



Be Still My Vampire Heart

Kerrelyn Sparks

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If it was still beating. Angus MacKay has been undead for almost five hundred years and it's not often something, or someone, surprises him. Until Emma Wallace. The sight of this luscious agent from the CIA's elite Stake-Out team was enough to stop Angus in his tracks. But then he discovers that she's a vampire slayer, intent on killing the "monsters" who killed her parents. And it's Angus's job to stop her.

The only good vampire is a dead vampire. It's been Emma's motto since she committed her life to the destruction of *these* things. Now Angus MacKay wants to convince her differently.

Sure, he's a sexy Highland warrior who seems to have stepped off the cover of a romance novel, complete with brogue, kilt, and sword, but he's also one of them. And it's her job to kill him.

The war is on, but will it end in the destruction of one or both of them . . . or in total surrender to a passion for the ages?

Be Still My Vampire Heart Details

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From Reader Review *Be Still My Vampire Heart* for online ebook

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

So far, I've really been enjoying Kerrelyn Sparks' *Love at Stake* series. She has created some lovable heroes and heroines engaged in fun and exciting stories, and *Be Still My Vampire Heart* is no exception. In fact, it is, in my opinion, the best book in the series to this point, owing in large part to its to-die-for hero. Normally, I'm not a big fan of romantic comedy, especially in paranormal romance, but Ms. Sparks really knows how to do it right. I'm able to love her books, because she knows how to balance humor, romance and emotional angst into the perfect blend to make an engaging story that doesn't feel silly or contrived. Every time I pick up one her stories, I know I'm going to get a great read.

Angus is just too scrumptious for words. He's a kilted Highlander, with that sexy brogue, and a vampire to boot. What an awesome combination! I don't think I've run across a Highland hero that has made me fall this hard for him since *Outlander's* Jamie Fraser. Much like Jamie, Angus's honor means everything to him and his word is his solemn bond. From the very beginning, he vowed to protect Emma and convince her to stop slaying. Everything he does throughout the entire story is to those ends. When it comes down to a choice between her life and keeping his vow, he knows he must break it, but it doesn't stop him from feeling extreme guilt about it to the point that he nearly lets the best thing that ever happened to him get away. I loved how chivalrous Angus was. Even when Emma was trying her level best to kill him at first, he still protected her. I adored his peaceful, diplomatic side too and how he tried to get Emma to stop slaying by taking a gentle, reasoned approach. In the end, it worked wonders and showed that violence isn't always the answer. Angus has a humorous side too. Emma and some of the other characters love to needle him about his kilt and sporran, and when they do, his growly, "It's no' a skirt" and "It's no' a purse" responses cracked me up. The impassioned speech he gave Emma about how it was a man's duty and privilege to pleasure a woman was totally smokin' hot. Angus is quite simply the absolute perfect gentleman. He truly is the honorable hero of Emma's dreams (and mine too;-)).

Emma is an MI6 agent on loan to the CIA and working for the elite Stake-Out team. She wanted the assignment, because her parents were murdered by vampires, leaving her all alone in the world. She has a major bone to pick with the vampires, and thinking they're all evil, she has been slaying in Central Park nearly every night. Emma is one of my favorite types of heroines. She's a tough, no-nonsense girl, who's a very skilled fighter, but at the same time, she has a soft heart. Like Angus, she has a funny side too. Her scene with the flasher in Central Park was LOL hilarious. When Emma first meets Angus, she can barely resist his charms even though she strongly suspects him to be a vampire. She knows she should hate him, but even when she finds out the truth, she can't quite bring herself to. Angus, quite simply, isn't anything like she thought vampires were, and he challenges her preconceived notions at every turn. Surprisingly, she came to terms with all that a little quicker than I thought she might, so her constant insistence that she and Angus couldn't have a future together made her seem a tad too stubborn at times. In those moments, I couldn't help wishing she'd lighten up a little and just give in, but overall, she was a well-drawn heroine who I liked.

