



The King's Mistress

Sandy Blair

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"The long way home could be the shortest road to ruin. "

The king of Scotland is in a snit. Which means Britt MacKinnon, proud captain of the king's guard, has an onerous task: fetch Alexander's favorite paramour back to the royal bed "now." Never mind that the crown should be about the business of getting a legitimate heir. Especially since England's Edward I would love nothing more than to seize an empty Scottish throne.

When the handsome soldier appears on her doorstep, Geneen Armstrong has to think quickly. Her twin lies abed in her cottage, pregnant with the king's bastard. If the barren queen learns the truth, the foolish girl's life won't be worth a farthing.

She must somehow transform her graceless, plain-spoken self into her vivacious, talented sister. Then, after the court is convinced she carries no child, use her herbal knowledge to sour the king's taste for her sister's company for good.

By the time Britt realizes this unusually articulate, ungodly stubborn woman is the "wrong" woman, tendrils of attraction have already tightened into a bond. A bond that will be tested when the king's unexpected death puts Scotland's very destiny at stake and unleashes an ever-tangling web of court intrigues, secrets and lies.

Warning: Men in kilts, Scottish accents and a feisty heroine contained herein. A more perfect historical romance does not exist. "

The King's Mistress Details

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From Reader Review The King's Mistress for online ebook

Sandy M says

Well, as far as this reader is concerned, Kensington/Zebra made a huge blunder when they decided not to continue with Sandy Blair's Castle Blackstone series a few years ago. Their loss is Samhain's gain. I'm excited Ms. Blair's books are back on the shelves, so to speak, this time around in ebook so more readers can enjoy her work. Instead of her humor-filled Scottish paranormal romances, we get a lovely story woven into and around the fabric of Scottish history.

Britt MacKinnon is King Alexander's captain of the guard and has been sent to fetch Greer Armstrong, his sire's favorite bed partner, back to Edinburgh Castle for the King to continue with his bedroom antics, which he should be participating in with his queen so that Scotland will not be caught without an heir. So instead of taking what opportunities he can to keep the man on the straight and narrow, Britt finds himself on horseback galloping across country toward a woman he never really liked during the time she spent at the castle.

In the meantime, Geneen, Greer's twin sister, has just learned that Greer is carrying the heir to the throne. Knowing Greer's life would be in jeopardy if the queen ever found out about her condition, Gen believes the only way to make everything right and safe is to pretend to be her twin, convince the court she is not pregnant, which won't be difficult since Gen isn't with child, and then hightail it to Ireland, which is where she's sending Greer to have the babe and keep them both out of harm's way.

That's when the knock on the door comes and Britt enters her life, though he doesn't realize he has the wrong woman in tow when they begin their trek back to the King. And that's what I love about Ms. Blair's characters - they're intelligent and they work things out without having to be smacked over the head. Britt is a wee bit confused why he's suddenly attracted to this woman, when he wanted nothing to do with her before. Something isn't quite right where this Greer is concerned, things just don't add up. By the time they reach the castle, he has it all figured out, and he's the only one who knows what Gen is up to and why she's doing it.

Though Gen's plan sounds good and may work, as life is wont to do, things just don't go as she wants. It's the Queen she has to fear, lies and deceit and immediately being thrown into the dungeon without anyone's knowledge. Fortunately, Britt figures out what's happened and knows he has to be diligent in watching over Gen while she's at the castle. But it's only the beginning of the Queen's machinations while trying to save herself from being tossed away like leftover garbage from breakfast, now that she's on her own with only a few loyal servants to help her. While I can understand her angst and wanting to keep her life as she knows it, I just couldn't bring myself to sympathize with her, even knowing she's a real character from history. Or maybe that's why I didn't side with her, a real person going to such lengths and then some when she is no longer entitled to her station, especially the depth of her lies. Although I know a person did what they had to in her day and age. Still doesn't sit well.

Therefore, as you can now guess, I'm usually not one who likes to read books dealing with an historical timeline and its characters. I mean, there's only so much you can do with that history, especially if the story is following real people. Ms. Blair has chosen to weave Britt and Geneen into all the actual facts surrounding King Alexander and Scottish politics of the time, and she does it so very successfully. I enjoyed these two characters from the beginning. Once they trust each other, the attraction truly begins, and the romance between them is fraught with danger, but they hold steady as long as possible before the past does what the Queen fails to do.

