



# **The Highland Duke**

*Amy Jarecki*

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**She'll put her life on the line for him . . .**

When Akira Ayres finds the brawny Scot with a musket ball in his thigh, the healer has no qualms about doing whatever it takes to save his life. Even if it means fleeing with him across the Highlands to tend to his wounds while English redcoats are closing in. Though Akira is as fierce and brave as any of her clansmen, even she's intimidated by the fearsome, brutally handsome Highlander who refuses to reveal his name.

**Yet she can never learn his true identity.**

Geordie knows if Akira ever discovers he's the Duke of Gordon, both her life and his will be forfeit in a heartbeat. The only way to keep the lass safe is to ensure she's by his side day and night. But the longer he's with her, the harder it becomes to think of letting her go. Despite all their differences, despite the danger-he will face death itself to make her his . . .

## The Highland Duke Details

Date : Published March 28th 2017 by Forever

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Author : Amy Jarecki

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# From Reader Review The Highland Duke for online ebook

**Brittain \*The Baddest Female\* says**

**DNF at 65%**

The Duke was too bossy. The girl was too dumb. The ex-wife is trash. No other nice characters. #overit

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**Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

The Highland Duke 'The Highland Duke' by Amy Jarecki is book One in the "Lords of the Highlands" series. This is the story of Akira and Gordon 'Geordie'. Geordie is a Duke who is in danger and has been shot. When Akira finds him he talks her into helping him and then offers to pay her if she can get him a horse. Geordie needs to get away as fast as he can. Akira is a gypsy healer of sorts who finds Geordie and tries to help him. When they are discovered by Redcoats they take off together. Geordie knows that Akira saved his life and he needs to keep her safe. Akira is just a commoner along with her family. Their family is nothing in the eyes of her village, but she tries her best to help them and others. Geordie being a Duke knows that anything that comes of Akira and his attraction couldn't lead to marriage due to her being a commoner. But with lines like this: (Akira)'Stop' she said with a gasp, her fists showing up between them. 'Why is it I have so much difficulty resisting you?' (Geordie) 'Believe me, lass I am the one who has been rendered utterly powerless'

Akira was a strong woman who knew her place, had pride and held her virtue as her only great possession. Geordie had a lot to overcome from his past but he was a strong hero. I truly enjoyed watching these two grow and overcome so much. I even loved the secondary characters so much that I hope to see more of them!

"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read." <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/1...>

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<https://www.tumblr.com/blog/romancebo...>

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**Anna says**

Akira and Geordie are the epitome of opposites attract. He's a Duke and she a commoner, he's a rake and she's an innocent. And I loved every minute of them. From their first meeting they were surrounded by danger and it doesn't stop until the last pages. I could feel the danger and fear, the despair and passion. The depth of characters and scenery are impeccable. Great start to this series!

Akira is a gypsy healer. Looked down upon by almost everyone she does her best to help others and change their perception of her and her family. But when she finds this brave highlander with a musket ball in his thigh she knows she must do whatever she can to help. And when the redcoats come she must follow him or be captured.

Geordie or the Duke of Gordon doesn't know what he would have done without her. He would be dead or as good as if she hasn't shown up. And now they must race back home to safety. But he can't let her know his true identity.

As the dangers along the way mount, their affections grow but he knows he would never be allowed to marry a commoner. And she deserves more than just being his mistress. Is there no way to overcome their obstacles and be together?? And when the redcoats catch up and accuse him of treason what will he do to keep her safe?? And will she even be able to forgive him for hiding his identity and lying to her?

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance *Summary*

Akira Ayres, a poor healer while out searching for any wounded after a battle near her home, stumbles across a wounded Scot, that pleads for her help to not only save his life but keep his identity unknown to the "red coats" searching for any traitors. Akira, is a kind hearted woman and couldn't resist helping this man even if it means traveling across the lands of Scotland away from her mother and sisters who need her, to keep this man safe. A man that makes her feel like the most beautiful woman inside and out. A man that awakens feelings of desire that she has never even imagined. Geordie knew that it was a mistake fighting in a war he believed in to bring back the rightful heir to the throne of Scotland once again, but by doing so he put not only himself but his children and their future in jeopardy and he must make it back home with no suspicion tied to his name. He can't ever marry again, but for the first time in his life he wishes he could give Akira his name and protection....but there is more at risk because he might lose more if he doesn't win over her heart for his to keep....

