



The Chieftain

Margaret Mallory

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Four fearless warriors return to the Highlands to claim their lands and legacies. But all their trials on the battlefield can't prepare them for their greatest challenge yet: winning the hearts of four willful Scottish beauties.

A Warrior's Heart

Connor, chieftain of the MacDonalds of Sleat, holds the fate of his people in his hands. Rival clans are plotting to take over his lands, and duty determines whom he will fight, trust . . . even marry. Seeking guidance, Connor turns to Ilysa, a young lass with the gift of foresight, who reveals an approaching danger—and a passion that burns only for him. But the warrior must make a powerful marriage alliance, and Ilysa's bloodline is far too humble.

With her powers to heal and see evil where others cannot, beautiful Ilysa dresses plainly, speaks softly, and loves her chieftain from afar. Yet when Connor finally stokes the embers of desire that have so long burned within her, Ilysa feels bliss unlike any she's ever known. Now as he is forced to place duty before happiness, Ilysa senses Connor is in grave peril. Can she find a way to prove she is the woman he needs by his side?

The Chieftain Details

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From Reader Review The Chieftain for online ebook

Levi Garnet says

5 Marvelous Stars

My second read from Margaret Mallory and it's the fourth and the final installment from Return of the Highlanders series (except the novella). I'm super surprised to love this book more than the first one. I first bought the first and fourth series from Google play, but the first book was just an okay read for me that's why I haven't read this one in such a long time. What a foolish am I! This one deserves my 5 stars, I just love it! But of course, not every story is a perfectly smooth.

To read this one, you don't have to read the three previous books, well... it's a series, and I've read the first one, I believe you don't have to read all of it in order, but if you do then it would be better.

The main story tells us about MacDonald clan, **Connor** as the laird, was in need of a strong ally to help him confront his uncle and another enemy clan. He's clan was a weak one, and in order to have a new ally, he was desperately in need of a bride, and from a strong clan nonetheless. Connor was an honorable man, he did everything for the prosperity of his clan, and he vows to himself not to be like his father, who ruined the family by keeping a mistress. A monogamous and devoted life was the one Connor decided since he was young. And that's where the problem starts...

Love definitely not something Connor was looking for, but, here we got **Ilysa**, younger sister of Duncan (the hero from book three) and best friend of Connor. Ilysa was a widower, she married young and not even a year she became a widower. She kept a dark secret by herself, a shame that always wandering inside her mind. Ilysa was a kind loving woman, she was composed, sensible, full of grace and I love her right away. She went together with Connor to help him took care of the place, at first Connor thought that Ilysa was just being kind and devoted her life to the clan (which is true), but little does he knows that Ilysa had been in love with him since she was young. Amid all of the bride candidates that Connor found, and all the dangers that prevailed, Ilysa always there to support him. Ilysa was a magnificent character, I love her so very much, her loyalty towards Connor is beyond only love, trust, compassion, and strong bonds. She was a plain woman, always draped in a concealing garment, but behind all of that old drabs, was a beautiful young woman.

The story got a low angst, particularly because of the unrequited feeling of Ilysa towards Connor. At first, I thought I will hate Connor for hurting Ilysa, but what Connor did actually no wrong, he just put the clan's future before his own need. Ilysa was not from a good family background, she cannot provide a strong ally or even huge sum of dower for Connor, she doesn't even know her biological father. Almost until the middle part, everything was enjoyable, but almost at the end, when Ilysa decided to change for herself, that's where the turning point start. It was good and hot, and enjoyable, but it was a little bit predictable, *a little bit*, not that I mind.

Overall, I really like Ilysa and Connor, I love their story, I enjoy it more than the first book. 5 stars.

PS: Does any of you know how to change the view from Play Books to scrolling? I prefer scroll view like I usually did in my iBooks.

Joanna Loves Reading says

An enjoyable listen, and I am now curious about a couple of secondary characters. May add more later.

Duchess Nicole says

My favorite of the series by a small margin. I think it was how the storyline with Hugh finally wrapped up after being dragged through all four books. Also, there was just quite bit of conflict resolution...all tied up with a pretty bow. I'm into that kind of ending :D Connor and Ilysa had quite the complicated relationship, and I wanted to strangle both of them at one point or another in the story. By the end, though, I was a fan of both. I loved how the other couples were brought into the plot, and how this book was full of so much action and movement.

