



# El guerrero

*Kinley MacGregor*

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Lochlan MacAllister was born to lead. Ruthlessly groomed to take control of his clan, he has given his life to his people. But when he learns that the brother he thought was dead might still be alive, he embarks on a quest to find the truth.

Catarina wants a life of freedom. But now Catarina's royal father wants to use her as a pawn to ensure a treaty between conflicting lands. So much so that he's willing to kidnap his daughter to force the issue. But when she escapes, fate throws her into the path of a man she loathes.

Lochlan is stunned to find the shrewish Cat being hauled away by unknown men. Unwilling to see even her suffer, he frees her only to learn that she has her own demons to fight. When their fates intertwine, two people who know nothing of trust must rely on each other, and two enemies who have vowed their eternal hatred must find common ground, or see their very lives shattered.

## El guerrero Details

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también hacia otros personajes como por ejemplo Kieran, Damien o Duncan.

El final me pareció pobre en el sentido de que me hubiese gustado que fuese un poco más concreto y nos desvelase más detalles sobre ciertos temas y personajes pero en fin no se puede tener todo.

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## **Preacox says**

Sadly, this is the final installment of the "Brotherhood of the Sword" and the "MacAllister" series. The story is about Lochlan MacAllister, the laird of the MacAllister clan and the eldest legitimate brother. He is the only blond guy, handsome as sin, and a bit reserved. Lochlan seems to live for his clan only. We first meet him in book two, Claiming the Highlander. In "The Warrior" he is on a quest of finding his brother Kieran, who might not have killed himself years ago and could still be alive somewhere.

One night he happens across Catarina, a gypsie girl he met in Taming the Scotsman. When they met for the first time, her irreverence and constant needling drove him almost mad. He simply can't abide that woman. But when he comes across her in a little village in France and finds her fighting wildly but vainly against violent kidnappers, he decides to help her. Turns out Cat isn't the little gypsie girl he thought her to be, but rather the illegitimate daughter of the French king. And her royal father wants her to marry some milksob prince which is not in Cat's interest. That's why she is on the run with her father's men on her tail.

Lochlan, understanding how it's like to live in a cage, agrees to help her finding her uncle. On their journey together both discover that the other isn't as obnoxious as they thought and both slowly fall in love with each other.

"The Warrior" was a fun read and I liked it a lot. I loved Cat and Lochlan's bantering. I wished there would have been more of their funny verbal sparring. I couldn't get enough of that. I also liked the side characters: Bracken, Julia, Bryce, Kestrel, Duncan. I was also very happy to meet Simon, Stryder and Rowena again. As in the previous books, I'm very sad that all the interesting side characters won't get their own novel. Duncan, for example, would be a very fascinating character.

The one thing I found extremely strange was the epilogue though. It didn't ruin the book for me, but it gave me a good WTF moment. (view spoiler)

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## **Karen says**

Just a few adjectives to describe this book...

...boring...

...predictable...

and after reading the epilogue...

RIDICULOUS! What a horrible ending. I'm not opposed to the supernatural, but why it was thrown into this book is a mystery. I seriously think Sherrilyn Kenyon forgot that she was writing as Kinley MacGregor when

she composed that epilogue.

I want to refuse to rate this book on principle, however, since I did like Lochlan's character, I'm giving it two stars. He is the only redeeming thing in a series that has gone steadily downhill over the past few books.

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## Quinn says

For those readers like me who started off with the *MacAllister* series and are wondering if you can skip the *Brotherhood* books (A Dark Champion and Return of the Warrior) - Yes, you can! There were some references to the Brotherhood and events that happened at Outremer, but you won't feel lost at all with this one (thanks for the tip, Dina!).

I really enjoyed Lochlan and Cat's relationship. I think it was one of my favourite pairings from the *MacAllister* books - of course, that could just be because I can't really remember most of the heroines from the previous books! Nevertheless, I enjoyed seeing them transition from antagonism to affection.

The storyline doesn't seem to differ too much between books. The plots all feature the hero and heroine being thrown together by circumstance, requiring them to travel and meeting adventure along the way. That's fine with me, I happen to like that trope. Still, these books never quite become anything more than simple entertainment.

It's been a while since I've had the time to post updates during my reading, and I haven't come across too many quotes lately that have inspired me to do so, but I loved the part in this book where the tough, stoic Lochlan was trying to convince Cat to take a chance on them, so will share a couple of quotes here:

*"If you will have me, Catarina, I can't promise you how much time we'll have together, but I can promise you that whether it's only this one hour or a million more, I will love you for every one of them."*

*"We are all damned or saved by the decisions we make. Just don't let fear make the decision for you. There were two things I learned while in hell. One, it's much easier to face the devil and fight when you're not alone. And two, what you envision in the darkness of your mind is always much more frightening than the realities that come at you. The devil always blinks first. Stand your ground and fear nothing." - Kestrel*

The epilogue was a bit strange and unnecessary, but it didn't completely ruin the book for me.

