



# Midnight Marked

*Chloe Neill*

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**As the Chicagoland Vampires series continues, Merit and Ethan find themselves in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse, where winning may require the ultimate sacrifice...**

*A vampire's grudges don't stay dead long...*

Merit is one of Chicago's most skilled vampire warriors; these days, she doesn't scare easily. But she and Master vampire Ethan have made a new and powerful enemy, and he won't give up until he owns the Windy City.

With his last plan thwarted, he's more determined than ever to watch Cadogan burn. Ethan has put the House's vampires on high alert, but their enemy will stop at nothing, including pitting vampire against vampire...

In this deadly game of cat-and-mouse, the stakes are life or death—and winning might mean sacrificing everything...

## Midnight Marked Details

Date : Published March 1st 2016 by NAL

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Author : Chloe Neill

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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# From Reader Review Midnight Marked for online ebook

## Suzanne the Bookaholic and Proud says

the Chicagoland vampires series is one of my best series to read, I mean only one word to describe it 'ETHAN' that about sums it up, where do I sign up for Ethan to bite me, 12 books in and still just has strong, and this book would be in the top 5 books of this series, but the ending is soooooo wrong, how can it be left like that, now I have to wait for the next installment to come out, hope it isn't too long xx

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## Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

### Reviewed by: Rabid Reads.

The CHICAGOLAND VAMPIRES series is twelve installments deep, so it's kinda crazy that Merit is only now celebrating her one-year vampire anniversary, but there you have it! It's been a heck of a journey thus far, and Chloe Neill wrote the ideal story to honour such a momentous occasion. The latest antagonist is at it again, all of the beloved characters get their due, and I just loved the ending. The action and romance were in perfect harmony, and there were so many little things that made me smile that reading over my notes in preparation of drafting my review made me doubly appreciative.

I liked how the author brought a thread that I hadn't even really thought about since book 1 to the fore; it was such a fitting choice given where we're at in this universe's timeline, and answered a whole whack of questions that I'd figured would remain mysteries. The House called in Paige's help for this particular riddle which made me happy, and just when I thought that Neill had covered the spectrum of supernaturals she brings in a necromancer! I'm unsure if Annabelle will be added to the list of rotating secondaries, but I hope so because she was quite interesting (and useful).

The Chicago flavour that's injected into every novel is something that I always look forward to, and in this addition instead of familiarizing fans with another hole-in-the-wall food joint, we got a little history lesson on Belle River. I'm not sure how much of it was fact/fiction, and my internet research didn't pan out, nevertheless it was thought-provoking. The humour was as good as ever with Merit-isms like "alphapology" and despite the absence of a local dish to add to my wishlist, the heroine made sure to bring a battle snack. Merit & Ethan fulfilled a fantasy of mine too—they did it in the Cadogan library!

There was one important slip that spoiled the anonymity of the big bad way earlier I would have preferred, and that was his/her name. The villain basically had a flashing sign over their head with an arrow pointing to them that said "I did it". It's like naming a character Luna, and not expecting readers to guess that that character is a werewolf. So, that took some of the thrill out of it for me because half the fun is trying to guess who the wrongdoer is. And, of course this person somehow managed to thwart the legal system, and fly the coop which means we'll definitely be seeing them again.

The training wheels came off in MIDNIGHT MARKED. Happy one-year vamp birthday, Merit!

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Sharon ∞🐾 is an emotional book junkie 🐾∞ says

3.5 - 4 ★'s

This is my one of all time favorite urban fantasy series...and couples but unfortunately, things have gotten a little same ol', same ol'. The gang comes upon something and of course, they totally take it on, humans always think the worse of them except for Ethan's groupies and there's battles and some injuries but everyone pitches in to help.

This time there was alchemy involved and at least it was interesting. I liked Mallory and Catcher's roles but I thought there might be some more "wrapping up" since the next book is the last one. :( (But it's a good thing, I hate when authors drag out a series!)

The saving grace was the ending and the epilogue...Ethan ~sigh~

**Favorite quote:**

♥ "I've looked for four centuries to find you. I cannot fathom a world without you in it. Without your heart, and without your honor."

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Chelsea ♥Peril Please♥ says

"We may fight again, Sentinel. We may rail at each other until the sun breaches the sky. But the truth is this. I love you. And I found you once, that April night. I will always look for you, and I will always find you."

