



## Five Days in Skye

*Carla Laureano*

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Hospitality consultant Andrea Sullivan has one last chance to snag a high-profile client or she'll have to kiss her dreams of promotion good-bye. When she's sent to meet Scottish celebrity chef James MacDonald on the Isle of Skye, she just wants to finish her work as efficiently as possible. Yet her client is not the opportunistic womanizer he portrays himself to be, and her attraction to him soon dredges up memories she'd rather leave buried. For James, renovating the family hotel is a fulfillment of his late father's dreams. When his hired consultant turns out to be beautiful, intelligent, and completely unimpressed by his public persona, he makes it his mission to win her over. He just never expects to fall under her spell.

Soon, both Andrea and James must face the reality that God may have a far different purpose for their lives—and that five days in Skye will forever change their outlook on life and love.

## Five Days in Skye Details

Date : Published June 10th 2013 by David C. Cook

ISBN :

Author : Carla Laureano

Format : Kindle Edition 332 pages

Genre : Romance, Christian Fiction, Christian, Contemporary, Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Christian Romance, Cultural, Scotland, Clean Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Five Days in Skye for online ebook

### Becky says

Five Days in Skye swept me away to Scotland! Against the craggy beauty of the Isle of Skye author Carla Laureano weaves a story of love between an American businesswoman and a Scottish celebrity chef. Fans of the movie The Holiday are sure to enjoy this contemporary romance. Laureano's voice is deft, seamless, and wonderfully accomplished. An exciting newcomer to the world of Christian fiction! Congratulations, Carla, on your debut novel.

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### Kav says

Whooossshhh! That's the sound of my pent-up breath releasing in a swoony sigh of satisfaction! I don't think my toes are ever going to uncurl! That Jamie....just thinking about him gives me heart palpitations. So please excuse this romantically-addle-brained review, but once you meet this hero, you'll totally understand. And then we can lounge on our fainting couches and commiserate with each other because Andrea gets the man. :-)

And I'm totally enamored over the setting! I mean, hello, it's Scotland!!!! And the way Laureano writes it has me yearning to hop on a plane and discover it all for myself. Especially a certain celebrity chef of the MacDonald variety. Wistful sigh. Speaking of which -- the first time Andrea and James meet -- sqquueaaalll --- snort - guffaw!!!!!! Cutting dialogue. A flirty Scotsman. A 'wickedly sharp tongued' Yank. Talk about the perfect set up for a romance! (Rats, I'm back to hyperventilating over James again.)

Concentrate, Kav, concentrate. There are other elements that make this novel a fantabulous read! Like...um...Ian, James' brother. "Being in the same room with the MacDonald men was like standing in a demilitarized zone. It seemed safe and cordial until someone got trigger-happy and started sniping." Sheesh, I just mentioned James again, didn't I? One might think I'm a bit obsessed...and they'd be right!

Love the way the author slowly reveals bits and pieces of back story for both hero and heroine. I fell deeper and deeper into their story as I discovered how past hurts and failures dictated present day actions. My heart broke for Andrea, though the slow reveal of all the particulars sent me into a frenzied rabid-reading snit! So much vulnerability hidden behind the professional businesswoman facade that James is so determined to chip away at. And -- insert euphoric tizzing shiver of delight -- he is so tenderly relentless in his pursuit. Thud....and we're back to talking about James. Again.

I'm trying to figure out a way to talk about the inspirational thread without mentioning you-know-who but since James is the one who gently shares his faith with Andrea, I'm afraid that even this paragraph is going to be about him! "We're all broken. We're only human. Some wounds only God can mend." There's a beautiful redemption story here which makes this my favourite kind of romance.

My apologies for this exceedingly James-centric review...but if you're in the market for a new 'book boyfriend', Five Days in Skye is a great place to look.

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### **Serena Chase says**

review to come in June! But... this story and these characters simply captured me. Loved! Hated when it was over, sigh.

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### **Lorraine says**

First, I have to say that contemporary romance fiction is not my favorite genre; so a Christian romance has to be really good to make me say AHHH! But Carla Laureano's debut novel definitely landed in the "Ahhhhh category." There were so many things I really loved about this book. The incredible descriptions of Scotland and the Isle of Skye, in particular, created mental pictures that had me walking the hills of Scotland along with Andrea and James. Her descriptions of James' delectable dining delights had my mouth watering. Both made me realize why Scotland is on my bucket list.

I didn't think it was possible to develop a relationship between two people in a 5 day period (at least in a book), but the relationship did develop nicely as both Andrea and James looked into their pasts and realized what went wrong with their relationships and then looked forward to what could be.

