



Heart of the Druid Laird

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Cursed with immortality, Dermot MacKay craves death. To lift the faerie curse placed upon him and his men over 1,600 years ago, he must return the soul of his reincarnated wife to the exact place and time of her murder. But her soul is currently residing in the very modern Sidney St. George—and first he has to convince her to accompany him to Scotland.

Sidney doesn't believe Dermot's wild claims of immortality and rebirth, yet she cannot deny that she is drawn to the sexy Scot. Nor can she explain the sense of *déjà vu* his touch elicits. Desperate for answers, she agrees to go with him—only to learn too late that to help the man she loves is to lose him forever...

84,000 words

Heart of the Druid Laird Details

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From Reader Review Heart of the Druid Laird for online ebook

Jen says

Another cute story :)

I was expecting more to do with fairies and folklore type stories - but I'm grateful there wasn't :)

The book starts off as we meet Dermot - the Druid Laird - and we learn about the curse that has taken over the 13 men in his Clan for 1,600 years.

When Mairead offered herself to him to be his wife in the fifth century, Dermot didn't know what to do - He was tossed away when he was born, given to the Druid Priests, Then dragged away to be trained as a warrior and lead his clan - something he never wanted to do, The only thing that he understood was that being married to Mairead would bring his clan and the fairies together, and give him power.

Mairead's mother Aine made it clear that if they were to marry, he had to protect Miread with everything he had...

And he did - but they got to her anyway- killing Miread and their almost to term unborn child, Aine was quite upset. She cursed Dermot and his men for immorality - they will never die... that is until Dermot asked the King Fairie (Miread's grandfather) for help. When The King realized that Aine was summoned to help Miread when she was dying, and didn't respond, the King gave Dermot an out with the curse... He must return the reincarnated soul of Miread to the scene she died ...

So here we are in the 21st century (give or take) and Dermot finally found her - Miread's reincarnated soul reborn. He was planning on her being a baby, they flew to the USA to offer the family a free trip to Scotland, but he was shocked to learn that she wasn't a child.. she was a 26 year old woman - even though she looked nothing like Miread, he knew just by looking into her eyes, without a doubt, it was her soul...

WELL getting Sydney (Miread's new name) to Scotland was a little tricky. She refused to have lunch with him, he came to her work and barged his way into changing her mind. When they got to lunch, she refused to believe his tale about being 1,600 years old,

Next day, he tried to take her out again... and again she refused.

The chase of the game was pretty fun to read - Dermot is defiantly an Alpha Worrier type - being from the 5th century, and living a long life, he didn't know much about women. His mother died at birth, he was given away to the Druid Priests, and then taught to fight and lead - he never had the knowledge of love, or romance, or anything of the sort.. so of course he had no idea how to get Sydney to abide to him...

This was a cute book with a lot of fun humour - if you can see past the alpha mode, you can see he's trying to tease :)

Amy Hahn says

Heart of the Druid Laird is a fun-filled enjoyable read. As a neophyte to the genre, I found it very likeable and un-intimidating. Each night I was in a hurry to get my kids to sleep so I could crawl into bed and get back to the story!

Shawna Thomas says

I love books about Scottish men. I don't know if it's the rugged countryside or what, but the men from that country just seem sexier.

That said, Heart of the Druid Laird did NOT disappoint. Barbara Longley writes with an easy and engaging style. The characters are well-developed as is the plot.

This book has the kind of secondary characters that make you hope the writer has sequels in mind.

Literary Sanctuary says

Synopsis: After being under a faerie curse of immortality for over 1600 years, Druid Laird Dermot McKay's only wish is to die and join those that have long left him....that is, until he meets Sydney St. George. Sydney is the key to breaking the curse and thawing Dermot's cold heart. Sydney is the vessel for a soul that is the reincarnation of Dermot's murdered wife from the 5th century. To break the curse, Dermot must return his wife's soul (Sydney) to the scene of the crime on the anniversary of its occurrence. The catch is that once the curse is broken time will catch up with the Druid Laird and he will die instantly and be nothing more than dust. Now that they have found their soul mate in each other, can Sydney and Dermot reverse the inevitable outcome of breaking the curse of immortality and live happily ever after?

