



The Bride Chooses a Highlander

Adrienne Basso

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Scotland, 1335: Marriage between clans is a matter of property and power, rarely love. But the only daughter of Laird McKenna longs for passion—and finds it in a Highlander’s arms...

The unconventional Lady Katherine McKenna has been granted a rare privilege: the right to choose her own husband. It’s a more difficult task than she expected. When at last she agrees to a betrothal, it quickly goes awry, leaving Katherine alone in the wilds . . . and rescued by Laird Lachlan MacTavish. She’s captivated by the proud, brooding chief who shows her such tender care. But with their clans on the brink of war, the honorable Lachlan resists his attraction—until Katherine proclaims to her family that they will wed.

Though stunned by her boldness, Lachlan is intrigued by Katherine’s beauty and spirit, and the MacTavishes will benefit from an alliance with the powerful McKennas. But with family discord, treachery, and deceit in their midst, can they save a marriage that is destined to blossom into incomparable love?

The Bride Chooses a Highlander Details

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Author : Adrienne Basso

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From Reader Review The Bride Chooses a Highlander for online ebook

Caitlyn Lynch says

In 1335, Lady Katherine McKenna is a very rare woman indeed; beautiful, rich and the daughter of a powerful laird, she nonetheless has her father's ear and his promise that she may choose her own husband. Even with this promise, at age 22 she's feeling the pressure and finally chooses one of her many suitors. It's not until after the betrothal contracts are signed that she realizes she's made a dreadful mistake, at which point she makes a really stupid mistake and tries to go home with only a small guard of trusted retainers instead of the might of her whole clan around her.

This was kind of the point at which I rolled my eyes. I liked Katherine, I really did, but there comes a point at which 'bold and independent' veers over the line into 'too stupid to live'. Considering how much common sense she displays where literally everything except her personal safety is concerned, it feels out of character and lazy writing on the part of the author to get her heroine into contrived situations from which she has to be rescued. Which happened CONSTANTLY; even when Katherine managed an escape, she still got wet through and fell ill and had to be rescued from THAT. Honestly, being a damsel in distress must be exhausting.

Even though the contrived rescue situations annoyed me, I still enjoyed most of the read. Lachlan was a really delightful hero, not too full of himself and willing to stand up and own up to mistakes, even when they weren't his and he has to pay the price for them. His love for his family was obvious even though his brother Aidan was an ungrateful little beast who caused him no end of trouble.

I did buy into the love story between Lachlan and Katherine fairly quickly as they seemed well suited to each other, and I'd definitely read the next book in the series because I was fascinated by Katherine's brother Graham who married a girl he'd never seen by proxy to secure a clan alliance!

Four stars for a solid read, but I admit the heroine had some out of character TSTL moments which set my teeth on edge.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review through NetGalley.

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?

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After holding out for what seems to her father ,way to long , Katherine finally decides on who she will marry , and when that falls through she leaves in the night to return home .

The best laid plans however never run smoothly.

After being kidnapped by Aiden McTavish she escapes, and Is found by Lachlan his brother and Laird .

The adventure and love story that follows is classic Adrienne Basso .

As always her books are riveting and you can't put them down .

I really enjoyed this read it had so much life and the characters were excellent.

I received an advance copy of this book and Chose to submit a review

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

The Bride Chooses a Highlander by Adrienne Basso is book Three in The McKennas series. This is the story of Lady Katherine McKenna and Laird Lachlan MacTavish. I have read the previous books but fee this is easily a standalone book.

Katherine was set to marry but she learned that he was in love with someone else...so she took off. This leads her to meeting Lachlan who is having his own issue but their time together starts building on feelings that they won't be able to turn away from.

Enjoyed their story.

Lori D says

The path to true love is often rocky. Well, yes we all know that, but Katherine McKenna hoped that she could grow to love Hamish Drummond. Allowed to choose her husband, she thought she had made a good decision, only to find Hamish loved another! Of course she will not marry him now so she becomes the runaway bride and takes off!

Laird Lachlan MacTavish is head of a clan that had been disgraced and punished for taking the wrong side in battle and his lands were taken by the king. He has been working hard to redeem his family and people and keep them from starving. Asked to retrieve his brother Robbie, he sends his brother Aiden instead.

