



Demon's Heart

Emily H. Bates

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Young ruffian Rustav is determined to escape his abusive uncle and hated homeland, even if it means braving the demon-infested forest. His escape is halted, however, when a race of legendary beings reveal him to be the country's fabled heir. As the people rally around him, Rustav teeters precariously between raising his people from the dust—or destroying them from the inside.

Demon's Heart Details

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Author : Emily H. Bates

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From Reader Review Demon's Heart for online ebook

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

****4.5 stars****

Rustav has spent his life running. He is an excellent runner, he is quick and he know how to get around guards. He runs from his abusive Uncle. He is determined to enter the forest full of demons to escape his corrupt country.

Surprise adventures, family history, friendship, and love are some of the experiences found in this fantasy story.

I quickly found myself caught up in Rustav's journey. His attitude changes from one near despair to confidence. He realizes that he is no longer alone. There are people in his world who are trustworthy and loyal. Not everyone he comes across can be taken at face value, many have secrets. He must learn to decipher friendship and hidden agenda's.

Fantasy creatures are in this book. There are the fey, known as the tuath. There are demons, some are terrifying. There is an evil King who is involved in conspiracies. I enjoyed the love story, it is sweet and grows as the characters are faced with challenges.

Emily Bates has done a wonderful job at crafting a story and creating a fantasy world. The plot drew me in and I liked the characters. I look forward to reading the book that will follow this one.

Ashley (Reads by Ashley) says

First of all, a big thanks to Emily for sending me this great book and also for writing it.

I'm really amazed of how the plot got me attached of it to read more and more. Reading of how Rustav have a tough childhood and growing up with his uncle that punish him so bad that leave scars all over his body.

He was so scare of people when he was in Gebir. When he saw Dantzel for the first time. He felt something growing in him but he was to afraid of that. I'm not going to get in so more details of the story, I don't want to give any spoilers, haha. I'm without words to describe this book. I highly recomend it to everyone.

Sabs says

I loved it! I could not put it down. The main characters are interesting and unpredictable. I think one of them is my brother... not sure. :) The story line gets you interested in the first chapter. I can normally start a book and have pretty much the whole thing figured out before I get half way into it, that was not the case with this one. The author leaves you questioning your judgment most of the way through the book, and then, BAM!!!! You are hit with a freight train of awesomeness. As things unfold, and pieces come together, you find yourself immersed in Rustav's world and not wanting to leave it. The ending leaves you begging for the next

book.

Seriously, when is the next book coming out???? Anyone know???

This is going to be a repeat read. Over, and over again.

I think I need to start a fan page.

Rachel says

I read this book for Deseret Connect and I didn't really like it.

Demon's Heart is a YA fantasy adventure novel centered around the adventures of an abused runaway, Rustav, and Dantzel, the young lady he meets in a mountain village. In their adventures, they are always running away from someone, being held captive, or being taken care of by some kind soul who happens to rescue them. Rustav endures this cycle three times, and the convenience of the kind soul is a bit inconceivable by the third time.

Rustav's character is annoyingly moody, perhaps overacting the role of reluctant hero, although fans of the fifth Harry Potter book will feel right at home. Many of Rustav's actions are illogical or unlikely and occur for plot convenience. At one point he trusts a villain who has proved untrustworthy in the past. The villain's magical ability to get Rustav to trust him has no explanation and hence seems contrived.

Another problem is that Rustav and Dantzel spend two years learning battle arts, but never engage their pursuers. Dantzel is repeatedly dismissed from adventures because it's "not safe" ad nauseum, even though she supposedly has useful archery skills. Rustav's years of swordplay study might as well not have happened for how little they impacted the plot.

Rustav and Dantzel establish their mutual attraction about halfway through the book, and it's refreshing that they effectively communicate their feelings to one another instead of experiencing one miscommunication after another like other romances. Their romance is completely clean and chaste, but Rustav's wounds and scars from his abuse might be a bit much for a 10-year-old. Demon's Heart is best suited to young adults and adults looking for a light read, who aren't bothered by the types of plot contrivances listed above.

Rachel Barnard says

"Running away was what he did best." (Page 94).