Blender Review: Heart of the Druid Laird is a fantastical romance set in both the historic period of the fifth century and modern day twenty-first century. It covers the span of the Celtic legends of the Fae and narrates one couple's journey whose love has been able to transcend the span of time and space.

The vocabulary and structure of the book are both easy to follow and well representative of the developed characters. The author does a good job of character development although the main characters seem to follow the typical romance genre archetypes. The leading man is a foreigner who is one hundred percent masculine and his closest ally is the wise acre who just can't help pushing buttons wherever he goes. The push-pull dynamic between the female and male lead characters is completely engrossing. The book has a rich romantic main plot with another minor, although entertaining, plot.

Heart of the Druid Laird also contains graphic sex scenes and violence. This novel should only be read by mature readers due to its explicit content.

All together this is a great romance novel and touching love story and should be read by all who enjoy the genre.

Kate (VerbVixen) says

What is there not to like about this book? Hot druid magical men with accents everywhere, the dual U.S. and Scottish locales, strong leading ladies, bad faeries and just enough of the paranormal to keep it interesting. *Heart of the Druid Laird* was a gluttonous read. I wasn't wild about the reincarnation aspect, but it does drive most of the plot. Things start getting very interesting as we delve more into the past. There's this scene in a cabin that, well, just wait till you read it. My lasting impression was that *Heart of the Druid Laird* was a strong read which will delight fans of romance, paranormal, or boys with brogues.

Overall: A-

rameau says

Critique should always have both good and bad points. I'll try.

The premise looked so promising. Although, I'm not a fan of fairies in general I thought this just might be the book to change my mind, and in that *Heart of the Druid Laird* succeeded. The fairies were easily the best part of this book.

See, it's working. Good news comes first and there's more.

I also really liked the structure of the plot. The author obviously knows how to plan events ahead while to give herself some room for manoeuvring. All the plot twists were well set up and logical and the pacing was decent. There were no out of the blue surprises behind the corners, but there was that telltale glow that warns about a speeding car.

And I really enjoyed Tommy and Zoe and their little side romance. They made the perfect addition so as not to burden the main couple with too much of the background reveal. Info dump nicely avoided and a golden star to the author.

Unfortunately, this was it. Now on to the bad.

Let's start with the ridiculous. For a while now I've been aware of the fact that historical fiction is just that, fiction. As much as I'd like to think all men of old were nearly two metres tall and build like muscle towers, I know they weren't. Their nutritional status wouldn't have allowed it. I can suspend belief for one or three exceptionally well-built historical heroes at the time and enjoy the fluffy romance while they swoop their tiny, fragile heroines off their feet. But there's a limit to this good will of mine, and that limit is five. I find five 1650-year-old, extra tall hunks walking down the street in formation ridiculous. When the number is upped to thirteen, it becomes absurd.

Shall we move on to the language then? Longley didn't overdo the Scottish accent apart from a handful of lines in dialogue, but the little touches she chose to use to imply the accent didn't work well for me. I stumbled over every single 'no' (not) even when I managed to get through the lines of heavier brogue.

This, however, was not my pet peeve. That honour falls on the cursing with all the effings and soddings and such. For majority of the book everyone acts like their mother is eavesdropping just behind the corner ready to rap them on the knuckles for saying a rude word. Then when things get tense and the climax approaches they suddenly start dropping asses, arses, and shits. A few pages later, after the threat has been resolved, they go back to being prissy. Continuity, this book has none.

None of these little mishaps are as dire failure as is the utterly bollocks characterisation. I'm at a loss what to make of these characters. They continuously say and claim to think one thing, and then go on acting in the exact opposite manner. Dermot is supposed to get Sidney to Scotland to lift the curse and not get tangled up and hurt the girl's feelings, but he promptly starts wooing her. Later on, he blames her for distracting him before he could tell her the truth, which, might I add, would have simplified the plot substantially. She's supposed to be this hard boiled single woman who doesn't date or even look at a man twice, but she melts into a puddle of goo just from looking at him. You can imagine the level of sexual attraction when he starts to speak.

