



# Moonlight

*Ann Hunter*

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**Moonlight** Ann Hunter

One vow. One curse. One thousand moons.

While Princess Aowyn's six brothers are favored by their father, Aowyn is the jewel in her mother's crown. When the Queen dies, Aowyn takes a vow to protect her brothers and father from the hungry eyes of the queen's handmaiden, Ciatllait - who is more than she seems.

In order to save her family, Aowyn risks a dangerous deal with the dark creature Syllas Mortas. But magic comes with a price: and Aowyn soon realizes the one she has paid is too steep.

Only true love can reverse the spell...but it will take one thousand moons.

Set in a Celtic world, "Moonlight" is the story of faith and true love woven through a breathtaking retelling of the classic folktale "The Swan Princess".

## Moonlight Details

Date : Published March 3rd 2014 by Afterglow Productions

ISBN :

Author : Ann Hunter

Format : Kindle Edition 153 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Retellings, Fairy Tales, Young Adult, Romance



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# From Reader Review Moonlight for online ebook

## Janice Smith-gentry says

### A new take on an old story.

This is the second book in the series. I believe that this is better than the first. Ann Hunter is a wonderful writer who brings the story to life. I love reading a book when the characters are something you can connect with. This book is one of the best fairytales I have read in a long time. Great job, Ann. Please keep writing. You are quickly becoming one of my favorites.

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## J.A. Ironside says

Review copy given in exchange for an honest review.

This is a rather lovely retelling of a mash up  
Of several Celtic legends - six wild swans and the four fair children of Lir among them. If you haven't read The Subtle Beauty yet then read this one first. Although both books do stand alone I think you get a better perspective of Xander's character from reading this one first.

Aowyn is a great character - fey, wise and tempestuous. Definitely an interesting mix! Syllas Mortis also makes a larger appearance in this book. What I like about him is that even though he is designated the bad guy, he really isn't good or evil. He just is: he exists in the grand tradition of Celtic fairytales. Considering that it's not a long book the brothers are fleshed out and individual enough. My objection is what happens to them! Wasn't happy about that at all but then we can't have every fairy tale end as we would like it too!

I am curious to see two fundamentally weak father figures in this book - one because he loves too much and gives into despair and another because he doesn't live at all...

Overall an otherworldly fantasy read with strong Celtic overtones. Definitely one for the fairytale lovers.  
3.5 stars

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## Dina says

I was not financially compensated for this post. I received a copy of the book for review purposes. The opinions are completely my own based on my experience.

Moonlight is full of fun and adventure and peppered with action. While I found the book an entertaining read I was left yet again longing for more character development. Hunter's characters continue to be hollow shells begging to be further developed. This certainly attributes to the length of her novellas. While the characters have personality the changes in them are so abrupt. The romance between Aowyn and Xander is disjointed and forced. Additionally, I found the plot to be a bit muddy and a lot of the motivations behind Caitlait were never explained. The use of Gaelic words while meaningful and fresh often left me confused about their meaning. I continued to feel unsympathetic towards the characters yet, Aowyn and Xander were a lot easier

to accept as likeable. Aowyn's brothers are treated poorly in the novella and I almost don't care about their plight. Hunter simply did not devote enough time to the brother showcasing their personalities.

The subject matter dealt in this novella is aimed at a younger age demographic. With this in mind, there are several episodes of sexual exploits that make me hesitate to recommend this for a young adult. Again with Hunter's work the story was very predictable. Yet, the one thing I was intrigued by was the actions of Sylas. It will be interesting to read his story and see his journey since he appears to be the most dimensional character in any of Hunter's books.

Ann Hunter is a detailed writer with imaginative storytelling, and she spins a tale that is sure to entertain an avid reader in the fantasy fiction genre. Moonlight has some fun fantasy elements, yet much more time in her story should be devoted to character development.

If you are a fan of this genre and enjoy *The Swan Princess* you might want to take a look at this book.

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### **Prabh? says**

\*3.5\* stars!

This was such a beautiful story. it almost read like a fairy tale! The thing is- it was really short, so yesss one more book ahead in my reading challenge XD Many of the plot points were not really explained or did well, and if that had happened it would be a five star to be sure :) Also I didn't like the romance since it kind of felt like INSTA LOVE UGHHHH.

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### **Jackie says**

This was definitely NOT like the cartoon movie my daughter watched in the 90's. This princess did not turn into a swan, but her 6 brothers did, seemed kind of odd referring to her as the swan princess. I don't know for sure, but I think this was meant as a Y/A book, though I don't think it would be good for the younger ages of Y/A.

