



Storm of Visions

Christina Dodd

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First in a new back-to-back series from the *New York Times* bestselling author...

Hailed as “a star in any genre,” (*New York Times* bestselling author J. R. Ward) Christina Dodd delivers an exciting new paranormal romance that introduces The Seven, a secret society created to combat evil in all its deadly forms...

The Chosen Ones is a seductive new paranormal series about an ancient rivalry that lives in the world today ... When the world was young, twins were born. One brought light to a dark world. The other, darkness and danger. Their powers could not be denied, and they gathered others around them, men and women destined to use their gifts for good or evil. Today, they walk the earth as the Chosen Ones ... and the ultimate battle is about to begin.

Storm of Visions Details

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From Reader Review Storm of Visions for online ebook

LibraryLass says

More like a 3.5 but I will be generous and round it up rather than down. This premise puts me in mind of the Final prophecy books by Jessica Anderson but a lot more basic and simple.

I usually love Christina Dodd, but while I enjoyed this one there were moments where I felt they were a tad trite.

Also (and the element which dragged down the star rating), the relationship between Jacqueline and Caleb just was too neatly tied up. It just was too easy for me.

Having said all that the premise of this series looks to be a good one and I am looking forward to seeing the other characters come into their own.

Nonie?serenity2bliss says

A wonderful read! I'm genuinely surprise with how much I actually enjoyed the story. A great introduction to the series; the romance is passionate though not as steamy as other series in the same genre, the characters are easily likable especially Caleb.

However, seeing that this is the first book, the introduction to the series, there is a lot of back story being told in the story. Therefore, the romance between Caleb and Jacqueline is not the only main focus of the story. Readers will be introduced to the history of the Chosen and the Others, and the agency that is the base for the Chosen. But don't let that stop you from giving this book a try!

Holly says

This book tried my patience right from the very beginning. I understand that this book is loosely tied-in with Dodd's previous Dark Chosen series, but the author seemed to have just assumed that anyone reading Storm Of Visions would have been completely versed in the previous series. This being my first attempt at reading one of Dodd's books, I was completely frustrated and confused through the first 75-100 pages. There is nothing more annoying than starting a book, and feeling like you're being dropped right in the middle of the story.

But, once i figured out what was going on, i realized the story itself was just plain ridiculous and over-blown. The characters are over the top and the melodrama is suffocating. In all honesty, Dodd's writing is repetitive and just not very good.

It's rare that i give up on a book...but i could only make it 200 pages into this one.

Carla Victor-rawson says

when the world was young, twins were born, one brought dark to the world: the other, darkness & danger. They gathered others around them, men & women destined to use their powerful gifts for good or evil. Today their descendants walk the earth as the chosen, and the ultimate battle is about to begin. This is the synopsis that got me to purchase the book (after the cover of course) and of course Dodd writes beautifully, she always makes me want to turn the page to see what happens next.

The 1st chapter read like a fractured fairy tale, about what happened in the beginning and how the Chosen & Others came to be....it was a good set up to the series. The plot at times were a bit thin and at times intense, The romance between Jacquelyn Varga an Other who was abandoned @ birth and adopted by Zusane a Chosen one has the power of visions & Caleb D'Angelo Zusane's bodyguard of many years was interesting, a lot of good character development. a lot of friction there. I loved that the he-man alpha hero still lived at home with his mom. and that Jacquelyn had mother issues, it was as though you were being brought into the family. Interesting was that JV is the most powerful seer that the Chosen has ever had and she not only had visions she became part of them and if she couldn't get out she could die in them. I do admit the downside for me were the love scenes...I love scorchers, these were more mild to somewhat hot. However this story was character driven, so I guess this makes up for it. and I'm looking forward to seeing what happens to the rest of the Chosen in the up coming books.

Alp says

I've read some of Christina Dodd books, and I always love her writing style and characters especially the heroes. But after finishing this one, I didn't know why I was a little torn between enjoyment and disappointment. Some parts of the story were extremely good, but some parts had me so frustrated. Both hero and heroine couldn't impress me as much as I expected, so I ended up giving it 3 stars.

Sara says

I read the Darkness Chosen series and loved it. I did not like this book. Other reviewers thought that their confusion when reading this book was because they hadn't read the previous series. I don't think that is the problem. There is very little in this book that ties with Darkness Chosen. There is a character that is the son of characters in the Darkness series but very little else ties in.

