



Unspoken

Kerrigan Byrne

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He's cursed with eternal silence...

Roderick MacLauchlan is death for hire. Blessed by an ancient Deity with Berserker rage, he has the strength of ten men. Cursed by a malicious enemy, he's incapable of speech. A desperate clan war rages around him and a malevolent adversary lurks in the darkness, calling for blood.

Evelyn Woodhouse is an English refugee with a dangerous secret. She has the ability to see the outcome of tomorrow's battle and knows they're on the wrong side of it. When a doomed and silent mercenary rescues her from a fate worse than death, it seems he has his own plans for her. This is his last night alive and she's never been able to defy destiny.

Unspoken Details

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From Reader Review Unspoken for online ebook

Rachel Annie says

The first novella from The Highland Novella Trilogy about the MacLauchlan Berserkers.

This was a quick read, but...

Yeah, it was sexy. Kinda left me wanting more, but I knew it wasn't a full-length novel. This is perfect if you want a hot and fast historical paranormal romance.

Lanie (Lanies Book Thoughts) says

This book was just great, it was both deep and meaningful and sexy at the same time. I felt like the attraction and relationship between Evelyn and Roderick was real and could easily evolve into them building a life together. I didn't have that feeling that these two are only together because they wanna take a tumble between the sheets, which is really important in these historicals.

The characters were very believable and likable to me. Evelyn had a hard life and ended up being a barmaid which obviously isn't a glamorous job during the medieval times in Scotland. She seemed very intelligent and compassionate towards people in general but wasn't naive in thinking people were good. I give her points for that. I also liked the fact she had a bit of a mouth and a backbone which probably wasn't the best thing for women of that time period.

Roderick terrifies everyone, some want to use him for war while others just want to kill him because of his pagan ways. He is in fact unable to speak which kinda made him more endearing to me. Even though he's this big guy he's very kind to Evelyn and actually watches out for her. That pretty much put him over the top for me.

Altogether, this is a great book in my opinion. I love the usual hero and his 'gifts' matched with this historical world. It just was well written and captured my imagination from the beginning. I'd recommend to other historical lovers, as well as those who like PNR because there are magical elements to this story.

18+ there are many sex scenes.

Ø???? [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're are mostly my thoughts as I went with the book...

Oh WOW, I must say I'm very impressed by this novella. Highland Historical is a debut series by Kerrigan Byrne (if I'm not wrong) and Unspoken is the first book of it. I was looking for something different to read and berserkers being one of my favorite paranormal beings, I jumped when I heard about this series. Overall, I felt the storyline was pretty compact and yes, Kerrigan's writing was excellent. The hero, Roderick was just adorable. *sigh*

The whole series is set in the medieval Scotland. This one starts out on the verge of a bloody war, in fact just the day before it. Evelyn is originally an English who has her own secrets to hide. An orphan, Evelyn never had a lot of security to speak of. Later, she ran to Scotland from people who wanted to misuse her special ability. Evelyn has visions and sights and she has been ill-used by some in the past because of it. We don't know much of her background but a few bits and pieces of what her life was like. Evelyn works as a maid in a shabby tavern in Scotland for a minimum wage and a place to sleep. Her life is still pretty tough but at least no one knows about her secret here. Yet she's always terrified that someone will, someday.

Evelyn just had a vision, a terrible one where she found herself in the aftermath of a battle and looking for someone frantically. When she wakes, shivering, she has no idea what that means. Soon, in the evening, everything sort of begins falling in place. Men gathered in the tavern, most of them are warriors, spending a night drinking (among other things) to ready themselves for the battle next day. In the midst of serving, Evelyn becomes aware of a new arrival and others whispering about him. She finds herself looking at this huge man, cloaked (literally) in darkness, as if darkness perpetually follows him. She hears the bits of whispers swirling around her; something about the berserkers and one of the fiercest named Roderick MaLaughlan, who is now occupying a shadowy corner of the tavern. She also learns that Roderick is mute.

These people, they don't like him and yet to win the battle, he's been hired. They also think his powers are dark and fear him thus. But either way, they're very curious about this man.

Serving Roderick his food falls on Evelyn's hands. She's sort of forced by the other tavern maids to do it. They, apparently, don't like her for being an English. So, let her bear the brunt of the devil's anger/dark powers. As she shakily goes to serve him, Evelyn finds herself looking at a ruggedly beautiful face and a pair of otherworldly green eyes instead of something ugly, evil and vicious. Evelyn is a goner that moment. This scene was super where she tries to communicate with him, blabbering away and then berating herself for doing so, knowing he can't communicate. And instead of finding anger, she finds amusement in those eyes. Evelyn doesn't understand why people are afraid of him.

Then the story picks up when Evelyn is targeted by the betrayer of the lot since she blurts out to him about his betrayal, which she learned through her vision. Roderick saves her twice from that man. Evelyn falls into his arms, even if for one night because she already knows that Roderick will die in the battle next day.

To know what really happens, grab the book now! I have to say I was glued to it from the very first page. The story was not only compact but intriguing as well. Kerrigan wove the tale in such a way that she made me believe in Evelyn and Roderick's chemistry. Their connection was done so well that even though characters sleeping with each-other too soon kill some fun for me generally, I was very happy for these two. I also find the trend of berserkers mating for life really sexy. The only complain, I wanted MORE of the story. Definitely more of Evelyn's background. We learn bits of Roderick's, that he's a prosperous baron, though his older brother Connor is the laird. I also wanted to know how exactly these Highlanders came to be awarded with this gift from Freya.

Next up is Unwilling, Connor's story. Another berserker... Me sooo likey! I'm going to read that one now. Meanwhile, Unspoken gets a 4.25 star from me. Highly recommended if you're into berserkers, sexy HIGHLANDER berserkers that is and a short, sweet, yet intense read.