If you were to ask any one of my friends, they'd tell you just how much this series holds my heart. It's not merely the genre or the author, but a deep-rooted connection to these characters. From book one on I've been an avid and invested fan-**From the first eyebrow raise** and swivel of a chair, Ethan stole my heart. It was insta-love at it's finest...and oh boy do I hate insta-love. What a hypocrite I am.

Throughout the series there have been many ups and downs, in-betweens, and tremendous character growth. Ethan and Merit have been through it all-with and without each other. Stubborn and not to be trifled with, they make an intimidating team. But with each new book, there are many challenges to face, and though they are close to the end, it seems trouble still has a way of finding them.

"Do you remember, Sentinel, the first words you ever said to me?"

I grimaced. "No. But I bet they were rude."

I'd be lying if I said this was my favorite installment....It would also be a gross overstatement to say I didn't like it. Literally so much has happened to these two people, this house, and all their friends that it's about that time where things start to get complicated and begin to circle to a close. I think I know where this author is leading....and I'm more than okay with it. And speaking of such things..

OH-EM-GEE. I just...I can't....I mean...FINALLY. I am beyond words excited for a certain development that might have *finally* happened! For 12 books I have waited and waited and waited on a baited breath...to no avail. Ms. Neill is the tease of all teases, messing with my heart at each and every turn. Once again **I found myself losing breath with every smoldering look**, touch, and caress my boy gave Merit, and I became an unintelligible fangirl every time his name was mentioned. As one of my top guys, I will never forget this man...he just exceeds any and every expectation in each installment, putting himself in danger just to keep the girl he loves safe. I will NEVER get tired of my man putting his life on the line for his girl....he will always own me in ways I don't even understand. Just...sighs all around.

He formed a box with his fingers. "I believe it has cars."

I just shook my head. "How have you lived here so long without a ride on the Ferris Wheel?"

"I'm a vampire," he said, as if that was the obvious explanation.

I just sighed.

So, you know, while I wish more things would have transpired (patient I am not), I was more than happy with the direction this story was going. I'm a greedy greedy Ethan whore, him being my only vampire book boyfriend, so is it really that bad that I wanted just a little MORE?? I mean, that's hardly a crime. It says so much that I have stuck with this series through thick and thin, following this wonderful author on her journey to make Ethan and Merit's lives as complicated as possible. I don't read long series-AT ALL-so it really is a big deal I've come this far. Chloe Neill's writing and hilarious banter between characters remains some of my favorite-ever-and now I cannot wait to see how the story concludes. I will miss my dear Ethan so so much....but if his starry eyed look for Merit in this installment is any indication, I know I'm in for a spectacular treat next year. I just hope I can wait. Ugh.

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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**Fucking FINALLY!**

Allll the feels.

Review to come [NEXT WEEK!](#)

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## **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

Merit has been a vampire for a year now. She's gained some incredible friends and learned a ton of skills that she never would've otherwise. Some incredible things have happened over the several books of the series but I feel like despite being in the midst of a supernatural war, Merit and Ethan have kind of settled down a little bit.

A murder has occurred and it looks like it's been done by one of them. That's not good news when the tension between Houses is already brimming. After a brief update on Catcher and Mallory in the beginning, Neill goes straight into the action. A lot of the story focuses on the murder mystery with some twists along the way.

Ethan remains to be an enigma, never revealing too much but enough to stay alluring. My only complaint is that since we're twelve books into the series, I would love a little more insight into his character. I feel like we have hit a plateau with his character and I would love something that would once again engage readers.

In terms of the romance, I do feel that Merit and Ethan have reached that comfortable stage in a relationship. The last books have been a little more steady. I wouldn't mind seeing Neill shake things up a bit here as well. I do sense that the end is near but a little extra drama wouldn't hurt the series.

**Read my alternate review at Fresh Fiction**

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## **Yodamom says**

Ethan and Merit, have been through just about everything. Their life together is chaos. This installment of the story while nearing the end of the series did not go gentle for them, but they finally a real pair. Their relationship seems solid, they always end up side by side.

A supernatural war is on and the fur is flying. It is the same bad guy just ramping up his volume. I really hope this villain gets it soon ! Adrian Reed, in an arrogant manipulative jerk who needs to die !

I can't believe Merit has only been a vampire for a year, it seems so much longer. A year to develop her skills, fall in love, win, fail and crash and burn, busy busy girl. She shows the house just how much of a sentinel she is and they are thankful for it.

