



## **Highland Velvet**

*Jude Deveraux*

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**Bronwyn MacArran was a proud Scot. Stephen Montgomery was one of the hated English.**

He came to Scotland as a conqueror, saw her beauty and was vanquished. But still she would abhor him.

She owned a temper hot enough to forge the armors of battle or inflame a valiant soldier's passion. Yet still she would resist him.

She became his reason to live, his reason to love. And still she would deny him.

But while clan fought clan, while brother took up sword against brother, and the highlands ran with blood -- their destiny was made... and this mighty warrior pledged himself to his woman's pride, her honor and her name -- and made of their love a torch to burn through the ages!

## Highland Velvet Details

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Author : Jude Deveraux

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## From Reader Review Highland Velvet for online ebook

### Vallysykes says

Jude Deveraux is an old time favorite. Her heroes are usually just edgy enough to be considered medieval a\*\*holes, but they more than likely redeem themselves, and her heroines have spunk, even when they sometimes can go either way: too submissive or too OTT.

In this story, Bronwyn, the heroine, was kind of OTT and TSTL. Despite this, I somehow ended up liking about 85% of the story because it had some action and didn't feel too slow in pace. Plus, I liked the hero most of the time. However, Bronwyn and some details left loosely tied in the last 15% of the story kept me from rating this above 3 stars.

Most of the reviews I read featured some heroine-bashing of Bronwyn. And, I get it. This heroine was unusually given the title of Laird, her father choosing her to be head of their clan rather than her brother, which made said brother feel salty towards her. Regardless of being boss, homegirl still was at the mercy of the English, so she had to resign herself to an arranged marriage. Though her husband added insult to injury in his first impression, Bronwyn irritatingly beat her chest about *her* clan, *hertile* as The McArrin, and *her* hatred of the English. Yet, that didn't stop her a\*\* from getting nice and busy with her English husband, Stephen Montgomery.

Let's just say that Stephen was more tolerable, and he saved me from giving up this read/audiobook. Plus, the narrator wasn't bad.

It was an entertaining story until you get to the part when Bronwyn does something stupid again and Stephen is like MIA for way-too-long. That was very irritating and lost Stephen a little of my love.

Happy Reading

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### You.Can.Call.Me.QueenB says

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### Pton says

This book is really a 3 but I am giving the extra star to Stephen. I liked him as a hero and he's less annoying than his brother, Gavin. However, Browyn is not as great a heroine as Judith. She just seriously annoyed the heck out of me. She started out as an annoying Gavin who easily believed someone else and then she was just angry and dramatic and just stupid at times. I really disliked her for 3/4s of the book. At the ends, she started redeeming herself. I thought the ending was a bit odd since I could not understand how useless the brothers could be. Maybe they could not do anything, I don't know. It felt sorta blah. This is not to discount the horrible scene that I won't mention since it will spoil the story. Sigh. In any case, in the last 10 pages, I

got over my strong dislike of Browyn.

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### **Janja says**

I liked the story but i hated Bronwy..she was a real pain in the a..... ,and for me she's the one who ruins all the fun.

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### **Violet90 says**

I didn't really like this one since it was so long and the heroine got on my nerve so much. I just wanted to slap her all through the novel. She complained a lot and wanted Stephan to become something he was not even though the poor man tried she still didn't like him and always insulted him which made me wonder how a guy like Stephan can love such an annoying and selfish women. Okay I get she loved her clan so what everyone loves their people but do you have to insult every single Englishman and blaming them for your father's and peoples' murder? We get how much pain and lost it cost you but just because one is bad doesn't mean everyone else is as well. I just hated this novel it just got me mad at her stupidness and stubbornness. Ahhh gosh I wish the author could have gave us someone else (caring, loving, friendly and funny) instead of this brat. God I just hate her character so much :(

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### **Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

**4 stars!!**

**I enjoyed book 2 in the Velvet saga a lot more than the first one – likable English alpha male hero, feisty yet vulnerable Scottish heroine, and an engaging, attention-grabbing story set in the beautiful Highlands. This one's a winner for me!**

This book picks up where we last saw Stephen in book 1 – after making sure his sister-in-law Judith is okay he's now three days late to his wedding to Bronwyn, a proud and stubborn Scottish lass who's the head of her clan. They literally come to blows when they first meet and begrudgingly marry, neither giving in an inch.

