



Midnight Labyrinth

Elizabeth Hunter

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He's one human caught in a tangled maze of theft, politics, magic, and blood. In other words, it's just another night.

Benjamin Vecchio escaped a chaotic childhood and grew to adulthood under the protection and training of one of the Elemental world's most feared vampire assassins. He's traveled the world and battled immortal enemies.

But everyone has to go home sometime.

New York means new opportunities and allies for Ben and his vampire partner, Tenzin. It also means new politics and new threats. Their antiquities business is taking off, and their client list is growing. When Ben is challenged to find a painting lost since the second world war, he jumps at the chance. This job will keep him closer to home, but it might just land him in hot water with the insular clan of earth vampires who run Manhattan.

Tenzin knew the painting would be trouble before she laid eyes on it, but she can't deny the challenge intrigues her. Human laws mean little to a vampire with a few millennia behind her, and Tenzin misses the rush of taking what isn't hers.

But nothing is more dangerous than a human with half the story, and Ben and Tenzin might end up risking their reputations and their lives before they escape the Midnight Labyrinth.

MIDNIGHT LABYRINTH is the first book in an all-new contemporary fantasy series by Elizabeth Hunter, author of the Elemental Mysteries and the Irin Chronicles.

Midnight Labyrinth Details

Date : Published November 7th 2017 by Elizabeth Hunter

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Author : Elizabeth Hunter

Format : Nook

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires

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From Reader Review Midnight Labyrinth for online ebook

This Literary Life says

I was given this book for an honest review. For all of those Ben and Tenzin fans out there, I promise that you will absolutely LOVE this book. I can't recommend it enough. The character growth in both Ben and Tenzin is such a pleasure to read. We get to see them in new light with this book, they are evolving and the journey is not something I think anyone should miss. This book is equal parts epic hilarity, Thomas Crown Affair, and a certain swoony man in a kilt who makes this girl fan herself regularly whilst reading. Toss in some new characters and some old, this book is NOT to be missed. The banter that Ben and Tenzin have is so unique, I think they may be my absolutely favorite duo ever. This book MORE than lived up to the expectations I had, in fact it blew them out of the water. Some moments I was cry laughing, others I was on the edge of my seat reading voraciously to get to the next page.....and then there were the moments that completely melted me and kept me yearning for more. Elizabeth has a skill with the slow burn that I have yet to find in any other books. Such. A. Sweet. Slow. Burn. I'm already ready for the next book, but until then I will probably reread Midnight Labyrinth several more times. There are so many layers hidden in the depth of this story, and so much to learn about each of the characters, I can't wait to unearth each one of them.

johnathan dunlap says

Wanting More

Benzin (Ben and Tenzin) has everything you would want in a romance. Love, denial, fighting, laughs, mystery, anticipation, wonder, and very captivating. I found myself unable to put the story down. I can't wait to see what's next. Elizabeth Hunter out did herself with this novel. I love the direction of this book, and the whole series just gets better and better. I love how she brings old characters(friends) into the story, it makes you feel at home and apart of the story. Love it!

Douglas Meeks says

I never know what to expect from these novels with Ben and Tenzin but this was the best one yet. Takes place in NYC and has a bit of romance, a bit of revenge, a bit of "The Sting" and a lot of just plain great story.

I would love to write a long detailed review but there are so many things that the reader needs to read for themselves that too much is a spoiler BUT the big thing in these books is always "are they a couple" and the answer is it seems to get a little closer in each book but this one get a bit closer than the others :) There are a 1000 things that can go wrong but I hope the statement Elizabeth hunter made years ago before this series that she would never let Ben become a vampire is not written in stone, I can see a lot of benefits if he ever does but that seems to be a far off thing so far.

5 Stars and can't wait to see what comes next.

RachelW (BamaGal) says

Interesting and intriguing visit with Ben and Tenzin. Ben has grown up to be quite the suave and debonair young man; and the art heist plotline had a distinct 'Thomas Crown Affair' vibe. I hadn't read anything recently by Hunter, not since I lost interest in her 'Irin Chronicles' series. I'll have to rectify that.

Monika P. says

There really is not much I can say that has not already been said in other reviews. So, to sum it up: I love the book! I love the characters! I love Gavin almost as much as I love Gio! I love this world! I want to live in it! And I love Elizabeth Hunter in a fan-girl kind of way! Thank you for another wonderful book! And, of course, I am ready for the next one. This is a series everybody needs to read.

