



Highland Scandal

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On the run from the wrathful Prince of Wales, Jack Haines, Earl of Lambourne, is taken prisoner by a Highland laird who makes him an unusual offer: if Jack handfasts his niece, then his life will be spared. The old Highland custom -- a marriage lasting only a year and a day, unless both partners agree to make it a lifelong vow -- sounds preferable to Jack to being dragged to London in chains, and when he meets lovely Lizzie Beal, his dilemma starts to seem positively enjoyable. Until the hellion vents her fury...on him! Detesting the scandalous match that will end all her chances of making a respectable marriage, Lizzie can't abide living intimately with a fugitive nobleman bent on seducing her and then running off. But in teaching her the pleasures of a wife's duties, Jack sparks within them both a passion that will make him wish he could stay with Lizzie for much longer than a year and a day.

Highland Scandal Details

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Author : Julia London

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Angelc says

I wanted to like this book more than I actually did. The plot could have been cute, but unfortunately, I felt like I never really got to know the characters. Complete strangers, Jack Haines, the Earl of Lambourne, and Scottish Lizzie Beal are locked into a handfasting agreement against their wills. The ancient Highland handfasting is a type of trial marriage for one year and one day, at the end of which the couple can part ways if they aren't satisfied with the match. Lizzie and Jack are forced into the same suite in the same small house together, but no sparks really fly between them.

Jack was supposed to be a lazy earl from London, but he didn't come across that way. He seemed like a Highland man, through and through. I had to keep reminding myself of the couple's different backgrounds. I wanted more struggle from Jack between the man he could be in Scotland and the man he used to be in London. Lizzie didn't have much of a personality at all besides the weight of her responsibilities. My favorite characters were Lizzie's sister, Charlotte, and her guard, Newton. Charlotte was confined to a wheelchair after a riding accident, which caused her to be snappish and rude. Newton had endless patience and love for her and opened her eyes to the world. Those two had more chemistry in their entirely too few and brief scenes together than Lizzie and Jack did in the entire book.

I did like how Jack brought life and vitality to the ladies' somber house. I also enjoyed the sparring between Jack and Mr. Gordon, Lizzie's intended groom. Overall, this was a sweet story and I appreciated its lightheartedness, but I would have liked to know the characters better and why they really fell in love with each other.

Reviewed for: <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com/>

Dawn Kunda says

I can't help but pick up a novel by Julia London when I'm in the mood for a lot of Scottish kilt and gown mixing.

Jack Haines, Earl of Lambourne, is on the run from a false accusation amongst the London nobility.

Lizzie Beale remains unwed and waiting for her knight in the highlands.

When Lizzie's uncle captures Jack, Jack thinks he's done for, and so does Lizzie. Her uncle forces Jack and Lizzie into a hand-fasting for a year. In other words, a pretend marriage for her uncles benefit.

From this decree, a pot-pouri of trouble begins...Lizzie challenges Jack's "rights" as a husband, Mr. Gordon arrives to take Lizzie away, and the most challenging situation is a secret.

The uncle has a reason for uniting his niece and a strange man.

Lizzie and Jack quarrel, butt heads, and argue as they try to uncover her uncle's devious endeavors.

Lizzie and Jack really get to know each other during this long and arduous time. It's tantalizing to follow their relationship and to watch the blunders and accidental camaraderie.

Donna says

I've been in the mood for books set in Scotland and somehow I missed this one when it first came out. As soon as I started reading it, I realized the hero, Jack Haines, was the brother of the heroine, Fiona, in the novella "Snowy Night with a Highlander" in the anthology "Snowy Night with a Stranger". At the end of that story, Jack was told to hide in the highlands as he is wanted by Prince George.

This book starts with Jack being captured by Carson Beal who forces him to handfast with his niece, Lizzie, for an year and a day or be handed over to the Prince's men searching for him. Carson threatens Lizzie, who has a crippled sister, with their debts. Neither are happy about this, but they agree. Jack moves into her home, with her sister Charlotte, and the two guards the uncle sent, Dougal to watch Jack and the other, Newton to help Charlotte.