But Aiden comes upon Katherine and takes her captive. Fleeing she winds up in the woods nearly frozen and sick when Lachlan finds her. The adventure begins with several twist and turns as the two form an attachment as she heals.

Katherine, with her sweet, spirited nature and Lachlan, who is strong and honest as he opens up to her about how his clan is struggling are a perfect match. But going back to face her father, there are several surprising turns and I could not wait to see what happens!

I really enjoyed this story and the author did an excellent job with making the characters seem real and filling the story with action and intrigue as attraction grows. Oh yes, there is a villain too! Although part of a series this can be read as a standalone book. But I cannot wait to go back and read the others! Well done!

Rozzie says

In winter in the Highlands of Scotland 1335, Katherine McKenna makes a decision to marry Laird Drummond's eldest son, Hamish. When Katherine's family leaves for Drummond Castle Katherine is happy with her choice, well at least she thinks she is happy with her choice of marriage. When Katherine witnesses Hamish's love for another she confronts Hamish; Hamish assures Katherine that he will send his love away and the marriage can go on as planned. Katherine decides that she can't let this marriage go through and leaves. As Katherine is returning back home she is kidnapped by Aiden MacTavish. Katherine knows one thing that she must escape no matter the cost. When Katherine gets the chance to escape she takes it only to risk her life in the process. When Lachlan MacTavish, Aiden's brother and Laird of the MacTavish clan hears about Katherine's kidnapping he finds her, nurses her back to health and takes her to MacTavish keep intending to give her back to her family. The longer Katherine stays at MacTavish keep she leaves her mark on Lachlan and the choice to take her back becomes harder and harder especially since Lachlan has fallen for

Katherine. Of course Lachlan knows to keep her will not only risk the life of his clan but everyone he holds dear including himself.

This was a wonderful story of the Scottish Highlands making the place vividly come alive! Everything about the book including the three dimensional descriptive characters jump off the pages making everything seem real! Even clan life is nicely explained of course the threat of war is always there but there is also peace between certain clans as well. The story has a nice flow and never seems to slow down despite everything going on. Sure there are easily hated characters but they aren't bad and their actions are explained that makes them understood too. Katherine is a great strong courageous heroine. She's not a wilting flower and can easily stand up for herself. Sure she doesn't always think things through and her impetuous nature does create havoc but that's what makes her so likable too. Laird Lachlan is also fantastic! He tries to do everything right for the clan and Katherine never thinking of what he wants even though he wants Katherine badly he still will give her up. That's just a true definition of a hero! So yes he has all the characteristics to not only be a great hero to fall for but easily a book boyfriend too. Definitely a good story to get lost in and am eagerly awaiting another book from this author!

Tracy Emro says

4.5 stars

Katherine McKenna is the only daughter of Laird Brian McKenna and still unwed at 22, much to her father's dismay. But Katherine has finally agreed to a match, Sir Hamish Drummond. Overjoyed, her father quickly makes plans to visit the Drummonds and sign the contracts. Katherine had hoped to find love like her parents and older brothers, but she is sure she will be content and grow to love Hamish. But when she learns that Hamish is in love with another woman, nothing will make her marry him and she bolts.

Lachlan MacTavish is Laird of the MacTavish clan, a poor, disgraced clan that was punished for choosing sides against the Bruce. He has tried hard to redeem his family and has worked twice as hard to keep his people from starving. He has petitioned the king for the return of his lands and hopes that his service to the crown has been enough. If Lachlan didn't have enough problems, his younger half brother Robbie has been missing for almost a year, his other half brother Aiden thinks he should be leading the clan and his step-mother wants him to go to the McKenna's and retrieve Robbie. Lachlan refuses to go after Robbie, so Aiden says he will go - Lachlan forbid him from doing anything to upset the powerful McKenna laird - they cannot afford to offend the man.

As luck would have it, Aiden comes upon Katherine fleeing and takes her captive. But when she escapes him, Lachlan knows they must find her and return her to her father - untouched and unharmed. He finds her in the woods, nearly frozen and ill, he plans to take her to a nearby convent, but the weather prevents it. He finds a hut and nurses her back to health himself. They only exchange first names, but she feels safe with him. When they share a kiss, Lachlan tells her the truth of who he is. She is upset, but understands his dilemma and agrees to try and calm her father.