Together, Angus and Emma have some great chemistry. These two have delicious sexual tension right in the opening chapter, and it only builds from there. They also share wickedly witty banter that I loved. It was sharp and clever, showing just how intelligent both characters are. Their first date at the top of the Eiffel Tower was very romantic, and their first "almost" love scene was very sensual. I loved Angus's sexy talk. The man definitely has a way with words. The psychic vampire sex is as hot as ever (one of my favorite elements in this series), and when they finally made it all the way, it was even better. The only thing that

might have improved the story for me would have been, perhaps, one more sexy encounter after they reunited at the end instead of a cut scene.

Be Still My Vampire Heart is loaded with fun secondary characters too. We get a decent helping of Roman and Shanna (*How to Marry a Millionaire Vampire*) along with updates on how her pregnancy is progressing. Some characters have questions as to what exactly the baby will be, and I have to say I loved how this part of the story played out. Austin and Darcy (*Vamps and the City*), who are hunting the evil Casimir in Eastern Europe, come to Angus and Emma's rescue when they're abducted by the bad guy vamps. Several characters who were previously introduced and will be getting their own books in the future get some more page time: Jean-Luc (*The Undead Next Door*), the dashing French fashion designer; Connor (*Vampire Mine*), Angus's always reliable right-hand man; Phil (*Forbidden Nights with a Vampire*), Angus's mortal daytime guard; Gregori (*Sexiest Vampire Alive*), Roman's charming and funny right-hand man; and last, but certainly not least, is the adorable Ian (*All I Want for Christmas Is a Vampire*), the centuries old vampire who looks like a teenage boy. I was wondering how the author was going to turn this guy into a hero without it being kind of weird, and she lets us in on that secret in this book. Dougal (*The Vampire with the Dragon Tattoo*), another Highland vamp, and Howard (*Wild About You*), another day-time guard receive mentions. Then we're introduced to some new characters: Robby (*The Vampire and the Virgin*), Angus's several greats grandson; Giacomo (*Secret Life of a Vampire*), the smooth-talking Italian Casanova; and Phineas (*Wanted: Undead or Alive*), a newborn African American vamp who turns out to be some good comic relief, but whose libido gets him into a heap of trouble. Luckily, Angus is a very forgiving man.:-)

The main villains are the Russian coven led by the utterly evil Katya who has a history with Angus. However, Shanna father, Sean, is still at it with his Stake-Out team. At first, he won't give up on his vendetta against the vampires or believe that Shanna isn't being held against her will, but some unexpected new depth is added to his character as we finally learn what drives him in his quest. He ends up making a reluctant alliance in order to help Emma, and with a new grandchild on the way, he starts to soften some.

Overall, *Be Still My Vampire Heart* was a great read. The early parts of the story were some of the funniest I've read in this series, while the climax was edge-of-your-seat suspenseful as Angus and Emma fight for survival against the evil vamps. One of the things I love so much about this series is the multi-ethnic, international cast. They really add a lot of variety and flavor to the stories, and I'm very much looking forward to getting to know each of them better as I continue the series.

Sarah Marie says

Be Still My Vampire Heart by Kerrelyn Sparks

Third in the Love at Stake series

4.75 stars

Angus MacKay is a Scottish vampire for almost a thousand years. He runs MaKay Security and Investigation in hopes of saving humans and vampires alike. When out patrolling the park he finds Emma Wallace. Emma works for the CIA's Stake-Out team and she's intent on getting revenge on vampires after what they did to her family. As Angus falls for Emma and Emma starts feel the same way, she wonders if she'll be able to overcome her hate and want for revenge. Compared to this previous book in this series *Vamps and the City* this book is pure gold. *Vamps and the City* was a disappointment, but *Be Still My Vampire Heart* doesn't

disappoint and just shows that there was a slight bump in the road. I don't know what it is but I've come across many series with terrible second books which make me weary about going into the next book. I'm glad I read this series out of order though, but I still compare the books to how the series goes even if I read this book after nine books in the series came out. Oops! I was behind!

I always seem to read the books in adult series out of order. At least before I joined Goodreads.

Whimsical Writing Scale: 5

The main female character is Emma. I loved Emma in all of the books I read her in before except the first and second because she was so cold-hearted, but I still had a soft spot for her even then. Emma is probably one of my favorite heroines in the series. I think she's perfect for Angus and she's just kick-ass. I love how she changes throughout the course of the book and she's just so strong. She's easy to admire and I just can't find fault in her. I will admit she got somewhat frustrating towards the end with the whole situation, but it worked out and I quickly forgot about it.

