



## Falling Blind

*Shannon K. Butcher*

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**They are the Sentinels. Three races descended from ancient guardians of mankind, each possessing unique abilities in their battle to protect humanity against their eternal foes: the Synestry. Now a warrior must protect a strong-minded woman from an incredible evil...**

A beautiful, independent Theronai, Rory Rainey knows that her attempts to be a warrior are futile—unless she can stop the demonic visions that torment her. Determined to be free, Rory sets out to find the mysterious guardian who can cure her, before she loses her sight—or her life. But Rory's journey brings its own dangers when she is attacked by a pack of Synestry sent by the demon lord Raygh.

Cornered and desperate, Rory narrowly escapes with the help of a sword-wielding stranger. Cain knows that Rory needs his protection to survive, just as he knows that her power is compatible with his own. And when Rory binds herself to Cain, the warrior knows he will do anything to keep her safe from the threat of the demon lord that pursues her...

## **Falling Blind Details**

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Author : Shannon K. Butcher

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Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Demons

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## **From Reader Review Falling Blind for online ebook**

### **Erica says**

I loved it!!!

This one had to be one of the funniest I have read so far!!! Also my favourite so far!!

Action packed entertainment and some serious twists that'll make you white knuckle your seat.

I loved Rory she has to be my favourite Theroni so far she is witty and strong and incredibly interesting. Cain is fabulous I love his hard hitting arrogance and his ability to be funny and sweet. Together they are a force to be reckoned with.

I was sooooo looking forward to Cain's story he had the most longing I have seen/read from the Sentinel men and was so excited to read his story.

All up incredibly brilliant this series goes from strengths to strengths. I felt this one had more passion more on the development of the love between the main characters. Of course left off with a nice teaser I cannot wait for the next book.

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### **Irene says**

It's a shame there won't be Conan's book. He and Justice rock!

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### **Tracy Gallacher says**

I had a hard job reading this book, because I thought the story was very slow, and the action scenes were very few.

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### **Bonnie L Hampton says**

#### **Fantastic story**

This is number 9 of the series and it was very very good! I have enjoyed all of these stories and this was no exception. I can't wait to read the next book.???

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### **Secretly Reading says**

Originally reviewed for The Book Vixen

In a Nutshell: The heroine killed the romance for me with her snarky meanness to the long-suffering hero. I was also pissed that my favorite series sub-plot wasn't mentioned at all and another one I liked had a bad conclusion. Humph.

The Set Up: Rory has always been alone even while being plagued with seeing through other people's eyes. She knows about the demons that stalk her kind so when a man jumps in during one of her battles she can't rely on him even though she's attracted to him. Cain is a Theronai warrior near death since he hasn't found a woman to help channel his power but knows Rory could be that woman if she'd just let down her guard.

Why I Read this Book: I adore this series. Book four, Living Nightmare, is one of my favorite paranormal books ever and I reread it often. To continue this series is a no brainer up until now...

What I Liked: I love the hero, Cain. He's been an important character in the series and the last book left his character floundering and in grave danger of imploding under his guilt and grief. I was super anxious to revisit him and see him get his well-deserved HEA. Cain lived up to my expectations in that he was a strong but loving hero. This is illustrated when Cain has an internal speech weighing his need to live and have a woman channel his energy so he doesn't implode with Rory's desire for independence. His total willingness to sacrifice himself for Rory's happiness is believable within his character's development and I loved him for his selfless love.

What I Also Liked: The secondary characters continue to hold my attention here. The Theronai leader, Joseph, better have his HEA soon! I love the inclusion of previous couples in the series as they battle the demons and try to keep oblivious humans safe. The series mythos is that a couple can channel a male Theronai's energy to be the strongest fighters and I like how the author keeps to this by having the previous couples show up for big battles. The action is plentiful in this book and kept my attention.