I like that Britt faces that past head on, after realizing he can't leave Gen behind, no matter where his life is headed. He needs her. Going home to face the family he hasn't seen in years is more difficult than he'd ever thought, but he's determined to tie up all loose ends to bring Geneen into his life permanently. And, let me tell you, Britt is in for one heck of a welcome home, nothing left as it was when he walked away years before.

This is a wonderfully written and very romantic story. Ms. Blair has a keen knack for detail and dialogue, leading you straight into 13th century Scotland like you belong there. Her characters talk the talk and walk the walk, never misstepping to pull the reader out of the story to question what's going on. They are charming and strong-willed characters who will pull you into their lives right off the bat, giving you the opportunity to see firsthand how they live, love, and survive with determination and pride, never relinquishing hold of their integrity.

If you've not read Sandy Blair before now, you're just in time to enjoy one very talented Scottish historical author.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

Eskimo Princess Jenkins says

I was really taken with this story. I mean what's not to like when a handsome soldier comes to retrieve the King's mistress back to court only to discover that he has grabbed her twin instead!

They may look alike, but once you are around Geneen for more than five minutes, you know she is not Greer (the King's Mistress). As Britt continues to take Geneen to court he falls for her, as much as he disliked her sister and Geneen falls in love with him.

So this story takes on a journey of love, betrayal, and traveling alone as a lady to find her sister. Learning other secrets of the court proves somewhat interesting as well.

But I love how Ms. Blair put so much History and detail into the story. I loved the extra History lesson, when the king died and they had the funeral and processional.

If you are a Historical Romance fan, then this book is a definite must!

Rusty says

Thoroughly enjoyed this book - the characters, the story and everything else about it. I will be looking for more books from Ms. Blair.

Tara Chevrestt says

Really like the heroine in this one. She's spunky and a go-getter and also strives to protect those she loves. The hero...nice to come across a strong, sexy knight that isn't establishing his dominance or manliness at every page. He's comfortable in his own skin and an overall good guy. The back and forth banter is fun. The writing itself really placed me back in time and the story is rich in history with fun facts thrown in.

I have some quibbles, however:

The prose was weird and hard to adjust to. Though I respect the author was staying true to Scottish brogue, it was a bit much at times and often I did a double take and had to reread things.

"And who kenned, mayhap she and their bairns might even become a force in bridging the rift twixt Britt and his father."

"As you lust" was another phrase constantly appearing. I got what it meant, but it bugged me as a reader nevertheless.

And some turns in the story didn't make sense to me. WHY would Britt leave her in the queen's chambers knowing the woman wanted her dead?

The scenario when he goes home to his father's to deal with a person I shall not mention because it's a spoiler, the outcome of his visit, the...convenience was...too convenient.

Read the rest on Book Babe: <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2013/...>

Beverly Diehl says

Identical twins, mistaken identity. Men in kilts. Secret baby.

If you're like me, you have had it up to your neck with these tropes, and think about passing. Don't. This is an excellent book.

Greer Armstrong has been the mistress of the King of Scots. Following a lovers' quarrel, she's returned to the village home she shares with her sister Geneen. She's pregnant, but although some courtiers suspect she might be, nobody knows for sure.

Problem: King Alexander's Queen, Yolanda, has not yet given birth to an heir, and this was an era (circa 1285) when it wasn't unusual for bastard sons to inherit the Scottish throne. If the Queen knew, of a certainty, that Greer was carrying the King's bastard... her thugs are likely to ensure that neither babe nor mother lives very long.

When the King sends Britt MacKinnon to bring Greer back to Court, her twin sister Geneen decides to go in her place. Her plan (and it IS her plan, since Greer is too busy retching her guts out) is to go back to Court as Greer, contrive a way to stay on the margins, just long enough to ensure that all the gossips know "Greer" has had her period, and then skedaddle home, while Greer heads to Ireland to the safekeeping of a distant relative.

During the journey back to Edinburgh, Britt catches on. He couldn't stand Greer, and he soon realizes the woman he's attracted to is NOT Greer, after all. Romance and lust ensue, along with complications, when King Alexander dies unexpectedly.

Geneen is a strong, resourceful, lusty and vulnerable heroine. Britt is sexy in a kilt, of course, but also both strong and protective, and bedeviled by his own demons. I had no idea where the author was going to take

this book, but I very much enjoyed being along for the ride.

Suzanne says

We've waited a long time for the next Scottish Historical by Sandy Blair and the result has well been worth the wait!