By the way, I listened to the audiobooks of this entire series and while the old British male narrator really bothered me at first, by the time I got halfway through the second book, I actually really liked him. It was easier to forget that this was being told to me rather than me reading it...his voice sort of faded away until there was just dialogue and action. Worked out very well!

BookLover says

This whole series has been a quick and enjoyable read. This book, in particular, was my favourite in the series.

Connor's combination of obliviousness as well as stubbornness towards Ilysa, her feelings and her gift created a really fun and exciting story. All of the miscommunications caused by Connor's pigheadedness, while causing Ilysa heartbreak, made for a great story. I loved watching his awakening, where Ilysa was concerned.

I really hope Margaret Mallory writes more books in this series.

Joyfully Reviewed says

Return of the Highlanders, Book 4

Connor MacDonald is the Chieftain. He has the responsibility of keeping all of his people safe from those that strike against them. A part of keeping them safe is marrying a woman that comes with a strong alliance. Connor has always known love would not be in the cards for the Chieftain and that never bothered him until now.

Ilysa is the sister of Duncan, one of Connor's faithful friends. She is also a seer. Ilysa is in love with Connor but she knows a relationship between them is impossible because of her humble beginnings but that doesn't stop her from trying to protect him from the danger she sees coming.

When Connor and Ilysa are forced to work closer together he sees another side of the woman who has always been there for him. The shy drab girl is turning into a strong woman and it's getting harder to hide the feelings she causes. Will The Chieftain find a way to win the woman he loves or will war take away everything he desires?

Wow, I don't even know where to begin. I've waited for what seems like forever for Connor's story and now I'm so sad that it's over! It's safe to say that Margaret Mallory's Return of the Highlanders series is an all-time favorite of mine. I never thought I could fall in love with Scottish heroes until I was introduced to one that stole my heart in The Guardian.

I admit that I have been wondering for a while now how Ms. Mallory was going to work the relationship between Connor and Ilysa. I am very happy with the way things turned out. There are so many great things about The Chieftain. It is great to see all of the men of the series come together in this story. The scenes with the four of them are so fantastic. However, the scenes between Connor and Ilysa are magic. The two of them have an undeniable chemistry that is amped up because of the forbidden nature of their relationship. Not only should he marry for his people but Ilysa is his best friend's sister. Lots of dramatic tension makes The Chieftain an allstar!

If you're looking for a passionate highlander romance then The Chieftain is for you. Margaret Mallory creates spectacular stories filled with love and adventure.

Reviewed by Miranda for Joyfully Reviewed

RJ says

Not my cup of tea. I want to read about the romance between the main characters, I especially do not want to read about the hero lusting after every other woman. Yuck.

Aly is so frigging bored says

What an end to the series! We finally have a HEA for Connor, who acted like an asshole for about 1/2 of the book. I wanted to smack him a few times...

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted at Demon Lover's Books & More

The Chieftain was everything I love in Scottish Romance: a dedicated-to-his-clan-laird, a likeable heroine, a great plot, and a villain worthy of the title.

I normally don't like heroines like Ilysa, and yet I loved her. What I mean by that is, Ilysa is very passive, and very...calm. I normally like my heroines to be spunky and sassy and to fight with the hero a bit. Ilysa wasn't like that at all, but she wasn't a boring doormat either. The author managed to make Ilysa a wonderful and enjoyable character who I loved to read.

When Ilysa decided that she would be following Connor to his new home, it made sense. She'd been running his castle for years now, so she'd go help him settle in. Her brother didn't see it like that, though. (uh oh)

Ilysa made friends with the Cook and pretty much most of the servants, and I loved how she won them over.

She was a sweet heroine without being overly sweet, or perfect. You can't help but love her, and you can't help but feel her unrequited love for Connor as she does everything for him, but he barely notices.

Except...when he does notice.

Connor can't get sweet, drab Ilysa from his mind lately. She always there, she's always helping him, and he can't figure out why he would have such lustful thoughts over his best friend's little sister.

And then Ilysa has a vision.

To prevent Connor from dying, she locks him in his own dungeon. For 3 days. Uhh, locking a man in his own dungeon is bad, but the chief? Your friend, the man you love? Yikes. Of course once he's out he orders her to leave. Which she does. But by morning he's cooled off, and changes his mind. But it's too late. Ilysa has left, and his castle is falling down around him. The food is horrible, there's no order, and no one seems to know what to do.

