



## To Wed A Highlander

*Michele Sinclair*

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**To Wed A Highlander** Michele Sinclair  
**AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE...**

Makenna Dunstan has never needed a man's protection before. But when her father's failing health places the safety of the clan in her hands, she has no choice but to marry Colin McTiernay. Fearing the emotions Colin awakens within her, she finds herself succumbing too easily to his lingering kisses and warm caresses. Yet she wonders if she can truly trust this highlander who is quickly stealing her heart...

**IGNITES AN INSATIABLE DESIRE...**

A highlander from birth, Colin McTiernay knows the Dunstan clan dislikes him, especially the laird's youngest daughter. But he is determined to save the lowlanders from their enemies even if that means marrying the willful and impetuous Makenna. Taming this fierce tigress will be a challenge that Colin is confident he can meet by seducing Makenna—and tantalizing her with a passion that will only leave her begging for more...

**Praise for Michele Sinclair and *The Highlander Bride***

"Sensual and humorous, a winning combination that everyone can enjoy." --Hannah Howell, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Readers will be satisfied with her feisty heroine and alpha male hero, who engages in a battle of wills guaranteed to delight." --*Romantic Times*

## To Wed A Highlander Details

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## Dianne says

To Wed a Highlander by- Michele Sinclair

This was a very different book, at least to me. The premise is that these two people need to marry to save a Lowland clan. This is a common premise, that of the forced marriage at least on one person's part, what is uncommon to me is the male protagonist was married to the female protagonist's sister before she died. Colin loved her very much. And, it wasn't something that he kept quietly to himself. WE did hear a lot about his late wife, but you will soon see that these reminiscences are germane to the story.

Makenna is not the 'normal' type of woman of her times. She doesn't know how to be a 'lady' or to run a castle. She rides, she spars and she fights. She happens to do all of that better than some soldiers. She is taking a lot of opposition from many of her clan members for marrying someone who is not one of them and these dissenters are showing their displeasure.

Of course she had also (sort of) promised (sort of) herself to a neighboring laird who is quite evil. Colin is taking his role as the new Laird of the Dunstan clan quite seriously. He feels passion for his new wife but not much else. Soon he has to defend himself to his new clan; he has to investigate just who is doing many cruel things to his people and he needs to ignite the passion that he knows is within his new wife.

Soon Colin and Makenna are both trying to please each other and to learn compromise as they battle the enemies both without and within their castles walls.

This is another relationship driven story, but out of all of the books I've read by this author, it is the first one that has action throughout the whole story. There is a very interesting and action packed conclusion to this book.

This is a steamy and interesting read. I have found that the author is quite good at keeping things from us and she waits until the proper time in the story to have the greatest impact on the reader. What some may be considering being dues ex machine tactics is simple clever plotting on the author's part. I love these books and am hoping that the author will keep writing from this time period.

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## Cherie says

This is one of my go-to books when I'm in a certain mood. I don't know how to describe the mood but this is the book for it. I first read it early in my historical romance reading career and it has all the elements I look for in a good romance.

1. An interesting, intelligent heroine who is stubborn enough to maintain her sense of self but not so stubborn as to border or become petulant or stupid.
2. A hero with strength of body and sensitivity. Colin is wary of loving Makenna because he fears losing those he loves but he quickly overcomes his fear and jumps in. Very realistic.

3. Realistic. I prefer a story in which the odds being overcome are realistic and not artificially contrived.
4. I want to feel the emotions being written. If the heroine or hero realizes they are in love I want to realize it also.
5. Action. I like a story that keeps moving.

There you have it. A five star historical Scottish romance. According to me.

08/16/2016: Good Comfort Read.

August 2018: Mood over.

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### **Monica says**

I loved the first book in this series and knew I would like this one as well, however I think so far this one is my fav. The relationship Colin and Makenna were so perfect for each other! I had every emotion known throughout the book. Can't wait to read the next!

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### **Sha Mslvoe says**

Blown away with Makenna and Colin. What I loved about this book – there's no misunderstanding, just a love between the couple. The passion and romance, WOW makes me a lot more eager to dig in. I know it's a good book when I didn't want it to end.

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### **Meg Kinch says**

To protect the safety of her clan, Makenna Dunstan must marry her dead sister's husband, Colin McTiernay. I found this book very enjoyable from the beginning confrontation to the end battle. There were many ups and downs with this book and I found Michele Sinclair executed the story beautifully. My only contention that I didn't give it five stars was the continual mention of Colin's first love and Makenna's "perfect" sister, Deirdre Dunstan/McTiernay. I found that it continued to wittle down and belittle Makenna's fiery nature and wild side. Makenna was the perfect tomboy turned castle lady in this book. I found that while she grew out of her wild ways and became lady of the manor, she didn't seem to lose her outspokenness unless Colin mentioned his first love or her beloved clan accused her of betraying them and following a Highlander.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a typical Highland romance. It has just enough romance to satisfy those burning for that and also enough conflict to intrigue.

