



Studies of Beasties

Polly Letson

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Iona Adair thought she had a simple life, with her job, draughty flat and her sweet, black and white cat. But when you are moonlighting for a secret organisation aiming to destroy all evidence of the paranormal, whilst working as a parapsychologist at the world renowned Diederich Institute of Parapsychology, things are bound to get complicated. Throw into that mix an uncanny ability for mind control, her baffling spirit guide, a fake clairvoyant mother, as well as some naked dead bodies, and mayhem ensues.

Iona is forced out of the safe world of Edinburgh academia by her new Texan boss and is suddenly in the field, exploring a small Scottish town that believes the Beast of Badnoch is behind the spate of recent disappearances. Will her dishy colleague Andy find out that the psychic he's investigating is her mother? And will that change how he feels about her? In this, the first of the Iona Adair Scottish Mysteries, Iona finds out that the supernatural world is far more dangerous and expansive than she could possibly imagine, even if it does have some very charming characters, like blood drinking Henry, a bona fide ancient techno-geek.

The supernatural world has never been funnier, sexier or more tartan.

Studies of Beasties Details

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Boosmummy says

Not a bad book, bit weird but that's to be expected. As it's the first book in the series I'll give the next one a try and see if it gets better.

Teri Peterson says

By the last fifty pages I was just freaked out enough to have to stay up all night to finish because I sensed nightmares if I tried to go to bed...

It takes some time to get into this book (like most of the book, honestly) but I'm hoping the slow burn pays off in future installments, as there's lots of groundwork for next story arcs.

Ally says

Didn't finish this book. Some good ideas but the main character was far too irritating.

Kelli says

Worth the slow start

This one started off slow and a bit confusing but soon enough it took some turns I didn't see coming and I found I was enjoying how all the characters were developing. I couldn't help but to order the second book as soon as I finished.

Julia Stephanie says

Disappointed the rest of the books aren't available through kindle unlimited... I'll be honest, I spent 90% of this book wondering wtf was going on. Idk if that's a European thing because I also read a British book recently and felt the same way... Regardless, I'm intrigued by the story line. It's different, it's interesting.

Bronwen Lacey says

I have no idea how this ended up in my kindle! Clearly paranormal activity involved. Quite enjoyable. Would probably read others in the series if my book mountain got low and they found their way onto the device in the same mysterious fashion.

Maria says

This had parts that were 3 stars, but some parts were less than 2. Here are my thoughts for both ratings:

3 Stars

Story concept- A different twist on the supernatural and paranormal.

Suspense- Pretty decent job of shoring up a little mystery while setting the stage for larger mysteries to come in later books.

Ease of reading-It was quick to get through, only a few days worth of reading.

2 or less Stars

Action- This was ALL over the place. I got the impression that I was reading a second book in a series, or that I had missed a primer somewhere. Characters, plot points, back stories, were all referenced with an air of having been previously described so we here, but not anywhere I had read. A little more setup at the start would have gone a long way to smoothing over some of this.

Editing- Maybe it is because the author is Scottish, maybe because these were (I think?) self published, but the flow of the sentences was off to me too many times. Most notably there were commas where commas did not belong, and there were a large number of them. It was distracting.

Characters-Like the action, they were all over the place. Some were very well developed, others weren't. I also thought Iona was a hot mess more often than not. I get the whole coming in to her powers thing, but she buckled under pressure a little too often.

Setting-It's Scotland! Why not spend a little more time detailing the buildings and surroundings and the land? Maybe it's just me and not everyone likes that stuff.

I would not have chosen this book on my own, it was for one of my book groups. I liked the story enough that I'll probably give the second one an attempt to see if it's worth sticking with.

Jess Lane says

This book was horrible. I didn't even finish it. I zoomed through trying to figure out who the beast was. The author jumps around and leaves a lot of stuffed unexplained. There are lots of parts of the book that don't make sense. I always felt like I couldn't understand Iona and her craziness. She was a mess. The story didn't really make sense there was a lot of jumping from one moment to the next with no smooth transition causing you to be knocked out of the book to figure out what the hell just happened.

Erin says

First I have to say the book was craptastically put together. The first twenty pages fell out of the book. Once I got past that little set back the reading wasn't terrible but it wasn't great. It is lacking in something that I can not pinpoint just yet. I want to smack Iona Adair and tell her to grow a pair.

Amber S. says

So very slow. I understand the need to develop a character but I felt the development lasted to about 75% through the book before I was really drawn in.

Jillian Getting says

I enjoy cozy mysteries and have been trying out more non-traditional subgenres. A paranormal cozy set in Scotland seemed about right. I enjoyed the changes to the expected plot structure – a far away, off-scene murder that our paranormal sleuth must investigate, a small town that is new to her and most likely won't appear in future installment, and a personal secret that creates inherent tension. I didn't envision as much of Scotland as I had hoped but the book wasn't written for the natural surroundings.

Jamie says

I would never have thought that I'd get sucked into a supernatural mystery series, and yet, here I am.

Kelley says

Kim Watts says

Still not sure about this book but going to give the next one in the series a go. It was a bit like reading something that was a cross between Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Alias (the t.v. series)???

Brittany Vannest-White says

Warning. The main character will drive you crazy. Her emotions are ALL OVER the board and her lack of confidence and instinct is pretty frustrating. You would think that such an educated character wouldn't be so gullible. Anyway...

The end of this book is why I'll be reading the next one. There is potential. The first in this series set up a world that could be very fun to explore, but it took the entire book to do so. The writing is ok. A little all over the place, but it got tighter as the book went on. It was a bit like the author was learning as she wrote. Actually, my review is similar to the writing. No real finished thought. Haha. Onto Hysteria of Faeries.
