



Lessons in Loving A Laird

Michelle Marcos

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From award-winning romance author Michelle Marcos comes *Lessons in Loving a Laird*--the second installment in the "Knives of Scotland" series. As rugged and bold as the Scottish hills, the Highland Knives take no prisoners when it comes to love...

Thrust into indentured servitude as a child, Shona Slayter is counting the days until her twenty-first birthday, when she gains her precious freedom. Unfortunately, the new laird of the estate has other plans—and he's determined to keep her bound to him. The only way for Shona to be free of her bonds is to marry the man who holds the key. But seducing a handsome laird is not what she was trained for, and the more she tries to win his heart, the more she loses hers.

With a young son to raise and a crumbling Scottish estate to manage, Conall has enough to worry about without the brazen, beautiful Shona challenging him at every turn. But their heated spats are starting to turn into real sparks...and soon the Scottish hills are ablaze with their forbidden attraction. Yet no matter what Shona is willing to do to buy her freedom, Conall has no intention of letting her go...

Lessons in Loving A Laird Details

Date : Published February 28th 2012 by St. Martin's Paperbacks

ISBN : 9780312381790

Author : Michelle Marcos

Format : Mass Market Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Historical, Romance, Historical Romance, Cultural, Scotland

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From Reader Review Lessons in Loving A Laird for online ebook

Lady Lioness says

I discovered Marcos when I was going through the RWA Literacy Signing author list. I haven't read the first book in the series, but it wasn't necessary at all. Lessons in Loving a Laird stood alone very well. However, I felt the hero and heroine didn't really fall in love so much as they had Puck magically sprinkle love-idleness in their eyes. There was very, very little development of their relationship. I also felt that the hero's brother and his plot arc could have been eliminated completely, without detracting that much from the story. The conflict over the heroine's inheritance would have sufficed.

Regina says

Have you ever read a book where the prologue was the most exciting part of the tale? Well, this one is like that. I waited for the story to measure up to its beginning, but it never did, which is strange because the plot was intriguing (the surviving members of a family are separated and we're left wondering if they ever reunite), and the subplots had great promise, too. There's a wastrel brother, an ex-employee bent on revenge, and a forced marriage, but all of this still failed to breathe life and emotional connection into these characters. The good news? It has a great beginning. Even though this mediocre tale is a fast read, it still deserves only three stars.

Philisha Stephens says

I'm not quite sure what to say with this one. As the book progressed, I become more and more interested in the characters only because I have a peeve about not finishing a book. I eventually after the third chapter forced myself to quit noticing the issues I had with the writing and tried to focus on the plot. The main character Shona is supposed to be skilled with farm animals but she milks cows from the back. Huh? Anyone that farms knows you milk from the side. Some of the research done to write this book was not correct. Then Ballencrieff called Shona by her given name without having been provided her name. How did he know her name and wasn't it scandalous to use given names during that time instead of titles? Then, I'm not sure if the Scottish used the word "Bloody" like the English did since they disdained them. Needless to say, I had issues with the book, but if you don't know any better its probably not a bad read.

Ada says

This book had a decent story but I found only the beginning and end of the book held my attention. Everything else really felt like filler and I couldn't wait to skim throughout and make my way to the end.

The story starts out with a flashback 12 years ago when the MacAslan family was slaughtered by members of their clan. The 3 youngest children - 8 year old twins Shona and Willow and their 5 year old brother Camran - were spared but branded with an "S", the mark of a slave and taken away from their home.

Moving ahead to "present" time, Shona and Willow were working for the Hume family after having escaped their captures years ago and becoming parish orphans. They are soon taken to work for the new Laird of Ballencrieff when the Humes are unable to pay their back taxes to the estate. Soon Shona and Connall (the Laird) start to fall in love as she sasses him and basically doesn't act like any real servant would and he's smitten.

Throw in the crisis - Connall's younger wastrel of a brother, Stewart, gets a young titled lady pregnant and her wicked mother, the Duchess, demands that in restitution, Connall marry her. After some rather tedious passages in where we find out Stewart is really in love with Victoria and vice versa, the real drama ensues.

Turns out that what we read in the prologue isn't as it seems. Connall soon decides loving Shona is worth angering the Duchess and off he goes to help Shona rescue Willow when a dastardly highlander kidnaps her. Seems that the slaughter of her family was orchestrated by this highlander all in hopes of getting their hands on her family's land.

This was my first book by Michelle Marcos and while I started out the story thinking what a great storyline, I was soon bored by the filler. Not to mention, I found out this is actually book 2, the first book featuring one of the brothers we are told died in the opening passages. Yet in no way are they connected, do we hear mention of the brother that is alive. Instead, we only hear that Shona and Willow can't wait to be free so they can search for their younger brother Camran who was separated from them after the slaughter. I hope to find another book soon to see if this was just a one off in regards to the story.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Rachel

Book provided by the publisher for review

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

I've never read a book by Michelle Marcos before, but one of my very favorite authors gave her an AMAZING review so I knew it had to be awesome. I'm happy to say I was not disappointed. There's something magical about Highlander books.

