



Dark Highland Fire

Kendra Leigh Castle

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Gabriel MacInnes has led a charmed life. A Highland werewolf of Alpha lineage, he'd always thought that, as the second son, he would never have to worry much about responsibility. But with his Pack now squarely in the sights of an ancient and rediscovered enemy, everything has begun to change.

Exiled from the Drakkyn realm, on the run from the dragon prince who claims her as his own, the last thing Rowan an Morgaine wants is to deal with a bunch of overbearing shifters in the middle of nowhere. But when her hiding place on Earth is discovered, and with blood the only thing that can restore her waning power, the fiery demigoddess has little choice but to accept Gabriel as a protector ...

As the Earthly and Drakkyn realms converge, Gabriel and Rowan must decide how much they're willing to sacrifice for fate...and for one another.

What reviewers are saying about Kendra Leigh Castle:

"Ms. Castle develops likeable characters, adds danger-filled mystery to a steamy romance, and keeps reader's interest to the revealing end."

-Darque Reviews

"A great, fast-paced tale. Castle's world-building is superb and leaves readers wanting more." -Romantic Times

"Fans of straight up romance looking for a little extra something will be bitten." -Publishers Weekly

"This fresh and exciting take on the werewolf legend held me captive until the last page. I'll definitely be watching for more stories from Kendra Leigh Castle." -Nina Bangs, author of One Bite Stand

Dark Highland Fire Details

Date : Published October 1st 2008 by Sourcebooks Casablanca (first published July 17th 2008)

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Author : Kendra Leigh Castle

Format : Paperback 390 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Shapeshifters, Werewolves

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From Reader Review Dark Highland Fire for online ebook

Kathy says

Setting: Coracin – another world; forests and village Carith Noor – other world; tunnels/nexus at the boundaries / Black Mountain – lair of the Drakkans aka dragons; The Pretty Kitty strip joint in Reno; Tobermory, Scotland – Gabriel’s bar ‘Wolf at the Door’ and apartment above; chamber of the Lia Fail aka Na’an Taleth – guarded by the MacInnes werewolves; Iargail Estate in the Western Highlands of Scotland;

Theme:

Truth; avenging evil; falling in love; consequences;

Characters:

Rowan an Morgaine: of the Great Tent of the Dyadd Morgaine; aka strip name of Living Dead Girl; Drakkyn sorceress; when she refused to accept Lucien, with her mother, the Dyadd queen’s agreement; Mordred’s dragons attempted to annihilate her people; Bastian snags her, and teleports her to Reno; for 9 months she has stripped (but nothing more, though she can ‘hypnotize’ customers to think they got more), and has not taken blood (human blood makes her sick); they are staying with vampires – unknowing that they are relatives of the Coracin daemons; when Lucien finds her, Bastian gets to her in time to transport her again – this time to Iargail – in the arms of Gabriel;

Gabriel MacInnes: arukhin shifters – the name of the were on Coracin; strong – without a purpose; stubborn; still looking;

Bastian an Morgaine: recognizes the arukhins, recognizes Gabriel’s stubbornness – and believes he might have a chance to protect Rowan;

Lucien Andrakkar: put down by his father; the Andrakkar’s only hope to keep the rule/ to have a son; he is cold inside, and only feels a glimmer of life in Rowan’s presence; he wants to marry her – she is his hope at life;

Mordred Andrakkar: Lucien’s father; ordered the slaughter of her people when she refused to marry his son; wants their union because he wants a son – he wants Rowan’s son, as he perceives Rowan to be powerful; he is Rowan’s father (not known by Lucien or Rowan) – incest doesn’t bother him;

Malachi, Gideon, Carly MacInnes: father/brother/brother’s wife; on the sidelines, encouraging Gabriel;

Jagrin: deamon of the Blighted Kingdom; he is son of the deamon king; he is assisting Lucien – for a price; they want a puppet dragon king; and he gets Lucien to pledge to be his slave – to be released if Lucien can bring him a Arukhin in his stead; to be Bastian’s enemy in the next book;

Summary:

Gabriel and Rowan try to out stubborn each other... out smart talk each other... Gabriel realizes she is his mate first... Rowan tries to keep her distance – both emotionally and physically – because for 1,000 years no Morgaine has taken a permanent mate... and because she does not want him or his family to be hurt by the dragons;

