



The Thief

Allison Butler

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First published as *The Border Laird's Bride*.

From Allison Butler, bestselling author of *The Healer*, comes a sexy Scottish romance about a man in search of a bride, a woman in search of a home and an inconvenient attraction that can't be denied.

To fulfil his father's dying wish, Border laird Lachlan Elliot must marry and sire a legitimate heir, cementing his family's name in the tumultuous borderlands. But his marriage will be one of convenience.

Lachlan has no time for the pain and betrayal of love, and his land and position must always come first. So even when the spirited thief he catches stealing his horse turns out to be breathtaking – and appropriate – he vows to marry her, bed her, but never love her.

Kenzie never wanted an arranged marriage, but to be forced to wed the domineering laird who catches her thieving from his lands is even worse. Feisty, strong-willed and determined to make her own way, Kenzie may have no choice but to agree to the marriage, but she will never give up her independence. Lachlan may own her body, but he will never own her heart.

from the author's website:

The Thief, formerly titled *The Border Laird's Bride*, has had a makeover and a hero name change to slot back into place as book 2 in my Borderland Bride series, as it was originally written. *The Thief* follows on from book 1, *The Healer*.

The Thief Details

Date : Published May 1st 2015 by Escape Publishing (first published February 10th 2013)

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Author : Allison Butler

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review The Thief for online ebook

Andrew Withers says

Brilliant. Couldn't put it down.

Leisl Leighton says

This was a lovely story with a feisty heroine worthy of her Scottish Laird and a Scottish Laird that could only learn what he needed to learn about love and life from the feisty heroine. I loved the unconventional way they met and the thing that ultimately brought them together made me have that lovely aah moment at the end.

It had all the elements I like in my historical romances and felt true to the period. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Miranda says

4 to 4.5 stars!!

I LOVE the fact that this book starts off with action. I also love the fact that the heroine (Kenzie) is the thief that has been stealing cattle from Laird Jamie Graham... and she gets caught. ;) This indeed was the perfect beginning for a fabulous romance.

Kenzie has been mistreated by her family and has taken upon herself to helping the less fortunate. This has led to the thriving of Jamie's cattle. I enjoy how the author lets this character be strong willed and determined despite being unloved by her father and beautiful older sister. I found myself cheering for Kenzie from the beginning, all the way to the end. You can watch how much the character grows during the story and it will warm your heart at the end.

Jamie was a character that I wish my hubby was more like. Haha! I could read about him all day. He's the whole package, ladies... except he needs a wife and an heir to fulfill his father's dying wish. There is lots of heat coming off of Kenzie and Jamie. You'll find yourself cheering them on. I also found was fanning myself by the time the love scene came around. Loved it.

Allison Butler writes a wonderful Scottish romance that will have you caught up in all the drama and passion. I cannot believe this is her first book. She writes like she's written a dozen novels. It's pure talent like this that I enjoy reading.

Thank you Destiny Romance and NG for the chance to discover her book. I love when a good book can let me escape into another world and time and leave my heart smiling in the end.

ARC provided by Destiny Romance via NetGalley for an honest review

Artemiz says

The Border Laird's Bride by Allison Butler is in a way the typical historical romance, where bride and groom do not want to marry for love, or fall in love. They have to marry for whatever reason and so they do, but they keep their distance from each other, since Jamie does not want to scare away the mother of his future heir and Kenzie wants to have this marriage annulled as soon as possible.

Once again our protagonists have "secrets" that nobody can know, since if they knew everything would be different. So they keep their secrets and soon they end up in bed together anyway. And of course they fall in love but there is no way in hell, they will acknowledge it. But when Kenzie's sister comes to visit the newlyweds ...

But at the same time, it's not typical romance. Even when Jamie and Kenzie learn each others secrets they do not flee from each other and start to sulk and talk endlessly about broken trust and love. In this story the loving couple can see each other as humans who make mistakes, who are beguiled to make mistakes and their parents mistakes have given them ideas (even if they are wrong) how to live their lives and how to guard their hearts and minds.

So it's just a usual historical romance, that takes place in Scotland. It's a good read.

Zoe says

I think this is a very standard Scottish romance story, with no surprises. It features a very strong laird and a supposedly beautiful lady. Only that the laird is not very Scottish. He says things like: "I hope you are not terribly bored." which does not exactly spell: 14th century Scotland. And the lady is not beautiful. I mean the author says she is, but other than her brown eyes, I cannot imagine how she could possibly be beautiful when you read constantly about how she pales in comparison to her golden sister.

