



## The Darkest Warrior

*Gena Showalter*

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**The Darkest Warrior** Gena Showalter

**A searing *Lords of the Underworld* tale by *New York Times* bestselling author Gena Showalter, featuring a beastly prince and the wife he will wage war to keep**

**He is ice...**

Puck the Undefeated, host of the demon of Indifference, cannot experience emotion without punishment, so he allows himself to feel nothing. Until *her*. According to ancient prophecy, she is the key to avenging his past, saving his realm and ruling as king. All he must do? Steal her from the man she loves—and marry her.

**She is fire...**

Gillian Shaw has suffered many tragedies in her too-short life, but nothing could have prepared the fragile human for her transition into immortality. To survive, she must wed a horned monster who both intrigues and frightens her...and become the warrior queen she was born to be.

**Together they burn.**

As a rising sense of possession and obsession overtake Puck, so does insatiable lust. The more he learns about his clever, resourceful wife, the more he craves her. And the more time Gillian spends with her protective husband, the more she aches for him. But the prophecy also predicts an unhappily-ever-after. Can Puck defeat fate itself to keep the woman who brought his deadened heart back to life? Or will they succumb to destiny, losing each other...and everything they've been fighting for?

## The Darkest Warrior Details

Date : Published June 26th 2018 by HQN Books

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Author : Gena Showalter

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## From Reader Review The Darkest Warrior for online ebook

?★Tinja★ A Court of Pizza and Laziness says

I JUST SAW THIS.

WHAT THE FUCK. SERIOUSLY. WHAT THE FUCK.

I'M DONE. I'M DEVASTATED. I THINK I MIGHT EVEN CRY. ONE OF MY MOST ANTICIPATED COUPLES EVER FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET. I HAVE NO WORDS. OVER 8 YEARS I ROOTED/ANXIOUSLY WAITED FOR THEM. I WANTED THEM TOGETHER ABOVE ALL ELSE. AFTER ALL THE NEVER ENDING TEASING THAT WENT ON FOR YEARS. SO MANY, MANY YEARS!!!!!!!

"LIKE SCARLETT WOULD SAY - TEAM GILLIAM." AND EVERYTHING THAT WENT THROUGH IN EVERY BOOK. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST COUPLE. \*CRIES\* I WON'T BELIEVE THEY DIDN'T WORK OUT. NEVER.

FAREWELL LOTU, WISH WE'D NEVER MET. WHERE THEM WITCHES AT SO I CAN HAVE A FORGET-THIS-POTION?

I WON'T READ ANYTHING BY SHOWALTER EVER AGAIN. You think I'm a Dramaqueen? Yeah I am such a DRAMAQUEEN but Hell, I truly was such, SUCH a fangirl when it came to these two.

#GillyDeservedBetter #GillyDeservedSoMuchBetter #GilliamForever #Whywhywhyyyyy

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**Eda\*\* # Dax Lahn's Golden Tigress # says**

**\*\* 1.5-2 "NOPE" STARS \*\***

I tried.

I swear I tried so hard to like it. I tried to support Gillian&Puck. I tried to keep my feelings about #Gilliam and my disappointment towards Gena aside.

But I'm sorry this is such a poorly-plotted story and the character development is almost nonexistent. There is absolutely no chemistry between the leads, the "romance" feels forced and artificial, William is all of a sudden degraded to an annoying sleazeball, the conflict of the story is rather childish and the resolution even more so. Most importantly, Gillian was wasted as an original character. I was thrown off by the fact that Gillian turned into one of those cliché Anya-esque women Gena has been creating for the last 7-8 books in the LOTU series. And the book didn't focus on her abuse history AT ALL. The subject was swept under the rug so easily as if the only effect sexual abuse has on a victim is losing interest in sex.

The main problem of the story though is the fact that aaaaaall through the book, Gena is more focused on proving to the readers that Puck is Gillian's soulmate and not William, than actually building up an authentic connection between her two main characters.

I'm really sorry but **NO ME GUSTA.**

*P.S:* I don't want to see the word "hulking-out" EVER AGAIN. I wanted to punch my ipad everytime a character used it. Annoying af.

