



Wicked Memories

Nina Bangs

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Return to the Castle of Dark Dreams, where *USA Today* bestselling author Nina Bangs lures readers into a world of pleasure, adventure, and revenge...

Thorn Mackenzie was a young Viking when he met Sparkle Stardust long ago. She used him and then abandoned him. Over a thousand years later, he has finally found a way to repay her. Employing his power of persuasion, he assembles a team that can create the ultimate fantasies and illusions. The group will work together in Nirvana, the amazing amusement park Thorn has built—right across the street from Sparkle's Castle of Dark Dreams. To fight back before Thorn bleeds her business dry, Sparkle must hire a spy.

Kay Stanley needs extra money, so she reluctantly agrees to do some sneaking and peeking for Sparkle. But as she gets closer to Thorn, she discovers they have a lot more in common than just a need to crush the competition and a willingness to fight dirty. As sexual tension between them mounts, she finds it harder to see the gorgeous Viking as her enemy. But with an evil force working to destroy their city, they may not survive long enough for her to help him overcome his...**Wicked Memories.**

Wicked Memories Details

Date : Published June 4th 2013 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425256077

Author : Nina Bangs

Format : Paperback 304 pages

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

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From Reader Review Wicked Memories for online ebook

Victoria Miller says

caution: slight spoilers ahead!

I really, really, really enjoyed this installment of the series. There were minor issues, but those got overshadowed by the enormity of plot and character development. I love how Sparkle and Ganymede manage to stay dynamic throughout the series despite being secondaries. And Mede going off the deep end is something I think most people have secretly been anticipating from the get go.

while I enjoyed Kayla for being a strong heroine, and Thorn for being so human despite being a viking vampire with several powers that could tip that scale for him, the minor characters stole the show for me. I would love to see more of the kelpie. I was very intrigued with him. And it was so cool seeing Aegir as the big villain. Of all the norse gods, poor dude rarely gets a mention in paranormal books. And the short period of time with Loki was delightful!

Cindy says

Wow I loved how tons of the characters from the previous books were brought back in and even some of their spouses.

Nina just has a way with making feel as though you are right there. Hearing the sounds and feeling the breeze off the gulf.

In this book Thorn (Brandt) is the main character with Kayla. Thorn is a scorned lover of Sparkles. But Thorn wants revenge for what she has made him lose.

Little does he know that Sparkle has a trick or two up her sleeve with Kayla in the picture. Kayla is the product of a former couple who Sparkle had brought together. Kayla is a strong and mindful woman. Much like Sparkle. Until Kayla meets Thorn (Brandt). Then you throw in a couple shifters, kelpie, vampires and a few Gods and Goddesses and it really gets interesting. How is a human girl to survive. Fast paced and action packed as always at the Castle of Dark Dreams.

Missy Jane says

I'm a huge fan of Nina Bangs and especially of her Castle of Dark Dreams series, not just because she's a fellow Houstonian, but also because she writes awesome stories. This series is about a Cosmic Troublemaker named Sparkle Stardust who owns an adult theme park in Galveston, TX called Live the Fantasy, and her partner Ganymede. The attached hotel is the Castle of Dark Dreams. It's as sensual and cool as it sounds. The premise of the series is that Sparkle uses her powers as the Cosmic Troublemaker of sexual chaos to bring people together who might be sexually compatible, but possibly polar opposites in every other respect. Her antics are usually highly entertaining.

In this book she calls on a human named Kayla to spy on the competition that has popped up across the

street, an amusement park called Nirvana. The owner is a vampire named Thorn Mackenzie who is out to destroy Sparkle's happiness due to their past history.

I REALLY liked Kayla. Even as she falls for Thorn she realizes how wrong it is since he's the enemy. She never backs down, takes no for an answer, or allows all the supernatural beings around her to intimidate her. Even while she's shaking in her shoes she has her chin up and fists ready. LOVE her.

Thorn is one hot hunk o'beef. He has the Mackenzie blue eyes, Alpha attitude, and pent up aggression. I like how he is willing to put all of his plans on hold when a mutual enemy surfaces rather than taking advantage of the situation to destroy Sparkle.

I'd have to say this is my favorite in the series so far even if the ending did have me chewing my nails off. I'm not usually a fan of cliffhanger endings, but this one ended well. Nina wrapped up Kayla and Thorn's story and still gave us something to look forward to in the next installment.

I highly recommend this entire series to any lovers of romance, and especially paranormal romance with a comedic twist from snarky and unusual characters.

