



Kissed by Darkness

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Three years ago, Morgan Bailey narrowly survived a vampire attack that left her with heightened senses, uncanny speed, and a new calling: supernatural bounty hunter. Since that day, sexy, street-smart Morgan hasn't met a vampire she couldn't dust or a demon she couldn't kill—until she's hired to hunt down a priceless amulet and the sunwalker who stole it. Sunwalkers—powerful vampires immune to sunlight—are notoriously difficult to find, let alone kill. Still, a job's a job, and Morgan's never been one to shy away from a challenge. So bring it on...right?

But the sunwalker ends up tracking *her* down. And not only that, he turns out to be cunning, charming—and undeniably gorgeous. Nevertheless, she can't ignore the destruction he is capable of: the sunwalker possesses an ancient secret which, if unleashed, could destroy the human world. Captivating and fantastical, *Kissed by Darkness* introduces a kick-ass new heroine and an addictive new series for fans of urban fantasy.

Kissed by Darkness Details

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Author : Shéa MacLeod

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From Reader Review Kissed by Darkness for online ebook

Lukas (LukeLaneReads) says

Great start to a fresh urban fantasy series.

I've been burned a lot by the urban fantasy genre in recent weeks, too many books to even mention that I haven't even bothered to finish, but I have to admit this one really did surprise me. Although I still take issue with the bad fake wig on the cover.

With books of this genre, you can tell from a few chapters in whether it's going to be enjoyable or not and this one hooks you right from the start. In truth, the main character is nothing too original, in fact she's the same 'kicking ass with sass' character that is used in countless series, but she's fun, witty and gets the job done. I actually found the real shining moments of the book to deal with more of the supporting cast, Kabita was a really interesting character and even her slightly matrix rip off scene towards the end didn't feel as cheesy as it should have. The use of the clairvoyant and Eddie was nice too, with Bestat the cat getting a special mention, I could just picture that face.

It was nice to see the story take on a more original and historical take too. On the surface (especially when I read the description) a book involving the Knights of Templar, sacred amulets and the Lost City of Atlantis sounded incredibly over the top and cheesy to me, but it's handled well, well enough that I even wanted to hear more come the end of the story. The little comedic cliffhanger at the end was cleverly done too, and has me excited for the sequel.

If there was anything I didn't like about this novel, it was the whole insta-love/relationship/sex aspect, which is more a complaint towards the genre in general than this book specifically. While Morgan is a fun character, how many times have we read about the girl who hasn't had sex in ages, who doesn't think she's desirable but actually is, being surprised when she falls for the person she shouldn't? It's getting a bit old. This novel definitely over used the 'oh he's making me horny' trope too, like another review states, I too am surprised she can walk with all the thigh clenching she does. Also, special cringey mention has to go to the sex scene right at the end, it was so over done and layered with cheesy, overused lines that I cringed the entire way through.

Ultimately, for £1.49 on Kindle, you really can't go wrong with this book. It definitely has potential to turn into a rewarding series, if they can get past the minor faults...and deal with the slight hiccup that I'm told is book number three. I'll definitely be picking up 'Kissed By Fire' though.

Sarah says

Since surviving a vampire attack several years ago Morgan has developed some new abilities that make her a perfect vampire hunter. Now working for her friends PI firm she spends her time killing vampires and demons to keep the human population safe and unaware of the danger surrounding them. Her latest case is to track down and kill a Sunwalker but everyone knows that they are just a myth though so it's going to be a pretty impossible job. Well Morgan always thought that Sunwalkers were a myth but she's about to discover

how little she really knows about the supernatural and the more she uncovers the greater the danger she must face.

I love urban fantasy so I'm always excited when I come across a new series to try, particularly one where the first few books are already available because it means I won't have to wait a whole year to find out what happens next. So when I saw Kissed by Darkness on the Amazon Vine list I jumped at the chance to review it. Unfortunately if I had to describe the book in just one word the only one I can think of is disappointing. I had such high hopes but although there are signs that this could develop into an interesting series it didn't manage to impress me.