Ethan, well he is still Ethan. He can be a total jerk if you add water. He is also protective, sexy, powerful and hot.

I enjoyed this book much more than I expected. It answered some long asked questions and teased on some long awaited answers for others. The action was strong, the mystery intriguing and the love was in the air. I can't wait for the final chapter in the lives of these houses.

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## Sarah says

I'm such a fangirl when it comes to this series, Merit is awesome, Ethan was chained in my book boyfriend harem years ago and I absolutely love all the side characters we've met along the way. It's kind of amazing to think that all of the events of the last 12 books have been crammed into one, very action packed, year of Merit's life. That's right, she's just now getting to celebrate one year of being a vampire and you can trust Ethan has big plans for her!

Merit and Ethan have both come such a long way since we first met them. Merit has come into her own since she was turned, she is now a fierce warrior and she's really come to care for Cadogan House and all of the vampires who are now part of her extended family. I wouldn't say Ethan has mellowed because that guy is still as alpha as it gets but he has learned to trust Merit and he's even able to admit when he's in the wrong which is quite an achievement really considering the unapologetic arse he could be at the beginning of the series! As a couple they still have their ups and downs and when they're arguing the whole world knows it but they no longer walk away when things get tough, instead they hash things out like rational adults and they're both secure enough in their relationship to know that they'll be able to deal with any problems that are thrown at them. I'm enjoying seeing this more mature side to them but I'm hoping we don't see them become too settled - I like a bit of spice just to keep things interesting!

In **Dark Debt** we finally found out who the mastermind behind a lot of their recent troubles is but knowing it and proving it are two very different things and they're a long way from having any evidence against them. I'm sure you didn't expect the mastermind to sit back and wait for them to come to him though and he's definitely bringing his A game in this instalment. In fact, if Merit and the others aren't able to stop him it'll have dire consequences for the whole of Chicago.

Merit and Ethan have worked hard to build up a working relationship with the Gabriel and the NAC Pack and that is all threatened when a vampire murders a shifter and they're the first on hand to find the body. Some of the shifters have just been looking for an excuse to start a war and now they're all on very dangerous territory if Merit can't prove they had nothing to do with the death. As the bodies start to pile up and old enemies come crawling out of the woodwork our favourite characters are all really up against it in **Midnight Marked**.

I don't want to say too much more about the plot but this series continues to be one of my favourites and I'm loving the direction things are taking. We get some really interesting developments in their fight to save Chicago and some completely swoon worthy moments between Merit and Ethan so I'm very happy with the way things turned out here and I'm already looking forward to the next instalment.

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Thoughts before reading:

This has been the BEST month for ARCs! Thanks Netgalley & Berkely :-)) I'm soooooo excited for this book  
\*happy dance\*

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## Jennifer says

★★★★½

Such an eventful addition to an amazing series! Just one more book left...and a novella. It's almost over!

### My favorite quote:

*"It's easy to be an asshole. And harder to do the right thing. We do it anyway."*

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## XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

● Marital buddy read with my dear yet contemptible wife Jilly ●

**It is with deep regret** that we have to inform you about the sudden death of the series formerly known as **Chicagoland Decaffeinated Vampires**. This ~~diet~~ **delightful** collection of ~~super-light~~ **lovely** stories was a cherished companion for many a dark night. And for **many many years**. ~~Well I pretty much binge read the whole thing in a week about two years ago, but you're not supposed to know that.~~ Please join us **unaffected Inconsolable Decaf Vamps Addicts (IDVA™)** in praying for the souls of ~~special-snowflake~~ Merit, ~~formerly~~ **hot** Darth Sullivan, and their ~~boring~~ beloved supernatural clique.

**This death** was as unexpected as it was shocking. And **painful**. Oh dear, was it painful. Now if you will allow me, I will hand over to **Doctor Dull**, our decaf specialist, who will try and explain the causes of this **unfortunate passing** as best he can.

? **Acute Boredomitis** ?

**Yes**, sometimes this book is **terribly boring**. Other times, it is just **plain uninteresting**. It can get **pretty lackluster**, too. But hey, it is not ALL bad. Oh no. At times it gets **extremely flat** as well. And **tiresome**. And **tedious**. And **uninspiring**. And...and...I wish I had more adjectives to **properly convey** how I really feel, but I am a lowly, uneducated non-native English speaker and my vocabulary is **very limited**. But Anyway.

