



Secrets to Reveal

Tilly Wallace

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Every heart holds a secret, but some are harder to reveal than others...

England, 1812. Aster Simmons lives a quiet and orderly existence working as a secretary and indulging in her love for puzzles--until her routine is disrupted by the arrival of an impertinent Scotsman who lounges around her office like an overgrown dog. The heated glances he casts her way make her think very non-routine thoughts.

Hamish Logan, captain in the Highland Wolves, has been given a mission to protect the man working on a coded list of traitors. If the Wolves are ever to have the same rights as ordinary men, he has to prove to those in power that a wolf can be civilised. The only problem is the fascinating secretary, who makes his wolf rise to the surface and makes him want to do very uncivilised things.

When the traitors strike, Aster flees with a wolf in pursuit. But can she determine who is behind the plot against England before she forfeits her heart and her life?

Secrets to Reveal Details

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From Reader Review Secrets to Reveal for online ebook

B Whitaker, says

I have been stepping away from the normal romances that I read and review lately and have been pleasantly surprised in several instances (such as this little jewel). Tilly Wallace weaves a masterful mix of history, paranormal and regency romances all into one really great book. She had me chuckling at several points in the book when there was particular interaction between our main characters (Aster and Sir John) and the circumstances they found themselves in. I do love a well written book (whatever the genre') because it lends authenticity to the plot and/or storyline. I would read more from this author in the future, and plan to if she comes out with subsequent novels.

I don't leave synopsis of the story (the author can do a better job of that then I can) nor spoilers because nothing makes me fly mad as quickly as someone ruining the high points of the story even before I have opened it up. I will just say that I greatly enjoyed "Secrets to Reveal (Highland Wolves, Book 1) and would rate it (if I could) at a 4.25 stars.

I received an advanced reader copy(ARC) of this book and voluntarily left posted review.

Edit

Delete

Christine says

I tried to get into this story several times, but lost interest.

MJ says

4.5

Loved it. Wish the next ones were a little cheaper, but I'm still going to buy them. Gotta see where all these guys end up.

Darkwinde says

The blurb for this book is somehow correct and entirely misleading. Everything it mentions does happen from a "certain point of view", but left me with a completely different idea of where this book was going. After I let go of those pre-conceptions, I did enjoy the book. I liked the idea of this world and the men of the wolf pack. Aster was full of surprises. I certainly didn't see that big surprise coming, but wasn't bothered that it seemed to come from out of left field.

I will probably read further in this series and from this author.

Janet Denise Ross says

OH MY WHAT A FANTASTIC READ, A TERRIFIC BOOK 1, Yet it stands alone! READ, DON'T PASS UP!

Tilly Wallace, I want to Thank You, for finally teaching me book wise how to ride side saddle, her instructions are very clear and anyone could probably get on a horse and begin side saddle riding with all information needed, already read at hand. This alone would almost be worth the 5 stars I am giving it because; of the sheer enjoyment I received while reading the actual paranormal involvement of Captain Hamish, and his wolf, how one would feel certain way and the other self would contain all of the strange emotions to not give them wolf/man, shape shifter away, and how he interacted to his Army Unit vs other Army, and rest of Recency Society! 18 yrs & older are needed to read this story, because our Heroine Aster, who everyone but a few thinks is a man, at a time Ladies don't work was one of the Country's top 3 or 4 Cryptographers, unknown especially as a woman. Aster tackles her lonely life as a only child, one who's mother died and she had to start supporting herself around 15 yrs old, was affected by Hamish, and had to figure out if he was a spy after her puzzles; while Hamish had to figure out if she was the spy passing info to France, it is obvious her self doubts come from being by herself, and his from being a second son. Take my advice and get comfy while you share this story with your mind and heart, on the simple trials testing each other and themselves, as the war gets heavier, the spy game gets deadlier and their desire and necessary need to know about the comes to a head .

Elodie says

I didn't know what to expect as it was my first historical read with supernatural beings. The first chapter was confusing but soon I understood the setting of this dystopian universe, I was hooked.

Aster Simmons had not an easy life, each new day she must fight for a right to live, a woman in this men world has so limited options. Until Hamish the captain of the Highland Wolves noticed her, she was a shadow, living an existence of few hopes. She is no fighter with weapons or limbs but she has a sharp mind, her best gun. Now what does is really looking for the delicious officer?

Hamish Logan never expected to find a woman in an intelligence department even more a secret one. So he struggled at first to see her for more than she appears to be, his inner wolf has recognized her for who she is but can Hamish comprehend and accept her.

The author did a great job building her world where unnaturals coexist with humans. The main couple is a great match, each one bringing to the other what is needed to feel whole. Aster in contact with Hamish realizes what is really missing in her life, while Hamish for the first time since long can be really himself. They both together can drop their walls and facade to be true.

