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Heart's Thief (Highland Bodyguards, Book 2)



Synopsis

A dangerous missionâ Although Colin MacKay is thought a charmer, he hides an old wound behind his quick smile and dancing blue eyes. To ease the pain of a past betrayal, he has devoted his life to the cause for Scottish freedom. When King Robert the Bruce fears his strategic communications have been compromised, he sends Colin on a crucial mission: ferret out the spy and deliver an urgent missive to the Kingâs brother. When Colin discovers that the deceptively enchanting Sabine has been intercepting the Kingâs correspondence, he holds her captive until he can deliver his missive and hand her over to the Kingâs judgement. But detaining the sable-haired beauty proves far more dangerous when lust flares hot between them. A deadly game of seductionâ Sabine has known only the life of a thief. Scooped from the streets as an orphan child, she thinks of the man who saved her as a father, though his dark moods and cruel manipulations keep her frightened of being abandoned again. Under his tutelage, she learns that with a suggestive smile or a heart-wrenching tale, she can lower menâs guards just long enough to steal their secrets. But when she is sent to seduce a handsome, golden-maned Highlander bearing a message from the Bruce, soon she cannot tell who is playing whom, or if it is a game at all. Colinâs searing touch crumbles the walls around her heart, forcing Sabine to realize that her loyalty to her boss may come with a priceâher life. When unseen forces threaten to tear their world apart, Sabine and Colin must choose between duty, loyalty, and love to save themselvesâand each other. This full-length Scottish historical romance is part of the Highland Bodyguards Series, but also can be enjoyed as a standalone novel. Pick up your copy today!

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Customer Reviews

Heart's Thief by Emma Prince is Book 2 of her "Highland Bodyguards", but can be read as a stand alone. This story begins with a game of deception, a dangerous mission and ends in a game of seduction. Fast paced with twists and turns, political intrigue, danger, drama, betrayal, spies and romance. Colin MacKay, is a sexy Highlander, a charmer and a member of Robert Bruce's elite Bodyguards. Sabine, is enchanting, seductive, and a very deceptive spy. She has been deceived nearly her entire life and trained by a man, she thought of as a father figure. Neither trust easily, both are proud and will stop at nothing to achieve their goals, including seduction. But can seduction turn to love and a HEA? The characters will capture your heart and hold you in utter awe. The storyline is magnificent, thrilling, and captivating. Ms. Prince has once again given her fans a brilliant and masterfully written Medieval romance. I highly recommend! Fans of treachery, danger, passion, suspense, mystery, and intrigue will not be disappointed. An absolute must read! What a delightfully wicked Highland to Ireland Medieval Romance! I can't wait for the next installment. Pick up your copy today! Rating: 4.5 Heat rating: Mild Reviewed by: AprilR

I didn't care for the h until over 1/4 through the book. There was no redeeming qualities in our h and I couldn't understand how this would end up being a romance story with the H/h making a connection. Oh me of little faith, our author turned it around and I was so surprised how much I enjoyed their journey of discovering love. This is a romance story, our h does redeem herself and quite nicely too. I enjoyed our H but at times I wondered what took him so long in the beginning to not recognize the trouble our h was to his mission. The lovemaking was passionate because by the time they come together, I felt a connection to them. We have betrayal, suspense, many plot twists, and romance along the way. We get HEA and no cliffhanger. This is book 2 of the series, but could be a stand alone, because our main character's from book 1 do not make an appearance. I did enjoy book 1 from the start and would recommend you read it too. (ljb)

This story by Emma Prince is a page turner. I love her writing. This book is no exception. The Carlisle Castle siege occurs but is not successful. Robert the Bruce is not a happy camper. Somehow the enemy within the castle, with far fewer defenders, was prepared for every tactic the Highlanders under Robert's leadership attempted. Bad weather did not help but lots of arrows and rocks were thrown on his troops. Nothing worked! His 10,000-man army was unsuccessful against a few hundred defenders. The Bruce was accustomed to success in sieges and in his hit-and-run tactics in the field against the English. It is no surprise that Colin McKay and Finn Sutherland encountered a disgruntled Scottish king. These two elite warriors were summoned from Roslin Castle where they had been training men to become members of the recently formed Bodyguard Corps. The Corps is a secret group of elite warriors who are trained to become bodyguard to those individuals who are targeted by the English. After much discussion among the three individuals, King Robert came to the conclusion that somehow the plans for the siege which had been sent to Edward, his brother, by messenger had somehow been intercepted. They talked about possible explanations; ruling out the messenger as the culprit yet somehow thinking he had been compromised. Colin, after thinking about the problem came up with a plan that would have the same messenger take an important message to Edward. However, with one twist. He would accompany the messenger under the guise of having to meet with Edward. The messenger would carry a neatly folded blank parchment with the King's seal. Colin would carry the real message on his person. Also, he would try to solve this message riddle. After the two parchments were written, Osborne, the messenger and Colin left. At a hotel along the way, Colin learned exactly how this messenger could be compromised. Osborne met an attractive lass who told him a tale of woe. Osborne fell for it hook, line, and sinker. The result: she ended up in his room. The maiden, whose name is Sabine, lifts the message the messenger has, opens it with a candle, realizes there is NO message. Sabine is very skilled, light-fingered, intelligent and endowed with a great memory. Sabine was trained by a master thief, Fabian. She panicked after reading the blank parchment concluding that the King was aware that his messages are compromised. She quickly left the premises. A suspicious Colin checked on Osborne only to discover he had passed out. He also surmised how the message could be opened and the seal put back in place. How? The heated seal was still warm to his touch. He went after Sabine. There are further adventures that involve Colin and Sabine once he catches up to her. He learns she was taken off the street when she was five years old and trained to be an outstanding thief by Fabian. She thought Fabian cared about her and took care of her. She made every effort to please Fabian. In truth, Fabian is focused on himself and delivers the information gleaned for a price. He is a blackmailer who is ruthless. When angry he lashes out at his minions including Sabine

and others. He has many, many important customers. Fabian also has a body guard in Miles who does his bidding including serving as an assassin at Fabian's request. There are many twists and turns involving Colin, Sabine, Miles and Fabian. I will not give away the plot. The story has a happy ending after some harrowing close calls. This read is well worth it.

Colin has been sent on a mission hoping to find whoever is intercepting and compromising their missives, but Sabine nearly escapes right from under his nose, setting off a game between the two that turns out to have higher stakes than either of them intended. Both are highly skilled at playing people, but it was interesting seeing them try to work each other. Lots of secrets and misunderstandings about intentions here, but I really liked the two of them together—they had amazing chemistry from the beginning. I'm looking forward to Finn's story! Can't wait! Note: This book was provided to me by the author for an honest review.

After reading book #1 (Lady's Protector), I couldn't wait for this book. I enjoyed Colin and Sabine's story which was woven within the history of Robert the Bruce. Colin was among Robert's elite group of trusted men. He was commissioned to find out who was betraying the Scottish movement by giving information to the English. Sabine was an orphan who was snatched from the streets and taught to steal at a very young age. But now she's grown and Colin captures her when he learns it is her stealing the information. An enjoyable read, but slow moving until about 42% of the book. So please stay with it if you're reading this. The book gets better and better as you go and is worth while once you reach this point.

I love Scotland! I have lived there and Emma brings the history to life with added fiction of course but I can see so much of what she describes in my mind's eye it is like taking a trip. I love the characters and the adventure she brings to her characters as they fall in love.

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