



## Laird of the Wind

*Susan King*

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In medieval Scotland, the warrior known as Border Hawk seizes the castle belonging to the father of the beautiful Isabel Scott, famous throughout the Lowlands for her gift of prophecy. During the battle, Isabel is injured while fighting alongside her men, and placed under Border Hawk's protection. As the border wars rage on, the warrior and prophetess engage in a more intimate conflict, discovering that their love for the Scottish borderlands is surpassed only by their love for each other.

## Laird of the Wind Details

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Author : Susan King

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## From Reader Review Laird of the Wind for online ebook

### **Kari Kaz says**

I think I'm actually being generous with 3 stars. The book moves real slow but my biggest complaint is the amount of information we get on hawks. Falconry, hawks, what they eat, how they sleep, sizes, colors, shapes, everything you can imagine about hawks in medieval times. It was a manual for hawk owners, paragraphs and paragraphs of useless info on hawks. There is a metaphor about the hero being like a hawk (hence he is the Laird of the Wind) so the hawk references were supposed to be relevant. But it got tedious after a while. The romance was ok, not amazing either. The historical stuff I liked but the story didn't grab me. I think there are many highlander books out there that are much more entertaining IMO.

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### **KP says**

This book is 10% romance, 10% adventure and 80% drawn out metaphors/training of a hawk. Too much filler.

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### **Nancy says**

From the look of the book cover, you would think this is a hot & heavy romance novel...not so! It is Scottish historical fiction from the time of William Wallace & Robert the Bruce.

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### **Anne says**

Set in 14th century Scotland, Isobel has the gift of visions which is zealously guarded by her father and the family priest. Her father betroths her to Ralph Leslie, a knight who she has misgivings about. When she meets Jamie Lindsay, a laird who has turned outlaw, the sparks fly. There is a lot of adventure, actual hawks in the story, no graphic sex and a good read. Recommended.

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### **Faith Freewoman says**

This takes place just after William Wallace, a 1300's leader in the Wars of Scottish Independence, was captured and killed, as gruesomely depicted in Braveheart.

This is about one of Wallace's friends and fellow freedom fighters.

Every scene in this book is lyrical, lush, sensual and compelling. Every scene, not just the g-rated sex scenes, but every moment - from the fierce and bloody battles to the hawk training to the heroine's prophetic trances - every moment is so vivid it's almost like painfully bright sunlight. And it's so skillful; not an overwrought moment.

Characters are wonderful, historical setting is riveting...it's just terrific.

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### **Noelle says**

The hawk/trapped wild woman metaphor got old fast. It was also pretty annoying having the characters explain aloud what had already been established multiple times before. It's as if the author thought I might have forgotten why Jamie hates the Baron, etc. Honestly, there's not much else going on in the book (other than a manual on how to train a hawk), does Susan King really think we can't keep up?

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### **Pamela Watkins says**

**This book being a Scottish Historical Novel and with William Wallace in the mix I always very interesting to me. I thought this was very well thought**

Out and the story line of the Prophetess was intriguing. I love Susan King's work. And the lady always gets her warrior!

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### **Kit★ says**

**3.5 Stars!** Book of the month in Western and Medieval Romance Lovers group for January, my nomination won! It'd been years since I read anything by Susan King, though I have read a couple by her in the past and remember really enjoying them. Never read this one though, so wasn't real sure what to expect. Right away though, I was drawn into the medieval setting. This book is no 'wallpaper' historical. To me, the author put a great amount of work into the research. I felt like I was there, the characters were very believable for the time period, as were the things that happened. I liked that very much. The heroine managed to be strong of will without being all feminist and feisty. She managed to stay soft and gentle without being overly weak as well. It was actually somewhat nice to have a heroine who isn't feisty and independent for a change. The hero was well-made as well. I could feel for the things he believed in. I liked his strength and honor. Yes, I even liked his 'hawk' stuff. I've always had a bit of a fascination with hawks and falconry. It's always a thrill to spot one flying or perched on a wire. So I actually enjoyed all the bits about the bird, and how they cared for him, slowly gained his trust. Plus, the darn bird had me giggling a few times with his temper tantrums, his bating. I never knew hawks would/could do that. I learned quite a bit about hawks in this story. Maybe more than is really necessary for a romance novel, but hey. The romance here was definitely a slow burn. Like, slow. Which, to me, was also a nice change. The last few roms I've read had the H/h lusting for each other super-quick, making out quite frequently, doing it like rabbits... This book was kind of refreshing in its focus on the plot rather than the lust. Sure, he thought she was beautiful, and she was drawn to his strength and caring, but the lustful thoughts were mellow, subdued. The few kisses they shared were sweet and tender rather than tonsil-honkey and drool. The love scene, when it came, was sweet, and did not use any crudeness at all. I liked how their connection was a slow build-up, until neither one could resist. The secondary characters added to the whole as well. I didn't get that feeling that every one of them was being built up to get a book of their own, like so many authors do nowadays. They all had roles to play, and they stayed true to them. The villain wasn't even psychotic, he was just a normal guy, doing the wrong things, for the wrong reasons.

