



Reluctant

Kerrigan Byrne

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He would be her first kill...

Kamdyn MacKay is a Banshee assassin who has never killed a man. When her first mark becomes the Berserker warlord terrorizing the Highlands, she knows she must slay him or face unthinkable consequences. Once she's face to face with the notorious Laird of Shadows, Kamdyn realizes she's also never been taken by a man, and his carnal proposition may prove too seductive to resist.

She would be his first kiss...

The brutal Laird of Shadows fears nothing, especially not a warrior's death. When a tiny, lovely Banshee invades his camp intent on his demise, a mistaken kiss brands her as the mate he's been searching the decades for. The least he can do is persuade his tempting executioner to make his last night on earth something to remember.

Reluctant Details

Date : Published June 12th 2013 by Ardent Publishing

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Author : Kerrigan Byrne

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From Reader Review Reluctant for online ebook

Carolyn says

I wish Ms. Byrne would write a full-length novel series of Berserkers! We need more Berserkers!

Fun little series.

Kelly says

I will freely admit to being a sucker for these Berserkers in the Highlands stories. I DIG them, okay? Men who LITERALLY lose their humanity and turn into bloodthirsty beasts going toe to toe with some braw men who speak with brogues! *flail* Throw in some supernatural critters (BANSHEES!) and awesomeness is EVERYWHERE!

As an aside, I've now read 3 of the 6 books in the overall series and I'm seriously smitten with these men and women who battle through some BAD THINGS to find one another.

Right. So... Soren has the Berserker thing going on. He's not a bad guy, by any means, but he was raised by a different set of rules than most everyone else. He goes all beastly when he gets around blood. He's the defacto Laird of these outcast men but he doesn't really want to be.

Kamdyn is a revelation to him. She makes him feel. He makes her feel. They get all touchy-feely with one another. Things progress. There's quite a bit of sweating and heaving. Of the good sort, mind you. Kamdyn is kinda stuck because the contract that sent her to kill him doesn't allow for a lot of wiggle room in the NOT killing him arena.

The sex is good. The blood is bloody. Those Berserkers are pretty awesome. In a "kill, kill, kill" sort of way. *thumbs up*

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Reluctant was a free Kindle book I downloaded on 06/27/13 for the Why Buy the Cow? reading challenge.

Maggie Spry says

Kerrigan Byrne has done it again! Another 5 star read. She is truly a gifted storyteller!

Suzanne Goldberg says

Everybody has already said what needs to be said...really..that good..as for me...whoooooowee...i need a hot

honey to work off the story...ya know what I mean.....(wink)

Lorraine Lesar says

There are not many books that can get a smile on my face from start to finish, this is one of them. I adored Kamdyn and fell in love with Soren! Within the first few pages, my smile appeared and my mind was visualizing Kamdyn and Soren in his tent, her innocence, his cockiness, what a combination! Kerrigan Byrne shows her skills as a writer with a story that has tentacles curving around you, bringing you in and encasing you in a wonderful story. For me, this was her best book yet, can't wait to see what she comes up with next!!!

Mei says

It is always a pleasure to read these books!

They're short, but ohhhh they're sooooo delicious!!!

They're like a hot cup of cocoa in a winter, when you're all cozy in front of a fire. It's like the moment before you fall asleep and start dreaming! I just love them!

Now that the three sisters have found their mates, what will happen now???

Please, please Ms. Byrne, do **NOT** tell us that there's no more books????

... it will be too painful.... Please, please, **do not do this to us>!!!**

LadyCalico says

Dropping everything, again, and diving into a Byrne novella, again, as soon as I find it available on Kindle. I keep saying that I don't like the banshee series as much as the Berserkers, but in this one the Berserkers are back--it is like two for the price of one!

