



Crescent Moon

Lori Handeland

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New Orleans is known for sinful pleasures and strange magic, but for cryptozoologist Diana Malone it offers one irresistible attraction. For over a hundred years there have been whispers of wolves around the Crescent City, and the recent discovery of bodies in the nearby swamps hints at a creature even more dangerous...one that could make Diana's career and fortune, if she lives to capture it.

Adam Ruelle is a reclusive former Special Forces officer, the last of a mysterious Cajun family rumored to be cursed, and the only person skilled enough to guide Diana in her search. Rugged and captivating, he fills her nights with desire...but by day, Diana is plagued with doubts. Adam clearly knows more than he's telling, but is his aim to protect her or distract her? Something is stalking its prey in the Louisiana bayous, and every step towards the horrifying truth brings Diana closer to a centuries-old enemy that lives for the smell of fear and the thrill of killing, again and again...

Crescent Moon Details

Date : Published February 7th 2006 by St. Martin's Paperbacks

ISBN : 9780312938482

Author : Lori Handeland

Format : Paperback 352 pages

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

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From Reader Review *Crescent Moon* for online ebook

Beth says

This was a re-read for me and I still wolfed it down. Pun absolutely intended.

Diana Malone made a promise to her deceased husband that she would find evidence of the supernatural. Relentlessness in her pursuits has led Diana to Honey Island Swamp. A new benefactor, Frank, hires Diana to investigate the rash of animal attacks in this area with hopes of her capturing a werewolf alive. Now with virtually unlimited resources, Diana will do what it take to prove her deceased husband's work true.

Diana trek brings her to the old Ruelle mansion in the swamp. For each bit of information Diana uncovers, it all comes back to Adam Ruelle and his “cursed” family. Adam, the man that has volunteered to be her guide and Adam, the owner of the run down mansion she is staying in.

The attraction between Adam and Diana is combustible. Let’s just say it gets very steamy in the swamps. But can she trust him when he might be the very monster she is searching for?

Handeland has a way of making the story pop off the pages and pulling you in till the very end.

I did miss the interaction with past characters.

Crescent Moon is an intensely seductive adventure that any paranormal romance fan should not miss.

I received this copy of *Crescent Moon* from Lori Handeland in exchange for a honest review.

Written by: Lori Handeland

Series: The Nightcreature Novels

Sequence in Series: 4

Paperback: 362 pages

Publisher: Lori Handeland

Publication Date: September 14, 2014

Rating: 4 stars

ISBN-10: 0990596400

ISBN-13: 978-0990596400

Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews and More Check out: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Erin says

I feel so bad, I received this book free from the author so as to post a review during a certain time frame, and unfortunately due to moving, I read the book but forgot to post my review (I even had it all typed up, so I had no real excuse other than the craziness of the move)

Now to the review

For some reason, my brain didn't connect that this was part of the Night Creatures series, and so when I won a copy from Lori, I just immediately started reading it so that I would have it done in the time frame she requested for reviewing. Reeeeeallly glad that I had finished up to Elise's story in the Night Creatures saga. I mean the book would have stood on it's own, in fact it did right up until the end. Even when I was half way through the book, I didn't connect that it was part of the series (for one, the writing has gotten a lot better and all that. Don't get me wrong, I like Lori Handeland, I just ended up liking her Phoenix Chronicles a lot more than I had the Night Creatures even though I really really wanted to like that series. I hadn't given up on the series, and actually Elise's story was one of the first books I purchased after moving to the UK. I just haven't yet continued in the series yet because the books are less easy to come by here in the UK so I have to hunt them down a bit, now that the rights have reverted back to her I might be able to find them a bit easier or obtain a proper electronic copy.).

Now to the review portion.

I liked it. Diana wasn't unlikable (which I've previously been annoyed with by the females of the NC series and actually hadn't gotten very far after book 5 (aka Elise's story)).

Adam was dark and broody.

Half way through the book it did feel like a bit of a plot switch as instead of wolves, they were suddenly looking for vampires.