I'll start with the things that I did like and the main one was the history the author has created for the vampires. With links to the Knights Templar and the lost city of Atlantis the author has come up with something a bit different which I always appreciate. I still have questions about the world but that is something to be expected when you're reading the first book in a series. I also quite liked Jack, he doesn't particularly stand out as different to many other heroes I've read about but there is definitely potential for a crush worthy male lead there. There were a few amusing moments throughout the book and I particularly liked Morgan's friend Cordelia and her pet cat.

I think the main reason I didn't enjoy the book was because I really don't think much of Morgan. She spends half of the book talking about how kickass she is and how she has become so much stronger and faster since her vampire attack and the rest of it talking about how hot every single guy she meets is. Seriously, there was not a man in the book who didn't make her hormones go crazy (apart from the bad guy so it's pretty obvious from page one that he must be evil!). I'm all for having hot guys in the story but I don't need to hear how gorgeous they are on EVERY. SINGLE. PAGE. I get it Morgan, you have a crush on Inigo but can't go there because he's your best friend's cousin - I heard you the first 10 times and saying it another 20 isn't going to make me care. While we're on the subject of Inigo all I have to say about him is ugh, he is such a creepy stalker type that I didn't find him even slightly attractive! To go back to the point about how kickass Morgan is I have to mention that if a character is constantly telling me how good she is in a fight but then never once manages to back up her claims then I find it more than a little difficult to believe her. Honestly, I didn't think she was kickass in the slightest for the majority of the book and the tiny hint at it that I did see was a case of too little too late. I don't like to call characters too stupid to live but in this case the phrase really fits, she constantly made rookie mistakes and nearly got herself killed practically every time she came across a vampire - not ideal for someone who supposedly makes a living hunting them!

Like I said Kissed by Darkness isn't all bad but I think my dislike of Morgan really coloured my enjoyment of the rest of the story. After revelations towards the end of the book I do think the series has some potential but at the moment I'm undecided about whether I'll carry on reading it. Just reading the blurb of Kissed by Fire and seeing that the story is about dragons makes me want to pick it up (I have a bit of a thing for dragons) but unless Morgan has undergone a major personality transplant I'm not sure if I can bring myself to spend more time in her company.

Vannessa says

I ummed and arred about buying this book for a while, but after reading the reviews on here I finally took the plunge and I am so glad I did. This was a fantastic start to this series and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Morgan Bailey is a vampire and demon hunter with some slightly strange powers following a vampire attack

3 years ago that basically left her for dead. Luckily for her she was revived, but along with her survival came extra speed and strength. However, these powers are slowly beginning to develop into something more, but Morgan is not quite sure what they are nor what they mean...

Morgan works for a secret branch of the government, which acknowledges that vampires and demons and other things that go bump in the night exist, but do not yet want the wider public to know. Her team is hired by a man with a bit of power to find a Sunwalker and retrieve the "worthless" amulet he has stolen. This sounds like a fairly straight forward job and nothing that Morgan can't handle, except finding the Sunwalker and finding out what he actually is turns out to be a little harder than first thought. The Sunwalker, Jack, actually finds Morgan and he is nowhere near the league of vampires she is used to killing. He does strange things to her and makes her literally go weak at the knees when she's near him. How on earth can she kill him if she can barely keep a straight thought in her head when she's near him? There are a few twists and turns in this job and Morgan finds out a few more discoveries about herself along the way.

Morgan also has feelings for her boss' cousin Inigo and he starts to reveal little bits of possible supernatural qualities as well, but Morgan has no idea what to do about him either. It was clearly obvious they were both highly attracted to one another, but I think Morgan held off because of her friendship with Kabita. I do think it would be good if they could give it a go. Although Morgan is very attracted to Jack as well, I just don't think he is the one for her - maybe a little bit of fun (and she sure needs some of that as her libido keeps telling us!), but not for the long term. Although saying that I don't know enough about Inigo to see if they would last long term either.

I loved the plot idea of the Templar Knights and the link to Atlantis - not one I've read in a vampire book like this before. Loved the ending as well!

Jean ~ Kindle Queen says

I lived in Portland, Oregon for about 4 years and now live about an hour away, so I had to check out this series. I can't resist a book set in a place I've lived. :) I was definitely pleased by the amount of Portland featured in this one.

