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After a fight with her boyfriend, a business trip to Scotland is the perfect diversion for Jenny Porter, who works as a virtual assistant for a financial executive. Dispatched to assess a failing textile mill, Jenny instead finds herself determined to save it at any cost after befriendng its charming employees. That cost might just be her sanity as she stretches her resources, patience, and compassion to the outer limits.

As she gets to know the colorful Dalmain clan, Jenny just can't say no when asked to help run a mobile food stand, save the family business, put an overbearing matriarch in her place, rekindle an old romance, or throw a dinner party for sixteen on short notice. Then there's the problem of being attracted to the dashing yet abrasive Ross Grant, who has a way of showing up just when things seem almost sane and manageable.

The majestic Scottish highlands, covered in purple heather and dotted with sheep and llamas, provide a dramatic backdrop while Jenny tries to pull everything together in time to save the mill and figure out her increasingly complicated personal life, in this delightful romantic romp.

Highland Fling Details

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From Reader Review Highland Fling for online ebook

Sheila says

I did quite enjoy this Scottish tale of Katie Fforde. It was slightly spoilt for me in that I had already heard the story read on audio and so knew roughly what was going to happen. However, good, readable tale about a young girl, Jenny or Genevieve, helping to save a failing woollen mill from her virtual boss, Ross Grant-Dempsey, closing it down. Naturally being a Katie Fforde romance, in the course of helping the upper class Scottish family and their mill she falls in love with her virtual boss. They start off on opposing sides and through a series of spats and disagreements both with the mill and with the alternate love interest of Jenny's English boyfriend, Henry, who follows her to Scotland, finally achieve romantic bliss. Interesting take too on a landed Scottish gentry family, the Dalmaines.

Wanderer ? Wanderlust ? says

Jenny Porter, who recently started a new career as a virtual assistant, and her boyfriend Henry. A virtual assistant (as we are told over and over) is someone who does various tasks for clients that hire her over the internet. Her current assignment is to travel to Scotland to assess an old family-run mill recently purchased by her current client, M.R Grant-Dempsey. With Henry's disapproval of her new job we, the readers, are already made aware that Henry = ass therefore, Jenny should go to Scotland and hopefully find Mr. Not-An-Ass.

On the way to the mill Jenny meets a lady working a booth selling food and drinks who happens to be an in-law of the family who runs the mill (her husband is second son, Ian). She is also extremely pregnant and in need of a trip to the bathroom so asks Jenny to hold down the fort while she steps out. It is then that a customer, a Mr. Ross Grant, approaches and he and Jenny take an instant disliking for one another. That meeting alone was the beginning of the annoyance factor for me because the argument they had was ridiculous. It was just the beginning of a series of similar meetings that raised my own level of annoyance with each encounter.

At one point they even started cursing at each other. That actually caught me off guard until I listened further and realized yes, I agreed with Ross when he told Jenny to, "Shut the fuck up". Bad sign, right? Another issue I had with the book was how Jenny became the savior of all and solver of everything. Want to save the mill? Jenny's your gal. Have agoraphobia? Jenny can cure you. Planning a big dinner at the last minute? It's Super Jenny to the rescue! Seriously, no one can do that.....well, maybe Martha Stewart.

I didn't care for any of the secondary characters (except maybe a little for Ian and his wife) and I definitely didn't believe in the romance build-up between Jenny and Ross. Also, the mysterious client's identity wasn't such a mystery. I realized who he was from the start and I didn't even have to use my Matlock deductive skills (yes, my mom was a big fan of that show as well as Perry Mason, Murder She Wrote etc...which gave me my mad skills at Clue).

The main reason I pushed through this was that it was an audio book and the narrator, Julie Franklin, did a decent job differentiating the characters. Listening to audio version during work. I know what's going on but don't really have an invested interest in where the story is going or what the heroine is doing. Ultimately, I used the book as background noise while at work. I still got the gist of the story but I never felt a need to give

it my complete attention. This was my first book by Katie Fforde and I'm afraid it didn't leave a very good impression.

Ilse says

opnieuw een toppertje van katie fforde.

alhoewel al haar boeken op dezelfde manier zijn opgebouwd, is elk boek ook weer helemaal anders. ik hou er van :)

dit boek heb ik na 2 jaar nog eens herlezen. Een aantal dingen waren blijven hangen, maar een antal dingen waren helemaal weg. katie fforde is en blijft een toppertje, maar dit boek is 1 van haar mindere boeken vind ik.

vooral het einde lijkt wat snel afgewerkt te zijn

Komal says

Katie Fforde is my most-loved writer among chick-lit writers and this book remains my favourite read of hers. Apart from amazing writing, bonus points for beautiful Scottish setting, memorable scenes and dialogues and an unforgettable hero (which you can day-dream and envy!)

