



## **The Lure of Shapinsay**

*Krista Holle*

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Ever since Kait Swanney could remember, the old crones of the village have been warning her to stay away from the selkies. They claim that like sirens of old, the seal men creep from the inky waters, shed their skins, and entice women to their deaths beneath the North Sea. But avoiding an encounter becomes impossible when Kait is spotted at the water's edge, moments after the murder of a half-selkie infant.

Unexpectedly, Kait is awoken by a beautiful, selkie man seeking revenge. After she declares her innocence, the intruder darts into the night, but not before inadvertently bewitching her with an overpowering lure.

Kait obsesses over a reunion deep beneath the bay and risks her own life to be reunited with her selkie. But when she lands the dangerous lover, the chaos that follows leaves Kait little time to wonder—is it love setting her on fire or has she simply been lured?

## **The Lure of Shapinsay Details**

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Author : Krista Holle

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## From Reader Review The Lure of Shapinsay for online ebook

### Krista Holle says

I love this book! I've read it a million times!

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### Holly Full Moon Bites Book Reviews says

I have to admit first off that this is the first novel that I have ever read that revolves around selkies so not only did I have a very wonderful plot and characters, I also got to learn loads about a new paranormal that I have not previously been exposed to which made the book very unique to me and a new favorite!

Though this book is pretty much YA I have to say that it had the feel of Adult novel. There is no erotica mind you; that is not to say there aren't romance scenes, the book is as I said pretty much YA. But just the feel of it while reading feels like something anyone could connect to. One reason I think that is, is because of the whole kind forbidden or hopeless love thing that Kati and Eamon have together. He is a selkie, from the sea while she is human and from land. Their peoples are constantly against each other. Blair her brother is one of the ones that is most adamant that she stay away from him. Kind of reminds me a little, only a little though, of Romeo and Juliet thinking back now.

At times I admit to thinking Kati was going crazy, even she admits it in the novel but at the same time I could not help but read on wanting, needing, to know what would happen between her and her love and obsession, Eamon.

Eamon, I really do not think I could describe him in any way that suits what I really think but some words that come to mind are, stubborn, handsome, and slightly arrogant. He also has a very dangerous appeal to him like you do not know whether he would kiss you or kill you which definitely appealed to me and I think will others as well.

The world they are set in, I believe it is Scotland on a little island away from the Mainland called Shapinsay. The world is very real while reading, the author has a way of really making it come to life and make you feel you are there. I have actually found myself saying some of the words from the novel, so it did indeed leave a very big impression with me.

If I had to compare this novel to anything again the first thought that comes to mind is Romeo and Juliet (though we do get a HEA mind you) another that comes to mind is Twilight, mostly because of forbidden and at times difficult love of the two main characters also though because to me this book is pretty epic especially from a self-published, new, author!

I would recommend this novel to anyone who is looking for a good paranormal read.

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*\*I received an Ebook copy of this book for free to review from the author.*

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### **Nicole Peterson says**

Kait a willful and independent young woman refuses to let anyone dictate how she will live her life. We meet her as she is bartering eggs with a fisherman. She sees her good friends father carrying a crying bundle and is relieved to see that she has finally given birth. Assuming the new grandfather is out and about to proudly show off his grandchild she presses near to see the baby. However, the grandfather seems less then willing to let anyone glimpse the babe and moves closer to the ocean. Hearing her friends soulful wail she runs to her aid and finds out from the midwife and her friend that the child is half selkie and the girls father is planning on drowning the infant. Kait attempts to catch the man but arrives just after the deed is done. She attempts to save the poor creature but, alas, is too late.

Hiding in the oceans depths and plant life a selkie male hears the childs cry and goes to investigate and sees the babe as it expires and sees that is a selkie child. The first person he sees is Kait searching for the child and assumes she is the executioner of the child and furiously follows her home to exact revenge.

There really isn't much out having to do with the selkies. I had heard of them, but really didn't know much about them. So, this was a very intriguing read. It grabs hold and doesn't let go until the very end. The dialect in the dialogue as well as the superstition of the villagers really sets the scene. I would suggest this to anyone that is looking for something different to read. The romance and folklore/mythology of the story is fabulous.