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**UPDATE:** lol apparently Gena has announced that a sketch of William will appear in the back of the book as a "gift" to readers *AND OMG THAT IS JUST FUNNY BEYOND WORDS :D:D*

Realizing that she has lost a huge amount of her fans, and in need of promoting a book she realized might not sell much, a certain someone has decided to do us a "favor" and include a sketch of **a character that no longer will end up with the heroine of the book** and thought this might win back her disappointed fans. Very tacky. **YUCK.**

Also she has been stating that "there will be a lot of William" in this book too, in almost EVERY post possible, so that her readers that have always wanted William with another heroine and clearly hate Gilly will buy this book too. *After all, she still needs to get sales, right?* She has to somehow keep both Team Gilliam and Team Gilly-needs-to-die "happy" to have them buy a book that neither of the groups want to read.

Get your sh\*t together, Gena. If you keep on like this, honestly, you will be left with no fans at all.

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**Gena Showalter on FB:** *"And guys, whether you love or hate Puck -- whether you love or hate ME -- I never want you to feel as if you aren't being heard or respected. I give my sincerest apologies to anyone I've made feel disregarded and disrespected here."*

It's a liiiiiiiiiiiiittle too late for that, but it's still appreciated.

Thank you, Gena, for at least acknowledging that you have, in fact, made some of your readers feel disrespected and mislead.

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Apparently this one will be **Puck and Gilly's** story...*color me disappointed.*

**I HATE IT WHEN AUTHORS TOY WITH THEIR READERS LIKE THIS!**

We have been waiting for Gilliam for 12 books...**TWELVE BOOKS.** If you didn't plan on them of being end-game for each other, then why the hell would you keep dragging their storyline this long?

Will I read it? Yes. Because I'm still waiting for William's book, but man...I've lost all my enthusiasm.

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♥?elody says

**ETA 12/4/17:** Why in the WORLD would you feature a sketch of the very character the heroine of this book *no longer ends up with* ???!!!! Why Gena? This is absurd, tacky and shameless. A shameless ~~promotion~~ attempt to "win back" upset fans? Seriously? This doesn't help at all. I'm utterly disgusted and baffled by this. How greedy and tone deaf could you possibly be?

Please authors don't do this. ?Do Better.

Now I'm back to being ticked off.

I have no words left for this kind of disgusting garbage.

\*\*\*\*\*

So this is **Puck and Gilly's** book? Yeah...nope. No. **DONE**. You just decided on this *recently*?? Gena this is extremely messy and lousy as hell thing to do.

So incredibly fucked up. **11 books** and **10 fucking YEARS** of waiting for payoff and this author shoots it down the drain on a whim. Absurd and infuriating.

And you want to sit there and tell your readers this isn't "what the readers needed"? The damn nerve. How dare you.

And to think I spent money on this series.

Goodbye LOTU. Goodbye Gena Showalter.

Shame on you for this.

**#GillyDeservedBettter #GilliamDeservedBetter #GiveMeMyTime&MoneyBack**

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**Lana ✨Dirty Girl Romance✨ says**

**4.5 STARS**

*He hadn't known it at the time, but he'd waited for her, had craved her. Only her. A woman strong enough to feel when he could not. A woman unwilling to let him shut down his own emotions, who knew the rarity of joy, who would settle for nothing less.*

Before I get into my review, let's address the pink elephant in the room, shall we? The pairing for Gillian in

this book has been a polarizing one, to say the least. Many readers, myself included, were waiting for a Gillian and William book...finally...after so many books in this series that has been hinting at it. When I read the blurb for Darkest Warrior, I wasn't sure how I felt about it. I mean, Gillian and Puck? What about all the relationship development that happened throughout the series that led us to believe it will be Gillian and William's HEA. I wasn't sure how I felt about it, but I decided to put my trust into Gena and reserve my ultimate judgement until I read the book. And after finishing? I'm one hundred percent #TeamPuck. Because when I thought about it, throughout the series that *are* hints of why William wasn't the perfect match for her and after seeing her with Puck, I totally get why he's a much better match for her.

Three things happened for me in this book:

1. I ended up loving Gillian even more
2. I'm completely re-hooked on this series
3. I fell head over hooves for Puck

***Deep down, he had a secret, shameful desire to keep a woman all to himself, to learn every little detail about her past, all her hopes and dreams. He dreamed of spending weeks, months, years pampering her and her alone, branding himself in and on her. Being branded by her. He yearned to have a "mine." Maybe one day he could.***

I'll admit, I struggled with the first 15% of the story. There's a lot of inner monologue that happens and I found my interest waning in and out. Some of it may have been my own bias against anyone other than William taking up Gillian's attention. But then somewhere around the 20% mark, something happened. Something just clicked for me and I began to fall more and more for Puck. The lethal warrior set on a quest to take back his kingdom and the host of the demon of Indifference. Let me tell you, it's no small feat to pull off a connection like the one between Gilly and Puck with Indifference as your demon. But not only did that happen, but the chemistry between them was through the roof hot.