Ilysa goes back home, and her friends decide to get her out of her drab clothes and dress her befitting her station. Their goal is to marry her off at the next gathering. There will be many chieftains there so it's completely possible. And ya know what? She's offered marriage by a clan chief! She also makes friends with an enemy of Connor's. Big things are about to happen.

And then Connor sees her. And he doesn't recognize her. (the jerk! LOL)

...And then he does.

He knows rage like he has never known when he sees all the men falling over themselves to speak with her.

And he can't figure out why.

I loved their romance, but I really loved seeing the end of a plot that's been running since the first book. Some old things were resolved, some new alliances were made, some were broken, and through it all Ilysa and Connor discovered that their love is more important than anything else.

For anyone who wants a delicious new Highlander series, Margaret Mallory delivers with her Return of the Highlanders series.

***ARC courtesy of netgalley and Forever Romance

Kari says

I think this was the best one of the series. After watching Connor struggle in the first 3 books, he finally gets his HEA! I was sorry to see it end, I was hoping Lachlan would get a story of his own... The twist regarding Ilysa's background was great!! If you read the first three, then this one is a MUST.

Deniz says

I truly enjoyed reading "The Chieftain. This book had everything

I look for in a highland romance. The characters are engaging and the story is heartwarming, fun, and enjoyable..
If you love historical highland romance
I highly recommend this book.

Shannon says

[Ilysa announced that she was pregnant during the negotiation scene. It was very random and she was

Melinda says

The Chieftain
By Margaret Mallory
Return of the Highlanders Book #4

This is the final book of the short series.

Connor became chief of the MacDonalds of Sleat when he came home after fighting in France for five years to find that his father and older brother had been killed in the Battle of Flodden and his evil uncle was running the clan into the ground by only looking out for himself. The clan voted in Connor as chieftain and ousted his uncle.

His uncle is now gathering large numbers of pirates and terrorizing the Isle of Sky and all the surrounding Isles. Not only is he at war with his uncle but a rival clan is threatening to take his land. Connor must find a strong clan to marry into so he can get help defending his lands.

Ilysa is a healer and a seer. Connor has always trusted her to take care of the castle and take on the duties that his future wife will take over once he is married. Nobody ever gives Ilysa a second glance because she dresses in frumpy clothing that are shapeless and drab. She covers her hair like a nun and keeps herself in the background. She is in love with Connor because she is too lowborn to marry him. Although her mother was a noblewoman, her father is unknown.

I absolutely adored Ilysa. I laughed a lot at her tactics. I really wanted her to somehow be some powerful chieftain's daughter and I somehow guessed who her father really was. That was probably a bit of a spoiler but I think anyone could put two and two together.

I am sad that this is the end of this series but it really had nowhere else to go. I would recommend this series to anyone who likes Highlander romances.

www.paranormalromanceslut.com

Pang says

Impressive 4.5 Stars..

CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

Connor is clan chief of the MacDonalds of Sleat. His clan's welfare and future depend upon his every decision, especially when it comes to choosing his future bride. A chieftain cannot marry where his heart leads him, not even when his choice is a fierce lass whose loyalty to the clan and her chieftain is unparalleled.

Ilysa has spent her life loving Connor MacDonald from afar. She has always been the type to work in the background, never gaining recognition. But the time for keeping silent is over. Ilysa is now determined to use her second sight to make certain Connor is safe and happy, even if her own heart breaks in the process.

Connor has never taken any particular notice of Ilysa before now. Yet, she has changed before his very eyes. Beautiful, alluring, steadfast and brave, the lass captures the chieftain's heart. In the end, it will take both of them and their loyal hearts to safeguard their people.

Ms. Mallory does a beautiful job of bringing the Isle of Skye to life in her vivid descriptions of Clan MacDonald's lands and lives. The fourth in this series, this book can be read as a standalone, though readers may enjoy picking up the previous three to get acquainted with the wonderful cast. Though the story has a predictable rhythm, it is well written and worth picking up for fans of Highland historical romances.

Kaitlin

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Karen says

I absolutely love this series and The Chieftain was a fabulous read. Margaret Mallory is now on my 'auto-buy' list, well she has been for awhile now. Mallory writes everything I love about a Scottish Highland romance.

If you love a man in a kilt then you shouldn't pass this novel by.
