

## **THE LAIRD REVIEWS:**

Reviewed by Rosemary Morris March 2023

"Ms. McGill skillfully weaves her timeslip novel which takes the reader from near Stirling in the present day to dark age Scotland.

Andrew McAlister, a self-made Australian millionaire in Melbourne, is summoned to his family's ancestral castle in Scotland, by his aunts. His uncle, the laird, from whom he will inherit the property and title is bed-ridden near death. His personal assistant, Elizabeth Parker, who reads historical non-fiction about Scottish history and law and speaks Gaelic, persuades him to take her with him. When Andrew arrives, he is shocked when he enters the building. It is dilapidated, icy cold and needs repair. Liz wants to visit all the places of historical interest within a hundred-mile radius. His aunt tells him: "...in spring heather covers the hills with purple. Some foreigners think it is a savage land, but we've hidden glens where torrents of water rushes through them. An' there's gently rolling hills and mighty mountains." Liz says the castle is steeped in history and there's something romantic about one of his ancestors, Travis who wears a kilt in his portrait, also there there's something about bagpipes that really stir the soul.

In an attic she finds a brooch with the family motto, *Commit thy soul to God*. It is a portal which takes them through a door to a room in which a fire roars in a huge fireplace. Andrew and Liz have been transported to the first McAlister castle in 1,050 A.D. Travis, the Laird seizes the portal which they are desperate to retrieve and return to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Travis, betrothed to a girl to ensure peace with another clan, suspects them of being spies. His first impulse is to execute them, but he is besotted by Liz. Entangled in heathen webs of hate violence, hate and unwanted sexual tensions Andrew and Liz struggle to come to terms with the savage land and each other to survive."

Deborah Brent for Romantic Times 5 stars

"This is a remarkable book, and Ms. McGill is an outstanding writer. There is rich historical detail of everyday medieval life, and characters who stepped right out of the annals of history. I love time travel books, and this one is exceptional."

**5 STARS LOVE STORIES WITH A RUGGED HIGHLANDER** by Minnie

Anything with a highlander or a man in a kilt and I am hooked. The Laird takes us back to the days when the highlands were unspoiled and the men who lived there were just as rugged.

5 stars By mrs maggie

"Smashing story"

5 stars By David larwood

"Excellent"

5 stars By S.A. Martin

"The Laird" is a wonderful time travel romance that draws the reader in and makes her feel she is there. Exceptionally researched and well written, the story centers around Andrew and Elizabeth, who travel to Scotland to visit his uncle before the man dies. Andrew is serious and all business, while Elizabeth is more fun-loving but also well-versed in Celtic lore and fluent in Gaelic. The story starts in the present, but while going over items in the attic of the castle, they find themselves flung back to the 11th century. If that isn't bad enough, Travis, the lord of the castle, is a spitting image of Andrew and takes a liking to Elizabeth. Andrew is torn between jealousy of Travis and worry about getting back to their own time. Elizabeth shares his worries, but she can at least speak the native language, while Andrew is lost. But how can they return to their own time, to their own country of Australia? If they can't get back, they are stuck in the 11th century.

Marlene at FAR 5 angels! **recommended read**

"Andrew and Elizabeth travel far in this novel—very far, indeed

On a trip to the Scottish castle of Andrew's ancestors they're pulled back in time to a world where they know no one and find it necessary to fight for their very existence. They make many discoveries along the way and learn not only about the history of the castle, but about their future together. Liz intrigues Andrew, with her knowledge of Gaelic and her love of Scottish lore, and when a Scotsman named Travis shows her some attention his hackles rise. For her part, Liz is anxious to find a way home, if they can.

I enjoyed every minute of this book. Tricia McGill perfectly pulls the reader back in time along with Andrew and Liz, describing the castle and its inhabitants in such detail they fully come to life. Andrew's aunts, Tilda and Kitty, are gems whose unsolicited advice made me laugh out loud! The way Liz first imagines she's been swept into a television show is hysterical. The dialogue in this story is one of its strongest features, and coupled with an intriguing plot it is

a winning combination...is a book I will probably order in paperback, just so I can curl up with it on a rainy day and reread it! It's that good!

Maura Frankman TRS 4 and a half stars Sensuality rating: Very sensual

"I am not usually a fan of this genre, but this book might just have changed my mind. I loved Liz and Andrew, and most of the time Travis, though sometimes he is just a little too full of himself and his power as laird. The author paints a vivid picture of Scotland in the eleventh century, and for once the images were not all of how the nobility lived. Andrew and Liz did have to rough it a bit, sleeping on the floor of the hall with the rest of the people. Though they lived in a savage time, Travis and his family weren't completely uncivilized, and it is no surprise that Liz is a little attracted to Andrew's eleventh century counterpart, they are more similar than just in looks. I found it a little annoying that Travis in his conceit didn't realize the danger that he put Liz and Andrew in with his flirting, but that same flirting added some necessary tension between the two main characters. Andrew seems to have had feelings for Liz for a long time, but still treated her like a piece of furniture, even asking her to buy gifts for his past and present girlfriends. Travis' attentions seem to wake him up a bit. There are many exciting scenes of battle and intrigue, and great descriptions of life in that time period, some of them so vivid that you can almost smell and taste the food. What a great story!!!"

