



The Seduction of Elliot McBride

Jennifer Ashley

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PROPERLY IMPROPER...AND DARING TO LOVE...

Juliana St. John was raised to be very proper. After a long engagement, her wedding day dawns—only for Juliana to find herself jilted at the altar.

Fleeing the mocking crowd, she stumbles upon Elliot McBride, the tall, passionate Scot who was her first love. His teasing manner gives her an idea, and she asks Elliot to save her from an uncertain future—by marrying her...

After escaping brutal imprisonment, Elliot has returned to Scotland a vastly wealthy yet tormented man. Now Juliana has her hands full restoring his half-ruined manor in the Scottish Highlands and trying to repair the broken heart of the man some call irredeemably mad. Though beautiful and spirited, Juliana wonders if that will be enough to win a second chance at love.

The Seduction of Elliot McBride Details

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From Reader Review The Seduction of Elliot McBride for online ebook

Wendy says

Another troubled character that has me swooning. Apart from my beloved Lord Ian Mackenzie, Elliot McBride has also won my heart. He's been broken both mentally and physically. Enter Juliana St. John who holds the key to mending his tortured soul.

The cameo appearances we get of the Mackenzie family is a real treat, along with the smooth and sublime writing style makes this a great read.

Ms Jennifer Ashley truly is a gifted author in portraying these strong men and the demons they face. Her heroines are strong, determined and fiercely loyal to love and support these wonderful Scottish lads. Enjoy!

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted at Got Fiction? books

I love this series so much and this book was a welcome addition.

Elliot McBride is the brother of Ainsley, Cameron's wife, and he's been imprisoned in India for a year. Now he's back in England and between the nightmares and the blackouts, he wants nothing more than peace and quiet. Until Juliana sits on him in the church on her wedding day.

Her fiancé has eloped with his piano teacher and she's groomless. It wouldn't be a big deal, oh sure the scandal would be great, but she could weather it. It's just that she's 30 and her prospects look grim. Sitting on Elliot was the best thing to happen to her. She'd loved him since they were children, and so she blurts out that they should get married. And Elliot is stunned. And elated. And stunned. He says yes, and that is how Juliana began her wedding day engaged to one man, but married to another.

I liked how the two of them had a history, but they still had to learn who each other had become. Neither was the same person anymore. I also think that the Indian family he brought with him added an interesting touch without just being background characters. They had depth and dimension and added a new facet to the storyline. Especially the little girl.

There was also a suspense plot that had to do with both Elliot's past and the future of the new life he's built for himself. Remember that little girl I mentioned? She's a part of that life, and her life may now be in danger.

Elliot's PTSD and his fear that his life in India was catching up with him caused him to overlook some possibilities of who was after him and his new family. This was an interesting twist because his tunnel vision where the villain was concerned affected me as well-I completely believed the most obvious person was after him. Ms. Ashley however, is a master at writing villains and I never saw this coming.

I'm a huge fan of the **Highland Pleasures** series, and I think that if you haven't read any of these books yet,

you can absolutely start with this one, but I'd start with The Madness of Lord Ian so you don't miss out on the amazing family of the Mackenzie men.

The *Seduction of Elliot McBride* soon became the “Seduction of this Reader” as I was easily swept away by the rich and sultry world that Ms. Ashley excels at in the Highland Pleasures series.

Jennifer Ashley says

Elliot McBride is out New Year's Eve! :-) The hero is Elliot McBride, the brother of Ainsley from Many Sins of Lord Cameron. The heroine, Juliana St. John, is a new character. The story has an old Scottish house, plenty of Highlanders, kilts, a steamy love story, Punjabi food, dogs, and a goat.

