



Insolent

Kerrigan Byrne

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He needs her powers...

Bael Bloodborn will go down in history as the lone Viking berserker who held Stamford Bridge against the Saxons, killing hundreds with his own ax. Mortally wounded, he's carried downriver to a witch who has the power to heal not just his body, but awaken wicked desires he'd thought long dead. First, he'll have to forgive her for binding her to him against his will with a kiss that would not only change the course of their destiny, but that of the entire world.

She needs his protection...

All Druid Princess, Morgana de Moray, knows is the angry Nordic berserker she pulled from the river is the only man who can free her from Saxon captivity and get her back to the Highlands. A dark evil threatens her home, and she must gain back Bael's broken trust if she is to make it in time. Morgana is left with no choice but to strike a deadly bargain with the dangerous warrior, and risk all to unleash the beast from within the man without losing her heart, or her life.

Join the de Moray Druids as they each find a love that will be worth defying the forces of evil and risking their souls to save our world.

Insolent Details

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From Reader Review Insolent for online ebook

SB Morales says

I just love Byrne's berserker's! I'm a big fan and this new story did not disappoint. Bael Bloodborn was born a berserker. His life consists of killing and fighting for his life. He's tired and after spending decades alone all he dreams of is the end. I just love going into the world Byrne has created for us. So much passion I hate leaving. Byrne's writing is so beautiful. "He looked at her, at the most intimate part of her body, with the eyes of a demon and the reverence of a saint." I can't wait for the next installment!! Kerrigan Byrne is definitely one my one click authors.

Rachel Annie says

(3.25 Stars)

I really do love Kerrigan Byrne, but this wasn't a fave. Still dug the characters, but something about how quickly our heroine started throwing around flowery words of love in her internal narrations didn't ring true. With stories on the short side I'm ok with MC's falling in love by the end, but not as soon as it happened here.

But, I'm rather *heart eyes* for Byrne's Berserkers and will continue this series as I do quite enjoy her writing. ?

(Would still LURVE to see some Berserkers in a contemporary PNR.)

????α [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're mostly my thoughts as I went with the book... for more, visit [Punya Reviews...](#)

I've always enjoyed Kerrigan Byrne's Highlander Historical novellas. So it was no surprise that I was elated to find another installment in the series, with another new sub-series too. Insolent is book 1 in The Moray Druids series, with a bunch of new characters that I don't recall from the previous installments. To top it off, our sexy hero Bael was a berserker. YaY me!!

When we meet Bael right at the start, he was preparing for his own death. Nope, he wasn't going to the gallows with a death sentence. It was more of a suicide. You see, Bael, a Norseman with a little Persian blood in him has lived long enough for it to stop. Though it's meant to be a blessing from Goddess Freyya, and an honor to be one of her warriors, it's nothing but bloodshed and pain for a berserker. Bael can validate that fact. His father was a King but his mother, a Persian woman, was a nameless prostitute who died birthing him. He had always been rejected by the people surrounding him for both his mixed blood and because he is a bastard. But it was when the woman he thought his mate finally rejected him, is when Bael lost all hope. He, in fact, began hating this non-stop living, promising himself never to be 'snared' into the charms of a woman again. Needless to say, he has no interest of finding another mate.

It's been long since those days and Bael wants it all to end, which is why when he's brought to a bloody battle to fight the Saxons on his own, Bael is overjoyed. Maybe finally he'll have some peace.

But that wasn't going to happen because Morgana de Moray, a powerful Druid princess with a high and noble ancestry, was there. Morgana was taken by the marauding Norse soldiers. She was trying to get back to their castle, where her brother, Malcolm reigns as the King. As Morgana finds a way to free herself and seek the nearest stream to use her magic that is based on the element of water, she's entranced by a vision of a big, hulking warrior fighting on the bridge... to his death. Except, it was no vision. Soon, at her command, the river now red with the blood of the fallen, brings the warrior to her. Morgana is going to revive him in hopes that he'd help her cross this battlefield to reach her people. There's a bigger trouble brewing, with her cousin Kenna missing. Morgana have to help Malcolm fighting the evil Wyrd Sisters and save a magical and highly powerful tome that, if acquired by the said Sisters, can mean the end of the world!

Now, Bael is anything but happy being revived. When he wakes to find a beauty bathing nearby, he thinks he's in the Eden meant for Freyya's fallen soldiers. LOL Lord, I knew there was fun ahead and I wasn't disappointed. In the process of healing, what happened was, Bael's beast made Morgana his mate. Damn! Upon sensing this truth (which will bind him to her as long as they both shall live) Bael is now as grumpy as a bear! What trickery is this?! Yet he can't deny the attraction, especially for a man who has gone without a soft, female touch for a long, *long* time. Add that to the fact that she's now his mate. Noooope, Bael is certainly not happy! To him, his worst nightmare has just come true.