JoEllen Conger 5 stars

"Andrew MacAllister reluctantly travels to Scotland to take his last farewell with his dying Uncle Lawrence, accompanied by his attractive personal secretary, Elizabeth Rowan. He's not looking forward to becoming the last of his bloodline. Once his uncle is gone he'll become Laird of the decrepit century's-old castle. While perusing the stored jumble in the attic, the two are mysteriously whisked back into the past, to a time when Andrew's 1050 ancestor and Clan Leader, Travis McKenna has absolute rule over life and death of everyone in his keeping. While Andrew struggles to stay alive and on Travis' good side, Liz fights just to stay out of the heathen's bed.

Multi-published author Tricia McGill crafts an exciting, fast moving Highlander saga . This can't-put-it-down-story is guaranteed to keep you turning pages."

5 stars A. Dee Carey

"This Highland tale has all the majesty of a historical and all the magic of a time travel. However. this Scottish pair transcends the centuries in a way sure to surprise the reader. The heroine is a strong capable woman, one of many skills. The hero is equally strong and I imagine even has good legs as he is reputed to look dashing in a kilt.

My pleasure in reading this tale opened my visions as I allowed myself to be swept to the Scottish highlands. This is a story that takes you away from the daily mundane and embraces you in a far past time. This is the first of this author's books I've had the good fortune to read, but it will not be the last."

5 stars Jennifer Macaire

I love time-travel, and I adore reading about Scotland, rugged lairds, rough countryside and rowdy fights. I love romance books, and so this one seemed perfect for me. I really enjoyed the characters. Andrew is such a businessman, and Liz is his efficient secretary. They come to

Scotland to visit Andrew's old uncle Laurence, a delightful man who lives in a Scottish manor. Somehow they fall through a warp in time, ending up in Scotland in the beginning of the middle Ages. The houses are shacks, the castles are drafty, the weather is dreadful and the people are very, suspicious of the strange couple suddenly appearing in the middle of their castle. How Andrew and Liz prove they are not spies or witches is convincingly done. I liked the details about clothing and food – Tricia did lots of research and it shows. The way the people react is very well done, and Andrew and Liz's thoughts and feelings as they are forced to accept that they might be trapped in that century forever, are captivating. Their feelings change towards each other, and in the end they fall in love (romance, remember?). Before that though, there is action and adventure, rugged lairds and rough fighting. The end is very good – I loved the way Tricia managed to wrap everything up in a satisfactory way. (I won't give away the ending though!) Read it, **I promise you won't be disappointed!**

Jonathan Taylor of Scribes World Reviews 4 ½ Stars

Andrew is a no-nonsense Australian businessman. When his infirm uncle asks him to visit the family's Scottish estate, Andrew, the last male heir, reluctantly agrees to make the journey. His personal assistant Elizabeth accompanies him. While Andrew and Elizabeth are foraging through some trunks they unearth a cloak and kilt from years past. The result of that exercise changes both of their lives forever... as Scottish as the scent of heather and the sight of tartan plaid. It is easy to become spellbound in this fantastic tale of sexual tension, history, and newfound awareness. Andrew and Elizabeth adjusted to being in a new time in both varied and realistic ways. It was a pleasure to watch them struggle with being in a new time as they grew closer. **A bonny good read!**

Audrey Braver for The Historical Novels Review

An Australian businessman named Andrew and his personal assistant, Liz, an expert on ancient Gaelic, visit his ancestral home in Scotland. While exploring the decrepit castle, they discover an ancient cloak and badge. As Liz pins them to Andrew, the building shakes as in an earthquake. When things settle down, Andrew and Liz find themselves in the original castle keep. The year is 1050. Macbeth is king, and our time travellers are the guests of the Laird of the clan and Andrew's ancestor. Travis thinks they are spies and immediately confiscates Andrew's cloak and badge, preventing any return to the twentieth century. To make matters worse, Travis is attracted to Liz, infuriating both Andrew and Travis' intended bride, who will stop at nothing, including murder, to get rid of her.

**McGill gives us a spellbinding, fast-moving plot.** Andrew is intelligent, considerate, and out of his depth when pitted against Travis, the strong, virile, Alpha male.

[4 stars The Laird: An interesting story involving time travel.](#) Amazon Customer "

"The story has action and suspense. The characters are very interesting. I normally don't care much for the fantasy of time travel but this is an entertaining book."

3 stars By Angharad Gask

"If you like time travelling romances, but think you know exactly how the plot will develop, this will surprise you, and I think in a good way. It is quite well written and has pretty believable characters."