Kick-Butt Heroine Scale: 4.75

The main male character is Angus. Angus is totally kickass. I always pictured him to be a grandfather looking type kind of guy when I first read about him in *The Vampire* and *the Virgin* because well it just seemed easier to do since he was Robby's grandfather, but I stopped doing that once I read the other books. Thank god I did! How awkward would that have been?

I think I'll pass.

How about him instead? I love Angus he's not my favorite of the Scotts, but he's definitely one of my favorite of the Vamps and males overall.

Swoon Worthy Scale: 4.75

The Villain- I actually liked the villains in this one. There was a lot of build up in the story and action towards the end. The villains in this one were a lot better than in the previous two.

Villain Scale: 3.5

I love all the characters in the *Love At Stake* series. I love seeing Roman and Shanna and Darcy and Austin again, but to be honest I don't really care about Darcy and Austin. I love Ian, Robby, Howard, Vanda, Phil, and I loved meeting Phineas for the first time. Phineas was the life of the party even when he was scared for his life.

Character Scale: 5

I love the Love at Stake series and this is probably one of the “better” books, but it’s not my favorite. I loved reading about Angus and Emma’s story and I’m sure I’ll go back again one day and revisit them. Sparks didn’t fail me with this and she’s one of my favorite writers because of the comedy and fun fluffiness in her books.

Plotastic Scale: 5

Cover Thoughts: I like the cover, but I don’t picture Emma to look like that. In fact I don’t think the lady does Emma justice at all. I do like the effect the cover gives off. It does have a slightly darker tone in the content than other two books and I think the cover hinted to that.

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

More fluffy vampire reading. This time it's the kilt wearing, claymore fighting Scot vampire Angus McKay and human vampire slayer, Emma Wallace.

***TANYA* says**

I was really looking forward to this series based on the reviews, I just wanted to find a great vampire series!!! On to the next one....

Jilly says

Yeah, yeah... sexy vamp in kilt falls for a vampire slayer. Hilarity ensues.

I can't concentrate today. My country has suddenly gotten very hot and we are traveling in a handbasket for some reason.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

loved this book!!!!!!

t'irla ~The Bookslayer~ t'irla's Talk Book Blog says

Can a hero get any more masculine, alpha, gorgeous, loving than our kilt wearing Scot Angus MacKay? I

think NOT!..He is every woman's dream. A warrior, a friend, has a sense of humour, loyalty and you can rely on him to do the right thing. I think Kerrelyn Sparks wrote the epitome of PNR hero, and as if that isn't enough she matched him with a strong, self reliant, heroine in Emma. It is about time a PNR author wrote strong characters who are true to themselves. She let our hero acknowledge our heroine as an equal. Not someone to be protected and put on a pedestal but someone who would fight beside him and be his partner. She also kept our heroine feminine and womanly.

Mix these great main characters with a likeable set of secondary characters, and truly evil badguys blend that with a fantastic plot, inspired writing and you have *Be Still My Vampire Heart*. The only thing I can really say I don't like about this book is the title which I think is kinda cheesy. This story is self contained and could be read as a stand alone if necessary but it was wonderful to see the characters from the past 2 books brought into the periphery of this story. I admit that my curiosity is piqued with baby Constantine..and what he will become. I can't wait to read about what happens to Ian. So many questions...guess I'll just have to read the next book!

Inspired characters, great plot and good writing makes giving this book a 5 star rating a no brainer.

January 4 2013 I listened to this book as a reread and loved it just as much the second time round. The narrator was quite good and her accents were ok. I did think Emma had a bit more of an english accent but it didn't impact my enjoyment of the book. I stand by what I said in my review and still feel it was a 5 star read. Angus was so sweet.

Natasha says

Be Still My Vampire Heart, is the third installment in the *Love at Stake* series by Kerrelyn Sparks. I'm ashamed to say this is only my first Sparks book I've read. I've seen this series everywhere, but just never picked it up. Until I came across this book and decided to give it a go. And am I ever glad I did. I usually read a series from the start, but since these books are pretty much stand alone, it's not necessary. If you are looking to start from the beginning, book one is called *'How to Marry a Millionaire Vampire'*. I realized that when starting with book 3, I would have missed some inside information about the characters or plot lines but I'm happy to say, I followed along easily.

