



Sweet Revenge

Lynsay Sands

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New York Times bestselling author Lynsay Sands delivers another captivating historical romance set in the Highlands of Scotland!

Highlander Galen MacDonald is on a mission of revenge: kidnap his enemy's bride and make her his. But what he doesn't count on is a clever, fiery lass wielding a blade. When he realizes Kyla is delirious with fever, Galen wastes no time in wedding her.

While Kyla is grateful for the Scottish laird who saved her from marrying a loathsome man, she is just as furious that Galen has claimed her for his bride. But when they share an unforgettable night of passion, will it lead to a marriage of the heart, or will an enemy tear them apart?

Sweet Revenge Details

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Author : Lynsay Sands

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From Reader Review Sweet Revenge for online ebook

Zoe says

my second and last book from the author. Sands' heroines always seem TSTL to me. I truly have trouble respecting the women in her books.

Zel Polev says

I didn't really find any likable characters in this book. They were either stupid or bitchy. I found Galen to be sweet sometimes but he is a bit on the dumb side. I found him overbearing. She, on the other hand was a bit harpy-ish. I thought she was a bit devoted to the wrong people and contrary to those who mean the best for her. I don't understand the need to sneak off instead of talking out how cabin crazy she feels. Instead, she evades her bodyguards and runs to the arms of her enemy. This wasn't really an issue anymore after her supposed madness was straightened out.

Another thing I really disliked about this book is the non-existent plot. They spend half of the book and more just travelling to the keep or staying at the keep. It wasn't until very later that they actually straightened out her supposed betrayal. I thought it was pretty cheap of the author to create really flawed characters as obstacles. This rendered the villains to be flat out caricatures instead of having depth to them.

Even the main characters were lacking depth. He was supposed to be this big caretaker who shouldered the burdens of his clan. He came across as an oaf when it came to dealing with his wife. I found it hard to believe that a capable man expected someone who was new to navigate her way into his life as if she was born there. The heroine was lacking substance too. I found her to be entitled. I get that she didn't feel any sense of obligation to her husband. I get that she was placed in a situation that she didn't choose. However, her later actions were very calculating and quite selfish in my opinion. What really grates is the amount of devotion she shows towards her brother, who thought she was the one who attempted his murder. What kind of relationship would inspire her to throw herself at a sword to protect him while he blames her for the attack? To me, it speaks that it is an undeserved affection, and quite stupid on her part. I would have chalked it up to her personality but the way she acted around Galen's men spoke otherwise. I found the right word, bratty. She was a brat and I found it hard to find anything likeable about her. I guess this would be more apparent if the hero was at least tolerable but I found him a good companion in that he mirrored her lack of charm.

I guess what bothers me most is for a romance novel, this wasn't romantic at all. The most emotion she showed was when she thought her brother still thought her guilty despite the scars on her back. I don't really buy into her affections towards Galen. They may connect in the bedroom but it doesn't really extend far from that.

I think the only redeeming part of this book was the misunderstanding over her madness. It was a bit funny how it worked out but the characters' personality could not support it. I thought the heroine would come out of her stupor and be amazing. Instead, she was a brat and he devolved into a dumb man.

Overall, I found the humour forced, the characters unlikeable, and the story to be almost non-existent.

Story Brief:

Kyla is wounded. She is travelling to meet her future husband who is a brute. Galen attacked her travelling

party and kidnapped her. He was to make her his wife in retaliation to his dead wife's murder. Kyla's intended was responsible for her death and so he seeks revenge. They discover that she is wounded and is sainted. The old woman told them of heroism and bravery when facing her wicked sister-in-law. She also tells them that she is added to put off their plans to marry her to the laird. They go ahead anyway and she gets married while she is out of it. She wakes up thinking that they just saved her out of the goodness of their heart. People are wary of her, watching of signs that she might be soft in the head. This caused her to also treat them of wariness, with both parties assuming the other is a bit weird. Eventually, it comes out that she isn't really mad, in the stupidest way possible. They start their married life together. She starts evading the guards. She gets captured. She escapes MacGregor. They travelled back to England to prove her innocence. Her brother suspected her of the murder because if he died, she would receive the inheritance. On the way, they are attacked. They made it to her home safely. Catrionna tries to seduce Galen. Kyla visits her brother and shows her scar. He blames her at first but conveniently remembers what she did. Too late, she is captured and is about to be raped. MacGregor has a sadistic and masochistic sex with Catrionna. It turns out they had been long time lovers who plotted to get the money from Kyla's family through marriage and murder. Galen and his men saves the day just in time. Kyla comes home and demands to go to Scotland immediately Once her brother comes by and apologizes, she wants to have an extended stay. After that, she drags him to Scotland. As an aside, she confesses her love to Galen.