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### **Heather says**

I debated between 4 or 5 stars. I really loved this, and definitely the first half was 5 stars all the way. Then halfway through there starts being talk of humping(He is a Selkie(Seal-Man) and he thinks kind of animalistically), sex before marriage and talk of humping all night to satiate his loins. I would still classify this as a clean read, but it did push it a bit for my taste. I did love that this story was like nothing I've read before. It had a magical feel to it as I read and I never wanted to put it down! I thought the sex before marriage could kind of be rationalized away because of the lure(that's what the selkies do is lure women to bed and then to the sea to their deaths). I ended up going with 5 stars because I loved that they both ended up doing something major to sacrifice for the other that ended up proving they really did love each other, and it wasn't just the lure that kept them together. I loved how angry Eamon is and how untrusting of humans he is. I loved how he becomes jealous and angry at one point when he thinks Kait has "chosen a human mate", but really her brother set it up because he wants her married off to someone who will take care of her when he is married and gone. I really liked finding out just how young Eamon is and therefore why he is so quick tempered and untamed, and it explains why he had never taken a human to bed before. I love how fiercely loyal he is to Kait. I loved the almost sad/dramatic ending, but that it did have a HEA ending!

CONTENT: Talk of humping, sex before marriage, the girl being completely obsessed with the guy, to the point of wanting to, and being willing to go to the sea and die. So I would not recommend this to anyone under 17.

I was lured in by the beautiful music and scenery in this book trailer!=).....  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=...#>

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### **Terry (Ter05 TwiMoms/ MundieMoms) says**

I debated about this rating - it was a 3.5 for me. It's unique in that it is a tale about selkies and pretty much stayed true to what I have read about the legends. Both males and females live in the sea as seals but can shed their skins on land and become beautiful men or women. The legends are often about how they have magic and can lure humans of the opposite sex into loving them, and they often in stories take the human into the sea with them where they drown. Other legends are of selkies who fall in love with their human partner and remain for years with them, always longing for the sea. And then there are the stories where the human steals their seal skin and hides it from them to force them not to leave and return to the ocean.

This was a quick read and I finished it in a day. In this story the human girl Kait who lies with her brother is at first stalked by a selkie who wants to kill her for reasons you will read in the book. Kait falls into his lure but for some reason he hesitates to kill her. She names him Eamon when he tells her the selkies have no names, and as the story evolves he too falls for her. There is a lot of angst in this story, because Kait is aware that she has fallen for the magic of the lure but believes she would love Eamon without it. She is so obsessed she knows if he returns to the sea she will willingly follow him and drown. Eamon is so in love with Kait that he believes he can give up the sea for good, and he gives her his skin telling her to hide it and never tell him where it is.

I thought the book did bog down with their anguish about what their love was doing to the other, and that in the end no good would come of it. That was pretty obvious. There is more to the story which I will not give away, but there are two unusual twists late in the story that turn a lot of it around. There is one thing that we do not know about Eamon that is surprising and the end of their story is unexpected and makes a satisfying end to the book.

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### **Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says**

Clever writing and an intriguing historical backdrop, plus a feisty, strong-minded heroine, hook the reader into this story. Accurate dialogue set against a background of superstition (although who knows, maybe the magic is real) and a rapid-pace plot line keep that attention, drawing the reader into the story and never letting her go. This is a very well-written novel, both in the sense of the author's writing style, but also in terms of setting, plotting, dialogue, and background. I am simply marveling at Krista Holle's ability to bring that "historical"/legendary background into realistic belief, to illustrate it, and to make us as readers believe in it. Wonderful! I highly recommend this one! YA-age readers will appreciate the heroine's strength, ability to fend for herself after being orphaned at a young age, and her chameleon-like mutability as veneer over a very strong and independent core. Older readers will enjoy that as well, but will also glory in the subtle humour-wry and ironic-possessed by our protagonist. Trust me: you don't have to like historical, mythical, or even Fae novels to enjoy this one! It's just purely GOOD! This is one book I am very happy to have requested to review, and I am giving it a 12 star-of-5 recommendation!