### ***The Hero***

Gordon, "Geordie" has always been loyal to his country but has had to tread carefully all of his life. Geordie may have power and wealth and a title that is highly respected, but he has lost favor with Queen Anne. But Geordie will do anything for his children, despite the fact that their mother demanded a divorce so she could enter the nunnery in France. There was so much to love about this hero. First off, he makes the best highlander especially when you take in account the era this story takes place. He is titled, but he does have to tread very very carefully, because it could be taken from him in a heartbeat. I loved how loyal to his cause he is, especially to those he is over. But we also see his faults too, and see some changes in him especially when he is faced with the aspect of falling in love for the first time.

### ***The Heroine***

Akira is devoted to taking care of her mother and her younger sisters. Akira comes from gypsy heritage, and even though her mother insists they let go of the old ways if they want to survive, we see some hints of it in her character. Akira learns the healing arts from her family, and her healing is what keeps the family afloat but just barely. Akira was a truly wonderful heroine. She is so kind and caring, and is concerned for others above herself and I just loved her nature comes out. And the way she does inspire and motivate others. She doesn't have a mean bone in her body but she also stands up for her values too. We see some personal growth in her character as well especially when it comes to discovering passion and true love.

**The time had passed for teaching the woman about kissing a man, the time had come to show her the power she had over him--the power she could have over any man of her choosing. And, by God, Geordie wanted the object of her desire to him and only him.**

### ***Plot and Story Line***

Oh man, what a story!!! I have only had the opportunity to read this author a couple of times, but each time I have picked her up I am amazed by how wonderful of an author she truly is and she makes highlander romances burst alive in so many ways. In many ways, The Highland Duke brings about so many emotions and feels I honestly didn't know what I was feeling most of the time. And boy can she write some sizzling chemistry that doesn't overshadow the actual emotional intimacy of growth this couple shares with each other.

**"A man could lose himself in those eyes of yours." Her mysterious Highland lord brushed his finger**

**along Akira's chin, sending gooseflesh down the length of her neck. "Let us enjoy the gathering this evening and forget our worries about things to come. For tonight you are a queen and I am a king. The world is ours"**

But what really makes Amy Jarecki stand out is the historical elements. Now, this may not be an aspect for everyone. But I just love it when an author knows her history and knows the culture and take the time to do the proper research needed for a book and it shows in this one. The story sets off with our hero being shot in the thigh and our heroine a 'healer' coming to save his life and not just in one way. Yes, she proves the physical healing but she also helps protect him from those that hunt him. So from the very beginning, we have some levels of intensity and intrigue. The brogue used in the story is well balanced, and easy to follow along and doesn't overwhelm the reader. I just became swept away with this story pretty quickly. Like within two paragraphs I was fully ingrained in the story and didn't want to let go of it. The romance was simply beautiful. The chemistry builds so perfectly. From the beginning, they have a strong connection to each other. And man some of the kisses and more sensual scenes were written so well, "curl your toes" type of scenes that kept you reaching for more.

**"I want to kiss you, lass."**

**Her chin inched up ever so slightly.**

**His hand moved back and cradled her head while his mouth inclined toward her rose petal lips, then lightly brushed his mouth over the most delectable lips in all the world. Her wee moan made a fire hotter than the flames of Hades burn deep and low inside him. Every fiber of his body stirred to life. But the woman in his arms was the young maid who'd saved him. The lass who'd cast aside her doubts to help a wounded man she hardly knew flee from a mob of redcoats. Moreover, the lass cared not an iota about Government of Jacobite agendas. She cared about her family and finding the next meal. Akira wasn't to be taken like a harlot, but to be cherished and savored.**

These two have a long road ahead of them before reaching their happy ever after though. There is the issue of our hero not able to marry unless he gets permission from the Queen who would do anything to see him unhappy. Our heroine really struggles with this. Because she loves him but doesn't want to be seen as his "mistress" even if it would mean her family not living in a hovel or barely making it by to survive. She has an inner battle she fights within herself. Because she is a poor healer who can barely find food to feed her family and the man she has fallen for is a rich and titled Duke, right below royalty. So we see the problems that come with the "opposites attract" scenario here.

