



## The Highland Bride's Choice

*Amanda Forester*

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**The Highland Bride's Choice** Amanda Forester

**First in an exciting new trilogy of short stories set in medieval Scotland, bridging Amanda Forester's medieval and Regency series. Three Campbell sisters find true love with the ancestors of the three heroes featured in the author's hot new Regency romances.**

In this first installment, the clan has gathered for May Day festivities, and Laird Campbell is trying to arrange marriages for his younger sisters. Practical Elyne Campbell is pleased to marry whomever her brother has chosen for her. Unfortunately, she is more attracted to Tavish Grant, the cousin of her intended, than the prospective groom himself. When she is caught outside the castle gates during a siege and is forced to spend time hiding with Grant, the attraction grows beyond all hope of practicality.

## **The Highland Bride's Choice Details**

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Author : Amanda Forester

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## From Reader Review The Highland Bride's Choice for online ebook

### Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Amanda Forester's new trilogy features the Campbell sisters, whose brother is the hero in The Highlander's Heart, as they each fall in love on a special May Day celebration.

Elyne Campbell is betrothed to Grigor Grant, laird of the Grant clan. Unlike her romantically inclined sister, Effie, Elyne believes in sensibility and doing her duty before love, which she believes to be a nuisance. She is thankful to her brother for arranging a suitable match, one that will allow her to be chatelaine of her own keep. However, in spite of the confidence she exudes to her family, she is unsure of her betrothed's character, and even more of her future. Thus, when she meets a charming and pleasant Grant clansman at a clan gathering, she feels happy knowing her future husband will be such a kind person...except he is the wrong Grant.

Tavish Grant is cousin to Grigor Grant, laird of their clan. Unlike Grigor, Tavish had grown up with a loving and supportive family and with no expectations, allowing him to become a man of cheerful disposition and an adventurous spirit, good-hearted and humorous. He is intrigued by Elyne Campbell's intelligence and determination, yet he knows she will never be his. But when they are unwittingly forced to take refuge in an abandoned castle during a siege, might romance blossom between them?

A sweet and chaste story, Highland Bride's Choice is a light-hearted novella with sincerity and an enchanting set of protagonists. The journey for Elyne's falling in love was believable and sweet; she not only found a friend in Tavish who enjoys her company, but also a partner who appreciates her constancy and sensitivity. Tavish was a free-spirited adventurer with a thirst for knowledge and travel, yet the more time he spends with Elyne, the more he wants to settle down with her. He had never experienced love, as travel had always been more enjoyable in his life, so it is exactly that he had fallen in love with Elyne after so short a period which makes this novella slightly unbelievable, albeit very romantic. In some ways, at the core of this romance is the theme of opposites attract, as Elyne who had always been the dutiful man, worrying about her clan, hating the English for their claim on Scotland, is matched with Tavish who lives as he pleases and cares not for politics, but for living a good life. In other ways, it is clear how this romance developed, because Elyne needed a caring and dependent man who can take away her burdens, and Tavish needed someone sensible and practical to tone down his vagabond spirit. In the end, these two make a perfect couple amidst the peace and war of medieval Scotland.

Of note is that Tavish is the ancestor of William Grant, hero in Forester's A Wedding in Springtime. Her next novel, Midsummer Bride, is to feature the Regency descendant of the Effie's love, so I'm highly anticipating both reads!

\*Review copy from the publisher via Netgalley

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### Blodeuedd Finland says

Ok so the only reason why I read 2 novellas was cos I had only read 1 book! 1 book and it was already Sunday. One big in 6 days made me shaky, lol.

This one was a fast one where the brother sends for bridegrooms and Elyne is all, fine, I can marry, who needs love anyway. Haha, oh you girl, yes she meets her intended and he is so meh, but dang his cousin is fine.

The love happens fast, they do not have many days on them to fall in love so it's fast and sudden. And then they live happily ever after.

Short and nice

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### **Kimi Court says**

Just finished reading The Highland Bride's Choice by Amanda Forester. I absolutely loved it. It's a novella and I so felt like it was a novel. I wondered how it would end and hoped I didn't have to go and rewrite it (Giggle, like I could...ha ha) Anyway If you want to read a truly good book, short but doesn't feel like it and have some awesome guy come in and swoop you off your feet. This is the one. It's funny, and sweet and so many other things. I am giving it 5 stars. Will have to read it again. JUST AN FYI, Amazon has it free right now. Go grab you copy. You will not be disappointed. Thank You Amanda for the wonderful read.

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### **The Window Seat says**

Author Amanda Forester is doing something very unique in her new Highlander novella series. With her previous trilogy set in medieval Scotland and her newest series in Regency times, Ms. Forester is bridging the gap by showing readers the ancestors of her new heroes and heroines and the love stories that started dynasties. Having recently read and enjoyed A Wedding in Springtime this novella was a wonderful bonus to that story.