They take ‘stolen’ moments; their connections deepen; Lucien and Jagrin get them via the vampires and take

them to Coracin; Rowan believes Gabriel is dead (he tries to protect her – but the dragons overwhelm him)... and Bastian comes to his rescue... then sends him into the Black Mountain – via tunnels / secret passages that the Morgaine created for trysts with dragons; he rescues Rowan – who was coming to believe her only way was to marry Lucien... and as they make it to the portal, and the dragons are on their tail – she gives into a natural impulse, and grows wings, carrying Gabriel to safety;

And she is reunited with her sisters, and more of her people than she believed alive... and as a dragon, she faces Lucien and Mordred and 6 dragons... and Gabriel's kin... and she confronts Mordred about being her father... and refuses (again) to marry Lucien... and Lucien backs away (Bastian and Gabriel follow), and Rowan kills Mordred... and Lucien shows a different side to Bastian and Gabriel... but is taken by Jagrin just as Gabriel is about to confine Jagrin...

Gabriel stands beside Rowan... he is to be her consort in Coracin (and she gets pregnant immediately – twins?)... and some of the were/Arukhan join him in Coracin... and Bastian is brooding... hmmmm

Memorable scenes:

When she is stripping for money: "It wasn't the work, really. Her kind had always reveled in the unusual beauty of their physical forms, wielding that power like a sword when need be."

"... nine months since she and Bastian had fled the smoking ruins of the camp of their people, breaking through to this strange realm on a terrifying burst of magic she still didn't understand."

"The Dyadd Morgaine were Drakkyn sorceresses who took little for their own and wielded their power wisely, holding court beneath the endless canopy of their forests and accepting the offerings of those who revered them... to look after the Orinn villagers who had no magic of their own to protect themselves... and they would belong to no man."

After Bastian gives an unconscious Rowan to Gabriel (whom he recognizes as arrukin of his world), Gabriel "feeling like a man who had just been tied to a sinking ship, he tried to think of something, anything he could say to pass this off to someone else... Why me? he roared... Because you're the only one who might be even more stubborn than she is."

"Gabriel knew he'd never been lacking in talent or drive. He wasn't Duncan's son for nothing. But as the second son, what he had lacked was purpose. That was, he realized, until one had been pushed into his arms by a determined Drakkyn."

"Two halves," Gabriel murmured as he watched her eyes grow blurred, "one whole. Your heart knows mine, Rowan an Morgaine. Even after a thousand years."

Erotic Horizon says

Characters

Rowan an Morgaine – A much loved daughter, bathed in light and happiness and knows that she is surrounded

by her kind – that is until the prince of darkness takes a shine to her. Once her life changes, she comes into her own and she puts up a hell of a fight.

Gabriel MacInnes – The loved brother who was never able to understand the demands placed on his brother. The much loved son who felt like he never fitted into the world that was all he had ever known and he was also the lover that the ladies can't seem to get enough of.

The Plot

Rowan is exiled on earth when she becomes the target of a demented dragon prince. Barely managing, she make the best of a bad situation along with her brother.

When she is saved again by her brother and left not only on Gabriel's pack land, but in Gabriel's arms – she does what she does best – goes on the defensive, however this time she has meet her match and she will not grin and bear it.

Gabriel has is hackles up, just as much as his pack – when the door they have been guarding opens and through them emerges two beautiful people. He soon finds himself with a handful of woman and as much as he doesn't agree with the plan, he takes his responsibility very seriously.

With more than their egos at stage, Rowan and Gabriel have to not only sort out the fragile thread of their relationship, but also be on constant alert, because Rowan comes with a whole heap of trouble and Gabriel refuses to let her out of his sight.

Surprise element

The author has clearly thought out the plot of this series and in this second book, she has further define the past of the shifters and there role in what is currently happening to Rowan. The Drakkyn Realm was so clearly described that you could actually form a pretty clear idea of what this place would look like. I thought this was nicely down by the author.

Predictability

Any book that has shifter in it, I immediately start thinking “Oh god, the dreaded pheromones”, however – that aspect of the book did not overtake the plot or even infringed on how the end came about.

Smut/Ick Factor

You guys know how i love my smut, but i have to admit the act itself in this book did nothing for me. It has romance, there is no doubt about that, however the innuendos and self denying was so much fun to read about, that when they finally came together, it wasn't fireworks for me. However the merry chase to getting

there and staking their claim on each other was just like cream on cake.

