



## You Only Love Twice

*Bec McMaster*

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**You Only Love Twice** Bec McMaster

**With the clock ticking down, the Company of Rogues must find a deadly killer and stop them from assassinating the Queen... before London burns.**

*First rule of espionage: don't ever fall in love with your target.*

Five years ago, Gemma Townsend learned the hard way what happens when you break this rule. She lost everything. Her mentor's trust. The man she loved. And almost her life. Love is a weakness she can never afford again.

When offered a chance at redemption, the seductive spy is determined to complete her assigned task: to track down a dangerous assassin known as the Chameleon, a mysterious killer sent after the queen, whose identity seems to constantly change.

But as her investigation leads Gemma into a trap, she's rescued by a shadowy figure she thought was dead—the double agent who once stole her heart.

A man with few memories, all Obsidian knows is Gemma betrayed him, and he wants revenge. But one kiss ignites the unextinguished passion between them, and he can't bring himself to kill her.

Can Obsidian ever trust her again? Or is history doomed to repeat itself? Because it soon becomes clear the Chameleon might be closer than either of them realized... and this time Gemma is in the line of fire.

## You Only Love Twice Details

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# From Reader Review You Only Love Twice for online ebook

## Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

If ever a couple deserved a second chance romance it was Gemma and Dimitri. Poor Dimitri, his story filled my heart with anguish! I love where the overarching plot is leading and I can't believe where the story left off at. So many possibilities! I can't wait to see the COR in action in the next installment!

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## Saly says

Another stellar outing in this series that I enjoyed. I love the whole mystery that has been running through this series; the continuity of it and the romance seemed to fit right into it. The H just couldn't harm the h no matter how much his "conditioning" tried to make him hurt her. I liked the hot & passionate romance and the unveiling of who has been pulling the strings. I can't wait for the next book.

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## A says

5 stars for another phenomenal installment :) I absolutely loved it and will have a full review all ready tomorrow... \*sighs happily\* it was just soooo good... :)

edited to add my full review :)

I voluntarily reviewed an early copy of this book :) this is the third installment in a spin-off series from one of my all time favourite authors... there is no possible way for me to discuss any parts of this particular story without mentioning some definitely spoilerific details from the previous books, so here's what we're gonna do :) the next paragraph will be safe to read for everyone... you may be completely new to this author and I won't spoil you anything :) it will be a good start to get more informations about the world in general and all the main players :) then the other two paragraphs will concentrate about the spin-off series and this third story... so expect me to talk about spoilers from the previous installments... I might mention people and / or events without any additional explanations, because I am assuming that only people who are caught up with the series will read it... :) I can't stop you from reading it of course, even if you haven't read the previous books, it's just a fair warning :) you might be feeling lost and you will definitely be spoiled about certain very surprising turns of events, so tread carefully :) ok, now that we have this little explanation out of the way, let me jump into safe for all part of my review :)

The original series, as well as the spin-off, both take place in this alternate victorian-ish London, a paranormal / steampunk world... it's ruled by the blue bloods, a vampire-ish creatures who will keep the power in their hands by all means necessary... but they are not the only supernatural beings among humans... there are also verwulfen... the closest I can compare them to are shapeshifters, but they don't turn into animals... nope, they are much more complex... yes, they are definitely much closer to the more primal part of their nature, but... it's much better explained in the books, so I will stop before I make a fool of myself ;) the last group I want to talk about are mechs... they are humans who lost a part of their body and got a mechanical part instead... for that, they agree to serve a certain amount of time to repay for said parts... again, it's a much more complex issue... all those groups clash in the first series... the original five books (plus a few

novellas) concentrate on one big story arch... each book revolve around a different main couple, but there is a bigger conflict happening over the course of all five of them... let's just say that humans, mechs and verwulfen have had enough of the way blue bloods are treating them... the original London steampunk series is a truly phenomenal masterpiece :) it's one of my all time favourite stories... with fantastic writing style, complex characters and a story full of surprising twists and turns, it will keep you glued to the pages... :) it also has an amazing ending... that I was very satisfied with... although there were certain characters that I was left curious about... I wanted to know more... so imagine my joy when I learned that Bec decided to go back to this world with yet another series :) the spin-off series, London steampunk the blue blood conspiracy, picks up three years after the big finale... and because I don't want to ruin anything in case you haven't read it yet, let me jump into another paragraph... I will be talking there about the spin-off series in general, so I will include some spoilers about the first series... read as you wish ;)

