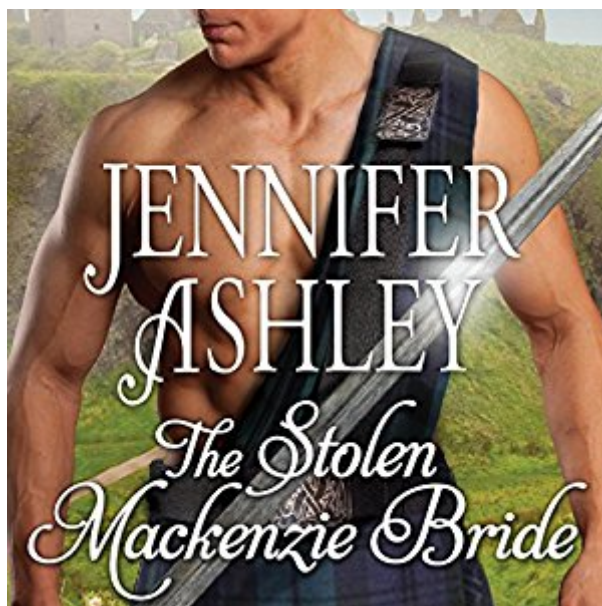


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The Stolen Mackenzie Bride: Highland Pleasures, Book 8



Synopsis

Scotland, 1745: The youngest son of the scandalous Mackenzie family, Malcolm is considered too wild to tame...until he meets a woman who is too unattainable to resist. Lady Mary Lennox is English, her father highly loyal to the king, and promised to another Englishman. But despite it being forbidden to speak to Malcolm, Lady Mary is fascinated by the Scotsman, and stolen moments together lead to a passion greater than she'd ever dreamed of finding. When fighting breaks out between the Highlanders and the king's army, their plans to elope are thwarted, and it will take all of Malcolm's daring as a Scottish warrior to survive the battle and steal a wife out from under the noses of the English.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Little spoiler possibly!!!! This was a great addition to the Mackenzie series which I love. This isn't in my favorite time period, so I wasn't sure if I would like it, but the characters and story are just as well-developed and endearing as the rest of the Mackenzie family. It was nice to see how the family and the house got started. Also, if you have read the other books, you have already heard what is believed to have happened to Malcolm's siblings. Because of this, I was kept on the edge of my seat wondering how that would all turn out and knowing I was going to cry. However, I was very happily surprised at the ending. Also, you really need to read this book before reading the newest book in the series, A Mackenzie Clan Gathering. Malcolm and his wife's story play an important part in the "Gathering" story, so if you haven't read this book first, you will not understand some of the

"Gathering" story.

The Stolen Mackenzie Bride was exciting, fast paced, romantic and the H/H are just loveable. I loved all the characters in this story and even some of the villains were enjoyable to read. The story is well written with strong character development. I felt like I was there in 1745 Edinburgh and throughout the Scottish Highlands with the lead couple Malcolm/Mal Mackenzie youngest son of the Duke of Kilmorgan and Lady Mary Lennox the oldest daughter of the powerful English Earl Wilfort. Jennifer Ashley did a brilliant job with using the Scottish Highlands and the Jacobite rising as the backdrop of the story. No matter how hard the Mackenzie's especially Mal tried not to get involved with the Jacobite cause or the English cause he was ensnared. Lady Mary was an excellent romantic partner to Malcolm. Their love shines through all the problems they have to overcome and overcome they did together. Great romance with a decent amount of sex scenes that didn't overpower the story. I loved this story and I can't wait to read more about the Mackenzies.

I loved going back and reading about the ancestor of my beloved Mackenzie family. Malcolm is referenced several times in the other books, and this Mackenzie and his brothers gives you an idea of where the later characters get their personalities. There are spoilers I don't want to give away, but just trust me. If you are a fan of Jennifer Ashley's Scottish novels this will not disappoint. In fact, it got me to go back and start the other books all over and reread them from the first one about Ian.

