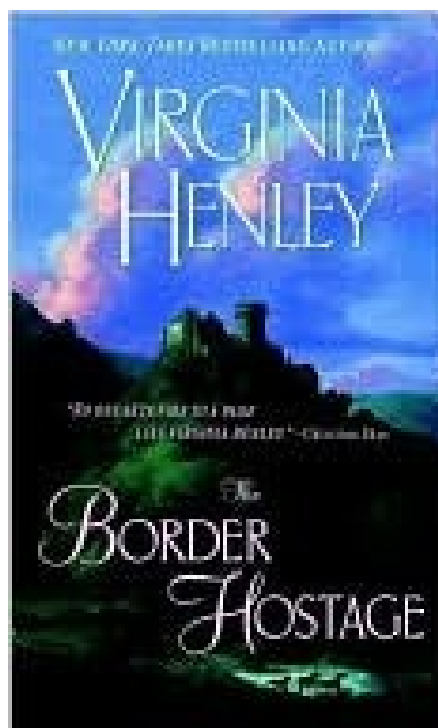




The Border Hostage

Virginia Henley

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The Border Hostage Virginia Henley

New York Times bestselling author Virginia Henley brings her trademark passion, power, and steamy sensuality to this dazzling work of romance fiction—an unforgettable tale of a headstrong Englishwoman abducted by a Scotsman seeking passionate revenge....

Raven Carleton is every inch the English lady. But on this glorious morning, as she gallops along the seacoast, Raven is thinking about her freedom, not her imminent betrothal to aristocratic Christopher Dacre. Suddenly Raven is forced to draw rein when a man appears directly in her path. Silhouetted against the predawn sky, he is magnificent—a darkly powerful stranger who will alter the course of her life.

When Scotsman Heath Kennedy first glimpses Raven Carleton, he sees a creature of such infinite loveliness, she takes his breath away. But in a land divided, Raven is about to become a pawn in the bitter border wars between England and Scotland. Abducted by Heath and held for ransom, Raven finds herself attracted to him in ways she never could have imagined...and Heath is utterly beguiled by his headstrong captive. Risking the wrath of two realms, the Scotsman does the unthinkable: He offers Raven her freedom. He asks only one thing in return.

From the Paperback edition.

The Border Hostage Details

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Cultural, Scotland

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From Reader Review The Border Hostage for online ebook

Julie Dawson says

Virginia Henley at her best. Heath and Raven are enemies at first but drawn together in magic, healing, wisdom, power, attraction, love of family and finally love for each other. I also enjoyed the tenderness and openness with the love between Heath's sister and Ram as well.

Monica says

excellent as all Henley's novels

Syahira Sharif says

Been rereading this today and I found myself enjoying this again. I find myself falling in love with the characters again. The revenge, jealousy, redemption, pride and stuff. Still refreshing as the first time I read it as a teenager (and here's to folks defending physical book so much, my copy broke apart, literally. Probably because the glue hardened and became less flexible). A story of a forbidden romance between an English lady and a Scottish Gypsy bastard. Unlike the title, the tone of the story doesn't carry those "stockholm syndromes" criteria as a lot of historical romances with similar plot do. I enjoyed the part with the Dacre's animosity towards the Douglas and Kennedy which evolved into a much serious plot that follows the events in the previous book. Neither of the characters are quite one dimensional. The antagonists have great reason to hate the other, plot twist at the right part of the book. I like the part where both main character complement each other as soulmates. Although Tina and Ram are more erotically charged than the couple in this book, I find this book withstood the test of time in my case.

Amy says

Realistically I would rate this book more like 4.5 stars. I really enjoyed it! At first, I wasn't sure what I would think about the novel. It certainly did start out on an exciting note. And there are a lot of twists and turns throughout the novel. I found that I had great respect for Raven has a protagonist. She was strong, self-assured, and smart. Heath was also a strong male character and very interesting. The two of them paired together are, as always, more interesting than either one of them individually. There were times the plot did drag a little, but it contained a lot of interesting details and elements about Scotland and England at that time. I was particularly interested in the border courts. And learning where the term "get off Scott free" came from was particularly interesting. Anyway, the characters and other elements of the plot, as well as shifting points of view to a variety of different characters from previous novels kept the story moving along. Watching the change in attitude, the humor at times, and all of the other elements found in the story make it a very interesting read.

Alex says

Not as seductive as I thought it would be

Follow me!

Rachel says

I loved this book, the romance between Raven and Heath was sweet and passionate and I liked both characters equally. It was also good to meet Valentina and Ram again from Tempted and catch up on their story. I would recommend reading Tempted first as The Border Hostage is a true sequel.

Chikkin Came'first says

What did I just read? category, did not really finish

Older book and it shows, reminded me of cheesy 80's romances, it was only missing Fabio on the cover. Surprisingly it was written in 2002.

Overall everything and the kitchen sink of romances - old school style. Too much repeated full names, titles, historical details

read more than half, skimmed rest to fish out the plot, except last 20 or so pages, I gave up.

needs more dialogues and fun interactions, less blocky text of explanations and descriptions.

Show me, not tell me.

