



Midnight Moon

Lori Handeland

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Under the midnight moon, dark secrets are revealed--Cassandra thought she had the perfect life until she suffered a devastating tragedy. Now she has a new identity as Priestess Cassandra, owner of a New Orleans voodoo shop, and a new purpose. A research trip for a paranormal secret society leads Cassandra to Haiti, where rumors fly of a sinister voodoo master, Jacques Mezareau, who can resurrect the dead. Fortune hunter Devon Murphy agrees to guide Cassandra there safely, but his sensual appeal promises danger of a different kind...

and desperate hungers must be satisfied...

As Cassandra and Devon make their way to the eerie jungle village, their attraction explodes into an intoxicating desire, and Cassandra begins to question her resolve to never let another man into her life. Her attempts to resist Devon become more and more impossible. But when she succeeds in learning Jacques's macabre ritual, her new powers may have come with a terrifying price. Now, haunted by violent dreams that grow more vivid as the midnight moon approaches, Cassandra must uncover the shocking truth about an ancient curse before it leads her to destroy herself--and everyone she loves...

"Elise is Handeland's most appealing heroine yet...this tense, banter-filled tale provides...solid entertainment."

--Publishers Weekly on Dark Moon

Midnight Moon Details

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Author : Lori Handeland

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From Reader Review *Midnight Moon* for online ebook

Ally says

I thought I'd give Lori Handeland's Nightcreature series another go and try an earlier book. I really liked the blurb about the book.

Cassandra thought she had the perfect life until she suffered a devastating tragedy. Now she has a new identity as Priestess Cassandra, owner of a New Orleans voodoo shop, and a new purpose. A research trip for a paranormal secret society leads Cassandra to Haiti, where rumors fly of a sinister voodoo master, Jacques Mezareau, who can resurrect the dead. Fortune hunter Devon Murphy agrees to guide Cassandra there safely, but his sensual appeal promises danger of a different kind. As Cassandra and Devon make their way to the eerie jungle village, their attraction explodes into an intoxicating desire, and Cassandra begins to question her resolve to never let another man into her life. Her attempts to resist Devon become more and more impossible. But when she succeeds in learning Jacques's macabre ritual, her new powers may have come with a terrifying price. Now, haunted by violent dreams that grow more vivid as the midnight moon approaches, Cassandra must uncover the shocking truth about an ancient curse before it leads her to destroy herself and everyone she loves.

I really disliked *Midnight Moon* it was in first person narrative and it was all about Priestess Cassandra. She seemed very self obsessed and I just didn't find the overall story interesting at all. I didn't understand at all how Cassandra and Devon would even make their 'relationship' work it was just sex and I didn't seem to see any sort of connection between the two of them other than sexual chemistry which wasn't very amazing.

I'm really not sure if I'd ever pick up another book in the Nightcreatures series again.

Maura says

This is a direct continuation of *Crescent Moon* in which Priestess Cassandra, working now for the Jager-Suchers goes to Haiti to find a voodoo priest to show her how to raise the dead, partially to stop the crescent moon curse. But Cassandra's real motive is her desire to raise her 5-year old daughter from the dead. She finds Devon Murphy to be her guide. He's really rather mysterious and of course there's the instant attraction and sex (while constantly wondering if he'll be sticking around when it's all over).

First person point of view is always very iffy for me. I have to really like the character to enjoy spending an entire book in her head. Cassandra was interesting enough, but I got real tired of being in the thoughts of a person who finds no value in life and who only wants to pull her daughter back from the dead and make her a zombie (talk about selfish). I also prefer my heroine's to have a bit more self-respect. When the hero, who is actually something of a thief trying to avoid poverty, comes back, has sex with her and then disappears with the diamond and then comes back, has sex with her and disappears again and she doesn't really get angry or even push him away or confront him, then I have to believe she has no self-respect. Of course, she also believes her life has no value and I'm not a fan of that kind of heroine.

Nevertheless, this story did have all the great suspense and paranormal twists as normal. The way the author writes first person really does suck me into the story and I do enjoy reading this series.