**3.5 stars**

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## Sarah says

Okay, let me say that I love this series, and was really excited about Lochlan's book. It was good for the most part, but the ending was horrible. I really hope this isn't the beginning of her mixing the series with the dark hunters. I love her dark hunters and I love her historicals, but not together. It was really cheap and wrong for her to do that to her readers.

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### **Jenn says**

Ok, I have a couple of things to say about this one. For one thing, CAN ANYBODY DECIDE WHICH BOOK IN THE SERIES THIS IS?! The book itself says first, goodreads says 8th, and one persons review says 3rd! Come on people! Anyway, getting past that little issue, the book itself (whichever it was) was great! Loved the story, the characters, everything! When I first picked it up and read the inside cover, I was expecting a fantasy novel. When I started reading (and realized it wasnt) I wasnt disappointed however. When I later thought I had it figured out, and that it was an action book, I was again proven wrong! But again, no disappointment, even though I very rarely enjoy romance novels! The level of description this book went into with the romance was nice, not too much but not so little that you think the author just skipped over an hour of the story. Lochlan was great, so funny yet serious at the same time! The only reason this grat book was not a five star book was because A) it was too short. There I said what we were all thinking! B) it was a little predictable, just from reading the inside cover at the book store, I knew most of the story already. And C) Then ending. Not that I dont love Cat and Lochlan together, I just thought the way King Philip acted was entirely out of character and unrealistic! It ruined the whole ending, in an otherwise amazing novel. Other than that though, definately a re-reader, and now Im off to go figure out the *actual* order of the series!

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### **Kate says**

My review will mainly contain a bunch of spoilers.

- First off The MacAllister's dead father was never described in the previous three books as a monster. He cheated on his wife and was rather cruel to Sin (his known bastard son) but never was there mention of him beating his other children, his wife (in fact the entire Sin plot line was centered around how much he loved Aisleen and how he'd do anything for her), being a drunkard or a cruel rapist that tortured women. The previous books illustrated him as an asshole who was hard on his sons but in Ewan's book Aisleen states that on his deathbed their father was sorry for being hard on all of them and loved them all dearly. This just doesn't mesh with the father described by Lochlan.

- Where the hell is the Lochlan from the previous books? In this he's just a mess that whines all the time.

- Cat and Lochlan have little to no passion between them. The love story was never developed and even more annoying was the end where they acted like marriage just solves everything. Uh no. Cat doesn't want to be tied down or stay in one place....how would marriage to a Laird be ok then? Perhaps if the author fleshed this out and showed Cat's inner decision that love was worth trading in her previous priorities or that she realized she didn't really want those things. But no readers are left to just imagine that marriage is a magic fix. Bleh.

- The whole mess with Kieran just felt like the author trying to redeem the fact that throughout the series Kieran came off like a jerk that didn't deserve pity. Nope, nothing the author did redeemed him and in fact

made it all the more confusing and really just made me dislike him more.

- The writing was a mishmash and just hard to get through. Such a disappointment.

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### Thom Swennes says

In this age of equality of sexes it is refreshing to glimpse at an age when chivalry wasn't the exception but the rule. Sherrilyn Kenyon, writing under the pseudonym of Kinley MacGregor has created a highly readable and entertaining work of medieval life and rivalry. Lochlan MacAllister, head of a Scottish clan, embarks on a quest to find his lost brother. Kieran MacAllister disappeared and was presumed dead after being jilted by his betrothed but new information gave credence to the possibility of his still being alive. Soon Lochlan comes to the aid of Catarina, Princess of France and illegitimate child of King Phillip. Their unpremeditated union leads the reader through action and intrigue and then through an emotional upheaval. This is the perfect book for a warm and sunny day at the beach or a cold winter's evening before a crackling fire. Love, action and romance are mixed to make the perfect reading blend. This is my introduction to Kinley MacGregor (Sherrilyn Kenyon) and the third book in the Brotherhood of the Sword series. This brotherhood is a group of ex-crusaders dedicated to the repatriation of crusading knights. This prolific writer has caught my attention and I plan to read more of her works. Although this sort of story generally appeals more to the feminine gender, I think it just might speak to the softer side of the male reader. For this reason I recommend it to all.