What made this book stand out for me is that there is actual relationship development – unlike book 1 where only vanity and egoistical attitudes were present, Bronwyn and Stephen's gradual love is plausible and real. In historical times, men were always considered superior to women so it really humbled me to see Stephen making efforts to understand and know Bronwyn and her Scottish ways. Most importantly, the part where (view spoiler) made my eyes water. That kind of gesture might not mean much in modern times but back then it's practically unheard of.

Of course there are times where Bronwyn's a complete shrew and Stephen's a total jerk but overall, I like these characters as individuals and as a couple – both of them are fiery and passionate. The only reason this book isn't getting 5 stars is because of the atrocious ending. I'm really starting to hate the way Jude Devereaux ends her stories – she does a fantastic job of building up tension and angst but delivers such weak HEA endings. Oh well, I guess it's the innerds that count right? However, the ending sets up the groundwork for book 3 and my favorite brother's story so I'll be diving into that one soon.

**Thanks Camaro for re-reading with me!! Can't wait to start Raine's book!!**

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### **Yen-Tzu says**

I've read a quarter of this book and I shall go no further. Let me count all the craptastic reasons why:

1. The heroine is the laird of her Scottish clan. In a brilliant bid to improve cross-border relations, King Henry of England has kidnapped the heroine and is forcing her to marry one of his subjects. We might debate the effectiveness of sanctions, but there's no doubt that the art of diplomacy has definitely improved over the years.
2. So our heroine (who's the Medieval version of Princess Di -- only with a Scottish accent) tries to hold a discussion with her future husband on how he should behave, when he moves in with her, in order to win the hearts and minds of her clansmen -- and to prevent them from stabbing him in sullen resentment of his uppity English ways. Only he's too distracted by her breasts peeking out from the top of her low-cut dress to pay any attention to her inane chatter. Why can't the woman just shut up so he can eye fuck her breasts in blessed silence?
3. When she reveals that he should take her clan name once they're married because this demonstrates the necessary respect for her people and is good diplomacy, he refuses unequivocally. Because taking her name and employing common sense will emasculate him. He's a man -- hear him ROAR.
4. On their wedding night, our heroine (quite understandably) does not want to sex it up with our intrepid hero. He insists. Romance books like to call this reluctance, whereas courts of law prefer the term rape. In self defence, our heroine orders her dog to defend her self. Not content with sexually assaulting our heroine, our hero physically assaults her dog. He punches it in the face. But our hero feels no remorse for animal abuse because once again he's transfixed by the magnificence of our heroine's stupendous breasts. Those are some powerful boobs.
5. Unhappy with his bride's "coy" behaviour, he realises she needs to be chastised -- 50-Shades-of-Grey lite style. He hauls her over his lap and spanks her because only naughty girls say no.

And I'm done. Because if I carry on reading I'll be tempted to burn my bras in protest and good underwear is really expensive nowadays.

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### **C Joy says**

After having read the disappointing “The Velvet Promise”, I was still intrigued with Stephen’s story and his Scottish bride who’s laird of the MacArran clan. I’ve always been fond of characters from the Highlands, their traits, mannerisms, expressions, and their burr. I noticed he and Gavin assumed the worst looks of their brides and was astounded to see their real faces, in a way it’s stupid but it’s best to expect the worst and hope for the best.

In this story, the conflict couldn’t be more obvious from the start. Stephen is four days late for his wedding and he never sent a word, all the while Roger Chatworth is snaking his way into the MacArran lands. It’s about Scots against Englishmen, and Bronwyn’s hatred for them all. When Stephen saw her, he was instantly attracted to her and wanted her for himself, and even fought for her and endured a lot of things. He really made an effort for Bronwyn to respect him by being a Scot – wearing their clothes, training like them, talking like them, and even thinking like them. While I’ve always appreciated alpha females, Bronwyn is just too stubborn and a little childish.