Yeah, not so much. Didn't work for me. Sidney's crying fits and whiplash reactions to the truth (once finally shared with her) make her the first character to earn a place on my new vapid-insipid-divas-and-ingénues shelf. Until her, I hadn't felt tempted enough to make one.

The bad characterisation extends to Zoe and David, Sidney's friend, and brother, who basically act like a *deus ex machina* to get the unhappy couple together. Aside from Tommy, the muscle gang doesn't win in the personality lotto. Lachlan gets closest with few hits.

What really ends up killing this book for me, though, is the manufactured drama. With a set up like this, a reincarnation, a cursed immortality, and a choice between loving and letting go, there's no need for all the fights originated from miscommunication. Dermot and Sidney have enough on their plate with a fairy princess and their growing feelings for each other interfering with the lifting of the curse, so they don't really need to be getting their wires crossed too.

A good critique should always end up on a positive note.

I can't complain about the grammar or editing.

You can also read this review on Sandra's My Reading Nook-blog.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

jD says

This ARC was provided by Netgalley.com.

Cursed with immortality, Dermot MacKay craves death. To lift the faerie curse placed upon him and his men over 1,600 years ago, he must return the soul of his reincarnated wife to the exact place and time of her murder. He has waited 1600 years for the day she is reborn. When it finally happens, Dermot is in for a wild ride. Enter the very modern and adult Sidney St. George hardly a newborn and definitely not in the mood to rescue a highlander from a curse.

I went into this book expecting the entire focus to be about Dermot and Sidney's journey. That was not the case whatsoever. First of all, Dermot's men were cursed as well, 12 of them. Secondly, Sidney has a family and a BFF. And lastly, Dermott's dead wife, Mairead, had a fae family that also suffered when she was violently murdered 1600 years earlier. Dermot is a character that quickly finds a way into your heart. He is emotionally exhausted having lived so many years beyond a normal lifetime and knowing his men suffer as the result of his curse. Dermot is a Druid and Laird which makes his leadership absolute but he does not have the magic to end the curse. All he can do is search endlessly for his dead wife's reincarnated spirit in the hopes that finding her will end his unnatural existence.

Dermot is running out of time to reverse the curse. Apparently, he only had 1600 years to pull it off or the curse would be permanent. I never understood that stipulation and I felt the author threw it in randomly for added pressure on the characters. It was never fully explained why that specific number of centuries. Dermot discovers Mairead's spirit is reborn, newly born. He is quite surprised to find a hale healthy woman not in the mood to cooperate with him. Sidney had been warned to watch out for a smooth talking Highlander begging for her help. This warning comes to her from a woman she has named 'scary fairy'. She is actually Mairead's mother. When Dermot shows up, she is not interested in hearing his tale. Her BFF, Zoe got an eye full of Dermot's cousin Thomas and began to envision all kinds of naughty things. Zoe and Thomas hookup, he tells her the story of their curse, and he proves he is immortal. Zoe wants a future with Thomas and encourages Sidney to listen to Dermot without sharing what she knows. There is one serious obstacle – Mairead's mother is still around and she has not forgiven Dermot. She cursed him originally to never know the peace of death for not protecting her only child. She is a powerful fae princess with an unlimited capacity for evil. She manifest to Sidney on multiple occasions to make sure she does not soften to Dermot's plight. She is indeed a nasty piece of work.

The story takes many twist and turns from multiple points of view. Dermot's back-story is heartbreak. Because his mother died giving birth to him, he was given to the Druids to raise from birth. He never knew his family. Over time they all died and he had to become Laird of the clan. He married Mairead to solidify his clan's strength. Love was not a factor for him. Maired on the other hand loved Dermot and was carrying his child when she died. Sidney is the perfect fit for him but he takes his time accepting that truth. Dermot has never made any decisions for his own happiness. His whole life has been one of service not choice. Sidney's battle for his love is never easy.