Ok, let's talk about the spin-off :) as I mentioned, it takes place three years after the big finale... three years of fragile peace between blue bloods, verwulfen, humans and mechs... three years where the last three groups could enjoy more freedom and rights than they ever had before... but it would be too good to last too long... some groups are growing restless... some of them definitely not happy with how things are now... wanting to go back to the "good old days"... and other ones are desperate to fight for the freedom that cost them so dearly... especially when some bigger threats are coming to light... someone has big plans... to counterattack all of that, Duke of Malloryn, with the agreement of the Queen, forms Company of Rogues... a group of individuals, each of them with specific skills, to act behind the shadows... and sometimes in the center of all the attention... a lot of things changes between them, but I won't spoil you any of the very surprising details that made me almost fall off my chair while reading ;) there will be five books as well with this spin-off series and like with the original one, we have a different couple at the center of each novel, but a bigger story arch will span all five of them :) each installment have one, or two members of the COR, as main characters... starting with the first book, with Ingrid, a verwulfen, and Byrnes, a blue blood... they have a very interesting past between them... including a bet that did not end in the best way ;) the second book has Ava as the heroine, a blue blood with a clockwork heart, a survivor of some horrible experiment... and Kincaid, a mech full of hate towards blue bloods... how can they possibly become an item? I was asking myself that very same question :) read the book to find out :) this third installment revolves around Gemma, a blue blood and highly trained assassin and a very mysterious person... fourth book, coming out at the end of october, will be all about Charlie and someone we also know and love :) and the fifth and final installment, coming out sometime next year, will be all about Malloryn... there are of course a few more members of the group, but the situation changes within the stories, so I don't want to spoil you who is a part of COR or if there is a secondary romance happening somewhere within the pages... ;) all you need to know for now is that the spin-off series is just as phenomenal as the original one :) full of characters who are both familiar, because we met them before... but here we finally get to know more about them... plus a few new ones, who are just as interesting... not to mention that we have appearances from a few familiar faces from the original books... :) it's a good balance to keep you constantly interested in the story :) with each new book we discover more and more about the bigger picture and not only that, we get to know more about our group of heroes and heroines... I adore their interactions when they are all together :) to see how closer they grew within the time they were working together... how they tease one another... how supportive they are... how much they care... \*sighs happily\* I can't wait to read the next two books to see how everything will end :) ok, now I will get to the totally spoilerific part of my review, so read the last paragraph only if you are caught up on the series or you truly don't mind being spoiled about some big and surprising things... ok, you've been warned...

How to start writing down all my thoughts and feelings that I have about this story... it's not gonna be easy... but I have to start somewhere :) so let's begin with a surprising word that you probably didn't expect to find in this review... Marvel :) as in Marvel from all the superhero movies... why Marvel? oh I'll tell ya :) because

both Gemma and Obsidian, reminded me of Marvel characters... Obsidian, being on the other side of the conflict, a deadly assassin with very few memories... he reminded me so much of Winter Soldier, one of my favourite secondary characters in that universe... and Gemma? how can you think about a chameleon of a woman, who can be charming and flirtatious one second, and then putting a knife to your throat the next one without thinking about Black Widow? :) both of them deadly... both dangerous and complex... when I first stumbled on a scene within the previous books that suggested who Gemma's hero might be I was... a bit apprehensive... especially when going into this installment I knew that they have a history together... because second chance romances and this hate / love kind of situations are definitely not tropes I like in books... so I was hesitant... but my oh my... I ended up loving this installment ;) Bec truly did a wonderful job with these two... the intensity of their connection... how they can truly understand each other... there were scenes... little ones... that hit me straight into my heart... Obsidian definitely surprised me... I did not expect him to melt my heart like he did... :) obviously I am not gonna spoil you about the events in this book, because there were quite a few surprising ones I definitely did not see coming... let's just say I gasped in shock more than once... plus, even though our couple gets their happy ending, the book itself ends on a cliffhanger that will make the wait for the next installment very hard... fortunately the end of october is not that far... or so I keep telling myself ;) this book is a perfect example of balancing the romance between our main couple, and moving forward the bigger plot of the story... we have parts that concentrate on Gemma and Obsidian, and all the changes between them... including some flashbacks to their history in Russia... we also have parts that show us group dynamics... how those friendships and connections grew stronger from the beginning of the series... how certain characters became more confident... how some unlikely bonds have been made... the depth of all those connections... even if some of them are only blossoming right now, is truly beautiful to watch :) and of course let's not forget about all the truly shocking turns of events... I may have had my suspicions while I was reading some scenes but I would never guessed where the whole story will take us... now I am dying to read the next installment... as well as the fifth one... :) I'm very curious to see where Bec will take this whole story :) I highly recommend you guys to read this book and this series in general... I have no words to describe all the love I have for Bec and the characters and stories she creates... \*sighs happily\* I can only try and convince as many of you as I can to give her work a try :) it's gonna be soooo worth it :)