Whitebeard Books says

I've said before that fairy tales are not my cup of tea. So why am I reading them you may ask. Simply because Kerrigan Byrne is a good solid writer with great characters and a believable ... well almost believable storyline. This third novella in the series actually occurs about two decades after the second and still the loyalties, brotherhood and clan unity carry on. Another positive is that only Ms. Byrne will give you

the nastiest of characters and allow him to develop positive traits and actually fall in love. She pulls off a radical change in the central character that changes everything. Yep, she is that good. Now, I must go read Byrnes' other series!

Janice Hougland says

The 3rd book in this series is a tempting story. I read this final story of Ms. Byrne's Heroes of the Highlands (McKays) series out of order, so now I'm gonna go get and read book Nos. 1 and 2 'cause it was that good! It was a fast read...read it all last night in one sitting...and I liked how the hero and heroine got their happy-ever-after ending. The hero, with his sad upbringing, was redeemed by love, and the heroine was feisty and strong...just what I like in a heroine. I also got an understanding of what a beserker is or was...and that's another reason why I'm now gonna go read books 1 and 2 in this series. I recommend Ms. Byrne's series to readers.

Lili says

loved, loved, loooooooved this two, they were hilarious!

I enjoyed this story so much!, my only complain is that it was too short, it could've been an amazing whole book.

Dawn Sullivan says

I am in awe with this new novella Kerrigan released. I have been really dying for this one to come out. This series has me so addicted to the magical and enchanting world Kerrigan has created.

Seriously HOLY SHIT!!! The sex scenes were about to put my kindle on fire! I could feel the heat... I can always expect Kerrigan's books to have that WOW factor!

I mean they are always classy but still oh so erotic. I really enjoyed how she brought everyone back into this one. I loved seeing everyone again. I say "seeing" because I can always picture the details in my mind because Kerrigan's details are vivid and alive.

Kamdym is a banshee, the last of her 3 sisters to find a mate. She has pledged herself to the Banshee queen to protect her sisters. After many years of serving the queen she is asked to kill the laird of shadows. Does she accept?

Laird of Shadows handsome and ruthless meets the beautiful banshee Kamdyn. Kamdyn has come to kill him.

These 2 have sizzling hot chemistry right from the start. The emotional connection is heart felt.

This was masterful, unique story of lust, passion, honor, and love.

This is a keeper that I will read over and over again! If I could I would give it more than 5 stars!

Kath says

I really enjoyed Kamdyn's story, but so wished it had been a little longer, hence my 4 stars. The story of the last Banshee sister and Berserker Soren, their banter had me laughing aloud many times. Once again Kerrigan Byrne takes you right to the heart of the highlands, your transported back in time.... Kamdyn's sent on a mission to rid the highlands of the maurader Laird of the Shadows, however the gods have other plans for them, does she complete her mission...yes and no.

Amanda says

Reviewed for: Lets Get Romantical
Where the Night Kind Roam

YAY!!! Byrne returned to her berserkers! This makes me to thrillingly happy! I ADORE berserkers, I think they are the least utilized in the paranormal genre and should be used so much more. Kerrigan Byrne is the only author that I can think of that uses them on a regular basis, which is how I discovered her in the first place and have never looked back!

In Reluctant we fast forward quite a number of years; I think it is close to 20ish? Kamdyn is a handmaiden to the Fae Banshee Queen. She selflessly gave herself to the Queen so that her sister could live with her Druid mate in the second book. For this alone she has endeared herself to me, there was no way I couldn't love her coming into this book. I could only hope that her mate would be worthy. I was not disappointed in this aspect. I think Soren has become my favorite male of this entire series, including the other berserkers. He's a brute of a male but so very self-aware. The things he says to Kamdyn are to make your heart beat a little bit faster. I'm not a huge highlighter in books, but some of what he says I just cannot resist, it was just too damn perfect. Even warlords have feelings and he has no problem expressing himself so eloquently. At the end he is willing to sacrifice EVERYTHING for his wee Banshee and it's quite beautiful. Kamdyn has such a soft heart and can't bring herself to kill this warlord that says things to her that melt her heart a little bit more each time he speaks. The chemistry between Kamdyn and Soren is explosive and heats up the pages. You may have to fan yourself off a little while reading this scorcher!

