



The Monster Of Selkirk Book II: The Heart Of The Forest

C.E. Clayton

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Tallis is learning how to deal with loss and violence as she and her friends traverse the forests of Selkirk trying to find the reason behind the elven uprising. Not to mention why they keep hissing her name. But the further into the forests they go, Tallis is finding that the elves' depravity can still surprise her, and thoroughly test the bonds of friendship, family, and love.

Tallis's journey eventually leads to answers they're not prepared for. Now Tallis begins to wonder just who she really is, and if she's the evil that will end up destroying Selkirk. But she cannot stop to process these revelations, as an unforeseen betrayal lands those she loves at the feet of the very monster responsible for all the hurt, and heartbreak.

Coming face to face with her foe, Tallis discovers all too late she has no idea how to deal with this level of pain, and death. One way or another, the monster's path ends here, and all Tallis can hope to do is bring those she loves safely out of the heart of the forest.

The Monster Of Selkirk Book II: The Heart Of The Forest Details

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From Reader Review The Monster Of Selkirk Book II: The Heart Of The Forest for online ebook

Kathy - Books & Munches says

First of, I want to start by saying that I bought this copy myself. I've gotten to know the author a bit better ever since reading the first installment, but this doesn't influence my opinion on this book in any way!

The first good thing that I think needs to be mentioned is the way **Clayton doesn't go back to all the events of the first book**. Although this might be a bummer for other people, I actually liked the fact that you can just read this book immediately after the first without having to reread the first book in two chapters - *if you know what I mean*.

Life was strangely glorious like that sometimes; just as it could be cruel and unforgiving, so could it be a mysterious wonderland of unexpected joy and chance encounters.

During the first chapters, I immediately remembered why I loved The Duality of Nature so much. Her **descriptive writing pulled me in** and had me thinking I didn't even leave Selkirk at all.

On top of that, I simply love her action-packed scenes! It's so easy to imagine it all happening right in front of me and that's just the way it's supposed to be.

Our four characters - Tallis, Donovan, Tomas and Rosslyn - were the best they could be. Tallis struggled with some events in the best way possible. I loved how she told her friends that they can't expect her to just move on and smile while she was anything but okay. She deserved to feel what she felt. She needed to feel that. And she wasn't going to hide it because it made her friends uncomfortable.

While most women found men like Donovan, men who could easily pummel any foe to the ground, to be the epitome of manliness, Tallis looked at Tomas and found his mind to be far more impressive and useful than being able to swing a sword.

If there's one thing that I have to say I struggled with, it's with Tallis' identity crisis. **It wasn't nearly crisis enough for me**. I had expected her to go berserk in one way or another, to crash, to... something. Instead, all she needed was one conversation and she went about it as if everything was okay. Which it wasn't. I don't know why, but I couldn't wrap my head around that...

Tomas was realizing how short and fragile life could be, and he did not want to meet Wodan one day without ever knowing what it felt like to openly love someone and hold them in his arms.

I paid full-price for my copy. I'm not being compensated in any way. All opinions are entirely my own.

Sarah says

I felt pretty much the same about this book as the one prior. There is a lot going on in the story, but it feels more like reading an outline rather than the actual book because so much is told rather than shown. I really wanted to connect more deeply with the characters, but felt like I was being held at a distance and there was too much repetition of emotions. I really want to see where book three will go, as the story was pretty much wrapped up at the end of this one, and I'm really hoping it will develop more deeply in direct action rather than indirect descriptions.

Being a writer with limited funds myself, I know the challenges that exist without help from outside editors, and I think that with just a little tweaking these could be truly great stories.

I received a copy of this book for free in exchange for my honest review and opinion.

Michael Chrobak says

Before I post this review, I feel it is important to point out that I am somewhat acquainted with the author, though, outside of social media, we have never met. I still plan on presenting an honest review.

This story follows the adventure of Tallis, her cousin Donovan, and two friends, Rosslyn and Tomas, as they continue trying to discover the reason the elves, also known as tremps, have started an outright war, and why they keep hissing Tallis' name. The four seem to jump from one challenge to another, facing multiple challenges throughout the tale - including how to get along with each other.

The author does a great job of world building and character development, though there were a few moments when I found myself asking why a certain character acted the way they did, as it seemed out of place. But, we've all had days like that ourselves, right?

One thing that I liked is the way she had the characters deal with the challenges. It was well thought out, logical, and seemed a reasonable response. There was none of the 'suddenly X happens and they are safe' like I've seen from other authors in this genre.

What I didn't like, and the main reason for the four star rating is the style of writing. The author has a tendency to put too many actions or descriptives in the same sentence, at times mixing the reactions of more than one character together. This makes it hard to follow in places, and I found myself going back and re-reading parts to figure out what was really going on.

That aside, I felt the storyline moved at a proper pace, there was sufficient reason for the struggles the characters were faced with, and the reactions and interactions of the various characters stayed true throughout the tale. I honestly believe that Ms. Clayton is an author to keep your eye on and can't wait to read more of her work.