What I Didn't Like: Rory. Rory is an asshole. I get that she's isolated, lonely and used to relying on herself but it doesn't give her license to be so cruel to Cain. Cain doesn't do anything to cause her to mistrust him and yet she perpetually does and pushes him away. I think her snark was passively humorous until it was directed at poor Cain and then it pissed me off. Instead of coming across as independent, which I think was the author's attempt, Rory just came across as a petulant immature child undeserving of Cain's love.

The other thing that bummed me out was the series sub-plots. One that I'm dying to learn more about, the Theronai Thor and his human love interest, Grace, aren't even mentioned. Okay, fine, author is leaving it for a full length book but hurry up already! The other series plot that I liked was about a half demon's love for an abused human and their quarter-demon son. Well, they're here but that sub-plot wrapped up quickly and badly. I am bah humbugging this book big time.

IMO: This is the series low point for me so far. I had to read it because I'm not off the series bandwagon yet but think new readers should skip this one and start with book one and see if they want to read this book when they come to it.

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### **Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says**

Rory Rainey is plagued by visions that she can't control much to her dismay. She's searching for the one person who can block her visions but no luck so far. While she's searching the streets she's attacked by a new kind of Synestrynn. A sword wielding man appears out of the darkness to kill the monsters right in front of

Rory, Cain Aylward has been a lost soul since Sybil left Dabyr. Cain finds new purpose upon meeting Rory with her bright pink hair and defiant expression on her face. Cain is smitten by her looks and attitude determined to know her name which she refuses to give. Hope and Logan are rebuilding the shelter in honor of Sister Olive's name. Hope wants to help others like she was helped. A new leader of Synestry is on a mission to kill everyone that he can no matter the cost or just plain greed. An innocent woman is murdered by a Sanguinar which throws Dabyr into chaos. Will Rory accept her lack of control with these visions? Can Cain let go of the past? Will Rory and Cain be a bonded pair? What is the Synestry's true purpose? Your answers await you in Falling Blind.

Shannon K. Butcher has written yet another fascinating book on The Sentinel Wars. Falling Blind pulls you in from first to last page without stopping. Falling Blind is a gut wrenching story about what it means to be blind and helpless with absolutely no control either. Rory is my new favorite character replacing Mac from The Fever Series by Karen Marie Moning. Rory is a no holds bar kind of person that makes you sit up and take notice no matter what you're doing. I simply adore Cain because he feels like an utter failure yet you realize that he's not a failure at all. But a man, who did his best to protect Sybil yet it wasn't enough by a long shot. The Sentinel Wars is now among my favorite series to read. I encourage you to read this wonderful series for yourself.

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### **Melindeeloo says**

I really liked Falling Blind, I loved Caine and he has such a believable struggle - planning to tie his heroine to him by devious (and sexy) means but still having that core of honor that keeps him from being able to be completely put that agenda into play and being unable to keep from hoping for a HEA even as it is within his grasp and then pulled away more than once- yep, I'll say it again, I loved him. I know others have found his heroine annoying, but I didn't. She does put Caine through the ringer, but I liked that she is such a fighter and that since ultimately Caine is able to see that the bond is a partnership (and not just a protection detail) she is going to make them into an amazing fighting team.

There are nice little touches in the cameos (a not so bad, bad guy) and good set up for future threads (Jacob/Lykae, Ronin, Sybil/Maura) without being the mindbending who's who that the last few books have been (no Torr and Grace this time though: No real refresher in the world building department (I wouldn't have minded a bit for the Slayers, since I am foggy on them), so this is not a book for series newbies.

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### **♥?elody says**

Skim-read this. Wasn't crazy about the side stories Butcher put in here, found it very underwhelming. There are only 3 side plots in here and the most uninteresting ones to boot. What happened to Andreas and Carmen? Joseph and Lyka? An update on Torr, Ian and Jackie would have been nice. I especially wanted to see how Ian and Jackie were faring. Seemed very inconsistent with the installments before this. I felt it was a little disconnected. And the interchanging Synestry lords I don't find interesting or terrifying. The villains are becoming very repetitive at this point and not at all exciting or suspenseful.