**Had you forgotten** what the previous eleven instalments (yes, ELEVEN (view spoiler)) were about? Worry not, for Chloe Neill cares so much about her **poor Alzheimer-prone readers** that this book is recap paradise. Such a **thoughtful** author. She recaps. She repeats. She **recaps and repeats while recapping and repeating**. And that, my Little Barnacles, takes **real talent**. That, my Little Barnacles, is the mark of a **superiorly gifted author**.

**But there is** so much more to this book. Oh yes. **Much much much** more. And it's not ALL about utter, complete boredom and non-stop recaps. Oh no. This book has a **fascinating plot**, too. Oh yes, absolutely. Ever wanted to know more about **crappy alchemy**? No? Too bad. Yes? Oh good, you're in for a **real treat**.



The "I want to **OD** on alchemy" kind of treat, also known as the "all I **never** wanted to know about alchemy but **wasn't** afraid to **not** ask" kind of treat, also known as the "if I hear the word alchemy ever again I will **annihilate all life on this planet**" kind of treat. I feel **so lucky** I had the opportunity to read this book and ~~be~~ **force-fed** learn all this ~~uninteresting~~ super cool stuff I ~~never gave a damn about in the first place~~ always wanted to ~~not~~ **read about!**

As an **added bonus**, and this series being what it is, you will get the **Diet, Decaf Alchemy Treatment (DDAT™)**. Because our gifted author wouldn't want to bother her **nitwitted** readers with the complexity of actual alchemy. I told you she was a **thoughtful** woman. She wouldn't want her **dimwitted** readers to have to use **one of their two grey cells** while reading this book. This would be much too exhausting for these **poor, harebrained** beings. Chloe Neill, thank you. From the bottom of our little **featherbrained** little heads. Okay, let me be honest for a minute: the alchemy might not be of the **highest** quality here, but at least the **scatterbrained** readers get a **shitload** of it. So they should get their fix for **a century or two**. Chloe Neill, you rock. **Thank you SO much.**

? **Severe Cheese Allergy** ?

This is a **very painful** ailment indeed. Believe me, I know. I have been suffering from this condition **for years**. And it is actually a miracle I am still alive to talk about it. **Such is not the case** with our decaf vamps here. To think I was convinced that they were immune to this **deadly disease!** *Oh well, I guess I can't be ALWAYS right ALL the time.* **Death by cheese.** What a tragic end for our diet friends. The "**I LUURRRRVE YOU**" **machine gun** (of sinister memory) claimed many victims in this one. Such a **harrowing experience.**

? **Extreme Runway-itis** ?

**I bet** you have never heard of this one. It is one of those **orphan diseases** that there is no cure for (because lack of funding for research and stuff). The symptoms? A **proficiency** to describe what everyone **looks like** and/or is **wearing** in detail. In **MUCH MUCH MUCH DETAIL**. So painful for the ~~reader~~ ailing victim. In **extreme cases**, the person suffering from runway-itis will also show a **tendency** to dissert on **lipstick color** and other ~~captivating~~ **make-up** related issues. And in the **final stages** of this nasty illness, the patient might even start discussing **hair styles**.

**Excruciating pain usually sometimes ensues.** Especially for the reader's book. It appears that in ~~most~~ some ~~frequent~~ rare cases the reader develops an **allergy to severe runway-it is**, said allergy resulting in his/her book being thrown against the nearest wall. The **damages sustained** are ~~usually~~ sometimes irreparable. Such is the **horrifying disease** known as runway-itis. I sincerely hope it is not contagious. **For the sake of books decaf vamps everywhere.**

? **Intense Methanized Drama-itis** ?

**What** would this series be without the **ritualistic Methan Relationship Dramas (MRDs™)**? So charming. So delightful. And **not repetitive or annoying** at all. Absolutely not. The MRDs™ are **SO entertaining**. Well, they might have been **the first twenty times**. Multiply that by the number of instalments in this series,

raise the result to the power of 100, and there is a **slight possibility** that the ~~ridiculous~~ fascinating MRDs™ **might become** slightly annoying. But only slightly. Just a little bit. **Kind of.**

**But hey**, as long as there is **GREAT make up sex**, who cares, right? Well, there is none, and I do. Care, I mean. About the lack of GREAT make up sex. To be **honestly honest**, I seem to recall there was a ~~boring~~ sex scene **involving a library desk** (poor thing) in this book. It was as exciting as corn porn. **So cool. I loved every second of it.**

»» **And that is why**, my dear Little Barnacles, this series **died a slow, painful, horrible death**. To think I got a little excited over the previous ELEVEN (view spoiler) instalments in this series (must to my dear friends' **utter dismay and confusion**, I might add). I have to say that this **surprising** and **very uncharacteristic** lack of judgement on my part was not my fault. Oh no. It's just that I was **young** and ~~stupid~~ **naïve** when I read said ELEVEN (view spoiler) instalments. But now I am **ancient** and **wise**, so **all is well in the world once again**.

