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Honour Bound: Highland Magic, Book 2



Synopsis

Integrity Taylor should have been a Clan princess. Instead she's lived a life on the very periphery of society. However, now that she's learned more about her heritage and the magic that she's capable of wielding, she's not going to hide in the shadows any longer. The once-in-a-generation Sidhe Games are going to provide the perfect opportunity for her to win back her birthright, and the fact that she'll be going head-to-head, toe-to-toe, and mouth-to-mouth with golden-haired Byron Moncrieffe might just be the icing on the cake.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really loved the first installment of this series and have been waiting with baited breath for this release. I really love Integrity and she alone is what kept the pages turning for me this time around. I love that she's no wilting Mary Jane and her other imbued quirks give her real character. Her crew took a bit of a back seat in this book (except Bob - who is awesome!) - I felt they were better developed and utilized in book 1. All that said this book fell a bit flat on the plot line - The Sidhe games felt too cliché - they could have been much better thought out. At one point Integrity cuts through the woods avoiding all the traps and cutting 3 hours off of her time (none of the other 100 contestants thought of this???) and the "bad naughty" sidhe came off as kind of dumb and clumsy. This book definitely had a YA feel that I wasn't looking for and had a lot of editing issues (perhaps rushed out) For those reasons I regretfully give it 3.5 Stars All that said - I'll be reading the next one!

All of Integrity's hilarious thieving crew and one filter-less, pop-culture-loving, demanding tiny genie take their first step at reinstating the Clan Adair in the Scottish Sidhe world through an intense, nerve-wracking Goblet-of-Fire/Hunger-Games-esque competition. What I loved about this book: Bob the boisterous genie who makes me giggle, more snort-aloud dad jokes from Integrity, (this one is a love-hate, but) the escalating sexual tension with gorgeous Byron (ugh, these two need to stop alternating between steamy and standoffish! I'm getting romance whiplash), the mystery and intrigue as Integrity figures out her Gift, the secretive and manipulative hierarchy word-games the clan chieftains play with each other while faking an honour. I thoroughly enjoyed the danger and excitement Helen Harper put Integrity and us through in the demon-infested lowlands and with the Challenges; another gripping urban fantasy. What I didn't like about this book: that it ended. No, really. All the questions that keep arising about Integrity's father and the Steward, not to mention how that all plays into the relationship potential (this NEEDS to happen!) between Integrity and the Steward's son Byron, peaked my curiosity, so I was a little grumpy when it ended without giving me answers. I guess Ms Harper is also good at secretive word-games, keeping me waiting for book 3 with bated breath |

Honour Bound has our mc accepting more of her role as the lone Adair clan member. The book mostly focuses around the Sidhe Games and her desire to win because the winner can choose any prize and she'd like her clan lands back. We also solidly bring our bad guy out front and center and learn some little more about what is on the other side of the veil. This was an entertaining read, fairly fast paced and the plot moved forward but it is still a bridge book; a lot of set up going on for what is to come. Thankfully we do not end on a cliff hanger but the plot arc is far from over.

I have a great respect for fairy tales. This dark tale of an orphan sidhe who works in at least two different types of world's has held my interest. It is nice to see clan names, landmarks, and English or Irish references in language usage and prose. I admit, points were taken off for bad puns, science fiction references which not obscure did not maintain the high emotion packed level of the book, as well as sophomoric use of an young adult level. As a 70 year old reader I am more critical of references to Princess Leia and her hair than to Jabba the Hutt's misuse of her. An old genie might feel differently than I as the writer assumes. Still, I look forward to finishing the trilogy in a few months.

This series is my new second favorite, along with Faerie Magic by Emma Adams. Recently I have

been sampling different books because I am seeing too many of the same themes, even the same phrases. Helen Harper avoids these pitfalls. The story is refreshingly different. Integrity is a now-reformed thief who decides to take back her clan's honor and lands, even if she is a clan of 1. Her band of (ex) thieves tag along to help as she engages in a yearly competition to win whatever the other clans are willing to give the winner. The story is complex, the action carries you along, and the romance is sweet. The best part is...the plot was not predictable! Thank you. Well worth the money.

Helen Harper has a gift for writing. The second book in the series is more exciting than the first. Integrity is a main character you can really like, get irritated by and empathise with. Her family are a group of characters, literally. Byron is the swoony love interest whom I liked. It's important to like characters otherwise the story is empty and I've stopped reading many books because of this simple fact. Helen wrote The Bloodfire series which I can't recommend highly enough. You will love Mack as much as you love integrity in this series. Happy reading!

I really like this series, I'm just not super keen on the endings (another series I am reading did this too abruptly on like the fifth book of the series whereas there was clear endings to the other books, but I think this has something to do with the nature of the pov characters as they shift between books) and how abrupt they are. Especially since they don't pick up right where they leave off, or at least based on the second book. I hope Integrity takes that Carnegie woman up on her offer as I sense it will be important because as of right now, she is going to be accused of having the same powers as her father.

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