***He kissed her as if his survival depended on it, demanding total surrender. Surrender she happily ceded.***

Gillian has always been the wounded bird of the group. With her tender age and scars from her childhood, I wasn't sure how I'd feel about her as a heroine, especially compared to the typical Showalter sassy heroines. I'm happy to report that the development that happened with Gilly in this story turned her into one heck of a badass. And it felt so right. I loved and I mean loved the direction that the author took with her and I couldn't get enough of it.

The chemistry between Gillian and Puck is instant and potent. As you read the development of their relationship, something clicks, and you just get it. You understand why Gilly couldn't have ended up with William and why Puck is such a better match for her. Was it disappointing? Maybe in the beginning. But by the time I was finished, I totally got it, and I was wholeheartedly behind it.

***He had an entire solar system in those irises, and she felt like she was the sun.***

There's a lot of story that happens here. Plenty of loose ends that get tied up and plenty of development that leave you with even more questions. A lot of the things that happened in the previous books all led to the events in this one. There's plenty of Hades, Keely, and William developments that take place here that only serve to whet your appetite for more. And this reader couldn't get enough of it.

The Darkest Warrior was a deliciously addicting read full of action, plot twists, and a sizzling romance. I loved every page of it. Fourteen books into this series and I'm still hooked and can't wait for more. If you're wondering about what happens to William, there's a heck of a hook that we get in the development of his story by the end of this one. And I for one cannot wait to see how it all unfolds. As for this book, I'm completely satisfied with how everything resolved. While I wasn't 100% behind this pairing at first, I simply can't imagine Gillian with anyone other than Puck after I was done. So if you're anything like me and find yourself unsure how you feel, I say take a chance and you just may end up loving it as much as I did!

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

**Find me on:**

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**Lucy Qhuay says**

[  
**29th, July, 2017**

Gena, for the love of all things and people you love in this world...

...give us **GILLIAM !!!**

We're getting desperate here...

Don't you want us to be happy?

Also...

(hide spoiler)]

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**Kat Valentine says**

Let me start out by saying I like most fans of the Lord's of the underworld have waited for Gillian and William to become a couple, but when Gena came out and said that William would not be Gillian's mate, but it would be Puck the undefeated with the demon indifference there was a backlash of fans being pissed and they felt that they had waited all this time and Gena had lead them on. Well !! That's bullshit!!! I knew that Gena is one hell of a storyteller and this would rock and it did!!! I'm not going to give away too much, but Puck is one of the best Lord's of the underworld and he is just what Gillian needed!!! He's a warrior first, he has never know softness in his life so it has made him hard, he can't experience emotion without terrible pain!! but those who love him have his loyalty and respect. And then there's the prophecy that says Gilly will be what saves his realm and people. Let's face it William would have continued to treat Gilly like a fragile piece of glass and why there was a time I wanted them to be together, the last couple books have gone by I started to see that their relationship was more of a deep love and friendship. Like calls to like and both William and Gilly have seen horrors in their lives and have been abused and scarred. With Puck Gillian feels true attraction

and the thought of having a sexual relationship is finally possible!! I loved this book and the characters are fabulous too!! And the whole beast twist was Sexy as f##k!!! I now want a guy with horns,they're hot a hell and make good handles too!! Lol !!

This is not a review,I have already shared my review on my socials. This is just a open letter to all those fans of gena showalters Lord's of the underworld. I have read some comments the last few months from some fans that were pissed about two of the main characters William and gillian not getting their head and they were saying bad shit about the book before they had read it. The reason I love This series and have read every book is gena showalter is a fabulous storyteller ,so when she said that puck the undefeated was going to be gilly's lord i wasn't suprised.I had seen in the last couple books that although gilly was maturing, and no matter how she tried she still had a problem with physical intimacy,even with william.I saw their relationship as more of a best friend and savior relationship because it was William who saved and avenged her. Please just give The Darkest Warrior a chance,and you will see that puck really is her Lord of the underworld. Can't say enough about this book!! Besides William the randy,pantie melter and around hot as f##k bad boy needs a woman who will bring him to his knees!!! The prick deserves to be happy,but I just want him to have to work for it!!

