



Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors

Delilah Devlin (Editor) , Terry Spear (Foreword) , Regina Kammer (Contributor) , Susannah Chapin (Contributor) , Axa Lee (Contributor) , Layla Chase (Contributor) , Renee Luke (Contributor) , Lizzie Ashworth (Contributor) , more... Emma Jay (Contributor) , Jacqueline Bocker (Contributor) , Anya Richards (Contributor) , Cela Winter (Contributor) , Beatrix Ellroy (Contributor) , Connie Wilkins (Contributor) ...less

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Men devoting themselves to their true love through the art of courtly love is the ultimate in romance. *Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors* is filled with wild knights and Scottish warriors whose courage on the battlefield is outmatched only by their ardor for their ladyloves! Readers will unleash their fantasies of olden days where men wearing heavy armor or thick tartans sent a spirited young maiden's (or lonely widow's) heart fluttering. These bravehearts were prized for their physical strength and men were judged for their fierce loyalty and unshakeable honor. Crusaders, highlanders, Normans and Saxons, tournament fighters, vikings, and hunky Huns astride stallions in search of adventure and love all populate the pages of this steamy read.

Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors Details

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**(Contributor) , Cela Winter (Contributor) , Beatrix Ellroy (Contributor) , Connie Wilkins
(Contributor) ...less**

From Reader Review *Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors* for online ebook

Queenielyn says

****The physical copy was provided by the publisher****

I would like to give special thanks to Cleis Press and Tempted Romance for the opportunity to read and review *Hot Highlanders & Wild Warriors*! Not forgetting, Ms Sara for the sweet surprise of contacting me about the book and blog tour! Thank you!

Show your support of the brand new imprint from Cleis Press, Tempted Romance, by visiting the website: <http://www.cleispress.com/features/temptedromance> for upcoming book releases and be up-to-date!

I literally read the book the moment I received it from the mail. Without hesitation, *Hot Highlanders & Wild Warriors* has captivated me with its explicit hot mess short stories. Some of the short stories I found were quite gibberish though and didn't really enjoyed it. Nevertheless, I've learned through the pages while reading, men during that time, might as well have the most pleasant soft and gentle sounding voices. Besides having badass bodies, they are able to show how much they care. Although, well-guarded in battle or love, they are capable of also having their soft side for someone special.

"My pleasure is in giving you pleasure."

"I'd rather bring you pleasure a thousand time than myself once."

One of the stories I've enjoyed is 'My Loveliest Vision'. It was then that I realized that anyone and everyone can love anyone whom they desire. Even if it means the person is going through hardships or is physically challenged, the hope of receiving abundant love from someone is not impossible. Steadfast love, that's what is called.

"I've learned 'plain' in one man's eyes can be heavenly in another's. That a warm smile can be more enticing than the most blatant invitation, and a willowy figure can arouse in me the incessant need to touch, to taste, to take in away no buxom wench ever has." The quote itself was overwhelming for me. I'm fully aware that it's not meant for me but I can't help but be reminded of my low self-esteem. It made me believe again that I'm perfectly made the way I am and that eventually someone will get the better view to actually notice me.

Hot Highlanders & Wild Warriors reveals me the many capabilities of breathtaking men of the past and made me appreciate their burning passion that granted them their sexy victories.

(Actual) Rating: 3.5 of 5 stars

Review Originally posted on Queekie Girl Reads - VISIT the blog tour and check out the excerpt and the author interview! [CLICK HERE](#)

Ella Dawson says

So here's a little known fact about me: I really like a good historical romance. Sure, genre romances usually follow a predictable formula and lack complicated character development, but there is something comforting and satisfying about sinking into a huge page-turner full of lush description and sexual tension. Generic historical romances are my cotton candy. They're basically my literary problematic fave: I admit they're whitewashed, heteronormative, and have weird messages about class, but I read the shit out of them anyway.