I really enjoyed this book. Ms. Longley did not give me kilts but she was generous with the brogue. That was a treat in and of itself. Sidney was just the right blend of heroine. -- smart, sassy, and honorable. Zoe was a blast. The side story between Zoe and Thomas was well integrated. They were not just convenient props; they also had a compelling story of their own. There is sex but it's not a major plot element and not erotic. I found it to be more an extension of the romantic feel of the book. This story is complete and does not have the feel of a new series. It's a solid 3 stars for creative concept and editing with a 4th star for execution. Bottom line, it's well written, balanced, and romantic with no major plot missteps.

Samina ~ Escapism~ says

This a paranormal romance about a 1600 year old Scottish Laird and a 21st century girl who is the reincarnation of his murdered wife for which he has been cursed with immortality.

Sydney, turned out to be strong, intelligence and likable. She was hurled into Dermot's crazy world and was

always the voice of reasoning. Whereas Dermot was sexy, strong and very much your ordinary Scotch Laird. He did have his stuck up monets but he stood up for what he believed in and followed it to its end.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to people who like reading paranormal romance with highlanders in them. Fans of Karen Marie Moning's Highlander series and Outlander by Diana Gabaldon would love this.

Arc provided by **NetGalley**

Read more of my book reviews on my blog Escapism

Wendy *Sebella Blue* Mitchell says

It's better than 3 stars but that's what I have to work with.

Dermot Mackay had all but given up hope of ending his curse of immortality. After sixteen hundred years of looking for the reincarnated soul of his late wife, he wasn't very optimistic of finding her. To his surprise the fates were kind and he is guided to a small shop in Minneapolis. Sidney St. George was focused on getting her fledgling gift shop into the black. Her mother and brother were dependent on her for their livelihood, and she couldn't let them down. Her weird dreams of a "scary fairy" warning her of a dangerous Scotsman, had to be the product of stress and lack of a sex life. When the mysterious Dermot shows up in her shop demanding her attention, she still marks it up as coincidence. Really??

After a rocky start, Heart of the Druid Laird turned out to be a pretty good read. The two main characters Dermot and Sidney were so focused on their immediate goals, it was hard to get a good read on their inner truths. Thankfully their friends Zoe (Sidney's BFF and Thomas' reincarnated wife) and Thomas (Dermot's cousin and fellow immortal) were there to narrate and move the characters along. The premise of the book is a tad puzzling to me. It's about a group of Scotsmen who have been cursed to immortality by a pissed off Tua De' Danann princess because they didn't adequately protect her mortal daughter. Well I can believe this of the Tua De', because they just think and act way differently than us, but I was having a hard time with the desperation Dermot and his fellow cursees (I know cursed is the real word, but I like cursee) were showing about ending their immortality. The going belief was that the outcome of ending the curse was the cursee would immediately turn into a pile of dust. Ewwww! Not something I would be striving for, but to each his own.

The story really takes off in the second half. I have become more involved in the lives and feelings of Dermot and Sidney, and am really invested in their story. There are a great many twists and turns, but the great thing is Sidney really comes into her own. She gets tired of Dermot's vague reassurances and subterfuge and gives him holy hell. Woooo hooo! She got her snark card. She puts tall, dark and kilted in his place with extreme prejudice. By the end of the book, I was quite satisfied with the entire endeavor. This is a recommendable way to spend a few hours.

Billie Jo says

Audiobook - I'm haven't read many Druids or paranormal books. This book was pretty easy to follow unlike some books that I would need to look up what certain words mean. It had a good story line and the narration

was awesome. Chloe Campbell did an amazing job on the many voices - both male and female. Not sure if I will ever become a fan of paranormal but I will be looking for more books narrated by Ms Campbell.

Books to the Sky says

See more reviews at www.booksthesky.com

I was very drawn to the paranormal elements of this book, which is why I was incredibly excited to read it.

In the beginning of the story, I realize that the Scottish characters' voices are deep with brogue and written in the way a Scot speaks. While this definitely lent a helping hand to the story's expressiveness, I apparently use a horrid Scottish accent in my head when reading brogue and it definitely slowed down my reading.