THE KING'S MISTRESS is classic Blair story-telling at its finest. She transports the reader back to a time in Scottish history full of intrigue and danger. The hero, Britt MacKinnon is Blair's trademark sexy, strong and very honorable Scotsman trying to keep his country from blowing apart under the machinations of other lairds and the king himself. When he's sent to fetch the king's favorite mistress back to court, he complies, but none too happily. It isn't until he's on the road with the wench that he discovers several things. First, that he's attracted to the young woman and secondly, that the woman he's escorting isn't the king's mistress, but her twin sister.

As always, Ms. Blair not only engulfs you in the court intrigue and history of Scotland, but her characters make you laugh, cry and root for them to find a love neither ever dreamed they'd have.

If you've missed any of Ms. Blair's other stories, start discovering this fabulous author with THE KING'S MISTRESS!

Cindy says

This book is not out yet but i have enjoyed some of the authors books before and i love time traveling Scot's though this book is not in the line of time travel because i know her writing i am sure that it will be wonderful

Russ Remley says

"The King's Mistress" was a surprise. It's title quite misleading!

The setting was Scotland in thirteenth century, identical twin sisters were beautiful in appearance, however their personality differences create the story.

I liked the plot with its well developed characters and story. The King's is central to the plot, appearing only briefly

Jaime says

Review from www.FreshFiction.com

Britt MacKinnon must follow the orders of his King even if he does not like it. When he is told to fetch the King's favorite mistress from her family home, Britt makes the journey even though he knows the King's time is best spent in the bed of his new wife. The person he finds at the small farm looks like the beautiful paramour but acts like a different person entirely. It doesn't take him long to discover that his initial suspicion was correct.

Geneen Armstrong has a family problem that only she can solve. Her twin sister has found herself with child by the King of Scotland. She knows that if the pregnancy is ever discovered her sister's life, and her own will be in jeopardy. Only solution is to travel to the royal court and pretend to be her flirtatious sister until it is evident that she is not with child. What Geneen did not expect is to fall head over heals for the dashing knight who was to escort her to court.

The King's Mistress is a wonderful story of mistaken identity, chivalry, and the power of attraction. Blair uses a classic historical plot and throws in twists and turns that are unexpected. The powerful presence for the leading man takes your breath away and leaves you craving another scene. The strong heroine makes you love her for everything she is willing to do for her family. She tries to handle situations on her own but is flawible and tends to find herself in a position of needing rescuing. The leads make a perfect pair and leave the reader cheering them on through out the story. They grow as individuals through out the story as well as into a couple that is stronger when together. The ending shows that you can have your happily ever after and still handle any situation that may arise. I would suggest this story to any historical fiction lover.

Serenity says

Liked an idea of this book since selfless sacrificing heroine and protective heroes are BIG YES for me. Liked heroine even more after I read how she disapprove her sister's act with the king.

Characters are described well enough.

Only thing that disappointed me was the ending. I was hoping for longer one. I was hoping to read how they are settled down with their children. As other books there was a scene of her giving a birth at the end. But it didn't feel enough to me. And seeing her daughter would have trouble with walking as his first child, Ian, it made my heart break for them.

In conclusion, it was worth hours I spent reading.

Leah says

I had been wanting to read this for a long time and haven't been let down in the reading. Britt MacKinnon goes to fetch the king's mistress only to find he's taken the wrong woman. He's taken her twin whom he finds captivating.

Geneen has taken the place of her twin sister, who is pregnant with the king's child and gone into hiding, to prove to the court that there is no child which will take her sister and the child out of harms way. She has never believed in love but finds herself questioning all her beliefs as she comes to love this brawn knight who has taken her.

Along the way they face treachery and heartache before they find truth in love. Sandy Blair did a wonderful

job of taking me into medieval Scotland's court and into the world of two characters who I enjoyed immensely! I felt pain at the truths Britt was withholding and plain joy when he was free of it.

Contains lots of laughter also. Huge selling point for me!

Emily says

Wonderful read.

Raelene says

The King's Mistress by Sandra Blair

I was fortunate to meet the author, and obtain a signed copy of this book. Sandy Blair is known for her Scottish romance novels with paranormal elements, and let us not forget her keen wit. I found this story to be very different; this story takes us deep into Scottish history and is a fast paced adventure, with amazing plot twists.

Britt MacKinnon is King Alexander's captain of the guard and is fetching Greer Armstrong, King Alexander's favorite paramour back to the royal bed. Greer is not happy about this as he would like the King to work on getting a legitimate heir to the throne with his French Queen.

