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The Hunter: To Tempt A Highlander Series #2



Synopsis

Christopher Argent lives in the shadows as the empire's most elite assassin. Emotion is something he tossed away years ago, making him one of the most clear-eyed, coldhearted, wealthiest, and therefore untouchable men in London. But when his latest target turns out to be London's own darling, Millicent LeCour, Christopher's whole world is turned upside down. Overwhelmed by her stunning combination of seduction and innocence, Christopher cannot complete the mission. She has made him feel again. Now he will do anything to save her life, so he can claim her as his own.... When Millie learns what Christopher was hired to do, she is torn between the fear in her heart and the fire in her soul. Putting herself in this notorious hunter's arms may be her only path to safety - even if doing so could be the deadliest mistake she's ever made. But how can she resist him? As the heat between her and Christopher burns out of control, danger lurks in the shadows. Is their desire worth the risk? Only the enemy knows what fate has in store....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

NOTE: After I posted my review it became obvious to me that I should tell people that the first chapter of this book is brutal but necessary to understand the reluctant and broken hero of this story. I really had no idea how good this book might be, I did know a couple of things: 1. I tend to dislike historical romance, I am a PNR/UF reviewer mostly with a very few other genres occasionally that I read as a favor usually. 2. I am in a forum of readers and last year they ALL were gushing over a book called The Highwayman which after much abuse by them I got a copy and it became one of the best things I read in all of 2015 historical romance for a straight white guy sounds a bit odd but this review while extolling the exceptional nature of this book (and the previous one if you must

know) requires me to mention it is a lot of action in these stories (I have to say that to keep my MAN card).3. Based on my previous reading (see #2 above) I was pretty sure this was not really a "romance" as much as it was a bit of a crossover action/adventure/romance story so I was not as surprised that it was exceptional.NOTE: I should mention that the evil and the violence in some parts of this book might bother some folks (and a necessary but horrible first chapter) but to cover it up would remove that "something" that makes this such an amazing story.So let us get to this book shall we? Let me say that I think I read a steampunk novel awhile back where the hero started out the book by going to kill the heroine, not your usual start to a great romance but that is what we have here since our reluctant hero Argent is an assassin, and not "just" an assassin but the very best. However due to a horrible past he has some weaknesses and secrets of his own and Millie seems to be able to find them all as the story progresses.I don't think I am giving out any newsflash to point out we would not have much of a book if he actually killed her so let us just jump ahead to the outcome of this botched assassination which is that through a series of events Argent becomes the protector of Millie and her son.Here is the problem, I did NOT write a review for The Highwayman because I really could not come up with the words to describe how amazingly good that book was, the only reason I am trying here is that I bought that first book so I feel obligated to write one for The Hunter but I can tell you now that it is all I can do not to become a gushing fan about this book. It IS that good and trying to give a professional review when I cannot exactly say why this is one of those rare "6-7 Star" novels just makes me look kind of stupid.Bottom Line: We have a deadly hero, a woman and a child who desperately need his protection, a murder mystery that keeps the suspense at high ebb for most of the book and enough heartbreak, tragedy, romance (our hero really is a bit of a jerk and an idiot at this part) to make any human wish this story never ended but one of the enjoyable things is that I felt the same way about The Highwayman and we do get to see past the end of that story a bit in this book. There is pretty much nothing left for me to point at and say "there is something negative that I have to subtract from the rating" so I give it 5 Stars. I could subtract half a star for being able to partially figure out the ultimate mystery at the very end but since I would give it 6+ stars if I could it becomes nothing to mention really.If you don't love both of these books (and reading book 1 is NOT required at all to enjoy this book to its fullest) then you just need to leave a comment because I am always looking for proof of alien lifeforms and you can't be human if you don't love these 2 stories.

~*~ Christopher Argent was a creature born of nightmares, a man who looked evil in the face and challenged it to a duel. Millie acknowledged that in this instance, she didn't need a

white knight, but a shadow that could traverse the darkness with the cunning and speed of that lethal viper.

•FINAL DECISION:THE STORY: Christopher Argent is a hunter, a hired killer and assassin. Born and raised in Newgate Prison, Christopher is the coldest, deadliest man in all London. He is hired to kill Millie LeCour, an actress and mother and supposedly a whore and thief. When he arrives at the theater to kill her, he finds himself entranced by Millie and unable to bring himself to kill for the first time. Instead, Christopher offers Millie a bargain " a night in her bed in exchange for his protection. Millie will do anything to protect her son and her attraction to Christopher makes their bargain palatable and perhaps even desirable.OPINION: Oh, I am a sucker for these dark, dangerous and damaged heroes. Christopher is a man who has lost so much that he desires nothing. He survived a monstrous childhood by shutting out all emotions and being a cold killer. When he sees Millie, her vivacity changes him. Even as he finds himself fascinated, he doesn't understand what is happening to him. This book chronicles his journey from cold killer to a man who can love. The ability to make a man who kills without remorse a hero is a difficult task, but Byrne does a marvelous job of allowing readers such insight into Christopher that his transformation is believable.Millie is a heroine to admire. Practical, accomplished, ambitious, professional, loving and willing to risk everything for Christopher and her son. She is a professional actress and this book depicts that life in a way that feels organic and real. I especially enjoyed how Millie is not waiting for a man to rescue her. In both this book and in THE HIGHWAYMAN,Byrne depicts women who are making their own way through life by way of their own work and efforts.Dark, romantic and complex, the romance between Christopher and Millie is not for readers looking for a light and humorous read. But for those of us who love our heroes on the edge of being the villain with must angst and drama, this book is for you.WORTH MENTIONING: There are significant appearances by the hero and heroine from the first book in the series, THE HIGHWAYMAN. I was pleased to see how their marriage was going.CONNECTED BOOKS: THE HUNTER is the second book in the Victorian Rebels series. It can be read as a standalone but is better read after the first book in the series.STAR RATING: I give this book 5 stars.NOTE: I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley in order to provide a review. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions contained herein are my own.

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