



Night of the Highland Dragon

Isabel Cooper

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Acclaimed author Isabel Cooper's thrilling paranormal romance series continues with a sexy Highland dragon shapeshifter and an inquisitive hero...

William Arundell is a detective working for a secret branch of the English government. When a young man is found dead, William's investigation leads him to a remote Highland village and the intoxicatingly beautiful lady who rules MacAlasdair Castle.

The charismatic Judith MacAlasdair is not what William expected. The only daughter in a long line of shape-changing dragons, Judith is wary of William and his unrelenting questions. However, when William's investigation takes an interesting turn, they must put aside years of bad blood and a mutual distrust of outsiders to band together to save the British Islands from its deadliest foe...

Night of the Highland Dragon Details


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From Reader Review *Night of the Highland Dragon* for online ebook

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

Night of the Highland Dragon is book three in Isabel Cooper's Highland Dragon series. Don't let that deter you it is quite a pleasant stand alone story. A paranormal shifter story with a bit of horror in it to make it exciting, because scary little monstrous demons tend to make things a bit horrific. I really liked the story I enjoyed the writing, the story and the characters, I just wish there could have been a bit more romance development between the two main characters; and it was predictable I guessed the real culprit from the start.

In the Scottish Highlands is an isolated little village that is the ancestral home of the MacAlasdair family. Lady Judith has stayed there content until a stranger comes to visit. William Arundell works for a secret government agency that handles all the things that normal police don't understand. He and the other operatives handle the paranormal things that do more than just bump in the night. His latest case has brought him to a sleepy little Highland village and the rumors of a strange Lady who does not age.

Suspicious of each other at first but soon they come to a tenuous truce when it becomes obvious that neither of them have anything to do with the mutilations going on around the village. Judith is very forward, after all she is no shy country miss, and she is not afraid to show her attraction to the handsome William. She knows without a doubt she can trust him especially after he inadvertently discovers her true self and he reveals who he works for. They work together to try and discover who is behind the summoning of the demon creatures. Things never go as planned and the realization of whom and the why comes a bit late and William and Judith are almost lost to each other.

Overall it was a really good read; entertaining and a definite page turner.

Beth says

Night of the Highland Dragon was a fun, fanciful, historical, dark paranormal adventure.

Detective William Arundell is investigating the death of a young man in a remote area of the highlands. His investigation brings him to MacAlasdair Castle, where a family of shape shifting dragons reside, namely Judith MacAliasdair.

Judith MacAliasdair is a dragon shifter, wary of outsiders, she is reluctant to assist William in his investigation until an evil presence is revealed. Judith recognizes that without William's help they might all fall to this new threat.

The attraction is slow building, with a careful amount of wariness even though the sexual chemistry is strong.

With this read of the Highland Dragon series, I felt that I was missing something. The plot seemed disjointed

and I don't know whether to chalk that up to unfamiliarity with the previous storylines or not.

I'm a huge dragon, especially shape shifting dragon, fan so that was a big plus for this book.

Night of the Highland Dragon provides a good bit of humor, intrigue, mystery, and dark fantasy which I enjoyed. I found the story entertaining but would like to revisit past stories to see if it would improve my perception of the story's flow.

I received this ARC copy of *Night of the Highland Dragon* from SOURCEBOOKS Casablanca in exchanged for a honest review. This book is set for publication June 1, 2015.

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Find this book on: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

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

Jonel Boyko says

Cooper transports you back in time. The consistent use of phrasing throughout the narrative and dialogue really sets the scene for this. It gives it that 'old time' feel. She also takes you into a world beyond the one we live in, while at the same time making it completely believable. There is a sense of mystery and danger that permeates this well written novel, keeping you on your toes. Combined with Cooper's vivid descriptions and upbeat narrative, this story kept me truly engaged.

I liked that I got a sense of who the main characters were both together and separately. The way that they try to stay separate, yet come together out of necessity was charming. Not only that, but I enjoyed getting to know each of them in their own way. They were both so true to themselves, yet willing to compromise. This was a truly enjoyable cast of characters.