Rustav just wanted to escape his abusive uncle and live in peace. After finding himself in a small welcoming village, Rustav stays to recover and eventually makes friends with Dantzel and several others in the village. When the Guards finally come, Rustav does what he does best, runs away. Rustav didn't count on Dantzel following him into the forest. They find a race of legendary forest dwellers, the Tuatha, who are both kind and sinister. Entrapped by the Tuatha until one Tuath tells him the truth, Rustav learns the truth about his heritage and inheritance. Now Rustav must decide whether to save the country or run away again.

This is the story trope of the chosen one. Rustav doesn't know he's the fabled heir to the kingdom, chosen at birth because of his lineage. When he finds out his true identity, he must choose to follow his destiny or cast it aside. If he chooses to follow his set path in life, he will have a great many trials to face. Though this isn't in any way a new story, I loved the author's voice and the way she told the story. Rustav is an underdog that I immediately wanted to succeed. He had just enough resistance to his path to make his story interesting.

The pacing was great. The author focused in on each plot point perfectly and didn't leave Rustav in any one place too long. Rustav was never stagnant on his adventure and even when he was caught up in one place for a lengthy period of time, it never felt like it dragged to the reader.

I loved both Rustav and Dantzel. They were not the stereotypical male/female pair. Rustav does not always confront things head on. He had to run away to stay alive, but when he had to make a stand and be brave, he did! Dantzel was not a damsel in distress. She follows Rustav because she's tired of being complacent and she wants to find her father and have an adventure. She holds her own next to Rustav.

The fantasy elements were not overwhelming but perfectly tied into the story and the plot. The dialogue and action were relevant and well-written for this fantasy story.

Emmy says

Rustav is determined to escape from his past and his abusive Uncle. He is determined to escape into the forest- even if it is filled with demons, but a stop in a small mountain town along the way changes everything. There not only does he meet someone who helps him find a place for love in his life, but while there events lead to him discover his true identity and his true past.

Now with the knowledge of who he is, Rustav must decide who he really is and what he is going to do with his new identity.

I really enjoyed this book. Bates does a great job creating a world filled with mystical creatures, deception, love and hope. The characters and their worlds are developed enough to make it feel real yet the story moves along quickly. There are twists and turns and some unexpected surprises that keep you engaged in the story. I like how the characters continue to grow and develop as the story moves along.

This is a clean book that even with battle scenes, and deeper subjects is written in a way that is not overly graphic and free of language.

This is definitely the first of a series and I am now anxiously awaiting the next book as it totally leaves you hanging!

Shauna says

This is a GREAT adventure story tied in with a TWIST of fantasy!

Rustav has had a terrible childhood and has run hard and fast to escape it.

Taken in by a kind woman and her daughter Rustav feels that he has left his past behind him.

Just as things are starting to look good Rustav must go on the run again.

Knowing that it is his only escape Rustav braves the demon-infested forest....(this was one of my favorite part of the story :)

It is while in this forest that Rustav learns his true identity...

Is he brave enough to face his future or will he run again?

A VERY FUN STORY!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

The cover is so pretty on this book, don't you think? I love it.

I'm not sure why but this book just didn't do it for me. I've been trying for days to pinpoint a specific reason but I just cannot come up with anything. The premise of the book is a good one, the ideas are solid. Somewhere in the delivery though, I just didn't connect.

Rustav is rough around the edges. He hasn't been shown the love and care a child deserves in life. He is simply trying to survive. There are many people Rustav comes in contact with that help to heal his heart. There is a great cast of characters but again, I was missing that connection somehow.

It took me a long time to get through this book and I was easily distracted with other books. I guess what it boils down to is that this book just wasn't for me. It wasn't bad, it just wasn't for me. Sometimes fantasy books and I just don't click.

Content: This book is clean. No swearing or sexual situations. There is some violence but nothing too descriptive.

Amy says

I read this a few months ago. It was a fun read. I gotta say the one thing that stuck with me was how the number of syllables in names was an explicit status symbol. You could tell someone's class just by their name.

Led to fun game: Aim -> Amy -> Amily -> Amelia -> Amelianna ... Drew -> Andrew -> ...

Stacy says

Loved it! This was a fun and captivating read that kept my attention with both the unpredictability of the story and the development of the key characters. I love that the author gave time and detail to allow the reader to really care about the characters while still moving the story along at a refreshing, engaging pace. I

was not ready for the story to end, and can't wait for the next book!