Keri says

4.5 Stars. Because I felt that Elliot's healing needed some more page time, the book suffered 1/2 a star. I don't know how Jennifer Ashley and Courtney Milan can write such wonderfully damaged heroes and have us love them like we do, but I hope they continue. Elliot McBride is no exception as he was captured and tortured in India for many months before he managed to escape. But harm was done to his soul, maybe to the point of madness. One place that the bad men couldn't go was his heart, where he kept the flame of Juliana alive. She was the one bright spot that dragged him back from the depths. Luckily for Juliana the man that she was slated to marry runs off with his piano teacher. Elliot agrees to step in and become her groom, one is as good as the other right? Elliot though had a plan, so it's all good. The kissing scenes in the book was what set it a part from others. Sometimes Elliott would come up on Juliana in the hall and he wouldn't do anything but kiss her, but damn...those kisses would singe my fingers.

While this book doesn't match Ian's or Hart's book in overall intensity, it is still far and away a really good book. I just felt it was a little short on page count for what was going on. But to be fair, I am never happy when a book I love ends, so there you go. The little tidbit in the back for Daniel...me want now! Also might we see a book or novella for Stacy? I became very intrigued with him.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

4 sexual healing Stars

first read may 8, 2015
reread August 25, 2016

Spoilers

“But you’re wicked, lass. You sat on a man’s lap, in a chapel, and told him to marry you.”

The Seduction Of Elliot McBride is the 5 novel in the MacKenzies & McBrides series. And though I will acknowledge this one was not as good as the first 3 books, it was still damn good! Elliot is no Ian, Mac, or Cam, but he was still a yummy Scottish treat.

What this book is about

Juliana St. John has been in love with Elliot McBride since they were young. After kissing her at her coming out ball, Elliot goes off to war. While away he is captured, Imprisoned, and tortured for ten months. When he is found and comes home he never says a word to her, no visits nothing. So giving up hope that they will ever be together Juliana agrees to marry another man. On her wedding day she is jilted. The man she was suppose to marry eloped the night before. Upset over the humiliation she knows she will suffer, she is hiding in the church, throws herself down onto the pew and lands on the lap of her childhood love Elliot. She half jokingly says they should get married. Elliot is all over that and that day they are married! Juliana feels she is so lucky to have married the man she always had feelings for instead of a man she was settling for, but things are not all grand. Elliot is not the same charming light hearted young man that stole her heart, imprisonment has changed him. Everyone is saying she married a mad man. Will Juliana and Elliot have a happy marriage or is the man she married as crazy as everyone says?

“So you came to my wedding to snatch me from the altar?” “I’m a Highland barbarian. We steal our wives, didn’t ye know?”

Elliot:

Eliot was so messed up. Elliot suffers from PTSD, but back then they just thought him mad. He really has a hard time flash backs, black out moments and sometimes he can't tell what is dream and what is real. What I really like about him was that he never gives up. He is fighting for his life, health, happiness, and marriage. Although most of his fighting is in the form of Sexual healing, because everyone knows that good sex heals all!

“I had to live,” he said. “I was determined to live, whatever the cost.” He released her hands and brushed back a tendril of her hair. “To see you again.” Juliana looked up at him, lips parted. “It’s what drove me to live, lass, every minute of the day or night. To see you again. To hear your voice. To touch you...” Elliot drew his finger down her cheek. “They wondered at my resilience. They called me a demon or the walking dead, because I wouldn’t lie down and die. But I couldn’t. Not until I saw you again.”

“Because what would you have seen if I’d come crawling to you when I came home from India? A broken man, one afraid of the dark and equally afraid of the light. I was nothing.”

Juliana:

I like Juliana just fine but she didn't really stand out for me. She is very organized, and writes a list for everything. She is supportive of Elliot and she believes in him. I do like that she pushes him to talk to her about the things he suffered, instead of sweeping it under the rug.

“Even so, you could have said something. When you were captured, when we thought you dead...They were the most awful months of my life. Nothing can compare. I cried all day in relief when I got Ainsley’s telegram that you’d been found and were all right. And then you never wrote, never called on me, never spoke to me, never sent a message.”

“I’m here.” Juliana looked up into Elliot’s anguished eyes, his brows drawn down as though all the fury in the world coursed through him. “I’m here, Elliot. I’ve always been here for you. And I always will be.”

