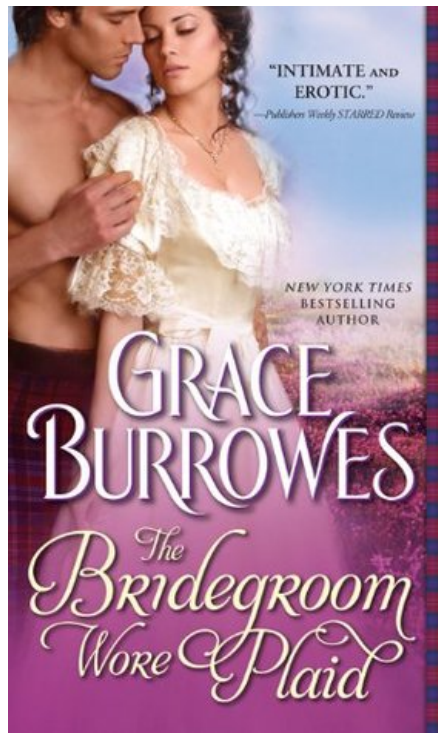




The Bridegroom Wore Plaid

Grace Burrowes

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His Family or His Heart — One of Them Will Be Betrayed...

Ian MacGregor is wooing a woman who's wrong for him in every way. As the new Earl of Balfour, though, he must marry an English heiress to repair the family fortunes.

But in his intended's penniless chaperone, Augusta, Ian is finding everything he's ever wanted in a wife.

The Bridegroom Wore Plaid Details

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From Reader Review The Bridegroom Wore Plaid for online ebook

Jan130 says

This one was pretty lame :(I read and enjoyed the Windham series, so thought I'd try another Burrowes HR series. And who doesn't love a man in a kilt, right? But.....

There seemed to be way too many characters in this book, and too much was happening. Who were all these people, and how were they connected, and what were their pasts? I really struggled to work out who was connected to whom, and how. It was hard to keep the names and relationships in my head. (I kept thinking, who's she again?)

And the plot seemed rather murky (as in, unclear). Yeah, sure, it's fine to keep the reader in a little suspense about the plot, but in this case I just started to not care. There were hints about the evil Baron and his nasty hold over the innocent Augusta. But I needed a bit more info in this case to make it clear enough as to what was really happening. And Augusta was depicted as quite clever, so why was she so dumb about the Baron and her inheritance? I didn't feel convinced.

I also felt uncomfortable about Ian's two-timing. He's clearly falling for Augusta. Fine. But I disliked the way he still kept on pursuing Genie (who doesn't really like him back) just because he needed her MONEY, even when he and Augusta are *ahem* doing the deed. Nup. Not a plotline I like.

The secondary romances that seemed to be sprinkled through the book also just complicated things unnecessarily for me, and added to my feeling of 'who's that again?'

So overall, this one was a bit of a dud for me, and I don't feel any desire to continue with the series. I haven't given up in Grace Burrowes however, and I will try some of her other series.

Lindsay says

3.5 stars

Jae says

I liked the characters a great deal but found them to behave inconsistently and found just about everything else to be ridiculous. The writing was too modern, both in style and attitude. Why did Ian *have* to marry Genie? There were so few other prospects that he felt he had no choice but to make everyone so miserable? The bad dude was laughably one-dimensional and over the top. Were not 1, not 2, but 3(!) romantic pairings necessary? Nope, especially since Mary Fran and Matthew get their own novella.

I could forgive the anachronisms, since the story is for a modern audience, but just couldn't get past all the other inaccuracies. I have another novel by Burrowes that I paid zero dollars for, so I'll give her another chance, but I have a feeling that this is a relationship that won't work out.