I really liked Cain since his introduction and his longing to have a child but the whole deal he makes with Rory made no sense. Rory has visions, she's desperate to get rid of them. Every time she touches Cain, **the visions go away**. So she makes a deal with him that she will wear his luceria **until she finds the person who**

**will make her visions go away. \*crickets\***

Rrrright. Because that makes perfect sense. Cain isn't the solution to her problem? SMH. Don't know if this was a case of severe denial or what but it just made the heroine look dense. The whole driving factor of the plot was idiotic and not well thought out. Also Rory didn't annoy me as much as I thought she would (from the parts I read) given all the negative feedback by readers, she has spunk and seemed very attracted and enthralled with Cain but still I wasn't lured in to read their story in its entirety. It's the same template used in most of the other books in this series, a warrior entranced by a Theronai woman and wanting to woo her and an obstinate stubborn woman not willing to accept her true calling and who she is. Meh. If the side stories were more interesting I probably would have given in and read the entire book.

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### **(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys\_sidekick says**

Originally posted at <http://smexybooks.com/2013/04/review-...>

Falling Blind (Sentinel Wars #7) by Shannon K. Butcher  
Paranormal Romance  
April 2, 2013  
Signet

Favorite Quote: "...there is no way I'm dying now-not with you as the prize for surviving."

Cain, a centuries old warrior who has slipped into deep depression with the abandonment of his ward Sybil, finds his emotions reawakening when he comes upon a young wounded woman fighting for her life against demons.

Rory, who suffers from debilitating visions, has already escaped the vicious demons who held her captive once and will fight to the death before she allows capture again. Once Rory meets Cain and touches him, her visions disappear and she finds peace from the constant onslaught. Cain's failure to protect his ward has left him feeling like a failure and unworthy to even consider Rory as a mate but as he and Rory spend more time together, he finds himself becoming more and more attached to her. When Rory is bitten by a demon who then uses her blood to attempt control of her, Cain and Rory work together to find the demons stronghold and destroy those who seek to subjugate her again.

The arc is set on modern Earth, with a raging battle between good and evil being fought right under our noses. Violence and romance go hand in hand as warriors called Sentinels fight to save mankind against the Synestryns while struggling to locate their mates before they die. Falling Blind is #7 in Shannon Butcher's dark and gritty Sentinel series. A blending of urban fantasy and paranormal romance, Ms. Butcher gives us a series that intertwines new and old story lines to allow a smooth flowing storyline. The continuing progressive arc engages the reader and sets a fast pace for reading.

This installment focuses more on the main protagonists and their respective journey with the arc flowing softly along side, interjecting at key moments. Though I enjoyed the story overall, I felt the focus was too heavy on our protagonists which at times would cause the flow of the story to drag at times. We don't get to spend hardly any time with the other characters and I missed that.

Rory and Cain, our hero and heroine are well matched. Both are strong, loyal, and independent. They both feel they have failed other people too many times and don't deserve to be happy. I like that Cain, though an alpha male, quickly recognizes the strength that runs through Rory and respects it. The chemistry between them is apparently from first meeting though Butcher allows it to grow slowly and realistically. One problem that kept recurring was Rory's stubbornness. She wanted Cain and accepted his help but every time something dramatic would happen, she would want to leave him. After the third time, it became irritating.

Ms. Butcher does grant us some past character cameos-however they are not as prominent as before. Those I enjoyed because that was really where the action played out. I continue to adore the rich depth and personality that Ms. Butcher uses to develop her characters. Ms. Butcher imparts diversity and individualism into both the characters and their dialogue. Light humor is sprinkled throughout which balances nicely against the overall seriousness of this series.

"Did you make this?

"I did."

"You cook too? You know that is not playing far, right?"

"What?"

"Gorgeous men are supposed to be deeply flawed and relatively helpless. You're neither, which gives you an unfair advantage over the entire man-loving population."

Though all her characters continue to walk the gray line between good and evil, we see some very interesting changes in the landscape that I look forward to seeing develop further.

The ending is a taunt mixture of action and suspense with hints at what's to come. It wraps up the main conflict nicely but leaves some open ended questions to help us transition into the next installment of this series; to be announced.