Thank you gena for not caving into what some of the fans wanted,you can see you put your heart and soul into gilly and pucks story and it's fabulous!!!

Forever fangirl Kat v.

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## Sophia Triad says

### **Púkinn “Puck” Neale Brion Connacht IV:**Demon of Indifference

Butterfly: Not sure where it is located. It seems that it moves all over Puck’s body. It started from his chest.  
His curse: He cannot feel anything. No compassion, no envy, no anger, no love. If he feels anything, he becomes weak.

**Gillian Shaw—also known as Gillian Bradshaw, Gilly Bradshaw and Jill Brads, depending on which ID she uses:**expendable human until she became immortal human.

Supernatural ability: None unless you count the ability in breaking William's heart. And she will have a bit of magic later.

### Opening a parenthesis.

First of all I really need to defend horny Puck.

I truly believe that horns are sexy.

Pan from Greek mythology is sexy.

Robin Goodfellow from A Midsummer Night's Dream is sexy

Puck from English mythology is sexy.

I have read tons of PNR and fantasy books which are filled with strange looking males that fall in love. This is the beauty of these books. Anyone different is NOT ugly or scary. On the contrary, he is unique and easily loved. If I compare PNR books with the rest of the fiction books, it is obvious that PNR are the most multicultural, nondiscriminatory, liberal, free-spirited (almost hippy) books.



So for me a male with horns is not a goat.  
A male with horns is a sexy devil.

Moreover, the main reason that I love really long series is that they are familiar environment. I know the author, I know the characters. It is always nice to revisit and learn their news. It is nice that I feel that I grow up with them every year.

So, I can easily say that Lords of The Underworld is in top five PNR series. Number 2 to be more precise LOL.

I can understand that it is not easy to keep an audience interested after 14 books. And this is the most important point of my ranting. If the readers keep buying and devouring these books after all this time, then it is good stuff. And the author knows what she is doing.

End of the parenthesis.

If you have read The Darkest Torment, you will probably know the beginning of Puck and Gillian's story. Gillian is dying. William tries to find a cure and he tries anything – except the most obvious solution i.e.

bonding with her. Puck steps in and offers her the choice to bond with him. Gillian accepts because

a) she does not want to die (obviously...She is only 18. She has not lived yet.),

b) she does not want to kill William, because there is a possibility that if he bonds with her he will die too.

c) she does not want to make William sad, because most probably he will not bond with her in the end. And if she dies, he will feel guilty.

So, in the beginning of The Darkest Warrior, we learn that Puck has also a hidden agenda. He wants his rightful throne back that his brother has stolen from him. His brother Sin has tricked him. He gave him the demon of Indifference, he killed their father and now he rules the desert realm of Amaranthia, like a mad king. A prophesy said that Puck needs to steal William's woman and bring her and William back to Amaranthia in order to get his throne.

Easy peasy lemon squeezy in 4 steps...

1. Steal/bond with Gillian.
2. Reach an understanding with William.
3. Bring them back to Amaranthia.
4. Get his throne.
5. Divorce Gillian.

Unfortunately William is not easily found and convinced and Puck will fall in love with Gillian. Thus, who cares about a stupid throne?

Let's meet the characters:

**William...** He behaves once more like a spoiled child. Someone stole his toy and he wants her back.

*“Puck took you away, and I felt as if I’d lost...”*

*“What? Your favorite toy?”*

*“Everything.”*

But he will start showing signs of some more mature thinking

*“If you feel like you must be with him, go, be with him. Sow your wild oats. Get him out of your system.”*  
*Staring up at the heavens, he said in a quieter tone, “I deserve this, I really do.”*

The thing is that William has lost Gillian the second he became unfaithful. And he was unfaithful multiple times without feeling sorry. Unfaithfulness is not easily forgiven in PNR. Male characters are supposed to be stay celibate the second the meet their destined mates – no matter how young the females are and no matter how long they have to wait. Even Paris and his demon of Promiscuity who would die without sex, almost died because he could not live without his Sienna.

**Gillian**...I did not particularly liked her in the previous books. She was tortured. She had a shitty childhood. I felt sorry for her. That's it. But she was kind of blunt/dull/Zzzz. And the fact that everyone was waiting that she will grow up and finally she will have sex with William....yes I can finally admit that it was getting on my nerves.