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### **Becca says**

I will begin by saying that this book has many flaws; however, because of my vast enjoyment and inability to

put the book down, I am still choosing to give it 5 stars. I'm still thinking about Makenna and Colin and can't wait to revisit them in other books.

The story opens with Makenna Dunstan and Colin McTiernay entering an arranged marriage in order to save the Dunstan clan and make Colin, an "outsider" from the Highlands, laird of the lowland Dunstan clan. Both are resistant to the marriage, but on the night before the wedding, they unwittingly discover an incendiary attraction to the other. After the wedding neither looked back and I LOVED this. Some authors make the characters rebel against this situation and draw out the unnecessary angst, but Sinclair spared me that for which I am grateful :)

Now, let me warn you, there is some cheesiness here, especially at the beginning. What I mean by cheesiness is the "grand passion" trope that is found mostly in older novels. Makenna and Colin have been supposedly at odds with each other for two years, but then, because of one kiss, suddenly understand each other's deepest desires and trust each other. The sex scenes also start early in this book (there had to be 6-7 of them); at first, I was rolling my eyes at the drama and corny lines, but they got better after the first one and despite their frequency, they didn't detract from my enjoyment of the story. In fact, I think Sinclair put them in there on purpose. Makenna and Colin both have deep insecurities, but from the beginning, their attraction to each other prevents them from holding anything back. Despite the over-the-top beginning, I could see the slow development of a solid marital foundation through intimacy, private time together, and physical honesty.

Tomboyish, athletic Makenna is worried that she cannot be like her beautiful, serene sister (Colin's first wife who dies from poor health) and large, passionate Colin is afraid to love and lose again. These characters have flashes of insight about each other, but this insecurity about love threads through the entire book. At first, it was not clear why these walls existed, but as the story progressed, we find out with Makenna and Colin that not everything is as it seems and perhaps their marriage can be better than they ever imagined. I do not want to say more here just in case you read it, but I loved how Sinclair reveals how perception can be very different from the truth. Here is an example of Colin's insight about his wife that cracked me up:

***Women can be the most sensible and logical beings in the universe, but drag them into a discussion when they are not in the mood, and watch irrationality explode.***

Haha this is so perfect. While Colin has the overbearing attitude of a typical alpha male character, he relishes Makenna's fiery spirit and athleticism. He is proud of how she can handle a sword and has full faith in her ability to learn anything she needs to know to run a keep and lead. He doesn't communicate this belief well and Makenna struggles to find her place of fitting in and at one point, draws into herself and tries to become the wife she thinks Colin wants. This was a heartbreaking part of the book and it enables Colin to finally understand what he really wants.

***Her newly submissive nature was driving him mad. He hated it, and he wanted it to stop. Never did he realize how much Makenna's spirit made everyone, including him, come alive. He needed her passion and fire; he depended upon it.***

And that, right there, is why I loved this book. Colin and Makenna do not quite fit in and struggle with finding their place, but when it comes down to it, they are perfect just as they are and throughout the course of the story, the both figure that out and *finally* figure out a way to communicate it. I think Colin, despite his overbearing ways, communicates their bond best:

***It is one thing to rely on someone to save your life, but it's another to trust someone with the***

*quality of your life. The latter takes a far greater leap of faith. You gave that to me, almost from the very beginning. Without it, I don't know if I would ever have had the courage to love again.*

This emphasis on trust was a vital part of the book and I liked how this theme threaded throughout. It made the entire story feel more epic and the love more long-lasting.

Since this is a Scottish romance, there is, of course, clan feuds going on. Sinclair includes a surprising amount of historical detail and dives into specifics about army training, negotiation between clans, and battles. I usually find this boring, but in this story, I found it fascinating. It never took over the story, and it didn't bother me at all to jump between the heads of the characters and see what activities they were up to when they weren't together. Now, Colin does not communicate his battle plans to his wife. And while I think she would have been able to handle it, I do not think that expecting him to share this with Makenna would have been realistic for the time period. He shares other parts of himself and trusts her implicitly. This was enough for me, but it may bother other readers.