The confusion for me seemed to be that the author threw me in to the middle of a story. I don't know what happened before, so I can't properly understand what is happening now.

That might be part of the reason that I didn't like the main character, Jacqueline. She acted like a brat, and I don't understand why she hated her "love interest" so much. Even when Jacqueline replayed the events that led up to their break-up, I couldn't understand why she physically tried to kill him when they met up again a couple years later.

When she forgives him later, it happened so fast that it seemed unreal.

I almost stopped reading the book because of Jacqueline. I got through it, but I'm not sure that I want to continue the series. A friend told me that some of the books are good.

Shannon (Savage Temptrest) says

"Storm of Visions" by Christina Dodd was a good read to start the series of the Chosen Ones. It started out a bit slow, as some books do when they start a series, and laid out the story of the Chosen Ones and the Others. Basically these two groups are representations of "good" and "evil," and the Chosen Ones want to save the world while the Others want to destroy it and all of the Chosen with it.

The storyline focused on the main characters, bodyguard Caleb and Chosen seer Jacqueline. There were some funny, sad, lusty, and adventurous moments, but not very many throughout the book. At first, I didn't think I would read the next book to follow "Storm of Shadows," but the ending had a nice cliffhanger that has me wanting to read the sequel. Also, the preview of the next book definitely peaked my interest!

I would suggest reading this book AFTER reading the Dark Chosen Series, although I have yet to read these books or anything else by Ms. Dodd, because I have heard very good things about it, and I have found out for myself recently that reading a previous series that intertwines with or is related to a new series helps answer any questions I may have along the read and also makes the story much more understandable and entertaining!

Tutti Dolci says

Wow, that was disappointing. And goes to prove that just because an author is successful with one series, it DOES NOT mean that the next one will be.

This one, in my opinion, failed to engage. It was too vague, skimmed over potential for development, and not one character was worthy of loving, lusting for, or even cheering for. I felt no sense of investment in the storyline or in ANY of its characters. And what a pity because I absolutely LOVED Ms. Dodd's Darkness Chosen series.

Perhaps I was expecting too much, as I understand that it's hard to hit one out of the ballpark, each time. However, I think it's imperative to take note of elements which made the other series successful and implement them into the new one. Not a carbon copy, no. But the "feeling" they inspired in the reader.

And what sucks even further is that I also have books 2-4 in this series, none of which I'm inspired to read. At all.

Kristen says

This is a Paranormal Romance Novel. It has a fresh approach to the genre basics. I really enjoyed the world building. The main characters are Jacqueline Varga and Caleb D'Angelo. Jacqueline's adoptive mom is Zusane. Jacqueline is a Seer working at a vineyard at the opening of the book. Caleb is Zusane's bodyguard and has been working for Zusane since he was little.

In the beginning Jacqueline seemed to be a walking contradiction which was a little annoying. that being said, it was explained really well later in the book so I didn't have a problem with it after finishing.

Jacqueline and Caleb have known each other for all there lives (just about). Caleb grew up working for her mom, so she was pretty much off limits. You can imagine how well that went. As a result of their past relationship Jacqueline doesn't really want much to do with Caleb when he shows up on her doorstep. It's almost predictable that my favorite character was Caleb, but I loved him just about from the start. He has the Italian bodyguard thing going for him. He never hid his feelings for Jacqueline and only left the first time because her mom (his boss) asked him to let her finish college. He was willing to do anything for her.

It was interesting to read about Jacqueline getting her visions. They were so real and well written. I can't think of any scenes that I didn't like. The writing was strong and smooth. Like I said before I liked the world building. The character dialog was believable. There were a few parts that I reread to make sure I understood it completely but that wasn't because I had to, it was because I wanted to. I was engulfed in the story completely and found some of the dialog made me laugh.

Example:

"Then I want to talk about what happened two years ago between us."

No way, mister. She rolled to the other side of the mattress and swung her feet off the bed. "You go ahead. I'll just go into the bathroom and shut the door."