They travel back to his castle and encounter Archibald Fraser - sworn enemy of the McKennas, thankfully Lachlan is able to convince Archibald that Katherine is just a cast out serving girl and they go on their way. When they reach his home, she is shock at the condition of the keep and the people. As she spends more time with Lachlan, the more she likes him and want to help him. But not everyone is happy that Katherine is there and a betrayal by Lachlan's kin brings Archibald back looking for Katherine. Lachlan defeats him and makes a powerful enemy. Convinced he can no longer wait to return Katherine to her family, they make plans to leave, but before they do, Katherine's younger brother Graham and her spurned betrothed show up.

Hamish demands Katherine marry him, she refuses and marries Lachlan behind his back to prevent her father from forcing her to marry Hamish. They arrive at the McKenna keep and will have to stand up to her father. The McKenna is not happy and tries to bribe Lachlan into setting aside the marriage and when that fails, he throws him in the dungeon.

Katherine has never been at odds with her father, but when she learns what her father has done, it doesn't seem like they will ever find peace again. Katherine confesses her love to Lachlan and he to her, they vow they will find a way to be together, but they will still have a lot to overcome before they get their HEA.

This was a very good read, I loved Lachlan and Katherine! The book is well written and flows perfectly, there is action, betrayal, steamy love scenes, great secondary characters, a villain who finally gets his comeuppance and a very, very sweet epilogue. This is the third book in the McKenna series, but this book could easily be read as a stand alone title.

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher.

Mari's Struggle is Real says

Lady Katherine McKenna is ready to decide who her husband will be. A rare chance for a lady since most marriages of the time are decided by the parents. Her mother fought for her right to be able to decide who she wanted to marry. Unfortunately, she chooses wrong and she discovers her betrothed is less than perfect. She dares to escape before she is married and on her way to her home she is kidnapped. Lucky for her Laird Lachlan MacTavish comes to her rescue, though he is the brother of the person who kidnapped her in the first place.

Though there still are forces that are working to drive them apart, a marriage between them will save the clans from war. It was a very compelling story, and I was very much impressed by Katherine's bravery and determination.

ARC generously provided via NetGalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

A sweeping tale!

Adrienne Basso has made me run a gamut of emotions with this wonderfully written tale! Neither Lachlan nor Katherine knew the extent of feeling they would have for one another but as shown in *The Bride Chooses a Highlander*, love can conquer all! A great book!

Carmella Siciliano says

I received a copy of this e-book via Net Galley and am voluntarily leaving an honest review.

Lady Katherine was given the choice of whom and when she would marry. She has decided she would marry although he isn't "the one" for her. When she and her family go to sign the marriage contract she has convinced herself that maybe they would grow to love one another. The contract is signed and the celebration begins. A little later, while walking around the castle, Katherine finds her betrothed...in another

woman's arms.

Katherine decides there will be no marriage, which she knows will cause problems. She leaves early for home, taking only 5 men with her. Almost home, they are ambushed and Katherine is abducted. She finally escapes, then becomes very ill....

Laird Lachlan finds Katherine, brings her home and nurses her back to health. It is Lachlan's brother Aiden that abducted Katherine hoping to use her to get freedom for his younger brother rumored to be held prisoner by Katherine's father. Lachlan says no because he doesn't want a war.

Lachlan promises Katherine he will send for her father once she recovers, and he does. Katherine and Lachlan are attracted to one another and grow close. Katherine's brother arrives with many men to bring her home, along with him is her betrothed who is determined they will marry as soon as possible...

There is only one way for Katherine to avoid marrying him and that is to be married to another...

I loved this story! I have read several books by this author and she always draws me in from the first page, lasting to the last page. Katherine is a good woman, smart and sassy while Lachlan, who was a fierce warrior when need be, was a good man who did all he could for his people given the circumstances he was under.

If you are a fan of Highlander stories, as I am, you will love this story!

romancebookjunkie says

I can describe this book in one word: meh (or even just blah). Now don't get me wrong I love medieval romances (and can't get enough of them) but nothing lately has captured my attention. The plots are indistinct and predictable and this one fell into the same category.