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### **Sarika Patkotwar says**

Actual rating: 3.5

The only story I'd read about selkies was a short story called 'Love Struck' by Melissa Marr in the anthology

titled Love Is Hell. I didn't quite understand what or who a selkie was then, so I decided not to dwell much on it. Then I came across The Lure of Shapinsay. The guy on the book cover with his great body reminded me a little of Elijah Wood. However, it was the book trailer video that really caught my attention.

The story of Kait and Eamon, one thing I really loved about *The Lure of Shapinsay* was the alternating point of view. It's not alternating in the literal sense of the term, but basically, you get to read what Kait AND Eamon are thinking. When there's romance and when it's between two different species altogether, it becomes easier to read from both the protagonists' POVs. Their love story is the highlight of the book.

I didn't quiet get how and when the two fall in love, but I suppose that's the beauty of it. These are things that 'just happen' after all. Another aspect of the romance that I found very pretty was that fact that it was a bit yesteryear and very much today at the same time. The whole act of chasing the one who has caught your fancy or searching for them hopelessly with the intention that they might find you and romantic words to express love, reminded me of the old age romances. It was all about beauty of being with the one you love and trying so hard to survive on your own and keep each other happy. Kait and Eamon's love seemed to grow day by day.

Also, the relation between Kait and her brother, Blair was a lot of fun to read. It reminded me of the relation between any normal brother and sister, where they fight like opponents with words, but know in their hearts that they love one another. Kait and Blair bicker about the one minute birth difference between them constantly.

***"I dinnae wish to be your enemy, but you make me wish to hate you."***

From there, it's all about Kait and Eamon trying to live happily and some really sweet incidents make you smile. Eamon's selkie skin also forms a major part of the story. The other villagers make the scene more lively and entertaining with their wacky accent and easygoing way of life, and Shapinsay itself has been described beautifully. The other character that really added a meaningful touch was Kait and Eamon's neighbor, Tipper, who, in my opinion, is like an angel in disguise for the couple.

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## **Hilda says**

3.5 stars

It is not a secret that I have a thing for star-crossed lovers. Even though I sure won't like to experience it myself, books about star-crossed lover always intrigue me. The pull is even stronger when it's a paranormal story. So when I was presented to a chance to read a love story between a selkie and a human, how can I resist?

The Lure of Shapinsay presented a lovely story set in 1848, in an island named Shapinsay, off the north coast of mainland Scotland. Among village people, the folk of selkie men and women are passed through generations. The village people acknowledge selkie's existence but they refuse to have anything to do with the creature. It's not strange to find men boasting that someday they would catch a selkie woman in their net and take her as a wife, while village women are secretly dreaming of an encounter with beautiful selkie men. Kait Swanney is not one of the women. She is ignorant of the story about the selkie men's beauty, thinking that their beauty won't have the power to charm her. Never crossed her mind that later, she has to face a selkie men seeking for revenge.

Eamon is a very young selkie man. He mistook Kait as the murderer of a newborn selkie. He intended to take Kait's life as the payback, but much to his surprise, he found Kait fascinating to watch. Kait's love and yearning to the sea confuses Eamon greatly. Just like Kait who is lured by his beauty, Eamon is slowly but surely captivated by Kait's devotion to him. Eamon is willing to give up everything for Kait, but will his

selkie body survive his decision? What if their love story is fated to be another romantic tragedy?

Selkies are creatures who live as seals in the sea but shed their skin to become human on land. Selkie men are gorgeous creature and they have seductive power over human women. The Lure of Shapinsay stays faithful to the legend and I can see how great Eamon has lured Kait. I don't think that Eamon lures Kait in purpose since he's too young to really understand the selkie men's power, but it's clear that Kait is on the verge of losing her mind because of Eamon. I honestly can't tell the difference between the effect of the lure or true love anymore in this book. It seems like Kait is affected by a form of fanatical, obsessive love which makes her willing to sacrifice her life just to be with Eamon. Even though Kait's devotion to Eamon is quite touching (and crazy, I must say), I can forgive most of her actions because they are the result of Eamon's magic.