Bunny theshybooks says

A journey to find the truth but is the truth really worth the cost?

I love this book! If you haven't read my review for the first book check it out here. I'm giving this book 4.75 stars! This book is even better than the first which is rare for fantasy series.

The book picks up where the last one left off with Tallis and the gang stuck in jail for a bar fight. What makes this book better than the first is the witty dialogue, more world building and answers. In my opinion, most first books in a fantasy is a lot of information dump about the world. It takes a great writer to make this information dump become a part of the story and not just boring information. This author does this pretty well but instead of it being the first book it is the second book in this series that accomplished this which is why I love this book more than the first.

One of the main issues I had with the first book was the ending. I felt like the story just cut off without a solid ending or even cliffhanger, but this book's ending is PERFECT! I'm so pumped for the 3rd book. The fantasy series has it all! Monsters, a war, witty characters, a cute romance and a kingdom's politics (which I hope will be even more present in the next book because I love reading about a kingdom's rules and laws.). I highly recommend this series so please give it a chance. It is a mix between LOTR and Uprooted by Naomi Novik; a story of a journey and a magical forest.

Sam says

*read as part of JanJamJarReadathon

Megan says

I was waiting for this book!! I loved book one, but it really left me wanting more --in a good way! In the Heart of the Forest, the main characters continue to grow and develop. Tomas and Tallis both rise up meet challenges thrown their way. And as the characters face difficult obstacles, they respond emotionally in manner that is proportional and real. There is enough lighthearted banter and romance to bring balance to the book. The plot has a good climax and resolution, so the story is satisfying to read. Highly recommended YA Fantasy!!

Kristina says

The Monster of Selkirk two: heart of the Forest continues the story of Tallis and her friends searching for the truth.

In the first book Tallis learns that the elves surrounding Selkirk are burning villages while chanting her name. Along with her cousin Donovan, her best friend Rosslyn, and sweet Tomas, she embarks on an adventure to find out the truth about her past, and why she is being called by the elves.

I really enjoyed this book. Tallis is a great character; she is strong-willed, kind, and is portrayed in such a realistic way with her insecurities it was easy to relate to her. Her blossoming relationship with Tomas was written so well, I was definitely rooting for the two of them and their will-they, won't-they storyline.

I loved where the story went in The Heart of the Forest! Clayton had me guessing the entire time, and I never got bored with it. There are some really interesting twists, and I had to close the book a few times to gather my thoughts at some of them! The ending had me racing through the pages to figure out what was going to

happen, and it has left me so excited for the third book! I can't wait to see where Tallis' story goes!

I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Mikayla Elliot says

Absolutely loved it! For my trepidation on this first, this one made up for the imperfections. Clayton has delivered a solid story within this book they kept me fully engaged. I'm enthralled by the story and series, and cannot wait for the next book to be released! Clayton has done a magnificent job of delivering a powerhouse of emotions within this book, and bringing it full circle. Thoughtful, inspiring, and a great pleasure to read<3!

Jaime says

Wow! I am excited to write this review, because it is a story worth a review and a read. I will start with the fact that I believe C.E. Clayton is an imaginative, thoughtful, and creative storyteller. The Monster of Selkirk Book 2 did not disappointment in keeping pace with the first books' deeply woven tapestry of our four characters lives: Donovan, Tallis, Rosslyn, and Tomas.

The story picks up exactly where we left off in book one, and if you haven't read the first book, then I would not suggest attempting to get "caught up" by jumping right into book two. The author does not flashback or rehash the story in any form, so you will definitely not understand who, what, where, why is happening, unless you started with the first book. And on that note, read Book 1, 'The Duality of Nature,' it's fantastic.

Clayton really hones in on the emotional journey of our team with a special focus on our lead character, Tallis. And while there are physical changes happening to the entire crew, hormones, coming of age, jealousy, infatuation, growing pains - there isn't a lot of growth or conflict amongst our characters despite these changes. They always maturely acknowledge their feelings and allow missteps and raging hormones to take a back burner. A very happy and lucky crew when it comes to the dynamics of friendship (which does not mean that this is a happy tale – it is not. There is heartache and sadness and war.).

I enjoy that there are no questions left unanswered, except the ones that haven't been asked yet... We get closure and are left yearning for more!

This is a fun YA Fantasy novel, it is easy to travel into the world the writer has created, and I look forward to following Clayton's career and stories!

Paige Green says

Rating: 5/5

Genre: YA Fantasy

Pages:346

Amazon

Author Link

I was given a free copy of this book by the author. She is a sweet and wonderful person and writer and I thank her immensely for this book. All opinions are my own.

Tallis is learning how to deal with loss, and violence as she and her friends traverse the forests of Selkirk trying to find the reason behind the elven uprising. Not to mention why they keep hissing her name. But the further into the forests they go, Tallis is finding that the elves' depravity can still surprise her, and thoroughly test the bonds of friendship, family, and love.