With each book that Kerrigan Byrne writes I am again reminded why she is on my auto-buy list and I read her books within days of their release. I have loved every single one of them and this one might just top my list as my new favorite!

Cristina says

Oh gosh why was it so short? I would've given it another star if it had an epilogue.

☞???? [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're mostly my thoughts as I went with the book...

In my review of Redeemed, I mentioned that finding out what's next in Kerrigan's book is like unwrapping a gift. And that Reluctant truly was. At the end of that book, I had no clue as to what is going to happen to Kamdyn, the last MacKay sister. But I was more than surprised to find who it is Kerrigan made Kamdyn's H. Surprises were aplenty in this book; some definitely good, some... not so much. I'll try to explain as I go.

I'd recommend to anyone wanting to read this book to start with book 1 of the Highland Historical series. They're not intertwined in that sense, and Reluctant is not really connected to the 3 MacLauchlan books but the MacKays were introduced in those. Either way, they're lovely stories so go ahead and pick them up anyway. Kerrigan certainly knows how to write!

I'll try to do a short recap first. Kamdyn and her two sisters, Katriona and Kylah died in a fire long time ago. Their mother barely survived, but struck a deal with the then Banshee queen to make them banshees so that they can exact their vengeance on the men who were a party to their gruesome death; most especially Angus, the laird of the MacKays who raped Kylah before setting her on fire. But Angus died before they could do anything, so did his mean father in the hands of the MacLauchlan brothers Connor and Roderick. Katriona and Kylah have already gotten past their vengeance, embracing the men they love in the previous installments. Katriona was in love with Rory, the new MacKay laird, a sentiment he returned tenfold. He might be Angus's brother but nothing like him, in neither looks or bearing. Kylah and her druid, Daroch meet in the first book of MacKay trilogy in an electrifying moment that seals their fate. Their story was about how they finally find a way to be together. The nasty Banshee queen dies and her own handmaiden, Tah Liah becomes the new queen. Kamdyn agrees to become Tah Liah's handmaiden in exchange of Kylah's mortality, so that she can be with Daroch.

I need to talk a little about the berserker MacLauchlan brothers Connor and Roderick, Connor being the laird of the clan. They find an illegitimate brother of theirs, Finn, in book 3 of their trilogy. Finn was born in the North (Nordic descendant) at the temple of Freya. His mother was a whore and abandoned by their father. Finn didn't know he was sent here to kill his own brothers. I loved his story, alongside Connor and Roderick's. At the end of Finn's story, some people from his homeland, berserkers and the like, follow him to the Highlands. Their aim was the same; to kill the Highland berserkers (Finn, too for his 'failure') and cleanse the tainted line of berserkers from this earth. Soren, our H of Reluctant was one of them. Honestly, I don't remember him because he was a really minor character, not mentioned that way. All I know that he was as misinformed by their so-called leader as Finn was before he learned all the facts.

20 years have passed by since Kamdyn has become Tah Liah's handmaiden. She has tried her best to serve her queen, but Kamdyn sometimes scares of being alone in this world. She's an immortal, and so hasn't aged at all because she'd lived with the Fae. But her sisters and their husbands are not immortals. Neither are their children. Kamdyn has formed strong attachment to them and it'd be really hard for her to see them go.