Positive

From the moment i read the first in the series, i love the concept of the world that Ms. Castle has created and CALL OF A HIGHLAND MOON was a wonderful opening book to the series – so i was very pleased at how Ms. Castle – used the stripper angle to pull me in.

The fact that she steps out of the norm and pair Gabriel – a werewolf shifter with Rowan – a Demi-Goddess, was also a path less travelled , but it worked and it was good.

The sexual tension between these two as mention before was so rich – they themselves didn't even know what was happening and that was a big plus for me.

The emotional highs and low of soul searching, confession and some levels of vulnerability was well timed and well played.

Another area for the book i was impressed with was the growth of Gabriel – from realizing who is mate was to the fact that he opened himself to embrace the difficulty that his brother was under being the older of the two brothers.

The entire book kept true to form, meaning Rowan's world was a mixture of light and darkness, the beings and there description was cognizant of this fact. Gabriel world was earth – with it's fault and it's secrecy but no more than when the two world collide and little bits and piece of info starts melting the worlds together to give readers the bigger picture of what was happening.

In this second book, the story is all about Rowan and Gabriel, no secondary characters stood out. While i loved how some of the support cast stood out in the first book, i was pleased with the fact that Ms. Castle made a clear difference in who was leading the story DARK HIGHLAND MAGIC.

I also liked the emphasis on the senses, Ms. Castle was very descriptive in the sound of The realms (screams, laughter), the look (Cave, tunnels, rich pillow and scenes) , the feel (slithering creatures, teeth made only for one thing) and highlighting the six sense that is so much more sharper when they were in the Drakkyn realm.

Ms. Castle has left us on a high note, but with enough assumption and guess work that really make me can't wait to get my grubby little mitts on WILD HIGHLAND MAGIC.

Negative

The one thing that mar this book for me, is somewhere about a third in, the pace of the book dragged. With Ms. Castle fleshing out the dynamics of the Realm and how they came to be and it's relevance to the situation that Rowan and her brother now find themselves in – for me it got a bit long winded.

Once the world was defined the business was back on and i really regretted having to leave Gabriel and

Rowan and all the angst that i can see waiting in the wings to happen.

Cover

What's not to like, a highlander and wolf. Hey that's woman's fantasy. I couldn't image how they would have represented Rowan, she was such a vibrant character.

Karen says

"A Fiery Adventure into the Drakkyn Realm"

Gabriel MacInnes is a werewolf, the second son of an Alpha Pack, who guards the Stone of Destiny. He has no desire to settle down with one woman, but then he never met a fiery demigoddess. Rowan an Morgaine is thrust upon him. He's forced to be her protector. She's stubborn, has a nasty habit of drinking blood, but fate has a sick sense of humor; Rowan may be his soul mate.

Rowan an Morgaine is running from a dragon prince, Lucien, who wants to claim her as his. She has no desire to belong to any man, but she never met a stubborn arukin shifter. Gabriel's determined to be her protector and will stop at nothing to do so. Gorgeous with a sexy Scottish brogue, strong, and dangerous ... Gabriel's another threat only it's her heart that's at stake now.

Not only will the two fight in the Drakkyn realm to stop Lucian and his devious father, but their love for each other is also tested.

This is the second in the series for Kendra Leigh Castle. Dark Highland Fire is a keeper on my shelf! She brings her characters and the legends alive, sending you to another world where dragons, demons, and demigoddess' exist. The fiery relationship between Rowan and Gabriel sizzles as they fight and argue ... and love. They're perfectly matched making them a formidable pair no one will want to mess with. You also can't help feeling a little sorry for Lucien and that's what makes him such a wonderful villain. I hope we haven't seen the last of him (hint hint.) I also found Bastian, Rowan's brother, an intriguing character, with secrets that still need to be revealed. I hope Ms. Castle plans on telling his story. This reader can't wait for more!

I also recommend Call of the Highland Moon. This is Gideon MacInnes and Carly Silver's story.

Review for PNR Paranormal Reviews

Tiffany says

GENERAL INFO: Dark Highland Fire

Year Pub/Re Pub: 10/2008

Indie/Publisher:Sourcebooks Casablanca

Page Length:402

Genre: PNR

Sub-Genre/Age:18+

Book's Price:6.15

Price I'd Value: KU/3.99

Standalone/Cliffhanger:standalone

Standalone /Part of a Series/Installment: #2 in MacInnes Werewolf trilogy

Epilogue Included:?