Tallis's journey eventually leads to answers they're not prepared for. Now Tallis begins to wonder just who she really is, and if she's the evil that will end up destroying Selkirk. But she cannot stop to process these revelations, as an unforeseen betrayal lands those she loves at the feet of the very monster responsible for all the hurt and heartbreak.

Coming face to face with her foe, Tallis discovers all too late she has no idea how to deal with this level of pain, and death. One way or another, the monster's path ends here, and all Tallis can hope to do is bring those she loves safely out of the heart of the forest. - Amazon.com

I'm back in the world of Selkirk and when I started this book I was super afraid I would have forgotten everything that happened in Book 1 which occasionally happens with me. I have a weird memory and sometimes I remember everything in minute detail and sometimes I don't remember anything. The year my husband and I dated? I don't remember it. My coworker's Thanksgiving day? I remember EVERYTHING. Anyways, I was really excited when everything I had read came flooding back to me immediately! It was like I didn't miss anything and the story picks up really well from where it last left off. The characters were all, once again, engaging and very well developed. The story is still told in multiple POV but each character has a very distinct voice and action set so it's not out of character reading from their POV. The plot developed amazingly well. I didn't see the twists and turns as they came and I even cried at one point! The plot didn't get weird and while there were new objectives added throughout the book (it's an adventure tale! That's how they're written) none of them felt odd or combated with the tone of the book. It all flowed together very naturally and the pacing was never too slow or too fast.

The only ONLY issue I had with the book was that some characters that cause conflict were not present a lot in the book. There was still a lot of conflict in the book, but none from the characters I was expecting to see again. However, there is another book coming out and I think that one will play up those characters and I'm excited to see if Tallis does what was asked of her!

Verdict: This is the book you want to read if you can't stand to read the whole of LOTR or any Robin Hobb books. It's a perfect YA book for those who seek adventure, but not high fantasy. Read this book and Book 1 today!

Roxie Prince says

Read this review and more on my blog at [Roxie Writes].

'The Monster of Selkirk: Book 2: The Heart Of The Forest' by C.E. Clayton

????????? 5/5

Finished on October 21, 2017

GIVEN A FREE COPY IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW

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BOOK DESCRIPTION:

In the second installment of ‘The Monster of Selkirk’ series, Tallis and her friends continue on their quest to stop the war of the elves and to discover why they are hissing her name. Along the way, she learns the disturbing truth about her ancestry, and it tests her self-identity. It also makes her question whether or not her friends will stay by her side as they have done thus far. Should they? Would she if she were in their place?

When she finally comes face-to-face with the cause of the whole ordeal, she discovers she does not know how to deal with so much pain and death. She’s strong but not this strong. This must end, and it must end now.

MY REVIEW:

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This book continues the Selkirk series with just as much wonderful gusto as the first. The world of Selkirk is just as expansive — maybe even more so — than in the first book, and we get to know and love the cast of characters on an even deeper level.

Tallis discovers her origin story in this book, and while I suspected it pretty early on in the first book, it still came as a delight. Clayton somehow delivers it both delicately while maintaining the suspense that has built up over the course of the series. Once Tallis knows, it’s almost impossible not to ride the roller coaster of emotions she goes on. There’s nothing unbelievable or unrealistic about what Tallis goes through, emotionally, even though her story is quite fantastic. Clayton does a phenomenal job of keeping her characters very, very human.

My favorite part of this book was when Tallis was struggling to handle a deep, poignant moment of grief and Tomas tries to comfort her. She gets upset with him, saying that all she needs is for everyone to just respect that what she needs is to just be in her grief. Not to try and make her feel better because her sadness makes them uncomfortable.

That was such a profound notion. One you don’t often see in young adult fiction, but one we need to see more because it’s important. It’s important that young people understand it’s okay for them to be sad and to be sad for as long as they need to be sad, especially when something especially terrible happens to them, no matter how it makes others around them feel. And conversely, when you’re the one on the other side — when someone you love has been hurt and is grieving, it’s okay to want them to feel better, but it’s also sometimes a good thing to let them have their space to grieve. What a lovely part of this book. Thank you, C.E.

Again, I cannot wait for the third book in this series. Clayton knows how to write fantasy. Heck, Clayton knows how to write, period.

Avril Martin says

I would have given this 5 stars, but there were a lot of unanswered questions for me. I still really loved it and am looking forward to starting the 3rd in the series.

Anders Carmino says

The first book was great, but this one finally ties everything together! Solid characters that I can relate with, scenarios that are interesting and action packed but never over the top, and just enough romance to give spice to the relationship without getting mushy. There's great character arcs all around and a satisfying ending.

The only negative I really had was that it felt like this book and the previous one were meant to be a single story. If you haven't read the first yet, do yourself a favor and read both of these back to back. The story ends up much more complete.

I can't wait for the next one!
