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# Bad Blood



## Synopsis

“A story that will both warm your heart, and chill you to the bone.” —KENDARE BLAKE, New York Times bestselling author of *Three Dark Crowns* “Dark and complex and wickedly romantic.” —GRETCHEN MCNEIL, author of *Ten* A girl discovers a family secret and a past full of magic that could both save her and put her in mortal danger in this suspenseful novel that’s perfect for fans of Katie Alender and Natasha Preston. All sixteen-year-old Heather MacNair wants is to feel normal, to shed the intense paranoia she’s worn all year like a scratchy sweater. After her compulsion to self-harm came to light, Heather was kept under her doctor’s watchful eye. Her family thinks she’s better—and there’s nothing she wants more than for that to be true. She still can’t believe she’s allowed to spend her summer vacation as she always does: at her aunt’s home in Scotland, where she has lots of happy memories. Far away from all her problems save one: she can’t stop carving the Celtic knot that haunts her dreams into her skin. Good friends and boys with Scottish accents can cure almost anything . . . except nightmares. Heather can’t stop dreaming about two sisters from centuries ago, twins Prudence and Primrose, who somehow seem tied to her own life. Their presence lurks just beneath the surface of her consciousness, sending ripples through what should be a peaceful summer. The twins might hold the key to putting Heather’s soul at rest . . . or they could slice her future deeper than any knife.\*\*\* An eerie blend of mystery and magic amid the Scottish highlands. —MINDY MCGINNIS, author of *A Madness So Discreet* and *The Female of the Species* “A haunting and mysterious page turner.” —KATE KARYUS QUINN, author of *Another Little Piece* “A chilling gothic thriller . . . fans of Katie Alender’s *Bad Girls Don’t Die* series will appreciate this work and its spine-chilling twists.” —SLJ “A thoroughly enjoyable contemporary Gothic.” —Kirkus “A perfect choice for fans of chilling supernatural reads.” —Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have always loved the paranormal, witches, etc. And have as long as I can remember loved Scotland. The story of Heather with her ancestors Prudence and Primrose is truly an engaging

You will not want to put this book down! This book gave me the feeling that the author may have lived in Scotland in a previous life...Gave me a beautiful insight into Scotland and loved the use of words like "dinnae".

In a story of dark history, family ties and the blood that binds them, Bad Blood blends everything together in a perfect Celtic knot. Set in Scotland, this book whisks readers into a beautiful land deeply rooted with history, magic, witches, and folklore. Filled with facts, stories, and language, words like, ÆfÆç Æ Æ Æ "dinnae and cannae, ÆfÆç Æ Æ Æ • that could only come from someone who has lived there, helps sets the authentic mood, opening the storyline for a deeper historical tale. Author Demitria Lunetta, spins a new twist on a sensitive topic, treating it with uniqueness and respect. While some readers might shy away due to the sensitive topic discussed in this book, they should be reassured that the author highlights the issue in a manner that the readers can understand the character ÆfÆç Æ Æ Æ's reasoning, as well as the magical side behind it. By not using self-harm as the premise behind the entire story, Demitria Lunetta is able to capture her reading audience with a mysterious story of witches, while opening the door to realistic

feelings behind cutting. Her ability to capture the inner thoughts and feelings of her characters lends readers a deeper and richer connection behind the trigger issue. Unique and refreshing, *Bad Blood* is a standalone read worth diving into. Excerpt my weekly newspaper column: For the Love of Books-Dixon's Independent Voice

Oooh this book! I honestly devoured it in one night, a feat so staggering I still can't believe it. One night makes it sound even longer than it took. It was actually just a few hours. I needed a book to take my mind off of a few things that were bothering me and I couldn't have made a better choice. From the opening chapter I was completely hooked! The story follows the main character Heather on her annual trip to Edinburgh to visit her aunt and grandmother. However, things aren't as they used to be. Heather has just checked out of medical centre for self harm. She's been plagued by reoccurring nightmares and has had a difficult time coping with them. She keeps on reliving the witch trials that took place in Edinburgh in the 1600s. I don't want to give away anything but while in Scotland Heather learns a lot about her family history and is forced to confront those haunting her in her dreams. What I really loved about the book were the historical flashbacks to 1600s Scotland. They were written in a way that kept me wanting more and more. These flashbacks were short and sweet but left me with a ton of questions each time one appeared. There was so much suspense and tension! That's part of what made this novel so enjoyable to read. The author kept the reader on their toes. Scotland itself is a huge character in the story and it made me long to go back. I lived in Edinburgh for a year and I miss it a lot. Every description of a street, monument or area just made my heart leap. \*sigh\* Oh Scotland, I love you so much! I did become a bit frustrated at the end. The panic inducing pace of the novel slowed down a lot. It started to drag and that slightly took away from the tense feeling that I felt throughout. That said, *Bad Blood* is still a book that I highly recommend. This is a standalone that you don't want to miss out on!

3.5 stars This isn't my one of my typical reads, but the mention of Scotland and hint of witches reached out and grabbed me. Heather is a girl who clearly has some issues - not only with cutting, but recurring nightmares involving twin sisters, Prudence and Primrose, both witches from the 1600s. Throughout the story, the POVs rotate between these three characters, although the sisters' chapters are much shorter. The historical flashbacks, witchcraft, and the author's take on a 'blood witch' are my favorite parts of this novel, but these aspects aren't really delved into until nearly

halfway through the book. Heather and her supporting cast of friends have some fun scenes and Robby is sweetly charming, but I'm relieved the teen romance didn't overshadow the plot. Once the pace really got rolling and the building suspense drew me in, the story wrapped up rather abruptly, leaving me a little frustrated. When I noticed so few pages remaining near the end, I even wondered if there might be a sequel. Admittedly I might have missed something, but I had trouble buying into the initial conflict that pitted the twin sisters against each other. Their later conflicts - absolutely, but it seemed a weak springboard. A wonderful setting, believable characters, and suspenseful mystery interwoven with witchcraft and magic - I just wish it would have been a little longer. Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for the digital ARC.

I think this book has a little bit of everything in it. I love that it's set in Scotland and about witchcraft and healing. This was an interesting read for me, as well as a quick one. I loved the friends being so open with each other about their relationships in true girl fashion as well as the romance that was slightly predictable but still sweet to read as it unfolded. I feel the ending was a bit rushed and slightly abrupt in that everyone is friends again and there's your happily ever after. At one point toward the end, I did feel as though Heather's friend was suddenly going to be revealed as her true half sister. Accordingly the story mentions her mom using a love potion to get pregnant and nothing else, why couldn't it have been Heather's dad before he left to America and met her mom? Just throwing that out there. Overall, I would recommend this to others, with the warning that there is self harm detailed throughout.

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