But the palpable attraction couldn't have been denied even if they tried. In the midst of their constant word-exchange, snapping and snorting at each-other, Bael gives into Morgana's charms. He can be a crabby guy to be sure but I was not annoyed about that. Morgana certainly wasn't when she finds out more about Bael's past than she would've liked to. She knew she's more protected with him than without him, now she's certain that inside, this man craves not only her love but also her acceptance. And this fact, at last, brings them together.

When the trouble in the form of the Wyrd Sisters finds them, Morgana is forced to make a decision. She has to take Bael to her clan, and introduce to Malcolm, who just might kill him for being a Norseman *and* a berserker! Even though a promise of death was what initially made Bael accede to Morgana's pleas of help, things have already changed as we find in the later parts of the story. Morgana has no intention of losing him, she only has to make this big oaf to realize that truth.

Insolent was as sweet and sexy as any of Kerrigan's earlier releases, especially the conveying emotions between Bael and Morgana when he understood that he was accepted by her no matter what. Marvelous! There's a reason why I love berserker heroes; it's their absolute devotion to their mates. Even though in the beginning, Bael was a bit of a trouble, he was no exception.

I don't know whose book is titled "Indecent". I hadn't read the excerpt. But I'm willing to be surprised and find out what's next in this new series. Would it be Malcolm's or Kenna's? I know we haven't heard the last of the Wyrd Sisters yet... so, there's plenty left to explore. 4 stars.

Mei says

As usual a wonderful (but much too short) novelette!

Wonderful tone of voice! Wonderful characters, wonderful story!

I love, love how the men of Ms. Kerrigan's short historicals are made! How they fall in love in the middle of those brutal times, where killings are bloody and where life is cheap.

I also love the heroines and here we have a really great one: Morgana! I liked that she was not afraid even when facing death. She's accepted Beal since the beginning and loved his beast!

I'm looking forward to reading the next one!!!

Lanie (Lanies Book Thoughts) says

Insolent is a bit different from Byrne's other Berserker series because our hero absolutely does not want to have a mate. He wants to die, he's tired of living his life and being a monster. He's also I think the oldest Berserker that's been mentioned so far, as well as being a viking, so that puts a spin on things.

Reading this as a new series and forgetting about Byrne's other berserker stories, I really enjoyed it. I thought the mixing of different types of mythology was really cool. Reading about a female druid and her struggle to stop evil while trying to convince a big burly viking to follow her really is kinda funny. Morgana and Baels relationship is all over the place, while Baels beast accepts Morgana, the man does not which makes for some interesting internal struggles.

I liked the pace of the book as well, even though it was a novella it didn't feel rushed. I'm continuing with this series, so I'd recommend to other historical romance and fantasy lovers.

Sandra Dailey says

A lot of authors write historical romance. Many are about medieval Vikings. But, only one gives us Berserkers. I'm totally addicted to these crazed killing machines. Blood and guts one minute, and then steamy sensuality the next.

Baelsar (Bael) Bloodborn cares little about the world after the women in his past betrayed him. He's determined to turn his back on Morgana, a beautiful temptress with powers of her own. The beast inside him can't resist their mate and Bael is forced to go along for the ride.

Morgana De Moray, a druid, needs his help and has no intention of letting Bael walk away. She soon realizes she can't resist him or his beast.

No one writes dark, sensual fantasy like Kerrigan Byrne.

crashqueen73 says

3.5 stars

I am currently overdosing on Byrne and enjoying it immensely. Her writing is great but my complaint is that

these are novellas ???.

I keep wishing they were longer because I LOVED her full length Highwayman!

Jess says

I will begin this review by stating I'm a huge fangirl of Kerrigan's writing and prior books. Primarily because she has some of the best character development ever in a shorter books I've come across. This is a quick short read but full of suspense, heart stopping moments and whoa....hot sex! This is the time of the Druids, three in particular which will make up the three stories in this collection. Each is a stand alone, HEA but continues with a larger story into the next short story until all three are completed.

Morgana, Druid Princess, is a strong heroine who is determined to save her land, family and the world. Bael, a Berserker, is finished, with his life and the world. He has been used, never loved, but most importantly for a Berserker, never been accepted. Morgana however, needs him to help her get home and spoils his plans of finally finding peace in his death. When he realizes she needs him, Bael shuts down unwilling to be used any longer. His Berserker, on the other, had has taken Morgana's side and this is where the story gets moving.

I will not spoil anything for you but with lines like this in the book:

In that moment, surrounded by still, calm water and the vibrant colors of a fading day, Morgana surrendered to her impetuous nature. Tilting her head back, she opened her lips with invitation.

You will not want to miss this one! I was lucky enough to be given a copy of this book by the author for my honest opinion.

Sandie Laughner says

I loved this book!! It was powerful, tender, magical, and left me breathless!!

Bael, a Viking Berserker, and Morgana, an Autumn Druid with a power of the water element, are an unlikely couple. But, she see's a gentler side to him. He wants to die and be free of the fighting and bloodshed with the Saxons. Can Morgana save him from himself?? Together, can they fight the evil that threatens the world??

