



The Knight's Scarred Maiden

Nicole Locke

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A maiden for the mercenary

Mercenary knight Rhain is living on borrowed time. With a vengeful warlord pursuing him, he has accepted his fate—though first he must get his men to safety.

When he rescues mysterious and deeply scarred Helissent from her attackers, Rhain soon wishes he wasn't marked for death. He can never be the man she deserves—his scandalous lineage alone dictates that—but Rhain can't resist the temptation to show this innocent maiden how beautiful she truly is...

Lovers and Legends A clash of Celtic passions

The Knight's Scarred Maiden Details

Date : Published August 1st 2017 by Harlequin Historical

ISBN : 9780373629442

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Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Medieval, Category Romance, Harlequin, Fiction, Medieval Romance

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From Reader Review The Knight's Scarred Maiden for online ebook

Gwessie Tee says

Received arc in return for an honest review, naughtiness 2*

This wonderful book is one of the first I've read by Nicole, I can honestly say it most definitely will not be the last, to the point where I will be acquiring as many as possible on my next kindle day in hopes of reading them all back to back as soon as I'm able to do so.

As always I will not give spoilers as authors write blurbs for a reason and I will not spoil things for the author or future readers, but I will say those who love historical romance with adventure, romance and a book that can grab hold of you and pull you in so you feel as if you're there with them then this is definitely one to read. I defy any who love historical romance to not adore this as much as I do,

Thank you Lady Nicole for giving me the honour of reading this arc, it has been a privilege and I'll be stalking your booklists and fb for news of more releases from now on ?? thank you ?

Diana Anderson says

A journey into accessing

This book is different from Nicole's previous books because it relies less on history and more on character development. The reader is immediately immersed in the lives and secrets of the protagonists as their travels take them into a new understanding of themselves. Loved it.

I've enjoyed each of her books and look forward to another soon.

Tracy Emro says

3.5 stars

Helissent is the sole survivor of a fire that killed her entire family, an event that left her scarred, both inside and out. She was taken in by the local innkeepers and after she healed, she worked hard to pay back their kindness, first at the inn and then later as their caregiver until they passed away. Now their son Rudd has come to claim his inheritance and considers Helissent part of his due.

Rhain of Gwalchdu has secrets, five years ago he learned everything he believed about his life was a lie, he left his home and became a mercenary, traveling and looking for answers. But after a moment of recklessness in which he killed Guy of Warstone, he is on the run for his life. Because now, Guy's brother Reynold is hunting him and he knows his time is almost up. He wants to save his men from Reynold and is

making his way to King Edward's camp outside York, he will leave his men there and then deal with Reynold. Taking the road less traveled, he comes upon Helissent's village and stays longer than he should – because of his fascination with her.

When he and his friend Nicholas save Helissent from Rudd's plans for her, he unknowingly sparks something to life in her. She decides to leave the village and will start a new life in York. So when she shows up at his camp the next morning with honey cakes and all her possessions, Rhain grudgingly agrees to take her with them.

Helissent is surprised by the treatment she receives, the men do not ignore her, nor do they treat her differently because of her scars. For so long she has used her scars for penance, she lets people look at her in horror, she believes she deserves this for failing to save her family. But Rhain refuses to let her be shamed. He cares for her but knows nothing can come of it, as he will soon be dead. But he desperately wants to help her. They travel to Tickhill castle, where he shares some of his past with her and she with him. He agreed to take her to York, but he needs to keep her safe from Reynold and tries to leave her at Tickhill castle, but she refuses to stay and he is unable to say no to her.

The threat of Reynold looms and when they reach York, he becomes almost frantic wanting to ensure Helissent is not harmed by Reynold. He tries to keep his distance from her, but they are drawn to each other and when they share a kiss, Helissent knows her heart is lost to him. Rhain berates himself for giving into his desire for her, he knows he needs to stay away, but he can't let her go thinking her scars are the reason for his withdrawal. He finds her and they share a moment of passion, but afterwards, he is cruel and tries to sever their bond, he is not worthy of her and with Reynold so close, he will do anything, even hurt her feelings, if it means he can keep her safe.

But Helissent is not willing to be cast aside and she will save the man she loves, from Reynold and from himself.