The theme of forgiveness, acceptance, and moving forward was evident throughout the book. I especially liked the ending and the future possibilities between James and Ian. I look forward to reading Book 2 which focuses on Ian.

I would recommend this book to readers who like contemporary romance writers: Dan Walsh, Darlene Shortridge, Courtney Walsh.

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### **Iola says**

Andrea Sullivan may have sabotaged her career with that last potential client. Now, as punishment, she has to convince TV chef James MacDonald, owner of three Michelin-starred London restaurants, that her company is perfect to help him renovate and market the family hotel he has inherited on the Isle of Skye. She has just a few days, and her job is on the line.

There is an immediate attraction when Andrea and James meet, but Andrea wants nothing to do with men, and especially wants nothing to do with a client. James has his own problematic romantic history, not to mention an even more problematic relationship with his brother, who owns one-third of the hotel.

I found all the characters to be intelligent and likeable, and I was especially impressed by the research. I've not been to Skye but I've lived in London and visited Scotland, and Five Days in Skye made me feel I was there. I had to laugh Andrea's reaction to James calling her 'love'. It's a common term, particularly in the hospitality industry. Right, love?

This is a Christian novel, but the Christian element is somewhat understated. Both Andrea and James come from rural backgrounds where the Christian faith was an integral part of the family. But both have abandoned that faith, yet realize on Skye that perhaps they need to pursue God once more.

Five Days in Syke has it all: an excellent opening, a funny first meeting between Andrea and James, intelligent lead characters who are both successes in their chosen careers, excellent attention to detail, and the Isle of Skye, a beautiful and unique setting. And the last line is a beautiful illustration of the eternal romance between us and God. Recommended for romance lovers.

Thanks to David C Cook and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

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### **Lynne Stringer says**

I wish there was a half star option, because I would have liked to give this book three and a half stars, because I felt it was just short of the four star mark.

It is an enjoyable romance and I liked both lead characters and felt they were well drawn, although I felt Andrea did protest too much about not liking James, then liking James, then not wanting the relationship, etc. I also thought the Christian content felt a little forced. It didn't always feel like it was a part of the story. Perhaps if more had been included it would have helped.

Nonetheless, it was a nice story! :-)

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### **Amanda G. Stevens says**

James MacDonald and Andrea Sullivan are two utterly successful people--he a celebrity chef, she a hospitality consultant known at her firm as the closer. Both of them think they're satisfied with their career-driven lives, until said careers force them to work together. Neither expects to confront old wounds, to reexamine the paths they've chosen, or to fall in love. But all these things happen when they spend five days together in Skye.

Speaking of Skye, the book exudes a breathtaking sense of place (a fulfilled promise of the cover). I've never been to Scotland, but I felt the beauty while reading Ms. Laureano's descriptions. James's mission to make Andrea fall in love with Scotland might also be a writer-to-reader mission. If so, it worked on me.

But the reason to read this book is, of course, for the two main characters. Andrea and James are engaging and fun from the start. They're assertive, intelligent people, and their dialogue snaps back and forth with a sharp, flirtatious wit. I also must commend this American author's expert use of British English. Not only James's speech but also his thoughts are consistent, never slipping into American vocabulary. Even his Scottish accent is somehow audible on the page. The dialogue is this novel's greatest strength.

Andrea's character is developed a bit more deeply than James's. (Not to say I don't love him, too.) Her backstory and subsequent choices are achingly believable. Even the couple's "moment of crisis" in the climax stems from insecurities in Andrea that have been built up gradually in the novel, so her overreaction is believable. I've read enough romances to know this is a difficult tightrope for an author to walk (and it's one of many reasons I avoid the genre--most authors can't balance it).

Secondary characters each have something to offer the story, especially James's brother Ian. I expected a certain character type from him and got something else, a refreshing surprise.

So why only three stars? Because I'm me, and this is a romance novel. The story is small--literally five days in which not a lot happens beyond flirting and sightseeing and inner reevaluation. Yes, that reevaluation is compelling for both Andrea and James. What's here is written well. But that's all that's here. The stakes are purely emotional. Much more could have come from the incident with James's student, but instead of a subplot with external conflict, the situation is spoken about only a few times and never shows up on the page. Also, after so many years at odds, the conversation between James and Ian at the end seems too easy a fix. But in this genre, resolution to all threads is a requirement.

Despite its adherence to its genre, I enjoyed this book. Ms. Laureano is a skilled new author with an affinity for clean prose and an ear for natural dialogue. I'll certainly read her next work, even if it is a romance, and I'll hope for higher stakes next time.