I was confused at first when I started reading this story and saw that it took place in 1745. Who were these Mackenzies? Jennifer Ashley explains it all in a letter to the readers at the end of the book but it would have helped to know this info ahead of time. Regardless, once I got into the story it didn't matter. It was interesting to see how the Mackenzies handled themselves with the start of the Jacobite rebellion. Only the oldest son and heir, Duncan, wanted to fight and did so even against his father's wishes. This story revolves around the youngest son Malcolm and English Lady Mary. They saw each other at a ball in Edinburgh and sparks flew. Even though she was English and betrothed they fell in love and formed a bond that would carry them through all the danger and war that was to come. When I saw that this book would deal with the Jacobite rebellion I knew there would be tears. I can never read a story taking place at Culloden without them. It was well written without glossing over the horrors of the battle and its aftermath. Having read all the books in the series, this book provided excellent insight into the ancestors of the strong Mackenzie men in the earlier books. Although this is the 8th book in the series it certainly can be read as a stand alone book since it is

almost a prequel to the remainder of the series. I heartily recommend this book to anyone who reads historical romances or is looking for a book to start with.

I waited a day or so before posting a review of Jennifer Ashley's *The Stolen Mackenzie Bride* because I wanted to really think about this story. I kept hoping that it would improve as I ruminated about it but alas it did not. I am a fan of the Mackenzie family. I have not read all of the books but the ones I have read I have really enjoyed. *The Stolen Mackenzie Bride* falls short of the previous love stories. This Mackenzie tale takes place during the turbulent times of Bonnie Prince Charles. This is a prequel to all those wonderful Mackenzies and their amazing 19th century lives. Here, hero Malcolm is the youngest son of a Duke. He is in Edinburgh and becomes instantly smitten with British beauty Mary who is betrothed to an uptight Brit also in attendance. Malcolm comes from a family that can best be described as loud and doggedly determined. Malcolm decides that Mary is the one for him and nothing is going to stand in his way, certainly not a fiancée. Mary is reserved and her feelings are not really on display until later in this novel. Initially she has such a subdued personality that she was boring compared to Malcolm. She is dutiful to the extreme except when it comes to her sister. She secretly wants to help her sister elope with her sweetheart but she needs assistance and this is where Malcolm steps in. He is bold and brave and he manages to do what seems impossible. Mary begins to have feelings for him when she sees how capable and devoted he is. These early chapters are the best in the book. The leads focus on each other and their feelings. Quickly Malcolm's family becomes the center of this story. His romance with Mary takes a back seat. Everything centers around his older brother and I mean everything. His father's unhappy moods and bellowing are because of his oldest son's desire to follow Charles and Malcolm's brothers spend a lot of time trying to take care of said older brother who has decided to support the rebellion. Malcolm's life revolves around his father and brothers much more than Mary. For a quick witted, intelligent man, Malcolm miscalculates quite a bit, especially when it comes to the politics of war. He seems to genuinely believe that he and Mary can escape the perils of the rebellion dividing Scotland. SPOILER! He and Mary spend some time apart and when they are together I was surprised that he did not engage in at least a hand fasting with her. It would have been wise for him to be wed to Mary as early as possible, yet he delayed this. I guess neither worried about an unplanned pregnancy. Malcolm seemed to be constantly taking messages to his brother, checking on him and then checking in on his father. In fact, I felt that Malcolm spent an inordinate amount of time with his brothers and father rather than Mary. I also did not like many of

the secondary characters of this novel. Malcolm's older brother was stubborn and unyielding. His father exhibited those same characteristics but drank too much. He had three other brothers but their roles were minor in comparison. Mary's father was not a nice person, he hit her and twisted her arm in anger yet somehow the reader is supposed to like him. I didn't. There is a very nice British Officer who deserved some happiness but did not find it in this story. Malcolm and Mary get their happy ending, albeit with tragedies along the way. I thought the beginning of this novel was incredibly romantic but by the middle of this story the romance dissolved under Malcolm's family obligations and the uprising.

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