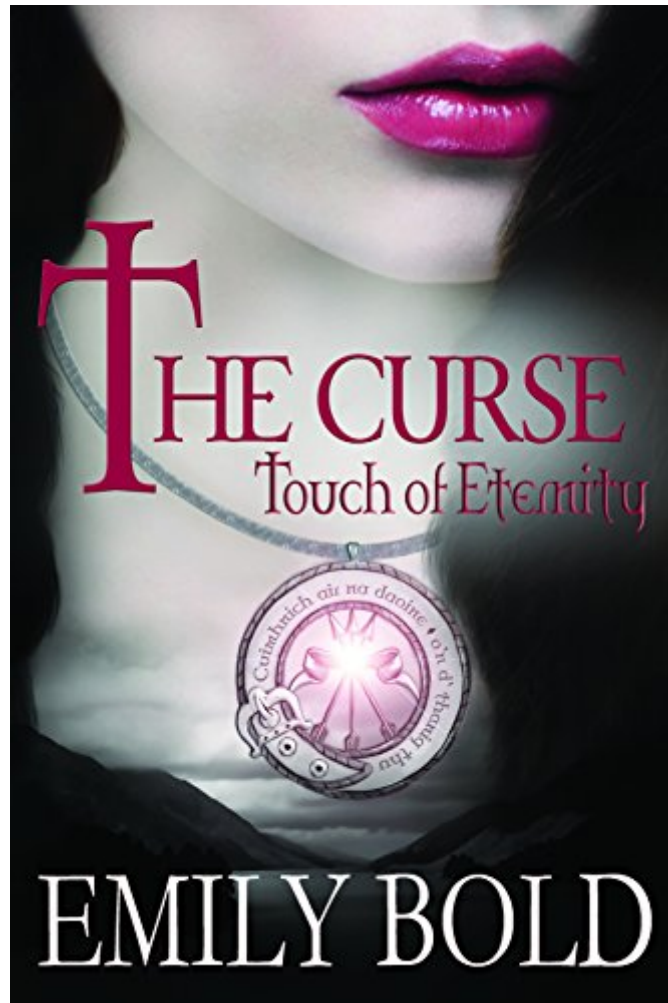


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The Curse: Touch Of Eternity (The Curse Series Book 1)



Synopsis

A centuries-old curse, a mysterious amulet, and a young love reignite a vendetta that had died down long ago. When seventeen-year-old Samantha goes on a school-exchange trip to Scotland, she takes with her an old pendant that she found amongst her grandmother's belongings. As soon as she arrives at her host family's home, she is drawn into the country's tales and myths. Then she meets the dangerously attractive Payton – "a mysterious Highlander who soon conquers Sam's heart. Caught up in her feelings, she doesn't realize how much danger she's in. Payton's past holds a dark secret. A secret that has bound together both their families' fates for hundreds of years and is now also endangering Sam's life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't usually go for teen/YA books, but this one had (I thought) an interesting setting and characters that could have made it go to the next level, as in being a decent read for anyone. Okay, it did have cool elements. BUT...the heroine, exchange student Sam. Like, OMG, you guys, she totally is so desperate for male attention. She will DIE if he doesn't say she's pretty. "Really? You think I'm pretty?" Tee hee. She lies to go meet a strange boy in a strange country. She pines for him

even when he's inexplicably distant and angry and ditches her at a pub (but OMG, you guys, she totally didn't even get carded!). The cool premise, of a family suffering a 270-year-old curse of bleak, cold immortality takes a back seat to the young heroine's dithering over, "Should I call him? No, he should call ME!" and her sudden blinding belief that she is in love. As far as I know, she doesn't know the guy's last name and she met him maybe a week or two ago. Girls, listen up. That is NOT love. That's INFATUATION. Do NOT go and change your lives because you develop intense feelings for a boy over the summer. OMG! Those will totally fade. Seriously. Some rather cursory descriptions of local landmarks and history are thrown in, more as filler. The mystery, the curse, the history are elaborated on somewhat, but...the story never leads up to the fascinating potential of the first chapter. So. I realize this girl is 17 and hasn't yet kissed a boy. But can girls REALLY not think of anything except how being near that special boy makes their no-no area warm up? Even with a huge supernatural event going on, and danger, and, y'know, stuff like that. The other issue is the same I have with Edward Cullen. This 19-year-old boy is really a 289-year-old man.

This book is like a cross between Highlander and Twilight, with few of the better qualities of either. It's got immortal Scots, plus a lot of Highlands imagery (which mostly seems to have been gleaned from books and internet travel web sites, as opposed to any trips the author may have taken to Scotland). It's also got an incredibly bland heroine. Sam is an American teenage girl on a trip to Scotland, and her only distinctions seem to be as follows: A) she is mysteriously irresistible to the "hero" Payton, due to her ancestral line, and B) she is super wishy-washy about her feelings towards Payton's past. Payton, also largely bland, is rather Edward-Cullen-like in many ways but especially in his tendency towards unstable, stalkery behavior. This book contains multiple passages wherein male secondary characters express attraction for female secondary characters in really appalling ways. For example, one of Payton's brothers is hot for a girl he's only just met, while she is still tearfully sobbing and tied up by the scary kidnappers from whom he is helping to free her, and the girl is supposedly lucky, because Payton's brother is such a sexy catch. And for an even more extreme example, there's some backstory wherein a guy "falls in love with a witch". And we know his love is deep and true, because even though he's married to another woman, he... keeps the witch locked in a tower where he can rape her nightly. None of that says Romance to me at all. Rape is not condoned in this book, thank goodness, but it's really not a far stretch to read warily into the supposedly romantic parts in the same book where a rapist is described as being "in love". Infatuation, perhaps, maybe, darkly, but not love! Even the paranormal elements here, which are pretty mild, are not well done.

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