I originally rated it with two stars but after writing this review, I think it was one star too high.

Carrie Olguin says

Okay, I know this book is considered old (published in 2000, twelve years? not old to my thinking) but I really enjoyed this humorous highlander story.

Our heroine (Kyla) is abducted by our hero (Galen) as he steals her from the man who killed his wife who happens to also be the man to whom Kyla is betrothed (against her wishes). This is his Sweet Revenge. The premis isn't new but the story is like a situation comedy, the misunderstanding between men who act like real men and the women who have to put up with them.

Kyla suffers from a wound she received while trying to safe her brother (happens before the book begins). After Galen abducts her (she shows herself well in that battle), she turns feverish and talks a great deal about her life giving Galen enough information about her to know she will make a good wife. Even the men who escort her to the Laird's home fall in love with her bravery and spirit.

To try and stop Galen from marrying Kyla right away, her nurse tells Galen that Kyla is crazy, a condition passed onto the women but not the men. Despite the warning (male heirs won't become crazy and girls are wel...?) Galen has the wedding right away with the entire clan as witnesses. Kyla is so feverish, she doesn't remember saying I do or signing her name to the wedding register.

By the time Kyla wakes from her fever, everyone in the clan has heard the rumor that she's crazy. But she has no idea that she's married or to whom, (doesn't even know her husband's first name), or that people think she's crazy even though she is the Lady of the clan. Quite frankly, the behavoir of the people around make her nuts!

This is a light hearted romance, a good sorbet after reading so many current novels where the H and h are so often self-tortured by personal baggage.

Haselbrox says

One of the characters loses height throughout the story. First she is barely 5 feet tall, then four and a half, then just a little over 4 feet. Fairly entertaining, otherwise.

Raye of the Dead says

I won this from Goodreads.

I read it in one night because I just couldn't put it down. This book had me laughing out loud. Kyla is now one my favorite characters.

K says

I really liked this book, and loved the author's use of humor and wit. I would def recommend this book to other readers.

Lisa says

This may be the most disappointed I've ever been in a book. The opening was terrific. It was exciting, action-packed and our heroine proved herself to be smart, strong and brave. Unfortunately, everything changed after that and we were left with a slow-moving story that hinged entirely on dumb plot contrivances and ridiculously idiotic behavior on our heroine's part. And there's some REALLY disgusting behavior on the hero's part. I mean, REALLY disgusting. But LS kept trying to bash us over the head with what a "nice guy" he was. I finally got so fed up with this book that I DNFed about halfway through.

(view spoiler)

Jane Stewart says

Annoying and unenjoyable.

Kyla was married to Galen who cared for her and treated her well. Someone wanted to kill Kyla, so she was being guarded for her own protection but she continued to escape her guards and put herself at risk. She acted like a rebellious teenager sneaking out and causing trouble. She was almost killed twice because of this. I was too annoyed with her actions to be able to enjoy the story.

CAUTION SPOILER:

I was also annoyed with the author creating a conflict between Kyla and her brother by a simple misunderstanding of words. Kyla showed him her scar. He said "Fool. Lies. All lies." He was thinking about the evil person who caused the scar but Kyla erroneously thought he was thinking of her, so she fled. This is one of my pet peeves, separation due to inaccurate assumptions about each other, when a brief conversation would have solved the problem. It was an uninteresting and uncreative way to create a conflict.

DATA:

Sexual content: not evaluated. I read this book before I began counting sex scenes and describing the language. As I recall it was moderate. Setting: unknown time, possibly 1200s Scotland. Copyright: 2000. Genre: historical romance.

OTHER BOOKS:

For a list of my reviews of other Lynsay Sands books, see my 5 star review of "Love is Blind" posted 1/22/07.