First off, who doesn't like a Scottish Highlander man? Their accents and bravery are to die for. Angus MacKay is my new favorite Highlander. He's strong, gorgeous, protective and witty. (Checking to see if all of him made it there, after teleporting..too cute)

Emma Wallace is a member of the CIA's vampire hunter squad. And unlike some, she loves her work. Emma She doesn't just work for the Vampire Hunter Squad, she's also the vampire slayer. The person killing vampires at central park, and getting the unwanted attention of the vampires. In Emma's mind, the only good vampire is a dead vampire. That is, until she meets Angus MacKay, a kilt-wearing Scottish warrior.

Angus MacKay is out to stop Emma from slaying vampires. Not to save the vampires, but to save herself from being killed. A human doesn't stand a chance against vampires. No even one as kick ass as Emma.

I really enjoyed the banter between Angus and Emma, they are both smart, kick-ass characters. I absolutely loved Angus's accent, and the conflict and tension between Shanna and her father was interesting. I will be

picking the rest of the series up for sure. I enjoy Sparks's writing and can't wait to see what's next!

?????? ?????? says

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Ren says

5 stars

So far this one is my favorite books in this series, and I enjoyed it from the start until the end :). Be Still My Vampire Heart is the story about Angus MacKay (weird name, Angus?) and Emma Wallace (not, not Braveheart, LOL)..

Angus MacKay is a vampire. Turned by Roman Draganesti (hero from book one), and then become his close friend and ally. Someday he finds a disturbing news. Someone has slaying many vampire outside. It's a good news of course, because the vampire that got slayed is part of Malcontent. Or The True Ones, the bad vampire and The Vamps opposites, the good vampire. But it gets bad after all, because the American - Russian coven, accused Roman's coven as part of this massacre, and want to get war. Angus realized, maybe this is Stake Out Team responsibilities, so he goes to Central Park to warn the slayer..

Emma Wallace, is a human. She is part of Stake Out Team, and also the slayer of the vampire. Once she goes to Central Park, she meets Angus, with he examines his underpart behind his kilt (LOL!!). First, she doesn't know that he is a vampire. Just found he is charming, and attractive in some medieval way (and with his sexy scottish brogue..). But then she knows he is a vampire (no need a long time for her to realize that, not like the 2 first books), and Angus warns her, to not slay vampire again. Because it can danger her life, and she hesitated. For Emma, vampire is evil, but soon, she knows, that vampire like human too. Some good, some bad.

Emma tries to trust Angus, and Angus tries to protect her in all ways. And then the danger from Malcontents is growing... Emma and Angus got captured by Katya, Russian Coven co-master, and Angus ex-lover. She took them to her base, in Ukraine. Katya left Emma and Angus in room full of silver, so Angus cannot escape. Worse, Katya emptied his flask of blood, so he will get hungry when he wakes from his dead state in daylight. The only way Angus to fill his thirst, is drink Emma's blood. But can he do that, and can Emma willing to give her blood, when they realized, they are loved each other?...

Sound familiar with this plot, like previous two books? Not really, because even the theme is the same (prejudice about vampire is evil), I enjoyed this book more from the previous books. Emma is my kind of heroine. She can kick any vampire ass, but she still has a kind heart. And I like when she bantering with Angus. Angus is an alpha man type. A Scotland knight that always keeps his words, and he is so conservative. The way he treated Emma sometimes make me laugh, but it's adorable too. He has some odd way of humor and habits. Like always check under his kilt after he teleports to some place, to make sure everything is intact and still in the place *LOL* (got an info that **Scotland men not wearing anything under his kilt**, wow :))). ...

There are some character that will stole your attention, like Gregori, Roman's vice president (he's like comic relief in this series), Connor Buchanan, Ian McPhie, Giacomo di Venezia (a Cassanova's descendants, so he always flirted, anytime, anywhere, any woman), and a new vampire, Phineas, that make sure everyone called his, Doctor Phang...

Cant wait to read their story, and I will continue to read the next in this series

that featured a France famous designer, Jean-Luc Echarpe...