(view spoiler)

I liked Luc, but I think that Lori couldn't quite decide on his age, as Diana was confused and thought he was 4 years old (admittedly because she didn't have a clue about children). But then Luc told her that he was 7. Only, the way he crawled into her lap was something in my brain, more akin to what a 4 year old would do. Because it was set in New Orleans, it was of course filled with alllllll the traditional cliches. My first thought upon her arriving in NoLa was 'she's there for a job, why the hell would her 'employer' book her into a hotel on Bourbon street?' my only thought is that well gee, there aren't any other hotels anywhere in NoLa other than Bourbon street! I'm actually quite surprised that there wasn't a visit to Cafe Du Monde! I mean after all, we did get Marie Laveau's very own house -which has been turned into a voodoo shop, owned not by a local, but a white girl who named herself Cassandra... who turns out to become Diana's best friend. Also, the author didn't quite research enough as Cassandra was very much a white girl but Diana called her 'creole'. She was not creole. - Oh, and what was with all the greek goddess names running around NoLa? Diana and Cassandra eh? Diana I could understand, Cassandra though just came off as being a new-age-I-just-got-my-first-Silver Ravenwolf-book type vibe even though she was supposed to be some badass Voodoo priestess. Which, lemme tell ya, unless she had been born into it she would not be that badass, and she wouldn't be respected in the community, and she certainly wouldn't have been able to own Marie Laveau's house. And she supposedly knew all this stuff about werewolves etc, but gave (view spoiler)

Angel Hatfield says

Diana had been spending her life fulfilling a vow to a dead man that she had loved with all her heart. Diana was a zoologist by trade a cryptozoologist by choice. If Diana had followed her training she would be holed up in a zoo. Instead Diana traces mythical animals and try to prove they exist. Most cryptozoologists try to find undiscovered species or evolutionary wonders- real animals. But not Diana. Diana had loved her husband Simon and made the vow when he was dying in her arms. The only thing Diana had ever believed in was Simon. Then Frank Tallient called Diana at 3a.m. Frank had never met Diana but got her number from Rick who was the last guy who had told Diana she was fired. Rick was a lawyer who seen something big in

the lake when he was camping with others and then got a hold of Diana Diana's were very wealthy but stopped speaking to Diana when she married Simon. There was legends there were wolves in New Orleans but there isn't any wolves suppose to be there. But disturbances when they happened were always during a crescent moon. Frank would have loved to come with Diana but he was not well. When Diana finds the wolf he wants Diana to trap the wolf and call him. All Diana wants to do is prove is Simon wasn't crazy. Frank wanted Diana to find a werewolf Diana didn't believe but would look Growing up there was no magic allowed in Diana's life: no Santa Claus or tooth fairy. Then she fell in love with a man who dreamed magic. It had been four years since Simon had died. Originally Diana was suppose to have Adam Ruelle as her guide but he wasn't where he was suppose to be. Diana had almost slipped off the dock into a gators mouth. A man had caught her and then he seem to disappear. The next day Diana went back and had a different guide named Charlie Wagner. The Ruelle place had been a mansion at one time but could now use work done on it. Diana asked Charlie to take her there and he did. Then Diana talked to frank and asked him to rent the Ruelle Mansion for her base of operations and he does. Diana's original guide died and Adam offers to be Diana guide as he was now dead as many believed. The more time Diana spends with Adam she worries that he may be the werewolf. Adam has a lot of secrets. Diana digs into Adam's family and secrets are revealed. Also someone wants Diana to stop digging and Diana started seeing Cassandra - a local voodoo priestess and is trying to make sense of everything Also Diana is feeling things for Adam she hasn't felt in a long time.

I loved this story it was a great story. I have been to New Orleans a couple of times it does have a sense of something other wordily. This had an awesome plot. There were a few times this story got a little slow but it didn't seem to take away from the overall story. This story kept you guessing so there help to keep your attention for sure. I also love learning more about New Orleans history. There was so much in this story: zombies, magic, danger, adventure, voodoo, swamp curses, voodoo priestess, werewolves, dead bodies, romance, lust, mystery, suspense, and so much more what else could you want? I loved the characters and how they interacted. I loved the twists and turns of this story and I highly recommend.