Debra Taylor says

A great start for this new series (The MacGregor Trilogy) . I loved this enchanting tale of love in Scotland. The author put a new twist on an old story line. Her eloquent dialogue kept this story flowing like fine wine. Ian MacGregor is an impoverished Earl in dire need of a wealthy bride. However, he is more than a little attracted to his intendeds spinster cousin. Instead of wooing his reluctant bride Ian finds it hard to keep his hands (& lips) from the lovely Augusta. As much as I was intrigued by her character I was still frustrated by Augusta's naivete. Seriously... the girl allowed her greedy uncle to rob her blind by not once questioning her financial circumstances. Apart from that small peeve I found this to be a charming tale. The romance between Ian & Augusta built at a slow simmer despite their fierce desire. The secondary romances between Ian's siblings & Augusta's relations kept the story titillating . I can't say that the plot involving the devious uncle came as any surprise. This reader caught those subtle nuances from the start.

Above all this was a tale of sweet romance. Several of them! How wonderful that the author gave all of these endearing characters their very own hea's. Although, seeing as how this is the first story in a trilogy I am at a loss as to who is left to feature in the other two books. The missing brother, Archer ? Most assuredly. Hmm... who else? This reader is left in suspense. Needless to say that I will be following this series closely. Did I mention that I loved this story? A fast read & an easy review.

Thanks to Netgalley & Sourcebooks for allowing me to review this book.

Elaine says

There were just too many people with titles, nicknames, and their regular names... It got very confusing in the beginning trying to sort them all out. Slow going at first, and the conclusion wasn't as action-packed as I expected it to be, but the resolution was neat, and the development of the relationship led very naturally to the happily ever after.

A good premise, but frustrating execution. Enjoyable but ultimately forgettable. I do intend to read the next one, though!

LL says

There were two main problems with this book:

- 1) Too many characters were introduced too quickly, and too much time was spent head hopping between them.
- 2) With four couples getting together by the end of the book, we have too little time to get to know any of them.

It took me forever to finish this book...I just found myself not caring for any of the characters since I didn't really get to know any of them.

The plot was also extremely predictable, but I could handle that. At least until the hero had zero reasons to

not be with the heroine, yet he still refused to claim her.

I'm not sure if I'll read the next book in this series or not. I liked the Windham books, so I might stick to those.

Lady Wesley says

Grace Burrowes' novels cause me to shake my head and roll my eyes. In my review of Windham series, I poke fun at her. And yet

And yet, I continue to read and enjoy them. Ten of them so far. Why is that? I'm not sure I can explain, but essentially she writes wonderful, multifaceted characters that you come to care about. Her plots are satisfyingly complex (albeit too repetitive in some cases). Her dialogue is engaging (albeit a little too modern in some cases). She is simply a very good, well-rounded storyteller, which is what we seek most in a novelist.

On to *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*. Ian MacGregor is a Scottish earl, with a large estate and little income. Ian and his two brothers, Gil and Connor, along with their sister Mary Frances, are reduced to hosting "paid guests" every summer just to make ends meet. It's the early 1850s, and all things Scottish have become fashionable due to the Queen's favor, and Balmoral Castle is just next door to Ian's Balfour House.

Ian must marry for money, and the wealthy English Baron Altsax has a daughter, Genie, of marriageable age. Altsax, eager to have a title in the family and caring nothing for his daughter's happiness, has arranged for Ian to marry her. The whole family (minus the mother, whose absence seems strange under the circumstances) pays a visit to Scotland. The "whole family" includes, Altsax, Genie, Hester (the younger daughter), and Matthew (the Baron's Army officer son), along with the widowed Aunt Julia and the spinster Cousin Gussie to act as chaperones.

As soon as they alight from the train, we get the picture. Altsax is uncouth, pompous, and dismissive of the uncivilized Scots. Genie is a fragile English rose and not at all happy to be in Scotland. Hester is young and enthusiastic. Matthew is reticent and courteous. Aunt Julia is lovely, but a little sad, and quite rich. Cousin Gussie is drab and awkward but has beautiful eyes.

Ian finds it impossible to connect with Genie; she is uninterested in getting to know him but prepared to marry him to satisfy her father. After a few days in Scotland, she seems more comfortable in the company of Ian's younger brother Con (or was it Gil? I could never tell them apart).

