



The Ruby Brooch

Katherine Lowry Logan

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Can a 21st century paramedic find her true identity on the other side of the heather-scented mist?

From the white-plank fenced pastures of Lexington, Kentucky, to the beautiful Bay of San Francisco, *The Ruby Brooch*, a saga rich in detail and mystery, follows a young woman's physical and emotional journey as she searches for the truth she believes will heal her wounds, restore her sense of self, and allow her to move on with her life.

As the lone survivor of a car crash that killed her parents, paramedic Kit MacKenna makes a startling discovery that further alters her life. A faded letter and a well-worn journal reveal that she was abandoned on her father's doorstep as a baby. The only clues to her identity are a blood-splattered shawl, a locket that bears a portrait of a nineteenth-century man, and a Celtic brooch with mystical powers. Following notes in her late father's journal, Kit sets out on a quest to solve the murders of her birth parents and discover her true identity. Under the guise of the Widow MacKenna, Kit calls on the power of the ruby brooch and is swept back in time to Independence, Missouri, in the year 1852.

Upon arriving in the past, she meets Cullen Montgomery, an egotistical Scotsman with a penchant for seducing widows. The San Francisco-bound lawyer happens to resemble the ghost who has haunted Kit since childhood. She quickly finds the Bach-humming, Shakespeare-quoting man to be over-bearing and his intolerance for liars threatens her quest.

If she can survive his accusations and resist his tempting and passionate embrace, she might be able to find the answers she seeks and return home to a new life without changing history or leaving her heart on the other side of time

The Ruby Brooch Details

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From Reader Review The Ruby Brooch for online ebook

Artemiz says

I really wanted to like Katherine Lowry Logan's book The Ruby Brooch, I really did, since I had heard so much good about it ... but I couldn't.

For me there were several things that prevented me to like the story. First, for me this story was Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series fan-fiction. I will not make here a list of all the things that were the same, it's sufficient to say, that a girl with a medical training travels to past and meet a highlander, who has shown himself as a ghost in her time, she falls in love with him and marries him in haste ... and so on.

The other thing that really got to my nerves was how everything bad that could happen happened in this story - car crash, almost rape, rattlesnakes, buffalo stampede, almost flash flood, mortal deceases, robbers And how Kit brings things from twenty-first century to nineteenth century with such an ease and uses them without care that she could change things in future with her modern day knickknacks. And how everything important happens on just the right moment and how at the end the story is wrapped up with too much convenient coincidences. I know I'm reading a fiction but even the fiction could be believable if it's well written.

And the main thing that spoiled my reading was the love story. Or to be precise the lack of the romance and passion and heat in this love story. Besides their thinking or saying that they loved each other or could not live without each other, I got no other impression that there was love in the air. They fought, they misunderstood each other, they wanted each other's bodies, but I had hard time believing that there was something between these two ... I actually sensed more feelings between Kit and her cousin, than between Kit and Cullen.

The story has a good idea, it just was not very well executed.

Jill says

2.5 stars

Eryn LaPlant says

I finished this book last night. WOW! Just wow! I absolutely loved it. I love the author's voice, love the development of the characters, loved the plot and story. All of it was SO good! I've been reading a lot of books lately, now that I've been opened up to a bunch of new authors, and some are ok, some are bad and only a couple have been outstanding. Katherine was outstanding! She now has a life-long fan.

Ok, let's talk characters. Kit was just adorable, sensitive yet strong, determined yet loving... I felt for her, I wanted to be her, I wept for her. Excellent job! Cullen - LOVED him!! He's smart, poetic, deep, thoughtful, strong, husky, sexy.... he's the perfect hero.

All the secondary characters were wonderful too. I felt like I was friends with them just like Kit was. I hope in the next story she'll bring back the Barrett family.

I know I'm gushing, but I can't help it. I truly enjoyed your book from the first page to the last. I was so sad to finish it last night. I want it to be a movie!