Overall, I'm not sure how to rate this book. I really liked the world building and the background info/magic system (very different), but the love triangle and instant lust were irritating. It was also annoying that the main characters were completely oblivious to some pretty glaring clues. *sigh* But it does seem to have potential, and I like Morgan despite her tendency to constantly lust after men. She's definitely kickass, so I plan to check out .

Ty Hutchinson says

I like this book. I like that the main character was your everyday person. I like that she wasn't perfect and had flaws and got horny and admitted that it had been awhile. So un-hero like. Shea did a great job with Morgan Bailey. Just enough sarcasm to make her interesting but not a put off. She reminded me off a kick ass version of Daria from MTV. The plot was interesting as well. Flashbacks worked well. The vampires were treated more like roaches, allowing the Sunwalker to be the interesting monster. I highly recommend

this book. It was a fun read.

LadyTechie says

I have not been really writing full reviews lately. But, this book deserves for me to spend a few minutes giving it a more detailed review than I have been writing lately. I am not positive but I think that Sunwalker Press the author's own organization and she is self-published. I was wondering how this book would turn out. The editing on the self-published books (I think this is self-published) I have read previously are usually not very well done at all. This book had about 1 missing word and the rest of the editing was very well done. In addition, this woman tells a wonderful story.

The heroine, Morgan Bailey, is seriously kick-butt and quite funny. Morgan is best friends with her boss, Kabita, and quite close with Inigo, the other person that works with her hunting vampires. The three of them have developed a family of sorts and they support each other totally even when they disagree with decisions they make. Inigo has his own secrets and hopefully they will come out in a future book. Jack has a long and troubled past and it was very well told.

There was a few nice twists in this book and I won't say anything about them other than part of the topic was new for me so it was great. I know I have seen other books that talk about this aspect of mythology but, I have never thought I would be interested in this aspect of mythology but I was pleasantly surprised. I don't know if Shea MacCleod has not pitched to a publishing house or if being independent is what she wants. Either way, I hope the word is out there on her books because I really like them. I plan to find out if she is on Twitter so I can continue to follow her work and I have already bought *Kissed By Fire*.

Review can also be seen on <http://ladytechiesbookmusings.blogspot.com>...

Steven Montano says

Morgan Bailey is one bad vampire hunter.

If you're a fan of urban fantasy or the Anita Blake novels before she went all flaky, you'd be doing yourself a disservice if you didn't check out this excellent first outing by Shea Macleod. With a likable, smarmy heroine, a fast-paced but well-balanced plot, a high level of tension and some terrific dialogue, "Kissed by Darkness" introduces us to both a great new heroine and a fantastic new author.

It's very rare that I have trouble putting down a book. If life/work hadn't interfered with my reading schedule, I'd likely have finished this one a lot sooner. Pick this one up: trust me, you won't want to put it down.

Tami says

It was not the best I ever read, but it was entertaining.

It had a good story flow, the world-building was at least not totally run-of-the-mill, if not outright original.

It was enjoyable.

Why I won't pick up the next books in this series:

1. The pricing of the next books in relation to quality of the first book
2. The insta-lust with two guys
3. The inconsistencies
4. The reiterativeness

Dan says

Here's my summary of the Kindle preview:

- (1) There's a vampire called a Sunwalker
- (2) Morgan wants to have sex with her coworker
- (3) Morgan's coworker is really sexy
- (4) Morgan really wants to have sex with her coworker
- (5) the Sunwalker vampire may or may not actually be evil
- (6) Morgan's coworker is totally flirting with her
- (7) Morgan's coworker is really very sexy
- (8) Morgan really, really wants to have sex with her coworker

I like to imagine this happened as a result of some bad prereader feedback. "This Inigo guy," the prereaders were saying, "I'm just not quite getting it. Who is he, exactly? What's his relation to Morgan? How does she feel about that?" The author added more and more hints, but the prereaders just weren't getting it, so finally in a fit of sarcasm she went through and added at least one reference to sex on *every page*. "Is that clear enough for you now?" she asks. "Go ahead. Ask me what's up with Inigo. Ask me *one more time*."