Elyne Campbell understands her duty to her brother the laird and the entire Campbell clan. With her brother having to hold lands not only in Scotland but in the enemy territory of the English, a marriage into another strong clan will sure up the alliances that will keep both families strong. David Campbell has arraigned marriages for both of his younger sisters, with Elyne's hand promised to the laird of the Grant family. Elyne doesn't protest the match, unlike her sister Effie, believing that romantic notions of love aren't necessary in a match.

For the full review, please go to <http://www.thewindowseat13.com/2013/0...>

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### **Amy Alvis says**

Originally reviewed for: Historical Romance Lover blog

Elyne Campbell is doing her duty by marrying the man her brother has picked for her, the laird of the Grant family. She doesn't believe in romantic love and is willing to do what she must for the family.

When trying to help a needy guest, she comes across Tavish Grant. Thinking that this is her soon to be betrothed, she is pleasantly surprised by him. She soon learns that Tavish is the cousin of her betrothed.

Unfortunately, she finds herself thinking much more Tavish than her own soon to be husband.

While out riding one morning, she spots Tavish riding out much further than he should due to the English being in the area. She follows him to warn him to be careful and to stay closer to the keep. Tavish is out in search of an abandoned keep that heard about. He insists that Elyne goes back and says he will go back with her.

She doesn't want him to miss his exploring, so she decides to go with him. While there they spot a large army of English soldiers and have to find a way to warn Elyne's family while they stay safe themselves. As they spend time together, Elyne is drawn more and more to Tavish even though she knows he is forbidden. Will their attraction for each other win out or will Elyne end up marrying Tavish's cousin?

This was a very quick read (less than an hour). Even though the story only takes place over a couple of days, you still feel the build up of the romance. Elyne and Tavish worked very well together to thwart the English and you could see that would be the way that their life would be. I look forward to reading the rest of the books in the trilogy!

Thanks go to NetGalley and Sourcebook for a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

THE HIGHLAND BRIDE'S CHOICE by Amanda Forester is a quick Medieval Scotland Historical Romance set in 1300's Scottish- English border. #1 in the "Campbell Sister's" trilogy about Highlanders and their lady loves. Practical, youngest Campbell sister, Elyne Campbell, will do as she is told and marry Grigor Grant, laird of the Grant clan, unfortunately, she is attracted to his cousin, Tavish. Tavish Grant, meanwhile, is intrigued and attracted to Elyne's generous disposition and determination. When they are unexpectedly trapped outside the castle gates, by English soldiers, they soon become more than attracted to each other. A sweet, tender Highland romance. Which will Elyne choose, her duty or her true love? A quick, fast paced story of love and duty. Received for an honest review from the publisher and Net Galley.

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: SWEET

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

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### **Lisa says**

I'm actually reading this novella series out of order, but in this case it wasn't an issue. In this short story, we read about Elyne Campbell and her sense of duty to marry the man her brother has arranged for her. Elyne is willing to do what is responsible, but that doesn't mean that she doesn't desire her betrothed's cousin instead, the handsome and charming Tavish Grant. When a ride out into the forest to find some peace ends up with Elyne and Tavish stuck in an abandoned castle to hide from the approaching English, they are forced to work together... and to also try to deny their growing attraction for each other.

THBC is a short, enjoyable read in the Campbell Sisters series. Tavish and Elyne were extremely likable, and the reader can't help but root for the two of them to be able to be together – especially when we come to know what her intended husband is really like (bleh!). The romance is sweet and a HEA obvious but welcomed. Amanda Forester has written several highlander books and other regency novels, and I feel like I will happily be working my way through them.

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### **Mujde Oz says**

Short, enjoyable read. <3

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### **Chandra says**

GENRE: Romance fiction, Historical romance

SETTING: 14th century, Scotland and English border

#### **SYNOPSIS**

They are twins promised to men of other clans that will help protect their border from English incursions.

#### **CENTRAL FEMALE CHARACTER:**

One believes in marrying because it is the "sensible" choice. The other believes in marrying for "love".

**CENTRAL MALE CHARACTER:** He is handsome and buff. He is likeable, warm and smiles about almost everything. His ingenuity knows no bounds.

**WHAT I LIKED:** Finally; attraction that leaves things to the imagination. Not erotica. No sexual encounters. Just a nice love story with danger.

**WHAT I DID NOT LIKE:** Constant reference to a character making "sensible" choices.

#### **TYPICAL ROMANCE STUFF:**

Well guess what !!!! NO cunts; NO his shaft; NO his groin; NO concentration on virginity.