**"I prefer you, lass. Your parentage matter not to me. All that matters is you...and me.**

But our hero....Geordie is so wonderful especially when he realizes that he will fight for her heart. I love how he is willing to prove to her he is worthy of her love, and loved the way he wins the hearts of her family too. It does get pretty dramatic and intense toward the end though, and man the ending was heart stopping and pulls at your emotions in a very meaningful way.

### ***The Cover***

What a gorgeous and breathtaking cover....I love the colors and the pretty castle in the backdrop but I love the pose of the male model here. And I love his celtic like tats, and his HAIR.... I love his hair hehe

### ***Overall View***

**The Highland Duke** is a heart stopping and sensually intriguing romance that takes you on an adventure of a lifetime....back to the wilds and dangers of georgian era Scotland. A tale that weaves its way through to your heart and mind and soul....A love story that tugs at your heartstrings! BREATH TAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!!!

**I will always find you. You are in my soul.**

### ***Books N Tunes Reading Challenge***

Pick #8: If I Can't Love Her by Josh Groban

***Click To Buy On Amazon***

[foogallery id="26910"]

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## Miranda (MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It) says

*The Highland Duke* was a fun and romantic read! I love books involving highlanders and this one did not disappoint! This book had action, conflict, steamy romance, and more. *The Highland Duke* was a quick and enjoyable read.

The romance in this book was interesting because the two characters came from different social classes. The male character, Geordie, was a Duke while Akira was a Gypsy/healer. Their social classes acted like a barrier for their romance, so it was interesting to see them overcome those issues. It lead to some secrets being kept, but I was glad those issues were resolved. Their romance was very steamy and sensual. I thought the author did a great job at building chemistry between Akira and Geordie. At first, I thought their romance seemed to be moving too quickly, but luckily, it seemed to slow down. Some of the sexual tension between Geordie and Akira was off the charts!

The plot of this book was fun and action packed. There were a few times when this book felt a bit slower, but it was extremely enjoyable as a whole. I thought the author did a great job balancing mystery, humor, romance, and action throughout the story.

The historical elements that the author included in this book were very lush and detailed. It was obvious the author did a lot of research for this book and it really paid off! I love learning about Scotland and their history, so I was so happy that the author was very detailed. I felt like I was actually in Scotland right next to the characters!

Overall, this book was a lot of fun to read! If you are looking for and Scottish highlander romance with lovable characters, then I would definitely recommend checking out this book!

4 /5 Fangs

*\*This ebook was given to me in exchange for an honest review. \**

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It

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## Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Audible Copy of The Highland Duke

The years is 1703. Which makes a lot of the story of the characters unbelievable for the time period. Akira Ayres is a healer working on the battlefield at Hoord Moor helping wounded English solders and Scottish Jacobite Highlanders. She hears moans coming from the nearby forest and finds Geordie/George

Gordon Duke of Gordon with a musket ball in his thigh. This begins a dash across the Scottish country side to get whom she only knows as Mr. Geordie to safety from the pursuing English Capt. Roderick Weaver and his troops.

The first problem I had was listening to the story on audio. The narration has a male and female narrator Alex Hydewhite and Penelope Hardy. The narrators take turns reading and enacting both the hero Geordie and Akira. It would have been better if Penelope had narrated Akira and the other female characters and Alex narrating the male characters. Alex was just awful his voice was too old and he didn't do the female narration well at all. Switching back and forth the characters became confusing the voice between Penelope and Alex narrating the same characters didn't work. Neither of them had a Scottish Brogue and I am not even sure they had an English Accent for those roles. The Narration was Just Bad.