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### **Sarah Monzon says**

Just as good the second time around

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### **Emilee says**

If ever a book made me want to visit the setting, *Five Days in Skye* is it! Scotland is so beautifully written. Along with this wonderful setting, is a sweet story of finding true love. James is every bit as awesome as I had heard. This book definitely met my expectations. I would recommend it to fans of contemporary romance.

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### **Evangeline says**

The best kind of escape read is one that does your soul good while your brain is soaking in endorphin bubble bath. *Five Days in Skye* is exactly that kind of read. With romantic chemistry from page one, a setting to make Rick Steves pack his bags, and luscious details—the food, the shoes, the guy!!—to satisfy every woman's dreams, this book delivers the perfect holiday.

Andrea Sullivan is a high-powered career woman on track to a promotion when an unexpected incident throws her off course and into the path of James MacDonald, a celebrity chef. Andrea is assigned to snag James' account for her company, which involves a quick trip to Scotland, which Andrea views as punishment and the reader views as heavenly.

James MacDonald sees in Andrea an accomplished woman who needs to relax. He makes it his mission to loosen her up, but what starts as teasing and harmless flirtation quickly deepens as the two are drawn together by more than chemistry.

Laureano creates likable, layered characters. Both Andrea and James are hiding who they really are, but the personas they've created start to crack in each other's presence.

While many of us don't have glamorous careers involving travel, it's still easy to identify with Andrea—the way she thinks and her past mistakes. So that even while she's being escorted around Scotland by a gorgeous

man and fed gourmet delicacies by the same man, we can still sympathize with the battle raging within her.

No, forget that. Yes, Andrea is likable, but James is lickable. You read that right. The man is delicious. At the end of the book, I was rooting for them to get together, but I was also kind of hoping Andrea would get fat on James cooking. Sorry Girl, but a rich, handsome Scottish man who cooks? You don't get to have it all. Hope all that pasta goes straight to your thighs.

I devoured this book and like I said, while I was reveling in luscious details and having a grand time, Laureano managed to remind me that life is about more than working hard to earn good things. Taking a moment to breathe, to lift your head and appreciate creation, to let go of mistakes you've made and allow people to love you—all these gems are embedded in the pages of *Five Days in Skye*. You'll come away from this novel refreshed and craving good food, good times and the company of loved ones.

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### **Dee/ bookworm says**

Good story. it had a few unanswered questions at the end, but most of them weren't really important. Still I'd like to think she got her coat back :)

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### **Andrea Cox says**

by Andrea Renee Cox

Have you ever been whisked to a far-off land by reading fiction?

I certainly have, many times. But this time was different. *Five Days in Skye* was written so exquisitely that I could smell the briny air and taste the scrumptious meals James created for the fictional Andrea. If this book was a debut for Carla Laureano, there are no boundaries to where her writing journey may take her. "Master storyteller" comes to mind, but I'm not sure it's a strong enough phrase.

Must say, though, that I'm glad I waited to read this book until now (as opposed to when it first released). Why, you ask? So I don't have to wait full year to read the sequel! Not sure I could manage patience for that length of time with a tale this good.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for this honest review.

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### **Carla Laureano says**

It seems a bit self-serving to rate and review the book considering I wrote it, but that blank rating space stares at me every time I log on. Suffice it to say, I enjoyed every minute I spent with my characters and hope you will as well.

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**Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

Romance is certainly a key (and delicious) element in this story, but even more important is the theme of restoration. Both James and Andrea are struggling to find their place with God – James in the public eye and Andrea after she felt God abandoned her. James himself expressed Andrea’s struggle with God as not one who had given up but one who was seeking and “waiting for something to prove her [doubts] wrong. Something to make her believe again.” I think many of us can relate to that idea – either because we ourselves have personally felt that way or we know/love someone who has. It’s not that we quit believing, but instead we are desperate for someone to show us why we shouldn’t quit. As Ms. Laureano so eloquently put it, “We’re all broken. We’re only human. Some wounds only God can mend.” So thankful that He is in the business of doing just that...

I'm very glad I had the opportunity to review *Five Days in Skye*. I give it 5 out of 5 stars and a rare spot on my favorites shelf! (I already had a copy but was given an ARC of the re-issue by Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.) Read more of my review here: <https://readingismysuperpower.wordpress.com/2018/07/10/review-five-days-in-skye/>

**Cindy Wilson says**

I'm powerless against a book that blends romance, spirituality, and strong characters who capture my heart. Five Days in Skye did it all, accomplishing it so seamlessly, I hardly realized I wasn't right there with the characters. I rooted for James and Andrea the entire book, along for a ride that made me smile, reflect, and wish for more. Five Days in Skye is a must read!