I thought this was a very sweet story of healing, forgiveness and learning to move on from one's past. The writing was very good and the story moves quickly. However, I felt like there were a lot of unanswered questions and the ending was a bit anti-climatic. I really would have enjoyed an epilogue set a few years later that perhaps wrapped up the loose ends. But overall, this was a good read with wonderfully flawed characters, great secondary characters, very mild love scenes, a few too many baking references and a lovely declaration scene.

Frankie Reviews says

I love this, this is absolutely superb! It sticks with you and gets under your skin, but in a very good way you become absorbed in their dark and dangerous world. I have read *Historical Romances?* that has stuck with me long after finishing the book, but this is right up there with some of the best books I have read. It's beautiful, heart wrenching and you get tingles while reading it.

I do genuinely love this book, the plot is fast, complex and thrilling. Rhain and Helissent take you on this sensual, nerve wrecking journey as they find their feet and try to survive and move on with their lives.

Rhain is such an intoxicating, brave and undeniably fragile man who has got so much loyalty and he is very protective of his men and he wants to do right by them. He acts cold and distant and he is a little paranoid, but behind those amazing Amber eyes he has got a heart of pure gold, he just wants to protect Helissent and

his band of mercenaries from what he knows is coming after him.

Helissent wears her scars, not with pride she isn't proud of herself, she is deeply ashamed of how she came about her burns, she does embrace them as that. As her shame and guilt! She feels that she is deserving of them, she has got this mad notion that because she couldn't save her family from the flames, then she deserves the scars, the pain and even the scorn filled looks. She thinks she let her family down and as such she wanted to die too. So now she not only has to suffer from other people's prejudice but from her own self loathing.

She is actually so much like Rhain, he is filled with self loathing too and neither of them can see just how incredible they are.

From this book Locke has now become my go to author for Medieval Romance, it is astonishingly good, this isn't your run of the mill Historical Romance. This is something special and cannot recommend this enough, for those who don't like or haven't read Medieval Romance you need to read this. This is how a Medieval romance is supposed to be, its perfect!

Full Review at Chicks Rogues and Scandals
[https://chicksroguesandscandals.wordp...](https://chicksroguesandscandals.wordpress.com/)

Anita Hickman says

This was a wonderful read, I will not give spoilers away, but I will definitely be recommending this book of Nicole Locke ' to everyone, I would also like to say it deserves a 5 stars rating . The characters of The Knights Scarred Maiden, we're perfectly well rounded . I absolutely Enjoyed this read and I know you will as well,

Amanda says

The Knight's Scarred Maiden by Nicole Locke is the latest addition in the Lovers and Legends series by Harlequin Historical. The story is about Rhain and Helissent, two deeply scarred people.

Rhain once led a respectable and comfortable life until one day his prestige topples. Now scorned and tainted, with a new and unwelcome life, he lives for himself as he fights to make his life a better place. But then he crosses path with a woman who instantly catches his attention. She is beautiful as much as she is scarred.

Can these two find happiness together? Or will their very connection leave them with regrets?

I enjoyed Rhain and Helissent's story. It is a gripping, compelling and emotionally satisfying read. The lyrical prose and deeply touching storyline will make its way into your heart. Overall, this is a splendid historical romance about two unlikely people overcoming tragic experiences.

Highly Recommended
5 Stars

Regan Walker says

4 and ½ Stars! Two Scarred People Find Love in Medieval England

Set in England in 1295, this is the story of Rhain, a mercenary knight for King Edward, who is being hunted by a warlord for killing the man's brother. Fleeing north to York, Rhain and his men rescue a woman from a gang of evil men. Helissent is scarred on the right side of her face and body from a terrible fire that took her family. Knowing what she will face when Rhain leaves, Helissent insists he take her with him.

Helissent flaunts her scars before people, knowing they will be repulsed, but Rhain sees beneath the scars to the kind, unselfish woman she is. And she bakes wonderful sweet rolls. She sees Rhain as the most beautiful man she has ever encountered, a golden Welshman, but he, too, bears scars just not the kind you can see. Each carries shame for their past and each believes they are unworthy of the other.

As death stalks Rhain, he wants to see Helissent safe, but he cannot bear to leave her behind, and she does not want him to leave her. Rhain and Helissent continue to experience angst for their past as they travel north together.

This is a well-written story with vivid descriptions that bring to life the medieval villages and characters. The details reflect much research and enrich the tale. A few secondary characters—both the good and bad—add to the story. Recommended for readers who like emotional depth in their romances.