Kat says

Loved it! I've been waiting for this book for ages and I'm so happy to see Ben and Tenzin back in action. Their relationship/friendship is as complex and confusing as ever, and I can't wait for more. The main thing I adore about the two of them together is that there are so many layers to their relationship and they are constantly evolving as Ben grows and changes. Tenzin's changes are a little more subtle, but are still noticeable, and it's impossible not to wonder what will happen next between them.

I love the mystery in this book as well as all the art history nods. I think this spin-off series could potentially gain new readers that are more into the mystery/adventure aspect of these stories. The first series was much more of a supernatural romance story with a parallel adventure/mystery plot, whereas these Legacy novels focus on the adventures and just have a touch of romance that is barely even secondary.

However, I do question whether someone who isn't already a fan and doesn't already know Ben and Tenzin well could enjoy this book quite as much as the fans that have already been around. I think a lot of the draw of these two is that their character arcs have been fascinating. Plus, each has a rich backstory that is only slightly touched upon in the new books, and you'd really have to read the originals and the novellas to get the full-effect of everything they've gone through. But hopefully I'm not just biased from being a long-time fan and the series is able to draw plenty of new people into the fold. I do think that what Ben goes through in this book is going to definitely color his future relationships and ability to trust, so perhaps this book does have enough impact on their characters to garner new readers.

I could literally read about Ben and Tenzin forever. Like, ten books of them solving mysteries together still wouldn't be enough.

Edited 11/9 after I had some time to let it stew in my brain a bit

Kara-karina says

I knew, I just knew that a full-size novel with Ben and Tenzin in it would be a riot.

These two are a perfect combination of warm familiarity and ridiculous amounts of snappy dialogues between a cranky, antisocial vampire legend and a charming, quick-witted and too curious for his own good human.

Killian McRae says

If this world gets any richer, it's going to topple Bill Gates.

This first full-length novel in the EL Series continues to explore the world first introduced in the Elemental Mysteries, with the familiar and pulse-driving motifs readers have come to expect from Hunter, supplemented by a mystery-driven plot. Oh, don't get me wrong. There's still heat, and not just one romance-driven plot but several. It takes a gifted storyteller to interweave so many parallel motives, attractions, and growth of characters. Luckily for us, Hunter is such a storyteller. Her books are the literary versions of an opera by Mozart.

We find Ben and Tenzin established in NYC, their offshot of Giovanni's business established. Ben walks a delicate line of being both of the human world and vampire world, only, as several characters reflect or even have tried to get him to realize before, he is a vampire. Mentally, that is. Spiritually. His body is still human, but his drives, his determinations, and his dogma are firmly rooted in the world of night. But when he happens upon his high school girlfriend, it sends tremors through his identity of self. Chloe's reappearance in his life adds an external reminder of how human humans are, and Ben is not exempt from those consequences or considerations. Tenzin is... Tenzin. And that's why we love Tenzin. But even the eons-old vampire has come to a place where she is forced to pivot on some of her understandings and actions.

Chloe soon catches the eye of Gavin, and this creates an ample sample of awkward vis-a-vis Ben. He and Chloe may only be friends, but that doesn't mean they can eschew certain familiarity their teenage relationship rendered. Ben becomes a de facto big brother. He wants to protect Chloe, while conscious of her own prerogatives and preferences. When Tenzin decides she wants to "keep" Chloe, keeping her shielded from the vampire world is impossible. In for a pinch, in for a pound on this account.

And let me say this... GAVIN. OMG, Gavin. If you're still hoping for sexy factor in this book, look no further than the kilted Scotsman.

I loved this book. I loved this book so much.

Elizabeth Hunter says

Midnight Labyrinth is LIVE!!

PURCHASE

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2vTuXtN>

iBooks: <http://apple.co/2gyESmr>

B&N: <http://bit.ly/2vAHyGM>

Kobo: <http://bit.ly/2vALPtX>

Smashwords: <http://bit.ly/2esTdN7>

Hey, maybe it took five years to get here (Yeah, I counted. It's five.) but Ben and Tenzin are BACK, baby!

Brand new series. Big damn novel. (Seriously, this is almost 400 pages.)

That's right, Zoe. They're gonna be big damn heroes.

Kinda. (I mean, this is Tenzin we're talking about.)

