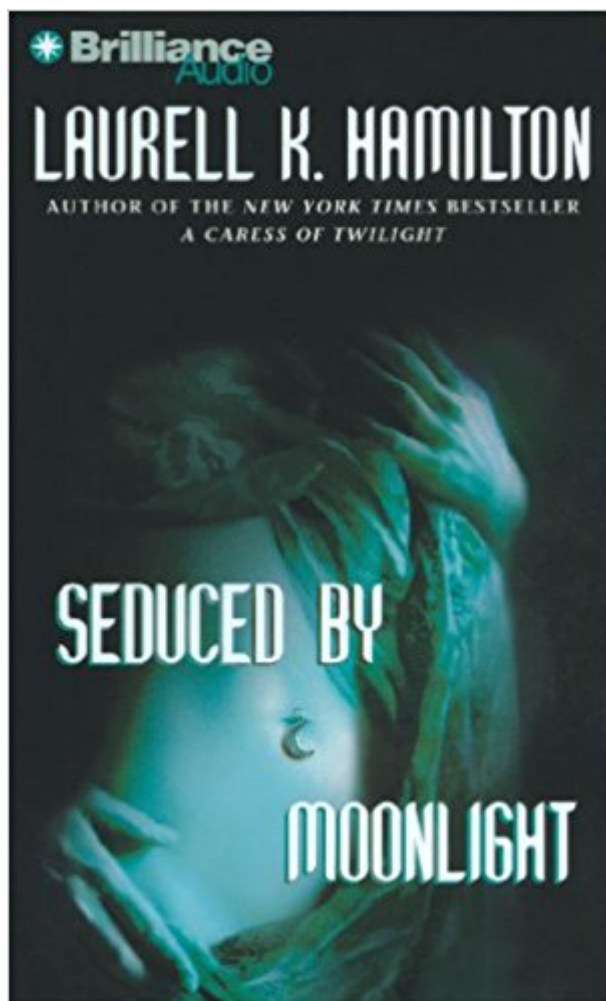




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Seduced By Moonlight (Meredith Gentry, Book 3)



Synopsis

I am Meredith Gentry, P.I. and Princess Merry, heir to the throne of Faerie. Now there are those among us who whisper I am more. And who can blame them? I've awakened the dazzling magic that's slumbered in them for thousands of years. But the thing is, I can't figure out why. My aunt, Queen of Air and Darkness, is no longer distracted by her sadistic hobbies. Her obsession has turned unwaveringly to me. The mission to get me pregnant and beat my cousin Prince Cel to the crown is taking longer than expected. Even though I spend each night with the Queen's Ravens, my immortal guards, no child has come of our decadent pleasures. But something else is happening. My magic courses through me uncontrollably. And as I lock my half-mortal body with their full-Sidhe-blooded ones, the power surges like never before. It all began with a chalice. I dreamed of it, and it appeared, cool and hard, beside me when I awoke. My guards know the ancient relic well—its disappearance ages ago stripped them of all of their vital powers. But it is here with us now. My touch resonates with its force, and they're consumed with it, their Sidhe essences lit up by it. But even as they cherish me for this unexpected gift, there are those who loathe me for it. Me, a mongrel, only half fey and part mortal. The Unseelie court has suffered for so long, and there are some who would not have it weakened further by an impure queen. My enemies grow in number every day. But they do not know what I am capable of. Nor, for that matter, do I. |

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Customer Reviews

The third novel in Laurell K. Hamilton's Meredith Gentry series, *Seduced by Moonlight* continues the

story of Merry Gentry, a mortal Faerie princess hiding in L.A. Her aunt, the immortal and insane Queen of Air and Darkness, has ordered her to compete with her cousin, Prince Cel, in making a baby. Whoever produces a child first wins the throne of the Unseelie Court. But Merry still hasn't conceived--and that's not her only problem. Unknown assassins seek her life; her magical powers are becoming potent and uncontrollable; and her sadistic aunt has just commanded her to return to Faerie. Readers tired of mild modern fairy-tales about nice, polite elves may want to explore the Meredith Gentry series, which remembers that Faerie was originally a dark, dangerous realm of sex and violence. Hamilton's Queen of Air and Darkness is a vicious killer and torturer, and many of her fay drink blood or practice kinky sex (or both). Under royal orders to bed many males, Merry is far from averse; she and several lovers hit the bedroom on page 8 of *Seduced by Moonlight* and don't emerge until page 175. There's no shortage of sex, but not as much as the page count may indicate; the characters like to talk and sulk even more than they like to fornicate. The large cast and complicated backstory make this book the wrong starting point; newcomers should begin with the first novel, *A Kiss of Shadows*. --Cynthia Ward --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Considering all the complications, sexual and otherwise, that Merry Gentry, heir to the faerie throne, endured in *A Kiss of Shadows* (2000) and *A Caress of Shadows* (2002), it's no surprise to find the start of Hamilton's third book in her erotic fantasy series weighed down by attempts to conversationally recap earlier convolutions. Even readers of the first two books might have problems sorting out exactly why Merry is messing with the goblin king via magic mirror. Though the author maintains interest through such devices as an imaginative sex scene involving Merry, two of her sidhe studs and a doll-sized, winged, blood-sucking demi-fey, it takes a milieu switch from L.A. to St. Louis and the Unseelie court for the plot to take off and become a page turner. Merry confronts faerie politics that make Machiavelli look like a rookie, while her aunt's sadistic madness leads to what must rank as one of the bloodier scenes of fictional slaughter. Since Merry's previous role as a private eye has almost completely disappeared, nefarious deeds require magic to solve rather than detection. Hamilton's trademark mix of the personal and emotional along with the sexual will as usual delight her fans. Add yet another tour de force ending, a new final total of 16 lustful sidhe male immortals with whom to couple (or triple or...), and a fair future is assured for Merry for at least another few books. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Man, what a feast for paranormal lovers. Princess Meredith is seriously pretty bad ass, and for

