



The Bastard

Inez Kelley

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The Bastard Inez Kelley

In the battle between good and evil, humans have never been more than collateral damage. Now they are prey. Mankind doesn't need a hero. It needs a sinner.

Corrupt. Wicked. Nefarious. Contemptible....

The Baddest Boys in History are back!

You read about them in school. Now learn the truth. Real men. No vampires, no werewolves, no shifters. Just down and dirty raw power —sin to sin, evil to evil, bad to bad. They fight for humanity. It was that or eternal damnation.

They agreed to risk their souls. No one told them they would lose their hearts.

Coming this summer, Inez Kelley's self-publishing debut.

BADDEST BOYS IN HISTORY Book #1 THE BASTARD

THE BASTARD: Vike died in blood, in battle, in betrayal. His ruthlessness was second only to his brutality. Now one woman makes his blood sing and he'll stop at nothing to save her. He only has to face half of Hell to do it.

THE BEAUTY: Lacy is unknowingly descended from an ancient Holy line. Someone is slowly destroying her life and wants her dead. A fierce Viking comes to her rescue, and in his arms, she finds more than safety.

THE BAD NEWS: If Vike can't protect Lacy, he'll have to kill her. And for a bastard, what's one woman worth when the entire world is in jeopardy?

The Bastard Details

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From Reader Review The Bastard for online ebook

Claudia says

I loved it, adored it ... this is PR as it should be ...

Vike is one of the Foresaken. A group of warriors who is responsible for protecting humanity. as the bad guys try to kidnapp a woman, who could be the last piece for the destruction of heaven, he has to go all-in.

I loved everything in this book. the storyline with the background is really amazing - I loved the idea, which is obviously planned for a whole series and provides an interesting story for this book. not all questions are answered and I can't wait to get the next book

the characters are simply amazing:

Lacy is not a kick-ass heroine as I normally prefer them but I loved her. she has a strong character and does everything for the people she loves. She was able to see beyond the obvious and did not judge people without talking to them

Vike is a strong alpha male with berserker tendencies. he has his brothers backs but is very emotional - he reacts first and thinks afterwards, which can be a problem sometimes....

the secondary characters were wonderful and really engaging. I loved that we got the chance to see some of their POVs. normally I don't like too many POVs but Mrs. Kelley did an amazing job here!.

all the males are great and each is unique in his own way (I even or maybe especially loved Zale, and I am looking forward to his story) ... and I am so excited about exploring their histories. there are so many details we learn about them and you just know they will be even more intriguing if we get to know them better (I would have loved to meet Gen ...)

The same goes for Sela - she is very up-front and does everything she has to do to get the job done and protect her men. she is a bit of a bitch but her character was just as complex as her eyes colorful ;)

all in all: this is a book for every fan of paranormal romance.

it is just as a PR should be and has everything: a good story which is not only about the couple (although these stories can also be nice :)), amazing characters (this book lives from its characters and Mrs. Kelley did a wonderful job in giving them depth), a wonderful love story with equally hot and sizzling scenes and romantic and sweet moments and a lot of action

so please, if you did not think about reading this before now, grab a copy as soon as it is out!

disclaimer: A review copy was provided by the publisher via Netgalley

SamJ ★Needs a HEA★ says

This was my first read by this author!

And I loved it!

I cannot wait for the rest of the series!

For me, it is a unique refreshing completely new take on a genre that is filled with werewolves and shifters!

As I said in my updates as I was reading, a book, that is the first in the series, and only 3% in, that can have me upset about a character and their demise, has got to be good!

I loved the banter between all the guys. Their attitude and outlook. It was great and I cannot wait for the rest of the series! (although I really want a Zale or Nomad book asap!)

I really liked Sela and the amount of history that was given, the background to the entire storyline never felt as if it was given in such a way as to just dump it all on you.

Vike and Lacy were a great couple - Vike was a big softy when it came to his Lace and Lacy was the mother hen all the guys did not even know they needed!