As a whole, this was a truly enjoyable dragon-shifter novel. The loveable characters combine with the uniquely captivating storyline in an unforgettable manner. I will suggest, however, that you read the other novels in the series first for context. It will really add to the story.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Sophia says

This is the third book in the series and tackles the third MacAlisdair sibling. Judith has been in the background through the first two books and she actually lives in the family castle high up in the Scottish Highlands so I was excited to get her story. I'm not sure if this is the last of the series, but she is the final dragon sibling so I'll assume that's the case.

The story is obviously part of a series, but like the other two, it can be read alone or out of order though it's obvious that the siblings stories go in a certain order.

The story opens with Crown special agent, William Arundell, sent out on a mission to solve the possible ritual murder of a boy and curious way of killing some livestock near a remote highland village where the local lady of the castle is reclusive and mysterious. William has been doing his job long enough to believe most anything is possible and danger can lurk in the most innocent of disguises. He observes everyone, notes anything out of the ordinary, and is struck by the Lady Judith MacAlisdair who is definitely more than she seems, but is she guilty of killing and black magic?

Judith has lived a long life and with her brothers has successfully preserved the family secrets. She does not need a curious outside poking around in her village and nosing about for his own mysterious purposes. She definitely doesn't need a dangerous killer who may or may not be human. She has cared for her people and her lands for a long time and by claw and flame or her own strong will, she will continue to protect them. However, her long drought from intimacy has her interested in Mr. Arundell and for more reasons than just to suspect his activities and his investigations.

I love dragon shifter stories and I also love historical romance particularly set in the Highlands so this was an easy please me. And for the most part, I did enjoy it and found it engaging.

That said, it took a long time to get going so that it was well over the half-way point before any dragon sightings or excitement begins.

The same is true of the romance. They had some sparks sizzling before that and after a time got up to some real heat between them, but thoughts of any sort of relationship or romance wasn't present until near the end. I do like that at least it wasn't an insta-anything and I certainly thought William and Judith were a great pair together all around.

It was pretty cool that William was like the James Bond of the Victorian age with his spy work and magical gadgetry and that Judith was this experienced and engaging woman who had already seen it all. There was a real sense of her age unlike many paranormal romances achieve. She is dragon and powerful. William has no insecurities on that score and doesn't mind taking turns with whose in charge so that was definitely a plus.

The conflict was pretty exciting and wow that was an intense grand finale and denouement for the main characters. I was a tad disappointed when the explanations behind the villainy occurred because it stayed vague. I was given clues that there was some complexity, but not much on explanation. So I got the full force of the evil activity and the rap-up without the psychology behind it if that makes sense.

Like I said, I'm not sure if this was the end, but I liked how things were updated with the other MacAlisdairs and left things with a clear direction for all their futures.

In summation, it got off slow, but built to an exciting and rewarding finish. There was dragon excitement, a

paranormal mystery, a strong heroine, an exciting Victorian spy, and a satisfying all around story. Historical Paranormal Romance lovers would probably adore it.

My thanks to Sourcebooks Casablanca for the opportunity to read this story in exchange for an honest review.

Caz says

I've given this an A for narration and a C for content at AudioGals -technically it should be 4 stars, but the story really doesn't warrant it.

Even though I was very disappointed in the previous book in this series of historical paranormals (The Highland Dragon's Lady), I remembered reading the print version of **Night of the Highland Dragon** a couple of years back, and thought I'd give it another go-round in audio. The final member of the MacAlasdair family of shape-shifters is Lady Judith, who resides at the castle of Loch Arach and takes good care of all those who depend on her and the castle for their livelihoods. Into this Highland idyll comes William Arundell, an investigator for a secret branch of the government who starts asking uncomfortable questions about Judith and her family in the course of his investigations into a gruesome murder. The two are suspicious but drawn to each other, although sadly, the romance is fairly lacklustre and the story as a whole is somewhat dull and lacking in direction. There's also a severe lack of background information about William's work and of scene-setting in general. The story is set in a late Victorian era in which magic and witchcraft exist, and listeners are just asked to accept that without any further explanation of how, why, where and who – which this listener found somewhat frustrating.

You can read the rest of this review at **AudioGals** .

Robin says

This is the best of the three. All are good but this one I liked the best. Good characters and an interesting plot.

