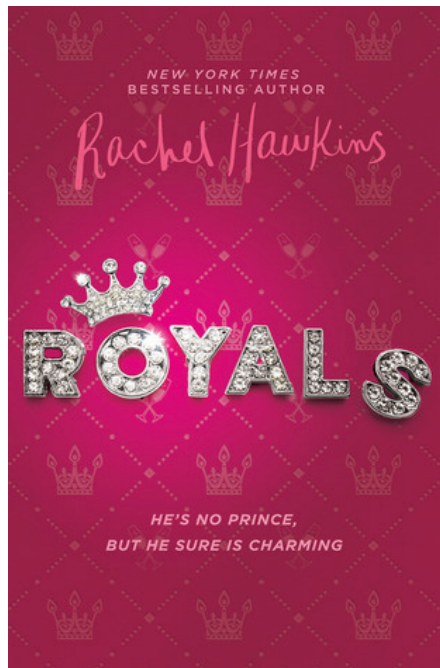




Royals

Rachel Hawkins

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Royals

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Royals Rachel Hawkins

Meet Daisy Winters. She's an offbeat sixteen-year-old Floridian with mermaid-red hair; a part time job at a bootleg Walmart, and a perfect older sister who's nearly engaged to the Crown Prince of Scotland. Daisy has no desire to live in the spotlight, but relentless tabloid attention forces her join Ellie at the relative seclusion of the castle across the pond.

While the dashing young Miles has been appointed to teach Daisy the ropes of being regal, the prince's roguish younger brother kicks up scandal wherever he goes, and tries his best to take Daisy along for the ride. The crown—and the intriguing Miles—might be trying to make Daisy into a lady . . . but Daisy may just rewrite the royal rulebook to suit herself.

Royals Details

Date : Published May 1st 2018 by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

ISBN :

Author : Rachel Hawkins

Format : Kindle Edition 304 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Romance, Fiction

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Download and Read Free Online Royals Rachel Hawkins

From Reader Review Royals for online ebook

Alienor ✖ French Frowner ✖ says

How come most US authors never bother to learn about the countries they're writing about? This devil-may-care attitude is so fucking exhausting and I know for a fact that most US readers couldn't care less but... aren't you tired of being fed the bare minimum? Especially when the main conflict itself [medical bills] doesn't make any kind of sense in a Scotland context. Way to transfer a US issue into another country and thoroughly failing? In the end there's always this weird sentiment that other countries are somewhat similar to the US when... they're really not.

The Girl Murdered by Her TBR says

3 stars!!!

ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review

Arc #2

Well I thought this book was going to be difficult difficult lemon difficult but alas! It turned out to be easy peasy lemon squeezy (thank god for that)!

I kind of struggled to like it in the first six chapters because I was annoyed with Daisy's relationship with her family but after that chapter I surprisingly enjoyed this book. It was a cliché young adult contemporary romance but it still managed to hook my attention.

The plot was okay and so were the characters in this book. The problem about it is the lack of conflict and confrontation scenes between the characters, especially at the falling action and the end of the story. I think that the book didn't end really well because none of the conflicts in the book were solved properly.

The characters were dynamically written which was one of the reasons why this book entertained me. Daisy is considered as an average girl with a perfectly normal life until she was forced to flee out of the country for her soon-to-be princess older sister. Her character was fun because she has a good sense of humor and a chill attitude. She wants her life to be the way it used to be but a lot of unexpected things came her way which once again forced her to step out of her comfort zone. She met Miles along the way and you know how the story goes, the "hate-to-love" relationship (but milder hate in here) which is by the way not new to people but something about them made me want to read everything in just one sitting.

All in all, this book is a quick and easy read that we need sometimes to lighten our mood. The story lacks some important explanations which would have made this book better. The humor and the lightness of this book would help readers to relax and enjoy.

Roshani Chokshi says

Endlessly entertaining and charming, the exact story I need that hits the spot post Harry and Megan Markle wedding.

ambsreads says

THIS REVIEW FOR ROYALS BY RACHEL HAWKINS WAS ORIGINALLY POSTED HERE

I am trash for a royalty story, especially with the Royal Wedding approaching (when this review is posted the wedding will have already happened). I am an absolute nut about royalty, I don't know why. Well, I do, but it's literally just because my family has raised me this way. So, when I saw this book called Royals floating around on Goodreads I knew I had to pick it up. I'm so glad I did as well, this was one of the funniest and unrealistic books I have ever read. Now, don't get me wrong I enjoyed it immensely. I saw someone say this is Pippa Middleton's side, which I thought was excellent.

