



Once Upon a Highland Summer

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A lush Scottish historical romance in the vein of Karen Ranney and Karen Hawkins.

An ancient curse, a pair of meddlesome ghosts, a girl on the run, and a fateful misunderstanding make for the perfect chance at true love.

Lady Caroline Forrester is on the run from her brother's scheme to marry her off to the highest bidder. An escape to Scotland offers a chance at employment as a governess and freedom from an unhappy marriage—it's the perfect solution. But Caroline wasn't prepared for the feelings that her new employer brings out in her.

Alec McNabb, the reluctant Earl of Glenorne, never expected to return home to Scotland. But now that he's there, he realizes he has obligations that he cannot escape. Alec needs to marry well, and quickly.

When a case of mistaken identity—coupled with the sensual, magical atmosphere of Glenorne Castle—results in a passionate encounter, Caroline and Alec must decide whether their attraction is enough to overcome the problems of their pasts, or whether this one chance at true love was over before it began...

Once Upon a Highland Summer Details

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From Reader Review Once Upon a Highland Summer for online ebook

Jessica Pippin says

This was fine. Wanted more main character building & less periphery characters. Not much happened, but it wasn't the worst thing I've read.

Elaine says

Leica Cornwall is a new author for me. This is the second book I have read by her. I will be looking for more of her books.

Lover of Romance says

Once Upon A Highland Summer is a single title by Lecia Cornwall. Its a short novella, about 100 pages, and I received a copy from Avon through Edelweiss. I wasn't sure how much I would enjoy this one, since it was a novella, and I tend to be a tad picky with the shorter stories. However this story just cemented my desire to read more from this author. I was impressed with how well structured the story seemed to be considering the length. I didn't feel at all like it was too short, it felt quite perfect. The characters were well developed and it was fun seeing these two fall in love amidst the highlands in the sweet summer days. As with most stories typical of this era and style, there was the usual conflict of the hero being engaged to someone else, and a mistaken identity, and having to choose duty over love. But there was a little side story of Alec and Carlonine's grandparents that added a certain hitch to the story. The way that Lecia Cornwall put in her descriptions of the surrounding were so details and vivid, I almost felt as if I was there in the story, smelling the beautiful scents and seeing the breathtaking scenery. A great story that I would recommend to anyone that love a solid romance with the romantic setting of the highlands and a sweet love story to tug at your heartstrings. A Tale you NEVER should wish to miss out on.

Vicki says

Started out with the ghost of 2 lovers separated and not allowed to marry because he was a Scottish Laird and she was an English Lady. Both were miserable the rest of their lives and now as ghost they still couldn't touch because of a curse. The curse may be broken if he grandson and her granddaughter fall in love and can stay together but it doesn't look good. He's promised to marry for money to save the clans and she has runaway and is a governess to his sister. It's a mess and it was so much fun to watch it all fall into place. Loved it!

Sharon says

A nonstop read. This is a great beginning Strong men, feisty women, Scotland, dastardly villains what more could I want. I read straight through mealtime. My husband brought me a sandwich that I ate without stopping my reading. Now for book 2.

Lisa says

Who doesn't love a good curse and the benevolent ghosts to back it up? From the very beginning we have the "shades" (ghosts) of Angus MacNabb, grandfather of Alec MacNabb, and Georgiana Forrester, the late Countess of Somerson and grandmother to Caroline Forrester, on the side of love. They were in love when they were young, but it was a forbidden love (him from Scotland and her being English). They are along to help break the curse that has the Earldom of Glenlorne and its clan in its grip. Their "gentle" nudges, quiet whispers and eternal love bring whimsy to Alec and Caroline's story.

Lady Caroline Forrester, half-sister of the Earl of Somerson, feels invisible at home and the Earl wants to marry her off as quickly as possible to one of two very odious men and she gets to choose. Her choice is neither of them and she runs away with nothing but the gown on her back and a borrowed cloak. She has always longed to be noticed, loved and valued for who she is. Through a series of nudges from her grandmother, the "shade", she ends up in Scotland.

