



## Highland Beast

*Hannah Howell , Heather Grothaus , Victoria Dahl*

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"The Beast Within" by Hannah Howell - Gybbon MacNachton spends his days searching for the Lost Ones - demons with the powerful MacNachton bloodline who are being hunted by those who want to destroy them. When he stumbles upon Alice Boyd, living like a wild animal in the forest, she stirs a primitive lust deep within him - a lust that can only be sated by their explosive union..."Laird of Midnight" by Victoria Dahl - For fifty years, Finlay Maclain has hunted the clan of vampires who murdered his family and turned him into one of them. Now, he's at the end of his quest, sitting at a tavern, waiting for the last vampire he must kill. But the tavern's beautiful wench is distracting him beyond reason - and all he can think of is teasing her until she begs him to take her again and again..."The Vampire Hunter" by Heather Grothaus - As the last surviving member of her family of witches, Beatrix Levenach must protect the townspeople from the vampires who stalk the land. But when her life is placed in danger, she receives help from Alder the White - a vampire from the clan responsible for wiping out her ancestors over a century ago. With no other choice, Beatrix accepts Alder's help. And when they discover an all-consuming passion, they must make the ultimate sacrifice for an eternal love...

## Highland Beast Details

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## From Reader Review Highland Beast for online ebook

### UberApril says

*The beast within* by Hannah Howell

Who doesn't love a story about vampires and the Scots?!? A 22 y/o woman who doesn't realize what she truly is and her four children are rescued by these four handsome clansmen. The rescued are considered the Lost Ones, off springs of a pureblood and an outsider. 3 stars

*The vampire hunter* by Heather Grothaus

130 y/o white furry beast meets his match in a fiery haired witch. My favorite bit?? when Archangel Michael makes a cameo. 2 stars

*Laird of midnight* by Victoria Dahl

This author is the only reason why I wanted to read the book. This had a great mixture of revenge, lust and humor. Too bad he'll outlive her. He: a 72 y/o tortured soul in the body of a 22 y/o. She: a horny widow. 3 stars

8/3= 2.6 stars

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### Desirae Brown says

When I got this book I was not aware of the fact that it was three short stories. Sadly, I cant say I could pick a favorite out of the three though since they were like many others before them. Still, the plots, writing, and how he characters went so well together made this book much more tolerable.

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### Bozana says

This is part of MacNachton Vampire with Hannah Howell - RECOMMENDED reading order:

1. The Eternal Highlander (2004) (with Lynsay Sands)
2. Highland Vampire (2005) (with Adrienne Basso and Deborah Raleigh)
3. My Immortal Highlander (2006) (with Lynsay Sands)
4. Highland Thirst (2007) (with Lynsay Sands)
5. Nature of the Beast (2008) (with Adrienne Basso and Eve Silver)
6. Highland Beast (2009) (with Victoria Dahl, Heather Grothaus)
7. Yours For Eternity (2010)(with Alexandra Ivy and Kaitlin O'Riley)
8. Highland Hunger (2011) (with Jackie Ivie and Michele Sinclair)

Goodreads library, you really need to fix this.

Cheers!

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## **Karen says**

“The Beast Within” by Hannah Howell

The MacNachtos search for “Lost Ones,” who are of the MacNacton bloodline(vampire) and the ‘Outsiders’ blood(mortal). The mix of two bloods weakens the curse, but doesn’t eliminate it. The Lost Ones have similar qualities to the vampires—with strength and the need for blood, but they can stay out in the sun without weakening. There is someone of power who wishes to destroy the Lost Ones. He has sent men on a crusade to purge the land of their existence, claiming they are demons. Gybbon MacNacton and his men stumble across Alice Boyd and the children she’s been keeping safe in the forest. While Gybbon’s men go in one direction to keep the children safe, Gybbon and Alice lead the men, who wish them harm, in another direction in hopes of eliminating the threat. Alice may have of son, but he was born from violence. She does not trust her attraction to Gybbon. Gybbon’s longs to hold Alice and take her as his, but he must be patient to win her heart.

Gybbon is a patient kind man, but lethal when called upon to defend those in need of protection. Alice is a young woman who hasn’t known much kindness. She will risk her own life to save the children and keep them safe, even it means trusting a man she doesn’t know.

This is another MacNacton tale that will leave you wanting to know more. Each tale gives you a snippet into the MacNacton clan’s lives and the evil that threatens to destroy them. I love these short stories! Ms. Howell brings alive a world of vampires, mortals and outsiders to 16th century Scotland. The true demons are born from prejudice and fear of what they do not understand. This action packed short story will leave you thirsting for more of Ms. Howell’s MacNacton tales.

“The Vampire Hunter” by Heather Grothaus

Beatrix Levenach is a witch and the only surviving member of her clan. The Levenachs have always protected the people from the vampires who stalk them. It is foretold that Alder the White will come to her aid, but she realizes there will be a grave cost to his help—one she is willing to take.

Alder the White, a vampire cursed for wiping out the Beatrix’s ancestors over a century ago. It has finally come to an end and he will kill the head vampire and break the curse, but he must drink from the blood of the witch to do so. He had thought the task an easy one, but when passion flares between him and Beatrix, he can think of nothing but saving her.