Natalie says

I've been trying to deny it, but I can't anymore.

I love paranormal romance. I especially love these cheap paranormal romances I can get on my kindle. They are just straight up fun.

Morgan is a great character. She is the only person, that she knows of, that lived through a vampire attack and didn't turn. She did gain some new, super-cool abilities, like seeing in the dark, sensing vampires, etc. All this means that she has become the ultimate vampire hunter and she loves her job.

Then she gets a new client - a creepy dude who wants her to track down a legendary sunwalker - a vampire with the ability to walk in the sun - that apparently stole a priceless jewel. Before she finds him, he finds her and he is nothing like she imagined.

Turns out creepy dude is the one that stole the jewel from Jack - the Sunwalker. There is something more sinister going on, and Jack is not the bad guy.

I like Morgan. She was quirky and fun - someone I think I could be good friends with. I'm hoping the other

characters will be fleshed out a little more in the rest of the series.

Felicia says

More vampires, but for a freshman/2.99 installment into the urban-fantasy genre, not bad. There's a lot of girl swooning over every hot guy, these books sometimes get so porny. I just imagine the roles reversed, and a guy is talking about women instead of vice versa. I know I would call chauvinist quick, but somehow total objectification of men is ok when women do it to men in these kinds of books. Not singling this one out as worse than others, just an observation.

There are some crazy twists later in the book where you might go, "WTF?!" but if you look at this as suspending disbelief-hour, you might like this. Somehow I liked it more than my brain tells me I should, and whatever, it was kinda fun!

S.M. Reine says

Morgan is the only person in the world who has survived a vampire attack. She came back from it badder and stronger than ever, but still completely normal, I assure you. Wait, what's that you say? She's actually some kind of supernatural creature, and only realizes it years after her attack? No way. I thought everyone recovered from major trauma with super-healing.

There are sunwalkers in this book. Sunwalkers are vampires who walk in the sun. Oh, but they don't need blood. They're also not mindless and crazy. Aaaand they're a lot sexier. And...basically they have nothing in common with vampires except that they live a long time. Remind me why we drew this parallel in the first place?

Kissed by Darkness has a lot of wtf moments like that. I initially wrote a long list of things that bugged me about the book for this review, but deleted them because it seemed nitpicky in retrospect. Needless to say, the quality of the writing just wasn't good enough to carry me through a lot of little quirks that took me out of the story. If you try to think about anything in this book, it just doesn't hold up--and no, ten pages of awkward expository dialogue does not fix that.

That said...even though so many things bothered me, it still succeeds at being pretty entertaining. And isn't that what really matters?

I liked Morgan's developing powers, although the cause of them was extremely vague, and I appreciate a woman who will use her cleavage as a weapon. The heroes were adequately sexy in the "quick, throw a beefcake in the book!" kind of way. The fight scenes were fun and well-paced. There wasn't enough peril for me to care about the enemies, but I'd say Morgan's internal struggles made up for it. The dream sequences were kind of a fun dip into a fantasy realm.

Side note: I think this is a personal thing, but just saying "Atlantis" makes me roll my eyes. Ahh, yes. You have Atlantean blood. That explains EVERYTHING. I don't know WHY I can't take the concept of Atlantis seriously, but the first time I came across the word, I just about put the book down. I can't imagine this will bother anyone but me. I just wanted to make note of it anyway.

In summary, my feelings on this book are mixed. I definitely enjoyed it, but so much of it made me put down my Kindle for a few seconds and think, "What the hell?" It wasn't thought provoking in the good way. I wish I could give it 3.5 stars.

Would I recommend it? Maybe, but I'm not sure to whom. Despite being a Montlake title, there wasn't much of a romance. The heroine drools over the heroes a lot and mashes lips a couple of times. (Woo! Get it, gurl.) But I don't think the mystery elements were really strong enough to appeal to most urban fantasy readers, either. If you're a fan of heroines with Lots of Spunky Agency, unsexy vampires, and Portland, you'll probably like this book.

Four stars.