In the last half part of the book, I was annoyed by Eamon's stubbornness. His idealistic view got on my nerves, especially when he knows very well that nothing can be gained if he's dying. Seem like the proud side of him is a characteristic of a selkie man. Eamon's young age plays a big part in this story because without his lack of experience and reckless tendency, we won't have this engaging love story.

Eamon and Kait's story is sweet and moving. You can't help but rooting for this couple from the beginning. I also really like Tipper, the old woman who helps the couple a lot. Sadly, the other side characters are just dropped in the end, like Kait's brother Blair or Magnum, the guy whom Kate expected to marry. It would be much better if the other characters still make appearance throughout the book.

The Lure of Shapinsay is a great book that I encourage you worth checking out. If you're a fan of romantic story, then this is a must read! Fans of folktale and mermaid will also enjoy the story. I like Krista's writing, so I will make sure to take a peek at her new book when it comes out!

*“Your cheeks are flushed,” Eamon observed with a relaxed smile that lit up his face like the sun. He awkwardly pushed a blonde straggler behind my ear. His fingers lingered behind my neck as if they were always meant to be there. “Aren’t ye well?”*

*“It means I’m happy,” I said with a broad grin. “Your cheeks are splotched pink too.”*

*Eamon touched his cheek like it couldn’t be true then gave me a bewildered look. “Then I must be happy too.”*

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### **Jessica Adkins says**

Amazing! I loved this book! I have always been interested in mermaids since I was a little girl, and I love all the myths about the siren call and how they were supposed to enchant human males. With this book it's not a mermaid but a selkie, and I liked it even more because it was a male who held the enchantment over the female!

I was completely mesmerized with this book as much as Kait was mesmerized with Eamon! The love that they had for each other was just incredible! At first Kait was happy as long as Eamon was at her side, and Eamon was happy just because he could so easily make Kait happy. But after a while this started to cause problems. Eamon started becoming sick and weak without the sea, but he refused to leave Kait's side, because she would literally go crazy! If he so much as left her for a few minutes she could feel herself start

to slowly loose bits of her sanity! So of course they loved each other so deeply that the tables were turned to Kait wanting to make Eamon return to the sea and Eamon determined to stay at Kait's side. Like I said amazing! Absolutely beautiful! It was very touching how they were so willingly to sacrifice themselves as long as it kept the other healthy and happy!

Two quotes that I loved!

"Kait would soon learn that there was nothing I wouldn't do for her. I had chosen a new loyalty and would mourn the sea." -Eamon

"I'd not have you kill yourself," I shouted over the water. "Dying is not a gift!" -Kait

So you're probably wondering how in the world they can be together because they are the ultimate star crossed lovers? Well you'll just have to read it and find out for yourself, but I swear you will not be disappointed!

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### **MaryAnn Dennis says**

The Lure of Shapinsay by Krista Holle Paranormal Romance

Shapinsay is a Scottish Island in the North Sea. This is a very unique romance between a human, Kait, who doesn't care for the land lovers, and Eamon, a Selkie--a seal when he is in the ocean and a man when he comes up on dry land.

Their bitter-sweet romance is told from both of their points of view, set against a backdrop of a superstitious village in 19th century Scotland. It definitely has an ethereal feel to it like Middle Earth; and not just because of the descriptions of time and space--but also because of the narrative language used. I thoroughly enjoyed the author's use of vocabulary because I love Scottish/English history. And what is familiar to me may be a stumbling block for others.

I liked both of the main characters because they were each strong in their own ways, able to swim against the tide of expectations. Kait's brother and fiance are oafish and ridiculous, just as the author meant them to be. Tipper is definitely my favorite character. She is quirky, and we don't find out why until nearly the end.