Enter Geneen, the twin sister of the Kings paramour, Greer, who is pregnant with the Kings illegitimate child. The story unfolds as the sisters plot to fool the King and switch places.

I highly recommend this book; particularly if you like romantic histories, and love to read about characters with whom you can get deeply involved. Sandy Blair weaves a brilliant love story, centered around court intrigue and betrayal. I give it 4 stars!

Marilyn Rondeau says

Scotland's King Alexander has sent Britt MacKinnon, his captain of the guard, to fetch Greer Armstrong, his sovereigns' favorite mistress to continue to appease his insatiable sexual appetite, which by rights he should be participating in with his queen so that Scotland would soon have a legal heir to the throne. But being the stalwart soldier he was, Britt found himself galloping across country toward a woman he never liked during the time she spent at the castle.

At the same time, Geneen, Greer's identical twin sister, has just learned that Greer is pregnant with the heir to the throne. Understanding that if it were known, Greer and her child would be in danger from the queen, Geneen devises a plan to whisk Greer out of the country to Ireland where both she and her babe would be safe. However, a knock on the door was about to foul up Geneen's entire plan.

*** First of all this was a wonderful read where the author gave you a little bit of everything, fiction woven around actual historical events which is exactly the way I like it, served up with humor and sensuality during a time period when betrayals and murders were the normal everyday occurrence in trying to wrest power from one side to the other.

I loved how Ms. Blair crafted Geneen who was not at all like her pampered sister. Hardly, Geneen bore calluses on her hands from hard work, walked with purpose rather than floating on air as Greer did; and most of all, most people liked her. Trying to step into Greer's life to prove she was not pregnant with the king's child was the one thing she had to do and prove Greer was NOT pregnant. Then Geneen could leave court immediately and join her sister.

However, Britt MacKinnon was no fool and was immediately aware that Geneen/Greer was not the same woman he'd avoided at the king's castle. She looked the same, but Britt never liked Greer but there was something about this 'Greer' that was definitely likeable! Britt soon figured out that Geneen was an imposter and agreed with her that her sister and babe would be in danger if the truth were known. Ms. Blair went ahead and gave these two a purpose to do their best in keeping that secret, especially after the king's fatal accident. Britt wanted nothing more than to protect and love Geneen, but he bore a terrible secret himself and while he wished he and Geneen could be together, the truth would only tear them apart. [However, if I told you what it was it would spoil the story and I don't give away spoilers!]

Bottom Line: this is a phenomenal read that lovers of historical Scottish romances will love. I highly recommend THE KING'S MISTRESS.

Marilyn Rondeau, for www.ck2skwisandkritiques.com

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.com>...

This story is an interesting mix of honor and lust. Britt MacKinnon starts by trying to make the king honor his marriage vows (at least until there's an heir) when the king prefers to give into lust. Britt is sent to fetch the king's favorite mistress, Lady Greer Armstrong.

Greer has already given into lust. Now she and sister Genny are trying to do the safe, yet dishonorable (or is it honorable?) thing of keeping the king from finding out about the resultant pregnancy. To save Greer and the child, Genny believes she is doing the honorable thing in pretending to be Greer. Honor vs dishonor. Lust vs fidelity. Britt striving to force honor and fidelity on his king by leading the king's mistress astray. It's a very interesting premise, further complicated by the king's actions and the queen's plans.

Britt and Genny's relationship was initially a nice juxtaposition of a moral couple and a bunch of immoral couples in an immoral society. Unfortunately, it didn't pan out. I became frustrated when Genny and Britt make the same mistakes as Greer and the king, proving that, despite being supposedly more honorable, they were no better than those they criticized.

There were some interesting plot twists that could have yielded a very intriguing story, but just when things should have heated up and become interesting, the complications resolved themselves. Any one of the

dilemmas, if fully developed, could have resulted in a wonderful tension-rich book. All of them in a row, combined with the too easy, unrealistic resolutions, yielded something that was merely good.

Ms. Blair has the talent to paint wonderful scenes, set up interesting dilemmas, and create (at least initially) strong characters. The historical aspects of this book were wonderful, giving the reader a definite feel of time and place. I loved how Ms. Blair started each chapter with an old Scottish proverb.

Ms. Blair has wonderful writing skill, and I'll be on the lookout for more of her works. *The King's Mistress* was a good read that I largely enjoyed and if you're a fan of historical romance, you might, too.
