



# Dangerously Charming

*Deborah Blake*

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**Dangerously Charming** Deborah Blake

**From the author of the Baba Yaga novels, a brand new series set in the same “addicting”\* world, filled with wild magic, enchanting damsels, and the irresistibly daring men who serve the Baba Yagas...**

*The Riders are three immortal brothers who protect the mythical Baba Yagas. But their time serving the witches has ended—and their new destinies are just beginning...*

Ever since a near-fatal mistake stripped Mikhail Day and his brothers of their calling to be Riders, Day has hidden from his shame and his new, mortal life in a remote cabin in the Adirondack mountains. But when a desperate young woman appears on his doorstep, he cannot resist helping her—and cannot deny how strongly he’s drawn to her...

For generations, women in Jenna Quinlan’s family have been cursed to give up their first born child to the vengeful fairy Zilya. When Jenna finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, she is determined to break her family’s curse and keep her baby, even if it means teaming up with a mysterious and charismatic man with demons of his own...

To unravel the curse, Jenna and Day will have to travel deep into the Otherworld. But the biggest challenge of the journey might not be solving an ancient puzzle but learning to heal their own broken hearts...

## Dangerously Charming Details

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Author : Deborah Blake

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# From Reader Review Dangerously Charming for online ebook

## AnnMarie says

Dangerously Charming is the first book in the 'Broken Riders' series by Deborah Blake. It is a spin off series from the 'Baba Yaga' series which I haven't had the opportunity to read any of. That said, you don't have to have read them to understand and enjoy what happens in this book.

Jenna Quinlin's family has been cursed by a vengeful faery. Every generation of women since then has had to give up her first born child. There is no way to stop the faery taking each baby, unless they can solve a riddle. Up until now the riddle hasn't been solved and Jenna, despite all her precautions finds herself pregnant. Her boyfriend who has had a vasectomy refuses to believe that she is pregnant with his child, so he splits up with her, gets her the sack from her job, and pretty much runs her out of town in his anger. Jenna wants to run anyway because she knows she is being watched, and has a premonition that the 'thing' watching her is the evil faery, waiting to lay claim on her child. So with little money, and a rubbish car, she makes her way up to the mountains where she knows an old family cabin is. She wants to seek refuge there at least until she figures out what she can do next. Unfortunately on her way, her car breaks down and she ends up walking through horrendous weather conditions trying to make her way to the cabin. Instead of finding her cabin though, she comes across another one. She just hopes and prays somebody is in there.

Mikhail Day is the owner of the cabin and is indeed in residence. He used to be a 'Rider' an immortal who looked after the Baba Yaga witches. But a terrible mistake by him ends with him and his fellow Riders being tortured nearly to death, and although they are saved by magic, the Queen strips the three of them of their immortality and their calling. Mikhail can't forgive himself for what he has done to his brothers and he took to his cabin in the middle of nowhere to lick his wounds and stay away from all damsels in distress, such as the one that caused his terrible error in judgement before. So when Jenna comes knocking at his door he is very unhappy about it. She has sprained her ankle though, and even if he refuses to do anything other than give her shelter, he begrudgingly invites her in to dry off and to let her ankle rest. She ends up having to stay a few days before she is up to leaving, and in that time Mikhail finds out about her pregnancy and the curse she is trying to break. He doesn't want to help her, but in his heart of hearts he knows that he has to, and when that is confirmed by a friend they seek out, that he is actually a part in the riddle, he accepts his fate and he and Jenna set out to solve the riddle.

Will they be able to solve it, will Jenna get to keep her baby? And what of Mikhail, will Jenna's kind heart and his new purpose of helping her help him to overcome his past, and maybe even allow him to fall for her, see a future whereas he couldn't see one before.

This was a really exciting, fascinating fantasy book, with scenes reminiscent of The Labyrinth, and Alice in Wonderland. It was really delightful to read about the array of mystical beings and creatures, especially tall lizards in colourful waistcoats! The story has love, laughter, sadness, mystery, and it all starts off with the gorgeous man on the cover of the book. I really enjoyed this book and am definitely going to read the rest in the series. The next book being about Gregori Sun, another 'Rider' without purpose.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Lois Alston says**

### **Another great story**

Finding you are not as lost as you thought you were. Getting something and someone's to fight for. Helping others to see a new adventure waits around the corner. Life is not through with you yet.