XOXO

A

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## Em says

4.5 stars

Quick note:

I read the first (Mission: Improper) and second (The Mech Who Loved Me) books in *The Blue Blood Conspiracy* in advance of **You Only Love Twice**, but if you are new to the series, I encourage/recommend (I'm begging) you to read the *The Blue Blood Conspiracy* books, and the earlier *London Steampunk* series before you pick this one up. (They're uniformly great. I promise!) I LOVE this author and her steampunk world, but I struggled to remember lots of little details that help round out the characterization of the principal players. Most appear as secondary characters in *London Steampunk*, and I was often frustrated by

my inability to recall/remember certain things about each of them as their stories unfold in the *Blue Blood Conspiracy* novels. They're absolutely worth your time and attention; I regret skipping those books in my rush to read this one. I hate not remembering those stories as well as I'd like - and I absolutely feel like they will enhance your enjoyment of **You Only Love Twice** if you take the extra time and treat yourself with the earlier books first.

**You Only Love Twice** features Gemma Townsend, an assassin and blue blood with close ties to Malloryn, and a member of his Company of Rogues. We know little about Gemma aside from her appearances in the previous *Blue Blood Conspiracy* novels, and her slightly vague/close relationship to Malloryn. She's beautiful, funny, sexy and extremely adept at killing. Gemma has only 'failed' Malloryn once - when she fell in love with a Russian double-agent, Dmitri Zhukov, and barely survived his attempt to kill her.

In earlier books, readers learned about an enemy force arrayed against Malloryn and his queen. This largely unseen and powerful enemy is determined to undermine the power structure in London *and* destroy Malloryn. When **You Only Love Twice** begins, Gemma believes someone in the enemy camp, a *dhampir*, is watching over her. She suspects it's her former lover Dmitri, but he's yet to fully reveal himself - and she's convinced he died shortly after he attempted to kill her. Gemma knows the idea of Dmitri returning to London and watching over her is crazy...but just might be true.

Obsidian (aka Dmitri Zhukov - before he became a *dhampir*) is determined to destroy Malloryn and his Company of Rogues. When his "brother" and nominal leader, Ghost, orders fellow *dhampir* assassins to kill Malloryn's protege, Gemma Townsend, Obsidian interferes...saving Gemma's life and killing the assassins instead. Believing Gemma betrayed him in Russia - leaving him to die after setting fire to his rooms following a passionate night together - he's nurtured a bitter hatred of her. His *dhampir* brothers encouraged his anger and sense of betrayal via a systematic conditioning process, and now he's determined to be the one to kill her. Only...he can't. Every time he's near Gemma, he's thwarted by flashbacks of their time together and a longing he can't suppress. He kidnaps her with the intent of driving his errant feelings away...but the plan backfires, and he finds himself doubting his recollection of their past - and falling for her all over again.

**You Only Love Twice** showcases Ms. McMaster's marvelous and intricate world building. Each novel in the series has upped the danger and suspense, and this time out the pace is fast and furious. Obsidian has secrets - and a painful past - but his love for Gemma reminds him (and us) of his humanity. He's a deeply flawed man who's been abused by the men he calls brothers, and is struggling to overcome the darkness in his past. He more than meets his match in Gemma - who was dealt a similarly bad hand as a young girl and forced to rely on wits and physical strength to overcome a traumatic childhood and escape the world in which she was raised. I loved this match-up! Their second chance love story is powerful, tender, and profoundly moving. I loved how these two damaged individuals find healing and solace in a connection to one another, *and* the intensity of their physical attraction is super hot, sexy and affecting. I think they're my favorite McMaster couple - yet.

Although the relationship between Obsidian (Dmitri) and Gemma is the primary focus of the novel, Ms. McMaster doesn't skimp on developing and forwarding the overarching plot, or providing new and clever ways to challenge the COR. The Chameleon, a ruthless assassin, is once again on the loose, and a former enemy - long thought dead - might be masterminding the destruction of Malloryn, the COR, and the queen. He's bad and he'll do anything to win. Friends, he's a total dick and this book left me rooting hard for the good guys. Ms. McMaster also - FINALLY - provides a bit of insight into Malloryn and his motivations, and in doing so, we learn about the origins of his relationship to Gemma, and why they're so loyal to one another. Although Obsidian and Gemma are a terrific love match, the partnership/friendship/love between Malloryn and Gemma is also supremely well realized.