Soraia says

I've read three books and one short story in the **Love at Stake** series. *Be Still My Vampire Heart* has the weakest title in the series so far but it's the best story. Angus MacKay, Highlander leader of the British coven and responsible for security in the vampire world, is called to New York to solve the vampire hunter problem. The malcontents believe one of the good vamps is attacking their members and turning them into dust, little they know that the hunter is Emma Wallace, CIA agent member of the Stake Out Team.

Angus is immediately besotted with Emma, a she-warrior that is much like him. She spends her nights defending innocents seeking revenge for a family tragedy. Emma thinks Angus is the incarnation of her fantasy man, but the problem is he's not exactly a man. If it weren't for the little undead status, he would be perfect. They both try to fight their attraction but eventually succumb in the midst of danger, traps and bloodthirsty enemies.

The best thing about this story is that it's believable. Of course, you have vampires with absurd power and immortality, but what's close to reality are the personalities and their reactions. There is no over-explored angst, the doubts are understandable but they dwell very little on them. The suspense is well written, I got nervous expecting them to break free, waiting for the bad guy around the corner.

Angus is fantastic. He's a gentleman but also a ruthless warrior. He has a great sense of humor, he's charming and I can understand Emma's attraction from the beginning, even though I've never been one to fantasize about Scots in kilts.

Emma is a great example of a strong heroine who's stubborn but not stupid. She is not perfect, makes mistakes with impulsive actions, but she's not too proud to see her flaws. She knows when she's wrong and is not afraid to admit it.

My only problem with Kerrelyn Sparks' writing are the sex scenes. They are not absurdly fake or graphical but they always have a slight problem. Either they are psychic events, or they get interrupted, or one or both participants have some kind of problem at the moment, like the sun is coming up or they are weakened etc. These things happen in every single scene from all three books in the series I've read. I get that the author is trying to show that it can be good even if it's not "perfect", but just once I'd like to see something easy.

Be Still My Vampire Heart has a great plot and the subplots are quite good as well. I really liked Phinneas, was glad to finally understand why Sean is so hardheaded, and Constantine was a treat. I laughed out loud in various parts and finished the book with a smile, that for me is the final evidence of a good book.

I'll soon be reading the fourth book in the series, finally I'm hooked.

Fanny says

Este tercer libro de la serie Love At Stake ha sido el que mas me ha enganchado de los tres que llevo leidos, me parecio el mas divertido y eso es decir mucho ya que con los libros anteriores me rei muchisimo.

La relacion de Angus y Emma me parecio la mas tierna y romantica. Me encanto la forma en la que se conocieron y sus conversaciones eran tan dulces que me hacian suspirar todo el tiempo.

Mi historia favorita por el momento, digo por el momento porque tengo muchas esperanzas con el siguiente libro que tendra como protagonista a Jean-Luc.

3.25 Estrellas!

Mary Abshire says

I really like Emma. She's spunky and perfect for Angus. Good humor, tension, and action. The story flowed very smoothly, even with the additional bit with Shanna and the baby. This was an all around great read!

Sana Zameer says

This one was better than the first two books. It had a good plot. Emma Wallace is a vampire slayer, like Buffy.

I liked Emma. She's a very strong, badass girl. And her chemistry with Angus was sizzling hot. These two are the best couple in this series. Angus is kind and chivalrous. In fact all of the vampires are kind and gentle and I'm beginning to adore all of them. Connor, Ian, Gregori, laszlo.... The rest of the characters were there too. Roman and Shanna, Austin and Darcy, Garret and ever so stubborn Sean Whelan. Looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

Yodamom says

Sweet, romantic, fun and sexy.

Ah sweet Angus, he stole my heart. I loved how he checked under his kilt overtime he shifted to make sure he was all there. He was the perfect gentleman, honor bound, respectful and driven to make his woman happy. Oh and happy he does versa well.

< wink >

Emma his sworn enemy, hates all things fanged, she kills them regularly. That is what draws attention to her,

she is going to be killed by the malcontent vampires if she doesn't stop. Angus is charged with stoping her but her hatred blinds her to his real personality, she only sees a monster. She has reason, her history with fanged ones is not pretty and is backed up with a long ago promise.

Her stubbornness, his determination and their hunters will have them facing many realities before the end of the book .Where they end may be a predictable finale, but the path there was fun, exciting and enjoyable.