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## **Barb Lie says**

*Dangerously Charming* by Deborah Blake is the first book in her new Broken Riders series. This is a spinoff from Blake's successful Baba Yaga series. I have not read that series, but this book read very well without having to read the previous series, as the author gives us information along the way to make it easier. However, with that being said; I enjoyed this book and Deborah Blake's writing, and I will need to find time to read the Baba Yaga series (3 books and 2 novellas).

Mikhail Day, our hero, is a White Rider, who protected the Baba Yaga witches, and was immortal. We learn at the start that Mikhail is a Broken Rider, after being tortured by a crazed witch in a previous story, losing his immortality. When we meet Mikhail, he is still recovering but in seclusion. On a stormy night a lost young lady knocks on his door to get into safety from the rains. Mikhail's life will once again change.

Jenna Quinlan is our heroine, and she is desperately trying to escape a fairy, who is determined to find Jenna. It seems that Jenna is pregnant, and the fairy, Zilya has come to claim her first born child. Jenna's family has suffered this curse for generations, and Jenna is desperate to find a way out.

Mikhail at first wants nothing to do with her. All he wants is to be alone. But he does take her to meet the fairy Queen, who would like to help Jenna, but this curse was created long before the rules changed. As in the land of the Fae, the Queen gives a sly hint to Mikhail to help Jenna and warns Zilya to leave Jenna alone until after the baby is born. This gives Jenna a chance to solve the curse riddle that will release Zilya's claim.

What follows is a fun and romantic story line, where Mikhail and Jenna will travel through the Otherworld to find the clues. Barbara, one of the Baba Yaga witches, will offer some help in trying to unravel the riddle, but Mikhail and Jenna must do this on their own. Despite his wanting to be alone, slowly Mikhail finds himself falling in love with Jenna, and she with him. We also get to meet Mikhail's brother, who is also a Broken Rider, and whose story will be next.

The key to a good story is always to have characters you enjoy and care about. Deborah Blake gives us this in *Dangerously Charming*. I loved Mikhail and Jenna, as they made a great couple. I loved the supporting characters, such as Barbara, the Baba Yaga witch; Gregori, Mikhail's brother, Babs, the young daughter of Barbara, and even the Fairy Queen was nice. This was an enjoyable read, exciting, action-filled, as they had to fight off those trying to stop Jenna; a sweet romance, great couple, as well as spending time in the land of the Fae. *Dangerously Charming* is in fact a charming & fun story. I look forward to the next book in this series, and to find time to read Deborah Blake's Baba Yaga series.

Barb

The Reading Cafe

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## Marta Cox says

I discovered this authors inventive Baba Yaga series a couple of years ago and found it so deliciously chock full of magic and adventure that I felt bereft when it seemed to be over . Now clearly the author had fun with this world too because now we get a spin off series featuring her magical Riders. Well to be fair the synopsis does give a huge spoiler on something that previously turned the Riders into the loners that feature in this story but with the help or perhaps hindrance of a powerful Queen the journey of the White Rider Mikhail, is set to take him on a whole new adventure!

I'm going to stick my neck out here and say that if you read this book before the Baba Yaga series you will miss out. That being said it does work as a standalone as there's enough background information imparted along the way as the story builds up.

So what did I think? Ok Mikhail is in a dark place when the story begins blaming himself for the tragic events that befell himself and his two brothers. Convinced that he is beyond redemption he finds himself doing what he swore he would never do again , in short ride to the rescue of a damsel in distress ! The damsel in question is Jenna, human, pregnant, on the run and cursed! Yes a curse passed down through her family and now Jenna is desperate to find a way to end it once and for all. Jenna has no intention of losing her baby and will do anything to prevent it. I had to admire Jenna as she's thrust into a world that she knows nothing about and yet she doesn't bow down . No she's courageous , plucky and not too shabby at defending herself! Not a kickass heroine but one who felt human and unafraid to love. Fate has a strange way of working out at times but when there's magic involved you can be sure that it's not going to be boring!

I really enjoyed catching up with previous characters and I'm so pleased the author hasn't run out of steam. A charming romance with surprising events but best of all a happy ever after.

