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Kissing The Countess (The Scottish Lairds Series, Book 3)



Synopsis

Evan Mackenzie, newly Earl of Kildonan, returns to the beautiful, remote Highland mountains of his childhood with no intention of staying. Haunted by tragedy, he plans to sell the vast property and return to Edinburgh—until fate takes a hand. Stranded overnight on a snowy mountainside with a lovely Highland girl, he is honor-bound to marry her despite his plans. But Catriona MacConn has a secret mission to protect at any cost, and though the handsome, mysterious earl wins her heart, she will fulfill that promise—even if it means giving up the love of her dreams.

REVIEWS: "With a little history, a little magic, and a lot of Highland charm, King has created another winner." ~Booklist "...engaging characters weave a subtle spell... a treat for King fans." ~Publishers Weekly

THE SCOTTISH LAIRDS, in series order Taming the Heiress Waking the Princess Kissing the Countess

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THE BORDER ROGUES, in series order The Raven's Wish The Raven's Moon The Heather Moon

OTHER TITLES by Susan King The Black Thorne's Rose

ABOUT Susan King: Susan King is the bestselling, award-winning author of 22 historical novels and novellas praised for historical accuracy, master storytelling and lyricism.

Book Information

File Size: 1558 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: ePublishing Works! (June 30, 2015)

Publication Date: June 30, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00YLBKADQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #6,173 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #37

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Customer Reviews

After reading the first few chapters, I was ready to give this book 3 stars and then 2. However, I wanted to see how Evan and Catriona's relationship evolved after they got married, and by the end of the book I was enjoying it. Evan is sensitive, open-minded, and sexy. I enjoyed learning a little more about Scotland's history, and I loved that Catriona has a beautiful singing voice and is recording the Highland songs so they aren't lost. I only wish Catriona were as flexible as Evan. I was surprised at the poor quality of this book after reading several books in the author's Celtic series. This one had some annoying flaws, especially toward the beginning. Evan climbs barehanded, but Catriona observes his gloves when she finds him. Later his hands are bare again. Catriona sets his backpack aside on the path when she drags him down the hill to the hut, but once at the hut she has it. Evan discovers Catriona's secret, but he never tells her about the bridge accident and his obligations related to that. Catriona overhears a woman gossiping about her but never confronts her or thanks Evan's sister for sticking up for her. We are told some things two or three times. The dialogue is ruined in places by the insertion of background information about history, geography, and geology. In other words, this book desperately needed a fresh eye (or eyes!) between the first draft and publication but apparently didn't have it.

Evan Mackenzie returns to his Highland home years after his father, the former Earl of Kildonan had kicked all the Highlanders of his estate to make room for more sheep. Evan loves his home but the old Earl's many debts are forcing him to sell land and lease his castle. While rock climbing, he encounters bad weather and falls from a high peak. He is rescued by Catriona MacConn, the daughter of a strict minister. She saves his life by dragging him to a run-down shelter where they must spend the night. Honor demands that he must marry the girl he "ruined." I was impressed by both the H/h. Evan is trying to right a desperate situation and sees no other way to clear his debts. Catriona, on the other hand, wants to protect those on the estate and bring back as many Highlanders as possible. I rooted for this couple all the way. Most of the secondary characters were also excellent. Catriona's brother was both honest and brave. The 'villain' was truly nasty and I was glad to see his end. I have seen many photos of Victorian men and women who were avid walking and climbing participants. It was nice to have this made an integral part of the story. I truly enjoyed this book (even though it did need a good proofreader) and will read more from this author. Sexual situations may offend some readers.

This is the 8th book I have read that was written by Ms. King. I love her stories. She does the research that enables her to tell the story. This story told of mountain climbing in such a romantic way. The story keeps your mind in it as if you were present with the climbers. Ms. King includes a brief sensual scene which is VERY tastefully done and in some of her books, you have to back up to be sure what she just told you. I LOVE her stories. This was the 3rd in a series. They could be stand alones, but I felt like part of the families, having read them all. This is a GREAT read and will hold your attention. Read it! But read Taming the Heiress and Waking the Princess first!!!

I just finished reading The Scottish Lairds Series 3 books in total. I have also read her The Celtic Knights Series. Her books are spellbinding , in my opinion. You don't want to put it down once you start. I am in the process of reading all the rest of her books and looking forward to it!

I really loved this story! The descriptions of the Scottish highlands and the people there were interesting, and the time period was well written. The love story was slow because of the obstacles involved, but very sweet. The background history of the characters was excellent and showed why they reacted the way they did. There were a few distracting errors in editing. But the story overcame them. I must say that the ending was suspenseful and exciting!

This was one of the most amazing Highland love stories I have ever read! I never realized that woman climbed mountains in the 1800's in dresses like going to church. It also told how traditions were kept alive from generation to generation. Enjoy this book as I did.

This was the absolute most boring book I have ever read in all my years of reading! If you want a book on rock climbing... it might just tell you more than you want to know! Love... I don't feel it, this couple has no connection or depth to their relationship or even to their individual characters! If you can count a coupling or two, climbing rocks, singing and fairy stories that's it in a nutshell!!! Romance Nada...it has none! There is no earth shattering Charisma! They could have both froze to death in that shack and put me out of my misery reading the rest of the book!

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