So I've been pumped about Cleis's new romance imprint, Tempted Romance. I suspected romance coming out of a smart, socially conscious publishing team would be top notch, and this theory seems on point from what I've read so far. I really enjoyed *Hot Highlanders* and *Wild Warriors*. Like, I really did. Genuinely. I didn't expect to like this title in particular much, as I've missed the whole highlanders craze and the book cover is, let's be real, a bit ridiculous. But fortuitously I've been on a masculinity kick—what a friend is referring to as my “muscular renaissance”—and this anthology has that market cornered. The male characters are deeply physical and ambitiously calculating, walking the line between dangerous and gentle. Plus they're smart. Smart is good. From Susannah Capin's “Wicked”:

“He straightened, towering over her. Long and lean, built for power and speed. A deadly combination of brains and brawn.”

Is it fluff? Totally. Eventually I will write a more coherent post about the female gaze in erotica and erotic romance, but for now I'll just say I dig it. Sometimes you just want a guy who can pin you. I'm not above admitting that. As far as escapist fantasy goes I think this is pretty harmless.

Plus this book is all about sexualized power, hitting the sweet spot between challenging dynamics and full-tilt BDSM (which, surprisingly, I'm not into as a reader). The couples bait each other, battling over custody of kingdoms and seeing their counterpart as an equal despite the gender confines of their various time periods. The warriors of this book aren't all men—I loved Connie Wilkins's “A Falcon In Flight” for its badass female lead who straight up tells her man not to fuck with her. When he calls her a she-wolf for refusing to surrender her land, she responds,

“A she-wolf? Look higher. My name means ‘eagle’ in the old tongue. I am Lady of Aragatsotn, and more. My mother's line is said to be of those warriors from the lands beyond the Black Sea called Amazons by the Greeks... I will defend my own.”

Clearly, they proceed to fuck each other and unite their strength. Power couple.

Simply put, the theme of this anthology got to what I love most about romances: when the characters aren't so much falling in love as they are discovering their ideal match. Warriors want strong women to help them conquer, and it led to great scenes like the couple in “The Keeper of the Keys” by Axa Lee:

“It will be a fight, but I am strong. We are strong... I need a partner, an equal. Not just a wife and lover. And this is you, I think. Is this... what you think of me too?”

That rugged Saxon chief can get it. Ella approves.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Robin

Book provided by the publisher for review

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

This bevy of stories contained a lot of new authors for me. Some I really liked and others were lukewarm. Some stories I enjoyed immensely and others fell flat or a little short for me. But, there is definitely something for everyone's taste within these pages.

Pleasure in Surrender by Delilah Devlin-Lady Edwina is a woman that has no problem handling her own in a man's world. Grimvarr wanted an equal someone to share things with. Not only did he get an equal out of the bedroom but also in the bedroom. It was pretty steamy and full of passion when these two had sex. Equals all around works for me.

Wicked by Susannah Chapman-In Wicked, Lachlan and Isobell had a thing for each other since they were young. I am always a sucker for Beauty and Beast themed stories; Lachlan had whispers and stares because people thought he was a time bomb ready to explode. Isobell saw past what others thought and took a chance and the lead in the bedroom. A bit over the top for me but, I liked that Isobell took the lead. **WARNING!** Contains dom/anal sex...

Keeper of the Keys by Axa Lee-A lot of times marriages were for convenience due to the fact that lands needed to be saved/or protected (sometimes they were actually for love). You hear the word barbarians and you think the worst in this case the barbarian although at times acted like one he was rather gentle or as gentle as he could be. These two became friends then lovers. This was one woman that liked having a man in charge. Someone to take care of... He actually told her he wanted to give her pleasure as well as get pleasure. That is a real man. He couldn't be a barbarian. I loved the way this story unfolded because although the sex was hot it was equally fun to see the marriage become real.

The Maiden's Kiss by Layla Chase-This is more of a coming of age story between Jorunn and Enar. These two make oral sex sensuous. First touches and feelings, wishes are granted. Because of the gentleness that Enar took with Jorunn he opened her up for a whole new onslaught of feelings and wanting so much more. I like this okay but there wasn't a lot to do when dealing with virgins.

