



Crimson Heart

Heather McCollum

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As the illegitimate daughter of King Henry VIII, Elena Seymour has spent most of her life in hiding. Keeping her royal blood a secret has been a success for years, but now, with a new, fiercely Catholic queen on the throne, Elena's Protestant caretaker is being targeted. And when Bloody Mary discovers Elena's lineage, she must not only flee to Scotland for her freedom, but also for her life.

Highland warrior Searc Munro has secrets of his own. In a family of healers, his own dark, killing magic must never be known. But when his father's life is threatened, Searc's secret is revealed. No longer welcome in his clan, he sets off alone, only to find another use for his magic—to save a beautiful young lass being attacked in the forest.

Teaming up as exiles, Elena and Searc head toward Edinburgh to find refuge. Yet, with a series of ritual killings haunting the city and a traitor attempting to assassinate Scotland's regent, suspicion turns to Searc as word of an illegitimate British heir reaches the country. Now, the two must find a way to trust each other, despite their secrets, before it's too late.

Crimson Heart Details

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From Reader Review **Crimson Heart** for online ebook

Samaris Creech says

Elena has led her entire life based on a lie. Always hiding her true identity lest she be used by others for political purposes. Searc has led a great life in the Highlands but he too bears a secret, a secret which he fears once revealed will make him an outcast. One fateful day him and his father are ambushed and he is forced to use his magic to save his father. From that day forward everyone looks at him just as he feared they would with worry and fear. He decides to leave his home and journey on his own. While on his travels he comes across a woman who is being corralled by a bunch of looters and steps in to save her. Once again he uses his gift to save another's life. Elena is shocked not only by the size of the man who has come to her rescue but by his power as well. While she fears him at first she soon learns that he has a wonderful heart. They reach their destination and are immediately thrust into a quandary as many young women have been found dead with ritualistic markings. Searc will not leave Elena unprotected and wants to wed her as added protection as well as bring this killer to justice. This is a great tale of how what many see as evil is just the ignorance of the unknown; for nothing is truly good or evil it is the person who uses it that makes it so. Not a shabby love story either definitely recommend this book.

Tina "IRead2Escape" says

Hotness Rating 3 out of 5

Crimson Heart is the third book of the Highland Hearts series by Heather McCollum, but can indeed be read alone. If you love a great historical, highlander story with just a touch of magic and fantasy you'll love this book!

Searc Munro was born with a curse that he's hidden from his family until one day when his father was seconds from being killed at the hands of an enemy. Without thought Searc allowed his rage to overtake him and he unleashed all of his fury literally sucking the life right of the man on the other end of the sword. Saving the life of his father was a good thing, but it didn't stop Searc from fleeing his family home. He couldn't bear to see the fear on the faces of his clansmen. Having no destination in mind Searc just kept moving. That is until he came across Elena.

Elena couldn't believe her luck when Searc happened upon her being accosted by some pretty bad characters. At least she thought it was luck until she really looked upon her savior. He was huge and sexy and very distracting. She has spent her whole life guarding her secrets and depending on only herself. To rely on anyone else would only put them in danger. But, circumstances and fate keeps throwing them together.

I love a highlander story. Some can be really hot and some can be sweet. This particular story was a good combination of the two. Searc was so sexy and all alpha highlander, but sweet and kind, as well. I can't wait to read more from the amazing Munro clan.

This book was provided to me from NetGalley.com in exchange for my honest review.

You can find this review and others at www.riverinaromantics.com

Judith Sherrod says

Better and better

This series of Highland romances just gets better and better. Searc and Elana were ment to be. Both hiding secrets that could destroy many lives come together to find love everlasting.

Aisha says

2.5 stars. This was not the best book in the series. All the political mush, mind games, and impending danger made my head spin.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review Courtesy All Things Urban Fantasy

CRIMSON HEART marks the first time I've read a book in a series without having read the ones that came before – but kilts and magic? Then adding in the bonus of a historical bent? Come on. It's a complete home-run, book wise. For me, anyway.

Truth told, if I were reading this for my personal collection, I'd probably have rated it higher, but since the focus of ATUF is urban fantasy and paranormal works, I have to factor that into the review. Don't get me wrong, there is a paranormal aspect to the story through the gifts bestowed on Searc and his family, and it plays an integral part of the plot. The majority of the story, though, is a historical romance focusing on the time of Mary Queen of Scots and the unrest in Scotland at the time.

Full disclosure aside, I truly enjoyed CRIMSON HEART and can't wait to read the others in the series before it. There's just enough history, humor, drama, romance, mystery and history without it feeling bogged down by any of those. The mystery kept me guessing, the romance had me smiling, and I laughed out loud several times. Not to mention all the tugging on my heartstrings from Searc, and his wonderful family.

Even though part of a series, CRIMSON HEART is complete in itself with no cliffhangers left behind. Searc and Elena are richly developed characters and I loved reading their journey together. The supporting characters, especially Marie de Guise, made their story even better and one I wouldn't mind revisiting.