Fun begins when one day, the MacLauchlan brothers seek Tah Liah's help in finding this 'Laird of Shadows'; a villain of all villains, who pillages and burns houses alongside his rowdy group of miscreants. It pains to admit but Finn does admit of not being able to capture this guy at all. He has escaped all their previous attempts. Finn and his brothers are desperate to put a stop to all these. With the help of the Banshee queen, they want to see this man dead. Tah Liah doesn't want to get involved into human matters anymore (there are reasons) but she agrees on this. The queen decides that a banshee would be the best way to kill this

Laird of Shadows and she chooses Kamdyn, who was there, daydreaming away about the big and strong MacLauchlan bunch, along with her own BILs... as usual not paying attention to the details. :p I agree, it must be *verra* distracting to see those big, handsome and muscle-bound men (all 5 of them) together!
heehee

Kamdyn was not my favorite of the MacKay sisters but here, she really impressed me. She might sound like an air-head... well, she's anything but and she proves it soon enough. The story itself doesn't let you take a breath because from the moment Kamdyn sets her eyes on Soren, things start moving fast... and sexy. Kamdyn is very, VERY distracted by the handsome (and quite naked) Northman who was asleep when she finds him in his tent. She's entirely unhappy to discover that her so-called prey has the face of Cupid and a body that she'd like to ogle all.day.long... every.single.day. Too bad that he won't live long enough for that.
sigh

Oh... what can I say! I loved those first scenes, Kamdyn and Soren's dialogues, the looks they gave to each other, Kamdyn's embarrassment about male nudity, which quickly turned into fascination. Soren steals her heart since the beginning with his open and honest words. And there was the baffling fact that he's not afraid to die! What Kamdyn doesn't know that seeing her blood (from a knife wound inflicted by a sleep-dazed Soren) brought out Soren's berserker gang and his beast, the poor thing, goes and claims her as his mate!

I'm not sure why Kamdyn wasn't aware of such details though. But, Soren's *beastly* kisses takes her breath away. Kamdyn was still a virgin, never being attracted to the too perfect Fae male, a fact Soren didn't know. He was simply elated to find his mate, a lifelong dream for any berserker. Yet, he was equally sad to realize that he won't live long enough to explore this bond with Kamdyn. So, Soren settles for something they can do in this short time. He very straightforwardly asks Kamdyn about having sex.

And they do have sex all night... HOT sex, if I might mention.

Oooh boy, fan me some air cause it's too hot in here!!

daydreaming..... (do not disturb)

Returning to the reality *sigh* and back to the review... Reluctant doesn't have a lot of action in that sense. It's more about the tale of Soren and Kamdyn's relationship. As they spend that one contented night together, Soren realizes that he loves her, as clear as daylight. Kamdyn can't believe in his confession, but inside, she knew that something has changed between them irrevocably... and it's not just her non-virgin state. She still has to kill Soren because contracts were signed and so on. Yet when Kamdyn looks at Soren, she knows she can't do it... she just can't.

Later, when she was sorting out her confusing feelings towards Soren, Tah Liah pays them a visit with some distressing news regarding a clan that has been bugging the MacKays for sometimes now. And it's not looking good right now. They're at war and Kamdyn needs to be beside her clan and her loved ones. Soren follows her (I mean of course, he'd go wherever his mate leads him to... how sexy!) to the MacKays, knowing the danger he's putting himself and his men into. Before he dies, Soren would gift his mate with a victory for her clan and secure a place for his rugged band of men if possible.

In the end, Kamdyn does find a way to 'rescue' Soren from his death penalty.

Ah, it was fun and sweet. Some emotional scenes were there too... and sex was as usual super hot. Seeing the older characters like the MacLauchlan brothers were an added bonus. When the story ended on a positive note (I'm still not sure if Kamdyn and Soren are staying immortal or not), I sighed with pleasure. But it didn't feel like the wrapping up of a series, as I later found Kerrigan mentioning in her Facebook page. I felt sad when I read that because I simply don't want to let go of this series. There were some secondary characters who I thought might have their own books.

I sincerely hope Kerrigan writes more spin-offs... more from this setting and definitely more berserkers! I'd even love if she revisits our favorite couples, giving us a glimpse of their lives together. Well, I'll take just about anything!!! 4.5 stars.