12th century Scotland with magic and vampires—who could ask for more? The passion between Beatrix and Alder is heartwarming; both are lonely souls in their own way and crave passion to complete them. A perfect balance as is their sacrifices to obtain what they most desire.

“Laird of Midnight” by Victoria Dahl

Finlay Maclain has hunted the vampire clan who changed him and murdered his family, eliminating them one by one. Fifty years later, there is only one vampire left—Jean. However, Finlay’s life becomes complicated after meeting Kenna Graham, a tavern wench who has a will of her own. Finlay had thought it a fable, but Kenna’s scent is a perfect blend, an aphrodisiac that tells him she is his perfect match. Fate has a wicked sense of humor since his days are numbered.

Kenna Graham is a widow who is forced to work at a Tavern to survive. No one has ever treated her with

respect and with a kind heart except for Finlay. She should fear him. He's a vampire, but her heart tells her to trust him.

Another wonderful tale that draws you into a world of lords, ladies and vampires in 16th century Scotland. Finlay must learn to forgive himself. He cannot change the past. Kenna longs for a man to treat her with kindness and respect. Ms. Dahl had written a tale of danger and cruel consequences of one's choices in life. However, Finlay and Kenna will have a second chance.

The Highland Beast has three tales, three paranormal worlds with conflict, danger and romance. With the spell weaved from the first page, you'll be captivated until the very end.

Pnr Paranormal Review

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### **Bridget says**

All three were enjoyable but not very memorable. These short stories just do not have enough depth to them. My first look at the Howell Highland vampire concept, as the MacNachton clan search for the lost members who do not understand what they are. Gybbon MacNachton finds Alice, who is also protecting a number of children from the vampire hunters. She does not understand what she and the children are, but has suffered the loss of her family because she is different.

Heather Grothaus' story is about a family called the Levenach who are witch vampire hunters trying to protect the humans in the area. Their last surviving member is Beatrix, who must face the most dangerous enemy while falling in love with another vampire, Alder the White. He can turn into a white wolf, and he also is committed to the death of their common enemy. Unknown to Beatrix, Alder can only restore his humanity by draining her blood.

Final story by Victoria Dahl is about the last survivor of the Maclains, who was turned by Jean, a French vampire. Finlay Maclain emerges from his conversion to find his entire clan dead, for which he suffers vast guilt. He spends the next decades searching and destroying those who did this, and his final effort is to kill Jean. In the meantime he meets his destined mate and must protect her while completing his mission.

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### **? ?randi says**

Overall not bad. Steam factor is lower than I expected but stories were as good as one can hope for with limited pages. I've only read Grothaus before but after reading these other tales I'll surely look into some Howell and Dahl stories.

### **The Beast Within by Hannah Howell**

Gybbon MacNachton (and cousins) objective is to locate and unite "Lost Ones," a breed of half human, half vampire souls that were unknowingly forsaken to an inhospitable human world, with their ancestral vampire clan. Gybbon finds and saves Alice Boyd and a group of children from a gang of villainous men who have

already hurt Alice in unspeakable ways. Alice and the children have been hiding/running/fighting against these enemies for years and her bravery and simply her existence cause Gybbon to unexpectedly alter his objective to include protecting and claiming.

3 stars

### **The Vampire Hunter by Heather Grothaus**

Beatrix Levenach, the last of a clan of witches who protect the Levenachs people, fights vampires alone and awaits the

prophesied arrival of Alder the White. Mysterious Alder arrives just when Beatrix needs someone the most but Alder hides a few dangerous secrets and a history entwined with Beatrix's own.

3 stars

### **Laird of Midnight by Victoria Dahl**

Recently widowed Kenna Graham works as a tavern wench to survive though everyday finds her closer and closer to being forced to do much more degrading things to live. A stranger, Finlay MacLain, arrives at the tavern and between causing Kenna some moments of panic and intrigue, offering a kiss and then saving her life, she finds herself not unwillingly under his protection and against a vampire who shares a nefarious past with MacLain.

3 stars

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### **Ibrium says**

Not entirely sure how to rate this, since I dnf'd 2 of the stories. Victoria Dahl's *Laird of Midnight* was a delight, however. Five stars to that.

The dnfs, btw, were due solely to my utter lack of patience with written dialect that takes over a story. Not that there weren't instances of dialect in *Laird*, because there were. However, I never had the sense that Ms. Dahl was deliberately writing her dialogue to include as many naes, cannaes, dinnas, kens, and verras as humanly possible, on the off chance the reader should happen to forget that we're reading about Highlanders. WE GET IT. IT'S IN THE TITLE. THEY'RE SCOTTISH. LET IT GO.

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## Deborah says

### Great

Three stories in one book. All dealing with supernatural. Hannah Howell's vampire McNachton. Love all the twists and turns in each of the stories.

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## Linda says

This is a reread for me since I read this group of stories back when the book first came out (2009) and enjoy them then back then as much as I did now! Bought the book because of Hannah Howell but liked the other authors too!