Ian find himself becoming friends with Cousin Gussie, who asks him to call her Augusta because none of her family ever uses her full given name. Right there all the indignities heaped upon a poor relation are summed up. Nice touch.

Of course, Ian and Augusta are more and more drawn to one another, even though they both know that their fates lie elsewhere. The relationship grow slowly, and it's wonderful to go along for the ride. At the same time, Augusta gradually stops being a mouse and becomes more confident. Confident enough to have steamy sexytimes with Ian, and confident enough to thwart her uncle's schemes.

While all this is going on, Aunt Julia is fooling around with Gil/Con; Genie is becoming closer to Con/Gil; and Matthew is falling for Ian's sister Mary Frances. There's a lot of romance under the beautiful Scottish summer sky, to the point that the ending plays out like an episode of the *Love Boat*. By the end of the cruise,

everyone is paired up. I could almost hear Jack Jones singing.

Meanwhile, Snidely Whiplash, uh, oh -- Baron Altsax is plotting to do away with Augusta, thereby ensuring that his embezzlement from her estate is never discovered. Actually, it turns out that he has stolen more than just money. At the dramatic climax, when Altsax has a gun pointed at Augusta, Ian emerges from the shrubbery like the Lone Ranger and says, "Not so fast, Baron." It was a laugh out loud moment for me.

And yet I read on. And here's why. There's a scene where Ian and Augusta are discussing the various hardships each of them faces.

"It's hard being the one to keep hope alive for the others. Hope that those who've emigrated are faring well in foreign lands, hope that this year's crop will be better than last, this year's prices at the yearling sale, this year's receipts. We live very much in the future, and yet we dwell in the past too. That's difficult as hell when you've a past like ours. . . ."

"I hate it, the hoping." He scrubbed a hand over his face. "When things go well, I hate it even more, because it's all going to come crashing down around us— it always does. . . . We're getting on our feet again, barely, and I dread finding out what hardship the Almighty has in store for us next."

"Because it's increasingly difficult to rise to the challenge." She finished the thought for him, her tone neither judgmental nor bleak, merely stating a fact.

It's scenes like that that keep me reading Grace Burrowes. Even though she throws in Americanisms like "scoot over." Even though she totally does not understand that neither younger sons of earls nor brothers of the earl's heir have titles. (Pay no attention. Screwing up British titles is just one of my pet peeves with American authors.) Even though every hero in her books loves to brush and braid a woman's hair. Every. Single. One. Even though every time two characters sit down to talk a beautifully filled tea tray magically appears. (They seem to eat and drink all day long. Hope there's indoor plumbing.)

Yes, I keep reading, and it looks like I'll have the chance, as this book is just the first in a trilogy. I'm willing to bet that Ian's older brother, Asher, the true heir to the Balfour earldom who's been missing in Canada for seven years, will make an appearance. There's a subtle hint on page 246 -- "Three letters they'd had from Asher over the course of several years— only two Ian could tell his family about— then nothing."

Yes, I'll be reading. Once Upon a Tartan is only a couple of months away.

Angelc says

4.5 Stars

This author's Windhams series is one of my favorite historical romance series, and this is the first book in a new series, so I wasn't quite sure I would love it. I was afraid that I would miss my favorite characters. While I may not have loved the characters as much as I loved the Windhams, I really enjoyed this book as well. It proves just what a great author Burrowes is.

I didn't realize this was part of a series while I was reading it, because there is not only one romance in this book, but four! Of course, Ian and Augusta's story is the most prominent, but we do get a taste of Ian's brothers and sister's romances too! There is a lot of matchmaking and falling in love happening at this house

party! It really is so much fun to read about, with all of the interwoven stories, and love turning up in unexpected places.

I wanted to read more about Connor's romance, he was quite interesting as the brooding younger brother of the MacGregor clan. Ian's brother, Gil, was another sweet guy that I would have loved to have known more about. Still, the book was well-balanced with Ian as the leading man, and his brothers playing supporting roles. Sometimes, it's just frustrating when it seems like the more dynamic characters are in the background.