If you love PNR, then you need to read this book!

I need the next book yesterday!!!!

Ginny Glass says

A steamy hot, action-packed, fresh twist on Paranormal Romance - with engrossing world-building that will knock your socks off. Get it. Read it. Wait impatiently for Book 2!

Hayley Faiman says

Doesn't the title pretty much say it all?

If you liked black dagger brotherhood and saving grace then you'll love this read!!! Seriously so good! Would have loved more sexy scenes but I still loved the book and could not put it down!!!!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

KcLu's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.75 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

I absolutely am a fan of Inez Kelley's writing style! She took the battle between heaven and hell and brought her brand of sexy heat to it!!! LAWD! I went into this book truly blind about what I was getting myself into, and to say I was pleasantly shocked and held captive by it is truly an understatement. I ended each page ready to know what happened next, and hoping that there truly would be a way that they could win and still get an HEA!

Vike doesn't know what it is about the pretty cook that makes his blood sing, but he knows he is drawn to her. He finds himself watching her early one morning when that question's answer isn't anywhere near what he thought it would be. He and his friend are just able to save her from two soul leeches, and he knows he has to keep her close if he will be able to save her from them again. Lucy has no idea she is a descendent of an ancient holy line, or that it makes her a target in this war between heaven and hell. Will Vike be able to both resist her and protect her?

The chemistry between Vike and Lucy just about scorches you e-reader. Each of the six Forsaken men have me wanting sooo much more from them. I can't wait until we get to know them more. This is that ultimate good vs evil story, except the good guys were oh so bad before their First Death. This is looking like it will most definitely be a must read series!! The characters are so captivating, and the story is a fresh look at story that has been building since the beginning of time. Can't wait to read more!!!!

Malinda says

5 stars

This was a great story! I loved both Erik and Lacy and their story unexpectedly sucked me in from the beginning and I couldn't stop until I was done (I had to force myself to sleep!). This is the first story I've read by this author and based on this I will definitely be reading more of her work.

In this story, Sela (an Angel) is tasked by God with dispatching "the Third" which is the heavenly beings (about a third of the total host of heavenly beings) that were exiled from heaven along with the devil (known by the name Samael in this book) and became his minions. Sela was allowed 77 Awakenings, where she found warriors that died their first death and brings them back to life to fight as her soldiers against evil. Sela decided that she needed evil to fight evil so she chose warriors from throughout the ages that most termed as evil but were really just warriors that were ruthless and willing to do whatever was needed to win their wars. Over the years most of the 77 have died during the many battles and the few that are left battle on.

Lacy is a cook at a diner. She has a sister, Annie, who works as a paramedic. They were both orphaned in their teens when their parents died so they're very close and Lacy feels very protective of her sister. Lacy hasn't tried to find a better job as she likes mothering and taking care of people so she loves cooking for her customers and treating her regulars like family.

Erik (aka Vike) is an Awakened warrior that follows Sela. He had a hard life and a hard afterlife as well. Erik hasn't had much softness in his life but recently has been crushing on a cook at a local diner. He happens to show up early on day, watching her, only to see 3 "leeches" (low level evil minions) attack her.

Erik and Gen (another awakened warrior) are outside the diner when Lacy is attacked. They rush to her aid and kill the minions but not before they manage to cause some permanent damage. Erik checks out Lacy, only to realize that she's not just a regular person, she's a Scion (someone with a bloodline that included something heavenly in her way distant past). Samael (the devil) collects the souls of Scions when he can because he can make them in to more minions. Erik knows he has to protect Lacy. Apparently, once a Scion

has had an attack by evil she has 40 days during which her immunity builds up. If she can stay out of Samael's hands for that long he can't do anything to her. If he gets her before that then he can torture her until she swears to serve him. Erik reports back to Sela and his team and is told to stay with Lacy and protect her and be charming if that's what it takes to stay near her. To be honest, I don't think this was much of a hardship since he was already kind of in to her and didn't want his fellow Awakened getting near her. Erik goes to see Lacy in the hospital and offers her a lift home. He soon has her believing that he's part of a security firm that's on the trail of a cult that's targeted her for iffy reasons. Lacy isn't sure about it all but she can't help but feel like Erik is someone she can trust so she gives him the benefit of the doubt. He watches her at her home at first but when things get out of hand, Erik takes her to their team's headquarters (H2Q) where she's sure to be safe.