POV (1st/2nd/3rd Person): 2nd person

Character(s)POV Spoken: Rowan and Gab

BOOK DESCRIPTION: ?

M/F-M/M-M/M/F-etc:M/F

HEA/HFN/etc Ending:HEA

Contains Cheating:no

Contains Children:no

Flashbacks: no but once they bite each other they can see each other's memories and mind share

Jealy/Possy/OTT Rating:3/3.5- both have moments but are too stubborn to admit it

Amount of Sex In The Book: just enough- 1 good mating/ biting scene

Overall Smex Rating:3

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION:

HERO: Gabriel

Hero Description:werewolf, 2nd son to Alpha. Has never had to be responsible. A ladies man definitely.

Stubborn and a little controlling

Hero Likability Rating?:4

HEROINE: Rowan

Heroine Description: drinks blood, has goddess powers(really like a Mage).Destined to be leader of her people.Strong,very independent.

Heroine Likability Rating:3

Secondary characters:Gideon-her brother, Lucien - crazy who is obsessed w/ her

H/h RELATIONSHIP INFO: Gab is charged with her care and they can't seem to stay away from each other.

OW/OM/Exes: both have pasts but they could all be faceless or nameless in comparison

Cheating Before/During/Outside H/h Relationship:no

Grovel Rating: n/a

Did OW/OM/Ex Ruin the Book For You:n/a

TRIGGERS/WARNING: biting,frenzied sex scenes

AUTHOR OVERVIEW: Kendra Castle- 1st time author 4 me

Technical/Editing Quality:3

Writing/Content Quality:3.5

PERSONAL OVERVIEW: Overall Rating:3.5

Do You Recommend This Book:maybe

Will You Re-read This Book:nope,don't do much re reading

Would You Read More Books by this Author:maybe

=====?

COMMENTS/NOTES:

Terra says

Dark Highland Fire by Kendra Leigh Castle is a romantic paranormal fantasy that draws you so deep within the soul of the story that all reality around you is completely shut out. Intensely romantic, sexual, breathtaking and crawl under your skin, mouth watering don't put it down, this novel should be on the New York Times Bestsellers list without a doubt. If you miss this novel and it's previous installment you are missing the most delicious books of the Century.

Rowan an Morgaine is a Goddess to be by birth and in her own right. A feminine warrior of sharp wit and equally sharp tongue, beauty befitting her station and that of her people, fearless of death, she is a woman to be reckoned with. Tall, long legs, flowing red hair that radiates fire and emerald green eyes that seer you to your soul, Rowan is so much more than delectably exquisite.

Gabriel MacInnes is second son of the pack of Werewolves designated to protect an ancient artifact that is the bridge to their ancient homeland in another world. Breathtaking is the understatement for this man. Tall, bronzed, long dark hair and eyes to melt your soul should the right women capture him. Most certainly a ladies man to the max. Though his station is second son it doesn't diminish the fact that Gods have a very special task made just for him. Will he be able to survive it is the question.

Rowan and her brother Bastien escape by the skin of their teeth from the slaughter that is befalling their people by the Andrakkar, the Dark Dragons. Their escape is short lived however once Lucien Andrakkar enlists the help of the daemon, creatures even more vile than the dragons themselves.

Again Rowan is found and is saved at the last moment by her brother only to be dropped into the hands of Gabriel MacInnes. Bastien makes Gabriel promise to protect his sister and feed her starving form. Gabriel cringes at the thought of having to protect a blood sucker as vampires and werewolves are mortal enemies, but he swears to do so anyway.

So the war is to begin between two worlds and creatures so vile just to think of them will make you cringe and want to hide beneath the covers. All this over the love of a stubborn pig headed woman that has crawled into the blood of two very dangerous adversaries. A war that is needed to right the wrongs of a species so noble and to unite two races unknown to each other for over a thousand years. Good vs. Evil, right vs. wrong, light vs. dark, but who will be the victor?

A love so pure that Rowan and Gabriel will be stunned that the Gods have chosen to throw the two of them together. Two people, one Werewolf, one Vampire that are so alike you wonder how this could possibly work.

"And are you always such a charming conversationalist, or is it just me?" he shot back, keeping his voice deliberately even. He didn't think it wise, when he knew so little of her, to let Rowan know he felt like

throttling her every time she opened her mouth.