I was gifted a copy if this from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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## Sophia says

The Riders- tortured, broken, and no longer immortal... I loved the Riders all through the Baba Yaga series so I wanted to kiss the author's feet when I discovered there would be a spin-off series following the Riders after all that went before. First up is Mikhail Day- the White Rider. Happy go lucky, teasing and lovable Day is no more. In his place, a bitter, guilt-ridden man who wants nothing to do with damsels in distress after what fate handed him last time he fell for that one. But see, fate is a cunning and whimsical thing and in no wise finished with the White Rider.

Jenna Quinlin's family is under a heartbreaking faerie curse. The first born child of each generation is taken by a fairy. There is a riddle that can break the curse, but Jenna's solution as the last of her line was to avoid having a child and letting it all end with her. Well that didn't work out and now the clock is ticking down and she must solve the riddle to keep her baby from being taken. A series of bad things happening including the last which was the death of her old car on a deserted forest road leads her to the doorstep of curmudgeonly Mick Day.

Day wants to slam his cabin door in the face of the soggy, limping and cold woman on his doorstep, but even he can't be that cruel. He dries off, renders first aid and offers some hospitality while desperate to avoid being sucked into Jenna's troubles. But when a malicious fairy comes and he sees the human woman courageously confront Zilya, somethings awakens inside him. Slowly, he is pulled back into life and for the

sort of quest and protection he was born for.

A visit with the Queen of Faerie, working on the riddle with Barbara one of the Baba Yagas, the pursuit of Zilya's minions and Jenna's ex, all bring Day back to fighting form and help to heal him. But it is also the close contact with the strong yet vulnerable Jenna. Both fight an attraction, but fighting a fate that feels so right is growing harder and harder.

I enjoyed this story that was about personal healing for Day and a Quest to Jenna. I enjoy returning to this world where the fairy tales and paranormal legends come to life. It was exciting getting Mikhail Day's history and getting a story he shares narration with Jenna. The White Rider may no longer be immortal, but he is no ordinary human just like his sexy white bike is not just a motorcycle. Jenna may be vulnerable because she is pregnant, but she is no wilting flower. This gal can kick box and she bravely confronts and takes on a wicked fairy along with all the amazing things that are beyond human comprehension.

The humor- oh the dry one-liners that had me chuckling, wit, and slow-build character and romance development were satisfying and fantastic.

Reunion with Barbara, Liam, Babs, Chud0-Yudo, the Queen and King, and one more were just icing on the cake.

And oh my yes, The Red Rider, Gregori Sun, is next. Can't wait.

Dangerously Charming begins a new series, but if this sounds just your thing and you're just hearing about it, I would recommend going back to the beginning of the Baba Yaga series because really they all follow each other with an ongoing storyline and world.

My thanks to Berkley Romance for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **farmwifetwo says**

It was really good but almost too long, too much "woe is me" I finally skimmed about 2/3 in for a few chapters . So, 3 stars.

Also, although stand alone, I am going to read the first of the other series. Missing depth without having read it.

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### **Anne - Books of My Heart says**

The *Broken Rider series* is a spin-off from the *Baba Yaga series*. I've enjoyed these books as quick, fun reads with magic and romance. Mikhail Day is my favorite of the Riders. I like the bits of humor in these stories.

**Dangerously Charming** is Mikhail's story after the Riders lose their immortality. His history is full of his charm and coming to the aid of damsels in distress. Jenna is in distress due to a fairy curse, so she knows and understands a bit more about his world than other women would. But she's strong and doesn't need someone to take over her problems. I like her. Their relationship is fast and plausible for fiction.

The first sentence is "*Mikhail Day was rather enjoying the sound of rain on the metal roof as he read by the warmth of the crackling red-and-orange fire.*" If he didn't already have my heart, well, he's a READER. He's broken here and unfortunately, some of the issues are repeated over and over.

The mystery is okay. It gives the couple something to do while they get to know each other besides protecting or hiding Jenna from the bad fairy or the bad ex. They approach things in a smart, reasonable way but nothing is straightforward when a fairy is involved. We do get the pleasure of Barbara, Liam and Babs. Oddly, the Red Rider, Gregori, is involved but not Alexiei. I'm sure I will read **Dangerously Divine**, which is next, featuring Gregori Sun.