Although the author does not go into lurid detail regarding their physical relationship, there was enough references to his constant nakedness, and 'humping' to be offensive if you're expecting a truly clean romance. I'm betting the author used the term as the most logical choice for a seal-man to describe the act--that term would come natural to him. Nevertheless, I wouldn't be able to recommend this as a YA novel.

Overall, I found this to be a very enchanting story, and definitely alluring. I'd give it 3 1/2 stars.

Check out the book trailer. It is one of the best one's I've seen: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXqeRP...>

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## **Liz at Fictional Candy says**

Before I started this book, I thought about it quite a bit. Historical books can be quite a challenge for me, I struggle without the modern conveniences (although I have had a few fantastic experiences with historicals). Also, this book was about Selkies – something else I've not had great experiences with. Now, throw all of that out the door because this book was f-a-n-t-a-s-t-i-c!

In a time when legend rules, faeries are real, and people are superstitious we find Kait who is a bit outside of the norm, herself. She lives on the island of Shapinsay. We start this book when her best friend, Astrid, is giving birth. Rumors fly instantly, people claim the baby is part animal. Selkie to be exact.

Back to Kait. A Selkie in the sea sees Kait looking in the water for the infant, and he thinks it is she who is at fault for what has happened. (am I vague much?) And he decides he is going to get justice, vigilante style. He begins to wreak havoc, as Selkies are rumored to do. And then one night as he watches her as she sleeps, she wakes up to see him. Legend has it that Selkies are magical, and even a look will drive a woman crazy with thoughts of love. But Kait is convinced it is real love, and not the after effects of magic.

It was so very gripping to watch Kait's journey. Personally I couldn't tell whether she was going mad or was truly madly in love. Maybe it was both. But watching these together was certainly a treat indeed. I do believe they both went a little mad together. Eamon, the Selkie, is so gruff at time, I didn't know if I felt bad for him or for Kait.

Ultimately, this story of love was a treat. The characters were vivid. The story was heartbreakingly beautiful at times. The emotions were beautifully conveyed. I wish I had read this book sooner, it was so good and so unexpected. There are so many twists and turns, questions and drama... everything played out perfectly and I felt like I was right there with everyone. I definitely recommend this book!

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## **Brenda says**

### **\*\*AMAZING READ\*\***

As soon as I started this book I was hooked from the very first line. This book seemed to have everything a book should have and the further I read it became apparently clear that it had more. I really enjoyed this book for so many reasons. The legend of the Selkies is a very old legend, it is said that that Selkies live as seals in the sea and humans on land. Krista really made this legend come to life in The Lure of the Shapinsay, and in the process added her own unique perspective to a very old and beautiful tale. As I began reading this book I noticed I started to feel connected to the characters and a strong kinship towards them. Kait is hard headed, very strong minded and pretty much does as she pleases whether anyone likes it or not and I can honestly relate to that in more ways than one. It seems Kait has fallen under the lure that selkies have. For some reason Selkie men can drive human women to do pretty much anything they want even to their deaths but Kait can't seem to shake the feeling she has for this Gorgeous Selkie man while her brother thinks she has gone mad. Is it the lure or is he her one truelove.

If you love a good love story then this is the book for you, I have read many books and this is not like any I have read. Krista really knows how to capture a reader's attention and keep it. I am truly looking forward to more books from this Author. If you want to know more Please check out this amazing Author Krista Holle.

With Best Wishes,  
Two women and a Book Review

For more good reads check out <http://twowomenandabookreview.blogspot.com>...

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### **Jordon says**

As seen at: Miss Book Reviews

The Lure of Shapinsay was a story that surprised me. I have never read a story on Selkies before so it was interesting getting to read this. Selkie Lore is very interesting and I found this story intertwined information about it as it progressed, it didn't dump a whole load of information right at the beginning. I liked it this way, getting to learn about it more and more as I read.

Holle has a way of writing that it brings you straight into the world. I felt like I was really there as I was reading, I felt Kait's struggles, I felt the sea air, I smelt the sea air. This story is completely brought to life. That's what I really loved about it. I was pulled into Kait's world and was utterly captivated.