"It's you," she replied, not quite suppressing what appeared to be an amused quirk of her lips. "I know when I'm being a bitch."

This budding author is astounding to say the least. She has given us a paranormal romance intertwined with the realm of fantasy and a style of writing so smooth it's like the silky froth on the top of your favorite cappuccino. My heart longs for more of this families saga, my throat is desert parched with the ending of this installment, my need for more of this writer's decadence is critical. This series will forever be included into my permanent collection so that when my longing is too great, I can pull this novel up and quench my thirst once again.

Barbara says

(rating change...I slept on it and decided I wasn't being fair so I give it a 3 instead of a 2...)

I liked this one just ok I guess. I enjoyed the first in the series soooo much more. There was a little to much internal dialogue in most of the book for my taste...you know the kind where everyone has so much to say but their not saying anything to each other? Argh! That bothers me! Overall though Fire is a pretty descent addition to the series, but no where near as good as the first.

Margaret says

Gabriel MacInnes has led a charmed life. A Highland werewolf of Alpha lineage, he'd always thought that, as the second son, he would never have to worry much about responsibility. But with his Pack now squarely in the sights of an ancient and rediscovered enemy, everything has begun to change.

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"Fans of straight up romance looking for a little extra something will be bitten." -Publishers Weekly

"This fresh and exciting take on the werewolf legend held me captive until the last page. I'll definitely be watching for more stories from Kendra Leigh Castle." -Nina Bangs, author of One Bite Stand

Review

"Ms Castle has written a story that keeps you interested until the last page. The way she has put two people from two different worlds together and still keeping is believable. This one is a keeper. Can't wait for Ms. Castle's next book." - *** Night Owl Romance***

"This budding author is astounding to say the least. She has given us a paranormal romance intertwined with the realm of fantasy and a style of writing so smooth it's like the silky froth on the top of your favorite cappuccino." - *** Yankee Romance Reviews***

"Sexy, compelling, and in turn darkly intense and laugh-out-loud funny, *Dark Highland Fire* has all the elements that leave a reader toasty with satisfaction... I'll be waiting with great anticipation for her next novel." - *** Shelby Reed***

"She brings her characters and the legends alive, sending you to another world where dragons, demons, and demigoddess' exist." - *** Paranormal Romance Reviews ***

"For anyone who loves a new twist on werewolves and their magical counterparts, then they should definitely check out Kenda Leigh Castle." - *** Literary Escapism***

"Kendra Leigh Castle has penned another story with amazing characters, a fascinating and page-turning plot that was utterly unpredictable and some hot, hot, hot sexual tension!... Do yourself a favor and grab this book the moment it's available. You won't be sorry." - *** ***

"Kendra Leigh Castle has penned another story with amazing characters, a fascinating and page-turning plot that was utterly unpredictable and some hot, hot, hot sexual tension! " - *** Long and Short of It***

"The characters of Rowan and Gabriel in particular are well developed and fiesty... At times I laughed out loud and other times I would be holding my breath. " - *** I Just Finished Reviews***

"DARK HIGHLAND FIRE is brimming with heartfelt emotions, and the notable paranormal storyline will have you wanting additional books with this intriguing setting and diverse mystical characters." - *** ***

"It's not often that I find a book that resonates so strongly that I'll read it twice, back to back. But that's what I did with DARK HIGHLAND FIRE. I fell in love with the world, the characters – even the not-so-bad guy, Lucien, had my sympathy. This book is definitely a keeper and Ms Castle is a writer I'll be watching for from now on." - *** Star-Crossed Romance***

About the Author

Kendra Leigh Castle (Virginia Beach, VA) went to college in Northern New York then joined her US Navy fighter pilot husband in moving around the country. This series reflects her North Country roots and her avid interest in all things paranormal. Kendra is currently loving the jet noise in Virginia Beach, Virginia with her husband and three children.

Zeek says

Dark Highland Fire is paranormal romance that throws in every magical creature you can imagine in addition to a bit of a Highland romance setting! Surprisingly the author manages to do it deftly enough to remain cohesive. (Throwing together that big a mix usually has disaster written all over it!)

The story starts off with the heroine, Rowan an Morgaine, exiled from her home dimension, working as a stripper in Reno. She's a novelty stripper- a vamp!- that pulls in a big crowd, but she's not altogether happy with her life right now. (Gee, I wonder why.)