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

Title: Midnight Labyrinth

Series: Elemental Legacy #4

Author: Elizabeth Hunter

Release date: November 7, 2017

Cliffhanger: No

After reading the first two books in the *Elemental Mystery series*, I was already familiar with Ben and Tenzin.

However, Ben was still a young boy, and things have changed since I read them. I'm thinking that missing those last two books, and the three novellas preceding *Midnight Labyrinth* didn't do me any favors. I'm sure now that I was missing some important nuances between the main characters. The sign up for this was misleading in telling me this was (and I quote) "the first book in an all-new contemporary fantasy series by Elizabeth Hunter". I was expecting some sort of romance. A slow burn, or even just a hint that's only introduced in their first full length. What I got a whole heap of platonic friendship laced with an abrupt drunken declaration of deeper feelings that didn't fit or feel natural.

The author states on her website that the two of them ending up together is not out of the question. But if I'm to believe in a possible relationship later, should I not have seen some *real* clues leading up to that? Some angst? The way their feelings were presented had me thoroughly confused.

For example, more than one person implied to Ben that his feelings went far beyond platonic. I saw absolutely nothing in his thoughts or actions to lead me to believe that. I need to be shown, not told. Tenzin's makeover suddenly filling him with a surge of passionate attraction and lust was very abrupt. What I *did* see was his thoughts and emotions towards his girlfriend. *Immediately* after passionately declaring to Tenzin that he wanted to be alone with her, he jumps in bed with the girlfriend. Did that bother Tenzin? Not. One. Bit. The entire matter is balled up, thrown aside, and ignored like it never even happened. Honestly, I would have been *MUCH* happier to take a possible romance entirely out of the equation.

Putting the relationship dynamic aside, let's address the mystery, the real story here.

Ben and Tenzin are business partners and long-time friends. Well, not so long for Tenzin, considering she's a vamp who's lived several millennia, and he's a human whose life is like the blink of an eye to her. So...keep in mind that time is relative with them. Ben entered the vampire world through his uncle Gio who raised him, and though he remains a part of that world, has no desire to lose his humanity. He's travelled the world and been on grand adventures that most could only dream of. The problem is, you can't see what he's seen without gaining an enemy or two. And if you upset a powerful elemental vampire upset, there's going to

be hell to pay.

Tenzin was a very intriguing and complex character. Her knowledge of human behavior, and overall intelligence is truly unparalleled. Living so long, she's seen every facet of beauty and darkness that the world has to offer. So when she opens her mouth to give advice, you can count on having real wisdom gifted to you. On the other hand, she's hilariously inept at modern society. Or else, she just doesn't care to conform to polite or banal chit chat. She's blunt, socially awkward, and fiercely loyal to those small few who make her inner circle. Her people. There's a ruthless side to her that cannot be ignored, but in the end, you can't help feeling a little bit in awe of her.

Ben and Tenzin are both similar in that they are both drawn to the excitement of adventure. Discovering things long ago lost, and the thrill that surrounds the chase. In this story, they're drawn into a mystery revolving around a set of paintings: *The Midnight Labyrinth*, *The Twilight*, and *Dawn Labyrinth*. Two of the three are on display at the museum, but the third has disappeared after being stolen during the war. The story immediately pulls Ben in, and playing hero is an added bonus. However, things are not quite what they appear. Deceptions have been plotted, and they need to stay on their guard in order to pull off the heist he feels will restore peace to the artist's family.

My feelings were that it was very slow going in the first half, and I felt like I was waiting for something of consequence to happen. But when the action finally kicked forward in the last 30-40%, I had no complaints. The secondary characters Gavin and Chloe had a fantastic sub-plot that had me completely hooked. Strangely, it was almost like this felt like their book more than Ben and Tenzin's. They stole the show so much that I actually got disappointed when their scenes would end. I wish I could have felt the same excitement for the two main characters, but there was a clear disconnect somewhere.

Midnight Labyrinth had its moments of action and humor that undoubtedly kept me entertained. As always, the characters were well-developed and original, and that's why I'll continue to read her stories. But I just couldn't say that I enjoyed it enough to finish off the series with the final book. There was an open ending, a to be continued type of situation. So there's no need to proceed with caution if you don't care to be left hanging off the dreaded cliff.

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Jessica ❁ ➤ Silverbow ➤ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

I love Elizabeth Hunter. She's one of the only independent authors who consistently produces quality work. Hell, her stuff is better than a lot of the traditionally published urban fantasy these days.

BUT.