Bev Lee says

I love this author and all of the books in this series so far :)

Kelly says

I bought this to read on my recent New Orleans trip and Just couldn't get into it--I felt like it was choppy, with things just happening without really being set up beforehand so they'd make sense. Like a bunch of separate scenes without the glue that was supposed to hold them together. Also didn't really feel the immersive sense of place I'd been hoping for. She lists the landmarks, but the *mood* just wasn't there for me in some intangible way while I was reading, despite being there in real life at the time.

Ally says

I'm either getting better at the DNF or am just too choosy

Couldn't quite get around supposed experts running around like idiots. The "mystery" wasn't well done and I just could not take it anymore. Did not really connect to any characters. Quit at 51%.

Marta Cox says

This series is actually one of the first paranormal book series that I decided to read a few years ago but for some reason I had stopped after book three Dark Moon. So imagine my joy when I spotted this on Netgalley and even better they approved me . So rubbing my hands together with glee I sat down to once again immerse myself in Ms Handerlands imagination.

Diana is a widow who as a cryptozoologist is constantly seeking that elusive creature that just might help her gain her PhD. Her beloved dead husband had convinced her that werewolves are real and she had promised him that she would finally discover the truth. Offered a job in New Orleans Diana sets out into the swamp to find out just who or what is killing the unwary but what she discovers is a mystery man who can't be in two places at once or can he? Adam lives in the magical place where curses abound and nothing is ever as it seems. The more Diana sees him the more she falls under his spell but can she trust him? Theres danger and death stalking the land and Diana has just put herself right in the middle of it! Is there a werewolf in the swamp? Or is it a monster that's even more unbelievable and just where does Adam fit in?

I will be honest and say I wasn't completely won over by the first half of this book and almost gave in. It just didn't have the same feel as previous Jäger Suchers (monster hunters) stories. I found the mystery concerning Adam to be well frankly much too vague and didn't really understand just why Diana would place so much trust in him. As for her climbing him like a tree, really? Yes I know she's lonely and celibate but that amount of intense attraction was just plain odd! Then again we are talking about a heroine who opts to move into a run down house in the bayou, completely alone when people are being murdered in the area! To me that made no sense and was crazy behaviour. Fortunately the second half of the book allows the story to open up and make more sense but this book is completely unlike previous in the series. Perhaps the author is about to take it in a new direction? Certainly we are introduced to a new character here who will feature in the next book and there's voodoo (amongst other things) to shake things up so all in all an enjoyable story but not my favourite in the series.

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review

Melissa says

This is the first book in this series that I have read and I actually just found out that it was book #4 in the Nightcreature series, it stands on its own without any confusion to the reader.

This book has a little bit of everything: paranormal adventure, suspense, humor, hot sexy scenes and a voodoo priestess. It was a very enjoyable read with good strong characters and a great plot that kept you guessing as to where it was going to go.

Debbie says

Zoinks! A confusing mess

This book.....it was all over the place. An erotic paranormal romance crossed with the snark of an urban fantasy. Sounds good, right? Wasn't.

The heroine was snarky, especially when talking about those heroines who make too stupid to live decisions. As if she wasn't one. Hello? Go into the swamp at night without a gun? Chase a strange man into the swamp? And so on and so on.

The hero? Well, he never did anything except show up for the hot sex scenes. Seriously. Hardly said two words. Never got to see him in action until the last few pages of the story. He was part of the mystery. So ok, let's add spooky gothic romance to the mix. As that's who our hero was, straight out of a gothic romance and you had no idea if he was good or evil but you know you're reading a romance so chances are he's going to be ok but for god sakes act like it once in a while! Whew. That run on sentence was how this book went for me.

She meets the perfect ally in the world and makes a new bestie at the same time. Again, maybe just a little too easy. The perfect best friend who just happens to know answers to questions she doesn't know she has and how to use magic to get more!