I read ahead to some of the other comments on this site and I can't believe there are 1-star reviews. They really must not have been reading the same book I did, because I am darn picky about the books I read and only dive into the ones that I can actually feel inside my soul. I felt this one... it took hold and I know I will carry it with me for a long time.

Corri says

I quit reading this book as soon as I realized the actual story was just a vehicle to write a lot of sex scenes. I'm only writing this review to warn others, like me, who don't appreciate that much graphic description. Don't get me wrong, I love a good historical romance. This did not fit that category for me.

Kate says

I liked the concept of this book however, the execution left a lot to be desired. As you know by now, the plot involves the heroine traveling back in time. What kept me from getting truly involved in the story is that she travels back in time with a 19th century wagon full of 21st century items: a CVS worth of drugs and first aid supplies, an iPod and headphones, a digital camera, liquor, guns, and so on. And she really doesn't make a huge effort to hide this from the 19th century characters nor are there timeline consequences for them finding out about these things.

Second of all was the sheer number of talents the heroine had. One line of the book mentioned a picture of her riding in the World Equestrian Games. Being involved in the horse world, I can tell you that the amount of time needed to train, prepare and ride successfully in the WEG pretty much precludes you from doing or learning all the other things the heroine could do: a brown belt in karate, being an EMT, and expert artist, historical reenactments - all very much time consuming hobbies/careers in and of themselves.

I think good time travel fantasy characters and stories need to feel as if they could really happen - and these sorts of issues just kick me right out of the story and unsuspend, if you will, my disbelief.

Amelia Siegert says

This book is not great. There is no depth to it at all. I was able to finish it because the heroine was likeable, but I was happy it was over. Outlander puts this book to shame.

Theresa says

Weak and silly... *minor spoilers*

If I I make it to the 65% mark in a book I usually finish it. The Ruby Brooch will be the exception.

My very first time travel romance was Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series. I won't say that ruined me for all others but it did set a bit of a standard for setting up the time travel premise and having the time traveler cope with and adapt to the time to which he or she has traveled. DG does it quite well by having her heroine Claire Randall flung backward to the mid-18th century and having to rely on her wits and common sense to navigate and make a life in the alien and often hostile environment of the Scottish Highlands at a time of great upheaval. DG does a creditable job of taking a fantastic premise and making it believable and absorbing.

Unfortunately, Ms. Logan and the Ruby Brooch cannot claim the same. Instead of her wits, our heroine relies on the trappings of the 21st century: flashlights, multi clip repeating rifles and handguns, modern medicines including IVs and Tylenol, her iPhone, iPod and the straw that broke this readers back: a modern pregnancy test. Her efforts to hide her "other worldliness" was perfunctory at best.

As far a characterization is concerned, I found it to be uneven and often contradictory. Both Kitherina and Cullen, our main protagonists cycle through emotions with alarming unpredictability and often without real explanation or provocation. Some of the secondary characterizations are quite good especially that of Sarah Barrett. I really like her more than Kitherina. As far as Cullen is concerned, he is supposed to be a Highlander (seems to be requisite in time travel novels), but speaks English with very little Scottish influence showing in his speech except when he is engaged sexually with Kitherina. It was infrequent enough to feel affected rather than illustrative of his character.

The great western migration was a fascinating period in American history but very little of the history of that time is incorporated into the story. While DG may occasionally be criticized for her massive research and how it shows up in her book as very detailed description, Ms. Logan might be criticized for not enough. This reader got only the barest sense of what life on the trail was like. My knowledge of U.S. History reminds me that it was a grueling, monotonous, dangerous journey and not enough of that figures into the story.

Bottom line: Given the setting this could have been a terrifically engaging read but is instead, shallow and silly. Give this one a pass.