Alec MacNabb of Glenlorne, left home eight years ago discovers he has been the Earl of Glenlorne for a year. He has had no contact with his family, they think he has been in Ceylon and his stepmother want to have him declared dead. He has been a "retriever" for the crown and one mistake, or was it the "shades," has him returning to Glenlorne betrothed to a total stranger, Sophie Ellison, who is bringing a dowry that will rebuild the clan.

Alec arrives at his family home to find Caroline working as his half-sister's governess and they feel an instant attraction, but he mistakes her for Sophie, his betrothed. The delightful way Ms. Cornwall uses ancient lore and superstitions and the "shades," to help love and right conquer evil and deceit is marvelous. Deceit on behalf of stepmothers, stepbrothers, suitors and heirs adds the right tension and suspense. One of my favorite scenes is when Glenlorne is besieged by English "guests." Ms. Cornwall brings peace, harmony and love once again to Glenlorne with grace, humor and charming characters.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Gaele says

Starting with the long-dead, although not long undisturbed, Angus and Georgiana are bickering about their unrequited love story, and the curse that has followed their separate families for over 200 years. These two are delightful, both in their banter and their ability to set the stage for the story to come. Grandparents of our fated couple, they are seeking to make a match for their recalcitrant grandchildren.

Alec has returned to Glenorne to take his position as Earl, and make decisions about his lands and younger half-sister's futures.

Caroline has run away from an impending marriage to one of two suitors, her brother the Earl cares not which one. Believing in love and happiness, she took a chance on a mail coach bound for Scotland.

The two ghosts of Angus and Georgiana have steadily been conspiring and bending events to their will to place Alec and Caroline in close proximity. From arranging Caroline's arrival as governess to Alec's three sisters, to luring Caroline into the decrepit tower for Alec to effect a rescue, their meddling is both endearing and hilarious, especially when they are chattering about the results, or non-results.

The attraction between Alec and Caroline is obvious and unexplainable to them both, from mistaken identity to realization, their path to love is not smooth, yet unlike their ghostly matchmakers, they are able to reach for their happily ever after.

Lecia Cornwall uses description of place and light to bring the country alive as smoothly as she gives her ghosts corporeal form and voice to affect a match. Throughout it all, the early exposure to Caroline's and Alec's lives still can threaten to intrude on the newly developing happiness, Alec's stepmother is wholly and completely unlikable, and the clan looks to find new life in Glenorme with the new Earl.

I received an eARC copy from the publisher via Edelweiss for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Emily S. says

Blech.

Amy says

What a delightful story. Of course, anytime nosy ghosts are involved, I'm happy.

A story based in forbidden love starting with an encounter based on a mistaken identity urged on by two meddlesome ghosts who are the grandparents of the romantic couple in **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER**.

Lady Caroline wants away from her half-brother and his desire to marry her off to his own benefit not hers. With whispering nudges from her ghostly grandmother, Georgina Forrester—the late Countess of Somerson—she finds a position as a governess to the three sisters of Alec MacNabb, the new Earl of Glenorne. Attracted to Alec, she wishes things were different in her life, his life, and the world around them, but he's engaged to be married to a woman who can benefit Glenorne better than she.

Life hasn't been good to the men of Glenorne, and now Alec finds himself the new and reluctant Earl of Glenorne after a life of adventure and intrigue in Ceylon. A seemingly more leisurely life in Scotland isn't exactly what he wants, nor does he wish a bride in Sophie Ellison even if her dowry will do much to reinforce Glenorne. When he mistakenly believes Caroline to be Sophie, misguided good intentions, and too much ale make for an interesting encounter on the plaid. But, then what is he to do when the truth is revealed? Will the curse laid upon his clan claim the happiness of yet another Earl of Glenorne?