Sword dance:

“I’m not who I was,” he finished. “Sometimes I thank God for that. I lost most of myself in those caves as a prisoner. I’m not sure who it was who came out.” “You’re Elliot,” Juliana said. “My Elliot.”

Overall this book was a good read. The sex was hot, and they really lusted for each other. Especially Elliot he was like an animal wanting the sexual healing all the time. The reason this book is a 4 star instead of 5 is there is more sex than character development. McGregor really stood out to me. I enjoy his "I am a old man & I am set in my ways" self. A very entertaining and enjoyable read.

Below I leave my favorite moment from the book:

“When I was told what happened in the marriage bed, my stepmother mentioned none of this.” Elliot lifted the weight of her breast, caressing the tightness of her nipple. “None of what?” His head was on her pillow, the covers long ago kicked off. “None of what we’ve done today. I was told to lie quietly on my back and let you adjust me as necessary, and then you would come in on top of me.” She smiled at her questions—What will I do in the time between that and when he spills his seed? The whole discussion seemed long ago and innocent now. “You would derive pleasure in the act, but I probably wouldn’t. I was to hold and comfort you when you released, because at that moment, a man was, for the only time in his life, weaker than a woman.” Elliot laughed, a deep-voiced, masculine laugh. “Was this in a book?”

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

Joanna Loves Reading says

Downgrade to 4 Stars—Buddy read with Mariana and Missy...will try to add more later.

Ok, I am trying to go back and add more later, but it's now been awhile since reading. I have read it twice though, so

The reason I downgraded this was due to the lack of apology/groveling of the hero. It was needed at some point. But, but, but.... I also found him very gravitating. He had this non-verbal zone of protection and care and if you were in it you'd do anything for him because you knew there was reciprocal. He's a PTSD hero and what he went through was atrocious, so I forgive easier. Plus there was a lovely we don't need to talk fishing moment with Ian.

Juliana was a lovely heroine, strong and enduring and exactly what Elliot needed.

Love the way JA draws you into the time period.

Melanie says

3-3.5 stars

Dear Elliot,

I am so very sorry. I'm sorry for your traumatic captivity, which left you scarred inside and out, and I'm sorry for how very difficult it's been to readjust to life since. I am also very sorry that, try as I might, I found it difficult to accept you as one among the indomitable MacKenzie heroes I've come to love from books past. I tried hard, really I did, but in the end it would appear I only have room in my heart for one mad man and that is (and always will be) Ian.

That's not to say that I didn't enjoy your story. I did for the most part. I am glad that you found your peace with Juliana and she was able to help heal your emotional wounds with sex therapy. Lots of sex therapy... in the bed, on the table, in the bath, ahem, well *you* know - you were there. **But** it didn't involve a seduction by Juliana so much as you grabbing Juliana when you needed comfort (when you were around that is), and I'm sorry to say, that it got a bit *tiresome* after awhile.

I have a feeling that yours is not the last McBride story Ms. Ashley has to tell. And perhaps with time, I will come to accept you and any stories of your brothers that may yet appear. But, in the meantime, I am anxious to return to the MacKenzies. Young Daniel intrigues me and let's not forget half-brother Inspector Fellows. I can't wait for their 'Highland Pleasures' to be found.

All the best to you and Juliana,
Melanie

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Full review now posted...

Elliot McBride

The Seduction of Elliot McBride is the fifth book in Jennifer Ashley's amazing *Highland Pleasures* series. It's romantic, witty, poignant, and deliciously sexy... it's everything I love in historical romance!

Juliana St. John was raised to be very proper. After a long engagement, her wedding day dawns—only for Juliana to find herself jilted at the altar.

Fleeing the mocking crowd, she stumbles upon Elliot McBride, the tall, passionate Scot who was her first love. His teasing manner gives her an idea, and she asks Elliot to save her from an uncertain future—by marrying her...