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**Pre-review nonsense:**

**Have trouble sleeping?** Read this book. It works better than all the sleeping pills in the world. Two lines from this amazingly entertaining masterpiece and you won't wake up for days. And that's a promise.

?? **Full review to come.** If I ever wake up from this vamp-induced, cheese-filled coma, that is.

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**Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says**

As the Chicagoland Vampires series comes closer to its big finale, the excitement is reaching an almost unbearable level. Midnight Marked, the penultimate book in this excellent, beloved series, brings just a tiny bit more of everything: more romance, more action, more friendships, more enemies, and more danger than ever before.

Ethan and Merit are still right in the middle of a supernatural war, and as they fight prejudice, misunderstandings, and outright malice coming from all sides, they somehow always come out on top and learn alongside each other. At this point, they are a well established couple, comfortable around each other though not always harmonious, and it's good to see them growing stronger and finally working together.

I always mention the timeline of this series because it makes me somewhat uncomfortable. I would have

preferred a much longer period between the events of the first book and now. Only a year has passed since Merit has become a vampire, and considering everything that's happened to her, I have a hard time believing everything from her character development to her romance with Ethan. It's just too much for such a short time – the intensity of their emotions would have been far more credible had they been given enough time to develop. As it is, they jump from one supernatural battle to the next, twelve total at this point, and they still have time for friendships, prophecies, resurrections and forgiveness.

Merit is finally learning to accept her family, flaws and all, and perhaps even making peace with the fact that they are who they are and that they're highly unlikely to change. I love that this aspect of her life isn't at all black and white, that her father has horrible flaws as well as redeeming qualities. It adds an extra layer to her character and brings complexity to her actions that otherwise wouldn't exist.

Ethan, for his part, remains the stubborn, high handed, secretive idiot, but I find that oddly comforting. Having him change his ways in a single year after 400 years of existence would have been almost ridiculous. As it is, he infuriates me, but I understand, and the tiny improvements I notice make me absurdly happy.

I'm already dreading the goodbye that's ahead of me. I've spent so much time with these guys, learned to love them and even despise them at times (Ethan, ahem), and I already know I'll miss them like crazy. But let's not borrow trouble or grief. There's the big finale ahead of us and I just know it's going to be spectacular.

*A copy of this book was kindly provided by the publisher for review purposes. No considerations, monetary or otherwise, have influenced the opinions expressed in this review.*

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## **Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says**

**?????\*Last re-read of the series\*?????**

### **Re-read: 06.02.2018**

I've realized in my re-read, that though I find Gabriel quite hot, he's kinda selfish. I mean, he ask for help many time, yet never offers to help back. He withholds information that could help and he doesn't really show his appreciation of said help, nor do he show respect to Ethan. It's sorta bothering me. A lot, actually. And I definitely don't like how Merit is taking Gabriel's side (sorta) and how everything/everyone seems to blame Ethan for things. Also, it doesn't feel right that Merit seems to be more... not necessary smart, better than Ethan when Ethan has hundreds of years of experience. Even a human seems to be 'better, smarter and more powerful' than Ethan the Master Vampire. It just doesn't seem/feel right. Overall, I did not have any luck re-reading this series. I should've never done it in the first place...

### **The characters:**

— **Caroline 'Merit' 'Mer' Evelyn Merit** (becomes vampire at 27, but is 28 in years), Sentinel of the Cadogan House.

— **Ethan 'Liege' 'Darth Sullivan' Sullivan** (394, though became a vampire at 30), master of the Cadogan House —> dead, but is back from the dead.

— **Mallory 'Mal' Delancey Carmichael** (28), Merit's bestfriend and a fourth-class sorcerer, a master of the First Key; power.

— **Charles ‘Chuck’ Merit** (in his sixties/seventies?), Merit's grandfather is the Ombudsman; a ‘liaison’ between the regulars and the sups.