As you can probably tell from my long review, I really enjoyed this book. It is certainly not perfect for the following reasons:

- Cheesiness: the characters have a grand passion from the get-go and some of the early sex scenes are corny and have some purple prose going on.
- Misunderstandings: Colin and Makenna have some misunderstandings that could have been solved by simply talking to each other.
- Jumping into many characters' heads: Sometimes you would get into 3-4 different characters' heads during the course of a single scene.
- Lots of sex scenes: Colin and Makenna have a very physical relationship and we see them together a lot more than is probably necessary.

Ok, so now that I have warned you just in case some of these flaws are unforgivable sins for you, let me tell you, for me, none of the flaws mattered. This story was epic, consuming, and pure fun to read. I wanted to see Makenna succeed with being a lady of the keep; I wanted to see Colin's grand strategy work; I wanted to see the resentful clan finally humbled in a huge way; and I wanted Colin to be brought to his knees by soul-searing love. And guess what? I got it all. 5 stars.

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## **Nancy says**

Good book, I liked the characters of Colin and Makenna as a couple. But, maybe I've read too many Highlander romances, and some of the plots are just sounding the same: Highland couple gets married, one or both of them don't really want to marry the other, the heroine happens to enjoy things that a man would normally do (sword fighting, riding horses, etc) her husband initially forbids it, the clan doesn't think she will be able to be a good "lady of the keep", the heroine rolls her sleeves up and tries to fix the place up and get people to like her (which always seems to happen when her husband is away for a while). There always happens to be a laird of a rival clan, who is maniacally evil, who will always catch the heroine, but she will always be saved by the Hero, or by the fact that she actually knows how to use a sword..... does this sound familiar?

That said, it was still a heart warming read, and I know I will still be addicted to the Highlander romance genre for the foreseeable future, repetitive, predictable plots or not. Just too much darn fun to read!

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## **Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says**

LOVE OR LUST!!

Laird Alexander Dunstan is dying and he needs a strong Highland Warrior to wed his youngest daughter Makenna. Colin McTiernay was married 2yrs before to Laird Alexanders other daughter and McKenna older sister Deirdre. She died from a weak constitution 9 months past. Laird Alexanders Klan is a weak one and Colin has been training them to be great warriors for the past 2yrs. He wants Colin to become Laird when he dies, so he marries the younger daughter MaKenna to Colin. Herein lies the problem with the story. Colin loves his first wife. Deirdre the deceased wife is the elephant in the room and she is mentioned way to much. The relationship with MacKenna and Colin is compared to much with the relationship with Colin and Deirdre. The author does a pretty good job of developing a relationship between Colin and MaKenna and the sex is Hot, but theirs always that nagging 3rd person in there relationship, slightly keeping them apart. They do get their HEA and story moves fast and kept me entertained. Michele Sinclair has all the makings for a 5 star author, it she learns to apply what appeals and doesn't appeal to most HR readers or any romance readers. Don't bring up the ex and compare with the current partner.

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## **Duchess Nicole says**

I'm giving this two stars because I know that some people like really cheesy romance. I love romance, but the cliché' lines in this one were just too much for me. I wanted to gag. Here's the one that made me laugh and cringe:

" Her mouth finally free, Makenna asked, "Colin, what's happening? I don't know what's wrong with me. My body feels to be on fire, and yet I crave more."

Snort! Please. The dude was also married to her sister first. That may be another huge no-no for me. No boinking of your sibling's husband! Gross! I don't even have a sister, and I know that one! I hate to give bad reviews, and I hate giving low ratings. I usually try to find something I like. So I will say this: Ms. Sinclair seems to at least be knowledgeable about the time period. The setting and customs of the people in the story are realistic, other than the romantic side of it.

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## **Kathleen says**

I really loved this story. It started off that the H&H could not stand each other. While the story moved along and they realized how very right they were together I could really feel the love building. I loved the way they stood up for each other against all odd's. The love scenes were very well done and plenty of heat through out the book.

After finishing this book there is only one thing for me to do and that is continue on with the next book in this series, Desiring The Highlander.

P.S, thank you Kris for recommending this series to me.

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## Debby "Piene Raven" says

(Audiobook Review)

To Wed a Highlander is the second in the McTierney series. I really enjoyed this story as it dealt with two strong-minded individuals who could not tolerate each other. McKenna has never been asked to act like a "lady" in all her upbringing. She for the most part is a tom-boy who loves to wield a sword and everything that the men do in the Keep. Colin, her brother-in-law gave his heart to her sister but never knew the meaning of true love between a man and woman. He is overbearing and very arrogant. Although these two have been thrown together for the sake of the Dunstan Clan and wish of her dying father, they gradually grow to love one another and find their HEA through much soul searching.