I liked how love blossomed between Stephen and Bronwyn, he’s a really patient man and if it weren’t for that then their marriage won’t work out. The prank he pulled on his friend Hugh was total crap though. If I were Bronwyn I’d react the same way and because Stephen’s jealousy blinded him, he refused to see the other side of the coin – talk about conflicts.

I’ve noticed Jude Deveraux really writes extremely unreasonable heroines whenever their resisting the heroes of the story, but lust comes easily. I gave this a four because I liked the story, the characters had a chance to redeem themselves, but I hated the minimal amount of love scenes – they’re always hurried and have little detail. Ms Deveraux isn’t really one of my fave authors, but I just read this in response to a reading challenge.

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### **Wendy, Lady Evelyn Quince says**

Forced into marriage to the English nobleman Stephen Montgomery, Scotswoman Brenna MacArran, the leader of her clan, vows to make his life miserable.

While many of Deveraux’s heroes in the Velvet Series had their bad moments, particularly Gavin, and to a lesser extent Miles and Raine, in “Highland Velvet” Stephen Montgomery was the stuff girlish dreams are made of.

Stephen was kind and loving to his sister-in-law, Judith, always taking her side whenever Gavin preferred his evil mistress. He stayed by her bedside during her painful miscarriage and supported her throughout.

When Stephen saw Bronwyn for the first time, he fell instantly in love with her. He worked his butt off to get the approval of the men in Bronwyn’s clan and had to fight that creepy Roger Chatworth for her hand in marriage, even though they were already betrothed. Heck, he even changed his last name so that her MacArran family name wouldn’t die out. And he was no wussy male, but a deadly soldier willing to work hard and rethink his value system when faced with contradictions.

If anything, Bronwyn was the “bad” one: she stabbed him on their wedding night; she was the one who betrayed Stephen again and again. He deserved a much better heroine.

After over twenty plus years, Stephen Montgomery remains one of my most beloved heroes in romance. He

was a real nice guy, the kind of man any woman would be happy to have in real life. I wonder why the terms nice guy and beta male get conflated so often. A man can still be an “alpha,” a leader to his people, but that doesn’t mean he has to be an over-bearing, woman-hating douchebag.

Bronwyn was awful, but her woe-is-me attitude wasn’t enough to overshadow Stephen who was such a great character that he made this book. Another plus were the the wicked antics of Roger Chatworth and the doomed love story of his brother Brian with the Montgomery’s sole sister.

I really loved this one.

5 stars

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### **Holly says**

DNF @ 34%. This has to be one of the most unlikable heroines I have ever read. She complains endlessly about her husband being her enemy because he's English and not Scottish. Then when he tries to learn Scottish ways, she is all I WILL NOT BE FOOLED, I MUST BE ON GUARD BECAUSE HE IS STILL ENGLISH. There's quite literally nothing he could do to make her happy. She's irritating as fuck.

The hero is just as bad - this book was written in the 1980s and you can definitely tell even though it's a historical setting. The hero doesn't initially listen to heroine's attempts to enlighten him on her concerns about her clan because he's too busy trying to get her to have premarital sex even though he just met her and they are getting married in a matter of days. Then on their wedding night she resists his advances and when that doesn't work she scratches him in her attempts to stab him with a knife. Her next line of defense is to instruct her dog to attack him and he then punches said dog in the head. This lovely night is rounded out by him spanking her and then falling asleep with their marriage unconsummated. I'm not making that up.

This book is horrid.

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### **Stacey is Sassy says**

#### **She's a cranky little thing...**

I really enjoyed this audio and the step back in time it gave me. I remember Stephen Montgomery as my first love. Every man I met was compared to him. Sure, I didn't meet a lot of English men who became Scottish and wore a kilt, but I wanted a man to love me fiercely. Stephen loved Bronwyn...and she didn't even deserve it.