I plan to continue the series. I don't normally recommend a series until I've read more than one so that I can see how consistent the series is. So we'll see how the next one goes.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This book has a really cool premise and takes things in a different direction from the other paranormal series right now. I really did like that about the book. However, I do feel the romance suffered because of the time that had to be spent on building the world and the lore for this new series. I really wish that Ms. Dodd had been able to preserve her excellent ability to write a great, sensual romance and still accomplish setting up this series. Normally her love scenes are fairly blistering. They were a little more on the tepid side. I felt as though I barely got access to the intense relationship between Jacqueline and Caleb. What I saw of it was so intriguing, yet I wanted more.

As for the action and suspense, that was excellent. Ms. Dodd introduced an interesting cast of characters that I'd like to see more of. She kept me guessing who the saboteur was until the very end, which can be difficult for an author to do. There were some thrilling moments that had me on the edge of my bed and the elliptical trainer (the predominant places where I read this book). Also while waiting for my clothes to dry in the laundry room). I liked the paranormal aspects, and as I said earlier in this review, they felt different and unique. There were times I didn't know what to think of this story and I was afraid for the first time I would dislike a Dodd book. She is one of my favorite authors, and rarely disappoints, so I was glad I didn't have to say that.

I like that she uses a more Judeo-Christian kind of lore in this book, fighting against the devil. I love most paranormal themes, but it's nice to see something in a paranormal romance that is relevant to my everyday existence as a Christian. Kudos to her for that.

Overall, I have to give this four stars because it was an enjoyable book that sucked me in. I took away a star because the romance seemed to be lacking somewhat in this story. I did feel like there was telling that

Jacqueline and Caleb were deeply in love, instead of showing. Nevertheless, I look forward to reading the forthcoming books, and definitely will add this to my keeper shelf.

Cristina says

Okay, this isn't exactly a review. I didn't get past the first 20 or so pages. Why? Within those pages, a woman is stalked at her workplace by a mystery man. The man follows her home and breaks into her apartment, laying in wait in her bathroom. He attacks, she fights back, and the scene devolves from there...but hey, it's okay! They know each other! They used to be lovers! Sure, she said no, but she really meant yes!

I feel nauseated.

Ally says

It's time for the new Chosen Ones to take their rightful place within the Gypsy Travel Agency but now the battle they thought they wouldn't have to face is at their doorstep. Jacqueline has been running from her gift for the past two years but now Caleb D'Angelo is determined to be back in her life and help her take her place as one of the Chosen Ones and be at her side during the fight.

I thought the prologue to this book was awesome! That when the world was young, twins were born by a vein and fickle woman, the woman thought the children were too ugly and decided to discard them, she threw the boy into the forest and tossed the girl into a running stream and turned her back on both children in doing so the children died and came back to life changed, gifted and these children were the first Abandoned Ones.

The boy brought light to a dark world and the girl brought darkness and danger. They gathered other Abandoned Ones around them, men and women destined to use their gifts for good or evil. Through the ages and eons the battle was joined between the Chosen Ones and the Others. Today, their descendants walk the earth as the Chosen Ones and the ultimate battle is about to begin.

I didn't like the first few chapters and how the actual story for Storm of Visions started so for that reason I only gave Storm of Visions 4 stars but as the book went on the more I fell in love with the plot and the characters.

The opening of the book is two years after Caleb and Jacqueline first got together and Caleb comes back into Jacqueline's life, only we don't know that they know each other and it's made to seem that they are two strangers and Jacqueline is running for a man like this in her past and that he's out to rape her which is why I don't like the start of this book. But it is swiftly revealed that these two know each other and have a past which has made Jacqueline bitter and angry towards Caleb.

After the first few chapters we're introduced to the rest of the new chosen ones and see how they meet for the first time. I thought it was a lovely mix of characters with Samuel (mind control), Aaron (invisibility? something to do with being a thief), Isabelle (physical empath), Tyler (psychic), Charisma (stones/crystals) and Aleksandr (Aleksandr is the son of Firebird and Douglas from Into The Flame). Aleksandr is the only one from the group who doesn't have any special abilities.

I was kept in suspense who the Other baddie was that was an insider of the Chosen Ones I was pleasantly surprised who the Other baddie was and really never thought it could have been that person but I'm glad because it adds a twist to the overall story and makes room for a new character.