— Chuck's team:

?? his secretary, **Marjorie** (50),

?? the computer prodigy and a shape-shifter, **Jeffrey ‘Jeff’ Christopher** (21),

?? a fourth-class sorcerer and a master of the Second Key; weapons, **Catcher Eustice Bell** (29),

?? and there's also a Housed vampire who works for him that not even his colleagues knows about.

— **Joshua Merit**, Merit's dad sucky dad.

— guard of the Cadogan House, **Lindsey** (115) and who is also a psychic, and a good friend to Merit. Also dating Lucas.

— **Lucas ‘Luc’**, ~~the Captain of the Cadogan House guards, now House Second~~; back to being Captain.

— **Malik Washington**, ~~Second, House Cadogan, now Master of Cadogan House, until Ethan takes back leadership~~; back to being Second.

— **Morgan Greer**, Master of Navarre House, (72, though looks 28) Merit's sorta ex and a weak man.

— **Gabriel ‘Gabe’ Keene**, Apex of the Central North American, Jeff's pack leader (love him).

— **Darius West**, head of the Greenwich Presidium and a total dick.

— **Seth Tate** (36), former mayor of Chicago and a fucker. A part of him, that is; His twin brother Dominic was evil and lived inside of him. Seth is technically good. He's (view spoiler).

— **Scott Grey**, Master of Grey House.

— **Noah Beck**, the leader of Chicago's independent vampires and a Red Guard ‘RG’ (a vampire Secret Service, of sorts).

— **Jonah**, the Guard Captain, Grey House and a Red Guard, has a crush on Merit.

— **Franklin Theodore Cabot**, was the appointed receiver of Cadogan House (*Darius West, head of the GP, had decided he didn't like the way the House was run, “Frank” had been sent to Chicago to inspect and evaluate the House*). He sucked big time.

— **Berna**, shifter, and ended bar and worked the kitchens at Little Red (the Ukrainian Village watering hole where the Pack hung out in Chicago).

— **Diane Kowalczyk**, Chicago's new mayor.

— **‘John Q.’ McKetrick**, a former military type with a raging hatred of vampires. He now the head of the Office of Human Liaisons, or OHL.

— **Michael Donovan**, was the House Cadogan's security auditor (in book #7). A Rough, who turned out to be evil.

— **Damien Garza**, a member of the Pack.

— **Celina Desaulniers** was the former Navarre Master; she'd been forced out of the position after an attack on Ethan. Killed by Merit's hand after Celina killed Ethan.

— **Adrien Reed**, a powerful and dangerous business man who is cunning and sadistic. An enemy of the supernatural.

*“Fear doesn’t stop a warrior. It pushes you further.”*

#### **Quick basic facts:**

**Genre:** - (Adult) Paranormal Romance/Urban Fantasy.

**Series:** - Series, Book Twelve.

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Ethan ‘Liege’ ‘Darth Sullivan’ Sullivan.

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Sure.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Umm, sure?

**Will I read this again in the future?** - Probably not.

**New Rating** - 3 stars.

**First read review:**

Not the best (to be honest, a bit disappointed), but still good. Because Ethan. Hello?! Hell we even got a bit more of Gabriel, who, btw, I think should appear a whole lot more.

**Rate:** 3.5/4-3 stars.

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**Beth says**

What can I say, I'm a Chloe Neill fan and I flat out love her storytelling. *Midnight Marked*, for me, was a marvelous adventure in the masterfully developed Chicagoland Vampire world.

Ethan's creator, thought long dead, has returned and wants what he thinks his due...everything Ethan has which includes Cadogan house and Merit.

Has Ethan grown powerful enough in the past few centuries to take on his master? You are about to find out.

Merit has never backed down from a challenge but it seems Ethan's master has learned a few new tricks...like invading Merit's dreams.

But this past master isn't the only enemy coming back to haunt Merit and Ethan, greed and grudges have carried over from one that is truly dead, putting all the houses at risk and another focusing their machinations on vampires and the power.

If that isn't enough, it seems that there are strange, magical, sacrificial murders occurring throughout the city of Chicago. Merit must uncover the plot before the fragile balance in the supernatural world unravels.

I love how Merit and Ethan have become a well-oiled partnership, that support each other's strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. Although...their choices for food may not always jive they have the perfect partnership. I half wonder where Neill might take us next. The prophecy of a vampire child looms with the portent of a great sacrifice hanging over their heads. We've seen so many changes and amazing characters' growth.

