



Death by Dragon

Madeleine Ribbon

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Fell Harwick, half-incubus and witch extraordinaire, knows how he'll die. Ever since he was a child, he's had visions of a dragon tearing him to pieces. Since he's not terribly fond of the idea--and the power-hungry vampire that killed his mother is now after him for his unprecedented healing abilities--he's gone into hiding. But when a pair of shifters get shot in front of his cabin in the woods, he feels obligated to keep them safe.

Jett and Theodore are members of the local resistance, fighting against the same vamp that wants Fell. Theodore is a beautiful, tragic mess, and Jett hates all incubi on principle--something Fell finds out as he tries to take energy to power his healing magic.

Jett and Fell might have been able to work around one paranormal prejudice. Jett even encourages Fell into sex with Theodore when he needs energy. But then Fell discovers that his future killer has been sleeping on his couch.

Death by Dragon Details

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From Reader Review Death by Dragon for online ebook

Jennifer?Pher? says

This book totally goes against my normal.

I enjoyed it, a lot, anyway.

Makes no sense.

Must be because of the DRAGON.

Mandi says

[I usually don't like my MC's with anyone else, but it kind of worked for this one. Though a word of warning, Fell is with someone else for most of the book. (hide spoiler)]

Ann says

I have found the elusive magical peen and it belongs to a dragon named Jett.

So, Fell is now on my list of all-time favorite MC's. He was a great character without turning into a caricature. On the surface, he's a geeky, snarky loner who's socially awkward so he never really knows when to put the brakes on his yapper. There's a fine line for that kind of character. He could have quickly turned into a cliché, but the author kept his obvious distinctions reined in just right so instead of being over the top and hard to take seriously, he turned into someone I wanted to root for and hang out with.

Now, on the surface, I loved the premise, but my bitter and jaded soul was waiting to be a little irritated with a couple of points. In general I'm not a fan of love triangles, some poor schmuck is gonna get left out in the cold and then I'm pre-sad for him through the whole story. I'm not a big fan of using "magic" as the excuse for plot points. I don't want to read how characters absolutely HAD to bone, you know, for the magic. BUT, and this is a big ol' but, it totally worked here. And it worked because of the characters.

Fell is part witch and part incubus. He needs to get energy from the souls of others to fuel his magic and he gets that energy through sexual contact. He can usually get by with a heavy make out session and he's not really comfortable using people that way. One of his biggest witchy skills is that he can heal others which makes him a hot commodity in the paranormal world. There's an ongoing war between two factions and Fell wants nothing to do with any of the shenanigans so he keeps himself off the grid so he can live his life in his cabin, losing himself in his RPGs and tending to his garden. In one night his peace is taken from him when a group of four shifters gets chased onto his land by a group of humans, with guns a-blazin'. Two of the shifters survived, Jethro and Theodore and Theodore is a mess who needs Fell's skills as a healer desperately.

Jethro, or Jett, as he's more commonly known, and Theodore are adoptive brothers. Theodore's family took

Jett in as one of their own. The other two shifters who were killed on Fell's land were Theodore's bio-dad and his twin sister. From what I gather from the story, Theodore and his sister were two halves of a whole and Theodore was fundamentally changed after the event. We never know Theodore before so we have to go by what Jett tells us, but I don't feel like I was missing anything or that Theodore wasn't a fully fleshed out character. I could tell he had some emotional issues from the start and he definitely wasn't a bad guy/wolf by any means, he just wasn't good enough for Fell to me. Jett is a dragon shifter and has some seriously bad history with incubi and is distrustful of Fell from the start. Fell is SO attracted to Jett and you could tell Jett felt the same (in a super subtle way) but as soon as he found out about Fell's half-incubus genetics he backed right off. It stood between them as an unspoken barrier from that point on. Theodore and Fell were attracted to one another too and struck up a casual boyfriends-with-benefits arrangement. Fell needed the energy, Theodore needed a connection and they all needed each other for the upcoming battles they were all soon to be a part of.