Claire says

A sleuthy murder mystery with Isabel Cooper's delightful dragon shifters! An "older lady" heroine, even by romance standards - 250 YEARS OLD. Competence! Feelings! Intrigue! Consent! Responsible relationshiping paired with enthusiastic sexytimes!

I just really like this author, it turns out. I wish I knew how to find her fic, because I would read the heck out of that too...

Lorna says

Third and final book in this series, *Night of the Highland Dragon* brings Judith, sister to Stephen and Colin into the story-finally. She had been mentioned several times throughout the last two books, so I was more than ready to see what was in store for her in this read. And of course to see her get her HEA.

Judith is the oldest of these dragon siblings, and at this time she is the lady of the manor-or in this case castle in Scotland. Finally one of these books takes place in Scotland! She only stays at the castle for a couple of decades, or so at a time, doesn't age, and so she has to leave. Then a faked death, and sometime in the future her 'granddaughter' will return. If she looks exactly like her grandmother, well, only the elderly will notice-nothing a little magic spell can't take care of. And there's plenty of magic in the small village of Loch Arach-too much so at this time. Bodies of both animals and a young man are found-at a time and place where livestock is the very livelihood of the villagers so something needs to be done. William comes to Loch Arach to investigate. As an agent for a secret branch of the British government, William goes undercover wherever magic is being abused. Judith is his number one suspect, and not because he knows she is a dragon(he doesn't), but because there have been rumors about her family and magic for years, and it has never been checked out until now.

Whereas the second book was a bit slow, this book pulls the reader into the story and keeps them interested throughout, at least I thought so. William finds himself slowly drawn to the lady of the manor, Judith. For her part, she is drawn to him as well, but she is all about keeping the secrets of her and her siblings lives, and protecting the people of her village. She doesn't trust him, just as much as he doesn't trust her.

It was fun to see the two, both with the same objective-find the one responsible for the deaths-slowly start to trust each other. The characters were fairly interesting, I just wish there had been more chemistry between the two prior to the first love scene. I think it would have been more believable, but maybe since the year is 1895 or so, that's just how some people were back then. However, I thought the chemistry between Colin and Reggie in the second book was immense compared to this. Judith is a bit more straitlaced as lady of the manor, than Reggie was, as daughter of the manor.

As in the first two books, I ended up wishing for more from the dragon. Of course there is some, and even a dragon/demon fight, I just wanted a bit more. However, this book was full of action, some violence, and spooky (at times) magic. I would consider it a paranormal romance/mystery, although I knew who the bad guy was early on, but that didn't ruin the read for me at all. The whole last half of the book had me reading non-stop, and when I finished, I literally said out loud, I enjoyed that!

Recommended for adult paranormal romance readers-ones that don't mind a historical time period. Actually, I thought the time period was perfect for all three of these books. I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. (RabidReads.com)

Issa says

William Arundell is a detective working for a secret branch of the English government seeking the reason a young man is found dead by non natural means. The search leads him to a remote Highland village and MacAlasdair Castle. There he finds Judith MacAlasdair, a woman unlike any he's ever met and the ruler of the Castle, and the whole town.

There are several things to like about the story, but the characters are the best of those things. First, both characters are older. Judith by centuries but William is also in his forties. William is dedicated to his role but doesn't force his views on anyone. He's kind in his way, helpful, and fascinated by Judith. There was only one time I really wanted to smack him. Judith has seen it all. She's forthright and strong. She doesn't play games and takes everything thrown at her as the centuries have taught her that even the deepest pain will become memory in time. So when William advises he must disclose her presence to his agency, she accepts it for what it is and moves on.

Beyond that I enjoyed the story and felt the author was creative in solving the 'how will they live happily every after' dilemma.