Sally says

SPOILERS:

I find Lori Handeland's books entertaining, but the characters don't endear themselves to me. In this one, continuing a series, it didn't quite gel. I found Cassandra's obsession to bring her daughter back to life, unconvincing and I kept waiting for her to see sense. As a matter of fact, unlike in the earlier book when she was a minor character, I found Cassandra to be a less interesting and sympathetic character in this, her own book. It took a lot to make myself care about her traumatic life - it just didn't ring true. The hero though - he was delicious and I kept wanting to smack Cassandra for not appreciating him.

Boo says

- thematisiert Voodoo und Zombies, Werwölfe nur ganz am Rande, gut recherchiert
 - insgesamt aber eher mittelmäßige Abenteuergeschichte im Indiana Jones Verschnitt
 - Paranormal Romance, Liebesgeschichte ist überhaupt nicht nach meinem Geschmack (Charaktere, fehlende Chemie, Notgeil auf den ersten Blick, zu viele in meinen Augen lieblose Sexszene, Emotionen kommen bei mir nicht an, unglaubwürdig...)
 - Wohin verschwindet Devon ständig und wann macht er sich das nächste Mal aus dem Staub? Was verbindet die beiden Protagonisten überhaupt, dass am Ende von Liebe gesprochen wird?
 - Devon hat Potential ist aber zu wenig ausgearbeitet und bleibt dadurch blas
 - Cassandra: kann nichts mit ihr anfangen, Humor zündet nicht bei mir, klammert sich wie Besessene an ihr Kind, macht auf mich manchmal naiven Eindruck, Meisterin der Verdrängung oder extrem lange Leitung (u.a. Lazarus' Verhalten, Augenfarbe, Essverhalten, warum sie plötzlich geheilt ist (Kapitel 37)...))
 - abruptes Ende mit einer schwülstigen Einlage à la Ghost Whisperer, Woher kommt der plötzliche Sinneswandel?
-

Zauberfeder Gedankenschnörkel says

Achtung: Band 5 einer Reihe! Spoileralarm!

Wolfsbann schließt als fünfter Band von Lori Handelands Night Creatures direkt an die Geschehnisse von Band 4 an.

Im Mittelpunkt der Geschehnisse steht diesmal Priesterin Cassandra aus New Orleans, die nach Haiti reist, um ihre Voodoo-Künste weiter auszubauen. Dort heuert sie Devon Murphy als Führer an, der eine ungeheure Anziehungskraft auf sie ausübt. Aber Murphy würde für Geld alles tun und glaubt nicht an Vodun. Außerdem gibt es auf der Insel unaussprechliche Gefahren...

Wieder finde ich den Titel des Originals, Midnight Moon, wesentlich besser gewählt als Wolfsbann, aber da sich im Deutschen nunmal der Wolf als titelgebend erweist, musste man hier wohl Kompromisse eingehen. Auch das Cover, was wunderschön ist, hat in meinen Augen sehr wenig mit dem Inhalt zu tun, es sei denn, die Skyline gehört zu New Orleans, was ich nicht nachgeprüft habe.

Wolfsbann war für mich ein sehr emotionales und spannendes Leseerlebnis auf 352 Seiten. Cassandras Motivationen und Ängste sind sehr nachvollziehbar geschildert, zudem gab es sehr viele unvorhersehbare Twists innerhalb der Geschichte. Vor allem das Spannungsfeld der Träume war hochinteressant, wo niemals klar ist, ob das Geschilderte nun nur ein Traum oder vielleicht doch Erleben ist... Sowohl Cassandra als auch Murphy sind starke Charaktere mit eigenen Zielen, was ihre Beziehung zueinander auch sehr unvorhersehbar gestaltet.

Lori Handeland hat mich mit dem ungewöhnlichen fünften Band ihrer Reihe wieder vollkommen überzeugt und ich bin jetzt schon sehr gespannt auf Band 6! Also, High Five for Five: fünf von fünf Punkten!

Bookworms says

This book is again much better than the previous one. I was very disappointed with the previous books in the series.

This book is about the voodoo priestess Cassandra. There is a lot of voodoo to be told and you realize that the author has researched well. The book is exciting and looks more like an adventure novel than a fantasy novel. Werewolves play also a subordinate role. A little scary and fantasy is of course included, a lot of excitement and magic. The Voodoo Master Jacques is a frightening figure and brings Cassandra close to the abyss of black magic. All in all I liked the book very well, the characters are good and with a lot of personalized information so that you can easily make a picture of them.

A little bit erotic is included but not so much than in the books before.