Rose says

The Knight's Scarred Maiden is number five in author Nicole Locke's Lovers and Legends series and I absolutely loved it! What a fabulous story!

If you've been reading this series in order like I have, then you already met Rhain in the previous book, In Debt to the Enemy Lord. Although it's not necessary to read them in order or together as they can stand on their own, I highly recommend you do! At the end of the previous book a secret is revealed which changes everything for Rhain. This story takes place five years later with Rhain working as a mercenary where he meets our heroine Helissent. Helissent was a fantastic heroine. Scarred from a tragic fire in her youth, she is a brave and courageous woman although she personally doesn't see herself as such. Rhain and Helissent are drawn to each other from the beginning but both feel they are undeserving of love. Author Nicole Locke did a wonderful job of creating a story that I had a hard time putting down and a couple who I just couldn't help but fall in love with. Highly Recommend!

Dottie says

I so enjoy writing a review and especially a review of a book as good as this. I am a romance reader but I am

a total fan of Nicole Locke's historical/ medieval romance. She delivers a wonderful story about Helissent who is scarred with burns down one side of her body . She lost her family in the fire which scarred her emotionally also. She comes from humble beginnings and she meets Rhain who was born into privilege. The story she pens is incredible and I cannot give spoilers and ruin it for the readers. All I will say is this is a book that will grab you and you will be transported into the medieval era with them. Truly an author to add to your follow list, she is on mine.

Janie Evans says

"The Knight's Scarred Maiden (Lovers and Legends #5)" by Nicole Locke is part of a series but it also a read alone book. Hellisent is scarred in more ways than one. The physical scars from burns she connects with the mental scars she feels she deserves. She is beautiful on the inside and out, but needs to trust herself and her feelings. Rhain has some personal, emotional scars of his own to deal with and when his life changed from one of comfort and prestige he has to learn to deal with it himself. This is when Rhain and Hellisent meet. He sees past the scars to the beauty of her character. This is a great book for those who love Historical Romance and romance books in general.

Sophia says

She punishes herself by exposing the scars on her body while he punishes himself by hiding and concealing the scars inside him. A poignant, heartwarming medieval romance was a lovely, gentle read leaving me eager to return to the Lovers and Legends series.

The Knight's Scarred Maiden is the fifth book in a series and the events follow on the heels of book four, In Debt to the Enemy Lord. I could see this one had connections to an earlier storyline, but I read it out of order and did alright.

The theme of this story was scars. Rhain's scars are on the inside due to his troubling past and a swift decision to kill a man for his cruelty and thus, bring the brother's search for vengeance on him. Helissent's scars are both outside and inside. She feels guilty over surviving a fire that took the rest of her family so thinks she needs to punish herself by exposing her scars and accepting people's disgust. Quite the pair who find themselves thrown together when Rhain rescues Helissent from a bad situation and then she insists he take her from the village to a new life in the city of York.

The story is set during turbulent times and there is a sense of danger in the background, but the story itself is gently paced and moves steadily as the romance pair help each other heal through stops and starts in a bumpy relationship. They take turns being stubborn and misunderstand though I give them full credit for talking things out eventually. This was a sweet romance, but there was a good tension and sensuality to it that built steadily to the end.

All through the book, Rhain is anticipating a showdown with the vengeful Reynold. I enjoyed the twist the author gave that part of the story to really fix my interest in the big climax scenes.

In summary, this was a delightful diversion with a light, sweet medieval romance, engaging characters, and a conflict that drew me in.

Shell Cunliffe says

This the first book that I have read of Nicole's and it won't be the last, I loved reading every second of this book.

I can highly recommend this book. I won't reveal too much but will say a little on the characters.

Helissent was eight when she scarred by a fire, when she was trying to save her four year old sister Aimee, but all of Helissent's family perished in the fire and Helissent was left scarred on the entire right side of her body. From here Helissent was healed by Agnes for a year and then John and Anne brought Helissent up at their Inn, and then she looked after them before they died. The inn was then run by the owners son Rudd, (you will know more about him in the book).

Helissent has always thought she was a coward. But from I have read she is anything but, she is strong, brave and courageous, also I would love to try the honey cakes. Its through these honey cakes that she meets Rhain.