Jack tries to figure out why the uncle is acting like this and assumes there is something on the sisters' property he wants. Jack and Lizzie, along with Mr. Gavin Gordon, who has come at her summons to help her discover why and set off for London to make things right. Jack assumes he will end up in jail or hung, but pleads with the king to make it clear to Carson that Charlotte and Lizzie own the land and what's been discovered on it. By this time, Lizzie loves Jack but can't see him loving her back or moving from England to his Scottish estate. Jack believes she loves Gavin. With a little help from his friends and the King he is only jailed for a few weeks.

I hate plot spoilers so this is very basic. A lot goes on while he is living with her. There is a very nice secondary romance between Charlotte and her "guard" Newton. I really enjoyed this book.

Readitnweep says

Jack, the Earl of Lambourne, is taken prisoner and forced to hand fast to Lizzie, the niece of his captor, or face certain death. Lizzie planned to wed another and fights the hand fasting. Yet why does her uncle force them both together in the first place?

Jack was likeable enough. I liked how he didn't immediately fall for Lizzie; in fact, he was ready to hand her over to the man she'd hoped to wed. The building of their relationship was well paced. I did find Lizzie and her sister both annoying at times. There were signs of what I find a lot in romance books: forced strength in the female character that comes off as annoying instead of strong. I didn't mind her climbing out the window to escape, but her constant badgering at Jack was over the top, as was Charlotte.

In the end, Jack proves his love by giving Lizzie wealth for the dowery she needs to marry someone else, who Jack believes she wants, while he gives himself over to the gallows EXCEPT the prince changes his mind and let's Jack go free. Why? This last bit came a bit too easily and the ending was too neat and tidy.

It was an enjoyable read if not a memorable or intriguing one.

Christine says

I never liked the heroine, Lizzie. From the start she came across as an unreasonable shrew who might, if she had just stopped to think for two seconds, have made far better decisions. I also didn't like her instant dislike of Jack, and her failure to empathize with his situation. Possibly for that reason, I never found the passion between these two to be particularly believable. It felt forced to me.

Zoe says

It is quite a shame. Even my appreciation of Julia London's style could not have saved this book.

I have 2 problems with the book:

1. Characters: Jack and Lizzie are boring characters. Jack was not to be taken seriously. He just seemed like a bored playboy who had too much money and time but didn't know what to do with his life. I didn't find him attractive in the least. He seemed unreliable and had little depth. Lizzie was just one angry woman who seemed childish and rude. Granted, nobody would have been happy were they Lizzie. But I thought Lizzie was too indignant and self-righteous. Jack was not to be blamed for the handfasting. I thought Lizzie was not being fair. The women in this book, Lizzie and her sister Charlotte, were not exactly what I aspire to be as a woman. Both were too immature and acted rather rashly and unkindly.

2. The plot line: or the lack thereof. Well into 40% we are still reading about how Lizzie did not want to be married to Jack. and Lizzie and Charlotte were trying to get Jack out of the house, when Jack did not really have a choice to leave. I was thinking, man, Julia London did not have a lot going on in this book, did she? This charade of handfasting, just how long are we supposed to follow it? Jack and Lizzie had little chemistry and all the time they spent together was just meaningless bickering, which did not allow them to develop any feelings for each other.

Uninteresting characters, no real plot lines to speak of, no shared experiences to bind them, this book was sadly lacking in depth. As much as I like Julia London's style, I could not take this book seriously. The best adjective I could use to describe this book would be bland. The worst, well, I shall not go that way.

Elsa says

No acordaba que ya había leído este libro hasta pasado la mitad del libro. Estan predecible y aburrido como vagamente recordaba.

Bobby says

This book vastly improved towards the end. The hero being willing to give up his life for the heroine was probably what saved this book, though. The romanticism of that part could have possibly been played up a little more, although this may not have fit well with the rest of the book. The only real grievance I have about the latter part of the book is the phrase 'She wept with angels and her tears were drops of pure joy'. Seriously.

I'm sure I've read books with even more dubious phrases, but this one somehow annoyed me, perhaps because the rest of the book is quite pragmatic in tone and this seems off. A good read, but probably not something I would read again.

anieva says

I don't know what people's problems are with this book. I've looked at some of the reviews here, and feel as though others must have read an entirely different book from the one I did. It was great. Really, really great and warm and loving. Yes, it was in the tradition of all those tales wherein a group of people are thrown together, detest each other and then grow to be each others biggest fans after a remarkably fortuitous shift in the social circle, but who cares? Julia London did it well, with almost cinematic descriptions, or at least highly visual ones that I could see a director thanking her for if a movie were ever made. There's enough in life to moan about. Why moan about a genuinely good book? Sorry. I have no patience for silly criticisms.