*"The Beast Within" by Hannah Howell:*

*Gybbon MacNachton spends his days searching for the Lost Ones-demons with the powerful MacNachton bloodline who are being hunted by those who want to destroy them. When he stumbles upon Alice Boyd, living like a wild animal in the forest, she stirs a primitive lust deep within him-a lust that can only be sated by their explosive union. This story is the reason I bought the book and really wish Ms. Howell would do more stories in this series.*

*"Laird of Midnight" by Victoria Dahl:*

*For fifty years, Finlay MacLain has hunted the clan of vampires who murdered his family and turned him into one of them. Now, he's at the end of his quest, sitting at a tavern, waiting for the last vampire he must kill. But the tavern's beautiful wench is distracting him beyond reason-and all he can think of is teasing her until she begs him to take her again and again. I have read a few other novellas by this author and enjoyed them.*

*"The Vampire Hunter" by Heather Grothaus:*

*As the last surviving member of her family of witches, Beatrix Levenach must protect the townspeople from the vampires who stalk the land. But when her life is placed in danger, she receives help from Alder the White-a vampire from the clan responsible for wiping out her ancestors over a century ago. With no other choice, Beatrix accepts Alder's help. And when they discover an all-consuming passion, they must make the ultimate sacrifice for an eternal love. This one was my least favorite.*

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## Jody says

The Beast Within - Hannah Howell - Opens with Gybbon, Lachann, and Martyn on the hunt for lost ones. On their way back to Cambrun, they discover a woman cornered by several men. Through listening to the talking, they understand that she is like them and there is a child hidden somewhere. They do not expect to recover so many lost ones but are happy to have made a recovery at all.

The Vampire Hunter - Heather Grothaus

Laird of Midnight - Victoria Dahl - This story opens with Kenna working in a tavern. The is the intriguing Laird MacLean who has been a frequent customer lately. Well there lives get tangled up and the adventure and passion begin.

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## **Amanda says**

I really enjoyed all three of these short stories. All of them had a great romance and mystery feel to them and I would probably read this book again. There was no thing that I would have changed and that was the fact that the first two stories were not very big on intimate romance. It was more about the main characters telling each other about their feelings, which is fine if that is what you like. My favorite story was the one by Victoria Dahl. I did feel that the title was hinting at werewolves or some other kind of shapeshifter, but the stories were actually all about vampires. Just a heads-up.

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## **Dawn ♥ romance says**

These stories were okay but nothing excited me much. (HH) Vampire Gybbon finds Alice on the run - heavy thoughts. (HG) Alder the White helps witch Beatrix fight vampires - more creature features than romance. (VD) Vampire hunter Finlay attracted to tavern wench Kenna.

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## **Cherie says**

I have an addiction for Hannah Howell's MacNachtons! "The Beast Within" is about Gybbon MacNachton. He and his brethren rescue a woman along with several children she's been protecting. This is another great peek into the MacNachton family. It is a story about being different and struggling to survive among those who fear differences in others. It is also about trust as Alice has her young son, born of rape, with her and must overcome her fear of intimacy. You'll love Gybbon. He's just the man to earn her trust and she is courageous and more than deserves his.

"The Vampire Hunter" is about a witch whose job is to protect the people in her care from vampires. It is a complex story where the Alder the White is predicted to aid her in eliminating the vampire threat and yet at the same time he will be a threat to her as he needs her blood to break his curse. This is a story about the sacrifice necessary for true love.

"Laird of Midnight" is about a man whose entire clan was murdered while he drank and wenched with a group of vampires. He was turned into a vampire during this frolic. His life since then has been that of revenge against each and every vampire who took part. He is down to one. He carries so much guilt I wonder how he can get up each night. Kenna is destitute and working in a tavern trying to avoid becoming a wench. She is attracted to Finlay MacLain because he treats her respectfully. She is instrumental in aiding helping Finley forgive himself for his past. I'm sorry but Finlay is not a name that matches the description of the man.

All three are good stories, I didn't find them rushed at all. I'm glad I have read Hannah's MacNachton series in order though. Since original characters appear toward the end this can also read like a long epilogue.

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## **TINNGG says**

While I missed a Lynsay Sands contribution to the McNachton series, the three stories (only Hannah Howell's was part of the series) were good. I was left with questions about the third as I felt it needed a few more pages to actually explain their HEA.

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## **Yodamom says**

4.5 stars- The first story by Howell, was the reason I picked up this book. She has been recommended to me for a while. It was the 8th? book in her series so i was a bit lost and did not have a relationship with the characters. I still enjoyed it but did not love it.

The second short story by Heather Grothaus, The Vampire Hunter-It was excellent, filled with intelligent characters. Witches, vampires/wolf/man and ghosts all backed by a fascinating history, with a side line hot romance. I am definitely going to read more from this author.

The third book was another hit, Laird of Midnight by Victoria Dahl-Finlay Maclain a vampire who has been hunting down his clan murders for over fifty years. His life is dark his heart is tormented. He meets a widow from a local tavern and together they grow and unite to end the horrors brought on by this wicked man/vampire.

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