This was a romance novel, through and through. I understood the character's instant attraction to one another (in fact, there were two sets of romance going on) but it still almost felt like it was just too fast. The story had barely started and already two people (Zoe and Thomas) had fallen into intense and immediate love. Zoe just automatically believed everything he told her with no real questions.

And then on the complete other side of the spectrum of believing is Sidney. She's angry and believes nothing that Dermot tells her.

Despite those annoyances, I really did enjoy the romance (nearer to the end) between Dermot and Sidney.

Shelly Ash says

Wonderful! If you love paranormal romance, you'll immediately be drawn in by these immortal highlanders and their quest to once again be mortal. It's been so long and they're ready to leave all their tortured history behind for good. To break the curse the faery put against Dermot and his men, he must find his reincarnated wife and bring her back to Scotland on the anniversary of her death, to the place of her death. What Dermot finds is an instant attraction to Sidney and the intense hope that she'll help him and his men break the curse against them.

Heart of the Druid is quite involved, but keeps you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. It's sweetly romantic and totally endearing. You'll be oohing and ahhing and rooting for both Sidney and Dermot the whole time. The other characters will warm your heart, too. You can easily feel the caring and loyalty as everyone takes on the responsibility of finding their freedom from immortality. This one's a keeper and I look forward to reading more from Ms. Longley!

Nicole Luiken says

A paranormal romance not a historical. All the yumminess of a Scottish druid laird (born 1600 years ago and cursed with immortality) paired with the very modern heroine, Sideney.

There was also a secondary romance between Thomas, another cursed Scotsman, and Sidney's friend Zoe. I found Thomas enormously appealing, a light-hearted rogue.

Tamara Hughes says

I really enjoyed this book. Dermot is an immortal Scottish Laird, who knows little about women, while Sidney is a modern day, take-no-crap woman. I found this story refreshing because of this interesting dynamic. Dermot knows he needs to get Sidney to Scotland to break the curse, and as a leader of men, he'd love to just order her to do it, but that's clearly not going to work.

The relationship between Sidney and her best friend Zoe is also very real and fun. Lots of snappy and sometimes snarky dialogue.

Add to that some Scottish history that's given in a way that doesn't feel like a history lesson and a small dose of paranormal elements to keep you guessing. Very good book.

Katie Michaels says

Dermot is a Druid and Scottish laird who has been alive for the past 1600 years. His wife was once the granddaughter of the Fae king. But she gave up her immortality to get married. When she died in an attack on Dermot's clan, her mother cursed Dermot and his elite guard. They were to be immortal until Dermot could find the reincarnated soul of his wife and bring her back to the place where she died.

After all these years, her soul has now reincarnated. Dermot finds her in Sidney St George, an American woman who knows nothing of her past life. Dermot tracks her down, having no intention of developing any feelings for her. But you know how these things go. Even though they fight it, their souls reach out to one another. Sidney doubts Dermot's intentions and as she begins to fall for him; she is sure her feelings can never be returned. At the same time, Dermot is struggling with his new-found emotions and weighing his own feelings against his responsibilities to his men.

All of that angst creates enough of a problem, but the Fae princess who cursed Dermot refuses to allow his suffering to end. She throws one obstacle their way after another, hoping to keep his torment alive. Plus, there is the threat that if the curse does end, the men won't just regain their mortality; they'll die on the spot.

The book started off a little slow for me. I had a hard time connecting with the characters and I thought it was going to end up being a pretty dry read. But somewhere around the halfway point, a little bit of magic happened and the book came alive. I think it was around the same time that Sidney allowed herself to believe in Dermot's immortality. That's the time the two of them slowly began to take down their walls. The sexual element was pretty good; and as much as I liked the development of Sidney and Dermot's relationship... the secondary love story between her best friend Zoe and Dermot's cousin Thomas was just as endearing, if not more so.

Dermot and his men all spoke with a great brogue. And I'm a firm believer that no book can truly be called a Highlander story without the words, "Och," "ken" and "lass." We get all of these plus a few Gaelic term of

endearment. Yay!

I ended up rather liking this book. I'm glad I stuck with it, because it paid off in the end. 4 stars.

**ARC Provided by NetGalley*