And finally dragons. Judith is a dragon and takes care of business while in that form. I'm a little shaky on the magic behind it but have decided I don't care anymore. This was a book that was fun to read and that's enough for me.

ms bookjunkie says

Immensely compelling. Entertaining. Paranormal mystery in a small highland village. Satisfying romance.
happy sigh

Clare O'Beara says

While the tale is a little slow to get off the ground, with many introductions, introspections and conversations, we can sense that a gradual buildup to dark deeds is occurring. Set in Scotland at the turn of the 19th to 20th century, this shapeshifter story includes dark magick and demons. An English gentleman from a secret department arrives in a Scots village to find out what is happening after a person has died mysteriously. William Arundell meets a lady laird, whose villagers and tenants are fiercely loyal, maybe because there were no Highland Clearances here. Apparently she is well preserved, for her age, doesn't socialise and rides astride when not in polite company. Some livestock are found dead and mutilated, much as the traveller was.

I find the writing good at providing details of the times, and weaving in just those which will be needed later in the story. We also learn that Lady Judith MacAllister has been secretly a soldier or sailor in past years, acting a man while her supposed ladyship is absent from the castle and is said to have died abroad, before she returns as a relative looking the image of her grandmother. This aspect reminds me of the Diana Wynne Jones story *Fire And Hemlock*. The demons are a new departure and are creepily and convincingly written; they were like a Janny Wurts story. I also enjoyed the shapechanging sequences featuring a green dragon. When we get action there is plenty of it.

Romance also features because it wouldn't be a castle without a beauty and a beast, though not as that legend normally goes. This is an adult romantic tale with strong paranormal aspects and some gruesome scenes. However, there is also plenty of wooded Scots countryside and fresh air, which gets William out of smoggy London and stifling dinner engagements. Just as well he brought some silver bullets.

Stephanie G says

William and Judith will have to put aside their differences and band together to save the British Islands from its deadliest foe in this riveting paranormal romance.

Working for a secret branch of the English government, William's investigation leads him to a remote Highland village but his suspect is not what he expected at all and the reader can't help but be fascinated by this romance as Judith stirs sizzling desires in William even as he tries to uncover all her secrets. The strong compelling characters grab the reader's attention from the very beginning and the steady to fast paced plot keeps anticipations high with suspense, mystique and romance.

Expectation and excitement build throughout the story as the mysterious happenings lead William and Judith on a path straight into danger especially as they are at cross purposes which leads to some subtly challenging encounters which spice up the story quite a bit and just wait until William discovers Judith's true nature. The story captures the imagination and brings the story to life with vivid imagery and the clues keep readers guessing right along with Judith and William while the historical Highland setting adds just the right ambiance to the story.

The author has created a fascinating world with dragons and magic with an interesting feel to it, while the story is definitely historical with just the right amount of Scottish dialogue to add to the Highland feel without going overboard, it also has a kind of slight steampunk feel to the story, probably because of William's magical gadgets. I was completely caught up in the story from the very beginning and found it quite enjoyable but I am still a little unclear on just what the bad guys wanted Judith for...other than they were up to no good of course.

- eva

Deborah says

Night of the Highland Dragon is the third book in Isobel Cooper's Highland Dragon series. While it is a series, I read this as a standalone and I enjoyed it. It did not feel as if I missed anything within the story. Judith MacAlasdair is a dragon-shifter. She is the only daughter of a long line of family dragon shifters. William Arundell is a detective working for a secret branch of the English government. He has fought his whole life against monsters. He comes to the Highlands investigating a young man's murder. Once there, his investigation leads him to MacAlasdair Castle and the lady of the castle, Judith MacAlasdair.

William is quite baffled by Judith. Judith is wary of William. All his questions just rubs her the wrong way. She's reluctant to help in the investigation until the investigation twists and they find they must work together against a common evil. Their chemistry is simmering throughout the book.

This story was an adventure for me as I typically read historical romance novels. The paranormal aspect, which I liked, added to the drama and entertainment of the story. Definitely a different spin on historicals! Our main characters are written well and the world they are living in was vividly depicted! I could see the lush land and smell the sweets from the bakery! William thought he was just following a lead and he becomes involved in an area where fantastical creatures actually live peacefully amongst the locals. Who would've thought?? The story is fun, sultry, and even dangerous! The only thing I would've liked was to have more dragon shifting! Dragons are a bit uncommon so that was the allure for me. That being said, I enjoyed

the adventure and would highly recommend this read if you are a fan of historicals or paranormals.

3.5 stars/3 flames

This book was provided to me by The Jeep Diva for the express purpose of an honest review. The opinions and rating in this review are solely mine and in no way was I compensated.