Now on to the story Not being believable. Geordie is a Duke in Catholic Country Scotland and his wife has "Divorced" him but she won't give up the title Duchess and has chosen to live in a Convent. OK this is 1703 and not even 1903. They have two Children together Alex age 11 and Jane age 7. You Can't just get a divorce in 1703 LISTEN TO ME!! IT ANIT GONNA HAPPEN!! This took the story off the rails. This is totally unbelievable. Even today it is hard for Catholics to divorce, it takes some kind of dispensation from the Pope. Henry VIII learned that lesson the hard way. He separated his country England from the Catholic Church and started his own Church "The Church of England" because they wouldn't let him divorce Katherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boylen. I don't ask much when reading Historical Romances but this whole premise is a bridge too far for me. The ending Gypsy Marriage would not be excepted anywhere as being binding and legal. So to me Akira was not his wife but his leman or Mistress. I guess they had there HEA how Unbelievable it was!! I did like all the characters so 2 stars instead of 1 star review!!

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## **April says**

The Highland Duke (Lords of the Highlands) by Amy Jarecki is another one of those WOW, moments in reading an intense, dramatic and heart pounding Scottish Romance.

Akira Ayres, is a healer, who finds a brawn Highlander wounded on the field of a battle with the English red coats, with a musket ball in his thigh. What's she to do, leave him for the English to slaughter or help him to safety. Decision made, she must save him, or at least get him to safety, the sexy, brawn highlander, even at danger to herself and her beloved family. Geordie, aka, Duke of Gordon, knows both himself and Akira, his little angel, are in grave danger. He cannot reveal his true identity, so they must flee quickly or both risk dying. They must make it to friendly territory, high in the Highlands with a determined Captain on their heels. If he catches them, Geordie will forfeit his clan, be named a traitor, and forfeit his land and his life. Akira, will forfeit her life and possibly the life of her mother as well as her siblings. Can they save each other? Or lose all to an overzealous Captain, one who seeks wealth and property above all else?

Well written with well-developed characters and an intriguing storyline. I found, once again, Ms. Jarecki, has written a story filled with intrigue, danger, passion, secrets, suspense, mystery, a bit of deception, and romance. Whew, I absolutely loved "The Highland Duke" from the first page to the last. I was glued and drawn to Geordie and Akira's story. They are brawn, strong, intriguing, feisty, brave, which makes for some exciting reading, as each try to save the other, on their quest to a HEA.

Once again Amy Jarecki did not disappoint me, instead she kept me up all night reading. I had to finish "The Highland Duke", which I read in one sitting. I wish to thank, Ms. Jarecki for her historical details, her vivid

descriptions of both Scotland and her characterizations. She brings Scotland to life on each page of her amazing and thrilling Scottish Romance. A must read for fans of Scottish Romance, Medieval Romance, Highland Romance, brave Highlanders and brave, feisty lasses, you don't want to miss, "The Highland Duke". I absolutely and unequivocally loved this story! Bravo, Ms. Jarecki! I can hardly wait for the next installment.

I received a complimentary copy.

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR

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### **Phoenix77 says**

I was drawn to The Highland Duke for its promise of a hidden identity story. Once I began reading I discovered it was so much more and was quickly caught up in the adventure, danger and romance all set against the Jacobite uprisings of the early 1700's.

The battle had been fierce but Akira Ayres had no concern over the political war being fought near her home in Dunkeld. All she knew was that there would be many wounded still left on the field who needed her help as a healer. Searching the grounds of Hoord Moor for survivors, Akira is drawn to a nearby clump of trees by the sound of someone in distress. Following the moaning she finds a man dressed much better than any of the dead or wounded men she's seen on the field. Before she can question who he is, Akira sees that he's been shot in the leg and realizes that her skills may not be enough to treat that kind of injury. Her patient seems more concerned about leaving the field of battle than his injury and he commands her to do what she can to remove the musket ball and get him mobile.

George, Duke of Gordon, came to Hoord Moor to support his cousin and the Jacobites who were rising up against the royalist Marquis of Atholl. His wounded leg is nothing compared to the death sentence he will likely face if the Marquis' guardsmen find him on the field with the other surviving clansmen. His only chance is to retreat from Dunkeld and travel back into his own territory or at least to lands controlled by a clan allied with his own. The beautiful healer might be his only chance at escape but without knowing where her loyalties lie there is no way he can tell her who he really is. Calling himself Geordie, he sends her off to purchase a horse while he continues to hide. Upon her return, Geordie fully intends to leave her behind and make his way alone to a neighboring clan; however the Captain of the guard gets there before he can leave and his wounded leg makes riding almost impossible. Understanding in an instant that he still needs the woman's healing touch, Geordie pulls her onto the horse and together they ride farther into the Highlands and away from danger.