All Things Urban Fantasy

Cinzia says

Elena has spent her entire life hiding her family name while walking the thin line between lady and servant in a Protestant household. Keeping the secret of her lineage has been a success for years, but now, with a new, fiercely Catholic queen on the throne, Elena's Protestant caretaker is being targeted. And when Bloody

Mary discovers Elena's true identity, she must not only flee to Scotland for her freedom, but also for her life. Highland warrior, Searc Munro, has secrets of his own. In a family of healers, his own dark, killing magic must never be known. But when his father's life is threatened, Searc unleashes his lethal power to save him. With his clan's suspicious glances and whispers plaguing him, he sets off alone, only to find another use for his magic in saving a beautiful lass being attacked in the forest.

Teaming up as exiles, Elena and Searc head toward Edinburg to find refuge. Yet, with a series of ritual killings haunting the city and a traitor attempting to assassinate Scotland's regent, suspicion turns to Searc. As word of another British heir reaches the country, the two must find a way to trust each other, despite their secrets, before it's too late.

Another book that I can add to my reading historical romance about the Highlanders.

Crimson Heart was a very enjoyable book to read, well written, with a good plot and interesting characters. The magic and the power that Searc has since his birth, or a curse, as is experienced by the man, adds something different to this story; he's intense as fictional character, a little dark, but brave, loyal, stubborn and a man of honor.

I liked him immediately, although he's a man carrying the weight of his power, isolates from the others, he escapes from his loved ones for fear to see in their eyes a look full of fear for what he is; But when the times get tough, he puts aside everything and the Warrior in him takes the place of a man tormented by a thousand doubts and feelings of guilt.

Elena is also a very unique woman, she's hiding her true identity because she wants to live a free life and away from intrigues and conspiracies related to her actual bloodline. She prefers rather to work for some family beside that claim her title, but this choice is not enthused that other people would like to use her.

Courageous, even if sometimes due to her naivety things escape a little from her hand, intelligent and she's not scared from Searc and his magic, despite all the superstitions of the time.

Their trip to Edinburgh becomes a real adventure, in which the attraction they feel for one another will have its importance.

They are a lovely couple, but I liked also the minor characters: Searc's parents, the Munro, a beautiful couple their love, complicity and irony are obvious and Mary, the Queen, is a remarkable woman, funny but dangerously fatal.

A story in which I found several interesting components: intrigue, secrets, a mystery tied to the horrible death of several innocent girls, passion, love and magic.

In short, a lot of things I would say.

Thanks to Netgalley and Entangled Publishing LLC for the book.

Elena ha trascorso la sua intera vita tenendo nascosto il vero nome della sua famiglia, vivendo al limite tra l'essere una nobildonna e parte della servitù in una famiglia di fede protestante. Tenere il segreto sulle sue origini è stato per anni un successo, ma ora con una nuova agguerrita regina cattolica sul trono, i protettori protestanti di Elena vengono presi di mira. E quando Mary la sanguinaria, scopre la reale identità di Elena, la ragazza si vede costretta a scappare in Scozia per difendere non solo la sua libertà, ma la sua stessa vita.

Searc Munro, il guerriero delle Highland, ha anche lui un segreto. In una famiglia di guaritori come la sua, la magia oscura che possiede, che può uccidere, deve essere tenuta nascosta. Ma quando la vita del padre viene minacciata, Searc lascia libero il suo potere letale per salvarlo. Afflitto dagli sguardi pieni di sospetto e dai mormorii nel suo clan, decide di andarsene via da solo, trovandosi invece poi costretto un'altra volta a usare la sua magia per salvare una bellissima ragazza aggredita nella foresta.

Compagni d'esilio Elena e Searc si dirigono verso Edinburgo per trovare rifugio. Invece una serie di omicidi rituali che affliggono la città e un traditore che tenta di assassinare la reggente di Scozia, fanno ricadere i sospetti su Searc. Quando le voci dell'esistenza di un altro erede al trono britannico raggiungono il Paese, i due devono trovare il modo di fidarsi uno dell'altra, nonostante i loro segreti, prima che sia troppo tardi.

Altro libro che va ad aggiungersi alle mie letture historical romance che hanno per protagonisti gli Highlander.

Crimson Heart è stata un libro molto gradevole da leggere, scritto bene, con una buona trama e dei personaggi interessanti.

La magia del cui potere Searc è dotato sin dalla nascita, o più una maledizione, visto come viene vissuta dall'uomo, aggiunge qualcosa di diverso a questa storia; è un personaggio intenso, un po' cupo, ma coraggioso, leale, testardo e un uomo d'onore.

Mi è piaciuto da subito, nonostante sia un uomo che porta un po' con difficoltà il peso del suo potere, si isola dagli altri, fugge dai suoi cari per la paura di vedere nei loro occhi lo sguardo di persone impaurite o disprezzo per quello che lui è. Ma nei momenti che ontano tutto questo viene messo da parte e il guerriero che è in lui prende il posto dell'uomo tormentato da mille dubbi e sensi di colpa.