What is Royals about though? This book follows Daisy, a girl from a middle of nowhere town who works at a rip off of Walmart. A very normal life. One little problem, her sister is dating the crown prince of Scotland, Alex. Not only that, her sister is now engaged to the crown prince of Scotland. And with a scandal initiated by Daisy's ex-boyfriend she is shipped off to Scotland for the summer in order for her to be more manageable. This also means she has to change her own look, from her Little Mermaid like hair to her style. Adding on to that is cancelling her summer plans with her best friend, an actual pain in the ass. Unfortunately, the fun doesn't end there for sweet Daisy because going to Scotland means a group known as the Royal Wreckers now surrounds her, lead by the crown prince's very own younger brother, Seb. There is a mess between Daisy and these boys, particularly her brother in law (aka the media trying to say there's something happening between them, ick). This basically means that now Daisy has to have a fake boyfriend with the boy she can't stand from the group, Miles. Humour is everywhere in this novel, especially with Daisy and Miles' interactions. There is never shortages of laughter. There is also never a shortage of drama, if you aren't into rich privilege drama then I think this will not be the book for you at all. However, if you want a fun book and can bypass the drama this is for you!

Even better is that there is both a f/f and m/m side relationship. Obviously, I want to see these highlighted in the sequel. I mean I really want the sequel to be the story of Princess Flora. If I don't get that I will be crying.

Anyway, let's jump into my overall likes and dislikes of Royals by Rachel Hawkins.

L I K E S

X MILES AND DAISY ARE THE CUTEST

These two, oh my God. I am a sucker for a good enemy to lover's romance. It's a little bit of a mess. This was perfect for that. There isn't much to say on the duo apart from the fact that the build to their relationship was well executed, if not a bit too fast in areas. I just gushed over them and I adored the banter between them, I wish there had been some more development to their actual relationship but not much I can do there.

X NORMAL SIBLING RELATIONSHIP

I can't say I ever think I think of the siblings when there is a 'normal' girl marrying into a royal family. However, that's probably because I'm an older sister and my little sister is the definition of a turd – though, I could see our relationship in Daisy and Eleanor. The whole family dynamic was actually very similar to my own families in some way. My mum and sister are always making jokes and doing things I deem 'inappropriate' – much like Eleanor does to her family in Royals. However, to add a dislike to this, I do wish the relationship between sisters had some more on page time. I feel it could have significantly added to the characters depth.

X ROYAL STORIES ARE MY FANTASY

I said this in my reviews for *A Princess in Theory* and *The Princess Trap* (both books I highly recommend) but I love royal stories. As a young girl I held onto that dream I would be a princess a bit longer than others, I think it was because of my personal home life that I wanted to be whisked away. Who knows. I just love royalty. This story was enough to help me in those final weeks wait for the Royal Wedding between Harry and Meghan. So, basically, what I'm saying is this is my one of my new favourites.

D I S L I K E S

X DRAMA FELT ICKY SOMETIMES

I think it was the fact that the alcoholism on the page was never challenged. There is a lot of alcohol mentions anyway, which already had me a bit uneasy with the text. However, the biggest problem is definitely the drama that comes from the Crown Prince's brother Seb. I felt that he was really just there to make drama and do nothing else. His whole personality was that of clear privilege and it was really frustrating to read his interactions with Daisy or any girl because they would all bend over backwards at first for this turd. I'm sure there is a lot more depth to him though that will no doubt be in the sequel, knowing my luck the sequel will be him being the love interest. Yuck.

X WHY WASN'T THIS LONGER

Ultimately, I just wished *Royals* was longer. I felt it ended just when it was getting good, which I guess is the point and a reason for me to pick up the sequel. It just felt like it could have done with an extra 50 pages at times to really establish a relationship between characters or the family dynamic. I'm not sure how to even really put it into words.

Overall, *Royals* really hit that sweet spot I needed of contemporary fun and royalty. It was the perfect mix for me, personally, but I can definitely see why others wouldn't like it. I'm beyond excited for the sequel and can't see what else is in store for these characters!

Brooke — brooklynennereads says

If you are having 'Royal Withdrawal' after the most recent Royal Wedding, look no further, this book is just what the doctor has ordered as a cure.