Laura J. says

Story loses it's magic

This book is a rewrite of "The Cryptographer" by Alice Wallis-Eton. Since I remember enjoying "The Cryptographer", I was looking forward to the paranormal twist. The first 3/4ths of the book did not disappoint. The intelligent heroine, the plot surprises, the dog (!) were well done. The last quarter of the book fell flat.

PSUDST says

In general, I avoid paranormal/supernatural books because the characters typically have weird names that I can't keep straight. Couple that with sprites, shapeshifters, vampires, werewolves, and a partridge in a pear tree, and I end up losing sight of the story because I need a flowchart to keep characters organized.

At first, I thought that I would have to suffer through such paranormal chaos with Secrets to Reveal but after the first couple of chapters, the story settled into a more familiar romance storyline that I was able to follow. The Unnaturals as they are referred to in the book are integrated into the historic English society circa late 16th century which I found fascinating. I believe that most of the paranormal books (other than those set in the future) that I have read in the past had characters keeping their secret traits hidden.

Overall, I really enjoyed the author's writing style (this is the first book that I've read by her) and she was able to blend perfectly romance with intrigue. The heroine, Aster, was super smart and was not shy about voicing her opinion about the inequities that women unfairly faced during the time which I liked. Hamish was a strong leader who took his duties seriously, especially when he had to set aside his growing affections for Aster in favour of completing his mission. It made his developing feeling for Aster far more believable for me.

The secondary characters were interesting but not so domineering within the story that they overshadowed Aster and Hamish's tale. The other men who serve with Hamish get their own stories and I look forward to reading each one of them.

Kim says

Tilly Wallace puts a unique spin on the war against Napoleon by bringing a magical and para normal aspect to the spy game. I found the characters funny entertaining and believable. I felt the loneliness of Aster and how her past and intelligence kept her apart from other women but she doesn't mind because she's happy with her life with her constant companion Dougal. You could just picture Hamish's inner wolf trying to come out and him keeping him at bay especially when they are both so attracted to Aster. Hamish is the commanding officer of the group of very new and unique Highland soldiers. Ms. Wallace weaves a story that makes you wonder what may happen next and will their differences keep Aster and Hamish apart and will she be accepted by his troops. The comradery of the four men is funny and you can see their love for each other and how they accept the woman their leader has chosen as his own and treated as the family she's been looking for. Then there is the loveable and mischievous Aunt you will fall in love with that treats these men of honor and courage as little boys/puppies who need to be trained using a newspaper. Between the two women the men are kept in check. Tilly Wallace shows that no matter if your a spirit, human, lycanthropes, mage, Wight or any other type of mystical or magical being you can help your country with your unique skills help the war effort. I'm looking forward to reading the next and future installments of the Highland

Wolves Series to see how they foil the traitors and the French under Napoleon.

Irène Wadowski uliasz says

Une agréable surprise car ce nest pas mon genre préféré. J'ai tout de suite été captivée et je ne l'ai plus lâché. Les personnages sont attachants et l'histoire se tient . Hâte de lire la suite.

Katy says

This book was an absolute delight. I didn't even mean to read it. I have three other books I'm smack dab in the middle of, but I was going through my kindle and saw that I'd recently picked this up for free. I was a little curious so I thought I'd read a chapter or two, just to get a peek. Three and a half hours later I looked around and thought *OOPS*. I love historical paranormal romances. That's such a long title for the genre. HPRN? I like HPNR as an abbreviation. Anyway, as I was saying. I love this genre and I hate that there aren't more books like this out there. Considering this book was free, I didn't expect much. Perhaps I enjoyed it so much *because* I didn't expect much. Was it the greatest book ever written? No. But it was such a surprise. A really, really, good one.

Hamish is part of a select group of soldiers who have been purposefully infected with lycanthropy-now they're werewolves. Aster Simmons is secretary to Sir John, who decodes important documents that help in the war against France. Aster isn't just his secretary though, she is secretly a talented cryptographer whose gift surpasses that of her beloved employer. Sir John knows this and gladly gives her puzzles and documents to decode instead of dooming her to a life of merely dusting books and delivering his tea. Hamish and his group of werewolves are given orders to protect Sir John, as an important encrypted list of traitors has fallen into his hands. Hamish and Aster are drawn to one another but each has their own secrets and they have to decide whether they can trust each other.

I loved everything about Aster. She was truly feisty. The odds were stacked against her yet she persevered. She had no family. No fortune. She wasn't considered a conventional beauty. But she was brilliant, self-reliant, and brave. She also happened to be smart enough to know when she was in danger. We all know how frustrating it is to read about supposedly intelligent heroines who for some reason, decide to abandon all good sense and put themselves in danger at the worst moments. There was a distinct lack of TSTL in this book and it was so refreshing. **Aster refused to apologize for her intelligence and the fact that she found a way to support herself in a field that she loved and excelled in.** She may not have *wanted* to live her life alone but she knew she could if she needed to.