This wasn't a typical love story, but it was definitely romantic in a subtle way. It's heavier on the action and world building than it is on the hearts and flowers, but again, the characters are great so I was ok with it. And besides, sappy declarations of love in the middle of a shifter and vampire war isn't exactly reasonable. There's a foreboding pall over the growing relationship between Fell and Jett that was always just *right there* the whole time. One of Fell's other skills are his visions and his visions always come true. He's seen his own death and he knows he'll die by the claws of a dragon. And, given Jett is the last of the dragons, it's not hard to figure out how the story is going to have to end. And it sucked. Jett knew it, Fell knew it and I knew it. They are truly becoming friends and dependent on one another, not just for the magic or for the protection, but for the sense of belonging they give to one another.

I wasn't sure how the author was going to wrap this one up and still give me the happy I wanted so badly. She pulled it off though and I really liked where it went. Nothing was too clean or convenient. Sacrifices were made and it could have gone a variety of different directions at any point. I both loved and was completely frustrated at the end. I loved where the characters ended up, but just when they got there it was over and I wanted more. It was an HEA, most definitely, I was just so into these guys and loved reading about them separately, I really wanted to read more about them together. It was like the relationship was another character introduced and I wanted to know it too. The door is open for a sequel though and that would make me most happy.

Sarabeth says

This!!!!

So exactly what I needed. Great story, fully faceted characters, unique plot, twists, turns, and a really loveable, somehow relatable incubus-witch nerd.

Tina says

Death by Dragon by Madeleine Ribbon got me to read this book by just the cover. I love a cover that can tell a story, and make you want to open the book to find out the real story. Once I got to read Death by Dragon I found it was a story I couldn't put down. Ms. Ribbon is an amazing story teller and she drew me and made me want much more.

Fell, he is a man after my own heart. He loves video games I love a cute geeky guy. He is also half incubus and half witch. I liked a twist we do not see many male witches. He is basically trying to stay off the paranormal radar so the bad guys do not try to abuse his powers to heal.

Jett he is a dragon shifter. He doesn't trust Fell because he is part incubus. He thinks Fell will suck his soul dry. He is protecting the local coyote pack, and is like an honorary member of the pack. Jett will take a few to grow on you. The way he threw Theodore at Fell kinda ticked me off at first. Then once he opens up you see why this happened and why he is the way he is. He is fiercely loyal and completely alpha male. I just learned to love him. He is amazing. Plus he is a dragon... A dragon people how can you not love a dragon. I like how Ms. Ribbon really gave me depth of emotion in this book. I really felt connected to the characters and wanted more of them. I felt really sorry for Theodore. He deserved so much more than this book gave him. But other than that this book is truly a must read. I wished it was a series I would love to know more about this world and the paranormals that live there.

Five Shooting Stars

Serena Yates says

Despite the excellent world building, and some really interesting concepts around immortals and hybrids, their laws, and the power-hungry vampires with their evil plans, I could not get into this story. Fell just rubbed me the wrong way, there was too much over-the-top violence for my taste, and the death of a fairly major character totally threw me. As for a relationship - the back-and-forth in Fell's partners just wasn't my thing.

Vivian says

When trouble finds you.

Fell's got a problem, but it's not a major problem until an issue of trespassing brings more to his doorstep than a couple bodies. And while I understand the occasional call to play Good Samaritan, the inciting incident for him to get involved beyond the necessary housekeeping just didn't convince me. Suddenly, this hermit needs to be a team player--ah, no. Not buying it.

Don't get me wrong. I liked the sticky triangle that emerges and how Fell's inherent nature of being half-incubus affects his life and relationships. Plus, Theodore's an adorable guy and Jett is stuff nightmares are made of--Win.

I love his powers and how he uses them and what his limitations are. Plus the surprise visit from someone from his past opens a whole new can of worms. Or advice Hot Line if anyone answers. Still, I had issues with how interpersonal relationship played out because they depended heavily on one of my pet peeves of

plot devices--miscommunication.