If History class in high school had been this interesting and exhilarating, I would've paid more attention to the Saxon time period!!

Two thumbs up for this latest story from Ms Bryne :)

SaturNalia says

Bael is a Viking berserker, injured in battle and happy to be dying. Morgana is an empathic, water element druid, who heals him and inadvertently mates with him. Bael is very upset that he is mated again. He had a mate in the past that rejected him, so of course the same is true for Morgana. This was uber short with a lot of fighting and magic flying around. In berserker form, Bael does not speak and cherishes Morgana. In human form, Bael is angry and accuses Morgana of rape. Morgana feels sorry for Bael and accepts him as

her mate. I liked the wounded Bael and the fiery Morgana, but the romance fell flat.

Secret Realm Reviews & Services says

I give this book 5 stars!

Kerrigan Byrne has delivered a story that has kept me sitting on the edge of my seat and I am still wanting more. I could not put this book down long, I mean I didn't even want to go to the bathroom! I was so engrossed in this, I read it so quickly and was actually depressed when it was over. Kerrigan has some of the best character development I have ever seen. By the time the book is ending you know everything you need to know about a character. She makes sure that they are well-rounded and full of real emotional things that happen to us humans every day in the real world. This read is short but it has everything you'd want in a book! Hot and steamy romance, plenty of drama, and very real sex scenes! You can read this as a stand alone novel.

So Morgana is a strong heroine and Druid princess that is determined to save her family and their land. She feels that the berserker is her only chance. Bael the Berserker does not want anything to do with life anymore and he's given up. The things that are very important to a berserker are acceptance, love, and not being used. He has suffered tremendously by the people in his world and he's fed up with everything. But he runs into Morgana which is not to be told no, she needs his help and she will not stop until she gets what she wants. So the story starts with Bael attempting to shut down and his berserker side being enthralled by Morgana and wanting to help her. I really love how the berserker bonded with Morgana so quickly and little did Bael know but the beast was pushing him to keep going because there were good things coming for him, he just had to be patient.

Will Bael finally come undone and accept the love that has been so freely given? Will he listen to his beast and make the right decision? I guess you all shall see.

-SecretRealmBookReviews

Becca Sellers says

Novella or not....you must read! Kerrigan Byrne had done it again with Insolent! You've got a water Druid that's locked in a battle against three 'witches' trying to bring about the apocalypse and a berserker, a man that transforms into a beast that's only satisfied by bloodletting, put them together and you've got a story! The druid tames the beast first and eventually the man follows...but the story is in the process of the taming!!! The scenery is awesome as is the interaction between the characters!

Loved it! A must read! I finished within a few hours and can't wait for the next installment!

Tammy Sparks says

The Moray Druids #1 is a quick short read but full of heart stopping moments. suspense and mind blowing sex!!!!

This story takes place in the time of the Druids.

Morgana, Druid Princess, is determined to save her land, family and the world.

Bael, a Berserker, is done with his life, he has been used, and feels he has never been loved or accepted. Morgana however, needs him to help her get home and completely messes up his plans of finally find peace in death. .

When Bael, realizes Morgana needs him, he just shuts down unwilling to be used any longer. His Berserker, however, has taken Morgana's side and where things really start getting interesting.

I'm embarrassed to admit, but this is the first book I have read by Kerrigan Bryne. I am VERY impressed and loved every second of this book. I am so glad to have met her through facebook, and had the chance to read her work. I cant wait to download all her other books, and get to reading!!!!

Kelli says

review is from: Insolent: The Moray Druids #1 (Highland Historical) (Kindle Edition)

Bael is one of the fiercest Beserkers known. Now his Jarl determined sends Bael to stand against the Saxons with his thirsty ax, to take the bridge and win him the day. Bael knows that this is a battle he can't win. Which fills him with a fierce joy to finally win the death that will release him from this world .A world where he has known loneliness that he will not acknowledge, where he thought to find love only to be betrayed .

Morgana one of the remaining Druids left escapes the Saxons holding her prisoner slips her bonds and makes for the highlands. At the sound of battle she pauses to see a man like no other . Larger than any she has ever seen swinging an ax like a toy . The death he delivers is unimaginable. She cannot turn away.

As a death blow is stuck Bael falls to the river below ,as he falls he thinks finally release.....Morgana cannot understand why she feels such devastation to see this unknown warrior fall. But today she will use her power of water to bring him to her. And with his life slipping away she does the only thing she can, send her healing through a kiss. A kiss that will change everything more than she can begin to imagine.

Now bound together they make their way north. Fighting the pull that neither will give in easily. But nothing worthwhile is easy.

Maggie Spry says

Kerrigan Byrne has become one of my favorite authors. Every novel she writes is better than the last! She never disappoints! I could not put this one down! I will definitely be re-reading this one soon!

However, I have one complaint..... I read them too quickly, lol!