As Lacy starts staying at H2Q she finds that everything is absolutely filthy and there's just messiness and grossness all over. Lacey doesn't have anything else to do and finds a nice kitchen (thankfully clean because none of the guys cook) and she starts cooking for the guys and then also starting to clean the general areas and Erik's apartment in particular. She doesn't have much with her and Erik's nice enough to provide her with cloths and other stuff she needs. While Erik's been protecting her, he's been trying to keep from sleeping with her (partially because of some injuries she had from the attack), although there has been kissing. Once they get to H2Q, Lacy is done waiting and seduces Erik (not that it takes much). This starts a few weeks of them happily being together as pseudo boyfriend/girlfriend while she cooks and cleans for the group (except Zale, who is a big asshole who better improve his attitude greatly before he gets his own book!) and gives all the men some love and affection that they haven't had in a very long time. She does realize that Erik's explanation isn't completely on the up and up but she likes him and the others so she has faith that he's on the right side, even if his methods aren't always right. As they spend more time together, both of them start to have very strong feelings for each other. Unfortunately, drama is brought by Zale causing problems between Lacy and Erik and it takes some work for things to get worked out. Just when that seems settled, evil minions attack and more bad! The ending is a bit traumatic but I'll just say that things work out and I loved the ending. A bit sad, but Lacy and Erik do end up with a HEA.

This was a great story. Although Lacy and Erik got their HEA, the action part of the series storyline isn't complete and should be interesting as the next books came out. I really loved the camaraderie of Erik and his Awakened brothers (well all except Zale) and their banter with each other was fun to read. The world building was well done, it felt like the story had the right amount of description, not so much you get bored but not so little you get confused. Lacy was a great heroine and I really liked her a lot (and I loved her "talk" with Zale at the end). Erik was a bad guy (at least he saw himself that way), even when fighting for the right team. Lacy made Erik feel like a hero, made him want that change in him to be true and, although he didn't believe he deserved it, he recognized it for the gift it is. I love them together and was so happy with the way things worked out. I can't wait to read the next books in the series. I'd highly recommend this book. 2 thumbs up! :D

~*~**Princess Nhya**~*~ says

OMG! Loved this story...

This is the first book I've read by **Ms. Kelley** and I must say, it was beyond anything I expected. This one is a very unique take in this genre. It's intense, beautiful, lyrical, hilarious, loving, heartbreaking and sensual. The history lesson you get here and the way things are woven, how information is given, is not only clear in its reveal, but it's given in a way where you don't have information overload or become bored. Especially

since this is a book that's world building. Nothing dragged. Every aspect was interesting/intriguing.

Vike & Lacy I loved their dynamic. Hot, heartwarming, heartbreaking & intense. *blushes*

I fell in love with every character in this book. (I'm really crushin on **Myth**, BIG TIME. I WANT his book like NOW!)

I gasped out loud with scenes concerning the villains. I *KNEW* this was going to be a great read for me when only 3% in the novel, my heart was completely shattered. I couldn't nor did I want to look away after that... The only thing I regret is starting this series before all or at least 3 or 4 books were already out. (**Shellie**, this is your fault, woman!) LOL

I can't wait to dive into the next one. Fall is just too far away *pouts*

This one ends on an HEA. But it's a series with an ongoing plot.

I strongly suggest you start with book 1, if you are reading this review after the other books have been released. It sets up the story and all the characters. The world building etc..

I would HIGHLY recommend this read.