Thus Gillian has to grow up somehow. She has to gain experiences. She has to change her scenery for a while, let's say for 500 years give or take a few. But nobody else is allowed to change or get older. Have you read Shadow's Seduction from Immortals After Dark by Kresley Cole? If yes, do you remember what happened to Caspion the Tracker? Imagine something similar for Gillian.

**Puck**... You animal you!

Totally possessive:

*“She’s mine. I would never harm my female.”*

Totally territorial:

*“I have never wanted to kill a man more than I want to kill you, Pucky.”*

*“The feeling is mutual, Randy.”*

Totally intense when his demon leaves him alone:

*He met her halfway, and slanted his lips over hers. Erotic flicks of his tongue coaxed more tingles to the surface and fanned the flames of desire. Hot, so wonderfully hot. The aches magnified as he thrust with more force, his divine taste and ever-increasing frenzied pace dragging a moan of surrender from deep inside her. A sound he utterly devoured, as if he'd never been so starved—or enjoyed a tastier meal.*

*His skill, expert. His ruthlessness, on full display.*

*Puck didn't bother to learn her, or explore her nuances; he took, gave and demanded...everything, his tongue dominating hers with a promise of untold riches. She was helpless to resist.*

The 14th instalment of the LOTU series will make you love this world again. It is fast paced, well written, angsty, passionate and it opens new doors for new adventures.

(view spoiler)

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**Ana says**

So no William and Gilly? Oh, woe is me.

After this excruciatingly-long build up, Gilliam are over before they began. In the end, it was all for naught.

This is why we can't have nice things, Gena.

We crave the delectable William. But instead we get some random dude named Puck. Who is a goat. I repeat, he is a GOAT. Or more accurately, a satyr.

I don't want no goats in my bed. (or in my romance novels)

Willy and Gilly are endgame, at least in my imagination.

P.S. I am waiting for Siobhan/Hades. Throw me a frickin' bone here, Gena.

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I expected nothing and I'm still disappointed. Full review to come.

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**Lynsey A says**

Nope. Done. Bye-bye. See you never.

#GillyDeservedBetter

#NoGoats

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**Victoria Castillo says**

Update: So you think a *sketch* is going to make this situation any better huh? Because i don't *know* what i need...

This is disappointment made a book. I hate everything about this. I hate the fact that Gilly and William aren't together, that i wasted 5 years of my life shipping them and now i'm so riddiculously mad about it. I hate that Gilly is paired up with Puck (wtf?) i don't give one single dick about the fact that he may be interesting or shit. Furried cocks aren't my thing. Nope. I hate the fact that i'm going to have to read spoilers of this to know what happens because i won't be reading it. Same with William's book.

This whole situation was so poorly handled that is a shame. I only have one thing to say.

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**SerialBookLover says**

**OKAY. HOLD THE FUCK UP.**

**Now I've been reading the Lords of the Underworld for years. Y-E-A-R-S. And never, in my wildest dreams have I ever thought I'd be let down this much by someone I admired. PLEASE TELL ME I'M DREAMING. (or that this is some marketing stunt and Ms.Showalter is going to turn around and be like 'gotcha!')**

**I know I'm not the only one here who is disappointed in reading the synopsis of 'The Darkest Warrior'. Fans and myself alike have been anticipating for years on the Gilliam development. Now Showalter is up there with a huge fanbase comparable to other authors like JR Ward, Kresley Cole (to name a few) but please Ms. Showalter if you're reading this. I mean no disrespect to your creative agency or your ability to write. But I for one, and the majority of your fan base who truly love and enjoy your LOTU series will not recover from the blow if William and Gilly do not end up together. Here are the reasons why:**

**1. The buildup throughout the entire series of William and Gilly's romance. Denying us this is like, equivalent to cockblocking tens of thousands of people at once.**

**2. William's character was made for Gilly, and vice versa. William, the boyish, immature immortal with a mysterious and dark past is complimented and balanced by the fact that his love for Gilly adds not only depth but maturity to his character which we the readers, ABSOLUTELY LOVE. We love seeing how William acts with Gilly, you've been baiting us on their story for years now and this is quite possibly one of the biggest best-sellers you're going to have.**