The whole story was just too sad, between the deaths of her Mother & of 4 of the 6 brothers, the strange romance, the emotional abuse on Xander by his father & brother, over all made this just too sad for my taste. I don't enjoy reading stuff like that. I also didn't relate to the names of all the characters, though they may be from the Celtic origins of the story, they were just too confusing & most were too similar sounding to follow, I kept getting confused of who was who. There were quite a few incomplete ideas or gaps in the story that left this reader puzzled of intent or what happened or having to backtrack to see if I missed something. Like who/what was Sylas Mortas? He could have been any kind of creature, but I wanted to know what, to help me understand where the story was going with him. What was the bargain that Aowynn made with him? I was very confused over that bargain, took me a ways in to figure out her silence meant no speaking. Or who/what was Crwys? How did she inhabit the body of Ciatllait? Were they separate identities? & what did some of the pharses translate too, like "Go dtachta an diabhal thú"? I don't know if that's Celtic/Gaelic or whatever, but I need a translation in order to appreciate it in a book written in English. The overall flow was very slow & choppy, I almost put the book down. The characters aren't super likable, the majority of the brothers were not likable in my opinion. Princess Aowyn was ok, not the type of heroine I would have thought. Xander, just seemed odd until near the end. Just not enough background/world building to get more

of a feeling for the characters to like them.

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## **Dianne says**

Click to Enter to win YOUR choice of eBooks by Ann Hunter Ends April 9, 2014

Love, determination, strength of character, loss, loyalty and sacrifice, they're all there in this amazing fantasy novella! **Moonlight** by Ann Hunter is filled with Celtic mythology, and a strong young heroine who will win your heart within the first few pages. The lone daughter of the king, her brothers are far more valuable to him, especially after the death of her mother when she vowed to always protect her siblings at any cost. When evil rears its ugly head and her brothers are cursed to be swans, Aowyn makes a pact with magical creature to save them. For one thousand days she may not utter a word about their existence as swans or all is forfeited. Can Aowyn keep her commitment? When she finds a man who steals her heart, she hesitates too long in accepting his proposal and he disappears. Should she leave her brothers undefended and follow her heart or should she stay to stop the evil that has crept into her castle. How does one choose between the love of family and the vows made for them and the love of a man who may be your destiny?

Ann Hunter has created a fantasy world and filled it with a strong heroine who is an amazing role model for children and an endearing character for adults. Magic, danger, death and love all dot this short, yet satisfying read. With her gift for writing, Ann Hunter will sweep you away into a fairytale world that will steal your heart and fuel your imagination no matter what your age. A wonderful escape into the fantasy of reading.

I received a review copy from Ann Hunter in exchange for my honest review.

Publication Date: March 3, 2014

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Genre: Fantasy / Coming of Age

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Available from: Amazon

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## **Amy Freese says**

I am SO glad I read this story!! Ann Hunter has done a wonderful job putting new twists on classic fairy tales. I read her book, *The Subtle Beauty*, and found it to be a sweet, moving tale. What she has done with *Moonlight* is even better! I absolutely adore and believe in Princess Aowyn. She became completely real for me. I felt her sorrow and cheered her joy. As her family becomes cursed, I was angered with her. The villains in this tale are very easy to dislike despite that there is an air of mystery surrounding the ultimate purpose to what they do. I am also a huge fan of Xander Blacksteed. How he grows and learns to believe in himself caused ME to do the same. I found him to be a great balance to Aowyn. I liked that it took time for her to accept and know him. This was not your classic "love at first sight" circumstance. Huge kudos to the author for taking that course with these characters! I am eager to read the next book, *Fallen*, which I hear is about to be released! I would also encourage author Ann Hunter to consider giving us tales based on Aowyn's brothers. :)

### **Kyleigh says**

Moonlight is a beautiful retelling of the Celtic fairy tale "The Swan Princess". It is the story of Aowyn, the daughter of the Son of the Sun, whose mother is killed by an evil witch who intends to usurp her father's throne and place her demon lover on it as King with her as Queen. Ciatillait curses Aowyn's brothers by turning them all into swans and they flee to their sacred spot from their childhood. Aowyn makes a pact with the demon to ensure her brother's return to human form by promising to not say a word for one thousand moons or 2 years. During her time in silence she meets Xander, the second prince of the Thousand Isles who has come to her land to wage war against her father while he is weak. But fate has other plans and Aowyn and Xander fall in love.