My Loveliest Vision by Renee Luke-I loved the connection between Lena and Seth. The story was different because we are shown a sensuous side to making love when you can't see what the other person looks like. Your other senses come into play making it seem more sensual. Being blind didn't stop Lena she was strong and wasn't afraid to stand up for her land and home. When she realized it was Seth intruding whom her father had betrothed her to she seemed somewhat relieved. I loved how Lena was willing to stand her ground and fight for everything, her blindness never hindered her. This was just such a lovely story I would have enjoyed more of Lena and Seth.

The Invasion of Nefyn by Lizzie Ashworth-Nefyn and Bedwyr married war separates them. Their lovemaking is gentle yet fierce as if it is the last time they may be together, hot, intense sex with a bit of heartbreak thrown in. It was easy to envision these two now with one or the other going off to war. This was just okay for me. Not a favorite.

The Promise of Memory by Regina Kammer-This is one that wasn't one of my favorites there were just to

many things that I just didn't like about the story and the couple themselves. Aelia and Austrud were married. Aelia was abandoned by her husband ten years prior. She ends up working for the Empress in Rome. She is drawn to the Knight Manius who also works for the Empress. Aelia listens as he services the Empress. She finds herself wanting him...she becomes wet/heated. She finally gets to have Manius in her bed only to find out... There is a lot of missing history. I know this is a short story but there were a lot of questions that I needed answered.

On My Honor by Beatrix Ellroy-Headstrong Hedda butts heads with Sir Cephas whom she has taken in to nurse back to health. She was drawn to him as they bickered. Hey after all she is a woman first and a widow second. Vows kept him from taking her but that doesn't mean you can't have a sinful night without going all the way. Passion is just that passion. There are ways without having relations that can fulfill the arousal and leave one satisfied. Strange way to end this story but we shall see...Can't wait to find out what happens next.

A Falcon in Flight by Connie Wilkins-Ardzvik a wealthy warrior...and she's a she; left quite an impact on Yul a Mongol General. It seemed that Ardvik was not the genteel pretty sister. She didn't shy away from things as she was looked upon as strong with an almost ice princess quality which tends to put men off. She was perhaps a little headstrong. But, I think this thing between her a Yul works. He wanted a partner who happened to be smart, gutsy, and able to hold her own. I liked that she wasn't afraid to take charge which made for even hotter sex because she knew what she wanted and wasn't afraid to go for it.

To Love a King's Man by Emma Jay-Evanna loved Conal forever. Conal was her brother's best friend. He didn't think of her in the way she would have liked. She was always a little sister to him until... Pure Seduction...Then they are both doomed. Evanna is someone that I liked because she was widowed she was about to get married off again but, she wanted someone that gave her butterflies...knocked her socks off...rocked her world and the only one she wanted was Conal. She was determined to make sure she got what she wanted this time. I liked to see the initiative that she took and boy it was worth the wait...Conal simply out of this world hot. But, there is a down side which gives Evanna the courage to speak up. I really enjoyed this story and will look for more from this Ms. Jay.

The Bodyguard by Jacqueline Bocker-Another gusty woman with a bit of fire...Misato is being protected by a Samuri named Saitou. While he was supposed to be watching over her they couldn't help but go almost all the way. This was another virginal story. Still very sensual showing that there is a way to get around going all the way and yet still get fulfillment. Oops! We got caught now what? They did have chemistry and an equality match despite one being the help. This couple was of Asian descent which isn't often found in romance stories which is on the plus side but the whole virgin yet still getting fulfilled just doesn't quite work for me. It is missing something.

Broken Vows by Anya Richards-It can be really tough when you have to get remarried for whatever reason you are falling in love with him and he doesn't seem to reciprocate the feelings. This is a rather strange one. Gareth seemed to like Mary but there was something seemingly wrong. The more they talked and got things out in the open the better it was for everyone. Not only did things pick up in the bedroom but life was a little more bearable. This was just a little too weird for me.