After escaping brutal imprisonment, Elliot has returned to Scotland a vastly wealthy yet tormented man. Now Juliana has her hands full restoring his half-ruined manor in the Scottish Highlands and trying to repair the broken heart of the man some call irredeemably mad. Though beautiful and spirited, Juliana wonders if that will be enough to win a second chance at love.

As I said in my earlier, partial review, Elliot is to the McBrides as Ian is to the Mackenzies, except that Elliot wasn't born as he is now. His "madness" comes from being captured, held as a slave and tortured, mentally and physically. I'm not sure which is more compelling, the hero that once knew freedom and then lost it, or the hero who knew only "madness" until his soul mate came along and showed him peace... well, thankfully we don't have to choose, we can love them all. And love them all, I do.

I can't put my finger on what it was, but *The Seduction of Elliot McBride* seemed to have a somewhat different feel to it. More complex, more detailed, more fleshed out... Revisiting the Mackenzies and their families was, of course, pure bliss, so maybe that's part of it. And getting to know the other McBride brothers a bit, learning more about the demons they battle, has me impatiently looking forward to their stories, and could be part of it, too. Or maybe it's my love of truly scarred and tortured heroes that gave this one such a special feel, I don't know, and in the end it doesn't matter because I loved it! Start to finish, *loved it!*

Something else I really enjoyed was the different cultural feel. Elliot's Indian servants, those he brought back to Scotland with him, were a big part of what made the story so interesting and entertaining. Their devotion to Elliot made them people I couldn't help but care about, even though most of them had little dialog – in English, that is. And hearing about their's and Elliot's lives in India was fascinating, so much so that I've decided I need to find more historical romance novels with this theme.

Juliana and Elliot make the perfect couple. Friends from childhood, they grew into adults and while they always only wanted each other – but neither knew the other felt the same – they went their separate ways, making lives apart. But that friendship is what gives their romance such a solid foundation and makes their impromptu wedding not only believable, but beautiful. Juliana knew the boy that Elliot had been, could see the man he had become, but knew the man he had the potential to be – a mix of the two – if only he could put

the horrific events of the past behind him. She's a strong heroine... sometimes a bit stubborn, but smart, compassionate, loving... she truly is perfect for Elliot.

And about Elliot... something else I said in my earlier review, but I'll say it again; He is an amazing hero, and I can tell you, without hesitation, that Elliot will always hold a piece of my heart – the part that was torn out while reading his story. He earned it, he deserves it, and it will forever be his.

Baba says

Review completed January 6, 2013

3.5 stars. *"Tha gaol agam ort."*

Scotland 1884

Two hundred people are waiting in the church for Juliana St. John and Grant Barclay to wed. Unfortunately, though, Juliana's soon-to-be husband eloped and married his piano teacher. Juliana is shocked when she knows that there will be no wedding. Still numb, she realized that her future had just crumbled to dust. Cameron MacKenzie wants to take her home but she insists that she needs a moment to get her bearings. She enters a little chapel to reminisce. Needless to say that Juliana is rather agitated and when she is slamming herself into the seat, she is in for a pleasant surprise. She is sitting on Elliot McBride's legs who is sleeping on the bench. Elliot was her first love and they have known each other for a long time. Juliana is stunned because she thought Elliot would be in India. A long time ago he went abroad to make his fortune, but now the scarred Elliot came back to Scotland after having endured severe torture.

If I could listen to her forever, if I could drift into the night hearing her voice, I might get well again.

Elliot believes that nothing will ever be well again though, not after the things he'd seen and done, and what had been done to him. He was convinced that once he took refuge in Scotland, everything would stop--the dreams, the waking terrors, the darkness that surrounded him when time passed and he knew nothing of it. But he was wrong. Nothing ever stopped. Nothing would ever be right again. He was a broken man. Juliana had sustained him in the dark when he thought he wouldn't survive the torture and now he needed sustenance again. He needed and wanted Juliana. That's when he decided to put his plan into action.

Elliot purchased a house, the old McGregor estate close to Aberdeen and he came to (view spoiler) Ultimately they marry in the church in which Juliana should have married Grant Barclay. Several hours later Elliot and Juliana are traveling to their new home. The story takes it from there.