Julia Crane says

I really enjoyed this story. The main character Morgan had me laughing out loud, and what's not to like about Jack? I loved the ending. The author did a great job of wrapping up the story line, but also leaving it open for the next book. Which I can't wait to read. Check this book out you won't regret it.

Amanda says

If I had to review KISSED BY DARKNESS in one sentence, it would be; it is just one a been-there-done-that trip. I could see all of the 'shocking twists' coming a mile off, so ended frustrated that it took the characters so long to catch up. In summary; I ended up a bit bored reading KISSED BY DARKNESS.

As it is the first book in a series there is a lot of background setting in Morgan's life to go through, so the story is slow to get going. The bogged down pace isn't helped by the cast of unmemorable characters, two of whom annoy me; the heroine [I've just had to reread the book's blurb to recall her name] whines about things being complicated, when it's her that it's making things more complicated by not telling others important stuff.

Another major annoyance is the 'romantic/sexy' angle. One of the men I'm meant to be swooning over just pisses me off - I hate seeing him turn up. Breaking into the heroine's house while she sleeps isn't cute:
A) it gives off mega 'crazy stalker' vibes - not romantic ones.
B) even though Morgan shrugs it off, it drives me crazy that he doesn't respect personal boundaries.

I'm not a Twilight loving tween, so I'm certainly not getting hot under the collar here. Romance and urban fantasy is just so easy to screw up, I guess.

Yep. I said "one of the men I'm meant to be swooning over." That means we have a case of multiple love interests. Yawn. I'm tired of reading the same old things. If there is one surefire way to turn me off a book, it's by including this tired old cliche.

We don't learn enough about the other secondary characters for me to make up my mind about them.

In summary; zzzzzzzzz...

Steph says

Freshman author writes an incredibly engaging book, that breaths new life into a dying and overwritten genre. Not to say I didn't have some minor issues with this book, but I was able to objectively allow minor issues to pass and maintain a moderate level of suspension of disbelief, in order to enjoy this book as a whole. No doubt, this author is very imaginative and isn't afraid to step out of the cookie cutter genre box that others have fallen victim to. As I mentioned, I did notice a few mistakes and had the feeling the author has yet to find her stride completely with this series. However, if and when she does get there, she will most definitely be the next big UF writer to look out for.

Danger is always on the menu for Morgan Bailey, a sexy and street-smart bounty hunter, who prowls the dark underworld of Portland, Oregon hunting creatures of the night. Morgan's never met a vampire she couldn't dust or a demon she couldn't kill until she's hired to destroy a new kind of mystical threat: the Sunwalker.

A powerful immortal once believed myth, the Sunwalker carries with him an ancient secret which, if left unchecked, will destroy Morgan's world. Pursued by a passionate Templar Knight and the target of the local vampire clans, an ancient power is awakened within her, unlike anything she's ever known. Morgan must uncover the truth behind her mission and about herself, before the Darkness lurking inside swallows her whole.

Now for the good. The author has a talent for creating sexual tension and romance, not to mention a imaginative and fresh world. And although I would not classify this as strictly a PNR, she doesn't hold back or teases her fans either. There is also a good amount of humor and a bit of sarcasm, without seeming to be trying too hard, which is not always easy to do. As the book progressed, I found myself enjoying the protagonists voice and humor more and more, and shockingly enough I definitely had some laugh out loud moments. A good use of description and grammar, makes this book an easy read. The pace is also exceptional, and is one of the reasons it kept glued throughout. And although this may be classified as just another Vamp book, it definitely delivers a fresh plot, that makes this anything but.

I had just a few minor issues, besides the ones mentioned previously. One being a lack of character & location back story. As in, random people and places are discussed with little to no back story, like they were introduced prior. Another confusion/annoyance, was the protagonist's nationality. I had no idea whether or not the protagonist was British or just a visitor at one time, even though she mentions London in passing invariably.

In summary, I give this book a big thumbs up for its creativity, humor, romance, and pure enjoyment. If you are looking for good, fast, and cheap read, that rivals some of the more well known UF writers we all know and love, then look no further.

Warning: Violence and Sexual Content.

Sunwalker Saga

1-Kissed by Darkness

2-Kissed by Fire

3-Kissed by Smoke (Dec 2011)