Overall rating: C+

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### **FV Angela says**

\*ARC provided by Netgalley

Review originally posted at <http://fictionvixen.com/review-fallin...>

I've been following the Sentinel Wars series since it's inception. I like this author's voice and have enjoyed journeying with her into this paranormal world filled with monsters, aliens, talented women and powerful men. The Sentinels are warriors filled with uncontrollable power who live with pain and suffering until they can find a compatible life mate to help him channel this power. As the years go by without finding their mate they fight losing their souls and watch the leaves on their life marks slowly fall away until all that's left is the end of their lives. Cain is such a warrior, suddenly left with nothing after his ward leaves his care, his best friends die and the woman he hoped to take for his own chooses someone else. He knows he doesn't have a lot of time left, until he rescues a pink haired, pierced Rory one evening and he realizes that she is the woman who can save him.

Rory suffers from debilitating visions. She's learned to keep to herself and stay away from large populations. When she is around too many people she can see what they see and after awhile these visions overwhelm her

to the point that she feels like she's going blind, or crazy. She knows there is someone out there who can help her, someone who can take away her visions for good. She's determined to stop at nothing to find them. One evening she is out on the streets she is rescued by Cain and one touch by him and her visions are muted.

I have mixed feelings about Falling Blind. I always look forward to every new story in this world and it pains me a bit to admit that this was my least favorite of the series so far. All because of Rory. I really, really did not like Rory. At all. She was rough, abrasive and rude. I felt bad for Cain that she was his only option for redemption. They have a rocky beginning since Rory is bound and determined to be on her own, regardless of the wisdom of escaping Cain's protection. She's always been by herself and she did not need anyone holding her back or hanging around. Even if that person gives her some relief from her visions when she touches him. Yes, I know she is a tough girl who has been on the streets for years, but I got tired of her acting the lone bad ass when **SHE HAD NO IDEA WHAT SHE WAS DOING.**

I started questioning Rory's intelligence right from the start. She makes stupid decisions, acts the bitch and even though she knows Cain will die without her she keeps trying to ditch him. He protects her over and over and offers to teach her how to turn her visions into something powerful. At one point I kept wondering why she was so keen to leave him behind when he offered respite from her visions. She insists again and again that she needs to find this magical person who will give her ease, yet Cain was right there in front of her face. I can't tell you how weary I was of this woman by the time I finished this book. This is the only time I've minded the "destined mate" storyline in this series thus far. I've followed Cain throughout all the other installments and truly felt like he deserved a better partner than this. As much as I hated Rory, I enjoyed Cain. He does everything he can to make her want him and gets shot down at every turn. In the end I did not believe their feelings for each other, their relationship felt too unbalanced and not authentic at all.

I think this is just a bump in the road of an overall wonderful series. I'm not going to let a little thing like an annoying heroine keep me from reading the next installment. The overall world building still keeps me interested and there are quite a few characters I can't wait to see get their happily ever after. Final Grade: C-

Favorite Quote:

For Rory he would do anything— find a way to give her whatever she needed. She may not stay with him forever, but for now, she was his, and it was his duty—his joy—to provide for her.

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**Hbeebti says**

This was really good. Loved Cain but Rory got on my nerves something fierce.

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**Pamelia says**

Where to begin? I have never given such a low rating to a book in a series I have been reading from the start. Here's to a first for me. What went wrong?

By the time I was 100 pages in I was starting to get annoyed with Rory, I stayed annoyed and my level of annoyance continually mounted until the very end. By the middle of the book I no longer even cared what happened to them other than wanting to know the basics for when Ms Butcher's next book in the series comes out next year. I found myself skimming through the last 1/4 of the book so that I could get the gist of Cain and Rory's story and to get to the background stories within the book.