Poetry and Amber by Axa Lee- This is one of those stories that jump from the present to the past just so that we are given a little background. I liked the background because it told the somewhat bazaar story of how a king fell for a witch/oracle. He left all behind to be with his witch. A strange love story if you want to call it that. Hot F/F/M and just F/M... This was a little too short for me I would have liked a little more.

The Squire by Cela Winter- Sir Godfrey needed a new squire he had just lost his to an illness. Wulfric

needed someone to take him in and care for him. Godfrey found it hard to sleep or just be around Wulfric. Wulfric stirred something within Sir Godfrey that brought him to life. Wulfric was having the same problem. She was drawn to him sexually. Yes, she not he. They had chemistry from the beginning. I really enjoyed this story I loved the strong characters, the story and all the twists that kept you guessing. I thought that it was going one way only to find out the secrets. Bravo, Ms. Winter I can't wait to read more of your writings.

Overall this wasn't a bad anthology. I really liked most of the stories. Some I had issues with but they weren't that bad. A sucker for men in kilts I found that the title was a little bit misleading. I thought all the stories would have Highlanders or at least hotness in kilts. But, there were a few stories that I felt just didn't fit. But, there is as I said before something for everyone.

This has a lot of quick reads to get you all hot and bothered you may need to grab a cool beverage.

Fedora says

Whoa.

If you enjoy the chivalry and strength and boldness of knights of eras past, and if you find their courage, devotion, passion, and swords make your heart beat faster, you'll find much to love in this collection of stories by a group of talented writers who bring their warrior fantasies to life.

Delilah Devlin, Susannah Chapin, Axa Lee, Layla Chase, Renee Luke, Lizzie Ashworth, Regina Kammer, Beatrix Ellroy, Connie Wilkins, Emma Jay, Jacqueline Bocker, Anya Richards, and Cela Winter give us heroes galore with knights, Highlanders, Vikings, Mongols, Samurai, and more. Each story is self-contained, sure to heat you up, and many may provoke, inspire, and comfort as well.

This is one satisfying anthology--don't miss it!

Becky says

Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors offers steamy and romantic historical romance with Highlanders, Vikings, Mongols, and a Samuri--all in bite-sized chunks that are perfect when you've just got a few minutes to spare--on your lunch break (though the stories themselves are definitely NSFW!), before bed, while waiting for dinner to be ready, during halftime--whenever you've got a little free time and enough room to fan yourself discreetly. ;)

Though of course the title warriors of the stories are magnificent. it is their women that really shine in the stories. They are leaders, servants, widows, maidens, wives, even a knight's squire--and they are strong and passionate. They stand up for those they love and those who depend on them, and even if they don't know exactly what they seek (though some of them decidedly do!) they also strive to find their own pleasure, both with and without their warriors.

Of course the "with" parts of the stories are much more fun...for everyone involved. ;)

Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors has a little bit of everything you could want in an erotic romance anthology--nearly every best-loved troupe is represented--in settings from medieval England and Scotland to 13th century Armenia and 16th century Japan, this collection of stories showcases men and women who are strong enough to seek what they want and need for themselves, but learn that it is better to find it together.

Rating: 4 stars / B+

I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

Kathy says

fun, erotic short stories involving strong, hot highlanders

Glen says

A great range of stories, covering different eras and locations. I particularly enjoyed the Mongolian 'Falcon in Flight'. There was more equality in this anthology than I've seen in other, similar collections. It's great to see historic erotica that doesn't follow a stereotypical weak female simpering after a strong knight.

TinaMarie says

Jacqueline Bocker - The Body Guard
They are both samurai, he's her bodyguard.

Susannah Chapin - Wicked - 5
After he has been wounded Lachlan seems to be fading away. Isobell seeks his rooms to bring him back, any way she can. Made me smile

Layla Chase - The Maiden's KWarrior and the virgin. She asks him for a kiss and things go from there in the bathhouse. I like this one, nice sense of humor too.
iss - 5

On My Honor by Beatrix Ellroy - 3
The story wasn't bad, I just didn't care for it. The knight and the widow apparently are honor bound to not have sex and yet they find a way to comfort each other.