Please read the full review at [\*\*Romantic Historical Reviews\*\*](#)

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### **Monique says**

Akira Ayres is of Romany ancestry and a healer. She is roaming the site of the Battle of Hoord Moor to see if anyone requires her help, when she hears moans. A Highlander has been shot in the thigh; Akira has never



removed a musket ball, but the braw stranger insists, and she agrees in exchange for some much-needed money, which she sorely needs to support her lame mother and her sisters. The mysterious stranger is George Gordon, the duke of Gordon – Geordie to his friends. Geordie refuses to support the English, and he must not tell Akira his name for her protection, in case she were questioned. Not only must Akira tend to Geordie's injury, but they must also flee the redcoats, and amidst the danger, Geordie and Akira slowly begin to fall in love, a love that seems doomed from the start: Geordie is divorced, he is a duke, and Akira is but a penniless Gypsy...

Sometimes an author makes it very difficult to write a review for a book as wonderful as *THE HIGHLAND DUKE*. Akira and Geordie are both such engaging characters, so different, and yet so perfect for each other. There is a lot of action, danger and betrayal in *THE HIGHLAND DUKE*; the story is superbly constructed, and the dialogues are spectacularly and believably simple, witty and intelligent. I appreciate how Ms. Jarecki inserts just enough Scotticisms to convey the brogue, the lilt of the language, which keeps the dialogues light but still keeps it sounding authentic. I admire Amy Jarecki's subtle hand in handling every facet of this book: the author did extensive research without bogging down the narrative, the descriptions are crisp, the characters well defined, and I just loved pertinent little details, such as the use of rags to curl hair.

The twist in the romance is one I had never seen before, and I thought it was extremely clever, because I feared things would not unfold as I wished for Geordie and Akira. *THE HIGHLAND DUKE* is one of the loveliest romances I have read recently, and I felt it was the meeting of kindred souls. I will be waiting for the next book with bated breath because it will be explosive!

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

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### **Anne says**

A great read, very good characters and story. Will look forward to the next one of this series.

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### **Stacey is Sassy says**

\*\*\*Due to be released March 28, 2017.\*\*\*

### **Shake and shimmy happy dance...I found a new author.**

I see the word Highland or Highlander in a title and I get a wee bit excited. When I find a new author to me who writes Historical Highlander set way...way back in the day, you may catch me doing a shake and shimmy happy dance. There's just something about the big braw Scottish dudes wearing a kilt, with a sword in one hand, a flask of whisky tucked into his sporran and riding a wee beastie, that gets my heart pumping. Well, *The Highland Duke* has given me a great introduction to Amy Jarecki AND she has a backlog...SCORE!!!!

I really enjoyed *The Highland Duke* and I was very surprised at how much I loved it. See, I'm a bit of a snob.

I kind of need (in my previous reads) for the hero and heroine to be on equal footing. I think it makes it a little more believable when they are both at the same level in social standings. Well, this was definitely not that. Good old Dukey (yes, another bloody Duke) is getting matched up with a healer. This healer is near the bottom of the rung when it comes to social standings because she's a...Gypsy (gasp).

I didn't know too much about Gypsy's before starting this one and I found it interesting to learn more about them and their history. I always knew they were looked down on but I wasn't sure why. Tinker, a term used in this story (and I'm guessing derogatory), is used to describe them. Tinker's are "known" for stealing, trickery and begging and were outlawed. Most left the country but some were able to meld in with society but with their distinctive dark colouring, most were treated badly.

So, we have two very different ends of the social standing, near royalty and near leper. Hmm...if you're anything like me you start questioning how this could ever lead to a happy ever after. Well, I will admit, I started gripping my kindle tighter and mumbling and grumbling under my breath when the dreaded word...*Mistress* floated about. I can confirm that with a very valid reason why the word was even floating about and an ending that left me smiling, I was content.