Rhain has been a mercenary for five years, he had set out to find his father, he carries a sampler with a design and is trying to find the pendant for the necklace that he also has. Rhain grew up with his older brother Teague and his parents William, Lord of Gwalchdu and his wife Ellen. (From here I don't want to spoil what happens it might spoil the story).

I found Rhain that on the outside he didn't want to get close to people and that included his friend Nicholas, but on the inside he had a good heart and he wanted to protect Helissent not just from himself but from other people. He also thought Helissent was brave and courageous for trying to help her little sister. He is also on the run from Reynold who is after Rhain for killing his brother Guy. (I won't go into detail over this you will find out in the book).

I would give this book 5/5 stars. A must read.

I received this ARC for a honest review.

Helen says

This is a beauty and the beast troupe and one that had me turning the pages, this is the first time I have read one of MS Locke's stories and I look forward to more she really knows how to pack some emotion and sensuality with her words. Sit back and enjoy Rhain and Helissent's journey to a HEA that will leave you smiling.

Helissent is scarred badly by fire when she was a young girl, it took her family and nearly her life but the inn keepers in the village had her cared for and got her through the pain with love and caring and this has made Helissent the kind and caring woman she is now. Her love of cooking in the inn brings her in contact with mercenary Rhain and he is beautiful in many ways and saves her from a dangerous situation, and now she is

travelling with him and his men.

Rhain is a mercenary and a knight he is handsome like no other and keeps himself hidden as much as he can because of his looks but because he has someone very dangerous after him, but when he meets Helissent and tastes her honey cakes even though she is so badly scarred he sees the good in her and cannot help the attraction he immediately feels for her, but he must do what he can to ignore this temptation, he has too much going on in his past and current life but she is strong willed and it is not long before he cannot deny this pull between them.

I really did enjoy this story it is so well told that the characters come to life on the pages there is so much emotion it is so very moving as two people who are brought together in a loving way, yes for me there were tears and so many smiles Helissent is so very strong most people would have given up after what she had been through and Rhain well he is just the most fabulous hero he is so caring and understanding and yes gorgeous. Thank you MS Locke for a fabulous story that I highly recommend.

April says

The Knight's Scarred Maiden (Lovers and Legends) by Nicole Locke is a superb Medieval Historical Romance. While, #5 in her "Lovers and Legends" series, it can be read as a stand alone. This is one of those WOW stories, that grabs you and won't let go. It lingers long after the last page.

Rhain, mercenary knight, is being chased by a vengeful warlord, who has marked him for death. Helissent, is a mysterious and deeply scarred lady. Rhain rescues her from would be attackers. But who rescues whom, the scarred lady from her mercenary knight's inner turmoil and his lineage, or the gentle mercenary from his lady's outward appearance, from her tragic past.

This story is a tale of beauty and the beast reversed. The hero has the beauty and the heroine is considered the beast, due to her multiple scars. A tale that will capture your heart and hold the reader in awe.

Well written, with enjoyable, engaging and likeable characters. The storyline flows seemingly and is well executed. The plot is intriguing and captivating.

Filled with grief, hurt, lost, faith and the magical power of love and acceptance. An emotional and heart wrenching tale.

Ms. Locke has written a story that will intrigue as well as captivate the reader.

A keeper and a must read. Highly recommended!

I received a complimentary copy, however, all opinions are my own.

Rating: 5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR

Lynn Brooks says

Attention grabbing details intrigue you, and an intricately woven plot carries us away in this tale of unexpected love! The characters believe they each are flawed and undeserving, yet they each see a truer side in the other. I would have liked to see a bit more of the two of them developing their relationship and also would have liked to have seen his family story line have a bit more of a conclusion, but overall, a very nice read!

A traveling mercenary knight, determined to find info about his past ... a hunted man destined to pay for his deeds ... a kind-hearted man unable to turn away from someone in need. Rhain has a lot of duty sitting on his shoulders right now and he's not going to back down until he accomplishes what he has set out to do.

Helissent leads a sheltered life of almost non-existence. She's badly scarred and ignored by those around here ... only her luck runs out and she's all of a sudden the target of some bad men when Rhain steps in to rescue her. He takes her with him to get her to safety, but along the way they find themselves learning about each other in a way neither has told anyone else. Are they destined to be together ... or meeting just to lose each other immediately?
