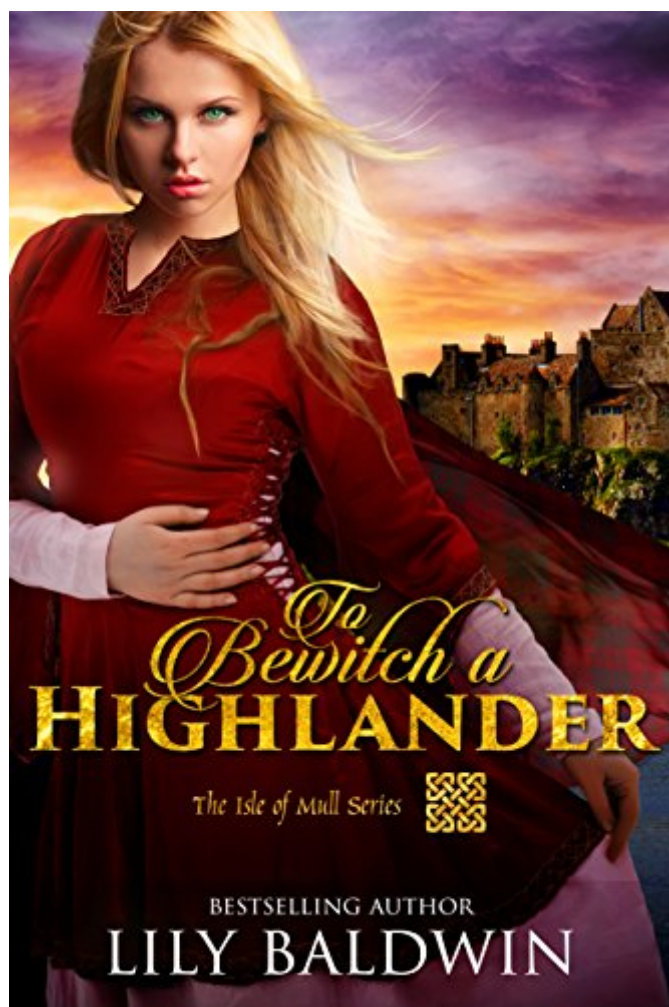


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To Bewitch A Highlander (Isle Of Mull Series Book 1)



Synopsis

A Scottish Medieval Romance Isle of Mull, Scotland 1263 She will protect her identity with her very life if necessary. Who will protect her from herself? Shoney's lightning speed with a bow captures Ronan by surprise, and their chance meeting ends with him lying unconscious at the bottom of a ravine. When he awakens, he cannot rid his mind of her startling beauty, her valor, or the secret fear he glimpsed in her steel eyes. He vows to find her, but as the mysteries of her identity unfold, his courage and heart are tested as never before. You'll be swept away by this Highland Romance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I absolutely loved this book. The main characters are compelling both as individuals and as a couple. Shoney, the beautiful 'Witch of Dervaig', has a fierce independence that's very contemporary, but her spirituality roots her in the novel's time and place (early medieval Scotland). Ronan, the son of the clan leader, is torn between his sense of duty and his love for Shoney, and this sense of duty is given real complexity and urgency through the real historical clan rivalries and battles with which he's concerned. I loved the depiction of friendships between men and between women, which makes the battle scenes so poignant... you really feel for the community as a whole and not just the lead characters throughout the book. There's just enough historical detail to make the story very real, but not so much that the plot (and characters) suffers. This is, after all, a

romance novel, and an intelligent one at that, but the love story is at the heart of this novel. With this in mind, the sex scenes are passionate and erotic, as opposed to explicit. The plot moves along at a very good pace, and I found myself reading well after my bedtime as I kept trying to read 'just one more chapter'! I ended up buying the paperback after reading the kindle version, as I wanted to keep this one to read and read again. I hope this isn't the last we hear from Lily Baldwin...what a treat!

I think this book had a good premise. The heroine is of the old religion and lives alone under the disguise of the fearsome Witch of Dervaig. The Hero is the lairds son, meets the heroine and seeks to bring her into the clan. Fear of witchcraft is of course a huge problem and there is war on the horizon. It goes downhill from there. The author introduces potentially interesting facets (such as the fact our heroine has been taught to fight, or several different visions foretelling trouble, or a neighboring clan that might cause trouble) and then the author just lets that facet fade away as nothing more than a conversation starter for the characters. What could have been a thrilling action filled with romance is nothing more than a wishy washy halfhearted romance. I think the worst part was after the lovers reunite we suddenly hear from her 30 years later. No real closure to the story just a plug for the sequel. This was my first Lily Baldwin book and while she clearly comes up with interesting settings and characters and can describe them well enough, she does not know how to drive a plot. I will not read anymore of her books.

Place of Story-Isle of Mull, Scotland Shoney has lived in a secret place protecting her identity by pretending to be a witch. She is a smart, beautiful and clever woman who is self-sufficient and convinced that she need no one else in her life. Real history at this time is the fight for control of this island by Scotland and King Haakon of Norway. Shoney is a healer. She is also a Pict. Ronan is the heir to the chieftainship of the clan. They are as different as night and day and meet by chance when Shoney shoots her bow and Ronan ends up in a ravine. Somehow he cannot forget the beautiful woman with a bow and finally he sets out to find her. When he does he is entranced by her beauty, her wit and her bravery. However he knows that she is not the right person for the heir to the clan. But in spite of this he still continues to visit her in her little "Witch" hut in the forest. Eventually things come to a head. Battles are fought and Shoney's heritage is revealed. My only objection was I am getting tired of huge bulky Highlanders with tiny little women. I have my doubts that this type of woman would have had it easy back then and do not feel it is realistic. Other than that, it was a good read and I liked it.

Lily Baldwin's first novel *To Bewitch a Highlander* is a great read, truly captivating. Baldwin is fluent in the rhythm and form of romance literature; she knows exactly how much and exactly when. The story flows from one scene into another. Baldwin is particularly good at creating rooms of imagery, like surprise portraits. Whether it is in a chilly tidal pool, a cave carved out of a cliff, beside a warm hearth, or in the heat of an epic battle scene, Baldwin uses description masterfully. Again and again, you are with her in the action. It is cinematographic. The characters are great, they're all thoroughly developed such that the reader accepts each one; even the supporting characters have pronounced depth and a tale of their own to tell. Ronan is an honest to goodness hunk of plaid and Scottish man, and Aidan, his side-kick and confidant, possesses his own, unique allure. Shoney is sine qua non the quintessential romance novel heroine; she's bold, independent, multi-layered, and straining with passion. Baldwin also brings you to a fascinating place socially and historically. Through and beyond the compelling romance, she explores themes of social justice, spiritual conflict, psycho-social isolation, aging, community, the meaning of family, the pity of war, and the need to belong. Often, in a skillful turn of events, Baldwin takes you down a path you do not expect to travel. The great battle scene just brings you there, to the edge of the proverbial cliff, and then spins you around. If you love powerful women, burly, fetching men in plaid, layers of interconnected plot, stunning visual description, suspenseful mystery, and a fair few whirling surprises, Lily Baldwin's novel, *To Bewitch a Highlander*, is your next read. In this, her first novel, Baldwin has shown her skill for the craft of storytelling. If this novel is as telling as I believe, I am sure we can expect much to come from this emerging author. Happy Reading!

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