I'm actually very pleased with this read. If it wasn't for it winning as book of the month, who knows how

long it would've been hanging on the TBR awaiting my attention. I didn't even know I was in the mood for a story like this until I was immersed in it. Kinda makes me want to go dig out the other couple books I have by this author and give them a re-read. I just might make that a mission for this year, to read at least one more. **3.5 Stars!**

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### **Lady Claire, Marchioness of Fancy Pants says**

Poo! I only got half way through this one. The beginning was okay, but there was waaaay too much talk about William Wallace and how the character felt like he was responsible for his death. There was so much talk about it that it honestly felt like the author copied and pasted words and thoughts from earlier in the book into later in the book. And both characters got way too sappy for me. I like it when they hate each other and fight all the time. Long story, short. This book was boring!

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### **Regan Walker says**

Worthy Hawk-Themed Medieval Romance

This was my first by Susan King and I really enjoyed it. She paints rich visual images of the times and the places and the characters are well described and memorable.

Set in Scotland in the early 14th century, this is the story of Isobel of Aberlady who has a gift of visions that describe events to come. Her father and the family priest guard her gift and take notes when she has the visions as she remembers nothing afterwards. Believing he will protect her, her father betroths her to a strong knight, Ralph Leslie, but Ralph is not a man she would choose. One of her visions is of a man she calls the Laird of the Wind...a hawk of the forest...who will betray William Wallace.

James (Jamie) Lindsay, who was once a Scottish knight and laird, is now living as an outlaw and has lost his lands because he was accused of betraying Wallace. It seems Isobel's vision, which has become widely known, had something to do with that. He has become known as "the Border Hawk" who with a few of his men lives in the forest and raids the English. When Isobel's castle is besieged by the English because the King wants Isobel for her visions, the Border Hawk comes to her rescue, but he does so only because he wants to exchange her for his cousin Margaret who is being held captive.

It is in the forest where Isobel and Jamie recognize each other as soulmates. Ah love....

The story is "hawk themed" in many ways, not only the hero and villain both being described as hawks, but there are two hawks prominently featured, a red tailed hawk kept by Jamie's aunt and the goshawk that Jamie trains with Isobel while they are living in the forest.

The story held my interest and the characters were both likeable and believable (some quite delightful). The love between Jamie and Isobel develops naturally, though I was a bit disappointed in the love scene.

The others in the Celtic series:

THE SWORD MAIDEN  
THE SWAN MAIDEN  
THE SWORD MAIDEN

## LAIRD OF THE WIND

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### Val says

Okay, so I ran a marathon of Susan King novels in my trip to Europe. Sorta. And I've discovered a few things.

First, that my most 'critical' reviews are often of books I end up rating 5 stars. I guess that's probably because I find more stuff to criticize when I'm actually paying attention to/caring about the book.

Secondly, that Susan King has a strict formula to make these books. So far I've only read *The Sword Maiden*, *Black Thorne's Rose*, and *Laird of the Wind* and I had to admit, they are all very similar. They all have a princess or damsel in distress who is often very delicate-looking but with a strong heart, and who's family and/or home is in danger (usually no mother and a captive father/brother who she has to save). Then, there's her new fiancé (or whatever, the guy she is forced to marry) who is always the bad guy but who can always somehow save her family so she consents. Third, the hero. Dropdead sexy and an outlaw with two 'mandatory' characteristics: a love for the forest and a hobby which he can after teach to the heroine in special and sometimes tiring detail, but which then leads to some hot scenes (See: swordmaking, archery, hawk training, etc). Change the names, the hair colour, the hobby, the setting (switch forest for waterfall or cave) and that's about it. The circumstances are usually the same. So, I decided these were three versions of the same book. But the thing is, I love that book, lol. And every version of it.

It's got no weird twists or it is not that kind of book you find yourself gripping to see what happens, you can often tell what's gonna happen but still, it's a fun ride. Susan King's novels are simple, yet fun and sweet. Perfect if you have some spare time and are craving for some romance that you know will leave you smiling.

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### Alison says

Nicely written fluff....really got into the hawk info.

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### Rishi Diams says

Well, as a treatise on hawking, it's exceptional, an excellent resource. As a love story ... well, I liked the characters and I liked their interactions but the relationship was buried beneath the incredibly detailed story of the hero training a goshawk.

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### Julie says

It's a historical romance set right after William Wallace is killed. James is one of the men who ran with William and feels responsible for his William's death. He's an outlaw and decides to take matters into his own hands by abducting Black Isobel, a Scottish prophetess, and offering her in exchange for some of the

things/people that have been taken from him. Of course things don't go as he planned.

Gorgeous scenery, great hero/heroine, and wonderful history woven in between. (For my clean read friends, there is a love scene, but it is brief and tasteful.) I'm excited to read another of her historicals.

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### **Patricia Kate says**

This book consisted of Scottish history, falconry, and adventure with a little bit of romance (and even a paranormal element, as well). I would have preferred the romance to be a bigger part of the story. Overall the story line wasn't that compelling and I could have easily not finished it.

This is the first book I've read from this author and not sure I want to read any others, based upon this experience.

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