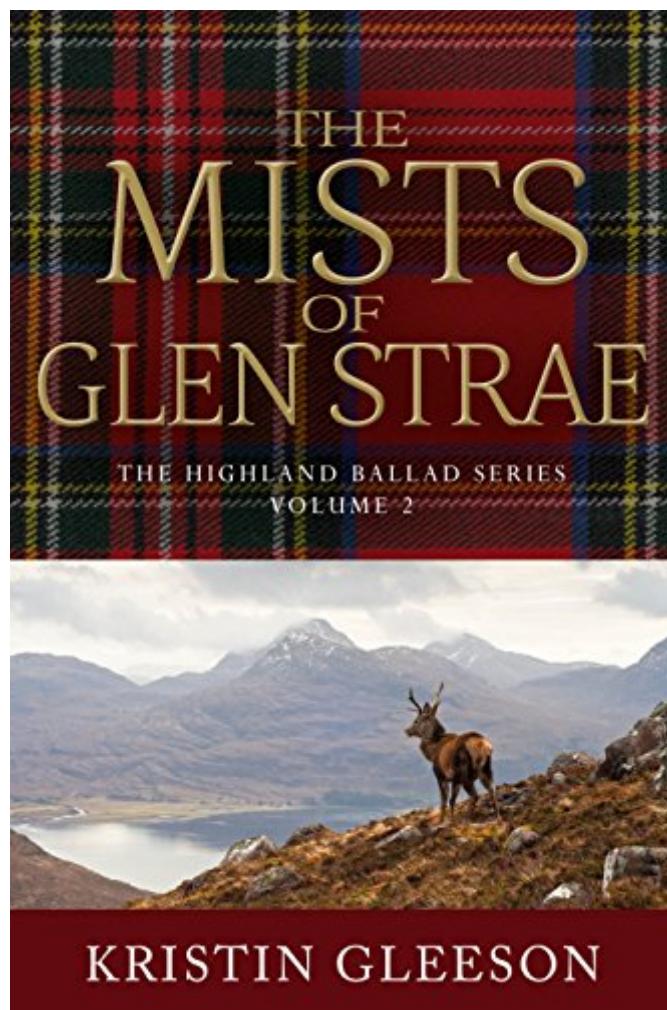


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# The Mists Of Glen Strae (The Highland Ballad Series Book 2)



## **Synopsis**

Scotland, Summer 1556 Are loyalty and honour more important than love? After escaping the clutches of wily Laird Glenorchy, Abby Gordon arrives at the MacGregor stronghold of Glen Strae hoping that her friend and ally Iain MacGregor will help her find out what happened to her father. But all is not well with the clan and Iain's sudden appearance initiates a chain of events that plunges the clan into certain disaster and threatens to make Iain an outlaw. As Abby's feelings for Iain strengthen while she strives to help reclaim Iain's honour and the clan's, the truth of her father's disappearance begins to unfold. Ultimately, both Iain and Abby find they must choose between honour and love. Filled with breathtaking emotional drama, intrigue and romance, the novel takes the reader on an adventure that readers of Diana Gabaldon will adore.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Mists of Glen Strae is a great addition to the Highland Ballad Series and I was looking forward to getting back into the continuing story of Abby Gordon and Iain MacGregor. Descriptions of 16th

century Scotland are more than worthy of note and for Gleeson to drop her readers into the thick of this timeframe takes great skill. Smells, sights, sounds are all part of the scenes she creates with very little effort along with solid dialogue driven chapters. We see Abby Gordon as a strong, driven individual who is prepared to ride alone through rain and bog to find the MacGregor stronghold. All she has is a lute and a ring, and when she arrives there is a mixture of compassion and distrust since Iain is not there to prove her claim. I began to question if she was in safe hands, especially with Morag's sharp tongue and avid curiosity, and Alasdair's less than desirable description of his brother. It's easy to see life through Abby's eyes as she studies the family and learns more about Iain's wandering spirit. Unfortunately, the Comte de Damville is never far behind and it's only a matter of time before he tells them his side of the story. Abby must find a way to keep herself safe. But under whose law and who's custody will she be taken? The romance is enjoyable and at the same time sensual, although Abby, feisty and independent, must sometimes see Iain flirting, rekindling old acquaintances and in some cases with very beautiful women. Since the characters are both owners of tender and tough hearts they find themselves drawn to each other in ways I would never have expected. Gleeson has undoubtedly done her research in this series, resulting in a very good, detailed storyline. I'm champing at the bit for the next one.