If you have not read it yet, pick it up for Valentine's day! :)

Megha says

jenny has just taken up the new job of a VA, virtual assistant. you do as your boss says without ever meeting him - your only means of communication with him are through your laptop. her latest assignment is to go down to the damian mills, assess what's wrong with it, and close it down as soon as she can. simple, right? hell no...

because damian mills is owned by the, to put it nicely, screwed up damian family. lady damian with her rich people ways, looking down at many, including her own daughter. Felicity, the eldest and the only daughter, who serves her mother day and night and is too scared to stand up to her mother (has been for her entire life) and is starting to secretly rekindle a long-lost flame. Iain, the youngest child, who married a 'commoner', as lady dalmain puts it and runs the homely haggis, a mobile restaurant. and Phillip, the middle child and the oldest son. when their father passes away, buisness goes to phillip, who doesn't do such a great job taking care of it.

before jenny can close the mill she by accident meets the employess of the mill, people who have been working there for generations. how can she let this place close? well, she wont...only over her dead body!

Kate's Book Spot says

I really enjoy Katie Fforde books so when I saw this in my local bookshop at a bargain price I couldn't resist.

The pace was comfortable and I quickly fell into the storyline, not wanting to put the book down.

Unfortunately this did take me rather a long time to read but it wasn't at all because of the book – I had so much going on in my real life that I just didn't have time to sit and read as much as usual .

Jenny was a sweet character who seemed unable to say no to people but I loved how feisty she became whenever Ross was around, he really brought out the worst in her but they definitely had an exciting spark. Ross was one of those powerful male characters who didn't say much, but didn't need to because he was so confident and sexy. He had a mysterious side and I got the feeling that he was keeping something from Jenny.

I actually felt nervous when Jenny was meeting Lady Dalmain for the first time, her daughter-in-law called her 'the matriarch' so I envisioned a scary woman who took no prisoners. I was, in fact, fascinated by her traditional values and old-fashioned ways.

As the book progressed there were many hurdles to cross and it was all systems go, Jenny worked very hard but often found herself distracted by her love life and it was at those times she seemed to struggle to hold it all together. Personally I was hoping that the inevitable would happen and she would succumb to her feelings.

There were a few moments that were particularly enjoyable for me – Jenny's first meeting with her virtual boss, a hectic dinner party, a tense business meeting and a snowy walk that ended up hotter than it should have been!

This was a cosy read with a lovely ending, a perfect snuggle on the sofa book.

Shannon says

Ughhh I gave up on this book and returned it without finishing it. Story has the same plot line as the author has done before, female character as a fish out of water, quirky characters and unexpected romance.

Michala says

I always enjoy Katie's books, she has a way of getting you involved in the characters you want to see the girl get her happy ending.

Jenny is a virtual assistant and goes up to Scotland (leaving her boyfriend Henry behind or at least that's what she thinks) to help Dalmain Mill's. Jenny does things to help other people even if it means taking a lot on. While she is there she meets Ross Grant. I must admit I didn't feel there was much of a connection between the two. Jenny hated/loved him so when they were together is was both shouting and angry with one another then next minute he's kissing her. Which when your attracted to someone who frustrates you I get. I think I would have liked to have seen more scenes with them together.

Michelle (MichelleBookAddict) says

August 2013

4.5★♥

So this was a major "cool off for summertime" as the H and h get stuck in a snow storm in the mountains of Scotland on Christmas day (this was more than just a holiday read though). They ended up staying in a sort of igloo survival room built into the mountain's snow. I had goose bumps just reading about that.

Anyway, my review...

This is a cute Brit-lit romance. The characters are likable to read. The romance is there. It's just the plot is a little slow towards the end. The plot is of a Jenny Porter, whom is in a relationship with a Bridget Jones bad guy character (Hugh Grant's character - in fact there is a lot of references of the actor and the movie/ book). She then goes to Scotland to "handle" a business for her clint -whom she hasn't meet despite working for him for about two years. She believes that he wants the company closed down - so naturally she tries to save it.

I liked Jenny. She's a bit of a pushover at times. She took too long in dumping the very bad boyfriend. It was ridiculous the way Henry comes to Scotland to see her. I felt that he was a complete idiot. Ross Grant (the hero) is a likeable character. There just wasn't enough of him in the book.