Overall, a wonderful, fun read, with a few romances woven together, which makes for a lot of family drama!

ARC sent by publisher in exchange for an honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

Caz says

This is the second book by Grace Burrowes that I have read and thoroughly enjoyed. In it, we meet Ian MacGregor, Earl Balfour and his family – his brothers Gil and Connor, his widowed sister Mary Frances and her daughter, Flora. Ian might be an earl, but the family is poor and needs to open their estate to guests every summer in order to make enough money to see them through the year. Ian needs to marry money, and the story begins with him meeting his prospective bride and her family from the train as they are to be summer guests.

It quickly becomes apparent, both to Ian and to the reader, that the lady in question is very reluctant to marry him; not only that, she is resistant to getting to know him, despite his attempts to draw her out and his reassurances that he will be a kind and loyal husband.

While he is attempting to court Eugenia (known as Genie), Ian forms a friendship with Augusta Merrick, Genie's cousin who has been brought along to act as a second chaperone, along with their aunt. Augusta is the classic "poor relation", living in a run-down house with her cat, keeping chickens and tending to her garden.

This friendship quickly develops into something more – even though both Ian and Augusta know that there is no hope for anything lasting between them as Ian needs to marry for money and Augusta is poor. The thing I absolutely *loved* about this book was the way in which the relationship unfolded gradually and with such tenderness.

Ian is decent and honourable, determined to do his best for his family, and yet he cannot help his growing attraction to Augusta. And Augusta understands what drives him – she recognises that he needs to be loved for himself and not for the title Genie's father is determined to buy. She is also practical – she knows Ian cannot marry her, but is prepared to take – and to give – the little comfort she can without regrets.

The focus of the story was watching these two people fall so desperately in love while knowing it's doomed – but yet know that regardless of the impending heartbreak, they are better for having known each other.

The title, I realised about half-way through, doesn't just refer to Ian, as both Gil and Connor find love, too; I really liked the way that the familial relationships were written.

There is another element to the story, which is the plot by Genie's father to do away with Augusta because he had cheated her out of her inheritance. I'm not a huge fan of this sort of sensationalist storyline, but it works well here, principally, in my opinion, because it's subtly woven through the background of the story and doesn't really come to the fore until the last couple of chapters when we finally learn the truth and all is resolved.

I did have some niggles about the use of Americanisms in the book (we don't have *fall* and we wouldn't *fix a plate* for someone), and at the risk of sounding pedantic, things like that DO take me out of the story for a second or two and I find it annoying.

Overall though, this was a superb and charming romance, full of warmth and tenderness. I found it emotionally draining at times – but I mean that as a compliment! – and I thought that the characterisation was excellent. I'm certainly looking forward to the next in this series.

With thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for the review copy.

Kari says

Sweet romantic story that takes place in Scotland in the mid 1800's. Ian MacGregor is a Scottish earl in need of a wealthy bride to support his estate. His mind is set on Genie, daughter of an English baron. Genie and some of her family members show up at Ian's home as paying guests. When Ian meets Genie's spinster cousin, Augusta, his plans to marry for money are put to the test. As he falls in love with Augusta, he is caught between doing his duty and following his heart.

The book also narrates the romances between Ian's brother Gil & Genie, Ian's brother Con & Julia (Genie's aunt), and Ian's sister Mary & Matthew (Genie's brother). Yes, there is a lot of love going around and no one can keep their hands to themselves.

The plot is a bit weak in some instances. We get a very evil baron villain, an honest and charming earl, the handsome brothers, and a feisty Cinderella-like heroine. The writing itself is flawless and sounds poetic at times. The descriptions of the time period and settings were entertaining. Augusta is a blend of mature and naive, and her actions and thoughts were those of a modern woman rather than a maid from Victorian times. Ian is a beautiful hero, both inside and out, and even though his affair with his intended's cousin is morally incorrect, I found myself overlooking this fault and yearning for him to find the path to true love with Augusta.