We were immediately thrown into Shona's life as a little girl as she watches the murder of her family and is left with her little sister. Through a series of events they find themselves living with a decent family as glorified servants. But emotional scars aren't the only thing they carry. They are marked for the world to see, in more ways than one.

Shona's character was immediately flushed out as a very strong female lead. She doesn't cower in the corner and speaks her mind regardless of what the consequences may be. In fact, her outspokenness is what gets her and her sister jobs at the new estate, with Conall, an English Laird as their master. She has an instant dislike and attraction for Conall. He's handsome, but very stern and tells her she's going to earn her keep by milking the cows, while her sister becomes the nanny.

Jealousy flairs until Shona soon proves her worth at estate management which forces Conall to spend endless hours with her. Conall is instantly attracted to Shona because of her spirit, but soon their attraction turns into something much more dangerous. I liked the flow of their love story. The progression made sense, it wasn't this sex crazed immediate thing. It was almost like the author made it so that the two characters were able to

court before the feelings were made known, which as a reader, I really appreciated.

If I was to complain about one thing in this book, it would probably be that the female lead became somewhat tiresome. I get why Shona is the way she is but in the end I felt like her character was almost too overbearing.

All in all it was a wonderful romantic story with very little swearing and mild sensuality.

Mary Gramlich says

Do all of our scars heal or are we destined to carry them with us forever?

Life was never easy for Shona MacAslan but she is so close to gaining her freedom and living life on her own with her twin sister. Shona has watched everything she loved be taken away and left her with horrible memories and an even worse future destined to be fulfilled by her enemies. Nothing will part her from her twin sister not even the new Laird of Ballencrieff, Conal MacEwan. Conal is making decisions that will alter everything about Shona's life and she is going to fight him with every stubborn and spiteful bone in her body.

Without her consent Shona finds herself still living an indentured servant's life living on Conal's estate. Shona is never one to let opportunity pass her by she immediately starts a formulating a plan that will set her and her twin sister free. Conal left a flourishing medical career to take over these lands and make them something his son will be proud to inherit. There is obligation but also the need to forget the past and the life his late wife left him to recover from. Fortunately, Conal sees very quickly Shona's intelligence and decides to tap her ideas with long-term suggestions with short-term gains to make the estate solvent again. Conal is also sees Shona's beauty and loves the shape of her sensuous lips even when those awful words come out of them.

The biggest problem with plans is they always have the possibility of falling apart when someone else's agenda over rides yours. Shona's idea for love and freedom unravel as the front door opens to accusing statements and a situation that Conal will have to resolve to save his estate, reputation, and future for his son. There has to be another way around this but right now all Shona sees is the life she wanted drifting away and the past coming back to haunt her in ways she never expected.

Michelle Marcos has completely blown me away with the magnificence of this book. Every reason I read historical romance is provided between the pages of this story. There are fascinating characters, plots that overlay the subplots, and a romance that will make you weep with joy it is so beautiful.

Joelle says

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From award-winning romance author, Michelle Marcos, comes the second installment in the "Knives of Scotland" series. As rugged and bold as the Scottish hills, the Highland Knives take no prisoners when it comes to love...

My Thoughts

First time author read for me and I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Of late I have read some real crappers and this was such a nice and funny refreshing read. It is really just a cute love story between a Highland Laird who is also a lord and a young indentured servant. Shona and her twin sister go to the live with the Laird to work in lieu of back taxes owed by there current masters. Shona and her sister have lived a hard life being abandoned and having there whole family slaughter before the eyes has not been easy for this couple of young girls and also being branded with a traitor brand hasn't helped there chances in life Conall is now a Laird but grew up being a doctor so he is so different from the regular Lords. Shona and Conall have many heated embraces as he learns there is more to her she is very smart ,out spoken , caring both for her sister and her new lords tenants and she has a big heart when it comes to saving animals. These two develop a slow budding romance while teaching each others what the each knows best, he medicine to her and she how to run and estate and take care of your tenants and crops and implementing ways to generate money. But, once there romance is to come out in the open a setback happens and it looks like the pair will part. But, these two are destined to be together they just have to find a way back to each other. Loved this book and glad I picked it up in the library. Shona made this whole book come alive you could not help but love her. She is so many things funny ,humorous and yet loyal, protective and a survivor where many would have given up. The book was filled with a mystery, treachery and so much more. Hooked from page one !What a fun read. This is my first book by Michelle Marcos but, won't be the last..