When I first started to read this story it took me a few chapters to get used to the Scottish language but once I got used to it I found that I was able to really get stuck in to the story and really enjoy it.

The romance at first is only the 'Lure' that Kait feels to Eamon. She can't help feel those feelings simply because he is a selkie and that is the effect that selkies have on humans. As the story progresses I first started to think Kait has really gone crazy and will probably kill herself to get to Eamon. But the longer they spend together the more I start to see that they really do fall for each other. It's an interesting dynamic.

The ending wasn't what I expected, there was a twist that completely surprised me. And I loved it!

Overall, The Lure of Shapinsay is an interesting and intense read. I couldn't put it down, the more I read about Eamon and his Selkie world the more I wanted to understand.

The Lure of Shapinsay pulls you in to the beautifully described world of the Kait and Eamon that leaves you breathless when you leave.

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### **Sarah (Head Stuck In A Book) says**

Before starting off I have to say I have read a lot of paranormal books and this is the first I've ever read a book about Selkies, I wasn't entirely familiar with what they are but now that I know I wonder why they aren't commonly written about more.

The story starts in 1848 we have our heroine Kait selling her wares to make money for her and her twin brother Blain when a commotion comes from her best friend's house, she's just given birth to a half-human, half-selkie baby, her best friend's father takes it to ocean and throws it into the sea.

As soon as Kait finds out what happened she wades out into the ocean hoping to save the baby with no luck not realising she was seen by a male selkie who believes she was the one who threw the baby into the ocean, he decides to take revenge and creeps into her house at night when she's asleep to kill her but finds he can't.

The selkie does come back and wakes her accusing her of being a murderer she explains what happened and he believes her, from that moment on they can't seem to stay away from each other, Kait worries she's fallen in love with Eamon (she gave him his name as he didn't have one) because of his lure and she's also engaged to another man arranged by her brother, and Eamon agrees to stay on land with Kait and never go near the water again.

So throughout the story you wonder will he leave her and go back to the ocean? will she get out of her arranged marriage? and finally is she really in love with Eamon?

The only complaint I would have was I would have liked to have known what happened after the last page maybe an epilogue would have been good because I still have a lot of unanswered questions.

But I loved great premise and a great story.

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### **Jonathan Peto says**

Every so often I get around to reading something from a Goodreads friend, not that I am encouraging you to friend me for that purpose so please, please don't. I read one every two years or so, at most, so I've got a decade backlog, at least, maybe two decades.

I think I bought *The Lure of Shapinsay* assuming it was YA and curious about its variation on paranormal romance (selkies and humans, not vampires and humans). Romance, however, is this book's main game - not that the selkies aren't integral to the plot - and romance just is not my genre. I was, however, fairly attentive during the beginning as fate brings the two together. The rural island setting and its placement in a pre-industrial past interested me even as I wondered about the characters' pleas to Odin, because I kept thinking the setting seemed Irish. (If you know much about this kind of thing and the author has it wrong, you may not be able to overlook it.) Parts of the middle, I admit, nearly brought me to my knees because the romance "conflict", will they or won't they, will their love develop this way or that way, dragged here and there for me, but that's a given, because romance, well, it's just not my genre.

However, not all was a given. The romance conflict boiled up in such a way that I read the last 60 pages in one sitting. Its romancy twists grew very compelling. I did not know how they were going to salvage things and, I admit, I had to read until 1:15 am to find out. That's a success!

*The Lure of Shapinsay* is self-published, I believe, and includes some quirks/flaws because of it. Nothing too outrageous. I think I can recommend this to most readers, except maybe those sensitive few who tolerate no genre stories or missteps. The prose is wordy at times, laden with adverbs and dialect for example, which is one reason I think it is not exactly YA. (YA prose is generally very crisp and clean, don't you think?) Despite the wordiness, the description was evocative and I genuinely enjoyed it. We experience two points of view, Kait's and her selkie man's. The transitions between them are not always perfect, but I don't think most readers would be jarred.

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If you read paranormal romance, take a chance. It's a safe bet you'll enjoy this story. It is striking.

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