I read Blood Hunt last December and then read through # 5.5 to 7 in the series this month, October. I found myself somewhat irritated with Dying Wish but I am really annoyed with Falling Blind. It's like SKB went back to her cookie cutter mold, from her basic formula of dying Theronai desperate to bond with female Theronai, after the nice change up that she wrote with Logan and Hope's story in Blood Hunt. It's like SKB has all these great ideas and new characters and twists that she has bubbling up in the back ground plots but they are taking back stage to her same old formula.

That wouldn't have been so bad if Rory and Cain could have acted like adults. I couldn't relate with either of them. Their emotions and choices were so flat. I felt like Jackie's 'rejection' of Cain in the previous book was not nearly traumatic enough, nor was it really that big of a deal when you consider the circumstances she went to Cain under, to justify his complete mistrust and lack of hope that a woman would want him. His feelings of complete failure as a protector that were based on Sybil's abduction just didn't cut it for me. He's centuries old and in his mind he is defined by 2 events from the last 6 months of his life.... what????

Then there is Rory; she's so stubborn, prideful, and immature.... I didn't like her and could not have cared less if she got her HEA. I don't even know where to start with her. This is the second time I have come across a heroine where she was so stubborn and unwilling to commit that I just didn't care when she finally did. I read romance novels, right, so I am not really interested in reading about women who are so unwilling to commit or be a partner in a relationship that they don't belong in a romance novel. Rory is like this because everyone she loves has died, she is written to be a wounded individual. IMO that's just not a good enough preface to justify the way that she was written. No one acts like that... she's not relate-able. That's how I feel about Rory.

My future with SKB is uncertain. At this point I'm not very intrigued with Torr and Beth's story but rather the setting of the next story since it is supposed to take place in Brenya's world. I'm hoping SKB will take a step away from her basic formula and write something new and refreshing. I like her world, her characters, and the many directions she's left open for herself to write in. They all look exciting but if she can't make it happen then I won't stick around for much longer. We shall see.

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### **Kathy Davie says**

Seventh in the Sentinel Wars paranormal romance series. The couple focus is on Cain and Rory.

#### **My Take**

This is one of Butcher's weaknesses: the clichéd plot. One character has powers she refuses to learn about, wants to leave the one she loves because it'll hurt so much if he dies---the fact that it'll hurt so much to leave never seems to occur to them, and the trope in which one character is damaged goods so the other can't possibly want to be burdened with them.

Oh, brother...

Okay, so the big signal that a Sentinel has met his mate is his luceria goes active. So, just how does Cain miss it when his luceria goes active? How does he justify ignoring it? Then there's the "required" obsession with how he's failed. Oh, brother. Again. I'm crossing my fingers that they find a matable woman who is also a psychiatrist. These guys need to get some therapy...

Yeah, I'm being a bit hypocritical since I've complained in reviews on the earlier stories that I dislike how overpowering the men have been in crowding their potential mates. But I hate stupid characters, and I don't understand Butcher's reasoning behind having such stupid men. And women in her stories. I like her premise, and I keep reading mostly because I want to know what happens with the other plane from which it seems that the Sanguinar and the Sentinels originate.

Then there's Rory... She's desperate to find someone who can help calm her visions. Then she finds Cain and touching Cain calms her visions. Somehow, it doesn't seem to penetrate her brain---must be all that pink hair---that, huh, touching Cain calms her visions since she insists on continuing to hunt for someone to...you guessed it...calm her visions. Surprise, surprise. *Um, does anyone know if Butcher, her editor, and her beta readers are on drugs that they keep missing these points?*

Rory is at least consistent in her dimwittedness as she never seems to make a connection between her taking her hand away from Cain and his immediate, incredible pain. She's battling the whole idea and yet when Cain gives her what she's been demanding, she gets pissy because he does.

Well, Butcher is consistent in having stupid characters amongst the good and the bad guys. If Raygh is such a big bad demon with such tremendous power, I would have assumed that he was also intelligent. So what's the excuse for his using up that special blood supply?