Bronwyn is fierce and determined. It's hard to be a woman and Laird of your clan. The bloody English have caused pain and heartache for her people. Bronwyn is sickened to learn that the English king wants an English man (of his choosing) by her side as a husband. She must marry her enemy, so it's no surprise she's hardly jumping for joy at meeting her husband to be...and...he's three days late.

Historical romances have changed a lot over the years. We expect it to be true to the time...only if there is no

raping, pillaging, infidelity or abuse. Hmm...unfortunately, that's almost impossible. My acceptance of accuracy over romantic fairytales has changed my expectations. I think this was definitely closer to historically accurate than fairytales.

The narrator does a fantastic job and it was very easy to listen to.

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### **KC 2.0 says**

Read this years ago. Bronwyn annoyed me with her immaturity and unfair treatment of Stephen. It wouldn't have been so bad if Bronwyn had actually grown by the novel's end, but I don't remember that happening.

On the other hand, I had a crush on the delicious Stephen. Be my book boyfriend, please? I loved how he could be brave and kind, yet also a be a fierce warrior. What's more, his love for and patience with Bronwyn never seemed to waver despite her antics. The best Montgomery brother in the series by far!

4 stars for Stephen

1 star for Bronwyn

3 stars for the romance

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### **Jenny says**

note to self: avoid due to heroine

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### **Kristina says**

dosta lijepih opisa Škotske i njenog naroda i njihovih osobina, ali pored toga ništa posebno....ovaj put Jude me nije uspjela potpuno oduševiti kao u prvom dijelu Baršunasto obe?anje.

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### **KatieV says**

Overall, I liked this one better than the first book: The Velvet Promise. There were times, particularly in the 1st half of the book where I would have liked to have slapped Bronwyn. She was just so immature. She was 'almost twenty' when the book began, but I think this is one of those cases where the author should have made her younger. I'll have to admit to finding it a bit squicky when you have an older hero and someone younger than the modern 'age of consent' in a historical, even though I know it was common practice for women to be wed much younger than that. 18 is considered an adult here in the U.S. and 17-18 tends to be the youngest most HR authors will go. In this case, she should have gone for the 17. It would have made Bronwyn's impulsiveness and know-all attitude more palatable. I didn't tag her as TSTL, even though she did do some things that qualified her for the position. I felt it wasn't fair, because there were areas where she was very capable and intelligent. She just needed to grow up. I also sympathized with the situation she was put in and how difficult it must have been to have all that responsibility and be forced to wed an Englishman when she had every reason to hate/mistrust the English. She does grow up quite a bit over the course of the story

though - thank heavens.

Stephen was a very loveable hero and a great guy. At first he was arrogant and stubborn about his English ways, but he also grew and changed over the course of the novel. It was refreshing to see a H take on a new way of life for once. Usually, it's the h who has to do that. But, Stephen also had his stupid moments too. Like the prank he played on his childhood "friend" that got so out of hand. And his jealousy certainly made him act like an ass at times. However, I was glad for the whole prank mess, because it made Stephen seem less perfect and Bronwyn less of a shrew. In other words, neither of them were perfect.

I also liked the emphasis on how little the older Montgomery brothers actually knew/understood about women and the problems that caused. It made sense. Historically speaking, I'm sure men of their station rarely had the friendship type of relationships that help us to understand one another. They were raised doing manly things and women were either subordinates who were there to serve or protected ladies who were kept at a distance from them and only seen formally. Of course they are all expert lovers nonetheless. That I don't buy, but am willing to let that go in the name of romance :)

The villain, Roger Chatworth, was sort of interesting and I'm curious to see how his story will play out in the next 2 novels. He had some redeeming characteristics alongside being a raging SOB. It made him more believable. Very few people are totally good or totally evil. However his actions in the end were horrible. Major spoiler: (view spoiler) I'm afraid at this point, Roger is going to follow the path of continuing to blame the Montgomerys for all his problems rather than look in a mirror. I don't see him having the courage to truly face what he's done.

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