The Promise of Memory by Regina Kammer - 5
Very lusty, I was deep into the story. Highly recommend.

The Keeper of the Keys by Axa Lee - 5
Her Saxon husband, changes the rules in the bedroom

Poetry and Amber by Axa Lee - 4
She sees things and the villagers turn her over to the new King for his favor. She wants him bad and engages

with a thrall to secure him.

Broken Vows by Alison Richardson - 4

He has taken a vow to lay with no other woman but has married to secure her lands. He wants her bad though and she needs him to be better than her first husband.

A Falcon in Flight by Connie Wilkins - 5

He's a Mongol general and she's the ruler of the lands he rules over. Which doesn't make sense but it does when you read it.

Natasja says

I received this novel as an ARC, courtesy of Temted Romance & Cleis Press Publisher

Pleasure in Surrender by Delilah Devlin

Lady Edwina is a widow and has been forced into another marriage to a fearless Viking named Grimvarr. But it seems this handsome Viking has some seduction to do to make her accept him for who he is.

Wicked by Susannah Chapin

Isobell has a crush on Lachlan since her childhood, now she is a widow and very determined to convince Lachlan that he is worthy of her affections. Will she succeed?

The Keeper of the Keys by Axa Lee

Marrying to save her land and her people was the right thing to do, but can she completely give herself to her husband in the bedroom?

The maiden's kiss by Layla Chase

When Jorunn saw this handsome shirtless warrior during his sword practice, he was all she could think about. And when the opportunity arose, she couldn't say no to Enar.

My Loveliest Vision by Renee Luke

Lena is blind, but that doesn't stop her to tell no to men when they step on her doorstep after her father died. Then Seth shows up with a scroll with information that will change everything.

The Invasion of Nefyn by Lizzie Ashworth

Nefyn and Bedwyr are shortly reunited in the time of war. What better way to spend their short time together is to give themselves completely to each other.

The Promise of Memory by Regina Kammer

Aelia hasn't seen her husband since he was captured by the Romans more than 10 years ago. The knight Manius is the empress's lover and he reminded Aelia of her husband and that is why she's so attracted to him. When the opportunity appears and she is face to face with Manius, she is in for a big surprise.

On My Honor by Beatrix Ellroy

When Hedda come across injured Sir Cephas, she took matters into her own hands and she nurses his

wounds for one night. Even though Cephas is very attracted to Hedda, he is bound by his honor and won't bed her. But Hedda has some other ideas to enjoy each other without having intercourse.

A Falcon in Flight by Connie Wilkins

Ardzvik is officially the lady of the castle, but mostly everyone believes it's her beautiful half-sister. Even the men who're sent to court the lady of the castle all fall for her sister Leyli.

Now Yul Darugha has come to their land and he isn't fooled that easily. Will Ardzvik and Yul find their happiness together?

To Love a King's Man by Emma Jay

Evanna is a young widow, who's being married off again but she is determined to choose a husband herself instead of her brother. She has been in love with her brother's best friend Conal since childhood and when he is visiting her brother, she will finally let her feelings known.

The Bodyguard by Jacqueline Bocker

Saitou became Misato's bodyguard after a failed ninja attack. Misato couldn't deny her growing feelings towards Saitou and when she heard him pleasuring himself one night, it grew only into something deeper. Can she convince Saitou that they belong together?

Broken Vows by Anya Richards

Lady Mary has remarried Gareth, only to discover her husband doesn't like her. They haven't been intimate since the wedding, but she falls more and more in love with him. Mary takes matters into her own hands and decides to confront him. Never would she suspect the reason why is turning away. Can she change his mind?

Poetry and Amber by Axa Lee

King Buliwyf needs a new oracle to secure his reign, so when he captures this beautiful redheaded witch, he knew he had found her. But this little witch has more up her sleeves, she isn't about to share him with any other women and is determined to prove he has his hands full with only her.

