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A Highland Betrothal (Highland Bodyguards, Book 4.5)



Synopsis

How can he protect the woman he loves when she is engaged to another? Graeme MacKay returns from the siege on Berwick Castle a changed man. A wound to his leg has left him hobbled, but his injury is nothing compared to the blow his heart receives when he learns that Anna Ross, the only woman he has ever loved, is engaged. When Graeme is ordered to serve as Anna's bodyguard on the journey to wed her fiancé, he is tested like never before. Though he tells himself to feel nothing for her, his heart has other plans. As the daughter of a Laird, Anna Ross has always known that it would one day be her duty to marry a stranger for the betterment of her clan. Though resigned to her fate, she owes Graeme, the Highland warrior who stole her heart, an explanation "she has never stopped loving him, despite being forced to wed another. But when a shocking truth about her betrothal is revealed, she and Graeme must embark on a perilous flight from her fiancé or risk losing their love forever.

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Customer Reviews

Graeme MacKay and Anna Ross are the stars of this exciting adventure. Both of these two very special people face big challenges in this book. Life is not so simple when two people are attracted

to each other but a betrothal involves a third party. Who is Graeme? He is deemed a hero after all he had done to distinguish himself in the battle at Berwick Castle. However, he does not think he'd make good warrior nor does he think he will make a good husband because he sustained a very serious injury that nearly cost him his leg. Josselyn Sinclair's healing skills save his leg from amputation. In addition, he had sent a written proposal of marriage to Anna at her home but after a long wait there was no response. The debilitating injury and the lack of response from Anna left him deeply depressed. Rather than work to regain his strength and mobility, he hid out in his tent. Anna Ross has come to love Graeme as they had developed a relationship before the battle at Berwick. She read over Graeme's missive so often that she knew it by heart. She wrote him a response accepting his request for her hand in marriage. She approached her father, Laird William Ross, asking him to have her response to Graeme. To her surprise, Laird Ross informed her that the missive would not be sent. She approached the castle's messenger but he refused to take her response with him and deliver it. He had orders from the Laird to not do so. The Laird informed Anna that she was needed to do her duty as partner in a strategic marriage to Laird Donald Munro. This arrangement would bring the two clans closer together and provide additional protection and resources. Anna had been raised to do her duty and understood that it was likely should not marry for love, rather she would marry as part of a strategic alliance. In truth though, she was not comfortable with Laird Donald Munro. He was twice her age, was very formal in his manner, quite the serious man. She knew how she felt but Graeme did not know. Colin MacKay knew that his cousin Graeme MacKay was in a sorry state. He visited Graeme's tent to shake him out of his lethargy. His unique approach was to draw a sword on him forcing Graeme to defend himself. After some exertion Graeme demonstrated that despite his failure to train and his very weak leg, he was an able warrior. Colin then lowered the boom on Graeme by telling him that King Robert Bruce offered Graeme a place in the Bodyguard Corps. Further, Graeme learned from Colin that he came to the tent to deliver additional information. The Bruce gave information for Colin about an assignment for Graeme. The assignment requires Graeme to join the Munro forces as they retrieve Anna Ross to deliver her to the church where she will marry Laird Munro. Graeme reluctantly agreed to the assignment despite his strong feelings for Anna but not sure if his injury turned off Anna. He later intercepts the Munro warriors and receives chilly reception. Jerome Munro, a very capable but tactiturn leader makes life miserable for Graeme. For days the trip was uneventful but they were then ambushed by large group of brigands. With his leg weak and having not trained, Graeme realized he was hard pressed to protect Anna and defend her. His answer was to assist her onto his horse and ride off from the battle. The bad news -- the fun really begins now with Graeme

on the run and a very determined Jerome Munro hunting him down. The good news -- the couple learned where each stood regarding the other. Their love remained and they thought there was a way to overturn the Munro betrothal. The remainder of the book contains a number of harrowing twists and turns as the pursuit is on and the couple rushes to the beautiful abbey where the Munro-Ross wedding was scheduled. However, Jerome and Laird Munro catch the couple before Anna and Graeme can convince the priests to marry them. Graeme, known for his prowess on the battlefield, demonstrates a special and quite different capability that saves the day. What he does to accomplish this amazing result will not be revealed by me. You will be on the edge of your seat over the last several pages as the book draws to its satisfying conclusion.

Good book to read.

4.5 Stars - Graeme MacKay and Anna Ross's short story was exactly as I knew it would be... great! I love the Highland Bodyguards series. This was the 4.5 book. Graeme has been recuperating from a serious injury, but he is wallowing in self-pity. He limps now, but he is withdrawing from everything and everyone. The woman he loves has essentially abandoned him, because he believes she has come to the conclusion he is so much less of a man than before. Now his obnoxious cousin Colin MacKay has a mission for him. A mission that will have him confront what is eating away at him. Anna Ross's is set on doing her duty. She is on her way to be married to insure an alliance. It does not matter that her heart is broken. During her travels she will come face to face with her heart's desire. I loved this, but I wanted to witness the Bruce's reaction. For me it was needed!

I enjoy this author, but this story fell short for me. Everything is wrapped up tidy in a nice bow very quickly, especially in chapter 10. This is a clean story, no lovemaking. I did enjoy the beginning and the author tugged at my heart for the H and then also for the h when her story was told. There is one fight scene, but mostly off page. Little on romance and suspense. You do not need to read the books prior to understand this. But, the history of the Bodyguard is explained in more detail. But, you wouldn't be lost, but previous 4 books are more suspenseful and romance. We do get HEA at lightening speed, and an epilogue 4 wks in the future, and not cliffhanger either. I am not going into the premise, as the author's blurb has explained it. (ljb)

Excellent story. Hope there's still more books to come in this series. I really love Emma's story lines

and I love all of her characters no matter which one of her books I'm reading.

I enjoyed this book and to see how Graeme managed to get his Anna back after she was betrothed to another. I was very surprised to read that Laird Munro just accepted the letters as proof she was engaged to Graeme first. I love all of Emma's books and I look forward to her next one!

Like all of Emma's books, this one is a classic! Her stories are always exciting, wonderful characters, and a strong storyline. I've enjoyed this Bodyguard series! Loved them all!

This book could have been hundreds of pages longer, a sweet story of love lost and regained. Very nice touch with the historical facts at the end. What a great series.

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