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Sue-Ellen's Thoughts on Highland Heroes

Does honor define a hero?

If the subgenre is Scottish medieval romance, chances are authors and readers alike will answer that it does. James Cameron, proud warrior chieftain and hero of **Sins of a Highland Devil**, would certainly agree. His story begins my new **Highland Warriors** trilogy about three feuding clans and their fight for the sacred glen they each view as their own. All three heroes believe that a man is nothing without honor. James lives by these sage words that he often drills into the young men of his clan....

Every man must die – his reputation lives on.

Sometimes a man's honor forces him to make hard decisions. In medieval Scotland, such choices could also mean his death. A Highland warrior would quickly draw his steel if such a sacrifice spared the lives of his people, his spilled blood also ensuring his clan won't be torn from the glen they love so fiercely.

Such men were fearless and no challenge went unanswered. Honor made flight or surrender unknown.

Catriona MacDonald, the heroine in **Sins of a Highland Devil**, is equally bold. Fiery and passionate, she's as ready as James to defend kith, kin, and the glen that is everything to her. When a King orders champions from all three clans to battle to the death to end unrest and decide overlordship, she's prepared to fight.

She might not use a sword, but her store of other weapons is considerable. They include a woman's wiles, wit, and skills at seduction.

Regrettably, the burning desire that flares between James and Catriona comes at the worst possible time. As sworn enemies, their love is already forbidden. Now, with their very world at danger, their passion is more than unwise. It has the potential to be deadly – unless they can agree that honor demands risking everything when the love of a lifetime is at stake.

James and Catriona do risk all in **Sins of a Highland Devil**. And writing their story, seeing them ultimately triumph, was a journey I thoroughly enjoyed.

Of course, their world is one that I love slipping into. The Glen of Many Legends is fictitious, but based on a place of such remote splendor that it's easy to imagine James and his fellow warriors being so willing to fight to the death to hold onto their home.

Men were made that way in medieval Scotland, almost as if they were hewn out of the savagely beautiful landscape, taking their strength from the rugged hills, cold wind, and vast empty moors they vowed never to surrender.

They strode proud through the great days of the clans when the mark of a hero wasn't just his honor, but also his valor, courage, and loyalty.

James Cameron is such a hero.

I hope you'll enjoy meeting him in the pages of **Sins of a Highland Devil**. He'll give you a warm welcome to my new **Highland Warriors** trilogy. Just don't forget he belongs to Catriona. She can be dangerous when riled.

**This essay was originally written for an author spotlight promotion on RT's website.*