I really, really, really enjoyed this novel. It was cute, it was funny, it was sarcastic, and it was equal parts relatable and not relatable. I honestly sped through these pages and could. not. get. enough. Seriously, I wanted the sequel in my hot little hands like...yesterday. Ms. Hawkins, in the nicest way possible, chop to it.

There was a lot of hype surrounding this novel and as such, I was apprehensive. However, after completing it, I fully support the hype and believe that it's well deserved. Everything about this book reads like a modern day tale on being inducted into a Royal family as a "commoner" and includes the struggles of not following a typical tradition. As well, it looks into just how much it impacts the family members of someone who has made the decision to marry into royalty.

This story is definitely told in an entertaining way but there is some moments that have you questioning just how much someone would have to sacrifice for love.

I definitely would recommend this for those that like a realistic contemporary surrounding royalty, but I

would also recommend this to anyone who is looking for a fun, humorous, and quick read.

Thank you to Penguin Random House Canada for sending me an advanced reader's copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review

Nadhira Satria says

the history buff in me just sighed so loud at "the crown prince of Scotland"

but fuck it lmao give me some princes and let me binge this shit

Lola says

3.5 stars.

Magic school, paranormal, princess story... Rachel Hawkins will write about anything and everything that comes to her mind and I love that about her.

Princess stories are my thing. I don't care if they are unrealistic, as long as they make me want to become the heroine of the book and live this fantasy myself.

And boy do I want to be in Daisy's shoes right now. It's not as though she is on her way to become a princess (her sister is, sort of), but spending the summer at a castle with plenty of exquisite bachelors to choose from?

This is like *Paper Princess* meets *Part-time Princess* but for young adults. It is ridiculous but entertaining, absolutely predictable but interesting nonetheless, and filled with drama that is irrefutably necessary in a story about royals.

I've yet to dislike any of Rachel Hawkins' love interests, for one simple reason: She knows what works for teens and what doesn't. She knows what teen girls (I was about to say "we" but I guess I'm too old now) dream about and she delivers.

In other words, Miles knocked my tiara off.

I'm not ashamed to say that this was one of my most anticipated 2018 releases. Most people anticipate highly praised fantasy books, I like to get my hopes up about titles that are more under-the-radar, though I sure hope many will give this one a chance.

Just like Daisy Winters, it isn't without flaws, but if ever you are in the mood for a romantic comedy and unfortunately there is nothing on TV, worry not because ROYALS will help you out.

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Zoe Wilson (yerabooknerdzoe) says

I honestly loved this book. It was a quick, easy read and that's all I was looking for. Granted, some things made me scratch my head, like the healthcare bit. You could tell it was written by an American. I'm Canadian, and it baffles me every day how much people have to pay for things in the States. I was looking up the other day how much it costs to give birth in Ontario, and from everything I've read and the people I've talked to, your biggest expense is paying for parking. Not tens of thousands of dollars for a procedure. I looked it up after reading that part, just out of the sake of curiosity, and no one would be in debt to anyone for medical bills in Scotland. It just seems presumptuous to assume that every other country is going to have the same insane medical bills without doing proper research.

Lack of research (on multiple things, it seems, given other reviews) aside, it was a cute book. I didn't want to read too much into it, because honestly, I know the bare minimum about Scotland. So unless I decide to research every bit of this book for accuracy, I'm going to take it at face value. I loved the romance, hated the queen, wanted to punch the main character a few times until she sorted herself out, and overall had a good time reading.

katwiththehat says

This was a cute, light read about Daisy, a teen from Florida, whose sister is engaged to a prince from Scotland. Daisy and her family travel to Scotland in advance of the wedding and drama with the paparazzi ensues, along with drama with the royal family as they attempt a cover-up. This was a fast read, had all the usual "American tourist in Scotland" tropes, and I enjoyed the characters.

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

Jessica says

At long last, we have an heir to the Princess Diaries throne! Rachel Hawkins (whose Twitter feed, might I add, is sheer delight) has given us a modern day story about the ups and downs of being a teen . . . and what happens when those ups and downs clash with royal protocol! I shan't say any more, but if you love the Princess Diaries and/or are obsessed with the British royals (check and check for me!), this is your book.