Lecia Cornwall's **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER** is a story of mistaken identity, star-crossed lovers, romantic triangles, and a curse, which may or may not exist, but which causes so many to second guess motives, desires, and needs as to end up causing great hesitations when it comes to admitting true feelings.

At times, there seemed to be too much going on at once in this story but once it was all settled, it made sense. I enjoyed the matchmaking interference of Angus and Georgiana, friendly albeit very nosy and meddlesome ghosts who obviously knew way too much of what was going on than anyone would want their grandparents knowing. I did have a little trouble following the timeline in the story in that, what seemed to be happening in a short amount of time actually happens over a lengthier spell but again, in the end, it all came together. I felt the story belonged more to Caroline than to she and Alec but it still worked, and since Lecia does write her heroines so they claim center stage, **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER** belongs to Caroline and her highlander.

I do recommend **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER** by Lecia Cornwall to anyone who loves a good highlander story filled with all kinds of ruckus because when it comes to the world of Glenorne, ruckus is what you get on a daily basis.

***purchased for my own personal reading but sharing my honest and unscripted review.

Dawn says

I have got to admit Lecia Cornwall delivers a wild, pulse pounding ride from start to finish. I loved every minute of **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER**. The cast of characters were diverse, enjoyable and highly entertaining. The twists and turns within the story had me on the edge of my seat and I for one, could not hope hard enough for Caroline and Alec to get their happily ever after. I have enjoyed this author's past books and found her latest release is full of laughter and giggles amid sighs of romance as you turn the pages of it. The author captures the characters vulnerabilities and fears perfectly. I really loved the ghosts-one is the old Laird, grandfather to Alec and the other his ladylove, Caroline's own grandmother. Both made me wish they could get their own happy ever after as well. These two caused quite a few giggles and snickers as they tried to help Alec and Caroline on their way to their own happy ending, well you get hilarity galore.

From the first page to the last, **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER** keeps the reader glued to the pages, eager to see what would happen next for not just Alec and Caroline but for a few other characters as well. I can attest there are more than enough characters to fall in love with and at the same time hope they get their own happy ending as well. Ms. Cornwall delivers a wildly entertaining story that will keep you amused on a rainy afternoon. Now I just want to know, will we see more of Alec, Caroline and the rest of these wonderful characters in the future? Run-don't walk-to grab **ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER** and get ready for one rip roaring ride from start to finish.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER by Lecia Cornwall is another intriguing Scottish Historical Romance. Fast paced with a ghost or two, a curse and finding true love. Once again, Ms. Cornwall has written a tale full of passion, Scotland, romance, Scottish Highlanders, Scottish lovers, fate and love. How

can you not enjoy a tale of the supernatural, two meddlesome ghosts, Scottish lovers, a girl on the run and the Scottish hero who finds her? Oh and don't forget the magic of Glenorne Castle! A wonderful story! I love this author and "Once Upon A Highland Summer" was do different. Well done!! Received for an honest review from the publisher and Above the Treeline.

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: HOT

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

Pam says

I love highlander books and Once Upon a Highland Summer is no exception. I thoroughly enjoyed watching Caroline and Alec's love blossom in the Highlands with some ghostly help.

Angus and Georgiana are both ghosts that seem to have just woken up or realized they could talk to each other, they reminisce about their time together and speak about what tore them apart – family. But the one thing that they both want now is to see the land they love stay in the McNabb family with Alec McNabb leading the Clan.

Caroline is fleeing her half brother, Somerson, he has selected two gentlemen for her to choose between for marriage, and unfortunately she would rather leave than marry either of them. On her way out of town she meets a Scottish man who helps her with her travels. Alec has his own problems, he has worked for the crown spying and retrieving items for them but his latest mission went wrong and his boss is cutting him loose. He left the highlands and Glenorne eight years ago vowing never to return, but his stepmother wants him declared dead and he is ready to go home. He arrives amidst miscommunication, misidentification and chaos and things only get worse when unexpected guest arrive.