Caz says

I've given this a C+ at AAR, so that's 3.5 stars.

A shape-shifting dragon-lady in late Victorian Scotland is not my normal cup of tea (well, the late Victorian part is, but not the dragon-lady part!) but I do occasionally like to pick up something a bit different, and this seemed like a good prospect. **Night of the Highland Dragon** is the third book in a series featuring the MacAlasdair siblings, who are all descended from an ancient line of shape-shifters, and this book features the single female member of the family, Lady Judith.

With her two brothers now happily married and settled elsewhere, Judith is responsible for looking after the family's extensive estate, for the welfare of everyone in the local village of Loch Arach, and it's a responsibility she takes very seriously. Strangers in the neighbourhood are rarely seen, so the arrival of a handsome, but gently inquisitive gentleman from London is something she views with suspicion.

William Arundell is an agent for a secret government department whose job is to protect the populace from the various paranormal and supernatural elements that threaten them, whether it be things-that-go-"bump"-in-the-night, satanic cults, or, as William himself puts it, "basic strangeness". His most recent assignment has involved the thwarting of a dangerous cult known as the Consuasori, and now, he has been sent to the Scottish Highlands to investigate what appears to be the ritual killing of a local boy. In the course of his investigations he hears rumours about the lady of the castle which pique his interest – but nothing prepares him for the reality of Lady Judith MacAlasdair, beautiful, independent and extremely capable; and quite possibly his number one suspect.

William and Judith tread warily around each other, even as they recognise the frisson of attraction between them. She doesn't want anyone from the outside poking his nose into her business – but when it becomes clear that there is more at work than simple bad luck she and William decide to join forces to defeat whatever evil forces are threatening the village and the country at large.

I enjoyed the book overall, although to be honest, it wasn't as "different" as I'd expected, as Judith spends probably 90% of the time in her human form – which I didn't mind – and the rest of the story is an undemanding but entertaining mystery with a few supernatural elements thrown in which only come into really sharp focus towards the end. The problem with the book as a whole is that it's a paranormal-mystery-romance in which none of those three elements is fully exploited. If I had to choose the part of it that works the best, I'd have to say it's the mystery – which is intriguing, even though the identity of the villain is fairly obvious. The paranormal elements work well enough, but there is so much that seems to just come out of the blue with no explanation that I was left with more questions than answers. I wondered if perhaps that is because I haven't read the previous books in the series, although from reading the synopses, I suspect I'd be saying the same even if I had read them. For example, there are quite a few references made to William's investigation into the Consuasori but it's little more than name-dropping and a way of setting up the dénouement. He uses a form of magic in his investigations, yet we're never told how it is he is able to do

this.

William himself is an attractive character, clearly intelligent, competent and methodical, and I liked that he is confident enough in himself and his own abilities not to feel threatened by Judith's powers or strength. I found Judith harder to warm to, though, because she's so determined to go it alone, she comes across as overly stern and cold as a result. I liked that she was the sort of woman who saw what she wanted – William – and felt comfortable making the first move on more than one occasion, but ultimately the romance is under-developed and there is a lack of chemistry between the leads. Their first kiss comes with practically no build-up, and their relationship seems to be based on lust rather than any deeper connection or understanding between them.

In spite of my reservations, I quite enjoyed **Night of the Highland Dragon**, although I would have liked a little more consistency of approach in terms of the key elements that made up the story. The book is well written and often wryly humorous, which I appreciated, and I would certainly not be averse to reading more by Ms Cooper, but I can't give this one a wholehearted recommendation.

Eva Millien says

William and Judith will have to put aside their differences and band together to save the British Islands from its deadliest foe in this riveting paranormal romance. The author has created a fascinating world with dragons and magic with an interesting feel to it, while the story is definitely historical with just the right amount of Scottish dialogue to add to the Highland feel without going overboard, it also has a kind of slight steampunk feel to the story, probably because of William's magical gadgets. I was completely caught up in the story from the very beginning and found it quite enjoyable but I am still a little unclear on just what the bad guys wanted Judith for...other than they were up to no good of course.

See my full review at:

<http://paranormalhaven.com/2015/06/re...>