*The Highland Duke* is filled with action, adventure, chemistry and conflict. The characters are far from perfect but are lovable and endearing. The baddies will make your skin crawl and tutt, tutt over their greedy and self-serving attitudes. We also meet some interesting characters that I desperately want to know more about.

If you're a fan of historical romance and don't mind a wee bit of braw Scottish highlander, *The Highland Duke* will definitely keep you satisfied.

**I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -**

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## **Ronda Tutt says**

A Highlanders true color is always shown through their honor, respect, and the powerful yielding rule of their swords. This is one intriguing story that will fulfill that Highlander addiction and have your heart swooning over those big hearted true colors.

I truly enjoyed getting to know the Duke of Gordon "Geordie" and the Queen of Fairies "Akira".

Geordie shows his true colors in a growing manner. His circumstances and status some what prevented him from acting out his true feelings but his determination and crazed love for his gypsy rose "Akira" opened up his heart and a gateway to conquer what he truly desired.

Amira's gypsy charm and beauty showed throughout the story by her caring role as a healer. I totally admired

her for always sticking to her true self regardless of her situation. Yes she was poorer than dirt and being around a glamouring duke might have been tempting to sway her morals in order to give her mother and sisters a better life, but honoring her own self respect and holding on to her principles is what won and mattered in the end.

The story is very intriguing when it gives you insight between the highlander clans and how they respect each other and always ready to fight by their sides. I especially love how the enemy is betrayed and how wicked and evil the red coats were - the story gives a great build up and becomes so visual you want to become a highlander yourself and jump in the story just to start killing off the enemy - LOL.

The story started off slow for me but built up steam after the first chapter. By the end of the story I wanted it to last a little longer just so I could stay in their world. There is so much to say about this story and the many directions and leads into more stories of their own. I hope the author will consider giving those leads life - especially with Akira's sisters and Geordie's children or even some of Akira's Gypsy family like her Uncle.

Overall great read.

5 stars

3 flames

Review requested and book provided by author.

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### **Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says**

The book opens with healer Akira finding the badly injured Geordie on the battlefield. Unwilling to provide his name because he's a Duke who just rode against Queen Anne's army, Geordie is smitten with the wisp-of-a-girl who is like an angel. Due to the determined redcoats hunting him, Geordie must take Akira with him as he escapes. Soon the pair is running for their lives, yet neither is willing to walk away.

The Highland Duke held a lot of promise, and by the conclusion, I was satisfied with the story. However, a slow and rocky start almost made this book a DNF for me. In the end, I enjoyed the pairing of Akira and Geordie, but it took a long time for me to get on board with their romance.

Akira is a young, innocent, poor girl with Romany heritage. This makes her and her family shunned. Yet she remains hopeful and helpful despite those who treat her poorly. She's a solid character, yet her naivety creates a huge unbalance when matched with the powerful Duke of Gordon.

Geordie is weathered and rough. He's lived a full life, having divorced, fought, etc. He's easy around the ladies and just comes off so much older than Akira (he is ten years her senior). She's SOOOO young and naive. She's a virgin and never been around any man in an intimate capacity. Not even hugged by her father, as he was never in the picture. It was difficult for me to get into their story, for rather than sexual tension and sparks, I saw an "old man" who is lying to a young girl that he lusts after.

Another concern I had was that Geordie uses his position as an injured soldier to "tease" Akira. But to me it is sexual harassment as he uses his knowledge and power to put her into compromising positions; ones that Akira feel are improper behaviors. It's not cute or fun, to me it's destructive because she is so innocent.

It really isn't until after 50% mark that the book started working for me. Once Akira started standing up for herself and exerting confidence, she becomes her own person—one strong enough to stand up to and match Geordie. While I continued to struggle with her naivety, which was too much for my tastes, she finally becomes a worthy heroine.

In the end, I enjoyed the historical references and lovely Scottish Highland scenery that is the base for The Highland Duke. And despite the difficulties I had with the first half of the story, I found the action and romance of the second half of the book an enjoyable read.

My Rating: C+ Liked It, but I had issues

Review copy provided by publisher

Originally posted at That's What I'm Talking About

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## **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2obuAeR>

I'm a tart when it comes to highlanders so I was all over that fierce broody hero on the cover of The Highland Duke.