Lise says

Have you met Sparkle Stardust yet? Well, she's one of the mainstays of Bangs' series and in *Wicked Memories* she's still running *Castle of Dark Dreams*, her playground for the wild, wacky, kinky and weird - not to mention not necessarily human. But she's got competition across the street on the Gulf. Nirvana is the work of Thorn Mackenzie - who had the unfortunate experience of meeting Sparkle when he was a Viking. Now he's not human anymore. But he's still tough and he's got a bone to pick with the cosmic troublemaker/matchmaker. So she calls in the big guns. Only not so much. Thoroughly human Kay Stanley gets pressed into service by her father, but she's a fish out of water. And when there are pissed off gods, demons, and all ferocious manner of land and sea beasts, she's going to need some help. But Thorn is her boss' enemy. But she can't keep her mind - or her hands - off him. As with all Bangs' books, the madness that ensues is by turns hilarious, or hair raising and in the meantime there's always someone getting hot & bothered. The book has a dark edge to it, however, when Sparkle's long-time cosmic companion goes on a rampage. Who knew that a guy who can destroy a world has a jealous streak a mile long? It has a cliffhanger ending, which works great because where would we be without more Sparkle, more cosmic troubles, more mis-matched lovers and an ice-cream loving cat?

Tammy Sargeant says

What can I say, it's Sparkle Stardust. I have been with Ms Bangs since the first Mackenzie Vampire and haven't put down a book yet. And this one is no exception. This is Torn Mackenzie's story. Thorn was burned in the past by Sparkle so he comes back for revenge. Enter a P.I that Sparkle hired who ends up falling in love with him, a pissed off Norse God and fabulous fashionista that is Sparkle, and you're in for one hell of a fun ride. But it also turns emotional when secrets are spilled and Ganymede isn't in cat form anymore. I recommend this book and all other series to everyone. It was great seeing some of my old favorite characters. Kinda miffed that know one has figured out a way to get kids...*hint, hint* I gave this book 5 because I

would love to spend a day in Ms. Bangs head. She has such a weird sense of humor.

Ivonne says

I love this series. There so much humor, romance and excitement. Never all dull moment in this story.

Gerry Bartlett says

We're back in Galveston at the Castle of Dark Dreams. Sparkle Stardust, that cosmic troublemaker in charge of sexual chaos, is in charge but she has an ancient enemy. He's built a competing theme park right across the street, blocking Sparkle's view of the Gulf of Mexico. He has his reasons, of course. He was dumped by Sparkle long ago and has come for payback. So Sparkle hires someone to infiltrate his band of paranormals to sabotage his operation and bring him down. Poor Kayla had no idea such creatures actually exist--shapeshifters, demons, vampires? But she has a job to do. It's complicated by the fact that the hunky Viking she's supposed to destroy is much too compelling for her piece of mind.

As usual Bangs brings us fun characters, lots of action and sexual tension that doesn't quit. If you're looking for a good book to take you away from reality, pick this one up. Happy ending guaranteed.

Brandie says

Book seven in the Castle of Dark Dreams series; Nina Bangs has given us two new characters to fall in love with in the novel, Wicked Memories.

In order to appease her father and get the money to go to law school, Kayla Stanley agrees to work as a spy for Sparkle Stardust, the owner of the Castle of Dark Dreams. Sparkle wants the new amusement park, Nirvana, which now blocks the Castle's once spectacular view, gone. Kayla's job is to find a way to shut down this new business, but she didn't sign up for talking cats, demons, and vampires.

Thorn MacKensie, vampire owner of Nirvana believes that a man should have a purpose in life; his purpose is revenge. A thousand years ago, he and Sparkle crossed paths and she destroyed his life. Now, with the use of his power of persuasion, he will use Sparkle's own people to destroy her. Although the price for using his gift is high, his plan is set and ready to go until he meets Kayla, however, her ability to see through his disguise may get her killed.

When ships begin to disappear off the coast of Galveston and a bomb endangers both Kayla and Thorn, a new enemy appears. They must ban together to prevent this evil from not only destroying themselves, but the entire Galveston island as well.

I was swept away by Kayla's fearless persona. She is courageous, passionate, and funny. Thorn is my favorite hero. He is cunning, sexy, and his story really touched my heart. Nina Bang's water love scene had me reaching for a cigarette ---and I don't smoke.

Ellie says

Wicked Memories, Castle of Dark Dreams #7, by Nina Bangs

Grade: C+

“So what you mean is that if you told me what you are, I might refuse to go into the night with you?”

“Exactly.”

“Well, that’s comforting.”

Thorn Mackenzie has spent centuries plotting his revenge against Sparkle Stardust and as a vampire he has spent years fine tuning the perfect plan. With his amusement park Nirvana up and running, and blocking Sparkle’s Castle of Dark Dreams, he can’t start ruining her business. What Thorn didn’t count on was Kayla Stanley, a law student hired to help destroy Thorn and his business. Thorn hasn’t had feelings for a woman in over a century and Kayla is not a woman he can turn his back on.

Kayla Stanley just wants to finish law school not join her father’s PI firm but if she can do a good job at the Castle of dark Dreams her father will pay her much needed tuition. Kayla soon in immersed in a new world of vampires, wizards, demons and other supernatural beings all of whom expect her to get rid of Nirvana and it’s owner Thorn. Kayla is intrigued by the vampire and finds herself wanting to know more about him rather than ruin his business for Sparkle. As another villain arises the two foes will need to band together if either wants to survive.