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### Dina says

I'd been dying to read Lochlan MacAllister's story since Taming the Scotsman, so I was "predisposed" to like The Warrior even though I'd been a bit disappointed with the previous 2 books in this series. Everything went well and I quite enjoyed this read... up until the very end, when things got very, very strange...

The Warrior is the latest installment in the **MacAllister** and **Brotherhood of the Sword** series and, although it can be read as a standalone, I don't recommend it because Ms. MacGregor has the very annoying habit of bringing characters from the previous books without so much as an introduction. They appear left and right and we're supposed to *know* who they are, just like that. I know I've complained about this trait of hers before, but I do find it irritating so I'll keep going at it until she stops doing it, LOL.

Anyway, moving on to the story...

Laird Lochlan MacAllister is in France on a quest to find his missing brother Kieran, who may or may not be alive after all these years when everyone thought he had killed himself. During his journey, he comes upon Catarina, his sister-in-law Nora's cousin, while she's trying to escape from her "kidnappers". Lochlan and Catarina aren't exactly friends, but he helps her escape - after all, she's saved his brother Ewan's life and he feels obliged to help her in return. Then, he finds out that she's not the free-spirited gypsy he believed her to be... She's the illegitimate daughter of King Phillip of France and her "kidnappers" are actually her father's men, sent to "capture" her and take her back to him so he can marry her to a man of his choosing.

Catarina wants nothing to do with her father's plan and begs Lochlan to take her to her uncle Bavel instead. After some struggle, he agrees but his 1st goal is still to find his missing brother, so she has to go along with

him to Rouen to meet someone who might have information about Kieran's whereabouts. Only after that, they will set off to meet Bavel. Lochlan and Catarina start their journey disliking each other, but each soon realizes the other isn't as "bad" as they thought. Then dislike turns into friendship, friendship turns into sexual attraction, and we all know where this is going to end... ;)

I really liked Lochlan and Catarina, and it was obvious they were meant to be together when they butted heads in *Taming the Scotsman*. Lochlan was a by-the-rules man who needed someone like slightly crazy Catarina to bring happiness and a sense of completion to his life, and it was fun to watch her teasing him into becoming a less stiff (no pun intended) man. I kept hoping to see him loosening himself enough to dance with her but, alas, it never happened. It would have been a sigh-worthy moment, if Ms. MacGregor had cared to write that scene.

The plot wasn't completely original - those reluctant MacAllister heroes are *always* on the road to take those feisty heroines somewhere, LOL - but it was fast paced and entertaining, with danger lurking around and threatening both Lochlan and Catarina's freedom. As for Kieran, the mystery regarding his fate - was he really alive? - was finally revealed, and I'm sorry to say, I didn't get it... What was *that*?!! It was one of the most WTF scenes I've ever read, and I had to throw the book against the wall. Luckily, the story ended right after that unbelievable stunt and this book was saved from receiving a DNF status from me. What a way to ruin an otherwise good read! Some reviewers suggested that readers should stop reading this book at the end of the last chapter and avoid the epilogue completely. Why, oh why, didn't I listen to that advice? Argh, curiosity did kill the cat! *\*bangs head on desk\**

Considering the last 3 books in this series were only average reads to me, I'm done with the MacAllisters and the Brotherhood of the Sword. It's kind of sad because I really enjoyed the 1st books in the series, but I think Ms. MacGregor has lost her "mojo" somewhere down the road.

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### **Netanella says**

Wow. The ending just ruined the entire series for me.

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### **Cagney Katrenak says**

This story didn't have me hooked as others I've read, but it did get better as it went on. I've read some reviews that dogged the epilogue. I didn't hate it, but it did seem slightly misplaced. The love story was decent and the bit with the king at the end was good; definitely helped to lodge this story firmly at a 3.

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### **Louisa says**

In this book, my hope for humanity is lost, and then found. Because Lochlan is blamed for his father's actions, and he's still such a great guy, and yeah, I just love their romance! So cute!

*\*First read April 26th 2012\**

Oh, great book! Really enjoyed it, and the quick little bit of the Dark Hunter world at the end, well, yeah!

Great romance, I hope some more of the brotherhood find happiness!

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????α [Punya Reviews...] says

**My review contains spoilers and they're mostly my thoughts as I went with the book. This one's got 2 parts.**

To tell you the truth, I'm quite enjoying this book. Though the premise isn't anything unique, I still like it. I liked Catarina in Taming the Scotsman, in here she's keeping her record. But, I wasn't really interested in Lochlan since he didn't seem to be an intriguing man. Erm, yah, a bit stuffy and straight laced kind. But of course, as the laird of the clan MacAllister, he has proved himself. In his book, I'm beginning to unearth a man who has his own vulnerabilities, too.