This is a very plain book. I won't even bother to describe the plotlines because what you read in the blurb is pretty much what it is. A few things that the author was going for though, I did not buy them. I will list them below:

1. Lachlan did not want to get married: I think he acclimated to the idea well and soon enough. He does not behave like a man who is forced to marry because of a promise, at all.
2. Lachlan did not want to fall in love: again, not convinced. The rationale came very late in the book and way too weak.
3. Kenzie: I just have a huge problem with her name. What kind of a name is that?? I was thinking about McKenzie the consulting firm the entire time and it is not very feminine image that is associated with the name. The name was really really really bad. I mean if you changed Jamie to Lachlan, can you not change Kenzie to.....whatever.....Catriona??? Call her Mary! Anything, anything is better than Kenzie.
4. Kenzie is beautiful: sorry, don't believe it. I keep thinking of her in a very plain Jane kind of a way. I don't need my heroines to be breathtakingly beautiful or whatever. But to have her casted as a "beautiful lady" but shown her in such boring lights.....poor choice.

Overall I don't have a lot of dislikes about the book because, there are not so many things to like or dislike in the book. It is a very standard story where lust conveniently equates love. I do however, like Lachlan a lot as

a hero. Kenzie however, is a pathetic heroine. I don't want my heroines to be too tough or strong. But I need them to know their self worth. But I guess Kenzie is such a pathetic character where everyone ignores her and self worth is just new to her.

Despite being rather bored through the book, I still think the book has potentials. It is by no means, a great Scottish romance, or a great romance, never mind the Scottish bit. The series does say: "border". Lowlands and highlands are vastly different. It was good for maybe 40%, then it became rather uninspiring and I started to skim read. Lots of sex scenes or at least plenty of hints at hot sex, I just, don't buy it.

Kristin Bush says

A hot thief and a castle laird in need of a wife? A great combo or a disaster waiting to happen? When I first started reading this book I honestly didn't have an assumption (which is a first). But I was happily surprised by the turnout and the twists. Not to giveaway the plot but Kenzie isn't exactly what she seems and neither is Jamie.

I thought this book was pretty good. Not quite cliché or predictable which is the BEST part of reading books. I love that the heroine didn't just fall into the hero's arms, he had to unknowingly work for her love. I also love the setting being medieval and fairly researched to give the right impression of the era.

Kim Beck says

This book gives you an inside look at the courage of a young women who has always been cast aside to help others. It also shows her determination not to repeat the mistakes of her mother, and never forget the people who she really truly calls her family. It also brings you the story of a young laird's determination to keep his promises he gave his father and the honor he is inbred in himself when it comes to his clan and his family. This book gives you a chance to step back in time and enjoy a story about two people that were determined to be alone but find that fighting together is sometimes the best way to do things. Full review at <http://allnightbooks.com/?p=168>

Stephanie (Jump) says

3 stars

What started out as a solid intriguing 4-star read became a little too predictable, to the point where I guess the story's unfolding after the 50% point. There were also some plot holes that seem too big.

Full review to follow.

Bj says

THE BORDER LAIRD'S BRIDE is a well-written, heart-touching Scottish historical romance. A story with a beautiful message: true love is inescapable and can surprise us by coming in the plainest, unexpected of

packages.

Laird Jamie Graham has a predicament. His dying father's wish is that he marry and sire an heir, but he has always vowed never to fall in love. Having witnessed the devastation of his father at the hands of his mother who betrayed him by loving another, his mission is to fulfill his father's wishes with a woman who could never tempt him to fall in love with her. As luck would have it, as Jamie is pondering his options, he happens upon the perfect candidate, Kenzie Irvine, his neighbor's forgotten, plain Jane second daughter who he just happens to catch attempting to steal his horse.

In Kenzie's experience, powerful men like her father are to be avoided at all costs. as they can only be counted on to lead with their selfish wishes and desires. In her father's case, his greed allowed him to only shower attention on her beautiful fair sister, a sister whom he hoped to reap great benefit from when he married her off to the highest bidder. This neglect had turned her mother into a "shade" and herself a "shadow". "The difference was a shadow came alive with sun and light. A shadow was cast from something solid and real, something you could touch. A Shade was a patch of nothing that hid in the shadows avoiding the sun and light, avoiding life."

Determined never to marry, Kenzie instead focuses on helping the less fortunate (primarily abandoned women and children from her clan). When she is finally caught, Laird Graham gives her an ultimatum: hang or marry him. Kenzie makes the only viable choice, but vows never to surrender her heart and is determined to continue her mission to help the less fortunate.

Can a couple with such an inauspicious beginning ever fall in love? Ms. Butler weaves an interesting, passionate and romantic tale which answers this question. I greatly enjoyed the path which Ms. Butler chose to get to her conclusion. Perhaps my favorite part is Lord Graham. In Lord Graham, Ms. Butler crafts an admirable, loveable hero. It was thrilling to watch his heroic qualities slowly being revealed to Kenzie, leaving no doubt that he's the perfect gentleman lover and a compassionate leader through and through.