Things change rapidly for her when an old enemy sweeps in to claim her as his own. Thankfully her brother, Bastian, isn't far behind and he manages to get her out of harm's way by sweeping her through a portal that lands them in Scotland of all places.

When they arrive they discover the gate is guarded by a group of werewolves- beasts that Bastian instantly trust because he realizes they hail from his world. He leaves Rowan in the arms of Gabriel, the alpha's son, a lone wolf who certainly doesn't want this duty. But when she awakens in his arms, and more importantly, feeds from him, he falls hard.

Because he's just met his true mate.

The rest of the book follows the big bad trying to get her back and the pack protecting Rowan, which ultimately leads Rowan and Gabe back to her home world where she finds she not only the Vamp Queen of her people, she's got a little beastie in her as well!

Like I said there is A LOT of mixing of worlds and myths in this book, and although it works, it is a drawback, I feel. I'm hoping the author will find a little more focus with later entries into this series. Apparently there is a book before this one, but I had no problem picking up what went on, making this fine as a stand alone.

Oh, The whole stripper thing was a head scratcher for me as well, but whatever, It was fun!

April ♥"LOS" ♥ says

What would make a series about a Scottish, highland, wolf-shifter even better? Thrown in some dragons:) I really enjoyed seeing the dynamic between Gabriel (confirmed bachelor) and Rowan as they fought their attraction to one another. This series is a must read for PNR fans.

PepperP0t says

Actually 3.5 stars

Exotic dancer Rowan an Morgaine and her brother Bastian are on the run. They're barely two steps ahead of

dragon prince, Lucien Andrakkar, from their home realm of Drakkyn when Bastian eludes Lucien with Rowan in his arms and comes through the guarded portal in MacInness castle.

After a hurried explanation, Bastian begs temporary sanctuary for an unconscious Rowan and charges Gabriel MacInness with her safety. A disgruntled Gabriel utters derogatory assumptions as his family discusses Bastian's explanation. Rowan is bewildered by the turn of events and angry about the comments she's heard from Gabriel and makes assumptions of her own.

Lucien is determined to marry Rowan but she is having none of it. Lucien's father, Mordred has decimated Rowan's clan in a bid to force her acceptance of Lucien. Mordred is determined to retain the power of the throne but doesn't think it can be one through Lucien but is confident it can be done with a child they'd create.

Gabriel and his clan/pack and Bastian are equally determined that Rowan never has to suffer Mordred of Lucien in her life as they flex their muscle to battle Lucien's men. The portal into the Drakkyn realm and strategic moves by Lucien and Mordred make the portal a pivotal point of the story as characters go back and forth through it to accomplish their own goals.

The chemistry between the leads is fairly good as the jaded cynic in me guessed a fair amount of the reads truths. Hmm...kilts, shifters, dragons and a not exactly vampire witch stripper from another dimension by way of Reno, does it work? It's so very not what's expected. Advice from one reader to another 'lay ye own your expectations before proceeding to page two.' This story wasn't good or bad, it just was.

Hbeebti says

Not what I expected. This wasn't about highlanders. It was a modern paranormal tale. Full of shifters and vamps and daemons. But overall I really enjoyed it. Cant wait to read the other books to this series.

Felicia says

UGH. Urban Fantasy mixed with kilts, I thought this might be good news...no sir.

Meranda Semeniuk-Wappel says

This series just keeps coming! There is always a surprise around every corner and it is just so interesting! Would definitely recommend it!

Rhianna says

Rowan an Morgaine has been forced away from her home realm. Stuck on earth hiding in a nest of vampires and taking her clothes off in a seedy Reno strip-club, no one would know she's really an exiled demi-goddess. But as any strong woman knows, sometimes you have to do what you have to do to stay alive so

that eventually you can have your revenge. With her family slain by Lucien Andrakkar, a dragon shapeshifter who wants her for his bride, she must remain in hiding or risk being carried back to Coracin and forced into marriage.

When Lucien finds her and her brother, Bastian, swoops in just in time to save her, she finds herself dumped on Gabriel MacInnes. As a werewolf and the second son of the pack alpha, Gabriel hasn't had much purpose in life save for running his bar. Bouncing from woman to woman he's certainly not known for being easy to tie down. But there's something so irritating and at the same time irresistible about Rowan. She doesn't want to be protected by Gabriel and the fact that he takes his duty seriously only maddens her. All Rowan wants to do is save what little remains of her family from further destruction at the hands of her would-be husband. If only she wasn't as attracted to Gabriel as he is to her.