Once Upon a Highland Summer is an enjoyable story set in the Scottish highlands. I adore Caroline, she is fun, witty and knows what she does not want – to marry without love. She was willing to leave the comforts of her home and become a governess instead of doing what her brother wanted. I did have issues with Alec, I like him but even after he and Caroline were together, he would not marry her, it took forever for him to realize what she meant to him regardless of money. It was only after Sophia said she could not marry him and that was frustrating.

I thought the plot was well done, there were many funny scenes, I loved how there was this musical chairs with all the couples involved. By the time the group was ready to leave back to London, they all had different partners they were to marry. I also like the ghost and the parts they played – moving things, pushing people...trying to get the two together. A thoroughly enjoyable story.

Copy from publisher for an honest review

Jennifer says

"Once Upon a Highland Summer" has several things going for it: a pair of star crossed ghostly lovers, a supposed curse, highlanders and kilts, mistaken identity, and love triangles and more.

Alec McNabb is the next in line to the earldom of Glenlorne. Glenlorne has seen its better days especially before the massacre at Culloden where 7 of the 8 McNabb brothers were slain. The remaining brother was banished when his family found out he intended to have an Englishwoman as his bride. Remember this is the time where Jacobites were rebelling against the Crown because they believed Bonnie Prince Charlie was the rightful heir. Families were split apart as some believed in the Crown and others for the Bonnie Prince. Angus McNabb tried to restore Glenlorne and his son drank more than tried to refill his coffers.

Angus and his lady love (they are ghosts mind you) decide they want their grandchildren to be together and fall in love and finally unite their bloodlines, something they couldn't do in life. They and/or fate bring together their grandchildren in a very curious way.

Alec working as a thief for the Crown (?) has failed his mission in recovering 8 love letters from a lady and Prinnie. And in doing so has alerted her husband to her affair and the fact that his daughter, Lady Sophie Ellison, belle of the Season, is not really his daughter, but the Prince Regent. To get revenge on her, he decides to wed the daughter to not nobleman as was expected, but to a poor, titled gentleman - Alec to be precise as he has a title, but no money. Alec doesn't want to, but with a dowry of 60,000 pounds, he can restore the name and provide for his tenants and sisters.

But before all this, he stumbles upon a young woman. Believing she's feeling to Scotland to elope, he feels for her and decides to give her money so that she can safely arrive there. He doesn't get a good look at her, but given her circumstances decides he wants to see her to safety. That young woman is Caroline, escaping her home because her brother is forcing her to marry a man of his choosing. Rather a brash decision, if you ask me, but she flees in the heat of the moment. She doesn't see what he looks like either, but perceives him as an angel as he's providing a means to escape.

Once in Scotland, she gets another sign of where to go, she takes the position of a governess to three young women. These three young women happen to be Alec's half sisters. And when he sees her for the first time, he thinks she's beautiful, but for some reason thinks she's Sophie. That her father decided to send her to Scotland to be married and somehow made it before him. He thinks, well shoot, this is going to work out splendidly.

I admit I thought the love scene was too early, but it makes sense in terms of the plot. I just didn't think it was going to happen so fast. I mean jeez that potion and extra helping of whatever that herb was really did the trick. Ha, imagine if that potion was sold. One could blame the quick love making to the potion, the giddiness of the bonfire and festivities or the call of two souls (how sappy!) but I enjoyed how Angus was the voice of reason and questioned how come they didn't introduce themselves. I mean really they spoke what a handful of words before getting it on on the plaid. Blame it on the ale! A bit too quick and without enough words for my taste.