**3. Pairing Gilly up with Puck, who was originally a side character that was only introduced recently makes NO SENSE. This is an insult to the readers who have been anticipating the GILLIAM story, how can you suddenly pick up a main player like Gilly and suddenly pair her off with a side character like Puck? It's almost as though you're trying to sweep her under a rug and drop her off for the rest of the series (YEAH DON'T).**

**I for one, will refuse to continue with LOTU if I don't see Gillian and William together. So although I respect your creative agency over all your works Ms.Showalter. I am BEGGING (yes, begging) desperately that you that you write William and Gillian's story instead of making one of the biggest mistakes in your writing career.**

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### **Joan says**

A goat! A fucking goat is what Showalter stuck Gilly with after nearly a decade of stringing readers along with Gilly and William. Gilly was a breath of fresh air from all the slutty, shrieking, bimbos in this series. And Showalter pairs her with a goat!

So she decided to kill the series, which never lived up to its potential (no wonder LotU never went hardback) then she spits in the faces readers who made her rich and put her sorry name out there. These arrogant-ass authors. They are selling a product to consumers for profit. They should be wooing the readers to part with their money, not lecturing and pissing consumers off.

Sure, its her sorry make-believe story, but did Showalter buy all those books that swelled her pocket and her head? Did Showalter buy all those books that put her name on the bestseller lists? Hell Naw. It was the consumers she peddled her work to that bought all her cheesy-covered books.

Well, Showalter has lost me as a reader for all time. I'll never recommend her ass on any forum and I've tossed my entire LotU collection in the trash. I wouldn't pollute my local library or GoodWill with her steaming pile of crap. I am done wasting my time on an author that would deliberately betray her consumers then give us the finger.

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### **Jenny says**

Update 28/7/18

So book is out, do I want to read it?

NO, I would rather stick a fork in my eye, and so would a lot of others looking at the ratings, over and out!

Update:

Gena Showalter put on facebook

You were not the only one to feel betrayed and I truly hate that I caused people upset and hurt and disappointment! I want readers to know I heard their outcries and I am going to do my best to rebuild trust. I will find a way to make this up to you guys. It's a mission now! (And I am happy to say there will be an amazing sketch of William in the book. A gift to readers)

So I say:

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me

I like a lot of other people have been waiting for Gilly and William to get together for a while now.

The author made us believe this was happening for quite a while, till the last few books and things were

looking off. Just really pissed off to be baited like this. The fact that she is setting Gilly up with a goat just pisses me off, yuck yuck yuck. I'll bet you anything she will try and find a way to alter Puck's appearance to try and bring us back into caring but seriously just piss off. There is absolutely never been any chemistry between the two characters. I bet she tries oh so hard to make us like him more-he was abused too or he saves a village of orphan children-swoon. She stated that she is going to have a lot of William in this book, only to appease those who want William with another girl so that they buy this book anyway even though they hate Gilly so that she can still get her sales. Well for all those who wanted William with another I hope you get a character that you can't stand. A Puck character, so you know how we feel and I hope the book flops. I'm so annoyed I cancelled my preorders for her next two Heartbreaker books, well she broke mine so I'm off to find a more trustworthy author.

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### ◇◆ Naomi says

This book was a revelation. In my mind, Gillian belonged to William, I genuinely didn't believe otherwise, I respected Gena's decision but my mind was made up, until I read Gillian's story and it all made sense.

If you feel the same way as me, if you feel like Gillian and William were meant to be, I feel your pain, I do. I understand how you must feel about this book too, maybe you don't want to read it, maybe you're done with the entire series and I respect that but, trust me when I say that if you give it a chance, *The Darkest Warrior* will change your mind, it will turn you upside down, it will make you cry and your heart will definitely break but then you will understand why Gena made the decision to find Gillian a new love interest. It does make sense.

I even surprised myself. I was reading and then all of a sudden it clicked in my mind, just like that. I had gotten it. It was a revelation because before I started reading this book I felt a certain way about Gillian and William, I was sure nothing could make me think differently but then it happened, it was natural, it just made perfect sense. I am so glad I took a chance and read this book.

No matter what you may feel, Gena is an incredibly talented writer and she knows her characters, she knows what's best for them, she knows their future and what life has in store for them. She wrote this book knowing a lot of readers were going to be angry, sad and feeling betrayed but she wrote it nonetheless because she knew she had to do the right thing for her characters even if it meant angering her readers and maybe losing some.