Cait • A Page with a View says

Release date: May 1, 2018

2.5 stars. Ok so first of all, I really do like this author's other books and would normally be ALL over a book where a girl becomes famous because her sister gets engaged to a prince. I got up at a ridiculous hour and skipped school to watch the royal wedding and I absolutely love those ridiculously cheesy royal Hallmark movies. I really wasn't looking for anything serious here and just wanted a fluffy, fun read! Buuuuut there was one detail that was absolutely impossible to get past....

The basic story is that Daisy is an average American teen who gets thrown into the spotlight when her sister

gets engaged to the prince of Scotland... whom she met at school "in the U.K." (Just wait, it gets even more confusing). Daisy has to skip her summer plans to go to Scotland, where she meets the gorgeous younger Prince Sebastian and his even more gorgeous friends. Of course all of the guys wear kilts, the girls wear tartan dresses, and they're heralded by 20 pipers at their arrival to a quaint stone house (where they duel the actual owner and there's an unflattering scene about Scottish accents). The queen eventually orders Daisy to fake date a friend of Sebastian's to get the tabloids off her case aaaand you can guess how it all ends.

I'm not sure if the assumption here is that the reader is an idiot or if we're just supposed to roll with everything and pretend like Scotland is a sovereign nation because neither of those options are particularly appealing. For the record, I really do like books with alternate history! But they kind of need to **actually establish that...**and maybe not make some odd spectacle out of the culture they're messing with?

It's like the whole thing was written for a sheltered American's *idea* of an imaginary land based on Outlander, except this treatment of a very REAL landscape, culture, money, accents, and seriously everything was just... very strange at best. The whole tone was almost condescending and I was offended FOR Scotland so many times while reading this.

But I was mostly SO INCREDIBLY CONFUSED. It's clear that Prince Harry is the cousin to the south, so I'm sitting there like WHAT ABOUT WALES. **I need a guide to this warped reality please.** It was so confusing on every level... like Scotland has their own flag, but then England still has the regular Union Jack?? Both the story and promo material treated it like the English flag and showed it next to the independent Scottish flag while calling everyone "Brits" so WHAT IS EVEN HAPPENING. And why does Prince Alex have an English accent when the rest of his family have Scottish accents? There was some vague reference to a distorted history with Mary Queen of Scots, but that didn't clear anything up. You can't just say the Scottish monarchs are in Holyrood and throw random fake titles out there and call it good.

I did try to look past the whole Scotland-weirdness and get to the cheesy, lighthearted royal part of the story, but most of the book was honestly just an embarrassing tour of "Scotland." I wish the story had focused more on the actual PLOT and characters, because that did have potential! But there really wasn't much to that story in the end, either. The writing was easy to read, though, and the story did flow well!

I don't get why this book couldn't have gone the typical route of inventing some small country wedged between Switzerland and France (because evidently that's where American geography skills go hazy? idk). I'm used to books and movies assuming Americans are clueless when it comes to geography, but this seriously took things to a whole new level.

It might be a case of it's not you, it's me. I think a lot of people will still roll with this plot and have fun! It was kind of like that Maid of Honor movie, so maybe check it out if you loved that?

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC.

Kiki says

Okay, listen. I've been on Goodreads for eight years. Eight years! Can you believe that? I was fifteen when I started here, with my little cat profile pic, using my real name like a complete weapon (hopefully nobody remembers that) and posting ragey, hyperbolic reviews about cheesy paranormal romance YA. It was shortly after Tumblr prom, a few years before the Mishapocalypse, and in the deepest bowels of my emo phase. I

was still wearing fingerless gloves and two belts, pretending to like My Chemical Romance and Panic! at the Disco and even K-Pop (Is that how it's stylised? I don't even know how to write it!) when really all I wanted to listen to was vintage Taylor Swift, Beyonce, and OneRepublic. It was two years before one of the earliest Goodreads bust-ups, and... Do you guys remember that? Do you remember Kira vs. Krokos, and the #goodreadsslogan debacle?

The thing is, right, is that the internet never forgets. But I haven't actually thought about #goodreads slogan is ages, and I mean that. It's actually been years since it even crossed my mind. But when I saw this book, I wanted it because I was insanely curious, and when I started it, #goodreadsslogan and all of the associated hilarity came gushing back.