Time flies quickly as several weeks and later a few short months pass in the castle. As soon as that's described I was totally thrown off. Everything is described to have occurred within days but weeks and/or months have passed? We don't really know what the characters are up to during these time. Did Alec and Caroline really just ignore one another while staring longingly at one another? After her family comes to get her it sets off a chain of events where the two characters are sort of communicating with one another, but I

didn't understand not see how they could have fallen in love with one another. Alec wants to do right by Caroline but wants to do right by his tenants and sisters so he chooses to marry Sophie. There were times where I so rolled my eyes at his actions because he just casually asks where is she going to go or how is she going to survive. Like even though we're supposed to believe it's killing him we don't get that feeling. Other than their physical appearances what is it that attracts each other.

The story ties up a little too nicely. It gets a little silly in the end and maybe it's because there are a little too many characters, love triangles, duty and all that. I thought there would be a bit more drama and deeper drama at that. Everyone coasts into their happy endings rather than really fight for it like I thought they would. Alec was sorta just there. He didn't fight for Caroline because he was so duty bound, blah blah, but at one point he does say he's not doing the honorable thing for Caroline. He tries to set her up and doesn't quite say it but wants Caroline as his mistress. That was alluded to, but Caroline is the one to put a stop to that idea. I thought it was more Caroline's story than caroline and Alec's story which is a bit of a shame. But regardless it was a enjoyable for what it was.

The McNabb sisters will have their own books and it'll be interesting to see how much they've changed and grown from teenagers to young women.

KM says

Color me surprised. *ONCE UPON A HIGHLAND SUMMER* was much better than I thought it would be. I was expecting your usual "highland romance novel" -- in other words, alpha Scottish lairds who bully around their female love interests. Instead, I was pleasantly surprised to find a story of a capable, strong, level-headed young woman (Caroline) who runs away from home to avoid being forced into a loveless marriage. By coincidence, she decides to go to Scotland and become a governess at Glenorne castle. Little does she know how intimately her family history is connected to the Highlands, and to Glenorne.

The hero, the Earl of Glenorne, has returned home after years spent in London. He's just learned he's inherited the title and a crumbling estate. He needs money, and fast. By coincidence, he's offered the hand of one of the most eligible woman in England, and she comes with a pretty hefty dowry too. Just what he needs to get Glenorne out of debt. Too bad he meets Caroline first, and starts falling for her right away. What's he going to choose? Duty to his home or love?

The hero (Alec), is a nice change from what I've usually found in romances that feature Scottish men: alphas (one step below bullies, really) who trample around seducing heroines and thumping their chests. Alec was a thoughtful hero that does find himself in an unenviable position of trying to figure out what's best for his estate and lands while trying to find a HEA for himself.

The supernatural twists in this book, in the form of ghosts, was a nice little addition. I was worried it would be overplayed. It wasn't. And the ending of the ghost sidestory left a smile on my face.

Now, there are a few things that irked me, and bumped my review down a star:

- 1) There's a lot of typos in the book. Is it Glenlorne or Glenorne?
- 2) The plot revolves around a lot of coincidences and mistaken identities and perfectly timed happenstances. Some of them I rolled with; some of them made me roll my eyes.
- 3) To set up all our key players in one spot required a series of coincidental events that I got a bit bored of. I quickly read (aka skimmed) through these, and the sad thing? I really didn't miss anything, since I knew all I needed when our hero and heroine meet. I believe that one or two coincidences can happen, but when three to four different characters all experience random chance at the same time? In a book, it seems contrived.

All-in-all, a pleasant and quick read I finished in a couple of hours. A good bit of fluff for a rainy afternoon!
:)

herdys says

DNF

I enjoyed Beauty and the highland beast but this one was not my thing. Still, I tried to finish it and I was almost at the end when I just thought, "ugh, I give up!"

The "we cant be together cause I need money but, hey its ok to sleep together" trope is not my thing. The worse part is that it all worked out in the end but not because the otp worked for it. It fell like a present on their laps. Other people changed their minds, and voila, you can be happy! YAY! Not..

Don't think I'll be giving the second book a try.. The synopsis doesn't look that good either!