Again, it is during an era when pigheaded men think the only women are good for is staying in the castle doing what women are supposed to do...take care of the house. I did however, love the banter and the passion as in quite a few highlander books I've read. This is a good romance novel with sexy Scottish brothers as heroes and their strong-willed women beside them. Didn't hurt to have a blue-eyed hunk on this cover edition. Oh and Anne Flosnik's narration was very nice too.

4.5 Stars.

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## Julie (jjmachshev) says

"To Wed a Highlander" was my second read by Michele Sinclair. This historical reminded me of a Harlequin historical, but with added length and oomph. There's good guys and bad guys and relationship problems, light drama, and really hot sex!

Makenna is the wild child of the four daughters of the Dunstan Laird. She's also her father's favorite, so when her father asks her to marry her dead sister's husband, she's outraged. Colin is overbearing and arrogant...and he loved her dear dead sister Deirdre who was the opposite of everything Makenna is. Can she really give up all chance at love for the sake of her clan?

Colin doesn't give his promises easily, and he won't break them once he does. Of course, when he promised to marry Makenna at Deirdre's deathbed, he never really thought he'd actually have to do it. Makenna is wild and undisciplined, interested in weapons and fighting...how can she ever make a proper Laird's wife? Colin just can't decide what to do...until he kisses her. Now he's fighting another battle, this one to keep from caring too much.

Two strong-willed characters who must learn to compromise and lean on each other. I loved it. Reading about the two of them with their fiery tempers and passion kept me warm on a cold winter's day!

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## Megan says

This was so much better than I thought it was going to be.



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## Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

To Wed A Highlander is the second book in the McTiernay's series, which is a series on a family of seven brothers, all highlanders and these are their stories. So in this story we have an arranged marriage trope which is AWESOME in a highlander romance because boy these two do NOT like each other at all.

So our tale begins when a dying laird of the Dunston clan makes a decree that his daughter will need to marry Colin McTiernay in order to protect the clan. They are a lowlander clan and don't exactly have fond thoughts of Colin. Colin was married to one of Makenna's older sisters but when she passed away Colin became a widower and now if Colin wants to be laird and if Makenna wants to do what is best for her clan, she will need to marry Colin. Makenna has an adventurous spirit, she loves to ride, hunt and fight with a sword but Colin is a bit overprotective and is always worried she will hurt herself and it's just not something women do. But Makenna has never felt comfortable being indoors and doing what other women do, and she has never fit in to that. So even though Makenna hates how strict Colin can be at times, she agrees to marry him because she knows it's the right thing to do and when he kisses her she feels passion for the first time in her life and wonders what she could have with Colin. Makenna also is dealing with quite a few self-doubts about herself, especially in comparing herself to her sister. Now Colin cared for his first wife but he never truly in depth loved her with a passion, but he feels more with Makenna than he ever did with her sister.

But there is more going on than just Colin and Makenna getting to know each other and learn one another. There is a great danger with a rival clan, whose laird is obsessed with Makenna. And the clan doesn't trust Colin and so we have some that don't care too much for their "new" laird and so we see a built up of a plot dealing with some intrigue and betrayals. I really felt that this side plot definitely worked for the story and for the romance. It really helped bring Colin and Makenna together in the right ways, and we see that Makenna may not always "like" Colin, but she trusts him and is loyal to him even in the beginning of their marriage. What I found most fascinating with this book was seeing these two go from hating each other to truly loving one another. Now I wouldn't say that "hate" each other exactly, but there is definite tension which really builds up that sexual connection they have going on.

I was actually really impressed with the heat level of this story, because it was more than I normally see in historical's to be honest. And I loved that it was more steamy than lighter. And yeah the chemistry that these two is off the charts and even though there is quite a few sex scenes, I feel like it really adds to the story and I felt like Sinclair just makes it work so well. We also get to see the couple from book one and I loved seeing them again and made me want to read book one (which I read a few years back) and I am so thrilled that I can connect with this fun dynamic family.

Another aspect that I truly admired was the authenticity of the culture and the era, I honestly loved all the details that this author showed, and enough details that I wanted to grab a map of Scotland, LITERALLY I felt I had fallen into this book and there were so many vivid portrayals of the scenery and seeing the culture and differences between the lowlanders and the highlanders and I felt that Sinclair did a superb job in her research because her style is one of the reasons why I read highlander romances so much.

So seriously if you love a rich detailed highland romance with a sexy Scot as your hero and a strong-willed heroine....GRAB this series up!!

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### **Clarice says**

Makenna Dunstan and Colin McTienay must come together to over come dislike and hate, to make a strong clan. The Highlander and a lowlander have to make this work, or all of their enemies will win. In this process they find something special for the both of them.

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