Tammy says

This is the first book that I have read by this author and she didn't disappoint me. I will definitely be waiting patiently for the next book in this series.

I loved everything about this book. The storyline with all of the history and background into the warriors is really amazing. The author obviously has a lot planned for this series/characters and she provided us readers with an interesting story in The Bastard. Now, we just have to wait for book two to get some more answers, because now all questions are answered in this book, so I can't wait to see what happens next.

Lacy only has her sister to look after and she tries to provide for her the best that she can; they are the only family that each other have. Lacy is kick ass and she gives everything that she has for the people she loves. Then she gets involved with Erik and now she has him and his bunch of warrior brothers to provide for and to take care of. I love how she cooked for them and they all thought that was the best thing in the world.

Erik is a strong alpha male and he always has his brothers' backs, but Erik is very emotional and sometimes he reacts first and thinks later, which can sometimes be a problem. Erik comes across Lacy being attacked and instantly jumps in to protect her and is instantly attracted to her. Erik has demons from his past and he can't tell Lacy the truth about why people want her dead; he just has to protect her and keep her safe.

I loved the secondary characters in the story and really enjoyed banter/back and forth between them, because I caught myself laughing at them with some of the things that they said or did. You get a lot of different POV's in this story, but the way that the author has it written it wasn't confusing and that just made the story that much better.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of the book from Inez Kelly & NetGalley in exchange for an

honest review.

Danielle Ward says

Wow! Simply, wow! I heard about this novel from a few of my Goodreads friends and thought I'd give it a try. The title raises the eyebrows a notch (and the tantalizing muscles on the cover didn't hurt either). Knowing this was the first in a new series, I prepared myself for some world building that would divert from the action in the story, but was I ever surprised to find that Ms. Kelley constructed the entire setting and plot background into every ounce of every word, keeping me firmly entrenched in the past and present as they swirled together to create the world of the Forsaken. And what a world it is! Sexy, mysterious, Alpha males with quirky personalities, their own individual heartaches and passions, their need to be loved and their resolve to live without it grab hold and reek havoc on your emotions. My heart bled for these warriors - but I have faith that Ms. Kelley is gonna' make sure these lonely bad asses will meet their loving matches soon.

Multiple points of view were critical in this novel. It's not simply a romance; it's also a story about friendship and betrayal, duty and desire, guilt and absolution. So seeing the conflict and resolution through different perspectives was like holding the hand of a guide through the darkest parts of despair and the sweetest moments of redemption each character felt. I appreciated every point of view and how easily the author switched speakers, staying true to each voice.

This novel had me on the edge of my seat, seething mad a few times, and smiling triumphantly at the end. I highly recommend this one, and I'm anxiously awaiting Ms. Kelley's next installment. I can't wait to see how the mighty Rex will fall!

mad4rombks says

Intriguing start to a new series. The banter/back and forth between the guys had me giggling in places while reading it.

Since I knew, from the author's post on her blog, that these characters were villains in history, I tried to figure out who they were as I read. Of those in the book, I had figured out two of the six before the "reveal" happened later on in the story.

I debated putting Vike on my "crazy in love/possessive hero" and decided while he wasn't as OTT as some heroes on this list, he did deserve his spot there because he was never the same after Lacy told him "Thank you" the first time he saved her. He went from almost killing her to making sure no one hurt and/or touched her, even the men around him. One of the many things I loved about Vike & Lacy were the notes they wrote & hid for each other to find in random places. For such a badass dude, he was also such a softy too, when it came to Lacy.

A 4.5 from me.

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

J&G: 4.5 Stars

‘Lacy called him her hero. He wished it was true.’

Jenny: Wow! Gitte, we certainly got our money’s worth in this 500+ page riveting story where we got to meet some of the most alpha, biggest and somewhat misunderstood bad asses of history in the form of the Foresaken didn’t we? I loved the perspective the author delivered on history and mythology, where good vs evil and where humans are merely collateral damage. The third person narrative allowed us so much insight into the characters and story, and the talent of Inez Kelley’s writing ensured it never felt bogged down. I was addicted and I loved it!!!

