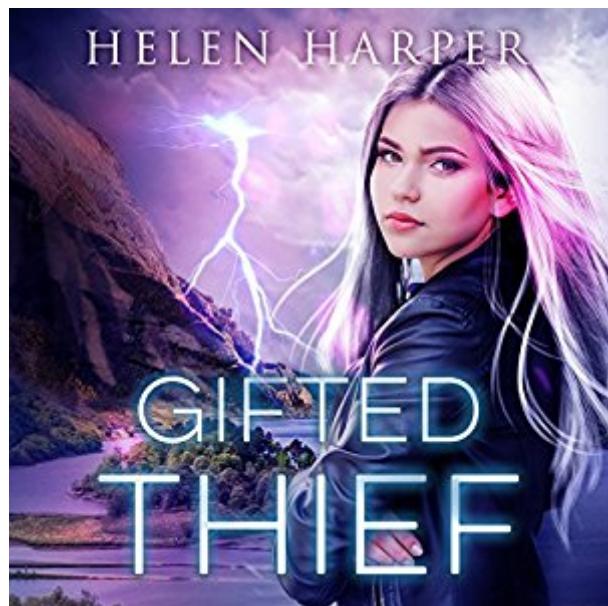


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# Gifted Thief: Highland Magic Series, Book 1



## **Synopsis**

Since the moment I was ripped from my mother's womb, I've been an outcast among my own kind. The Sidhe might possess magical Gifts, unbelievable wealth, and unfathomable power, but I don't want a thing to do with them. I ran away from their lands in the Highlands of Scotland when I was 11 years old, and I've never looked back. I don't need a clan. I've got my own family of highly skilled thieves who mean more to me than any Sidhe ever could. Unfortunately for me, the playboy heir to the Moncrieffe Clan has something I desperately need. To get it back, I'm going to have to plunge myself back into that world, no matter what the consequences may be. I suppose it's just as well I have a sense of humor. I think I'm going to need it.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I devoured the whole series and now I found it so it is hard for me to separate each book. Independently they are incomplete and you really have to commit to reading all four books. Stand alone they leave too many questions. You might be able to just read the last book in the series but some points would go over your head. But it is a fun magical romance story, reasonably price. The heroines jokes are somewhat lame but also occasionally funny/puny and always clean, suitable for children (who might actually like these) I am a little concerned about: Some of the characters allow lust to overcome common sense, slightly casual sex, pure physical attraction driving relationships. ... The evil villain is too evil, behind every bad thing trying to retain his power. Yet the demons have been there for hundred of years and only when they have an evil steward do they become an issue.

The Sidhe seem particularly stupid in believing what their steward says without questioning . His control and badgering of the witness, manipulation of facts in the fourth book is so blatant only a kindergarten student (or maybe a Trump supporter, I couldn't resist the jab) would believe. Magical weapons seem to negate any usage of more modern weapons. They have planes, technology but nobody uses this in warfare. Where are the rest of the world of humans? Does only Scotland have magic? In a battle between humans and demons I would think a few governments would provide support to the humans. The English in particular seem very content to sit on their side of the wall.

I enjoyed this book and enjoyed the writing style, the author has created an interesting world and characters, and I actually found the first chapter one of the most interesting that I had read in some time, The world is one where there has been some intermingling for the Sidhe and human worlds with one group very much being the underdog and I am looking forward to discovering a bit more about what has happened in this world and just what has happened in the past. A good bit of this affection may well be due to spending a significant chunk of my childhood in Aberdeen and the surrounding areas. The characters are fun and there are definitely some chuckle worthy moments along with the action. The lead character definitely has her cross to bear, but occasionally you want to shake her for just being so damn helpful when people treat her in a less than stellar way. Of all the characters there is only one that I don't like - that of the genie. For me he added little to the plot to balance just how annoying I found him. This is a good novel but I just can't put my finger on what would have moved it up to 5 stars, it just felt like there was something that was missing - perhaps if there had been a little more about the lead characters early life, or perhaps if the genie was not there I would have moved this to a 5. Either way I am looking forward to book 2

I was kind of torn on how to go with this review. On one hand, I actually liked the main character pretty well, and I thought that the basic backdrop was reasonably well developed. On the other hand, there were two romances (sort of) that were developed in this book and neither was done well. The first was completely random and came out of the blue while the second was the long simmering burn between two characters that didn't even like each other. But like it a lot of books in this genre, compatibility is irrelevant to the romance. The only thing that matters is that the guy is hot. Sigh. The biggest thing that pushed this out of "okay" and into "needs work" was that the ending was completely anti-climactic. The main character went on her quest, found out who the bad guy (supposedly) is and then . . . nothing. I honestly thought there was supposed to be another chapter or two but alas, my Kindle did not produce one. I think that the author has some good ideas here,

but none of them were polished very well, particularly for an author with several titles already under her belt.

Gifted Thief was a fun read, a fresher look at a Sidhe tale for sure. Northern Scotland is separated from Southern Scotland by a barrier in the south that is holding demon back from the rest of the world. This means that Norther Scotland and the Sidhe that call it home are mostly cut off from the rest of the world, only dangerous ship travel connects them to outside goods. Our mc who names herself integrity has not known anything but misery in her young life until she runs and is taken in by a human of all things and a human that lives a life of non-violent crime. He proceeds to teach her everything she knows until the Sidhe coming calling. Apparently the Sidhe need her dna for something even though she doesn't want them and many of the Sidhe would prefer her dead. We embark on a tall that where we learn we may not really know who is the bad and who is the good. Integrity will have to keep on her toes if she is going to survive her heritage.

There are authors who write incredible, solid and somehow "deep" prose that I consider "master story tellers". Then there are many other authors that write more lightweight reads that don't quite grab me, but are entertaining enough to finish the story and even be willing to purchase follow up books from as I am a voracious reader. This is one of the latter. I found this story better than some others I'm also willing to continue financially supporting for their entertainment value so I'd give this one another half star if I could. Its worth reading while I wait for the next book from one of those authors I consider true master story tellers to be released.

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