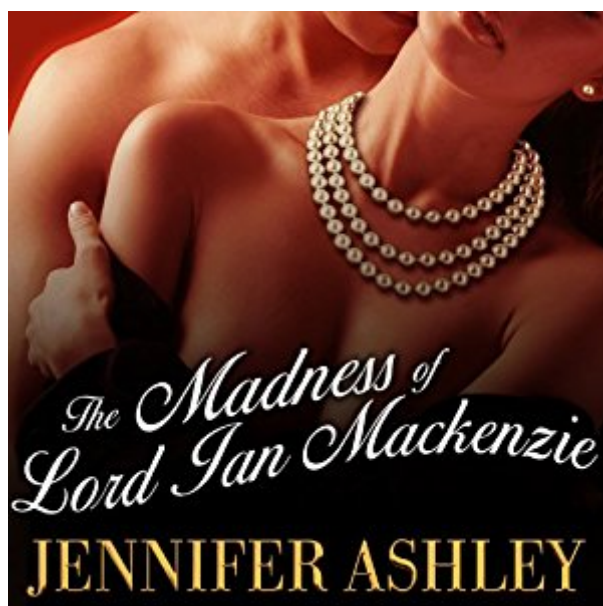


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# The Madness Of Lord Ian Mackenzie: Highland Pleasures, Book 1



## Synopsis

Audie Award Nominee, Romance, 2013 It was whispered all through London society that he was a murderer, that he'd spent his youth in an asylum and was not to be trusted - especially with a lady. Any woman caught in his presence was immediately ruined. Yet Beth found herself inexorably drawn to the Scottish lord whose hint of a brogue wrapped around her like silk and whose touch could draw her into a world of ecstasy. Despite his decadence and intimidating intelligence, she could see he needed help. Her help. Because suddenly the only thing that made sense to her was the madness of Lord Ian Mackenzie.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

THE MADNESS OF LORD IAN MACKENZIE is book 1 in the "Highland Pleasures" series, or what is more commonly known as The Mackenzies. I originally read it upon its release in 2009, and recently decided to re-read it when I bought it on kindle. It was the first book I ever read by Jennifer Ashley and I remember being so delighted with her writing that I went and bought a couple more by her when I was finished. This story had an enthralling blend of both mystery and romance and was never boring. In fact, I was captivated from beginning to end, and often quite shocked too! The love scenes were pretty erotic with some extremely hot encounters, and the unexpected humor was a welcome surprise. Although everything flowed well, there were a couple of aspects that kept it from being perfect for me. First of all, because of Ian's affliction (at first I thought it may have been autism, and it sounds like maybe AS, also known as asperger's syndrome - I don't know for sure since there

was never actually a name put to it) the dialogue between he and Beth was often short and stilted. I do however applaud Ms. Ashley for her unique characters and although I liked both of them, I never did fall in love with Ian myself. He was very blunt and never lied which many times had me laughing, but other than lust or rage, I never knew what he was thinking or feeling. While he's quite the genius with numbers and such, emotions are almost an enigma for him. Although I did sense a connection between the two upon their first meeting, the lack of communication made it hard for me to figure out when lust turned to love. My only other issue would be how easily Beth solves the murder mystery when Ian whom is extremely intelligent, and even his brother the Duke, couldn't figure it out for years. I didn't find this at all realistic or believable but even so, the book was still a ton of fun to read and thoroughly compelling. In the end I am extremely glad to have read it and wouldn't hesitate to buy more from Ms. Ashley or recommend this title and series to others. It's easy to see the potential and talent this author exhibits early on, and this book made me an instant fan of hers. It was just a hugely entertaining historical romance that engaged my emotions and was filled with both intrigue and suspense, but most importantly, a lovely romance. Ian and Beth's story was certainly a good start to what has become an epic series =)

Guilty pleasure is historical romance novels where girl and guy are stubborn, they fight, get together, battle conflicts, fight some more, and then ultimately live happily ever after. This fit the mold but I like the "hero" a little more...for lack of a better word..tougher??? This was okay but the "madness" thing (in my opinion) did not like. I get why- Ian had a good background storyline but I like my cheesy romance novels not to bring me down into too much reality and this one seem to do that. I did not really "bond" with the couple. I kept thinking Beth should go for one his brothers:) Writing was clear, and good ratio of dialogue vs description (not a fan of pages and pages of description). I could tell author was setting us up for the other brothers' storylines so will definitely try one of those as I liked the characters and the author's writing style.

One my favorite reads as Ian MacKenzie did not have it easy with a cruel father he spent a portions of his childhood in an insane asylum well as soon as his cruel father died his brother the new Duke had him released. No more ice baths and shock treatments as he has Asperger's disease of course back then no diagnosis. The only one that seems to be able to understand handle him outside his siblings is his lady love Beth. Of course some protective family members think she may be a gold digger using him not understanding true love. As Beth also has had an unhappy past. This is one of my favorite books of all time and I have read the entire series but Ian is my

favorite character. This book is brilliant really wonderful if it were a painting I would call it a masterpiece! The entire series is fabulous but Ian is a unique character and a collector of Ming China and romance readers hearts! Just loved it!

I usually don't care for books where one of the major protagonists 'falls in love' at first sight, but I was able to overcome that dislike in this well written story because the circumstances facilitating the instant attraction are so unusual for a period romance. Lord Ian's 'madness' sounds a lot like what we, today, would call autism mixed with OCD coupled with savant-like qualities of total recall and extreme, but untutored mathematical and musical abilities. In the late 19th century world, these qualities would have been suspect, but in this story, they were the espoused reasons for Lord Ian's institutionalization. Be advised that there are parts of this book that I found very disturbing, namely the 'treatments' used in 19th century mental institutions. They were often extremely brutal and a far cry from contemporary treatments. The plot is well crafted, the character development very good and there were a couple of surprise twists. My only criticism lay in the big climax, when the mystery is finally solved. The scene was, I felt, a bit cheesy. Be aware also, that this book carries a very high sensuality rating. The sex is frequent and often graphically described. Bottom line: this is a very good, but very angst ridden novel that does end happily even if the journey is often hard to read. I found it hard to put down.

I have no idea why I left this book in my TBR for one year exactly. I guess I didn't believe all the great reviews and had the wrong impression about how things were going to play out. Anyway in a rather desert like month of reading, this book was a joy. I really loved the H as so many other readers have already said. The h was absolutely lovely and a brilliant partner for the H. Honestly the author pulled off their relationship really well. I'm also happy to say that although the h was a widow, it wasn't an excuse on the author's part to make this book as steamy as possible without commitment.

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