The Squire by Cela Winter

Sir Godfrey recently lost his squire in the middle of war, so when young squire Wulfric loses his master, they come to an understanding to help each other. Soon Godfrey finds himself attracted to this young boy and is really questioning his sanity. But he soon learns that not everything is what it seems.

Hot Highlanders and Wild Warriors is a great novel full of great short erotica stories, which includes some fine highlanders and warriors. They all have been well written and have some very hot and steamy scenes.

Some of them were too short to my opinion, because I really wanted to continue with the story and see what would happen next with these characters. I have to say I really enjoyed reading this anthology and I loved that I found some new authors to check out.

Delilah Night says

If you like your erotic heroes alpha and carrying swords, you'll love this one. My favorites included

“The Promise of Memory” by Regina Kammer is a sexy and poignant story set in ancient Rome.

“To Love a King’s Man” by Emma Jay features a strong woman who isn’t about to let love walk away from her.

“The Squire” by Cela Winter has our heroine pretending to be a male squire and all the awkward that happens when she falls in love with her new knight. (If you loved Tamora Pierce’s books when you were younger, this story is for you.)

C says

Meh...most of the stories in the first third of the book were too short, didn't develop the characters enough to care. I couldn't finish... ok I confess the hunky guy with sword on the cover got my attention. Lol ? that was the best part of the book!

Debbie Watson says

This is a great book. A few new to me authors and I loved all of them! If you like reading about hot highland warriors you definitely need this book!

MsRomanticReads says

The cover and title of this anthology appears to be all about the type of men we love to read about (and they were), however the heroines stole the show for me. I loved that all the heroines were fearless and bold. Any brief insecurities, doubts and propriety were cast aside to achieve their hidden desires. With the exception of about three or four stories that were good or just okay, I had six favorites that really stood out to me. They were: **Pleasure in Surrender by Delilah Devlin, The Maiden’s Kiss by Layla Chase, My Loveliest Vision by Renee Luke, To Love a King’s Man by Emma Jay, The Bodyguard by Jacqueline Broucker and The Squire by Cela Winter.**

Pleasure in Surrender by Delilah Devlin

A widow refuses the forced marriage to a Viking only to find there may be pleasure in her submission. Will he be able to seduce his wife into welcoming him into her life and her bed?

Lady Edwina was no shrinking violet. She’d endured the philandering ways of her alcoholic husband, but she’d held the reins and managed the estate and finances. She was a tough, competent woman who didn’t want to lose control over her life. Grimvarr appeared brutish, but she couldn’t deny the fizzle of excitement she felt in his presence.

I really loved their interaction. He established his dominance without coming off as a brute. He wasn't seeking a weak woman but rather one who would be his partner, an equal, and one he could rely on. That power play was most evident during their wedding night. He didn't force himself on her but did something unexpected (for men of that time). I felt he seduced her with heated stares while giving her space and time to come to him on her own terms, when she was ready. Their first lovemaking was hot, playful and apparently a contest *grins*.

*He wasn't asking for surrender. Rather, he sought her cooperation to achieve a common goal.
He was saving her pride. A concession as a sign of respect. Could she offer him no less?*

Wicked by Susannah Chapin

A battle-broken Highlander returns to the castle and is made whole again in the arms of his perfect mate.

Wicked kind of had a Beauty and the Beast theme to it. People whispered behind Lachlan's back: he wasn't right in the head, he was dangerous, a deviant. Wicked. Despite having a limp, he loyally and bravely led an army in numerous battles.

Isobell had been infatuated with Lachlan since childhood. Now a widow for two years, she was free to finally go after her heart's desire. I liked how she cared for him, tried to seduce him and make him believe that he was more than worthy of her affections. There was a nice shift in dynamics in their intimacy. If you're not into fem dommes and anal play, this may not be for you.

The Keeper of the Keys by Axa Lee

A woman who married for the sake of her land and people learns that giving up control in the bedroom doesn't mean that her husband won't respect the control she exercises elsewhere to ensure their prosperity.