The Scots that she stays with are a little nerve racking. Their drinking behavior is a little AA excessive. The other characters in the "Highlands" are more likable and funny at times.

Just for the love of God, why did Fforde have to make the third portion of the story so slow? Skip the slow stuff to find the romantic stuff isn't a plus in my thoughts. Which was why I knocked down the rating star some. It's not a complete 5★ IMHO. But I loved the very end. That was very romantic. *swoon*

Do I like the heroine and hero interaction? Yes, but their isn't enough. Do I recommend reading? Yes.

Liesel says

A little slower of a book than the others, but still a nice finish. A few things that I like about Katie Fforde:
When driving is involved, no drinking is done by the driver
Pregnancy is always a very real possibility after sex
The couples always get engaged by the end
The heroine always falls asleep in the presence of the hero and it's generally in a car on the way to a date.
And the hero doesn't mind. I don't know why I like this, but I do.

Something I don't like:

The heroine always finds as many excuses as possible in order to believe that the guy actually hates her instead of loves her. This just gets annoying.

Hannie says

Hoewel ik genoten heb van dit boek, vind ik het verhaal niet speciaal genoeg om het vier sterren te geven. Daarnaast had ik bij dit boek niet dat ik echt gegrepen werd door het verhaal, zodat ik wilde blijven lezen. Alleen op het eind moest het uit. Dat maakt dat dit een goed boek is voor doordeweeks, wanneer ik niet altijd veel tijd heb om te lezen. Nu kon ik gemakkelijk een of twee hoofdstukken lezen en het daarna weer weggelgen. Soms vond ik Jenny wat naïef overkomen, maar verder is het een leuk personage. Toen ik aan dit

boek begon wist ik niet dat het deels rond kerst zou afspelen. Dat was leuk, want ik kwam er al een beetje door in de kerstsfeer. Ook is het nu buiten koud, dus ook in dat opzicht past het boek bij de tijd van het jaar.

Kate says

The thing with Katie Fforde is you know what you are getting - girl meet boy, girl hates boy but discovers they are somewhat disarming, girl realize she loves boy, boy feels the same.

Ok so it wasn't as well written as some of her others and a trite annoying at times..... but umm I generally pick up her books because for what ever reason my brain is fried and it needs light relief. I got exactly what I needed some whimsical fluff! Bless.

Debbie says

I picked this book up because it was set in the Scottish Highlands. It was an enjoyable light read with a very realistic view of Scotland in winter. It was refreshing to read of cold, draughty stately homes and dismal weather rather than the rose tinted view of Scotland and its weather that writers often give us.

Unfortunately Katie Fforde's realism didn't extend to the romantic story line which was very 'Mills and Boon'-ish with an equally unbelievable soft-focus ending.

Still, there were interesting characters and a satisfying plot. Jenny Porter is a virtual assistant who is sent to Scotland to check out the viability of a failing woollen mill by her employer, whom she has never met. Jenny becomes determined to save the mill and the jobs of all the people employed there and finds herself becoming attached to both the people and the place. She also finds herself becoming attached to the rugged Ross Grant and detached from her long time boyfriend Henry.

Alrasti1 says

Great read with really interesting characters. You learn to love each character for their absolute uniqueness and interesting personalities. The main plot takes you for a ride while the subplots wind throughout the story making this a well rounded book. Fforde does a fabulous job creating believable characters that have flaws and flings. Throughout the book you find yourself rooting for the heroine as she works her fingers to the bone trying to save the mill that she is sent to basically close down for her boss. Little does she know but her sexy boss has followed her north to Scotland and is basically haunting her as she tries to trudge through life with truly hard to deal with people. As the romance/hate parade continues you begin to root for the attraction that is building between the heroine and the boss. This is a great fun read with lots of humor and sarcasm!

Sara ♥ says

Meh.... It was okay. I think I'm over the Fforde cousins (Katie and Jasper).

This book was just... blegh to me. I dunno. It was like that movie New in Town... Shockingly similar,

actually... Except that this book took place in Scotland and wasn't as emotionally gripping... at all. And without most of the sexual tension.

I dunno—I just didn't believe that the main guy and girl would really go for each other. They were fighting the whole time, except they both found each other very attractive (because that's a solid base for a long-term, fulfilling relationship), and then all of a sudden they're in love and getting married? Say what? They went out like ONE TIME, and she was half asleep! What the dodgy?

It was mostly just silly. And you couldn't even SEE the kilts. :(