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Our heroine is 22 which is OLD in medieval times (which makes me at 28 ancient thank you) and has been told she can choose her husband (sorry say what?! Come on can we make this even slightly believable?). She chooses a groom then decides "nope don't want him anymore", so makes the grown up decision to run away where she then gets kidnaped (natch) by our heroes brother. She falls in love with the hero then has to tell her father.... blah blah blah.

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I didn't mind the hero and heroine but again like the plot line found them meh and nothing to write home about. They fell in love too quickly which seems to be the way in almost EVERY book I've read lately. Am I being too harsh? Life is too short for meh books in my opinion.

Debbie Glenn Brown says

Laird McKenna's daughter at twenty-two years old Katherine McKenna has given up on finding love and chose to marry Hamish Drummond hoping she can grow to love him. Unbeknownst to her he already loves another woman, so she flees and the runaway bride is rescued by Laird Lachlan MacTavish. Lachlan's Clan that had been disgraced and punished for taking the wrong side in battle and his lands were taken by the king. He's been working to restore his name, his family and his people and keep them from starving. When he

stumbles upon a young woman, Katherine, nearly frozen and sick he rescues her. Katherine becomes intrigued by the brooding Chieftain and they begin to grow closer as she begins to heal under Lachlan's care. With the Clans on the brink of war Lachlan knows he needs to return Katherine to her father untouched and unharmed as soon as possible. Fate steps into this adventure with a twists and turns as the clans are on the brink of war and Lachlan and Katherine find love neither thought to find and both desperately want have their HEA, but not at the expense of their families. This my honest opinions after I voluntarily read a copy of this book that was provided to me with no requirements for a review.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance I received this book for free from Zebra in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

The Bride Chooses a Highlander is the third book in her McKenna family series. I have had such a fun time with this highlander family. Each member brings something new to the series and now we have the only girl of the family who has her story. And boy I really got a kick out of this book. It was so fabulous and even though I wish there was more romantic feels, the plot and the characters make up for it for the most part.

Our brilliant story begins with our hero, Lachlan, who is Laird of the MacTavish clan. But his people are slowly dying, they are barely making enough to survive and he knows that something needs to change. His clan was once prosperous but then they were punished when fighting on the wrong side of the war of independence in Scotland and now they are barely making it. His youngest brother is missing caught by the McKenna's and his middle brother wants to do something drastic and Lachlan is the reasonable brother and wants to find a peaceful way to work with the McKenna's to get his brother back but with no funds he has no idea how until his brother Aiden does something rash that could bring war upon them.

Katherine is the only daughter of the McKenna family and she is one of the few women that has a choice in the man she can marry. She is getting older than most girls to marry and she has made her choice. She hopes that she can have a marriage like her parents and her older brothers who have love and affection. But when she arrives to meet her betrothed, she finds that he is in love with another woman and so feeling betrayed she leaves with a few guardsmen knowing her father wouldn't support her because he wants her married and an alliance. But she finds herself kidnapped by Aiden but then his older brother rescues her and she forms an attachment to Lachlan and decides that he is the man that she wants but will she have to fight her family for the man she loves?

This was such a fun filled story that I had a blast reading. Now I will admit that the actual romance I had a hard time feeling for most of the book until the very end. But I had such a fun time getting into this story and man the plot was seemly pretty superbly written. I love the way that this author writes her historical romances, there is always something that tugs at the reader as you pick one of her books. What I really liked about this book was seeing a heroine fight for what she wants even against her own family. And boy the family DRAMA was simply epic in this book and I loved every single moment of it.

The romance that develops between Lachlan and Katherine was so sweet and likable. They really are such a good match for each other. Lachlan is honest with Katherine about everything, he doesn't keep what her brother did to her from her or anything like that. He is open with her and so there is a strong level of honesty between them. Lachlan is a loveable hero, he is strong and capable, a strong warrior and very loyal and honest. He is the type of person you could see yourself marrying, he just has strong values he lives by. Katherine is spirited, sweet and kind. She knows what she wants and won't settle for less. I love how she battles with her family, most especially, her father to keep the man that she loves instead of the man they

already made an agreement with. We see what great sibling relationships she has with her brothers especially her younger brother (view spoiler)

Overall I found this book to be a fabulous addition to the series. The Bride Chooses A Highlander is a tale packed with action, intrigue, deception and fighting for what is right....MAGNIFICENT!!