B/c I'm ridiculous, I dragged my heels about reading *ELEMENTAL LEGACY*, the second spin-off from her *ELEMENTAL MYSTERIES* series. *shrugs awkwardly*

Tenzin and Ben . . . I guess it kind of freaked me out. She's a several millennias-old vampire, and last I checked, Ben was a teenager . . .

Except he's not. In MIDNIGHT LABYRINTH, he's twenty-five and hot enough to rival not-really-his-uncle Giovanni. And they're not together *like that* anyway.

Yet.

They will be. It's inevitable. And having since caught up on the previous three novellas leading up to this one, the first full-length novel, I can tell you that:

1. If you has similar misgivings about ELEMENTAL LEGACY, you ~~should~~ can dive right into MIDNIGHT LABYRINTH without having read the preceding stories, and . . .

2. FOOLISH MORTAL, do not doubt Hunter.

I'm not only cool with Benzin, I now eagerly anticipate it.

I also eagerly anticipate Ben becoming a vampire, which is also inevitable.

Previously, his stubbornness regarding the subject was a point of contention for me—if you can be a Supe, why would you not be a Supe?—but in IMITATION AND ALCHEMY (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #2), Hunter has Ben begin to confront his fears about immortality in a way that not only emphasizes his youth, but also makes his reluctance sympathetic.

As for MIDNIGHT LEGACY, Tenzin and Ben are living in New York, doing their art version of Giovanni and Beatrice's book retrieval business, which is awesome. I'm with Ben on this one. I love books. LOVE. But ever since watching **White Collar**, I've been fascinated by insurance fraud investigators.

In real life, I doubt it's the legitimate version of grifting that Hollywood makes it appear to be, but urban fantasy isn't exactly real life, is it? And the service that Tenzin and Ben provide for the immortal community is decidedly **Leverage** -esque.

BUT.

What happens when the con artists get conned?

Shenanigans, that's what. And who doesn't love shenanigans?

MIDNIGHT LEGACY is the latest installment in Elizabeth Hunter's ELEMENTAL WORLD. If you're like me, urban fantasy is your jam, and finding new (to you) UF that lives up to the series that made you love it is often an exercise in futility. It doesn't have to be. If you're a Hunter noob, the first book set in this world is like a dollar:

If you're not a noob, but you haven't caught up with what may be my favorite Hunter pairing to date, tomorrow never comes. One-click it, one-click it NOW.

Here's to growing up and doing it well. Highly recommended.

Nikki says

A Wonderfully Woven Mystery

How I love Elizabeth Hunter's books. I don't think she could've written a more fitting book for Tenzin and Ben. My only complaint is it just wasn't long enough, or more likely, I just read it too fast. It was so enthralling, I couldn't put it down. As always, her writing is flawless and flows extremely well. There is mystery and mayhem, action and adventure, attraction and passion, and to top it all off, humor. If you have enjoyed the Elemental world thus far, you won't be disappointed with this book.

There is Tenzin's undeniable antagonism towards Ben, which is quite comical. Ben's frustration with Tenzin, is also humorous. They dance a delicate dance around each other, neither is willing to voice. I hope, at some point in this series, they will become something more. We also get a little more of Gavin, who I am very pleased to get to know. I think I have developed a fondness for him, especially for the way he treats Chloe. She is another character we get to know, and I loved her determination and survival instincts.

I don't know how long I'll be able to wait for the next book in this series. I just hope we aren't made to wait too long. I love where this is going, and I hope we get more Gavin and Chloe too.

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

Midnight Labyrinth delivers everything readers have come to expect from Elizabeth Hunter in one inviting package - unique characters, mystery, intrigue, snarky humor, adventure, slow-burn romance - all rolled into one fantastic read! Readers have been waiting for more of Ben and Tenzin, and Hunter delivers in this one.

Ben and Tenzin are back in New York and running an antiques business when Ben runs into an old girlfriend, Chloe, at an art gallery. Reconnecting with her throws Ben for a bit of a loop as he struggles through an identity crisis. Ben is hooked by the mystery surrounding a missing painting, The Midnight Labyrinth, and decides to take on the job of finding it. Tenzin warns that it will only bring trouble, but she's in, of course, with all her usual antics. I'm not going into the storyline beyond that to avoid spoilers, but will say you don't want to miss their journey!