Terri says

Westward Ho! With A Twist (Audiobook)

The Ruby Brooch is the first book of the Celtic Brooch Trilogy (plus) written by Katherine Lowry Logan and narrated by Teri Schnaubelt. A modern, self-assured, accomplished and sullen woman, Kitherina (Kit) MacKenna has her world blown apart with the death of her parents and love interest, discovery that she is probably not a MacKenna by birth, and the possibility that her actual origins might lie back in 1842 and a trek along the Oregon Trail. So begins the wonderful historical hop.

Many might remember playing or watching their children playing the Oregon Trail computer game as it was, and may still be, a computer lab staple in the 80s and 90s. In the game you are a pioneer wending your way along the 2,170 mile route, encountering major landmarks, and enduring the rigors and mishaps common at the time. The Ruby Brooch covers all this and much more including a little magic, daily life of a pioneer, action, discovery of self and finding love.

The book is beautifully written with entertaining and endearing characters. Both Kit and Cullen Montgomery are headstrong, sure of themselves, dedicated, passionate and neither are looking for love. Enter stage right: the Ruby Brooch.

Teri Schnaubelt is again outstanding. She gives each character a unique sound and personality and is exceptional at the men's voices and inflections. Her narration made me feel like a participant in the journey.

I actually read this book twice in a week. The first time I read the first four books in order and then re-read The Ruby Brooch. It was enlightening to see the foreshadowing Ms Logan has embedded in this and the others in the series. I eagerly await the next books in the series.

This audiobook was provided in exchange for an unbiased review. It was truly a delight to review this series.

Pam Nelson says

3 The Ruby Brooch Stars

This is why I like book club, this is NOT a book I would have picked up on my own because time-travel is not my thing. And I am not a big fan of historical anything because sometimes the words confuse me and I am woman enough to say that.

That being said there were a lot of things I like about this book and there were a lot of things I am still clueless about.

I would say it took a few chapters for me to identify with which character was which. I think because you kind of get thrown into the book and not really introduced.

I like Kit and how she was in this century then we were off to the 1800's and I was completely lost took me a bit to get used to all the characters. But once I did I like the story of this group going together. You really get to see the connection they all make and Kit and Cullen coming together.

Thought I will say I wasn't a fan of insta-love and then it said 10 weeks so I am still confused it felt like days not weeks. But overall I really liked where they were going.

(view spoiler)

I loved the narration, not only does Teri Schnaubelt do great with accents but she made it easy to follow along. I think if she had been any other narrator I wouldn't have continued because for me it was a book I really had to concentrate to follow.

You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.

Bill says

I absolutely loved this book. It is a wonderful combination of historical fiction and paranormal time-travel. And how could you not love a book that has a Golden Retriever and a cat in it! The voice of the main character, Kit, is fantastic. I was rooting for her the whole time, although she did act dumb a couple of times. The historical fiction part of the story involves traveling the Oregon Trail in 1852. The author did a lot of research on this and did a great job of making us feel like we were traveling along with the wagon train. It also reminded me of the old computer game Oregon Trail which I used to play with our grandkids, lots of fun. I'll be starting on the next book soon and I hope we meet some of these same characters in the next books. There are still lots of things we don't know about them and their lives.

Meagan says

THE RUBY BROOCH is Historical Romance that starts off in modern day but quickly goes back to the Pioneer days in Independence Missouri. Kit MacKenna makes a life changing discovery after her parents are killed in a crash that has her using an old Celtic Brooch to continue her father's journey into the past to figure out where she came from. Kit is a strong woman with twenty-first century mentality that she carries over into the nineteenth century. She obviously stands out from the normal subdued and complaint Pioneer Wife. Which quickly catches the attention of Cullen Montgomery, who throws out Shakespeare quotes and can hum any Bach song.

The plot is a little slow to get going, there are a lot of hidden secrets that don't really unfold until the last hundred pages or so, that sometimes had me wishing that there was a bit MORE to go on. It seems like it's very easy for Kit to lose track of what purpose she has in the nineteenth century. She has a goal but as soon as she hits it she's almost lost in a love stage with Cullen. Kit often uses twentieth and twenty-first century ideals and technology, which seemed like an easy way out every time she would use them. The historical aspects of the story don't play that much of a part in the book, save for what it was like on the Oregon Trail and the hardships. It's mostly the future history that Kit touches upon, often misusing a title, for someone's future one.