"I didn't understand myself what you were to me," he said, "until I was in danger of never seeing your face again, or your sweet smile. Then I knew. You were my lass, Juliana. You always have been."

"Because of him, I live in darkness. It waits for me every day, not wanting to let me go. Because of him."

I'm sure you are wondering now who this man could be. Nope. I'm not gonna tell you because I wouldn't want to spoil it for you. :)

I've read the whole *Highland Pleasures* series and while I loved the previous four books, I am quite honestly a tiny bit disappointed by *The Seduction of Elliot McBride*. Elliot's story is my least favorite so far. Admittedly the hero is highly attractive and I thoroughly enjoyed the love scenes. It goes without saying that they are beautifully written, however, the plot is rather trivial and the very proper and organized heroine is pretty bland as well. Juliana may be sweet for all I care but she was not the one to drive the story ahead. Granted, there are some lovely and engaging parts as well as a few beautiful quotes, but on the other hand I felt it was uneventful. The relationship between Elliot and Juliana is lovely but again, it was kinda bland, there was no tension and everything fell into place so easily. As a matter of fact, I'm not quite sure how to voice my issues, but there was something missing here...I just couldn't find the magic! The plot just didn't grab me, it was a book that I could put down and pick up again in no hurry. Since I started to read this series I got used to fabulous characters, witty dialogue and engaging writing. In conclusion, I want this Ashley **magic** back.

You can't help but root for the strong, passionate, yummy yet damaged Elliot. After coming back from a very dark and painful place, he really deserved some happy in his life. And Juliana embarked upon a journey to restore his sanity as well as his heart. Furthermore, I liked the old McGregor. In fact, he was quite lively, snarky and entertaining.

"Mrs. Dull Pimple (Dalrymple). Taking your leave, were you? Good day, then." *Baba chuckles*

She was light. And life. He'd had a long climb and had a way to go still. But when he was wrapped in Juliana, all darkness vanished, unable to prevail.

"That ye were beautiful. And warmed me like nothing I'd ever felt. An toir thu dhomh pòg?"

He kissed across her lips, every inch of them, then moved to her cheek, kissing the skin he had the privilege to touch. In the darkness, in the pain, the memory of her kiss had wound comfort through the agony. She'd never know--he never would find the words to explain--how many times she'd saved his life.

I need you.

Don't get me wrong. *The Seduction of Elliot McBride* is not a bad book by any means. Having said this, it saddens me to admit that Elliot's story fell a bit flat for me and couldn't live up to my high expectations.

Simply put, it's just another nice HR but one among many others and certainly not good enough for a re-read. Yet I'm looking forward to reading *The Wicked Deeds of Daniel MacKenzie*.

"You were light and life. You are heat, and I'm so damn cold."

Juliana is his life and his home. His love.

Stacie says

4+ "Stand by your man." Stars!

Loved it! Love this series!! I'm to the next one very soon. Even though they all made an appearance, I miss the Mackenzies a little. Still loved it though. Elliot stole my heart and Juliana is a strong willed lass. ? Happy reading!

Lady Wesley says

My goodreads.com friend Dhestiny began her review with this:

Elliot is to the McBrides as Ian is to the Mackenzies, except that Elliot wasn't born as he is now. His "madness" comes from being captured, held as a slave and tortured, mentally and physically.

That's such a perfect intro, that I had to steal it. Yes, if you wanted to take Ian home with you, you'll need to build on an extra room for Elliot.

Full disclosure: Jennifer Ashley is one of my top three HR authors, and her Highland Pleasures series is my favorite series. The first four volumes were about the Mackenzie clan, four rowdy, passionate, hunky sons of a Scottish duke. Having exhausted the Mackenzies (and now that I think about it, doesn't that sound like fun?), she turns to their brother-in-law Elliot McBride (whose sister is married to Lord Cameron, my own favorite Mackenzie brother). I was almost guaranteed to like this book, so stop reading now if you're looking for an unbiased review.