In a time of war, the heroine had decided to bargain with the invading group of Saxons to save the lands and her people. She wedded Cutha, under the stipulation that she retain control over the day to day life. Funny that their marriage was solid aside from the fact that all the work exhausted them and turned her into a nagger. The turning point came when she'd frustrated him enough for him to put his foot down, and she discovered that his command of her and the situation turned her on.

I loved how they took the time to learn about one another despite the marriage of convenience. I felt them grow closer in that short time, and the sex was hot.

The Maiden's Kiss by Layla Chase

In this Icelandic coming-of-age story a rough combatant from a neighboring clan is softened by "The Maiden's Kiss".

I really enjoyed this couple together. Who wouldn't spy on a hunky warrior during sword practice, shirtless, muscles on display and dripping with sweat? Jorunn saw what she wanted and when the opportunity arose, she seized it. Enar was a sexy hero, teasing and a little cheeky and actually quite honorable. Upon realizing that she was a virgin, he tried to take a step back. Although the sex was kept to oral sex and anything that may have happened between them afterward was left to the imagination, it was a very sensual story. I would read more stories like this from this author.

My Loveliest Vision by Renee Luke

A blind woman realizes she doesn't need her sight to see what she knows in her heart.

Despite her blindness, Lena wasn't a weak character. She'd fended for herself, she wasn't afraid to tell men to bugger off, and she owned her sensuality when the right man came along. Seth was honorable, wickedly sensual, and I felt their connection. Sensual, playful, and hot! This was a story, which had there been plans for an extended version, I would gladly read more of.

The Invasion of Nefyn by Lizzie Ashworth

As much as I would have liked to summarize The Invasion, doing so would spoil it, (view spoiler) which made it a tricky for me to review, so I'll just say this...the hero and heroine were reunited briefly in a time of war. What better way to spend their short time together than to gorge themselves on pleasure and reaffirmations of love and hope for a brighter future? The sex was hot and plentiful, since this was all about a reunion. Their interaction and brief conversations must have endeared me to them to such an extent that the ending left me misty-eyed. It wasn't a HEA, but a HFN.

The Promise of Memory by Regina Kammer

A woman wonders if lusting after an equestrian knight betrays the memory of her husband.

Aelia, formerly Austrud before her servitude under the Romans, hadn't seen her husband since his capture by the Romans ten years ago. The empress's lover, an equestrian knight named Manius reminded Aelia of her husband. One evening while on watch duty over the empress, Aelia witnessed the knight, who was never far from her own fantasies, in action. When the opportunity arose to have the knight to herself, she took it and received a surprise.

This story was hot, but I'm a hopeless romantic at heart, so the plot bothered me (view spoiler) to the point that I didn't enjoy it as much, even though the explanation was plausible. It wasn't my cup of tea, but I really enjoyed the author's ability to pack in quite a bit of history and personality into her characters. I would like to discover more of her work. The story contained elements of voyeurism, menage and bondage.

On My Honor by Beatrix Ellroy

An injured knight and a lonely widow share a night to remember.

Hedda took in the injured Sir Cephas. During her nursing of his health, they often butted heads over honor, which was quite amusing. She was a stubborn woman but not so tough that her sinful thoughts worried her a little. She was lonely and he was tempted enough to dishonor his vows and give them both a night to remember. They didn't have intercourse, but they made up for it with equally delicious delights. The ending was left open but satisfying.

She looked him in the eye and stepped between his knees, drawing his face to hers. "Spend your seed upon my belly, my breasts, my mouth. Touch me, within and out." She closed the gap and pressed her mouth to his, their lips soft and pliant, breath fast and unsteady. "Kiss me where you wish. Just do not ride me."

A Falcon in Flight by Connie Wilkins

An aristocratic warrior woman makes an unforgettable impression when she hunts alongside an entrancing Mongol general.