Overall a charming, low-angst romance with sassy heroines and manly Scottish heroes with charming burrs, sexy kilts, and warm hearts.

Thank you Jill Lassie for travelling to the Highlands with me!

Linda says

Great book! I loved this one, absolutely loved it! I was emotionally drawn to these characters, and I rode it out with them. I felt the sorrow and the joy and the fear they felt.

Ian MacGregor needs to marry for money, his clan is living on the edge the next tragedy, famine, bad crops, failed herd could destroy them. Determined to do just that he agrees to woo a young English girl Gennie Daniels, the Baron Altsax's daughter. The baron has many secrets and not the least among the shady business concerning his niece Augusta and her inheritance. However Ian starts having feelings for Augusta instead of Gennie which just makes the crazy baron more determined and dangerous!

Can not recommend enough !

Quiana says

We're first introduced to Ian McGregor a reluctant earl who's in desperate need of a wealthy wife. His family's home is falling apart and he's running out of ideas and ways to continue to feed his siblings and their offspring. It doesn't matter whether he likes his future bride to be, or even if he's attracted to her, he must put duty to his family and clan first, which is why he's playing host to a rich English family.

Enter Englishwoman Augusta Merrick, self-proclaimed spinster and chaperone of her two cousins Genie and Hester. Augusta is known as the poor relation and is living off the... kindness of her uncle. She's the complete opposite of everything Ian is seeking in a wife, which is why Ian immediately sets his sights on the very attractive and decidedly rich Genie. When Genie is less than receptive to Ian's wooing techniques, he turns to Augusta for help. However, as he and Augusta spend more and more time together, they both find in each other something they'd never hoped to find.

I had a few issues with this book. For one, keeping up with who was related and how they were related was laborious. I continuously found myself mixing up names and personalities. The confusion made for slow reading and frustrated me to the point where I had to place the book aside and read something else for a while. There were just too many characters and too many side stories and romances. The point of view switched back and forth from the two main leads to a few of the supporting characters, often interrupting the flow of the story. It took me several weeks to finish this story, due to the fact that I spent most of that time starting and stopping. Though there were a few issues I had with the book, I did enjoy it in the end; once I actually committed myself to finishing.

[read the rest here](#)

Jill says

3.5 stars

** Thanks for the buddy-read **Lovable Lass**, the **Highland Handmaiden**....Kind-hearted Kari!*

Kat says

I wasn't expecting four love stories when I started this book, but that's exactly what I got here. I normally don't like side stories in a book, but Grace Burrowes does it masterfully. I just flew through this one and enjoyed it immensely. Can't wait to start on the next one....if only it would start to download!

Stacey is Sassy says

Eeny meeny miny moe...

****3.5 Stars****

I liked *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid* and found the narrator very easy to listen to. I am a sucker for a Scottish accent but sometimes find it hard to understand. I'm not sure why, but in this case, I had no problems at all.

What did you call a key party (swingers party) back in the olden days? Ok, it wasn't really a swingers party it was more a party where you were allocated an intended and decided to swap her out for a better option. Ok, Ok, it wasn't that bad and it sounds worse than what it really was but it wasn't *that* far off. The MacGregor boys were given a bunch of ladies to entertain and it was a bit of eeny meeny miny moe, lift their skirts and find a...toe???

Financial worries for the MacGregors and family obligations for the women leads bring these two families together. With a despicable family member controlling them, they must outsmart him in his horrible games. Hopefully, love will win and evil will come to light.

If I was to complain about one thing, it was the delay in Ian and Augusta finding their HEA. Sure, it didn't stop them from amusing themselves but I hate that duty came before love. I know, it's more realistic and historically accurate, but I'm a sucker for love. Bugger duty.

Another story from my extensive *Want To Read* pile crossed off thanks to the Romance Package. I will have it whittled down to nothing...soon...ish.