And of course we have to throw a kid into the mix. I mean heck we have voodoo and werewolves and a gothic hero and a spooky old mansion and a mysterious benefactor so why not add scooby do and shaggy antics!

Oh I so cannot recommend this one. And I so wanted to love it when I read about it. So wanted to love this one.

Kathrynn says

I just did not care for either main character in this book. Adam was...too weird! He lurked in the Louisiana Bayou, coming and going...creepy. And he had a character flaw that This Reader felt was never redeemed.

The other main character (Diana) was too unrealistic for me. She camped in an abandoned home in the bayou. Let me rephrase, abandoned and dilapidated. Come on. Have you seen the bugs in the bayou? What about the wildlife? The mosquito's alone practically need their own landing strip!!!EW What about a shower? Running around in the bayou, tripping over alligators and not taking a shower then crawling into a sleeping bag. Please.

I'm sorry to say that this book should be read BEFORE #5 ("Midnight Moon") because Cassandra's character begins here. Cassandra is the main character in the next book in this series. (and it was good.)

? Garima ? says

May-2016 Re-read

Copy found in Netgalley.

Generally I write 'copy received from netgalley in exchange of an honest review' here is my honest review but it isn't unpublished novel. Of course I've read previous volume of nightcreature series and pleasantly

surprised when I found this on netgalley. Lori, if you need more good ratings for the series, feel free to put entire series (like witch craft sisters series) on netgalley :)

In this part, Diana meets her werewolf Adam and story proceeds. As it is not typical werewolf, hence the complications and page turning result.

Cassandra, the main protagonist of next volume is introduced in this one so I wanted to read the next part right away but it is not available on netgalley and I have so much of backlog from netgalley (other reads), I am not willing to being sucked into this one right now. :)

Again, all netgalley readers, it could be read as standalone novel without any reference of previous novels, so enjoy the free copy! :)

Beth says

I received this copy of *Crescent Moon* from Lori Handeland in exchange for a honest review.

Great new story, missed the interaction with past characters.

Yolanda Sfetsos says

This book was excellent! And it introduced the heroine of the next novel, Cassandra. This one's in the POV of Diana Malone, who is a cryptozoologist and widow. Since her husband's death, she's been obsessed with finding what he strived so hard to find - a werewolf. He went to the grave with a tattered reputation, much like herself. But when she gets a call in the middle of the night and offered the job of going to New Orleans to snag the rumoured wolf, she accepts. And enters a place filled with magic, swamps, curses, dead bodies and voodoo... oh, and the enticing Adam Ruelle (a Cajun! Gotta love it!) ;)

Now she finds herself knee-deep in mystery and lust. A wicked combination, that's for sure. I loved the flavour of this novel and the description made me feel like I was smack-bang in the middle of a place I've never been. New Orleans sounds like a wonderful, eerie place to visit and an ideal place for this novel.

Diana's a strong character who has a hard time letting go of her dead husband and becomes terrified when Adam stirs things in her she never thought she'd feel again. It's a heartwarming tale wrapped up with a lot of dark stuff. A terrific paranormal read... and since I love reading about voodoo and Lori's other werewolf books, I can't wait for the next one. It's set in Haiti! Can't wait!

Shanoe says

Irgendwie hat mir dieser Band früher (ich hab ihn sicher zum dritten Mal gelesen) besser gefallen. Ich mochte New Orleans als Setting total gern, weil ich die Stadt einfach toll finde, besonders für diese Art von Geschichten. Aber ich fand weder Diana noch Adam sonderlich spannend und Mandenauer ist mir auch zu kurz gekommen irgendwie. Ich glaub, was mich auch gestört hat, war, dass mir das Ende viel zu kitschig

war. Ich meine ja, bei diesen Geschichten ist es immer irgendwo "instalove", aber hier war mir das viel zu aufgeblasen irgendwie.

Gloriamarie says

Well, I've read worse. But it was just too predictable. Really no reason to get invested in the plot or the characters.