If you love traditional historical romances with witty banter, strong heroines, loveable heroes, missions to help the less fortunate, and a HEA, you will not want to miss **THE BORDER LAIRD'S BRIDE!**

Official review written by me and originally published at The Romance Reviews (TRR). For all my TRR reviews, please see <http://www.theromancereviews.com/myapa...>

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

This is my second book by this author, Allison Butler! Also this is the second book in the "Borderland Bride" Series. But, this can be a standalone book, so don't let that stop you from deciding on if you would like to read it or not. The heroine has had a hard life in the since that no one took any interest in her and pretty much none of the neighboring clans didn't even knew she existed. But the hero, quickly learn about her in the way of her taking what was his. This is a very touching, steamy and loving book.

Jenn says

3 Beast Stars

Not as good as the first, but I still enjoyed it.

Honestly , what made the book for me was:

1. Lachlan and his flirty - seductive ways. As well as how he was really good to his clan.
2. Lachlans trusted friends & brother
3. How Lachlan treated his wife and trying to win over her heart, body, and soul.
4. The help of the castle- fun addition to the tale.
5. Kenzie- for the most part and her compassion for others. Also how she started to fall for Lachlan.

I wish that this title, cover, and character change and order of where this story falls into the series was updated on Goodreads. At first it threw me off when I bought it on Amazon. I'm glad I read her website that noted the changes.

Anne says

Great story and characters.

Karen says

I was lured again into Allison's book by the enticing cover the first. However, even though it had great potential it kinda got lost in Kenzie's insecurities & Lacklan's shields against love.

Some scenes either ended in an anti climax or were drawn out too long. I liked the banter, Kenizies's foibles (lessened Cinderella image) & her relatives are truly a piece of work.

Will I read more? Probably

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

THE BORDER LAIRD'S BRIDE by Allison Butler is an exciting Medieval Historical Romance set in 1402 Scottish border. Debut author and what a beginning from Destiny Romance. Fast paced and filled with passion. A lonely, forgotten second daughter finds her Scottish hero. To fulfil his father's dying wish, Laird Jamie Graham must find a wife, enter....Kenzie Irvine, a little thief, but honestly she stole for a good reason. Laird Graham vows not to lose his heart, but oh well, we all know how that will work out, right? Filled with secrets and love you will not want to miss "The Border Laird's Bride". Written with depth, trusts, and a few twists and turns you won't see coming and engaging as well as realistic characters and an intriguing plot. A must read! Received for an honest review from the publisher and Net Galley

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: MILD

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Review courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Ravioli Rachel says

3 out of 5 Stars

So, I've read quite a few Scottish Highland Romance novels in my day (except Outlander because I'm scared of that book - Yes, I said scared... **DON'T JUDGE ME!** Maybe someday I'll get up enough courage to read it, but that's a whole other story). So, for me personally what makes a good Highland Romance novel (good is such a subjective term but I feel you all can work with me here on this) is first and foremost a smexy accent. Alas, this book just didn't do it for me. There were a few aye's and nae's but overall I just didn't get that little quiver when some Scottish Laird is shouting "Dunna make me angry lass!" ***sigh***.

Smexy accent aside this book was very predictable and the characters really lacked any depth. Jamie and Kenzie were very stereotypical. Now, is it possible for a story to have predictable and stereotypical characters and I'll still like it? Certainly! However... the author really has to make up for it in other ways, ways like adding lots of depth to the characters and making you fall in love with them - so even though you know their thoughts before they do, you're still attached to them. This is where the book fails in my opinion - no depth (I feel like this is such a trite thing to say, isn't this what every reviewer says when they're reviewing a book - "The characters lacked depth!"). There was so much more to the two of them that could have been written but wasn't. We get hints of things- like a mention of some terrible accident, involving a burning building with Kenzie but, it's never really elaborated on. We're supposed to feel for Kenzie because she's basically been ignored her whole life but the author failed to provide a justifiable basis for these feelings. Jamie must get married because he promised his father and it's acted like it's some big mystery but in reality I'm pretty sure it's any Lairds duty to marry and have heirs, when you find out the "big mystery" it's like okay, big whoop. I could go on, but hopefully - you get my point.

In the beginning the scenes involving Jamie and Kenzie where they're experiencing their attraction to each other seemed a bit *awkward*. I don't know if that's the right word really but, I'm not sure what else to call it.

Also, not that this makes or breaks a book but a cover is definitely something you have to keep in mind because it's what grabs a readers attention off the bat. This cover, just didn't do it for me. It's too modern... this is a historical romance, look older for goodness sake or more Scottish!

Looking very Scottish you Australian-American. It's totally the war braids not the kilt!

Bottom Line - The writing wasn't bad (except for missing out on the accent). It never felt like the story didn't flow, or was stilted. However, it was a predictable story that just lacked a little something something to make it memorable. I didn't hate the book, but I also didn't love it either. I wouldn't read it again. As far as recommending it, probably not - there are a lot of other Scottish Highlander Novels out there that I feel are a much better choice.

Should you read it? Hum... if you are very into this genre specifically then sure, why not? I'm sure there are plenty of people out there who would enjoy this story and find it delightful... I'm just not one of them :).

That about sums it up!

Peace Out!

Thank you to Penguin Books and NetGalley for providing this ARC

Blog Review