Our heroine is Lady Juliana St. John, who has been jilted at the altar as the story opens. Lady Juliana didn't actually love her fiancée, but she is humiliated and flees into a small chapel to weep. To her surprise, she finds there a drunken Elliot, her secret crush since childhood. In fact, she's doubly surprised, because she thought Elliot was still in India, where he had spent many years serving in the Army and then amassing a fortune as a landowner. Thinking to make a dark joke, Lady Juliana suggests that Elliot should marry her and ensure that she doesn't become a pitiable old maid. Elliot agrees, and before you can say "forever hold your peace," they are husband and wife.

There are several things about Elliot that Juliana doesn't know, however. First, as a friend of her older

brother, he has adored her since she was sixteen. Second, he was imprisoned and horribly tortured by outlaws in the Indian hinterlands, and during that horrible year it was the thought of Juliana that kept him sane and alive. Finally, he had come to Edinburgh that day specifically to find Juliana and disrupt her wedding, believing that life with her will be his salvation.

Elliot takes Juliana to a ramshackle estate that he has purchased from a great uncle, far away in the Scottish countryside. His staff consists of four Punjabi servants who have accompanied him from India, along with a three-year-old biracial girl named Priti. Once there, Juliana begins to realize the depth of Elliot's problems, partly from her experiences and partly from what she is told by his devoted factotum, Mahindar. Elliot suffers from what we now would call PTSD. He loses track of time and sometime becomes unpredictably violent. Occasionally he loses the ability to distinguish between the past and the present.

As time passes, Elliot begins to doubt whether he will ever regain his hold on reality. Juliana, however, is courageous and stalwart as she works to create a home out of the dilapidated house Elliot has brought her to. Things become more complicated though when it appears that someone from his past is hunting Elliot with the intent to harm him and those he loves. Or are they? Perhaps his loved ones are most in danger from Elliot himself.

Many scenes take place in the India of Elliot's memory, and Ms. Ashley clearly has done her research to show the fraught relationship between the Indian people and their English colonizers. Elliot's affectionate relationship with his servants and little Priti, however, is sincere and reciprocal.

Dark secrets are revealed as the story progresses, and Ms. Ashley has constructed her typically complex plot, along with a heart-rending love story and delicious sexy-times. Several Mackenzies figure in the plot, and the interaction between Elliot and Ian is especially touching; these two men understand one another better than anyone else can.

The reader need not have read the preceding Highland Pleasures books to enjoy this one, but if you haven't read them yet, what are you waiting for? Start with *The Madness of Lord Ian Mackenzie* and don't dare skip *The Many Sins of Lord Cameron*!

Jacqueline's Reads says

4.25 Hello McBride Series stars.

Honestly this could have been a new series, since we are now jumping into the McBrides and I was hesitant at first because I loved me my Mackenzies and this book had rough reviews, but to my surprise, I really liked this one!

Ian will still be my favorite, then Cam, BUT Elliot holds a special place in my heart.

The Seduction of Elliot McBride had two things going for me, it had a damaged Hero and a damaged hero obsessed with the Heroine. Yes and yes and more yes.

I really enjoyed this book. I loved getting to know Elliot. So he doesn't have a title, but he has money and he's gone through some hardships. He was a prisoner and tortured in India for almost a year. He's finally able to function in society again, but it's not as easy as it seems.

AND it seems the only person to help him cope is the lovely Juliana. And because of that he adores, cherishes and is kind of obsessed with her. YES!

I adore Juliana and Elliot together. I loved EVERY SECOND of them, they make a perfect couple. The book starts out with a bang and it becomes really fast pace from there, which really surprised me because this series usually isn't.

Juliana soon discovers her new home is pretty run-down and is in the middle of no-where, but what I LOVE most about her, she doesn't care and makes the best of it.

Most of the plot comes from Elliot as he gets flash backs from time to time and becomes "crazy", but you know what? It makes me love him more.