CC says

What a fun little short story! I really enjoyed it. I have not read historical romance in forever; so it was good to ease back in with a short book that was also paranormal. I would have given this a higher score if we had more time in the Hero's POV. With him not speaking, I really needed something from him before the end.

Maida»-(`v`)-» says

RATING: 2.5 Hearts!

Erika says

3.5 to 4 stars!

Very fun, sexy novella. Though the hero is experienced sexually, he hasn't been a manwhore. Book is 100% safe.

Jen Davis says

I really loved the idea of this book and I think its length was the biggest hindrance to its ideal execution. Don't get me wrong. I enjoyed it. But I believe that with a bit more development, it could have gone to the next level.

Roderick MacLauchlan is a mercenary Berserker. He is huge, gorgeous, powerful and mute. Evelyn is an orphaned Englishwoman who works in a tavern in Scotland. She has a little bit of precognition, but it has only ever caused her problems. When she "sees" Roderick's death, she isn't sure what to do. Can she change his fate? Does she even want to get involved? All of her past experiences tell her no, but she is drawn to him in a way she can't ignore. And once they share a night together, things change even more than she could have ever expected.

I love the idea of a mute Berserker so much, I could just roll around in it for days and Roderick does deliver on the promise of the premise. The love scene with Evelyn is hot and I liked their HEA. But there was so much that was underdeveloped. I would have happily read more backstory on both characters. I would have loved more interaction leading up to their night together AND more interaction afterward. The whole story takes place in such a short period of time, it can barely move beyond the superficial. That's a shame because the idea is awesome –and I liked what I read. There just wasn't enough of it.

I picked this story up after reading and loving Kerrigan Byrne's The Highwayman. This is the first of her three MacLauchlan stories. Unfortunately, it looks like they are all short like this one (about 60 pages.) The blurbs look good, though.

Rating: B/B-

Lori says

From start to finish I was unable to put this down. The author has a way of describing her characters and scenes to where you feel like you are there. It was the first book I have read by Kerrigan and it definitely won't be my last. I can't wait to read the next book in the series, *Unwilling*.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

The first book in *The MacLauchlans* series by Kerrigan Byrne. Evelyn Woodhouse is an English barmaid who has a secret. She has "the sight". She encounters Roderick MacLauchlan, a mute Berserker, and he ends up rescuing her.

First of all, this wasn't bad but it really was too short to really appreciate. But it is a spicy little read for those who like the hot stuff. I just didn't feel the story was developed enough.

Kate's Corner says

Roderick has been cursed and has lost his voice as a Berserker it isn't easy either. He is a mercenary and the night he goes in to battle he meets Evelyn.

Evelyn has certain powers and the battle will not go well tomorrow as a barmaid she manages to accuse the traitor and escapes barely with her life when Roderick saves her.

Far too short for my liking but a fantastic read. Will most certainly continue with the series.

Bespectacledreader says

The procrastinating human posted a ~~useless~~ review! YAY me!

Such an achievement really. Anyway if you are looking for verra short story aka novella with ~~slightly, verra, verra~~, slightly convincing instalove (*hello, MATE* thing), more convincing *instalust*, sprinkled with **action** and **magic** then this is the book for you. And c'mon have you seen the author's name? the author is **Kerrigan Byrne** by now you must have trusted her after reading *The Highwayman* and *The Hunter* which is pretty popular in the HR world lately. TRUST her that she will do good in any endeavor she has may it be PNR or HR.

So yes this is a good read. An awesome read for a short story. The author introduced us to an interesting world with **Roderick** the berserker and **Evelyn** the seer. This is **fast paced** so no real depth there but the author can spell sexual tension in the air. If I blabber the summary here it will be useless so I would just let Ms. Kerrigan do the story telling. Bottomline is you do not have to trust me, **YOU HAVE TO TRUST**

Kerrigan Byrne.

Five stars because this 1) this is paranorman so in my dictionary all is acceptable **except** if the pnr has something to do with *the* alpha male throwing his female into an orgy - Hello there Feral Sins, I am looking atchu. 2) 5 because this is Kerrigan Byrne. 3) This is an interesting short story. 4) The title is on point.

Liz says

I love a good historical romance, and this takes place in one of my favorite eras. I think the Celtic culture is fascinating, and I love reading about berserkers. Byrne does a great job writing passionate characters who tell a story through their love for each other.

My only complaint: I want more!

100sweet says

I wanted to give this 1 star but changed my mind because of the H. The H was great but the h bothered the hell out of me. She grew up in a convent and is a virgin. She meets a stranger and knows next to nothing about him. So this donkey impulsively goes to his room to have sex with him. She gives a stranger her virginity and she acted completely out of character. This was a woman who didn't give close to anyone and had no known friends.

Casey says

Hot. Berserkers. In Kilts.

That is all.

Dalene says

I thoroughly enjoyed this novella. This was well written. Not entirely comfortable with erotic romances, but having read a few, this book was not trashy. The author uses descriptive words that to me evoked a feeling rather than an entirely visual romance scene and did not overdo the details.

The premise of this story was great. Being a short story I thought many things would be rushed or left undone at the end, and this was so not the case. The set up with the scene in the beginning of the book and all of the characters, I was able to immediately connect with Evelyn. I loved her character. She is sweet, maybe a little naive, and kind of unsure of herself at times. The author was also able to describe a tough but sweet hunk of a warrior.

This is a debut novella for this author. The sequel should be out in May 2012. I cannot wait!!

Verdict: A definite read for all romance readers, but remember it is definitely on the “hot” side.