Oh, the misunderstandings--Ugh. A whole critical conflict point was based on a MISUNDERSTANDING even though one of the characters really had the most of the information and ignored it. So the grand hullabaloo that leads to major carnage had a stupid start. Then there's the stupid and illogical assumption of guilt that isn't Fell's really annoyed me. And the acts that were inspired by that guilt were stupid.

Now the decent body count, I could get behind. I'm bloodthirsty enough to enjoy collateral damage. There are some MC losses in this one to propel the story and one that might even hurt a bit, or not. So with all this mess, the end was great.

Overall, like a mixed bag of candy where most are ones you like and couple you just rifle around.

Favorite quote:

Life will get weird for a while, but I'll do what I can to see you through in the end.

~~A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review~~

~~~Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews~~~

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### **Joyfully Jay says**

*A Joyfully Jay review.*

#### **4.5 stars**

A book like this hinges on the world building. Whenever I read something like this, I need to have things explained, be believable within the confines that the author set up, and have things work. Ribbon excels at that with this story. With Fell as our narrator, he takes us on his journey, makes us understand what he is going through and how magic works, and makes us believe that it's possible.

Ah, Fell. I loved this guy. Some terrible things have happened to him in the past, and he is determined to do whatever he has to in order to survive. But when trouble literally falls on his doorstep, he jumps in to help. Okay, yes, he didn't exactly want to. But his morality is strong, and he knew he couldn't let the shifters suffer when he could help. And then he opens his home, not because he wants to, but because he feels he needs to. I have to admit, this part was one where I had to take a little leap, and just accept it. The Fell as we knew him in the very beginning had been hiding for so long, had been living a solitary life, that for him to let Jett and Theodore stay with him was a bit of a jump. But go with it, because the Fell that is revealed throughout the rest of the story is one worth getting to know. A man full of self-sacrifice and a deep emotion. I loved watching him expand as the story progressed.

**[Read Kris' review in its entirety here.](#)**

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### **Jenn says**

This was my first book of Madeleine Ribbon's and it won't be my last. I loved Fell's voice and his quirks. The story kept me guessing and the paranormal world was different and imaginative. I especially liked how Fell's magic worked. I would've liked to see more of Jett and Fell's relationship, but I still finished the book with a happy sigh.

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### **Amanda says**

Madeleine Ribbon weaves a magical story and then throws it full-force into the wards around your heart.

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### **Claudia says**

wow. I loved this story and although we only get one POV, the story is perfectly done and I didn't miss a thing

this book has a great storyline, which kept me in my toes and biting my nails . the love story was well done. it would have been nice to see a bit more of them together in the end but even that was ok

I would love to get a second story with these two MCs .... so maybe, pretty, pretty please

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### **Kristen Stillwell says**

#### **Death by dragon**

This book made me rethink every review that I gave 5 star's it was truly great. I love reading m/m books but a lot there 75% sex and 25% story well this was the opposite and the story was awesome I could of used a little more info on different characters but besides that it was perfect I will be checking out what else this authors has written there is so much more I want write but I refuse to spoil anything about this story. This deserves to be read without anything spoiled for you.

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### **Tais says**

**3.5**

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### **Erica says**

[the way one MC spent most of the book sleeping with someone who was obviously not the other MC isn't something I usually like. I mean, there were reasons, but still. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Line says**

Yeah, I'm gonna stop this one here at 26%.

I could't figure out where this was going, and after reading a few reviews it became clear that the first relationship is a sort of: pushed-together-I-need-your-energy-thing even though Fell is attracted to somebody else...

And I just... I don't want to read a book, where one of the MCs is establishing a relationship with somebody else from who he ends up with. That is too much time spent on someone else, also I usually end up being royally PISSED for one of the MCs, so I'll do my blood pressure a favor and forget about this for now...  
Maybe I'll finish it at some point, but I'm not counting on it.

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