Read this review in its entirety at The Book Nympho

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## Aly says

Mikhail Day still have nightmares about the time he and his brothers were held captive and tortured by an evil witch. He still feel guilty about falling for the deception of the villain and he swore he will not play the knight in shining armor again. But Mikhail can't deny his true self so when a young woman come knocking on the door at his cabin in the wood and seek shelter after her car broke down and she twisted her ankle while walking in the forest during a storm, he accept to help her. And when Jenna talk to him about a family curse made by an offended faery many, many years ago, he can't help but assist her in her quest to find a way out of the malediction. Anyway, he'll soon realize he's a part of this whether he wants it or not.

The Broken Riders series is a spin-off of the Baba Yaga series. I don't think it's necessary to have read it before because the author give enough infos about the Universe to make you understand what happened before and how it works. But I was very happy to find again Barbara, Chudo-Yudo, little Babs and Liam. Barbara is still the same badass we meet before and still my favorite character from this world created by Deborah Blake. It make me sad I didn't enjoy *Dangerously Charming* as much as I wanted, because once again, it was full of good ideas. You can expect magic bike, riddles, an Otherworld, faeries and all kind of whimsical creatures. I really liked the heroine too. She was brave and fierce, but I never really believed in her romance with Mikhail. I have a hard time understanding why I was not more entertained by this book so maybe it's because I had too high expectations, who knows ! I'll definitely read the next book.

"I swore I wasn't going to rescue any more damsels in distress," Day muttered.

To his surprise, Barbara gave him a lopsided grin, banging on the side of the trailer to make it produce a door.

"What makes you think she isn't rescuing you?" she asked, and stomped inside without a backward look."

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## ? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Consider me charmed by this dangerously taciturn anti-hero, Mikhail Day. Ms. Blake kicks off another stunning series, the Broken Riders. This is a spin-off of her Baba Yaga series. This book can be read without reading the other series. Word of caution, reading this book first will most likely cause a reader to scramble and read the other series too. In this series, we learn more about these mysterious and sexy riders. Mikhail is the first brother to be featured.

Due to Mikhail's White Knight syndrome, he tried to save the wrong damsel in distress and ended up nearly costing the lives of his brothers. There are additional ramifications which the stories explore. The point is, Mikhail is badly shaken and he is now experiencing a crisis of faith as well as identity. His question of faith has nothing to do with religion and all to do with himself and what he can do. After centuries of doing the same thing over and over again and being near invincible, his new status in life makes him question everything. When a new damsel in distress literally knocks on his door, he is hesitant to help.

This tale is a wonderful journey for Mikhail to realize his new direction. The character growth for him is lovely to witness. He becomes a more complex character with more layers. His interactions with cursed human, Jenna, is hysterical. Even with this somber dark backdrop, Ms. Blake employs a fabulous comedic timing. Jenna is that proverbial monkey wrench that throws everyone's plan into a disarray. I love Jenna. She is a feisty character who is determined to fix a problem plaguing her family line. This plot device really worked for me and I loved how Jenna's problem pulls Mikhail out of his self-pity funk. His anti-social ways and broken down attitude slowly turns around and morphs him back to hero status. Loved it! There are so many different little gems Ms. Blake places into this story which is appealing. Cameo appearances for Baba Yagas and the Fae court are all a delight. This book is a must read. After finishing reading this rich colourful world, returning to reality is a letdown. I eagerly anticipate the next book in the series. This urban fantasy is highly recommended to readers who enjoy quests which involves a hero and heroine fall in love whilst they work to bring down a spiteful witch.

*\*provided by NetGalley*

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## Krissys says

Ever since a near-fatal mistake stripped Mikhail Day and his brothers of their calling to be Riders, Day has hidden from his shame and his new, mortal life in a remote cabin in the Adirondack mountains. But when a desperate young woman appears on his doorstep, he cannot resist helping her—and cannot deny how strongly he's drawn to her...

For generations, women in Jenna Quinlan's family have been cursed to give up their first born child to the vengeful fairy Zilya. When Jenna finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, she is determined to break her family's curse and keep her baby, even if it means teaming up with a mysterious and charismatic man with demons of his own...