LJ says

The Border Hostage - Ok

Virginia Henley

When high-strung English beauty Raven Carleton runs into Heath Kennedy, the bastard son of a Scottish border lord, trespassing on her family's lands, she's lucky Heath only divests her of her favorite horse and the shirt off her back. But when Raven runs across Heath again while out riding with her betrothed, she doesn't get off so easily. Taken hostage and held for ransom by the rugged Scot, Raven vows to escape as soon as she can. But Raven fails to reckon with her own attraction to the fiendishly handsome Heath. Erotic visions haunt her as Raven attempts to deny her Celtic roots and the images her heritage brings--dreams of passionate embraces shared not with her fiancé, Christopher Dacre, but with the smug Scot Heath whom she cannot abide. Even worse, Heath's knowing grin makes Raven believe he can read her unruly mind. Machinations of the English court and Scottish loyalists threaten not only Heath and Raven's happiness, but their very lives.

Definitely not one of her best.

Regan Walker says

4 and 1/2 Stars: Great Sequel to TEMPTED and a Wonderful Scottish Love Story

I love Virginia Henley's ability to immediately put me in the middle of an exciting story involving people with strong passions dealing with difficult circumstances. THE BORDER HOSTAGE is no exception. It reminds me of the pirate stories I love: a strong hero who takes what he wants though he has a gentle and noble heart; and a heroine who will not be captured even if her heart longs for the man who abducts her. All this and Scotland, too! I do recommend reading TEMPTED first as this is the 2nd in Henley's Clan Kennedy Saga and is truly a sequel with some of the same characters as the first.

THE BORDER HOSTAGE is set in 1514 on the Borderlands between Scotland and England after Flodden Field where King James IV was killed. Young James V, still a toddler, is being raised under the watchful eye of his English mother (Henry VIII's sister) and the Earl of Angus, acting as guardian for the young king. Tina who is married to Black Ram Douglas (their story told in TEMPTED) is about to give birth to twins and her half brother, who is a bastard and half Gypsy, Heath Kennedy, is raising horses at the Douglas Castle. A raid by Scottish Borderers hired by the English heir to Lord Dacre, Christopher Dacre (the Douglas' enemy), to steal Heath's prize brood mares, nearly costs Heath his life. In an act to recover his horses and have his revenge, Heath captures the Dacre heir (for ransom) and his betrothed, the dark-haired Raven Clarendon. Heath has seen Raven before and wants her for his own, so he decides he will not let her go when the Dacre heir is ransomed. Raven is a wonderful heroine, fiercely independent and innocent (though not unaware of the ways of men). She is a free spirit who is trained by her grandmother in the ways of the Craft, a natural healer and (unusual for a woman), a falcon trainer.

This is a case of love at first encounter. Heath was quite clear about his desire to possess the lovely Raven. He'd had many women but she was the first to capture his heart. For Raven, although she was attracted to Heath, she was trying to please her parents and marry the man she thought she was supposed to. That is so very believable. So I had no problem when Raven realizes she loves Heath and can't live without him despite his questionable heritage. It was a matter of finally hearing her heart's desire and acting on it.

I believe this was a worthy sequel to TEMPTED. Frankly, I enjoyed the two books so much I was hoping there were more in this saga. Henley does a superb job of weaving in the history of a tumultuous time in Scotland's history with compelling tales of love. She created such wonderful characters I wanted to see more of them. So, it's no wonder I recommend these two books.

Sharon Sherman says

1514 was a tenuous year for people living on or around the border between England and Scotland. Virginia Henley tells a story of that time in her historical romance with war between the countries, people, and between a particular Scotsman and the woman who thinks she only wants freedom with war between the countries, people, and between a particular Scotsman and the woman who thinks she only wants freedom.

Coronadeofelia says

The chemistry between Raven and Heath is deep and I couldn't put this book down. I read it in two days and was literally up until 5 am. If anyone knows of any other similar books, please let me know.

Joann says

I believe this was my first historical romance novel I read. I thoroughly enjoyed it...any of Virginia Henley's books are great.

Elsa Bravante says

Me ha gustado, más que la anterior. Lo mejor son sus personajes protagonistas, mejor contruidos que los del libro anterior. La historia es entretenida y aunque hay trama histórica la historia de amor no se pierde en ella como ocurre en la anterior. Lo más flojo son los diálogos, no tienen agilidad y no transmiten todo lo que deberían.

Country Goose says

I am a huge fan of Virginia Henley, and I was yet again entertained by her work with the Border Hostage. I would have like to have seen a bit more conflict and a little less drama, if you know what I mean.

Elis Madison says

Raven Carleton is busily trying to get herself betrothed to the fictional son and heir of the historical Thomas Dacre, who "romantically" abducted Elizabeth Greystoke and made her his bride (and "incidentally" made himself heir to her father's barony and lands). We get the impression that the Dacre menfolk take what they want, and that they don't like being challenged.

Half-gypsy bastard Heath Kennedy (his father is laird of the Kennedys, and while it's rumored the man handfasted with Heath's mum, the old fart isn't admitting it) is mistaken for his brother-in-law Ram Douglas and abducted by some outlawed Scots. At first he assumes it's for ransom but he learns they plan to kill him. They also steal his prized horse herd. His abductors leave him floating in a river, but he turns out to not quite be dead. When he awakes, he encounters Raven, steals her horse, and heads out to recover his own herd and figure out who wants Ram dead.

Oh, and while he's at it, abduct the girl of his dreams and engage in some "rough wooing."

Woven into the story is a good deal of intrigue surrounding a number of inheritance issues, as well as bits of the story of Archibald Douglas and Margaret Tudor (the mother of the infant King James V). Add in the

infamous border conflicts between England and Scotland, which were quietly encouraged by Henry VIII. Once again, the actual history seems to be revised where convenient—for example, Margaret’s “escape” into England took place under quite different circumstances.

Not a bad story, though my emotions weren’t fully engaged. 3 stars.