anyone to think otherwise is just dumb. I love the idea that is no longer a mere-mortal.....hmm....wonder if the rumors are true!?! Seems so to me, but I think we all figured that was going to come to a head eventually anyway...right....right? So, in *Seduced by Midnight*...we had lots of little power trips coming along, didn't we? Nicca, bless his little heart got a boost, as well as the yummy Frost...oh and of course the mysterious Doyle....can't forget the "tiny" demi-fey, Sage....poor poor exiled Maeve Reed, also got her powers back....hmmm...anyone else?? Oh yea, Bartinthus....oops, I forgot Kitto. I think that's all...oh this was within a few days! LOL So Meredith is slightly possessed with the powers of Danu....hence the ability to bring sidhe into their powers and/or bring their powers back. It was kind of a power trip...LOL...totally pun intended! Merry and her men head back to Unseelie court for a few days full of events. Well the book ended only after day 1. And a mighty busy day that was! Which included, but not limited too, an additional handful of men to which she needs to bed (including Sholto!), a duel to the death, a blood rage spell on the Queen to which she slaughters most the guard, a wet reunion with Bartinthus (hehe), an assassination attempt on Merry, and even some possession tricks. Very intense and in depth book. I may need to go back and re-read it to really get what the hell happened, lol!

Powers are ramping up in this third book as the goddess, Danu, starts working through Merry. Via sex—she is descended from five fertility deities—some are returning to their godhead and others are getting powers they never had. The ring is stronger than it had been and a Seelie relic that disappeared long ago, is gifted to Merry by the goddess. Merry has to go home for the winter solstice ball, mostly because King Taranis is adamant that she attend a party being held especially for her. They all feel it is a trap, but to ignore him could cause him to challenge Merry. The queen is adamant that Merry takes more lovers, especially agricultural ones and picks them out for her. There is more than one assassination attempt, and Merry isn't their only target, making this the one of the mysteries of this story. What Taranis and Andais hope to gain by their actions is another. Since sex is being used as a tool to bring new or lost powers back to the people closest to Merry, it—s become a larger focal point of the story. Each coupling is different enough, especially with the interesting outcomes, that it—s easy enough to accept. We—re introduced to a lot of new characters in this story. Expect politics, action, sex and more mythology on the fey. I personally enjoy how things are coming about, the politics, relationships, mythology and action. But honestly, I could do with a little less vivid detail when it comes to sex. Yes, sex is an important part of the story, but I prefer to fill in some details with my imagination.

This is the third book of the "Meredith Gentry" series, and like the first two books, the characters are interesting, the plot moves well, and it's an interesting read. If you aren't interested in a story that has graphic descriptions of sex, you will certainly want to stay clear of this series, but if you enjoy a bit of heavy-duty erotica (or perhaps a bit of soft core porn; this falls somewhere in between those two points) you should truly enjoy this one. I will say one thing that could be construed as a criticism: I know that this series has at least nine books in it, and if the magical power level of the main character continues to escalate at the same rate for the rest of the series as it has in the first three books, she'll be creating her own universe from scratch by the end of book nine. But so far, while she may have grown extremely powerful, it has not detracted from the stories.

A good read in the hybrid fantasy-romance-thriller genre that Ms. Hamilton has been developing for years now. I think that her particular talent is creating interesting characters, not just the superpowers but the personalities, very rapidly. This book was also quite strong in that it had relatively few digressive plot lines, but managed to stick to the issues of getting ready to go back to faery for a visit and all the power struggles that would entail. It is clearly a bridge book - it consolidates a lot of ideas and action from the previous two books and sets the stage for going to the next couple of steps towards solving the underlying problems of Merrideth's survival as an individual and of the sidhe as a people. However, the book would not be a good place to start the series and there are still a few nagging lapses in the series. The author is still having some difficulty dealing with some of the logical implications of working with immortal characters from the legends of unseelie sidhe. At one point she points out the down side of immortality in so far as it means that one can be tortured forever and on the next page she has the characters in crisis over a bit of chopping up with a plain old blade. As an extreme example, she mentions the green-man like power of having your head chopped off and then being able to get up and walk off with it. And within a few pages, a minor character is permanently killed by having her head cut off. But a willing suspension of disbelief that can handle faery should not boggle over a few deaths among the undying.

Yet again, I find myself always satisfied and yet wanting more when I read Laurell K. Hamilton works. These books are just too scintillating to put down. And if I didn't have to work and sleep or even eat and bathe, they wouldn't have to leave my hands.

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