? Garima ? says

This is story of Cassandra (real name unknown) and Devon Murphy.

Cassandra is already introduced in past series and this is her story. She started practicing voodoo because she wanted to bring back her dead daughter Sarah.

Though losing a child and grief caused by the same is understandable, the reason to raise your child as zombie, not. She goes to Haiti in order to find more and comes face to face with attractive stranger – Devon.

Their love story is cute and heart melting

Until zombie raising wereleopard enters the picture –

Believe m, I'm not making this stuff (zombie raising wereleopard!), my imagination is not that great but it was enjoyable read!

Shanoe says

Ich mag die Reihe immer noch gern, aber mit Voodoo kann ich nicht ganz so viel anfangen. Ganz abgesehen davon, dass die deutschen Titel mit dem "Wolf" dann doch irgendwie in die Irre führen, das ist im Englischen mit "Moon" deutlich besser gelöst. Prinzipiell finde ich, dass Dev und Cass ein schönes Paar sind, aber ich hätte mir vor allem bei Dev ein bisschen mehr Charaktertiefe gewünscht. Außerdem hätte ich mir mehr Jägersucher und mehr Lazarus gewünscht. Alles in allem aber trotzdem ein unterhaltsames Buch und drei Sterne.

Suzainur K.A.R. says

I think reading a lot about cultural appropriation made me not like the premise of a white woman becoming a voodoo priestess. Also, raising your dead kid as a zombie as a motivation is ... ok, granted I'm not a Mom and cannot imagine the pain of losing a child, but zombie!kid is kinda icky, Monkey Paws issues aside.

I mean, will zombie!kid grow or stay static and slavish to the mom? So much ick factor.

Theresa says

I love the basic storyline of this book. We got out of New Orleans. In fact, Cassandra leaves the country completely and is in Haiti for most of the story. Then she returns to New Orleans later where Diana and the rest of Edward's team join her. But there's a lot of review of the previous books story which bogs down the action.

The part in Haiti was interesting. I wish the journey had felt a little more dangerous. There seemed to be more history than excitement. Though the village was really weird. I knew something was wrong with it.

While I like Cassandra as a character, her obsession with the daughter doesn't quite feel right. I'm glad Devon helps her get over it. I love her relationship with Lazarus. But he seems at times to have more personality than Cassandra. The Witness Protection angle was interesting. I was curious for more details on her 1st husband's current situation. Her friendship with Diana is the best. I like the tea vs coffee conversations. In fact, some of the best parts for me involve Lazarus, Luc and/or Diana.

Devon is perfect as a man. He's smart, good-looking, funny, strong, understanding and even vulnerable: (i.e.: claustrophobia). He reminds me a lot of Michael Douglas in 'Romancing the Stone', but better. Too bad I couldn't feel the connection between him and Cassandra.

Quick Thoughts: 1) Wonder what Henri's 'supreme sacrifice' is going to be?

2) I've always said: You can trust animals, and children, on how they react to people. It's hard to fool them.

3)I like the way the wereleopard transformations happen as sparkles instead of a painful body contortion. Prettier and easier on your wardrobe.

Fave Scenes: the hotel spirit attack, the waterfall, the zombie powder cloud, taking Lazarus to the vet and Mawu the voodoo queen.

Samantha says

Cassandra, a New Orleans voodoo priestess, is obsessed with finding a way to bring back her daughter from the dead. Finally, after several years of searching, Cassandra has heard of a man in Haiti who can do this. Cassandra was an interesting character and her determination to get her daughter back was pretty compelling. However, near the end of the story when shit starts hitting the fan this determination starts becoming extremely annoying. Cassandra is faced with so many different reasons why bringing her daughter back from the dead would be horrible but despite everything she is still set on doing it. I understand that she was supposed to be deeply mourning her daughter, but I think that after seeing how she might hurt her daughter by bringing her back that Cass would at least have second thoughts. Not become more determined. I also hated that Cass didn't decide for herself to stop trying to raise her daughter from the dead. I would have liked Cass to have looked at the bigger picture while she had power to raise her daughter and decide not to. Instead, Cass has the power taken away from her and eventually makes peace with it.