I honestly wasn't quite sure what to expect from this book. Kilted highlander werewolves, maybe? Aside from Gabriel being from the highlands this book really didn't have anything to do with them. Instead this book focused greatly on Coracin and the races that call it home from the dragons and the Dyadd to the demons. What really got me into it was the well executed mythos of the world and how it tied to Earth. That can be a hard thing to pull off but Castle did this quite flawlessly. While it certainly walks the borders of fantasy as much as paranormal romance this didn't have the urban overtones a lot of paranormals have these days.

Gabriel and Rowan made a surprisingly refreshing duo. Both a bit hot-headed and stubborn they played well off one another and their attraction was very fire and ice. The romance was actually over-shadowed by the world dilemmas of the dragons and the werewolves as well as Lucien's attempts to make Rowan his. I found myself pitying Lucien long before the book was finished and I'm quite certain the plot twist relating to Rowan and Lucien will be obvious to most readers from the first hints. Even though it was predictable it was a very enjoyable plot twist that helped to settle the entire story. I am definitely looking forward to the next book which will focus on Rowan's brother Bastian. Overall a very entertaining book with a great mythology... now I just need to go back and read the first one! I think anyone who enjoys a good fantasy story with shapeshifters should check these out.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemyreview.com; book release Oct08

Goddesses, dragons, werewolves, prophecies, magic...this series has all those things that make my heart go pitty-pat. "Dark Highland Fire" is the second book in Kendra Leigh Castle's exciting tale of an alternate world where the balance has gone horribly wrong, and its connection to Earth. I read and loved her first book, "Call of the Highland Moon" which introduced a world just like ours where paranormal creatures run amok. Although it's not necessary to read the first book to enjoy this story, I'm glad I did. This second book continues and expands Castle's vision of both worlds which are exciting places I really enjoy visiting.

Rowan is a demi-goddess who is being chased by a dragon prince who wants her for his mate and isn't taking no for an answer. She barely escaped his first raid which resulted in the death of her mother and many of her tribal 'sisters' and then only when her brother managed to 'jump' into this strange Earth world. When her brother rescues her again, this time his jump lands them in another Earth land called Scotland. Then her brother has the nerve to leave her with an Arukhin (werewolf) named Gabriel! Even if Gabriel is stunningly gorgeous and makes her body tingle, she certainly doesn't need anybody's help...she's a demi-goddess for

crying out loud!

Gabriel is the happy-go-lucky MacInnes. He's always been content to drift through life with heaping servings of wine, women, and song. Since his brother is next in line to be Alpha, he doesn't have to do anything more taxing than run his bar. Until the night a strange couple appears near the magic stone his clan guards and the male dumps his sister into Gabriel's arms with the responsibility to keep her safe and make sure she 'feeds'?! Next thing Gabriel knows he's in it up to his furry ears with a woman who shoots fireballs from her fingertips and drinks blood! Who cares how sexy she is or how she makes him feel...did you not hear the blood part?

I'm enjoying the pace and plotting Castle has put into her world. Her characters are vivid and individual. Although Rowan's whole 'don't need anybody' stance irritated me at first (hello? Your brother already saved you twice.), I guess if I was a demi-goddess, I'd feel the same way. And the more I learned about Rowan's character, the more her actions made sense. Same goes for Gabriel. Both have distinct traits and personalities which translated into the course and pace of their relationship.

I like the contemporary setting and you'll laugh at Rowan's first 'job'...but it made sense considering. Castle also has a wicked pen and the tension and sexual overtones on almost every page are enough to require a fan! Her secondary characters have major roles in the story and make you hungry for a book about each one to see their fates. Thankfully, there are plenty of characters and I can only hope, plenty more books to come.

I'm enthralled by this series. Her history of the various races of both worlds and how some of them managed to cross to Earth is original and well-plotted. Each book provides more information on the customs and habits of each race. As soon as I finish one, I find myself irritated that I have to wait for the next one! Even after searching through her website (kendraleighcastle.com) and that of her publisher, I wasn't able to get a date for her next book. I'll just keep checking as I intend to grab a copy as soon as it hits the bookshelves!!