Angie says

I enjoyed this one! Reminded me of (SLIGHT spoiler ahead ...)

The False Prince. This author has a bit of polishing to do before she's at quite the same level but the potential is there. The rest will come with more experience.

I do have to say I'm not a fan of the title (not sure where it came from?) or really the cover. So don't let either of them stop you.

Melanie says

I enjoyed this book from the beginning! Rustav escapes his abusive uncle and meets Dantzel. There's an old man in Dantzel's village named Anton and when he meets Rustav, he seems to know something about him. Anton tries to befriend Rustav and he's pretty resistant at first but Rustav was injured his first day in the village and needs to heal so he decides to stay with Anton for a while. Just as he's getting comfortable, everything changes and he heads into the forest, where it's rumored demons live, and Dantzel follows him.

I loved Rustav and Dantzel! They became good friends and I was hopeful that there was a budding romance but things change drastically overnight when Rustav had to take off and Dantzel went with him. They learn the truth about who really lives in the forest when they meet Ayre. Rustav also meets Pak, who raises doubts about Ayre and Rustav needs to decide who to trust. There are lots of great characters throughout this book and I enjoyed getting to know them all.

I wasn't sure what direction the story was going to go and was surprised by what happened. I loved the world I was introduced to. I have questions, though, and am ready to learn more about it! There were twists, turns, revelations, action, adventure, betrayal, deceit, fantasy creatures, and a little romance. I loved it and am looking forward to reading more!!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Adrienne Quintana says

I read this about a year ago, but I'm adding it to Marina's summer reading list. She's a huge fan of Brandon Mull and C.J. Hill's Slayer series. This is right up her alley with lots of fantasy and adventure.

Rhonda says

5 STARS

I was drawn into the story straight off. I cared about Rustav and the characters that he met. I wondered about his backstory. Demon's Heart got into my heart. I was not ready for the adventure to end. I want to see what happens next. Demon's Heart has humans but it also has demons, A legendary race of people. Plus other characters. A evil king, that is weakening his kingdom. A fable about the true King bringing everyone together. It is a clean

This is full of drama, relationships, suspense, action and fantasy all centered on Rustav a teenager who has had a rough life. He was beaten by his Uncle till he ran away one day to a mountain village. Rustav stayed to heal before going on through the forest where demons were said to live.

Rustav made friends in that village his first since he was young. Dantzel who lived with her mother. Her father was taken away over six years ago by the king.

The setting is diverse from mountain village, to cities . Even a hidden city. Transportation was walking or carts pulled by horses.

I would think probably middle school and up would like Demon's heart. Fans of Ranger Apprentice. Harry Potter

I can't wait for the next book in the series. I will be looking forward to reading it.

I was given Demon's Heart to read so I could give honest review and be part of it's blog tour.

Heidi says

I wasn't really sure about this book at first since I'm not really into demon's but I'm glad I gave it a chance because I ended up loving it and I am sad that I have to wait to read the sequel. It didn't take me long to get into the story as Rustav is on the run from page one of the book. He's escaped his abusive uncle and is searching for a way to leave the country. But when he sees Dantzel in trouble, he can't help but stop to help. Unfortunately, his physical state causes him to pass out leading to a lengthier stay in the village than he had planned. Slowly, he learns to trust Anton and Dantzel and others in the village, and he grows to appreciate their care and concern. But when the Guards show up to take him, he and Dantzel flee into the forest where they meet the Tuath, a people long thought extinct. What he discovers there will change everything, but can he bring himself to risk everything for people who never helped him? Can he figure out how to lead before

it's too late?

I found the book remarkably compelling and both Rustav and Dantzel believable and authentic. Rustav is gruff and projects a tough exterior while Dantzel is spirited and not afraid to say what she thinks. They make an interesting match, although things are just beginning when they are forced to flee and after that circumstances interfere with them pursuing things any further. The plot is intense and moves forward quickly making the book really hard to put down. I finished it in like two sittings. A thoroughly enjoyable beginning for a new series full of promise. There were several surprises that I really didn't see coming and enough twists and turns to please most readers. Highly recommended.