I don't mention #goodreadsslogan to start any drama. For christ's sake, it was six years ago! I'm only mentioning it because, for the first time in about five years, I was reminded of it. And when I think about it, it's actually pretty funny. I don't mean that sarcastically. I mean... What the fuck. At the time it felt like the end of the world and I was genuinely scared, because I was seventeen, and I was being called an "a-hole" by an author 20 years older than me on Twitter. And when we think of author-reader relations now, and what actually caused the whole argument in the first place - I spat angry teenage tacks because of a straw feminist in a book, and it was all blown so far out of proportion - the whole thing just wouldn't stand today. People just wouldn't allow it, would they? People in the book community would explode in their outrage, because nowadays being furious about offensive content in books isn't taboo. It's expected. It's encouraged. Of course, that wasn't the whole focus of the discussion; it evolved, largely, into whether or not authors had the right to tone-police reviewers.

The discussion snowballed and there were other similar incidents with other reviewers, and somehow, the discourse got so heated that there was an article about it in the Guardian. Remember that? Damn. It felt so huge to me, because even in 2012, the internet wasn't such a constant presence in all of our lives. We didn't even have snapchat. I was still wearing eyeliner and pretending not to fucking love rap music! What a time that was to be alive.

This weird little trip down memory lane rolled into my misty-eyed nostalgia, and I picked up this book. Of course, it wasn't at all the reason why: I picked up this book because it's the first book I've seen in a very long time that's set in Scotland but written by an American author, and it's not historical. It's also not about people going back in time! That was actually kind of exciting to me, and the whole "Crown Prince of Scotland" thing never really bothered me, since this is obviously AU.

After finishing this, I know why I didn't like it. It's because I'm not the target audience. And that's nothing to do with age. You guys remember how much I loved *Anna and the French Kiss*? I'm still here for that shit. I am still #trash for it. I'm still trash for stories about teenage girls being thrown into overwhelming situations and falling in forbidden love and talking about how adults just don't get their vibe.

I'm not the target audience for this because it was so clearly written for an American audience. It was not written for Scottish people to enjoy. Before anyone comes at me with their "well, actually" let me explain: I was born in a town on the outskirts of Glasgow, then moved to Fife, where I lived until I was 15. I then moved to Canada, and moved back to Scotland when I was 20, to a city in the historic county of Angus. I still live in that city. So I can tell you, with all of my lived experience, that this book may be set in Scotland, but it is not written for a Scottish audience. It just isn't.

I'm aware that this book isn't meant to be particularly serious. It's a fun frothy adventure. Or... Well, mostly. Mostly it is. I think the problem with this book is that it needs to decide what it is: is it a cute fun romp, or is it the kind of book that's so unbelievably misguided that it tries to shoehorn in serious topics, fails at them, but keeps staggering on, laughing, "Don't take me too seriously!"

I'm not taking it seriously. But my advice would always be that Google is your friend. Doing your Very Serious Research by going on walking holidays with a tour guide is great, and good for you for knowing what a bothy is, but very smartly researched details like knives in paintings and Pimm's feels silly and frankly pointless when you clearly couldn't do something as simple as Googling "Scotland tuition fees" or "Scotland health care". "Scotland boys names" would have been another good one.

Miles and Sebastian are not names that we give our children. They just aren't. I'm not saying that nobody in Scotland has ever been named Miles or Sebastian, but they're overwhelmingly rare. A guy in our office was considering naming his child Sebastian, and the looks of bewilderment were unreal; people could not believe it had crossed his mind. Besides, if Sebastian were royal, then his name would be Robert or James or maybe John. Even Alexander is a little bit of a stretch, especially for a modern royal.

I know that people whose governments force them to pay for their own health care have probably been told all sorts of horror stories about socialised medicine, and how terrible and subpar it is, and how they're better off with bills, but I strongly urge people to research this more thoroughly. I've already gone into this in my status updates and I know that there are people who aren't ever going to be convinced that socialised medicine is a positive thing, which is frankly absurd, but all I will say on the subject is that forcing "medical bills" to be an issue in this book is a simply case of a round peg and a square hole. Miles says that he is in debt to the royal family because his mother had "medical bills" because she "needed specialists".

But she didn't. She didn't "need" a private hospital. She didn't "need" to pay for a specialist. It's absolutely absurd that I have to say this, but there is nothing wrong with the NHS. It's not pleb medicine, it's not clinics in huts on hillsides, it's not shit and it's not useless and it's not beneath us. It's not a base line from which patients are referred to expensive specialists. We don't pay for check ups and we don't pay for specialists. We don't pay for CAT scans, cancer treatment, water births, cesareans, gender reassignment, organ transplants, endometriosis treatments. You do not pay for anything unless you make the conscious and most likely unnecessary decision to go to a private company for your health care. We don't even pay for prescriptions. You can get literally any medication that you need, which will not be overprescribed because doctors don't get paid any extra money for it.