I loved this story! I couldn't put it down and ended up staying up through the night to finish it long past my normal bedtime. Full of fantasy, action and romance it's the perfect story for all romantics looking for a fresh take on an old story. I especially loved the love story between Xander and Aowyn, as it was very reminiscent of Romeo and Juliet. It is clear that Ann Hunter loves these tales and has done her research to ensure justice is done to the original. She uses traditional names and terms from the days of Celtic old making for not just a fictional read but also a fascinating historical read as well.

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### **Barb VanderWel says**

I love this & I can't wait for more.  
I will be also leaving a review on Goodreads @ Amazon.  
And letting everyone know about it.  
So i gave it a 5 Stars.

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### **Logan says**

Moonlight is the second story by Ann Hunter, and is prequel of sorts to her first book The Subtle Beauty. I was asked to read an advance release copy of the book and do the review for the book, and after reading the book, I could honestly say, I would have read the book anyway.

Moonlight is the story of Aowyn and her six brothers, as they grow up in the Summer Isle. Aowyn is the red-headed princess and love of her mother Sulwyn's heart. As the book opens, Sulwyn is struck with an illness and dies, leaving her father Aodhagain alone --- at least for a while. The queen's handmaid, Ciatillait, swoops in and puts a spell over him, so all he sees is her and that is all he cares for. Caitillait is so obsessed with the kingdom that she drives the sons out of the castle with magic - - - magic that turns them into swans. Aowyn cannot stand to see this happen to her brothers and goes to make a pact with the person who gave Caitillait her power, and this man – Silas Mortas – advises that he will return the brothers to their human form, after a thousand moons. All she has to do is tell no one of what has happened between them. In the meantime, war breaks out between the Twelve Kingdoms and the Summer Isle and Xander and his brother are sent to fight at the front for their king, Rab Blacksteed. Xander spots Aowyn after an unfortunate event with two of the swan/brothers, and the result is love at first sight.

As the war rages on, Aowyn convinces Xander that they have a common enemy, Caitallait, who is now in

charge of the kingdom, after wedding Aodhagain and causing him to have an illness. Together, they rid the kingdom of Caitillait, and Xander professes his love for Aowyn. When she does not return his love, he leaves and heads back to the Twelve Kingdoms to marry his brother's fiancé, after the custom when your brother dies.

Aowyn goes after Xander, finding that he is her true love, and the book ends with a twist that you would not expect (I don't want to give it away).

This, like *The Subtle Beauty*, is a short read, but well worth the investment, as it will teach your children about love, determination, and sacrifice. It is a great book to read to your children as they are going to sleep, as it has everything that a fairy tale should have: love, fighting, magic, and a happy ending.

It heartily deserves the five star rating that I have given it, and it will make its way into my children's bedtime stories when they are old enough to appreciate good reading.

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### **Morgan Blomstedt says**

Fun short read. Great retelling of the Swan Princess.

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### **Steffi says**

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. Ann Hunter did a great job of mixing fantasy, great characters, fairytale and mythology. After a few pages you'll fall in love with the protagonist and a few pages later you'll be sucked into this amazing world. Everyone should read this.

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### **Shelley says**

I enjoyed reading this store though parts of it is very sad and some heart breaking. She lost two brothers because she broke her silence and then two more when they came to her rescue. She finds her love and saves her kingdom as well as her father, But at a great price.

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### **Kathryn Hughey says**

LOVED it! I love fairytales though, and I especially love when people put a good spin on one! Admittedly, I have never heard of this specific fairytale, but I enjoyed it regardless. It read like a fairytale, and was full of magic, and evil and good, and love. \*sigh\* What's NOT to love?!?!?

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### **Aj Sterkel says**

This fairytale examines love from every angle. The characters all love someone or something, and that love makes them selfless, brave, and patient. It also makes them cruel, hateful, jealous, and power-hungry. It terrifies them. It makes them behave foolishly. It saves them. It destroys them. It makes curses and breaks curses. It's the most powerful force in the world.

*Moonlight* is the prequel to *The Subtle Beauty*, but it is a stand-alone novella, so you don't have to read *The Subtle Beauty* to understand it. The heroes of *Moonlight*, Aowyn and Xander, aren't afraid to take on the bad guys and stand up for what they believe. Aowyn is a strong female character who can think for herself and fight just as well as the men. Xander can be brash when he's with his fellow soldiers, but he loves Aowyn, respects her decisions, and sees her as his equal.

*Moonlight* puts a new Celtic spin on the classic fairytale *The Swan Princess*. I enjoyed reading it.

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