I love the Castle of Dark Dreams series but I felt that there was something missing from this installment. I liked Thorn and Kayla but I didn’t feel that they spent enough time getting to know each other at all. I think their relationship is built only on lust and great sex, which isn’t a bad thing, but I didn’t see how they actually fell in love without really knowing anything about each other. I didn’t feel that a lot of the book was actually focused on them and that made it very difficult to buy into their romance.

I did feel that the book focused a lot on Sparkle and Ganymede and that this book was only written to set up their story, which I’m dying to read. I have wondered for a while now if we would get a book for these two and I’m so happy it’s finally happening. I really enjoyed reading about all the past couples and some of the other favorites that are always hanging around the castle. There were some new editions that we were introduced to and my favorite by far is Kel the kelpie, who really needs his own book.

All in all I liked this book but I didn’t love it like some of the others. I still am in love with this series and I’m really looking forward to what happens next with everyone.

Luna says

Not one of my favourite books of the series. I normally like Nina's books because they are fun but also have brooding, alpha type heroes. Didn't really fall for the hero in this book. In my opinion not enough time was spent building up the relationship between the characters, didn't feel the chemistry. Sorry!!

Clare O'Beara says

These books feature vampires and demons inhabiting fantasyland theme parks. These nonhumans are hiding in plain sight and charging normal people for the privilege of experiencing what they think paranormal should be about, so you can see the potential for fun and action.

Sparkle Stardust who runs the Castle of Dark Dreams dislikes her competition, Thorn McKenzie who owns Nirvana. Sparkle allows clients to live out their fantasies in role-play, but Thorn's park offers rides, amusements - and an ugly parking garage. Thorn persuades three employees of Sparkle's to switch sides; a vampire, a demon and a sorcerer. Thorn tries to not use his vampire persuasive powers as he's found that they are addictive - but to beat Sparkle he's made an exception. Sparkle is furious and one of her friends sees to it that a kiosk in Thorn's park explodes.

Galveston on the Gulf of Mexico adds variety with two whale-shifters joining the fray, and other creatures at home in water. Sparkle has hired a female human lawyer to spy on her rival unnoticed in amongst all the regular people, but poor Kayla is far from happy. That's until she's attracted to Thorn, even if he is a thousand-year-old vampire. Next all the disturbance gains the attention of Aegir, a sea god, to everyone's dismay.

Nina Bangs has six previous books, which start with 'Wicked Nights'.

Heather says

I've always loved Nina's books because from the get go you love her characters & want to know more about them. And I love how the characters appear in future books. Helps with wondering what happened to them after their story has been told. Though I hafta say the ending to this one left me going :O and eagerly awaiting for the next one!!!

TINNGG says

First off, why would Sparkle with some punk-ass not-vampire kid in the first place? And while I can understand his angst at being sold into slavery, etc., his FATHER apparently had the motivation to check facts, so why didn't he?

As for the rest, eh, whatever. The romance was ok, the drama between Sparkle and Ganymede pretty much overpowered everything though.

One other thing - just how many Mackenzie vampires are grandsons and great-grandsons of Loki?

Kharah says

At the Ripped Bodice in Culver City, CA, I found this gem on a 'Hello my name is' tag attached to a gift-wrapped book on their 'Blind Date with a Book' feature shelves:

"He's a viking. Her name is literally Sparkle Stardust. You need this book."

And I thought 'why yes, yes I do.'

Still not a huge fan of romances (they can be annoyingly insipid and thoroughly repetitive), but this one was entertaining and worth the blind date mystery. (And the Ripped Bodice was totally worth the visit).

Hc says

This took longer than anticipated to read for various reasons...

I'm kind of in funky land in this one and I'm sure this is going to be on the harsh side...

As far as the action.. most of it was entertaining as usual. However, I am not really feeling it between Thorn and Kayla. Thorn's power and the issues behind it.. ohh something new and different from the rest. But the building relationship of them... nope not that great. The sexual parts.. Blah! Kind of analytical.. not cold but there's a certain... lack.. of passion. Plus, hello... Human and Vampire.. how are these two going to stay together anyways? The answer to this was also unsatisfactory to me.

Moving on... Sparkle and Mede.. Ok its fun and entertaining to see these in cameo type positions of the stories. Lately, they are even more hands on. The previous book I actually like BETTER than this one. Ivy was at least not full human. So, Sparkle has lost her...edge. Not much on the trying to cause sex chaos but seems to be more hooking up. That's not her job! Not everything needs to revolve around having a powerful 'cat' and sex in heels in everyone's business. And frankly the constant misunderstanding and blow offs Gandymede visits on Sparkle is now getting old. Enough is enough. Already heard it. Their presence has now become toooooo big for the storyline for me. While I want to see them make up (AGAIN.. oh let me say AGAIN AGAIN AGAIN AGAIN to infinity!) I'm not sure I want to delve into that. I just don't think they should get that much air time. I don't think they were intended to become such MAIN (everything much circulate around them) characters...