Despite that I thought the story was pretty good and I enjoyed both the setting of Haiti and New Orleans. And the hero, Devon Murphy, was interesting with his constantly changing accents. I would have liked more time spent on the fact that he was a thief though. Also, I would recommend reading this series in order. Toward the end there were a lot of characters being introduced that are reoccurring in the series and they had some back-story that apparently links in with some things but it went completely over my head since I'm unfamiliar with this series.

Yolanda Sfetsos says

Cassandra travels to Haiti so she can track someone down to show her how to raise a zombie. And what better place to go than the land of voodoo? With the help of sexy Devon Murphy, she tracks down a bokor rumoured to be able to do just that. Mezareau is scary and powerful. He also seems to control more than just zombies. And when he agrees to share the secret so she can go home and help Diana and Adam Ruelle, Cassandra gets more than she bargained for.

There was a gut-wrenching aspect surging her forward in this quest of learning how to raise the dead. It's so sad. She's so obsessed with it. It's the only thing fuelling her life. But I refuse to go into that because it's better to read it off the pages. Cassandra was yet another wonderful addition to this ongoing series. I loved her story, quest and conclusion. And the chemistry with Murphy sizzles from the first time they cross paths. Excellent!

I loved this book! Definitely worth reading. Lori's kicking butt with this series.

AmbWitch says

My mum bought me this book as part of a bundle that included books from different series of the same genre. For some reason none of these books were the first in their series' and this one, *Midnight Moon* was the fifth in a series that I had read no other books off. But this didn't seem to matter as I was able to understand what was going on. I enjoyed this book but have little to say about it has little substance and is not something that you have to think about.

In *Midnight Moon* we follow Cassandra, a voodoo priestess that wants to raise her daughter from the dead, unable to let her go. When she's sent by work to Haiti she feels that this is finally her chance as she goes into the jungle in search of a Voodoo priest that may be able to help her. But Haiti has more in store for her and she's plunged into adventure with her guide, the attractive Devon, the only one brave or perhaps stupid, enough to take her.

Other than wondering whether Devon was actually the Voodoo priest at the beginning, the rest of the book was really predictable, especially the end. If I'm honest, the whole book doesn't take that much thinking about. You can guess what's coming next and you don't really need to look any deeper than the surface of the book.

I did really enjoy this book and at some point, I do want to read the others of the series (you've probably never heard me say that before, or seen me write it either). From what I've heard this series is from different points of views which is a shame, because I quite liked Cassandra's story, although others have said that they weren't a fan of her. So maybe the other books will be better? There's only one way to find out I guess.

Robyn says

I read this book the fastest so far in the Nightcreatures series. From the very beginning it starts almost like a folk-lore story. The story is written smoothly and was so hard to put down. Priestess Cassandra, who practices voodoo is working for the Jager-Suchers. She is sent to Haiti hoping to find out how to end the Curse of the Crescent Moon. Once in Haiti, Priestess Cassandra hires a guide to take her up into the mountains to find the evil Sorcerer who will teach her how to raise the dead. *Midnight Moon* kept me guessing right to the end, full to the brim with werewolves, sorcerers, voodoo magic, shape shifters, zombies, and of course a little bit of sizzling romance. Unlike the earlier books in the Nightcreatures series, *Midnight Moon* cannot be read as a stand-alone book. You will need to have at least read *Crescent Moon* to understand *Midnight Moon*. Can't wait to read the next in the series: *Rising Moon*. I'm hoping it will pick up, right where this one left off.

Nytetyger says

Yes, this is yet another Night Creatures novel, and it really shows a change in both writing style and in the general set up of the series. No longer are we really concerned solely with the Jager Suchers, but instead with

paranormal creatures and their defeat by the hands of powerful men and women who happen to fall in love and have way way WAY too much sex all over the place. I will say I really enjoyed the plot—set in Hati, with a voodouin priestess searching for a master to teach her how to raise the dead in a way that will let them retain the life that had before for reasons she will tell no one. Yes, she is working, indirectly for the Jager Suchers, but the plot is all about her, her powers, the man she is attracted to, and all the crap that they go through. Oh and sex. Did I mention sex? Because there is LOTS of it. SEX SEX SEX. When they're not doing it, they are thinking about doing it, or wondering why they want to do it with each other all the time. The ending was a bit of a "meh" as well, adding something that was totally not necessary and something that cheapened it all a wee bit. Not the sex, the plot. The sex remains constant.