To unravel the curse, Jenna and Day will have to travel deep into the Otherworld. But the biggest challenge of the journey might not be solving an ancient puzzle but learning to heal their own broken hearts.



I felt really bad for Jenna, she's got so much going and so much hurt and buried emotions that her out burst was like an eruption once it happened.

She was still feeling like a pawn which sucked.

Jenna felt like the kind of person who was stuck in a situation where her life was a series of events dictated by other people's actions.

It made her easy to relate to and sympathize with because that kind of thing can really suck. I really liked seeing Jenna coming into herself through the journey.

Dangerously Charming was my favorite so far.

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If any of Krissy's Bookshelf Reviews has been helpful please stop by to like or let me know what you think! I love hearing from followers! Thank you!

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### **Pamela says**

Mikhail Day, once a White Rider, lived to serve powerful witches, known as Baba Yagas. And of course, he enjoyed rescuing the occasional damsel in distress. But no more. After suffering a vindictive and cruel Baba Yaga's tortures, he is now immortal, and all he wants to do is take a breather somewhere secluded. Imagine his surprise when even somewhere far off the beaten path, a beautiful woman turns up on his doorstep, much in need of his help.

Jenna Quinlan left everything she knew behind in order to protect her unborn child. Her family has been cursed to give up their first born child for generations, and Jenna is determined to be the one to bring the curse to an end. She never expected to meet Mikhail "Mick" Day, or that he would aid her in her quest. Somewhere along the way, feelings begin to develop between them. Jenna knows she wants Mick in her life, but she also realizes that he needs to discover a few truths for himself. Unfortunately, time is of the essence, and when faced with the choice of losing the man she has come to love or the infant growing inside her, what will she do?

DANGEROUSLY CHARMING... the title says it all. It perfectly describes both the hero and the story. Author Deborah Blake is new to me, but one thing is for sure, DANGEROUSLY CHARMING will not be the only book I read by her. Even now, I have added her Baba Yaga series to my wishlist. Back to DANGEROUSLY CHARMING, which is the first novel in her BROKEN RIDERS series. It centers around White Rider, Mikhail and Jenna Quinlan. Mikhail thinks he was leaving his old life behind, but fate has other plans for him. Mikhail and Jenna's journey to save her unborn child is non-stop thrills. The wit, humor, their growing attraction for one another all add something special to DANGEROUSLY CHARMING. I am anxiously awaiting the next book in the BROKEN RIDER series.

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### **Ami says**

**3.5 stars**

*This curse unbroken now shall be  
Down into eternity*

*Unless you find the pathway through  
And solve the riddle with this clue  
A rose's cry at rock enchanted  
The sun's bright ray where none is slanted  
A magic key to a gift divine  
True love must merge when stars align*

**Dangerously Charming** is the start of a new spin-off series from Deborah Blake, out of her previous *Baba Yaga* novels. Personally, I think you don't need to read the *Baba Yaga* novels first because Blake gave enough information for new readers, but it will sure help give context as to why the series is titled "*Broken Riders*".

On the fantasy/fairy-tale part, I thought this was definitely charming. There is a classic adventure quest to break a curse that had been cast centuries ago. Blake takes readers to visit the Otherworld, to revisit Barbara (one of the *Baba Yagas*), a road trip to enchanted rock, more information about Russian folklore, heck even having Mikhail involved in challenge of wits with a troll. I enjoyed that part very much. I also loved that I knew more about Mikhail and his Rider brothers this time.

It is the romance part that I wasn't completely sold on. I thought it was rather lukewarm, and I definitely didn't get the emotion. Which was too bad because with Mikhail having guilt after what happened with him and his brothers in the previous series, there was potential for hurt/comfort moments.

I also had issues with a couple of technical things. Deborah Blake used 'two versions' of referring Mikhail Day as character. When the perspective is heavily leaning on Mikhail, she uses "Day". When it is from Jenna's perspective, she writes it as "Mick". That didn't help me connect with the character. Just when I was familiarizing myself with Mick, I was 'yanked' out again and forced to know Mick as Day. It was distracting.

