amber felt obligated to stay. By claiming she is a witch, she was able to keep Laird Murray away from her for two years. But growing into a wonderful young woman, Murray's lust seems to overcome his fears for Amber.

So, she sees no other option then to flee, dressed as a boy. But her escape is noticed by Lachlan and his army, who were on their way to avenge his brothers death. Lachlan takes her into custody, because he thinks she is part of the treacherous clan, who is responsible for the death of his brother. But Amber convinces him that her people have nothing to do with Laird Murray and she asks him to save her people by defeating Murray.

Lachlan is able to scare Murray away, so Amber declares him their new leader. But Lachlan doesn't want to be the new head of the clan and he certainly doesn't need a healer who is strong willed and has a mind of her own.

However, together they try to rebuild the life for the clan. But while Amber stays weary of man altogether and while Lachlan doesn't want to be married, they still dance around each other in a continuous attraction. When the other MacLeod's brothers arrive to help find the escaped Murray, we learn the reason behind Lachlan's fear of marriage.

But then, a series of incidents happen. Murray seems to be the culprit, but he turns out to be a sadistic character. A dangerous cat-and-mouse game begins between Murray and Amber. And soon Amber realizes she needs Lachlan to survive. Will they succeed in capturing Murray? Found out for yourselves in this wonderful historical story of Alyson McLayne.

Four out of five stars from me with a special thank you to Netgalley for providing the arc.

Lisa says

This one was decent. It had a lot of the elements that I like and few of the ones that I don't. I finished it in a day and never felt like the story dragged, which is all good stuff. And yet, I find myself decidedly unmoved at the end. There's nothing about the story that will stick with me, either for better or worse. Everything was just a bit too superficial and insubstantial. As one of the other reviewers said, this book isn't high drama or suspense or even really romance but a weak mix of all three. There's nothing that really digs into your psyche and grabs you so that you feel like the house would have to be on fire before you stopped reading. We spend time with the characters in Highland Conquest but don't really get to know them or get invested in their romance. It was all fine while you were reading it but only because you had the illusion that before the ending you'd reach that deeper place. Once you turn the last page and realize that you'll only ever be skimming the surface of these characters, you become retroactively disappointed by the whole thing.

But still, it wasn't a BAD story by any means. It's competently written and I liked the hero and heroine and the supporting characters. I'll certainly pick up other books by this author in the hopes that one of them has the deeper connection I always hope for. So all in all, 3 stars.

Full summary of the story in the spoiler.

(view spoiler)

So all in all, it was an okay story with okay characters. Not great, but not awful either.

Oh and P.S. I found it a little distracting that the author used periods to try to give words emphasis. Like. I'm. Doing. Now. That seems just a tad middle-schoolish.