Oh my god, oh my god, Rory actually demonstrates some smarts!!! Whoo-hoo. *Can you tell I'm shockingly surprised??*

While I admire the care and concern the men have for others, the series so far is interesting for Butcher's concept and all the bits not involving whoever the primary couple is. It drives me mad how idiotic the couple's interactions always is. I'm not denying how much work Butcher has put into her stories. She has. A lot of work, and she's quite inventive. I guess that's what bugs me about her employing these lame clichés... It could be so good.

### **The Story**

It's a meeting in a dark alley when Cain rescues Rory from a demon attack. One that has a sinister purpose and all the rage of a very powerful demon lord behind it.

### **The Characters**

**Rory Rainey** struggles to survive the images that slam into her mind from the people around her. **Nana** is her grandmother, recently deceased and very much missed. **Matt** was the boyfriend who sold her to a demon for drugs. And she let him. I mean, duhhh.

**Cain** is a Sentinel and almost out of time and without purpose since Sibyl left him.

**Joseph Rayd** is the leader of the Theronai, the Sentinels, who are based at Dabyr. **Paul** and a pregnant **Andra** who is still missing her sister **Tori** (see *Dying Wish* , 6), and **Nicholas** are active in this story. **Lyka Phelan** is Andreas Phelan's half-sister, a hostage sent to Joseph as a pledge of the alliance between the Slayers and the Sentinels; Andreas got Carmen. **Miss Mabel** is a human living in the Dabyr compound, a sounding board for the other ladies and a teacher. **Gilda and Angus** were the leaders of the Sentinels until they died the night they rescued Maura in *Living Nightmare* , 4. At last, Tynan will learn the truth behind the Sentinels' inability to conceive children. **Beth** and **Ella** are sisters who were freed from the Synestry. **Ethan** is Ella's baby, a half-and-half, although Ella told Joseph he was fully human.

**Tynan**, Logan's brother, leads the **Sanguinar**, a vampire-like species allied with the Theronai as medics. **Logan** is married to **Hope** (see *Blood Hunt* , 5), and together they run a homeless shelter. The Sanguinar have kept **Project Lullaby** a secret; it's intended to help their species survive. **Ronan** is getting set up for his HEA. **Connal** is a traitor, doing anything for the blood to which he's addicted.

**Maura** is **Sibyl**'s other half. A curse their mother, Gilda, levied split the girls, and Maura turned against her people, fleeing to the Synestry. With the breaking of the curse, Maura grows up and leaves the demons, but she isn't free of her guilt.

**Justice** has no idea who she is, but she's driven by a compulsion to help.

The demon lord, **Krag**, may be dead, but his father, **Raygh** (*channeling J.R. Ward, perhaps?*) is alive and feeling vengeful. **Canaranth** had belonged to the recently deceased Zillah, and he loved Ella.

**Gerai** are blooded humans, descendants of an ancient, magical race, who sometimes help the Sentinels, who are a breed of warriors whose mission is to kill Synestry and prevent them from taking over the Earth.

**Synestry** is a generic term for all demons.

### **The Cover**

The cover has a flaring purple background with a reddish-orange, well-muscled torso...mmm, mmmm...very defined with a leafless tree tattooed across his left side, comfy looking jeans riding low, and his sword held upright. A very determined Cain.

The title refers to Rory who is *Falling Blind*.

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### **Nikki says**

I have a lot of issues with this book, but it has a damn good ending and that ending has totally swayed my rating from three stars to four. Seriously. All the way up until the last two chapters, this book was going to have three stars and I don't have an ounce of shame about the change. The ending was that good.

*Falling Blind* follows Cain and Rory. It's been a bit since I've read the previous books, so I didn't remember much of Rory, but I did remember a lot of Cain. It was really interesting to dive further into his character and I love how he was portrayed. Sometimes when authors dive into a supporting character, they don't really follow what we know about that character. Or they just mesh what we've seen into the formula for their heroes. Butcher didn't do that. Throughout the entire book, what we know of Cain from previous books rings true. He's patient, he's a good teacher, he loves children, he wants a family, and he's methodical. Even diving into the possessive instincts and his want for Rory didn't negate any of these things and it was wonderful to read. (Though also frustrating at times because his self-worth was in the toilet.)