Kazia says

It was rather crude. When it comes to the characters, it's fine as that's how they are, but in the narrative itself? I also didn't think the match was plausible. Shona as his mistress? I can imagine that. But as his wife, meh no. It just didn't work for me.

Heathy says

In the prologue, the author used the phrase I hate the most: "She opened her mouth like an O with surprise." I nearly threw the book down at that moment, but I decided to press on.

I actually liked the book. The heroine was strong, but not annoyingly so, and I thought she was funny.

The book got a bit cheesy/sappy at the end, but overall, a pretty nice read.

Michelle says

A really enjoyable introduction to Michelle Marcos for me. I'm a big fan of almost any Scottish historical and this was a really fun read. It's the second in the series and I don't feel there was anything I missed by jumping right in with this title. I loved how sassy and spunky Shona was and how hard she fought for her family. I really enjoyed Conall's dedication to his family as well and I loved how he was able to see Shona for the wonderful woman she was. There was some great conflict and I'm excited to see what will happen

next for the Slayter family. They were dealt a raw deal so it's great to see how they found they each find their happily ever after. I do think there was one or two secondary stories that I don't think were completed in this story but I hope they get picked up in the next in the series. I'm always excited to start a new historical!

Robin says

Shona watched her whole life change in an instant when her family was murdered in her family home. Her twin and her were branded as indentured servants until their twenty-first birthday. Shona and Willow were forced out of one prison and onto a crumbling estate. Shona became the apprentice and savior to their new master. Shona saw the only way out of this indentured service was to seduce the laird. But, he too, seduced her. Oh what sweet, simple romance. My only question, is the author seemed to leave out what happened to her sister.

Virginia Campbell says

Author Michelle Marcos offers a very strong and feisty heroine in "Lessons in Loving a Laird". As young girls, Shona MacAslan and her twin sister Willow were forced to watch the murder of their parents and older brothers and the kidnapping of their younger brother Camran. A bloody clan feud robs them of their home and happiness and propels them into a life of indentured servitude. To show their lowly class station, the backs of their hands are branded with a snake symbol, and they are given the new last name of "Slayter"--meaning that they are knaves. Shona and her sister manage to escape a cruel master and find a measure of safety working as parish apprentices. Shona dreams of the day when she and Willow reach their twenty-first birthday and gain their freedom. When the newly entitled Laird of Ballencrieff returns to claim his lands, he demands that all past due rents be paid. The family with whom the sisters are apprenticed are far behind in their dues, and Shona speaks up in their defense, drawing the interest of the Laird. Connall MacEwan's life had taken many unexpected twists and turns to find him face to face with the fiery Shona, but he agrees to take on Shona as hand for the animals, and Willow as the caregiver for his young son. A widower, Connall soon becomes irresistibly attracted to Shona's fierce beauty. Her spirit and intelligence captivate him, and she soon becomes his valued advisor about all matters regarding the estate and the ruling of the people and the lands. Shona's heart is stolen by the kind, handsome Laird, and she fears that theirs is a love that can never be. Connall wants more than stolen moments with Shona, but just as he is set to claim Shona as his own, his brother's indiscretion threatens to change all of their lives forever. Can the love and passion between the Laird and the lovely apprentice overcome the forces which challenge their future? Where there is love, there is always a way.

Mary23nm says

Lessons in Loving a Laird had a very good beginning, but the rest of the book wasn't quite as good. There were too many loose ends still left after things were wrapped up happily for the hero and heroine. Hopefully, questions will be answered in the next book. 3.5 stars

Miranda says

3.5 to 4 stars!

How fortunate that the last couple of days have been cloudy and cold--a perfect excuse to immerse oneself in an engaging, well-written tale. Within the first couple of pages of this book, I was tearing up. You know me, I love a good Scottish story.

Shona is a very strong-willed character. I would find myself laughing at what would come out of her mouth. She's a joy to read about.

Conall was an ok hero. I didn't like him as much as I thought I would but I still think this was a good story.

The beginning and the ending held my attention but the only complaint I might lodge is the middle was a little slow. The secondary characters were wonderful and I look forward to the next book in the series.

Belinda says

Indentured in service since she was a child, Shona Slayter can hardly wait days until her twenty first birthday. She will be "free" to live her own life with her twin sister Willow. But unfortunately Shona plans will have to be derailed because of the new owner has taken over the family estate and her indenture too! Even though the new "laird" is Scottish, he was raised in London. Conall MacEwan is bossy, infuriating, handsome lout Shona has ever met. Conall thinks Shona is bossy, undisciplined, stubborn and oh so beautiful.

Boy do sparks fly when these two get together. I really love this story of how Shona's and Conall's past tragedies gave each a life to treasure. This is the second book series of Ms Marcos. The first one was "Secrets to Seducing a Scot".