This wasn't a favorite with a lot of people but I gobbled it up.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

"She believed him. The rest of the world thought Elliot irretrievably mad, but Juliana had decided to trust his word.

She'd just given him the most beautiful gift he'd ever received."

Another great installment in the Highland Pleasures series! I swear, I had no idea what I was getting into when I started reading these books, I thought them as average historicals about some Highlanders :D Was I wrong...

I enjoyed every single book so far, this one included, and some of the books have gone to my "best ever" reads <3 Amazing!

I really recommend it to every historical fan, you won't be disappointed!

"I'm a Highland barbarian. We steal our wives, didn't ye know?"

"You are horrible."

"I always have been." He managed a grin. "You knew that."

The story

Juliana St. John is about to be married, only her groom is nowhere to be seen! Turns out, her groom eloped with his piano teacher, leaving Juliana jilted at the altar :D

Lucky for her, Elliot is right there, and she comes up with a plan, well a proposal actually, for them to get married :)

Elliot agrees without thinking, he's always loved Juliana, and actually came to the wedding to stop it :) So they marry, and go to Elliot's newly bought house that is rather old and decrepit, together with Elliot's servants from India, and the real story begins :)

This book is mainly about Elliot, his struggles to deal with the aftereffects of his torture, and how both he and Juliana adapt to living together.

Of course, there's a mystery in this one too, a dead man, a stalker in the forest, accusations of murder and so on :D

Have to say, I loved the Indian family, they brought the humor in the book :)

The mystery with Elliot's friend... Not my favorite plot, but oh well :D

One thing I didn't like here was the fact that they knew/loved each other before. For some reason that didn't work for me here, I just couldn't see that love they had instantly, and the fact that they (view spoiler). That was a little unbelievable, although touching considering both characters and what Elliot has gone through, but I just WISH they fell in love during the book, not before :(

OK, rant over LOL, that's the reason I gave this 4 stars, totally personal and my problem with it, so don't let it influence you in reading the book :)

"If Elliot lost her, if she were hurt...

He'd die.

Elliot pulled her closer, caressing the tension from the back of her neck as he deepened the kiss.

Never let her go, never lose her. They hadn't been able to take her from him. He would let nothing take her now."

Elliot and Juliana

I don't have much to say about them except I really liked them as a couple :)

My heart broke for Elliot and all he's been through, how could it not, and Juliana was very supportive about him, just loved that :)

The scene that most stuck to my mind was in the beginning, when Elliot's family came and started bossing around, she told them they could leave them in peace, it's their home, and she'll stand by Elliot now.

OMG, I just loved her then and there :)

Awesome :))))

And well... I don't know. I already said above that I wished they had fallen in love in the book, and not before it, I just had that something missing while reading it, but no matter, they were still a great couple :)

"She was light. And life. He'd had a long climb and had a way to go still. But when he was wrapped in Juliana, all darkness vanished, unable to prevail."

All in all, a great read, I'm sad I'm finished with the series (well, with the published books anyway :((()

I can't recommend it enough! Amazing, amazing!!!!!!

Cyndi says

A good read. Our author has taken the damaged hero almost as far as they can go. He was horribly abused while held prisoner in Afghanistan. He comes home to find the girl he's always loved to be on the brink of marrying someone else. Planning to interrupt the wedding ala The Graduate, he takes advantage of the bride when she is left at the alter. Wham bam, they are married. What she doesn't know is that he has come home with terrible PTSD, or 'Soldiers Heart' as it was called. Our hero suffers from blackouts. Its a good romance with strong characters.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Posted on Under the Covers

It is Juliana St. John's wedding day; however, the man she marries is not the man on her guests invitations. After being jilted at the altar by her intended groom, the very proper and strait laced Juliana makes a proposition to the man she has loved since she was sixteen but never expected to marry, the very mad Elliot McBride. Elliot never expected he would have his dream land in his lap and offer him heaven, but when Juliana asks him to marry her he snatches at the chance to have the girl he has loved since she was sixteen, the mere memory of her enough to sustain him through torture and madness.