Ardzvik and Yul Darugha made quite a formidable couple. I got the feeling that Ardzvik was often overlooked in favor of her half-sister, Leyli. Ardzvik seemed almost cold and not easily fazed by men (especially after a prince who had once been sent to court her had fallen for Leyli instead). Yul Darugha didn't overlook her though. She reminded him of a young girl from his past, a memory that had haunted him for a while.

She was smart, defiant, and tough. I liked her forceful nature, and the way she took him so thoroughly. Hot!

To Love a King's Man by Emma Jay

A knight fights the temptation presented to him in the form of his best friend's sister.

Evanna had loved her brother's best friend Conal since childhood, but to him, she was his "little sister". As a widow on the cusp of being married off again, she was determined to choose something for herself, and she wanted Conal. Seducing him was easy enough, but getting him to be receptive wasn't that easy. But when he did, that Highlander rocked her world. And mine, whew, that was hot! The drama that followed their forbidden mating was like a punch in the gut (painful but bearable), but I liked that it gave Evanna the courage to speak up for herself, for a choice, and for love. If this new to me author writes more Highlander stories like this one, I'm so in.

The Bodyguard by Jacqueline Bocker

While protecting his charge, a samurai can't resist the woman's sensual assault in The Bodyguard.

Misato was smart with a bit of fire in her soul. During the day, they kept a proprietary distance from Saitou. At night, she indulged in his sensual routines, until she was caught...red-handed. Since the heroine was a virgin, there was no sexual intercourse, but they still got hot and heavy enough to steam up the screen. I really liked this couple together and they seemed evenly matched, station be damned. On a side note, I was absolutely thrilled to read about an Asian couple. They're so hard to come by, so bonus brownie points for that.

Broken Vows by Anya Richards

A woman finds herself falling for her new husband who seems to want nothing to do with her, or does he?

Lady Mary had remarried, however her new husband seemed to despise her, or so she felt. His lack of interest and intimacy deepened the hurt since she seemed to only fall more in love with him with each day. Determined to make sure her people never had to fear the wrath of a surly lord ever again, she boldly approached him in an effort to unruffle his feathers. Their conversation took an unexpected turn resulting in exquisite pleasure, only for the mood to be dampened the next morning. Gareth's explanation was a little strange, but perhaps that's how strongly vows were taken in those days.

I was confused by Gareth's recalling of a conversation he'd had with an earl (page 183) and something about "making an insane plan work". I assumed Gareth had become Mary's husband for nefarious reasons. It got hot once they both started confessing their true feelings instead of hiding behind assumptions and excuses. It wasn't one of my favorites, but it was okay.

The flare of anger in his eyes made her heart leap.

Low voiced, he said, "I have learned 'plain' in one man's eyes can be heavenly in another's. That a warm smile can be more enticing than the most blatant invitation, and a willowy figure can arouse in me the incessant need to touch, to taste, to take in a way no buxom wench ever has. If not for my vow never to lie with a woman again I would keep you in my bed all night, every night, and gorge myself on your sweetness until you begged me leave you be."

Poetry and Amber by Axa Lee

A king needs an oracle to secure his reign. He finds it in his little witch and maybe more.

This story began in the present with King Buliwyf and his witch, then jumped ten years into the past to the first time they'd met and how she had come to be his. I wasn't too keen on the brief F/F/M scene. I nearly stopped reading at that point, but it quickly switched back to M/F. While I found the heroine to be an interesting character, the story overall didn't grab my attention. However the writing style was quite nice.

The Squire by Cela Winter

A knight finds himself falling for his young squire.

Sir Godfrey had lost his squire to sickness. A young squire, Wulfric had lost his master and hoped Godfrey would take him on. Over time, Godfrey came to like his new squire...in a way that made him doubt everything he knew of himself. There was an unexpected twist that took this story in a whole other direction than what I had been expecting. I don't want to say too much, but I really liked Wulfric *wink*The passion and the sex led to a most satisfying ending.

Side note: Hot Highlanders was emphasized on the cover, so I would have liked if more of the stories had actually had those fierce men in kilts in them.

FTC: Complimentary copy provided by the publisher for the purpose of an honest review.