I think this is a great story once it gets going and that you need to hang in there at the beginning because it is a bit slow. When I first bought this book I thought that it was only two books but am so excited because there are another two books out this year Chains of Ice which is out 6th July (soon!) and Chains of Fire which is out 7th September. I'm especially looking forward to Chains of Fire as it's about Isabelle and Samuel and I'm so interested in finding out more about their relationship. Also I really like Charisma, I'm already so fond of her I can't wait to see what happens to her in the rest of the series! And for her to get her own book!

Golfmagic says

CONTAINS SPOILERS:

This book did not work for me AT ALL. The author lost me in the opening when (SPOILER OF THE FIRST CHAPTER), in the heroine's POV, we experience her terror at being stalked by a stranger. She purchases a weapon, makes it home, only to find that he is in her apartment. He hauls her into the shower, begins to rape her, she escapes to the living room where he is able to tackle her and continue his assault. And--surprise!--then the author (like, 20 pages in!) lets us in on a little twist: It's her ex-lover and she is totally hot for him and totally relents and can't wait to get busy on the living room floor. Now, this is NOT a surprise for the heroine, let's be clear about that. It's not like he was in disguise, but it becomes clear to the READER at this point that THE HEROINE has known the whole time who this was.

So, here are my problems: first, NOT COOL to have a rape-turned-seduction (or a rape-like seduction). I know that's been part of the romance genre, but it does not do it for me and it's pretty taboo in the industry today. Okay, so maybe it works for some people. They can read this.

HOWEVER, my BIGGER problem with this scenario is that I felt like the author tricked the reader. It was a totally cheap shot to *lead us to believe* she had no idea who this guy was. I mean, come on. If we're in her POV, then we've got to get her thoughts and feelings on it--it's only fair that we know she knows exactly who this is, can at least guess at what he wants, and sure, she can be scared out of her wits or emotionally conflicted, or whatever. But DO NOT mislead us into thinking she has no idea.

To me, that technique was for pure titillation. It was exploitative of the characters and bad-faith manipulation of the reader's trust in an author. All for the purpose (seemingly) of producing some cheap, immoral, sexual thrill at the idea of rape.

I finished this book because I simply wanted to see where the author would take the story. Would she continue to violate my trust, as a reader? Would she continue to insult my intelligence? Would she continue to exploit her heroine, women in general, and fetishize rape?

The answers: yes and no. This author writes from a moral place that I do not share, so I think we are not a match. If you are, hey, have at it and read away.

I read a LOT of romance, so this is not a problem I have with the genre in general (though with some authors, yes), but this is one of the most egregious examples I have seen of a rape narrative since the mid 90s.

Elle says

In one of the reviews on this site someone says that because they didn't read the darkness chosen series that she didn't know what was going on for the first 100 pages. I don't think we are suppose to clearly know what is going on. I read the darkness chosen books and I had no idea what was happening. But I really really don't think we were suppose to otherwise why would we be led to believe that the Jacqueline is nearly raped in the beginning? She did it on purpose, to add intrigue and suspense. Whether you think she does it successfully is another thing all together.

Liked this book because I liked the romantic relationship. I loved that they had a past together. Not one of Dodds better books/series in my opinion but really you can't go wrong with Dodd. Not her finest work but still a decent read.

AH says

Storm of Visions by Christina Dodd brings the reader into the world of the Chosen, specially selected people with gifts such as healing, mind control, earth powers, and most importantly, seers.

Jacqueline is a powerful seer. At the beginning of the novel, she is estranged from her mother, the charismatic Zusanne. She is brought back to join the Chosen and to take her place among them. When tragedy strikes, Jacqueline is forced on the run with the other Chosen and their guards.

I found that the story reminded me a little of some of the comic books that have been made into movies recently. Our heroes have special powers and they fight against the Others. They even have a Chosen Handbook: *When the World Was Young: A History of the Chosen Ones*.

Jacqueline's relationship with her mother was conflicted. She saw her mother leading a glamorous, jet-setting life, abandoning Jacqueline to be with her latest and richest husband.

Jacqueline also had a rather stormy relationship with Caleb as well. I loved the sexual tension between these characters. The sex scenes sizzled. Caleb is a fiercely protective alpha male, loyal to both Zusanne and Jacqueline.

The special powers were fascinating. Jacqueline's seer abilities were so vivid. She was actively experiencing all of her visions.

Overall, a good start to the series and I would be curious to read the next book.

Posted at Badass Book Reviews