Niki says

Thanks to her mother's persistence, Katherine McKenna has been allowed to have her own choice of husband. But when she hasn't done so by the age of 22, her father, the laird of their powerful clan, begins to grow impatient. Katherine agrees to marry the neighboring laird's son, Hamish. But when she catches her new betrothed in a compromising situation with another woman, things quickly devolve, leading Katherine to flee back to her own home with a small contingent of guards. Things turn further south when she is captured by a man intending to hold her to ransom in exchange for the release of his brother, who he believes is being held prisoner by the McKenna clan. When Katherine escapes her kidnappers, she winds up alone and ill in the snoy woods and is rescued by Lachlan, none of than the brother of her kidnapper. Lachlan, laird of the impoverished Clan MacTavish is doing his best to keep his people fed by selling his sword to fight with the powerful Lowland lairds, thus earing their respect, which he hopes to use to regain his clan's old lands and favor with the king. All the while there is treachery from all sides and this book kept me in some suspense the whole time with not knowing who can be trusted and rooting for Lachlan and Katherine to be together.

I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Barbee says

????BOOK??????REVIEW????

The Bride Chooses A Highlander

By??Adrienne Basso??

Book: The Bride Chooses A Highlander

by Adrienne Basso

Series: The McKennas, Book Three. Very Romantic wish someone picked the most heather for me! ??

Reviewed by: Barb Massabrook of

1. Tartan Book Reviews
2. Purple Tulip Book Reviews
3. Celtic World of Historical Book Reviews
4. Celtic Barb's Tartan Book Review Blog

Heat Rating: Smoking Hot!???

Overall Rating: 5 Stars and 5 Kilts

This is the third book of the McKenna series. Very romantic wish someone picked the most heather for me!
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Scottish Highlands

Winter, 1335

In this story, the heroine who is definitely ahead of her time, is independent, strong, adventurous, spirited, intelligent, bold, unique, beautiful daughter Katherine, of Laird Brian McKenna. She is this sister of Malcolm, James and Graham. Her parents gave her the rare privilege most women do not have, as she can pick her own husband. The problem is she is already 22! An embarrassment to her clan and family, so this decision lays heavy in her heart.

The problem is she wants a successful loving marriage like her parents and brothers. Yet she knows it has to be an advantageous match too. It must be rank high to her station in life too as a Laird's daughter, plus for her family one of their neighbors on their borders. She finally selects Hamish Drummond, heir to their neighbor Laird Drummond. She is pretty sure she will find love with him, just like her parents and brothers found with their wives. On the evening the betrothal 'as contracts are signed and during the betrothal celebration, she catches her betrothed with another woman he is in love with. She knows this marriage will be miserable before it even begins. As Hamish won't end it, so she writes a quick note to her parents and takes a few of her father's guards with her and leaves. As far as she was concerned this marriage would never happen! Unfortunately she is kidnapped on her way home by one Aiden MacTavish!

Lachlan MacTavish, Laird of a starving clan, just because they choose the wrong side against "Robert the Bruce". Unfortunately this happens often and the smaller clans suffer the most with healthy land, livestock and castles taken away. His clan is really suffering so when he finds out his jealous, vein younger half brother Aiden just kidnapped Laird McKenna's daughter and lost her as well. He is absolutely furious! They were told their younger brother Robbie might possibly be imprisoned there. Aiden thinks he can do a trade, yet this is the richest clan with the strongest warriors in the highlands! Plus he went against Lachlan's orders to do nothing! So Lachlan goes to locate the Lass and finds her very ill and this is when the attraction starts. He cares and heals her to the best of his knowledge and ability. This is where their attraction and feelings of love begins....

He knows it's wrong to want the McKenna Lass as his clan is starving, but he just can't help himself. He has to bring her back to her family ASAP. Then they find themselves near the McKennas' enemy, Laird Archibald Fraser and lies to them about her identity-so they have another strong wealthy clan that might want to destroy them. Yet Lachlan will do anything to save his Lass, he knows of Archibald's bad reputation of his cruelty and wicked temper. Yet when he finally does decide to bring her back to her clan, he knows things won't go easy on him.