Elena è anche lei una donna molto singolare, nasconde la sua vera identità perché vuole vivere una vita libera e lontana da intrighi e complotti legati al suo sangue reale. Preferisce piuttosto lavorare presso qualche famiglia che rivendicare il suo titolo, ma la scelta non entusiasma altre persone che invece la vorrebbero usare. Coraggiosa, anche se a volte a causa della sua ingenuità le cose le sfuggono un po' di mano, intelligente e non si lascia spaventare da Searc e la sua magia, una volta che lo incontra, nonostante tutte le superstizioni dell'epoca.

Il loro viaggio per Edinburgo diventa una vera e propria avventura, nella quale l'attrazione che provano uno verso l'altro avrà la una importanza.

Loro sono una bella coppia, ma anche i personaggi secondari mi sono piaciuti: i genitori di Searc, i Munro, a loro volta una bellissima coppia nella quale amore, complicità e ironia sono evidenti e Mary, la regina, è una donna notevole, divertente ma pericolosamente letale.

Una storia nella quale ho trovato diverse componenti interessanti: intrighi, segreti, un mistero legato alla morte orribile di diverse ragazze innocenti, passione, amore e magia.

Insomma un bel po' di cose direi.

Ringrazio Netgalley e la Entangled Publishing LLC per il libro.

Landy Jimenez says

My favorite of the series. Love Searc and Elena.

eyes.2c says

...hearts of the highlands

1554, Searc Munro, a disgraced highlander flees from the dark magic he harbours. Elena Seymour, an unknown and unacknowledged Tudor princess, illegitimate daughter to Henry VIII, fearing being used as a political pawn is struggling towards possible safety in Edinburgh when they meet. Mix in plots and counterplots between the English and the Scots, young women going missing and being found dead with strange markings on their bodies, add some healing highlander magic and tortured romance and you have all the elements necessary for a love story with a difference.

A NetGalley ARC

Tamra LeValley says

NetGalley Free Book

Elena is the child of King Henry VIII and cannot let anyone know. She is on the run and is afraid that if she gets caught she will be used as a pawn. Searc Munro has a deep secret also and has left his families clan so he will not accidentally not kill any member with his dark magic. The two meet up and sparks start to fly. They will have to help each other stay out of trouble.

This was such a well written novel. the characters were hilarious and the plot was well thought out. It is really important to me that when switching from one chapter to the next that the author does not get me lost and in this book those changes were very well done.

This book was very predictable. There was one surprise at the end but there was a reason why the reader could not figure it out. I cannot say what that was without giving the ending away. There were also some spots where it became a bit boring due to too much unnecessary writing and information.

Brenda L Brooks says

Highland Novels by Heather McCollum

As with all of Ms. BrOoklyn's books that I have read so far, this one holds your interest, is full of adventure and romance mixed together.

I know that anyone that likes this type of story will enjoy it as much as I did.

Farrah says

With magic, secrets, and a lovely romance, Crimson Heart was a fantastic historical romance. I really liked this book. It was a wonderful addition to the series and I really enjoyed reading it.

Elena was lovely. She was strong and determined to live her life away from all the political battles that her parentage could have gotten her caught up in. She was clever, tough, and a likable character. I thought she was great.

Searc was so wonderful. Because of his killing magic, he thought he was evil. But, it was clear right away that he was just the opposite. He was a truly good, noble man, one who was very sweet. I loved how he was so protective, not only of his loved ones, but of all creatures who couldn't defend themselves. He was simply adorable.

The romance was lovely. Elena and Searc were so sweet together. They accepted each other so fully, even with the secrets each was hiding. There was some heat between them, but it wasn't really the focus of their relationship. I thought they were a perfect couple.

The plot was fast paced and I was hooked the entire way through. There were some twists, and a constant sense of danger that had me on the edge of my seat. I really enjoyed the story and the ending was perfect.

Crimson Heart was a delight of a read. From the lovely romance, to the secrets, and the touch of magic, this book was wonderful. Romance lovers, this is a book you'll want to check out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Lynn Reynolds says

Rating: 4 1/2 stars

I received a copy of this book from the Entangled Publishing and the author in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated in any way.

This is not a story that you will want to skip around on. The author includes a mystery and if you skip around you may miss something and you will want to know what happens between Searc and Elena. There are scenes that may have you laughing and the author has an ending that will have you smiling. Highland Hearts has been a great series and this is one more book that makes it so. Heather knows what works to keep her readers coming back for more. Each book of the series could be read as a stand-alone but I feel it is a series that you will want to make sure and read them all. I'm also looking forward to seeing if she will continue the Highland Hearts series with another book.

CRISTINA says

I liked this book very much. The writer has a way to tell the story that keeps you interested all the time. The characters have strong personalities. They are brave and interesting. The descriptions are vivid. I enjoyed reading this book and It made me wish to read more stories from this writer.

Charlene Fraley says

Wonderful book. I was given a e-copy of the novel for a honest review. I love reading about Scotland and Highlanders in particular. Without revealing too much, our hero believes that he cannot lead his clan because his special powers will get in the way. He leaves his clan and family. He runs into our heroine in the forest. She is a British royal who wants to escape their clutches. They decide to travel together. Later they meet with Queen Mary's regent, who takes a liking to them. Our couple falls in love and marries and have their Happily Ever After.

Kirsten Cox says

Review to come...