Midnight Labyrinth is an intriguing, mystery-driven story that kept me on the edge of my seat. But the thing that stands out most to me is the character and character relationship development. Ben and Tenzin's relationship is ever evolving and fascinating to watch. Add a blended support cast of unique, multi-faceted new and old characters and you've got a story that's intriguing, mysterious, and yet, at times, hilarious. Hunter's ability to flawlessly weave history into plot lines has never been more evident. Her flowing, poetic writing style brings scenes and characters to vivid, living, breathing life. No one does it better. Throw in a budding romance, a slow-burn romance, and a swoon-worthy hunk in a kilt, and you've got a Must Read!

*Many thanks to the author for an arc of this book!

**Reviewed at Cross My Heart Writings and Reviews

Kate's Corner says

I can't give it anything else than five stars.

Ms. Hunter is one of my favourite paranormal writers. This is also one of my favourite vampire series. And I have loved Ben and Tenzin from the start. If you haven't noticed I'm biased. I can't help it this series just gets better and better. I need more.

Ben and Tenzin are between jobs and are back in New York. When it comes to Tenzin and Ben it's like coming home. Not only have Ben and Tenzin developed but we also have additional characters that are truly as entertaining as our main characters. Chloe and Gavin. I always wanted to see more of Gavin and at the moment it is hard to tell who I love more Ben or Gavin it's most certainly a tie.

While at a museum exhibition Ben meets a mysterious woman but he is hooked with a missing painting which is part of a trilogy. He offers his talents to look for the missing painting The Midnight Labyrinth. That belongs to The Twilight and Dawn Labyrinth.

Yet the puzzle doesn't completely fall into place but it's not personal just business. Until it becomes personal. I was kept on my toes with Tenzin's antics and Ben trying to smooth things over. The banter between Ben and Tiny is hilarious. I just couldn't stop laughing. Plus Tenzin gets a mini makeover.

Ah Ben Vecchio now that you are older I don't feel like such a perv but still mildly like a cougar. I do not like you with other women but you are slowly seeing what is in front of you. Fabulous. But she pulled the wool of your eyes and I loved it. Our shining boy is becoming somewhat tarnished here. The tarnished the better. It is a balancing act between the mortal and the immortal world. Humans and vampires. A fine line must be kept to survive.

I find the author's writing flawless as she sucks you into the story and you don't know what is going to happen to the characters. Each character is unique and balances the story out the way it is meant to. For the moment it is light on romance and that is what I want. As the series is spread out of a couple of books it would be unwise to steam up the romance here. The seeds have been planted and growing. I'm fascinated how a tale with intricate history can be weaved. It gives it depth a need to keep reading. And re-reading.

Seriously I can only recommend this author, series and as well as her other series as well.

Finally my question is answered. Thank you.

"Do vampires need to pee?" Tenzin burst into laughter and Chloe's cheeks turned red. "Sorry," she said. "That's none of my business." "No," Tenzin said. "I'm sure so many humans wonder, but they don't ask. The answer is yes, but not very often. Or systems are very slow. That's why my hair grows slowly. My fingernails grow slowly."

Hasn't anyone ever wondered if they pee?

Books_at_Tiffany's says

A hilarious sexy mystery.

I won this book and I am giving it an honest review.

Elizabeth Hunter is my favorite living author and she does not let me down. I cannot stress enough how much I enjoyed this book. It is hilarious. I laughed so much during the whole book. There is so much humor and most of it is so subtle. Tenzin is just being...well, Tenzin, and she is just freaking hilarious. Gavin and Chloe enter into this book as well and add some new dynamics. Chloe is good for Tenzin, she is bringing out her feminine side. It is so nice and entertaining to see Tenzin grow. Gavin's Scottish words are laugh-out-loud funny and he is sexy in a kilt as well.

Ben. Oh, Ben. I love him, but he just breaks my heart sometimes. I want so much for him. I love seeing his bad-ass side in this book. There's an amazingly sexy scene on a rooftop in this book too.

And can we talk about Revenge people! Confucius said, "Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves." I answer, "How did you know I wanted to kill two people, Confucius?!?!?" I love a good revenge story. In real life, I exert self-control and turn the other cheek, but in fiction you can do whatever you want to do. I really liked it when Ben and Tenzin go and seek their revenge.

Anyway, to sum up: This book totally ROCKS! Y'all need to read this book.

P.S. The Scribe and Irin Chronicles are my all-time favorites of Hunter's work but The Elemental Legacy series might be bumping them down to #2. (I still love you Rhys!)