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### **Gokce ~Muslin Myst~ says**

This was a sweet novella. As the term suggests, it was short and yet to the point. Laird Campbell is trying to marry off his sisters one by one, and the first one to go is Elyne Campbell, the practical sister. She's happy to do her duty and marry the man her brother chooses for her, and yet when the groom's party arrives, she realizes she's more attracted to her intended's cousin, Tavish Grant, than the groom himself. Somewhere along the story, the two get stranded in an abandoned cottage, and that seems to be the cherry on top in their complicated situation.

Despite this story being short, I easily bought into the romance of the hero and the heroine. Perhaps the setting of the cottage and the fact that they couldn't leave the place for a while and had to spend the night with each other has affected my judgment, but with limited on page time, a confined space and a short time, the author still managed to convince me of their feelings. Elyne and Tavish were both likable characters, I especially liked Tavish taking life a little on the lighter side. He was funny, and even though Elyne was instantly smitten, it seemed to me like it took him a tiny bit more to realize she was a woman, and not his cousin's intended. I liked that.

Since this was a novella, and a somewhat introduction to the author's Regency series, there wasn't much plot to go on with, except for the period's required battle between the English and the Highlanders. A fact, I admit, -the lack of plot that is- that didn't bother me in the least, with the funny dialogue and the easy banter between the characters.

A sweet romance that's a nice start to a series of novellas about three sisters. I'm now curious as to how the remaining sisters will do, and how their descendants will fare in their Regency stories.

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### **Farrah says**

Sweet, light, and lovely. Highland Bride's Choice was a wonderful historical romance novella. It was an absolutely lovely read.

Elyne was a good heroine. For the most part, I found her likable. She was loyal and determined to do her duty to her clan. My issue with her, though, was that she played victim to a situation of her own making. No one forced her to get engaged to the laird. Her brother even told her that he would break the engagement if she didn't want it. But, she decided to sign the papers. Then, she complained about her engagement, basically from the moment she finished signing her name and especially when she fell in love with Tavish. It was a little irritating. But, regardless, I liked her.

Tavish was a total sweetheart. He was just adorable. He was lighthearted, sweet, and just wonderful. I adored him. I thought he was perfect.

The romance was mostly sweet. I thought Elyne and Tavish were lovely together. There was a hint of spice, but that wasn't the focus of their relationship. I really liked this couple.

The plot was fast paced. I was kept interested the entire way through. I really enjoyed the story and the ending was lovely.

Highland Bride's Choice was a wonderful historical romance novella. I really enjoyed reading this lovely book. Lovers of romance, if you want a quick, light, sweet read, then this is a book you'll want to check out.

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

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### **Beate says**

Nice read, the story was engaging, but I had a few problems with the female lead - I think she didn't act like a young woman of that time would do, she seemed too modern in some scenes.

What I also found odd, was, that for the most part the book didn't really mention religion at all. Then - for the final 4 or 5 pages, it just gets suddenly all about holy matrimony, god blessed life ... Just like the author remembered, that religion played an important role back then and she wanted to shove it in as an afterthought.

Minor nit picking points, overall it's a good story, the characters were well defined for the shortness of the story and quite diverse and interesting, for that I might check out the other books in the series.

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### **Elizabeth Bennet says**

I am not a fan of novella's but when the price is right I am open to the idea. Elyne is betrothed to Grigor Grant and like so many marriages of the time it is for clan gain and not love. Elyne wants a love match but wants to do her duty. Grigor is not going to give her her hearts desire. He is very serious and does not plan to spend too much time winning her over either.

Tavish, Grigor's cousin, is the total opposite as he comes from a family who expressed their love. The question then becomes how can she settle for Grigor when it is his cousin that she wants. A very quick read and there is a cuteness between the H/h but with the length being what it was don't expect the aww effect after. For those who don't like sex written in their story it is left to the imagination.

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### **Jack Vasen says**

I have to start paying attention. With ebooks, it is easy not to notice it is a novella.

I guess this story is fine for what is a very short book. Even so, it all seemed too tongue-in-cheek to me. Several of the events seemed ludicrous. The characters were shallow and even some like Grigor were just stupid.

Don't waste money on it.

No mature themes.

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### **Peggy N says**

Set in the Highlands on the border with England in the middle 1300's this book tells of a young Highland lass who is to be betrothed at a May Day Celebration. Quite by Accident she meets the cousin of the intended groom and finds that she has feelings for him. She signs the marriage contract knowing that she has feelings for the cousin as a duty to her brother the Laird Campbell. The book follows the two people on an adventure

all the way to her wedding day. I loved the characters, and enjoyed the story though as a novella, for my liking it was way too short.

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