Natascha says

This book made me realize how much I don't like it when the hero and heroine are not fond of or hate each other until the end of the book where their love is finally realized. I find it SO tedious. Julia London did a good job with her writing.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

This was really cute! I liked the fast paced beginning, and the ending was happy.

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Jack the Earl of Lambourne is fleeing England because his name has been listed in the Book of Scandals. This book list the names of possible lovers of the Princess of Whales and her husband the Prince of Whales is hunting these men down and prosecuting them for treason. Bounty hunters are in hot presuit after Jack , Jack has fled to his native homeland Scotland where he is caught by a Scottish Laird Carson Beal. He promises Jack that if he will Hand fast with his niece Lizzie Beal; which is to be bond to each other for a year and a day, at which time they can separate or legally marry. Jack agrees to keep himself from being return to England and hanged. Of course Lizzie does not agree and she is a hellion!! anyway they Hand fast and are bond together. Lizzie comes off a silly hot tempered women (not girl) who does not think things through. Their is no real passion or romance between them just the back and fourth arguing and her trying to run away; they disconnect instead of coming together but eventually they do, at the very end of the book. Lizzie is a Virgin, but no particular care is taken when Jack finally gets around to deflowering her. The way its written is not a true life experience the way a women would feel or a man who loves her would be more loving and passionate. This was written in a cold and indifferent kind of way their was nothing to mark this as a special event in a persons life. No sensual heated passion it just seems to happen. If Authors such as London write about virgins than please for the sake of the female race please take responsibility to write it with caring love and sensual passion. I have read most of Julia London's books, but this one wasn't worth the

read or the money spent to buy it!!!!

Celina says

2.5 stars. Since I've read *Wicked Angel* and *Summer of Two Wishes* I expected Julia London to deliver a great book with this one. Unfortunately, I didn't. But since I have great imagination, I still liked (barely) it.

Jack and Lizzie have been handfasted, meaning they're married for a year and a day. I would have thought that there would be saucy, sharp-tongue, witty quarrels between the two but somehow I just got frustrated with Lizzie's hard headedness.

Jack. I imagined him soooooo hot in my mind. He could have been written more sensually. I don't know why JL failed to do that. Nevertheless, I liked his traits. He was definitely a rogue but he doesn't even try to kiss Lizzie much during the first times. I had hoped that they would have a blazing first time but you know, again, it was not delivered by JL.

I also find it weird to read about the involvement of the Prince of Wales but apparently, the series runs around him.

So, this book was just ok for me.

Miranda Davis says

Got bogged down halfway, what with all the "when the year is up I'm outta here talk between H/h. Background, discussed in depth elsewhere I'm sure, the H/h are by hook and crook hand-fastened for a year and forced to live as man and wife to satisfy her father for his own nefarious reasons. There was plenty of mutual antagonism between H/h, tho' he was less inflexible than she, but neither really rang my bells. And the chemistry felt off somehow.

I've read other Highland stories by JL and recall liking them so it could be this premise and how the 'romance' unfolded or failed to. H/h are working at cross purposes. Her goal was to marry well in London but after hand-fasting, she's damaged goods in the marriage mart; he's trying not to have his neck stretched by a vengeful Prince Regent convinced he might've had an affair with his wife (not true but others under suspicion have been hung for treason already). Her father holds his life in his hands. Hero has the incentive and pressure to fulfill the father's demands that the hand-fasting be real, she doesn't give a shit who she hurts, she's not going to cooperate.

Sigh. Hero's not that big a shit to deserve her attitude. How they end up in love I'll never know because there wasn't a hint of it halfway into the damned book. And I didn't much like the heroine. I did like the heroine's paralyzed sister and her guard Newton. That was a sweet, sincerely touching romance. But very tertiary.

Ilze says

Not a keeper, unfortunately. The story and the characters are very appealing, but the story lacks flow and the

characters are undeveloped. I didn't feel emotionally connected with any of the characters at any point, but this could and should have worked so beautifully given the raw materials of the story. The book could use a lot of revision and editing to tighten it up and deepen the characters.