The story picks up from Taming the Scotsman, where it's known that there's a possibility that Kieran is alive. A few months later, Lochlan is in France to see Stryder (hero of A Dark Champion), who is attending a tourney. Lochlan thought it's best that he volunteers for this job since all his other brothers are married and have kids and he didn't want them to face the danger, also as a laird and brother, it's his duty. I instantly admired him for this. On the way, he meets Catarina again (they first met in Taming the Scotsman and there, Catarina and Lochlan were onto each-other with words) and now, he's kinda saddled with her.

Catarina was running away from some men, who abducted her to take her to her father king Phillip. She's his illegitimate daughter and Phillip has decided that she'd make a good bargain to some means, so wanted her to marry accordingly. Catarina grew up with her mother's side of the family as her father really never took interest in her. But, now that he 'needs' her, he's ordered men to abduct her! Oh, what a father! But of course, he's a king and kings do whatever they like, arrogant boors! But, I digress. Our Catarina is no missish, weak-kneed and she worked her way through the kidnappers' den. And, when they were on her heels, she saw Lochlan. Lochlan, even knowing it's in his best interest to ignore the whole situation and be on his way, decides to help her as the 'responsible laird' side of him wins the war.

They dodge the kidnappers but Catarina falls in their hands again as the two quarrel and she goes on her way. Lochlan kills them as they tried to slap her into submission. Hooboy! Although, Lochlan initially decided it's better to take her to the king and avoid any disaster it might cause for his clan [ref: the feud they had with the MacDouglas clan and 'why'] but ultimately, he promises to take Catarina to her uncle Bavel, whom we also met in Taming the Scotsman. On their way, they met three other individuals, two brothers Bracken and Bryce and their sister Julia, They were on the verge of robbing them but ceased as they identified Catarina. The siblings, who were from a noble family in England but a tragedy has left them to fend for themselves. Catarina is very sad to know their predicament. Lochlan decides to help them out and give them a proper home. Me, quite impressed by his actions!

Catarina and Lochlan's banters are a fun read, as I said she's very open and enjoys life while Lochlan is pretty stuck with his stuffy side. There is a scene where Lochlan asks her to use his hairbrush. When Catarina opens his saddlebag, she sees everything is so neat there and she had this impish urge to ruffle it. Well, this scene signifies a lot IMO. She's already ruffling his life but can't tell that Lochlan dislikes it. He doesn't. Even though, from time to time, Catarina insults him and he growls in answer, they like each-other just fine! ;)

In between, I also got to know things about Lochlan and how he was physically and verbally abused by his horrible father in the past. I knew the man was awful from the earlier books but this one reveals a whole new horizon of his vices! He had other basterds and was a cheating husband. I thought Sin was his only indiscretion but I was wrong. Also, I couldn't believe the way he manipulated Lochlan, said horrible things to him and in the end, destroyed Lochlan's relationship with the woman he loved. And, what about that woman? Whatever I read, it was pretty distasteful. No wonder Lochlan is reserved and has sheltered his heart. And, his father did all these just to let him know he can't trust anyone and being the laird, he's only a trophy to the other people. Also, Lochlan's exchanges with Kieran before he supposedly drowned himself was revealed. I hated Kieran in all the other books [read my review of [book:Taming the Scotsman|702568] to know what I exactly thought about him], I hate him here too. He was mean and nasty, a self-centered SOB. I agree with Lochlan's thoughts about him when he says that Kieran liked to hurt everyone around them. He was his father's son, no less! But Lochlan, the good brother and son of the family, wants him back and hence this quest.

They find Stryder (I loved reading his and Rowena's banters :p) and talks of him about the Brotherhood and asks him about Kieran. Some facts come out of this discussion and left me confused! Who is Duncun? Another MacAllister? Kieran, when he was in Outremer prison with the others, introduced him as his brother and Stryder said, they resembled each-other to a fault so others couldn't tell them apart. Really? I had no idea they had another brother! :s And, then there's the possibility that the Scot of their Brotherhood might either be Kieran or Duncan. One of them died in the prison and the other was disfigured so badly that it's impossible to know who it is. Also, the Scot keeps to himself, doesn't care much for the crowd and so on. Lochlan doesn't know what to think this about this news and, I'm rather confused even more learning that he took the talks about Duncan without any reaction at all. How come?? :/

Lochlan talks with Catarina and she agrees that it's better to travel there and she's willing to ride with him before he can take her to her family. Stryder agrees to accompany them, too. It's decided that the three Siblings will go on their way to Scotland, as they can't travel to England for they're wanted by authorities. Afterwards, Lochlan and the others will be on their way to Sussex, where the Scot lives.