“History is but a flawed record and humankind an unreliable narrator.”

Lacy our heroine is taken in by the Foresaken (giving nothing away here) for her own protection where she takes on a role natural to her in the form of nurturing and caring for them and Erik in particular. Lacy was such a giving, loving, loyal, strong and beautiful character and I adored her.

“When a person has someone to fight for, they fight harder. Love isn’t a handicap, it’s fuel.”

Erik was a kick arse alpha protector of humanity and a fierce protector of Lacy. He’s a strong, dependable and brutal warrior, devoid of love who revels in the tender touch shown towards him by Lacy and whose soul screamed out for the warmth, passion and sweetness he derived from her. I bloody loved this man; in fact, I fell in love with all the Foresaken and can’t wait for all their stories

“She makes me feel like...like I’m better than I really am.”

There was so much happening in The Bastard that I was afraid to draw a breath. I was completely immersed in every exhilarating minute in this world Inez Kelley so vividly brought to life. This author delivered a refreshingly different and addictive first instalment that will ensure I will be veraciously delving into every book in this series. You felt the same didn’t you Gitte?

Gitte: Absolutely, I loved everything about this book and know without a doubt I’ll be devouring every single instalment in this series. I’m a paranormal girl at heart, I don’t get to wear my paranormal cape as often as I’d like, so when I do I revel in it and hope it’s a bloody good one. I was not disappointed with The Bastard. It had real heart, battle and intensity. Inez Kelley wrote a blinder here and its size is of epic proportions. What an introduction to a new series!

“How do you know what to believe?”

“You listen to your heart, Lacy.”

There was a lot of information to take in so I read at snail’s pace making sure I understood and could place

everyone involved in history. At times I had to re-read a few bits just to make sure I didn't miss out on anything important but wow, Inez Kelley really has a brilliant concept here and the intricacies of history is detailed and so bloody well executed. Right down to the Viking, Erik drinking Grøn Tuborg, which as a Dane myself is my fave beer! It's all about the details right?!

"I'm not a good guy. I'm not a hero." ... "You are to me."

I loved every single character in this first instalment; they all intrigued and fascinated me; their stories and their banter had me hook line and sinker. The passion and action was spot on and it really was a hot and thrilling ride!

"Love is the deadliest weapon out there."

Erik and Lacy, what can I say, I fell in love with both characters. They each had such depth, their emotions tangible and strengths incredible on their own merit. They perfectly complimented each other and their story was incredibly addictive. What a great start to a new series making this paranormal girl very excited! Bring it on!!!

J&G: We love getting back into our PNR groove this year and *The Bastard* was a fantastic and gripping PNR story which was refreshing, sexy, thrilling and funny. There were many surprises and revelations along the way and the banter between the *Foresaken* was so entertaining – it had us giggling many a times. There is so much we want to know, so many questions left unanswered and we'll be clicking the next book as soon as it's out! Rex's story promises to be amazing! A definite recommend for fans looking for their next paranormal fix!

ARC provided via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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Samantha says

So Zoe York did it to me again. Got me hooked another author!! not that i'm complaining or anything.

The Bastard is a different twist on those bad boys and seriously I liked it a lot. The boys who call H2Q home make this book. The back and forth banter between them all make it feel like such a family and seriously will more than likely have you laughing or at least giggling out loud.

Erik has demons from his past. Hes where he is today because of that. He sees Lacey and is instantly attracted to her. I mean come on what is more entertaining than watching a mighty warrior get brought to his knees by one single human female?

Lacey is a provider. She has to have someone to care for. For while it has been her younger sister. Now she gets involved with Erik and his group and has a bunch of warriors to take care of. I promise you'll enjoy this book if you like *The Black Dagger Brotherhood* series.