But, honestly, from the bottom of my heart, if you love Gillian and William, please give this book a chance. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said,

"Take the first step. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

I swear you won't be disappointed, you will understand, it will make sense, even if you still feel a little sad afterward at least you'll know the reason and you'll be able to move on.

I loved this book. I loved it so much because it showed me that we, as readers, don't know everything, we don't get everything. Sometimes the author has something specific in mind for a character but she can't reveal anything so we feel betrayed at times, or angry but then the author just show us, it may take a little while, it may not be right away, but we eventually understand. *The Darkest Warrior* was it for me, I was confused and uncertain before diving in, my heart was with William and I didn't understand but then Gena showed me why Gillian and William didn't belong together, she made me understand simply by telling a story, a story I knew

but never truly understood until now.

I don't want to reveal too much so I will leave it at that: you will love and admire Puck, promise. William plays a big role in this book, you will see a lot of him and since his story is next, Gena is already setting it in motion and I am more than ready for it. Gillian, you will love and adore, she becomes so much more than the young frightened girl we all know her to be. Hades is badder than ever and I have a feeling we won't have to wait too long for his story as well. Rathbone makes appearances to my greatest delight, as well as the other seven kings of the underworld, you will want to eat them all up. Hopefully we will see more of them in *The Darkest King*. We also get to meet new demon-possessed warriors, Cameron and Winter, and it left me wondering, how many more books can Gena write in this series?! Not that I'm complaining, give them all to me!

*The Darkest Warrior* will surprise you, it'll thrill you, it will also definitely make you bawl your eyes out. It's a bittersweet goodbye to a readers favorite couple, a loss you will be able to mourn while reading because Gena lets you have that. There's a quote that I love and I thought it was perfect to describe this book.

*"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."*

William and Gillian not ending up together is not the end, far from it, it's only the beginning of an epic story, for both of them.

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### **Alyssa Rowley says**

First I would like to say that Gena was once my favorite author. I have read and loved all of her other books/series as well. It pains me to say this, but I cannot support an author who just point blank leads her fans on with false advertising of a couple then decided at the last minute, of years of build up, to go in a different direction. Since book 3 of this series we have been teased with William and Gilly. In the past 10 or so books she has built up their chemistry and made promises of them being together. She even made them a shipname called Gilliam. I am so distraught over this because I have waited and longed for their book for years. I feel as if she only kept building up their relationship as a mean for book sales. She knew that William and Gilly are the fans favorite and that their book is the one fans have been anxiously waiting for. While I understand that it is her story and her characters, she can do what she wants, I don't understand why she lead us fans on for many years. I can recount every scene with William and Gilly and the chemistry between them. I don't understand why people want her with the goat. I keep seeing post about how creepy Williams relationship is with Gilly. How do they not find in creepy or awful that Puck, known as the goat to me, only saved Gilly to use her against William. Or worse, in *Baden* book after she married him, it was implied that she would have to make him feel something in order to eat. It was also implied that this would be of a sexual favor/bargained for food. Here is part of the scene, "Those suggestions would be sexual, wouldn't they? The look in his eye..." I would tell you the page but my kindle doesn't say what page exactly. Yet, William would never expect anything like this from her. Instead he cherished her and provided for her. Also, for the people that saying it was like a father/daughter relationship between her and William did not read the books. It was stated how William would look at her with lust in his eyes, and it was stated she loved him. Their relationship has been built up to be that as lovers. I'm sorry but I lost respect for Gena as an author and a person. To use and deceive fans the way she did is not ok. If she didn't want these characters together, then she should of put a stopped to all the build up many books ago. She shouldn't of stated in interviews that William and Gilly would end up together either. It's just disappointing to see an author break this code of trust between her and the readers. With that said, I will no longer be reading anymore of her books/series. As much as I love the *Everlife* series and so badly want to read the last book, I can't support

her anymore after this betrayal. For those of you who don't agree, that's fine you are entitled to your opinion. Just as I am entitled to mine and entitled to feel hurt and betrayed over this. It isn't so much as the character being together, it's the fact that she did lead us on for years and deceived us. That is what the fans are mad about. I don't like to be deceived by an author so that she can keep getting my money. I don't like the fact that I spent years anxiously waiting for this couple to have a book. I also don't like the fact that I wasted all this time reading her books just to get glimpses and closer to William and Gilly's book. With that said, I am once a loyal fan of hers turned heartbroken. Sorry for all the grammar mistakes, I'm writing this from a shattered screen and in a hurry.

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