Will it be the end before it even begins for these star crossed lovers? On top of this Hamish wants to marry her immediately and accused Lachlan of stealing his betrothed! Yet it is only to be in the good graces of his father as Hamish loves another.

Now Lachlan knows he is not good enough for Katherine. Plus how can he ask a pampered princess to stay with him forever? Katherine knows Lachlan is the only man for her! In addition she knows his clan is in dire need of so much which she could help him and contribute to him and his entire clan. Yet will a prideful Laird Lachlan accept it or let her go? Due to his stubborn pride and foolish misguided honor!

What will her Da's reaction be? Kidnapping a Laird's daughter and harming McKenna soldier guards is a capital offense! Will he allow Laird MacTavish to even live? After-all she had been originally kidnapped by his brother foolish pigheaded brother Aiden. Even though Lachlan had no part in this stupid plot what will the McKenna possibly believe. Is this couple destined to stay together forever or live apart with shattered hearts?

I have been a fan of Ms Basso books for many years and each and every book are always action packed with captivating characters from heroines, hero's to criminal, violent lawbreaking, villains. Always a riveting phenomenal read from start to finish, with breathtaking setting, brilliant dialogue, multi-dimensional characters that steal your heart! Plus amazing plots that has your holding your breath with your heartbeat racing wondering what could possibly happen next?!

I absolutely and unequivocally love Adrienne Basso's Scottish historical novels and this one is an absolute winner!

The McKennas Series by Adrienne Basso

- 1) The Highlander Who Loved Me
- 2) No Other Highlander
- 3) The Bride Chooses A Highlander

Note: You can read all the books in this series as stand alone books. I personally like reading them in book order to connect the character dots. It's totally a reader's' personal choice.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy and an advance reader copy from the publisher. I voluntarily agreed to do a fair review and blog through netgalley. All thoughts, ideas and words are my own.

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Meghan Lloyd says

This book was set in the medieval ages, and I so rarely get to read books whose focus is in Scotland during that time. A rare treat for me! I have read this author's work before, and I have always enjoyed the way she sets up the story with historical facts. It makes me feel very comfortable reading about this time period, because she explains what has happened in the past, what's going on now, and why any conflicts exist. If you like true history with your romance, this is the book for you.

At the advanced age of 22, Katherine McKenna is a rare breed of woman in medieval Scotland. Allowed to choose her own husband due to a promise her mother extracted from her father, she has turned down many suitors in hopes that she could find love. But so much time has passed that she has decided that she would rather marry an amiable man she does not love than to remain unmarried, without children or a home of her own. Unfortunately, the man she chooses turns out to be hiding a big secret, and she flees soon after the betrothal agreements are signed. Captured by another clan before she can reach her home, she finds herself in the company of a man who evokes feelings in her she has never felt before. But things aren't easy, and it's going to take all her persuasion to convince her father that Lachlan MacTavish is who she truly wants to marry.

While I do think you have to suspend belief a bit to imagine a woman choosing her own husband during that time, I really enjoyed reading about Katherine and her family. It was lovely to imagine a medieval family who appreciated and respected their women as much as their men, and Katherine held her own well. When she realizes who Lachlan is and what her kidnapping might mean for him and their future, she doesn't cower or leave it to him to solve. She tries to help herself and refuses to act the victim. A very strong character! Lachlan was, unfortunately, not as strong as her, so I did feel their pairing wasn't as aligned as I would have liked. It seemed to me that he allowed his mother and brother to get away with a lot, and his level of anger didn't seem to reach the height it should have, particularly with what his mother did later in the story. I understand family loyalty and all, but his reaction didn't seem believable. He redeemed himself towards the end, but I definitely felt like Katherine was the stronger of the two, when I would have rather had them be equal in strength.

This book peaked my interest in this time period, and I am eager to read what comes next in the series! Hopefully Katherine's brother gets a book next, as it seemed to be the most interesting teaser in the book.

I received a free copy via NetGalley and this is my honest review.