Charlene says

This book was picked as a "dare" read in a group challenge. I had not read anything by this author, or even heard any buzz about this book...and all I can say is... Why Not?

Where to start with a review for this one? What a unique idea and a tremendous job Ms. Kelley has done with the world-building in the first of what promises to be a stellar paranormal series. In a nutshell, take one Angel and let her choose warriors to fight on the earthly plane against the greatest evil of them all. She can choose from any warrior, and she chooses to "Awaken" some of the most notorious and reviled characters from human history. I won't give them away, as their identities are revealed in the book. This first book is about Vike, a notorious Viking warrior, and the human woman of holy origin he is charged to guard.

The writing itself is beautiful and extremely well done. The banter between these "bad boys" had, for me anyway, shades of J.R. Ward and the Black Dagger Brotherhood. Not that it's copied, don't get me wrong. But take ancient warriors and put them together in a modern setting...how do they assimilate and communicate? Ms. Kelley has got it just right in my opinion, the same way that Ward gets it right with her ancient vamps.

The other thing I should mention is the attention to detail and research that Ms. Kelley has done. As a bit of a history nerd, this is something I truly appreciate.

Can't wait to read the next book!

5 stars

Book Red says

This was definitely a great start to the series. What impressed me was that I thought the author gave the right balance to introducing a new world with multiple characters and giving the MC's their own love story. Inez Kelley uses villains throughout time and puts a twist to their characters. I actually was surprised at who a couple of them turned out to be and how they told their own story. The love story between Erik and Lacy was sweet even though they had all hell raining down on them. I liked Lacy as a character and she was the strong, gracious caregiver not a scared submissive pushover. Erik, well I love big, badass Vikings, but his loyalty and will to change was what was most appealing. I can't wait for the next installment. I was a great 5 star read!

Ivy Deluca says

The first book in a new series by Ms. Kelley features some of the baddest men in history fighting on the side of good, in their own bad way. When the story begins, Lacy Cooper (a seemingly average woman who works as a cook in a local diner), is being watched by Vike and it's clear that Vike's intrigued with her but not quite sure why. As Lacy's trying to open the diner she's attacked by strange creatures with forked tongues whose

touch leaves her in a stupor. After this attack, it becomes clear that someone's trying to get Lacy, no matter what they have to do, or who they have to kill. Vike must either protect Lacy or kill her to keep her from otherworldly forces intent on using her soul to win the ultimate battle between good vs. evil.

The Really Good

I am very pleased that I listened to the recommendations for this book - it didn't disappoint. This is an ongoing series, but it has an HEA and will feature different couples in each book, which is precisely the type of series I love.

The mythology/world-building is strong and I really liked that it's grounded in actual historical figures with obvious liberties. I've always been intrigued by the "bad" guy - no one is all bad or all good, simply more or less complex, and this series makes you think twice about some of these men and why they are remembered as they were. The "heroes" have their nicknames, but they aren't identified until very late in the story. I enjoyed trying to guess who they were and in some cases I was right.

But in the vein of Sherrilyn Kenyon, J.R. Ward and Gena Showalter, these alpha heroes have great camaraderie and witty banter, tension between some that can be mined for future story, and above all, a protective love for the heroine that I adore.

While there is a lot of information given in this book to set up the 'verse, I feel that it was easy enough to follow, with just enough information given without overwhelming the reader with too much exposition. Additionally, Lacy and Vike's love grounds this tale, with Lacy showing Vike what true love is, a love that makes Vike want to be a better man. Lacy as a heroine was nurturing but not a doormat. All the secondary characters are given enough attention that I can easily see them carrying their own books, and I have to note that the women introduced, though there are few, are strong, complex characterizations and more than capable of carrying their own weight.

The Just Good

The comparisons to other series may not be a selling point for some, but in my opinion Ms. Kelley takes the best attributes of those series and makes it her own.

The Bottom Line

A great start to an intriguing new PNR/UF series, I'd highly recommend it.