Basically, the duke got himself shot in the leg and left behind during a battle against the queen. Thankfully a poor healer found him before the enemy and is trying to patch him back together. But it was a close call and they now find themselves being chased across the highlands and their lives on the line. Ee!

I loved Akira's passion for healing and that she was caring and always tried to do the right things. And Geordie's got the broody fierce thing happening for him. I liked that he stood up for what he believed in even if it was risky going against the crown. The two were interesting together and opposite in near every way since he's a duke and she's a gypsie healer with next to nothing.

There was a lot of chasing as they cross the highlands. Stopping at friendly keeps and dodging the unfriendlies. Falling a bit in love and a lot in lust and resisting because she's a good lass! lol I liked meeting some of the people along the way and spending time with these two even though they could both be a little frustrating.

There were a couple things that didn't work for me. It felt a bit modern and more English than Scottish somehow. But I can deal with that usually so not huge thing for me. My big issue was the sex scenes. They might have resulted in a FB rand or two...

"If you've been locked in a filthy (1700s) prison dungeon for days on end, then locked in a pillory, then been broken free by a herd of gypsies (and your hero) and find yourself currently fleeing on horseback from 50 armed men set on killing you....

DO NOT STOP TO HAVE A QUICK FUCK ON THE MOSSY HIGHLAND HILLS!! Just. Don't. #AnnasRules #WontMornYourStupidAssIfItGetsKilled

But, overall, even with the little quibbles I did have fun with this one and plan on checking out book two.

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## **Sophia says**

It's been a bit since I read a highlander romance so when this one was offered, I was ready to give it and a new to me author a go. The historical setting and other elements including the first Jacobite Uprisings tearing through Scotland, the Clans, and the class difference romance of Scottish Highlander aristocrat and illegitimate gypsy healer was the grounds for a fantastic story beginning an exciting new series.

George Gordon, First Duke of Gordon and Laird of Clan Gordon took a musketball to the thigh while fighting under his cousin's banner in a battle with Queen Anne's English and her Scottish clan allies against those who claimed loyalty to the rightful Stuart king of the British Isles. Capture would see him put on display as a traitor example, but death is looking him in the eye until a wraith of a girl comes along to help heal his wounds. He keeps his true identity from her even as he must take her up with me in a mad escape into the Highlands with a determined English captain on their heels. He promised her his protection and now he might just have to protect her from himself.

Akira Ayres is gypsy born and has a hard time of it because even the lowliest from her village treat her like trash. She works hard as a healer to take care of her mother and three sisters in their scrabbling existence. So when the wounded soldier offers her enough to feed her family for a year if she will help heal him and stay with him until he is healed, she can't say no. And she doesn't want to say no. Geordie is no ordinary soldier with his educated speech and polished manners and she suspects he is a great lord, but when it is just the pair of them out in the elements and on the run, she can let herself dream. But what will happen when the adventure is over? She can't give in to attraction and must guard her heart.

As I said, this one was pitch perfect with all that it offered up. It nailed the historical background and situation and struck good with the characters and their unequal romance. This was not just aristocrat and commoner, but ventured into taboo territory because she was a hated gypsy and he was a divorced man who would never be able to petition for a church marriage to Akira.

They were an interesting pair of characters. Geordie isn't so much a surprise. He's commanding, honorable, tough yet has his thoughtless moments. But it is Akira who really takes up the characterization and romance elements a notch. She has a strong sense of duty and honor to her profession and that's why she ended up on the run with Geordie in the first place. She also has personal honor and respect which is why she is tempted to come to him on the only terms he offers that will be comfort for her destitute family as well, but she wants more and needs to know that she is not a fling or disposable to him. To be fair to Geordie, he was committed to Akira and offered what he thought was all he could and she never understood this, choosing to believe the worst (and understandable because all her life she had been given no reason to trust). She had a villager's eye view of the world around her, but she was suspicious when he tried to make her see the greater state of affairs. I think that was the hard part for me with this unequal romance and it gave it a fairytale quality rather than realistic.

So, all in all, I enjoyed this outing with new to me author and new series. I can't wait to get the next installment. This is for those who enjoy moderately spicy, exciting historical period highlander romance.

My thanks to Forever for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