Blake also wrote a few short scenes using multiple POVs from other characters, like Barbara, Jenna's ex, and the fairy who cast the curse. I strongly dislike multiple POVs in books with a romantic element. I want the POVs to focus only the hero/heroine. So I thought these scenes were unnecessary and disrupted the flow of the story.

Of course this could easily be my issue alone. Overall, it is a good spin-off and for those who have enjoyed *Baba Yaga* series, you will enjoy this one as well.

### **A Guest Review for The Blogger Girls**

*The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.*

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### **Jacque says**

I'm going to start this one with I have never read author Deborah Blake before. With that statement, you can

pretty much figure out, I have also not read any Baba Yaga books either. I saw that the blurb stated that the Broken Riders series is set in the same world as the Baba Yaga books. I was hoping, since Dangerously Charming was the first book in its series, that I wouldn't have any problems. Lucky for me it worked out perfectly.

To be frank, I thought I was going to be reading a PNR biker book. Hey, that's what it looked like from the cover. I had no clue this was going to a fantasy novel. I gave up fantasy years ago when I stopped reading Xanth. I've forgotten how much fun fantasy stories could be that is until I started reading Dangerously Charming.

Oscar the Grouch, I mean Mikhail Day, is hiding out in a cabin. He's riddled with shame and self-hate struggling to live with his new mortal life and doesn't want to be around everybody. I'm going to take a guess here and say the full story behind losing his immortality is somewhere in the Baba Yaga series. I personally liked how each layer to the whys, and his slow getting over it, was done. Same goes for Jenna's story with her being spunky and caring but not too harsh of character. That's quite a curse she has on her, having to give up her first-born just like everyone in her family had to. She is determined to break that curse...and Mikhail is just as determined not to help her. Unfortunately, helping women in need of help seems to be his Achilles' heel!

What a fun book! There was the right amount of excitement mixed in with some sassy fun. The characters are delightful and funny in their quiriness. The dialog is snappy and flavored with the right amount of zingers. I did have to suspend my logic ability as Jenna progressed through her pregnancy. I know it is explained but dang, I wish mine had zipped that fast. The journey that Mikhail and Jenna to solve the riddle and break the curse was, well...charming. I think this book worked very well as a stand-alone, or as a lure to read more books by Deborah Blake, which is something I plan on doing.

I received this book from the JeepDiva for the express purposes of an honest review. The opinions and rating of this review are solely mine.

Stars - 4, Flames - 3

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### **Maria V. Snyder says**

Don't know why I didn't review this - I read it as soon as it hit the shelves as I loved the riders in the Baba Yaga series. This book didn't disappoint!

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### **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2e2Bmvr>

The Riders! Ahhh! The Riders! I love them and was so dang excited to see this series. Dangerously Charming was everything I hoped it would be. Adventure, healing, romance. \*sigh\* Yes, it was good.

The quick of it is that Day and the other Riders have been through hell. Tortured, broken, their immortality lost. And Day? He feels he's to blame for everything that's happened to him and his brothers and vows to never help a damsel in distress again since that's what caused their troubles. That is until a feisty and determined human shows up on his steps during a snow storm and pulls him into a multi-world road trip with a mission of breaking a fae curse. He simply can't turn her away. Who saves who? Totally up for debate.

Seriously these Riders. I've been smitten. And them broken? Smitten plus that girlie need to take care of them. Ah! Day is the reluctant hero through and through. He's gruff and growly and just broken but couldn't stop being himself and helping those in need. I just adore him and his sexy lost self. And Jenna was the determined heroine. Fierce and ready to do whatever it took to break this curse and save her child from it. They were great together, as well. Nice chemistry, a little heat, got each other's broken bits and started to heal. It was just nice watching them work together.

The adventure was pretty exciting. Not only were they battling the faery that was out to get her child but also the baby's bio-dad who was a real piece of work. Chasing clues to a riddle that had to be broken in order to keep the faery from claiming her child, running into Otherworld dangers and marvels, finding the other Riders and dealing with the Queen. It was nicely done and kept things moving at a very fast clip as they traversed two worlds on one crazy road trip.

All in all, I'm a happy reader girl. Blake created such a fascinating and wonderful world with the Baba Yagas and the Riders. Quirky, unique, exhilarating... I can't wait to dive into the next one. Dangerously Charming hit the spot!

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