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This book was sweet but not much of action uptill the end of it, so I've decided on 3.75. I really expected a lot of fun, the like other MacAllister books from but alas, this book was also mostly spent on the journey like Return of the Warrior!

After their plan to travel to Sussex, Lochlan was imprisoned by a French lord when one English lord identified him and wanted justice for a crime his father did. I mean, WTF? I was really angry about it. Then, Catarina had to reveal herself to save him but then, she had to stay in that French man's house. Lochlan, along with Stryder and Simon, planned to *steal* her away. But, they didn't know, Graham MacKaid (a villain from Taming the Scotsman), comes back to abduct and torture her to death, so that Lochlan hangs because people in English court know about his father's dalliances and there were many rumors of him being cruel to his bed partners. Stryder sought help from Kestrel, a tracker who's also an addition from Outremer. I liked Kestrel. He helps find Catarina as well as accompanies Lochlan and her to the Scot's house. Anyway, after Catarina was found and the MacKaids were imprisoned, Lochlan couldn't deny his feelings for her (Catarina already had fallen by this time) and they make love.

Afterwards, as they rode to a dockside town and Lochlan finds out that king Phillip is already here in search of his daughter. Both Catarina and Lochlan hide in an inn and wait for Stryder and the others to come and fetch them. As time went by, they grow suspicious and worried but this time they spent together, also help them to get to know each-other well. Catarina's uncle Bavel finds a way to meet her and tells her of her

father's plan and she knew she has to be on the run again. There was a scene here between her and Lochlan I simply adored. I do love a pouty Lochlan! :p Catarina was sweet, the way she handled him afterwards. hahaha Then, at night, Lochlan learns from Kestrel that Stryder and Simon is with the king as he recognized them and kinda holding them in his ship. Kestrel takes them to the ship bound to England and help them flee. Kestrel had his own story to tell, a bit of which is revealed in the journey.

Lochlan and Catarina, along with Kestrel, travel to the Scot's palace. And, this is where some really heart wrenching scenes take place. They were, at first, denied an audience with the Scot. But, with Kestrel intervention and with a determined Lochlan, they finally met him. His face is badly scarred with burn marks on the one side but the other side shows what a beautiful man he is/was (Oh, I only see Gerry as *the Phantom* :p here)! And, no it's not Kieran. It's Duncan, the other MacAllister! Lochlan sees the similarities but doesn't recognize him. Then, it was revealed that he's another of his father's bastards and Keiran knew him from an early age, about which none of the MacAllisters knew. Kieran helped him with food and money, so when a whiny Kieran met Duncan after the Isobail incident, he immediately agreed to accompany him to the Outremer. Some other facts come out too and Lochlan and his new-found brother embrace. I was in tears. The next day, the king tracks them down and finds Lochlan and Catarina together and asks for Lochlan's head... This was a very emotional scene. I wish I read more scenes like this throughout the book. Also, as I recall, Lochlan never revealed his childhood vulnerabilities to anyone, not even to Catarina. We get to know it all from his musings about his past. I'm not sure why.

And then, there is the epilogue, of which I'm not sure how to comment upon. I've already read in the other reviews that the epilogue was, ermm, odd. For me, not so odd but I think the whole thing was wholly unnecessary and the person involved should've remain as it was revealed earlier in the book. That's all I'll say about it.

Many secondary characters put an appearance in this book, specially Stryder, Rowena, Simon and Damien. Simon is special here because he appeared in every book of this series, which I liked. I read earlier that Kit, Stryder's brother was supposed to be with the Scot, Duncan but saw nothing of him later on.

All in all, I'll miss the MacAllisters and the other characters since no idea if/when will there be another book. KM should've finished this series off and not leave so many cliffhangers and questions unresolved IMO. This is not a good feeling while ending a series, at least for the time being.

*The Brotherhood of Swords* \*update...\*:

The Wraith is Simon of Ravenswood (later, of Anwyk), book "Midsummer's Knight" (novella) in Where's My Hero

The Widowmaker is Stryder of Blackmoor, book A Dark Champion

The Abbot is Christian of Acre, book Return of the Warrior

The Scot is Duncan MacAllister, Lochlan's half-brother, no books yet.

The Sorcerer/El Sahaar is Nassir, a Saracen man, no books yet.

Then there are two other additional men:

The Pagan is ... Still not sure, he was first featured in Taming the Scotsman, no books yet.

The Phantom is Velizarii, another Prince of Elgedera and cousin to Christian, no books yet.

Other characters, an assassin:

The Scorpion is ... Damien St. Cyr???, first featured in A Dark Champion, no books yet.

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