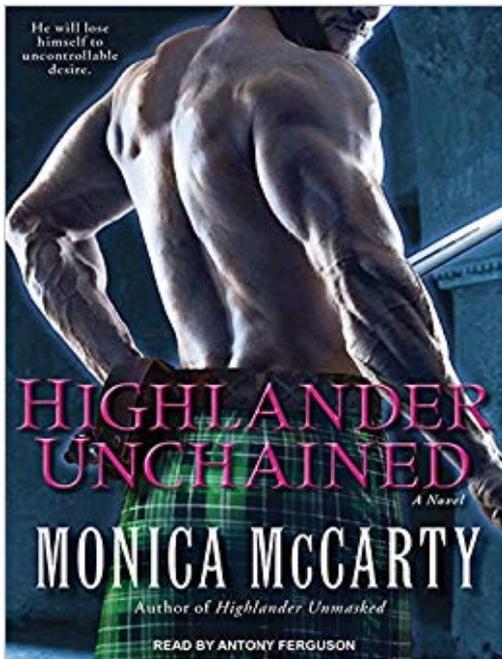


## Highlander Unchained: A Novel (MacLeods of Skye) by Antony Ferguson, Monica McCarty



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**Author:** Antony Ferguson, Monica McCarty

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Lachlan Maclean will do whatever it takes to protect his clan—even if it means abducting the most willful woman in the Highlands with the secret intention of wooing her for marriage. A leader possessing brute strength and an imposing command, Lachlan is unprepared for the beautiful spitfire Flora MacLeod, who jeopardizes his plans to save his clan and digs beneath his hard, chiseled exterior to expose a tenderness that may be his undoing. The greatest marriage prize in the Highlands, Flora is determined at all costs to avoid her mother's fate of being bartered away as a political pawn. Vowing to make her captor pay for his ruthlessness, she boldly engages him in a battle of wills, sweetening the challenge with dangerous passion—even as the lingering curse and deadly ghosts of a past tragedy reach out to thwart a tender love that has yet to be spoken.



Reviews of the [Highlander Unchained: A Novel \(MacLeods of Skye\)](#)

## Skye) by Antony Ferguson, Monica McCarty

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Highlander unchained

This is the 4th Monica McCarty book I have read, the others being Taming of the rake/ The Hawk/ The Raider. While I liked the storyline in the Highland Guard series, the language was a bit too modern for my liking. The writing in Taming was decent but no plot to speak of. So I was interested to see what her earlier writing was like. While there is not as much urban slang in this book compared to the other two Highland novels I've read, there is hardly any plot and whatever plot there is is less interesting and developed. The story just drags on and on. The MCs in all 4 books I have read are all very similar. There is just too much insta-lust: a majority of the book evolves around Flora's lust towards the Lachlan, and vice versa. It's hard to take the mutual admiration for pages on end. I am not sure why McCarty made the heroine 24 yrs old (very old for an unmarried heiress for the time): she acts more like a teenager than someone who has spent years at court. Considering the circumstances that Lachlan and Flora met (he kidnapped her with the intent to coerce her into marriage) it is aggravating that the author wanted to push the lust angle right from the get-go, thereby leaving the reader the impression of a very shallow Flora. Moreover, she isn't the brightest bulb in the pack: trying to escape in a leaky boat in the middle of the night when she can't swim is stupidity. The emotions that Flora exhibit just doesn't seem realistic: why should she feel guilty when she heard Lachlan reprimanding his people for letting her escape when Lachlan should be the one feeling guilty for having kidnapped her in the first place. Why does she always make excuses for the hero's behavior? Overall, Flora comes across as incredibly needy, immature, weak, too eager to please the hero and a bit dim-witted. As for the hero, other than his physical attributes (tall, muscular, good smell, good-looking etc etc) that the author constantly reminds us of, there really isn't much that is attractive about Lachlan.

Why do contemporary romance writers want to portray their heroines as so lacking in wits is beyond me. Georgette Heyer's heroines (her books were written in the 20's to 50's) always strike me as genuine and having abundant common sense. Another gripe I have with so many modern romance writers is their penchant for filling pages and pages with infernal internal babbling. They need to take a few creative writing courses to get a few basics right. I've also noticed that many such writers, including McCarty like to tag on "ness" for nouns instead of the more standard form: for example, desperateness instead of desperation, solidness for solidity, peacefulness for peace, graveness for gravity and so on. McCarty also sometimes fragments her sentences in such a way as to totally obfuscate, requiring that I have to read it a few times to get the gist of it. Another annoying McCarty habit is to characterize her heroines (in all the 4 books I have read) as having tiny everything (face, hands, feet toes...).

So all in all, I am going to take a hiatus from this author's works.

Jugami

Overall I like Highlander Unchained. As usual you can count on Monica McCarty to write a very good storyline with lots of sensual scenes and engaging characters. The storyline moves quickly enough and there is good back story for each character. My complaint of this story was an annoying heroin Flora MacLeod oh boy was she a nuisance brat. She was 24 which is old and on the shelf for this ear in time, but she acted like a 18 year old. The hero Lachlan MacLean had two sister Mary and Gillie 15 and 17 which were more mature then Flora. The author really should not have written her so old for the character she betrayed. The story was a bit repetitive. These are the reasons I didn't give it 5 stars. I liked the legend about the curse and the epilog was very good. So Overall this was a very good story!! I highly Recommend the MacLeods of Skye series!!

3 likes ·

Reading Progress

01/03 marked as: read

01/03 marked as: to-read

01/13 marked as: read

Hrguig

This final book in the MacLeods of Skye series by Monica McCarty is a very enjoyable book. Once again, London native Antony Ferguson did a wonderful job narrating this last installment. His skill with various dialects and deep male voices made the larger than life characters come alive. He does a good job performing the female voices in the book as well.

I honestly have only one criticism of this book. The heroine is a 1600's clan woman with a 21st century attitude that might even be a bit belligerent by today's standards. Granted, she is sister to the clan chief, but even at that she would have been more of a pawn than the stubbornly independent woman portrayed in the book. However, I can tolerate that in a historical romance that isn't leaning too heavily on historical facts and details.

I do recommend this wonderfully performed audiobook and its predecessors (linked below). The 12 hour performance will keep you entertained throughout.

Highlander Unmasked: A Novel (MacLeods of Skye)

Highlander Untamed: A Novel (MacLeods of Skye)

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