Alana says

This was ok. I've been reading outside of my normal genres a bit lately and I was looking for something light hearted and romantic and that's pretty much what I got. It was just so formulaic that I found it kind of boring. It's hard to criticise the book for what it is supposed to be - it's supposed to be written to a formula, it's a romance for gods sake! It just felt like I have read this story a thousand times before. I've learned my lesson anyway! On to something else!

Anne says

DNF 13%

This probably isn't a *terrible* book or anything, and the characters (as far as I could tell) seemed just fine. But.

This *thing* happened. And it's a personal peeve of mine, so after I read it I knew it had basically killed off any lady-boner I would be getting over the story. At that point, you might as well shut the book, you know?

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Susan Ross says

I read the preview to this book and it sounded SO good that I bought it for full price even though it wasn't a new release. The beginning of the book IS great. I love our hero, Galen. Kayla is brave and likeable but makes unreasonably stupid decisions, which is annoying.

The book has very funny moments and was an enjoyable read. Unfortunately, it did not maintain the the 5* review I would have given if the whole book was as good as the beginning. For example, Kayla tries to trick Galen out of consummating the marriage, but it's not addressed by Galen when the truth becomes evident. This would have been a really funny scene. And we don't find out what happens to one of the main the villians.

And I HATE when the cover doesn't match the description given in the book. The hero has brilliant red hair. How hard is it for the illustrator to ask the author for a description?

Holly says

2.5 stars

This book is pretty repetitive. Kyla slips her guard four separate times and is kidnapped three times for example, which is kind of excessive. The relationship between Kyla and Galen isn't based on any real connection - they barely even talk to each other. I am not sure what it says about Galen that he thought Kyla was crazy at one point because she was pretending to talk to people who weren't there but he still wanted to marry her and get her pregnant because he was assured by someone else that any male heirs at least wouldn't be at risk for developing Kyla's mental illness. Actually, I do know what that says, it says that Galen has some messed up views on sexual consent by the mentally disabled and he also has a complete lack of concern for the life of any female heirs that would be destined to be mentally ill, as long as he got his nice normal male heir. I know this is a historical novel, so their views are supposed to be archaic and chauvinistic to a certain degree, but this still rubbed me the wrong way.

Shannon says

Sweet Revenge

The Characters:

Galen MacDonald
Kyla

The Story:

I'm honestly too lazy to write the kind of review this book deserves. It was fun, funny, adventurous and very entertaining. I always love Ms Sands characters. The names of these seem familiar from her newer

Highlander series but perhaps I just listen to too many books and I'm getting confused.

Over all this is a solid listen. The narrator is great and the material is also.

The Random Thoughts:

4 Stars

Quinn's Book Nook says

Some of my most favorite historical romances to read are the ones set in the Highlands. I also tend to favor the lighthearted romances. ***Sweet Revenge* by Lynsay Sands is a hilarious romp, and I really did enjoy it, although it isn't particularly memorable.**

Kyla is on her way to be married, when her travelling party is attacked and Laird Galen MacDonald kidnaps her and marries her himself as revenge against his enemy (Kyla's intended). This is actually a good thing, as the man Kyla is supposed to marry is not a nice guy. If you've ever read *The Wedding* by Julie Garwood, this set up probably sounds familiar.

When Galen meets Kyla, she is injured and suffering greatly with fever. Kyla's maid, in an attempt to protect Kyla, tells Galen that Kyla is bit touched in the head, and so a lot of the initial humor has to do with Galen and his clan believe Kyla doesn't have all her marbles. And Kyla, who doesn't know that they believe she is mad, can't correct them. The situations are quite funny, but **I was ready for the misconception to end much early than it did** (around halfway through the book).

I really did like both Galen and Kyla, and I was rooting for them to make everything work out. There was **this one scene that I found particularly hilarious**. Kyla is chatting with another woman in the clan, and Galen and some of his soldiers are watching them from a distance. The men wonder what the women are talking about and decide they must be gossiping. But we learn that they are actually discussing chess, and the best moves to make, and I thought was hilarious, and, honestly, quite truthful in how many men think of women.

As I mentioned above, I do adore the more lighthearted stories, but ***Sweet Revenge* might be a bit too lighthearted for my tastes**. I never felt like there was any substance to ground the story, and once I finished it, I forgot most of the details. Even so, if you're looking for a fun, Highland Romance, *Sweet Revenge* by Lynsay Sands might be for you. This review was originally posted on Quinn's Book Nook