Suz: So, Annie, you tempted and teased me with this book until I was forced to read it and find out what you were swooning about! And I confess, it was quite swoonable, Jennifer Ashley seems to excel with writing fucked up heroes, Elliot was delicious, ALTHOUGH I dispute that he was better than either Ian or Hart, what made you love this Highlander more than the others?

Annie: To be honest, I worried that Elliot wouldn't live up to the brothers going into this book, but Ashley had a great story planned for Elliot and right when I started this book, I knew there was more to Elliot McBride than what she initially let on. I loved how dark and uncontrollable he was, but that he also had something that grounded him. Learning about his past broke my heart but in a way that didn't make me feel completely sorry for him to the point where I only sympathize with his past and not him as a character now. But what did you think of Juliana, do you think she was as good as the other heroines in this series?

Suz: Yes she certainly did the dark and tortured past really well, but she has done that in every single one of her books, she must be quite practised at it by now! It would be nice to have a hero that was a little different; not that I didn't love Elliot, just that I was hoping for something new. As for Juliana, I sound so negative about this book when I did like it, I didn't think she was as good as the other heroines; she was a little forgettable and I don't feel like I ever really got to know her, I think she got a little bit overshadowed by Elliot, her strengths never seemed to come through. What do you think?

Annie: Yes! I agree! Though there isn't anything I can pinpoint that I hated about her, I did feel as if she was overwhelmed by Elliot. He is such a strong character and I liked the way Ashley displayed their relationship and HOW they came to trust each other, but I don't feel like we got a chance to really know more about Juliana other than that she likes to make lists. She was enjoyable, but I wanted more!

Suz: I am glad I am not the only who thought that! One thing I did enjoy about this was the glimpse of the Mackenzies (although I wanted more of them!) and the small little secondary romances going on in the background, it was all kind of sweet. But it was strange both the best and worst thing about this book was Elliot McBride, he was such a vivid character that he drowned out everything else, the other characters including Juliana and the very small intrigue plot that Ms Ashley had constructed. Although the sex scenes.....was it me or did Elliot give oral like a god? LOL!

Annie: Lmao! Oh my god, he did!!!!!! Hence the reason why I swiftly snatched him before you could claim him for your harem! Ok, so what did you think of the progression of this book? For me, some parts held my attention more than others. Pacing was good. Writing was great! And I liked the way she was able to top off each chapter with a killer ending. It made me want to continue reading until there was nothing left to devour!

Suz: Yes well, you may have Elliot but I still have the lovely Ian and Hart in my harem so I am perfectly happy! I agree to a certain extent about the pacing, but some of it did seem like it was just for padding, there wasn't really that much there to drive the story forward, they just meandered along waiting for the next crazy thing Elliot would do. But I agree that the writing was great, annnnnd I am left thinking Daniel Mackenzie is going to be joining his uncles in my harem, and surprisingly so is Inspector Fellows! I hope she does a book or atleast a novella for him. So are you looking forward to Daniel's book? I kind of fear for Daniel's health she does like to torture her heroes!

Annie: I'm very interested to see what she has in store for Daniel!!! I wonder how he will match against his uncles? And you can't start laying claim already!!! It's too early and your harem is full! ;P unless you'd like to pass on Hart to me, I'd be okay with that!

Suz: I think he will be more than a match and I can't wait to find out! So how many feathers would you rate

this book? I am thinking 3.5 feathers, although I did like it, it didn't have that extra oomph that I associate with 5 feather books, the heroine didn't have enough presence and I felt that the love story wasn't engaging enough between Elliot and Juliana to support the book without a really good subplot which this sadly lacked for me.

Annie: I think I enjoyed it considerably more. While the pacing is ok and Juliana was overshadowed a bit by Elliot, I felt that Ashley penned an exciting and heartfelt story for Elliot. I loved that Juliana showed how willing she was to trust him when everyone saw him only as mad. I would give this book 4.5 feathers.

*ARC provided by publisher