Our taxes pay for the NHS. I am more than happy to pay that small fraction of the pay check so that, if I break my leg, have an allergic reaction, or have to have a mastectomy, I don't have a bill at the end of it. I pay for that gladly. I pay for that so that other people with addictions, cancer, body dysmorphia, stab wounds, or any number of medical problems can get the help they need. The NHS is very far from perfect, with overworked and underpaid staff, some hospitals overcrowded, some waiting lists long, but the NHS is underfunded due to a higher percentage of my pay check being paid against my will into fucking ridiculous shit like Trident that we don't want, need, or ask for.

This is a tangent, but it seriously irritated me. Don't transplant problems like "medical bills" into a society where this doesn't exist. Don't fucking smear us with your problems just so that we can seem less foreign to you. It's an insult and frankly it disgusts me. Similarly, don't pretend that "tuition fees" are a problem for us. SAAS, the government funding program that allows Scottish students a free four-year degree from a Scottish university, does not grant funding based on the financial background of students. There was nothing stopping Miles from applying for his funding and getting a free degree. I couldn't afford to go to uni in St. Andrews, but that's because accommodation in St. Andrews is too expensive for me. If you're going down this route, then make the cost of living the hurdle. That's acceptable and it's informed and it would resonate a lot more with your international readers.

What I'm trying to say with this is that it's all well and good to talk about how pretty the scenery is, but there's nothing real about this. There's nothing authentic about it. There's nothing here about modern Scotland that's in any way exciting or even accurate. Drinks being thrown in bars ends with all involved parties being thrown out. Rich people going into bars where old men sit around with beers doesn't happen

either. Non-rich people being friendly with rich people also isn't something that I or anyone I know would recognise. We hate posh people. We hate trust fund babies. We fucking loathe the monarchy. Also, wasteful rich people isn't a recognisable thing for us. Rich people here are cheap as fuck. That's why they stay rich in a country where the cost of living is steadily rising due to things I'm not willing to get mired in because this is supposed to be a review and not a political seminar.

We also don't look like the people in this book. White Scottish people don't look like the white Scottish people imagined in this book. We don't have the same beauty standards as Americans do. It's not that our standards are lower, it's that they're different. We don't have glossy shiny hair and perfectly symmetrical faces and we certainly don't have very straight, very white teeth. We just don't genetically look like that.

Women also do not wear tartan dresses, not even for special occasions. If you're going to an event where there's traditional dancing, you wear any dress you choose, but probably with a tartan sash or other smaller decoration. We do not say "blimey" or "filly" or call people "fit". If what you're going for is authentic colloquial language, that's not a difficult thing to research, either, not when you've got great authentic and fucking hilarious sources like Scottish twitter. There's no excuse, really, because the bottom line is this: you've taken Cockney English slang, for some reason, and shoehorned it in. That's misinformed. And also weird.

When I write on the internet, or write in general, I don't write colloquially, but I do speak colloquially. It's natural. And I'd like to remind some people that my colloquial dialect is not unintelligible, or a joke, or zoo exhibit. Though I know now that my expectations were too high; of course this book saw Scots language as a punchline and took it. Of course we had to make a spectacle out of it. Why wouldn't we?

In a book where Scotland is supposedly independent, you're still calling it "British". Why? I would go so far as to say that even if you weren't writing about an independent Scotland, using the word "British" as a demonym in Scotland is a very fine line to walk. Some people don't mind it, but a lot of folk are deeply insulted by it.

I'm at the point now where it's just kind of irritating. A short while ago, it really wouldn't have bothered me, these books where my home and my community are warped into some sort of weird parade, where the women are all nasty poisonous bitches and the men are wild untameable beasts, but it's become so prevalent in pop culture since the explosion in popularity of *Outlander*. This unabashed piss-taking of really important cultural markers like kilts and Scottish cuisine and Scots dialects, which stemmed from Gaelic, a recognised indigenous language that a lot of communities in the Outer Hebrides and even in Glasgow are battling to keep alive. Making a complete mockery of these cultural markers is upsetting, because while overseas it's just a funny curiosity, it's not a funny curiosity within the UK. We do not have the same quaint, theatrical reputation within the UK as we have outside of it. In the UK we are drunks, junkies, spongers, thieves; uneducated, uncivilised, a waste of resources. Our money is good enough to take, but our communities are not important enough that if Westminster's nuclear weapons - that we voted against - malfunction and take out the central belt, it won't matter.