I loved that while Hamish and his fellow wolves were baffled by her independence, they were also in awe of her ability and admired her for it. What she did was important and they never discounted that. Aster had moments of intense loneliness that I think everyone can relate to, at least at some point in their lives. She wanted to be seen and loved. Simply put, I adored her.

And what about Hamish? He was the whole package. Alpha werewolf. A *Scottish* Alpha werewolf. Smart. Kind. Protective. Just the right amount of possessive. Loyal. And oddly enough, humble. He was the second

son. He wasn't sure if he would have a future, but Aster didn't care. There wasn't an ounce of assholeness in him. And he *loved* how crazy smart Aster was. It was a huge turn on for him and I loved him for it.

I really enjoyed the other men in Hamish's unit. Is unit the right word? Regiment? Anyway, it was set up perfectly for the rest of the series. The end dragged a little but it wasn't enough to ruin it. The book's main issue is resolved but I look forward to the continuation of the big-picture-plot through the rest of the series. I read the entire thing in one sitting and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical romances with a supernatural twist. It might not knock your socks off but I loved it, it was such a lovely way to spend an evening.

Dee Archer says

The interesting stories of Aster & Hamish captured my attention at the very beginning. I was easily sucked into the drama, mystery and intrigue surrounding these two characters. Hamish is Captain of the newly formed team of Highland Wolves sent from Scotland to protect and investigate the goings on around Sir John Warrington of the Records Office. England is at war with France and there are spies and traitors everywhere. Lots of action as individuals search for a special list of traitors to England. Kept me on the edge of my seat for hours! There are secrets between English and French agents and spies. But also secrets hidden from the reader! Traumatic events will bring the tears. Secrets revealed will shock and entertain. Great shifter adventure with thrilling action and heart-warming romance. I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book. Five stars.

Daniell Marsh says

I liked how the author mixed in paranormal with regency. Love when a book has humor and strong characters. Also like how she makes the characters more in touch with everyday people with problems and not perfect. Aster is smart, provides for herself with a good attitude without being pretty, as she herself describes saying she is plain. There has been lots of books that they are a total package with above average smarts, looks but not having a nice personality so it was a nice change. Loved how her dog was incorporated in the book. I am glad to see that there is other books for some of the secondary characters as you get to like them and want to see more. I hope she does another book with Ewan as would like to see what happens with him. I did receive an ARC from Hidden Gems for an honest review. After I read this book I did go in and buy the series as wanted to be able to reread the book and see what happens with the rest of the characters. This was a HFN as you did see their story but some loose ends which does not take away from the story and could be left there.

Jayne says

Wallace presents a different kind of wolf here, one that feels more mature and sweeter than I'm used to. Hamish might've seemed "bold" and playful at the first encounter, but he quickly becomes a thoughtful, protective fellow. I really liked that despite being the leader, he wasn't an over aggressive alpha and was gentle with Aster.

At first, I couldn't quite figure out why Aster was so lonely and seemingly forcing herself into a type of solitude. After learning about her past it made some sense, and I have mixed feelings about her needing Hamish to feel like she has worth. She seems to want to throw herself into the ocean or some such when he's not around. I get that he's the first man to make her feel alive and noticed, but I guess I just wanted her to gain more self-confidence. To be fair, though, the story doesn't take place over a long period of time, and she does get some growth when she meets Hamish's aunt.

I really enjoyed the first part of the story, but for some reason I didn't like it as much from the cottage to the end. Maybe because the mystery was too predictable? The action wasn't very exciting? Or because then everyone started giving their two cents about the relationship? I'm not too sure what it is exactly, but I suspect the things mentioned above have something to do with it.

And I also got a bit thrown off by Hamish's family. In the beginning it sounds like being a lycanthrope will be a shock and probably unwelcome (Unnaturals aren't widely acceptable in society). But when you meet his aunt it sounds like it's all fine, and a lot of Scottish lords are lycanthropes. Hmmm. Okay.

Overall, it's a cute read and I like that the alpha here is not such an alpha male.

Alicia says

<http://wordnerdy.blogspot.com/2018/02...>

A friend who knows that Recency-era fantasy novels are my jam recommended this to me, and it was pretty fun! It starts off on a low note for me, as the heroine laments that she can't make any female friends, yet she dismisses her boarding-house-mate's conversations as "inane chatter" because she is clearly Not Like Other Girls. The world-building and the love interest coming from a troop of Scottish werewolves are more than a little reminiscent of Gail Carriger--Wallace is definitely playing in that sandbox. I did wish for a more attentive editor; we shouldn't have to be told six times in the first couple chapters that most people think the protagonist is a maid (when really she is a secretary/codebreaker) and the "inane chatter" of women shouldn't have come up even once, let alone multiple times. There were a few other things that seemed to be errors, too. In general, the writing is a bit overwrought and I wished things had been polished up a bit. The romance and the spy stuff are both pretty cute, though. B.