I wouldn't have given up one second of this adventure and highly recommend any urban fantasy fan to check out the Chicagoland Vampires. I simply loved having an opportunity to dive back into this world with *Midnight Marked*, its a ride no one should miss.

I received this ARC copy of *Midnight Marked* from Berkley Publishing Group - NAL in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication March 1, 2016.

My Rating: 5 Stars

Written by: Chloe Neill

Series: Chicagoland Vampires

Sequence in Series: Book 12

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## Alex is The Romance Fox says

Midnight Marked is the 12th book in Chloe Neill's Chicagoland Vampire Series and sadly there will only be one more book after this one.

It's now a year since Merit was turned and a lot has happened since. A war between the supernatural's is on the go.....and Chicago is in danger again!!!!

I have loved watching Merit and Ethan's journey...they are now at a good place.

**"I love you, Ethan, and I love this city. And however much I fought, I love this goddamn House. It's part of me, and I'm part of it. I'm not going to stand here and watch a man tear down everything that you've build. I'm not. And if that means I have to chase another man who threatens this House, or apologize to you more than I like, so be it. I don't want that, but I can live with it. Because I can't live without you."**

Another thing I enjoy about this series are the secondary characters. The friendship between Merit & Mallory is such fun....I

**"Did I mention I love your nail polish? " I asked.  
"You did not, but thank you. Times like this, you gotta have a bright spot. You gotta have something to lighten the mood. Catcher's homemade waffles and enormous dick usually do the trick."**

I enjoyed this story. Fast paced, action packed with some twists I wasn't expecting.

And the ending.....hell, why do we have to wait such a long time before the next book?????

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## Jilly says

The 50 pages of actual story was pretty good. It was the over 200 pages of filler that bored me. I don't know

what exactly is going on here, but someone needs to get their head in the game! This one was phoned in for sure.

*I have a mildly interesting story to tell you*

So, in this one we have Ethan and Merit going to a baseball game only to discover a dead body near some writing that seems to be magical in nature. They are trying to decipher the writing, which they think is linked to alchemy, while also trying to figure out who is behind the murder. Eventually, they figure it out and stop the evil plans and predictable villain. It was pretty cut and dry.

Here's the problem: the writing that is magical alchemy? We are treated to every bit of minutia as they are trying to decipher it. And, we get to hear Merit and Ethan and everyone in between tell other people about the writing in detail. It's like hanging around with a bunch of math geeks who are enraptured by an exciting new equation. Boring! It was boring the first time we read about it, and it was boring the 20th time they told someone else about it. And, IF there is anything interesting about solving algebraic problems, it is the getting the answer part. So, do they "break the code" and get the right answer? No, no they don't. Instead we get a deus ex machina save.

*aww, thank you, Science Cat. That explains everything!*

If there was anything good about this book, it would be that you don't have to worry about reading the last one first to remember what's going on because we are given endless recaps. Endless.

Not only was I terribly disappointed in this book, but so was my book-wife, Sarah.

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**Lana \*Lifeinwordsandlyricscom\* says**

**{An alphapology. The apology made by the alpha male, wich isn't really an apology, but more a reason for insane behavior.}**

This should be a real word, God knows that behavior is so familiar. Am I right?

Due to my unstable emotional state I wasn't really into the book at the beginning, \*\*boy drama, that's all I'm gonna say\*\*, but as usual with good books it sucked me in anyway. The story was really cool and entertaining, the villains appropriatly disgusting, the heroes as per usual - the Cadogan team. I mean, is anyone other than them ever fights the bad guys? It must be quite tiring to save everyone all the time. Merit thought so too, so she gave a piece of her mind to the RG assholes. They're kinda crappy organisation for chasing all the wrong tales and making her jump through hoops. They were left thoroughly chastised.

I really enjoyed the introduction of alchemy and necromancy to the story. The more magic the better, I say. Gives Mallory room to shine. Shifters played a big part in this one too. Gabriel and Ethan playing nice with each other is just as fun as them having a pissing contest. Family is crazy that way. And speaking of family, papa Merit seems to grow out of his jackass attitude. I'm cautiously optimistic.

On an unrelated note, in what kind of fucked up world Merit is living that everything that's contained in book 1 through 12, happened in one year's time? Seriously? Can a girl catch a break already?

Over and out

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