While I seem to have some qualms about the book, it was an enjoyable read. The characters of Kit and Cullen are wonderfully written and both come alive together. They have a natural chemistry that allows them to grow with each other, and be able to use each other. Their romance is sweet, though Kit often reacts boldly for the virgin she is.

Leserling /Belana says

This book was given to me at no cost, by a generous acquaintance.

Let me start with the narrator for a change:

I've listened to Teri Schnaubelt before, so I was quite excited to find out that she narrated a series of historical fiction I'd been sneaking around for a while now, and I spontaneously decided that now was the time to read/listen to the series.

I wasn't disappointed. Once again, Teri does an excellent job with the narration: characters, dialects, moods - - all perfectly delivered, making it possible to immerse myself in the story.

And the story is great! True, in parts it reminds me of the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, but it is very different.

The story is set in North America of today, and North America of the 1850s, and we trek along the Oregon trail. Not being American, I have little knowledge of that time period, or of the geography. However, this book inspired me to look it up, to search for photos of the described landmarks, etc.

So, not only was I being entertained by an adorably well narrated and thought-out story, but I learned something new into the bargain. It's probably one of the reasons why I love historical fiction, and I can't wait to listen to the second book.

Cyndi Marie says

Listened to the Audiobook

This book is a little hard for me to give a rating because there was so much I loved about it and a few things I didn't. This is only my second time-travel story and I wasn't sure if I was going to love this one when it started because honestly I don't know a lot about this era or the Oregon Trail.

In the very beginning I found myself a little lost with who is who and the Scottish accent was throwing me off because for some reason I was having a hard time tying in the Scottish characters with the wagon trail. But once I got past that I really enjoyed the story, I love the idea that a women from now can baffle them with modern things, things that make her exciting to them and a bit of a hero. Then I went back to being lost about who was who in Missouri 1800's. Maybe it was the amount of characters, I don't really know but I had to pay very close attention to this audiobook or I felt a little confused. That being said, I loved Kit & Cullen's relationship from the beginning but I could have done without feeling like it was quick, a bit of insta-love. I also loved that in the end of this book I didn't feel like I didn't get the whole story. I know there are more books but this doesn't leave off with a cliffhanger and I was only left with a few questions. I can see this series getting better and better for sure!

The narration was fabulous! Teri Schnaubelt did an excellent job with the accents and switching back and forth between the characters.

?Susan? says

A very modern, tough girl learns upon her fathers death that she is able to time travel and chooses to go back to 1861 to find her roots. While she is on a trek through the Midwest in route to Oregon she learns how difficult and fragile life was then and against all her defenses falls in love. I enjoyed the main characters story and the history. The author did a good job showing how brutal and rugged trail travel could be back in that day.

Emily Ever says

I am a total sucker for time travel all around, and this book started out strong.

There was a plausible reason why the protagonist should be perfectly prepared to survive in the pioneer days, one that didn't even make me think it was an excuse.

The descriptions of pioneer times was really interesting, especially all the detail on the Oregon trail headed west. The author did a great job at detailing the precariousness of life on the trail and how easily simple things could lead to death.

There was some confusing time mechanics, especially at the end, and the heroine was way too perfect - she could shoot, sing, paint, draw, and ride a horse like a jockey. Plus she was beautiful and had crap-tons of money, so I kind of found it hard to sympathize with her. Poor perfect rich girl.

(view spoiler)

All the men in the story treated her like a daughter - the main exception being the love interest. It was kind of unrealistic, to say the least and all the male characters started to blend together personality-wise.

(view spoiler)

The last three chapters of the book could have been summed up in a paragraph and were kind of hard to get through because the conflict had already been resolved.

Overall, it was a fun book and I enjoyed it.