I read this awhile ago so forget a bit, but it's charming - I don't usually read period pieces, but when I do they are usually good. This is Scottish. I really liked it.

I hate cliff hangers. Just so you know book #1 and this book do not end well. Not for my satisfaction.. However I do appreciate the fact that there is no really bad language and the sex is minimized and there are not pages and pages of it. I didn't even have to do any fast page turning. .

Excellent!! Loved it! My favorite type of fiction to read and get lost in! Really enjoyed the plot and historical aspect.

Historically interspersed story of intrigues of royal courts, romance, and insight to the rugged life that was Scotland. The writing is done well.

Great book. Keeps you interested and offers some insight into the social history of the time in the telling of the story.

I was caught up straight away in this sequel. I'm as much in love with the depiction of 16th century Scotland, its lairds and feuds, as with the enigmatic hero, Iain, whose true colours are revealed in this novel. The romantic tension between Iain and Abby kept me turning the pages, hoping they'd be together, and the old practice of handfasting allows for complications that both satisfy and tease the reader. The author has a light touch with historical background but there is sound research behind French/Scottish politics, the clan warfare and the everyday detail, which is always one of Kristin Gleeson's strengths. Herself an artist and musician, she writes of Abby and Iain's performances with expert insights, as she does of painting in her Imp/Venice series. The dancing in *The Mists of Glen Strae* was so vivid I was taken back to my childhood and lessons in Scottish country dancing. The author distinguishes between the French and Scottish styles of dancing (which French-educated Abby would not know) in scenes that really are history brought to life. When I was a little girl, my parents held Scottish country dancing parties that I could hear from my bedroom. Thanks to Kristin Gleeson I've learned that the base step I was taught as the 'paddy bar' is actually the 'pas de basque' so I leave this book wiser about my own history. Isn't that exactly what good historical fiction does? The book delivered some sense of resolution, some surprises, and plenty of motivation to find out what happens next. I can't wait for the next in this series and while I'm waiting, I've seen that there's a new book in this author's Imp series, the most adventurous yet, set in Venice and Africa. So I shall leave the mists of Glen Strae for an excursion to foreign lands!

Happily there will be another novel in the Highland Ballad Series in 2017. It was so very enjoyable, although it is about a very complicated time in Scotland's history, and the sequel may pull the pieces together for me. Kristin Gleeson's fine Historical Note indicates that Queen Mary was only 14 at this time. I always need a refresher about her years in France and why the Scots were not united behind her when she returns. This period, when Mary Queen of Scots was 14, was very tumultuous and complex in both countries with England of course trying to intervene. The borders between Scotland and England, called "debatable lands" were always in upheaval, although I think that this was not where we find this part of the series situated. Religion seems to be becoming a divider and would continue to be between the clans as the years passed. My husband's parents were born and raised in Scotland, and came to the US and married, were Church of Scotland and Catholic and lowland vs. highland Scots. They never discussed either religion and his father was from Huntly the Gordon

estate. Consequently, the relationship between Ian, and Abby the heroine, was frowned upon. Abigail, a Gordon, although raised in France would not be expected to have dealings with certain clans and their followers. I suspect that the next book will have some mention of Huntly Aberdeenshire and I am greatly looking forward to it. I was not a great fan of Diana Gabaldon but am very much a fan of Kristin Gleeson and her works[...]

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