Rory...Rory pissed me off. A lot. But in different ways from the other heroines. She's stubborn, so incredibly stubborn, but she's also young and immature. She's in her mid-twenties here and her insecurity is ridiculous, so she uses that stubborn trait to put up a good front and push herself beyond her limits. She acts downright stupid all for the sake of not appearing "weak", even if it's not her fault. Cain is such a good match for her because he's so patient and so methodical, it was really neat to read, but even those moments didn't make me like her all that much.

Until the ending. She makes a mistake, gets them in all sorts of trouble, goes through the Butcher-style we're-all-going-to-die-but-wait-the-girl-saves-the-day plot twist, but she isn't perfect. And I love that. I love the ending, I love the struggle, I love the price Rory and Cain pay for their story. It's perfect.

We get to know a bit more about Ronan in this book and I love Ronan. Honestly, his bits and pieces throughout the book were what kept me moving on at parts because the two insecure idiots were getting on my last nerve. We also get a flash of Joseph and Lyra, which has me super excited to get to their book. Honestly, even with all the flaws of this book, I feel it did a really good job of pulling all the different story arcs together and weaving them seamlessly.

I totally recommend this, but with grains of salt. It's frustrating to get through Rory's bullshit. It's annoying to read through Cain's despair. It drove me crazy with impatience to watch the intense story arcs build up only to cut away to a different thing. But the ending was freaking worth it and I'm not even a little bit ashamed.

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### **Maida»-(`v`)-» says**

#### **RATING:** Somewhere Between 3.5 and 4 HEARTS

Shannon K. Butcher became a favourite author of mine ever since I first read *Burning Alive*, and with the addition of *Falling Blind*, I am glad to say she continues to remain the same, despite this book lacking in several areas in which its predecessors did not.

*Falling Blind* has the right balance between the suspense, paranormal creatures, interesting characters and a sizzling romance, however, this story falls a little short from reaching that wowing moment.

The story that the description offers is exactly what you get out of this book. There are no twists and turns - the simple arc sets a welcome fast pace for reading. The plot flows rather continuously, and it's easy to get lost within its descriptions of the abundant action scenes and love scenes, but it's not a story without the cliches or a very abrupt and rushed ending. The same plot of a damaged hero finding a compatible mate, who refuses to accept her powers is getting old, and Butcher needs to find a new way of presenting this plot without it dragging down the rest of the story.

One of the most intriguing aspects of this series is its world building, and uncommonly, its further development is non-existent in this. From the slayers to the Theronai to the Sanguinar, I wanted to know more about their secrets, but unfortunately, this is a part where readers are left in the dark about. Although, with the next book being Torr's, I am hopeful that this misgiving will be redeemed as the plot once again will focus on a world outside of the Theronai.

The last book left Cain's character struggling with his guilt and grief, and ever since, I have been looking forward to revisiting him and finally see him get his HEA. And his character did not disappoint! I loved Cain's strong yet gentle demeanor in the way he handles Rory, and more than that, I loved his absolute willingness to give up everything for Rory, including himself. His loyalty and selflessness is believable and effortless in his development as a hero, which I found to be very captivating. As for Rory, she is very difficult to get used to. Admittedly, I did not like her character or her indifferent attitude towards Cain, and even right until the end, her character refuses to acknowledge her situation, which is beyond frustrating. She is the first woman in this series that I did not come to accept as either a likeable character or a strong,

independent heroine. Their romance on the other hand is downright naughty, sexy and nice, which I loved. The chemistry and sparks are ever present throughout the story, and oddly enough regardless of Rory's character, this is a couple worth rooting for.

Aside from the few obstacles, the inclusion of previous couples, new sub-plots, and secondary characters, especially Joseph (the leader of the Theronai) and Lyka (a slayer) and Ronin (a Sanguinar), kept me wanting to read until the very last page and begging for more future books.

Overall, *Falling Blind* offers an engaging story, with the addition of some intriguing old and new elements, however, I suspect for fans of the series this will probably be a downer compared to previous books.

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