I work in a call centre that deals with communications from all across the UK, and I, and my colleagues, have witnessed this sentiment first hand. It's not histrionic and it's not make believe. I have literally heard it with my own ears, multiple times. It's a running joke throughout our office because if you don't laugh at it, then it's just really fucking unsettling.

If you are not Scottish, and you want to write about modern Scotland, I think that's amazing and I think you should do it. Please do it. Do not hold back. Go and do it and make it great. But if you're going to do it, then don't go on a walking holiday in the Highlands. Go to East Kilbride or Stobswell or Musselburgh. Go somewhere real and speak to some real people about real things that are happening. Go and have an authentic experience and write about that. Because this just isn't good enough.

TWITTER • INSTAGRAM • MY WEBSITE

Maddie (Heart Full Of Books) says

Thoughts while reading:

1. The premise just makes me want to watch 'Made of Honour'
 2. It's been two hours and all I've done is watch 'Made of Honour'
 3. Daisy is making this all about her and that's selfish as heck.
 4. Should I pick up the Princess Diaries again?
 5. When's the 'Outlander' reference coming?
 6. *two pages later* Whoop, there it is.
 7. Miles is 100% the love interest.
 8. Why are we pretending Seb is a love interest?
 9. I need a Princess Diaries 3 movie before I die.
 10. Genovia, Genovia, forever will your banner reign.
 11. MONTERS
 12. Missed opportunity for an outfit montage, regardless of cliches.
 13. Horse riding, of course.
 14. Seb's a different person in every scene.
 15. Would love a book about Princess Flora
 16. Papa-paparazzi
 17. FAKE DATING PLOT?? YES PLEASE!
 18. Ooh, real dating plot.
 19. What the heck, Seb?
 20. Where's the royal couple in all of this? What are they doing?
 21. The ending is the equivalent of the foot pop.
 22. I love royalty books. This was great. Yeah.
-

Tara ? says

This is one of those books that you lovingly roll your eyes and groan over but can't deny that you stayed up until 4am reading.

It was...interesting, reading this as a British person. The idea of a modern-day Scottish monarchy would ordinarily open up an entire can of worms of intricate, tangled alternate history, but let's be real, nobody picked up this book expecting that. So we let the whole Scottish-monarchy-thing slide. Even then, it's *very* obvious this book was written by an American. It was an American fairy-tale version of Britain, so much so that I wouldn't be surprised if some people thought shows like Downton Abbey and Outlander are modern reality TV. Modern Britain is not a fantasy land of country estates and ballgowns, though that's what this book seemed to think. It was all kilts and tea and stiff-upper-lips but, you know what, I was fucking here for it.

I flew through it and I'm not ashamed to admit I loved every second of it. From the royal shenanigans to the sweet romance, I was *invested* like I haven't been in a long time. Just don't go into this book expecting a literary masterpiece. But for what it is, it does its job excellently.

Now I'm off to make a cup of tea.

*As a side note, in the real world you'd probably be hard-pressed to find a Scottish person who refers to themselves as 'British'. To Scots, they are SCOTTISH. Capital letters.

Danielle says

Sometimes you need a good fluffy contemporary to balance out the heavier books you read, and Royals by Rachel Hawkins fits that bill perfectly. It also comes at the perfect time just before Prince Harry marries Meghan Markle in May 2018.

The book draws definitely inspiration from Prince William and Prince Harry. In the book, Daisy's sister met the prince at university just like Will and Kate and her sister is an American just like Meghan. But in this book, the royals are the fictionalized royals of Scotland. As a reader, you definitely have to employ your suspension of disbelief that there really is no royal family in Scotland. What makes it a little confusing is when Scottish characters are referred to as British or show British traits. Almost like the book was set in England but then changed.

But even with that problem, I did really enjoy reading the book. I was able to finish it in a couple days. Daisy is a really great and likable main character. I really liked her sarcastic tone and that she would have no filter. But it wasn't in an obnoxious way. The romantic aspect is also done well and had me wanting more. There will be a sequel to this book and I can't wait to see what Daisy will get up to in the next book.

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