Bec McMaster masterfully juggles romance, suspense and storytelling in another terrific addition to her steampunk universe. She's saved one of my favorite characters until the (near?) end of the series, sweet as a *sugarpum* Charlie, leaving readers anxious to know more about the mysterious Dido, the evil Balfour, and just who and what awaits Malloryn in Russia. It's all tremendously entertaining and fantastic, and I can't wait for the next chapter in this brilliant series!

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### **Marta Cox says**

I read the title and instantly my mind brought up images of espionage and Russian spies ! Yes I admit I've probably watched too many movies but it just sounded like such a tantalising prospect and I can happily say it delivered. With its beautiful, eye catching cover to up the ante even without knowing what would happen I was desperate to know what the author had conjured up for this couple . It's a relationship that has been gradually teased at in previous books so it was high time to discover exactly why the dhampir Obsidian had Gemma in his sights. Plus how does Gemma explain that the deadly assassin the Chameleon who she helped capture has been murdered by the Chameleon ! It shouldn't be possible but there's a lot more in play her than any of the Rogues ever expected.

If it's something with sizzle that excites you then prepare to need some iced water on hand as this couple happily torment and torture each other. If like myself you're following the journey of the Company of Rogues then you will be jumping up and down as they all feature here with glorious effect. Finally answers are coming but they might not be what anyone expected but boy does this story end in such a place that the next book cannot come quickly enough for this reader. You will relish the wit and banter , adore learning how much this couple have suffered but most of all love this story as it's exciting, romantic and unforgettable.

This voluntary take is of an advance copy and my thoughts and comments are honest and I believe fair

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### **AlwaysV says**

I love the series so much. The only series in the Steampunk genre I've read actually. Gemma and Obsidian's story was amazing! I loved the resolution of their sad and horrible past. Although there was one element I hated so much that I previously took off one star. That was the part where the villains were super smart, so smart they could FORCE good guys to commit murder at their command! Yet all the heart-pounding, action packed, as well as light-hearted parts outweighed it. A good discussion in our Chit-Chat thread made me realize how great the book was! So I edited my rating. Yes! Five Totally Deserving Stars!

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### **Julie (Jewls Book Blog) says**

Gemma has a niche with the Company of Rogues as a well trained spy. She has gracefully deadly moves and a sharp wit. Her huge heart and capacity for loyalty are her greatest strengths, yet also her greatest weakness. When she gets up close and personal with her past, she has to decide if everything was real...or fake.

Obsidian has a mission to take down the enemy, but there's something about Gemma that has him hesitating. He feels hatred and love when he thinks of her, torn by two sides of the same coin as the feelings burn into what's left of his memories. The longer he's around her, the more he questions everything he thought he believed in.

Obsidian and Gemma's second chance romance kept me on my toes with the topsy, turvy emotions! I was cracking up at their biting banter while sighing at their sizzling attraction. They were totally suited for each other, fulfilling a need neither one was willing to admit to, and I caught myself hoping things would finally align in their favor.

Book 3 in the Blue Blood series, I would recommend reading the books in order to not miss out. The romances do stand alone, but the story arc moves across the books. I thought You Only Love Twice made a big jump in plot progression as details are starting to really come together and the bigger picture has me bouncing in excitement of what's to come! Obsidian and Gemma's story was full of mischievous banter, fantastic sizzle, loads of action-a necessary requirement for the action junkie in me-and a twisty plot that caught me by surprise! Oy, this was a fabulous read and well worth the wait!

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### **Aly says**

4.5

Gemma Townsend is a spy who was sold to a school of assassins when she was a little girl. She learned how to fight, how to kill but no matter what they tried to make her, she never stopped feeling and never lost her heart. But it came near to that five years ago, when she gave her affection and her love to the enemy.

Now a member of the Company of Rogues, a group of clever, strong and sharp people from different social class who fight for the common good of the citizens of London and to protect their Queen, Gemma's latest mission is to investigate the mysterious death of a dangerous killer. For weeks now, she have had the sensation of being watched. She's about to come face to face with the past.

There's a fine line between love and hate. Nobody know it better than Obsidian. The woman he loved betrayed him, but there's a voice inside his heart that can't help but whisper "she's mine" every time he sees her. But she's also his target.

A complex love story between two people in the enemy camp. A story of betrayal and pain. Of danger and passion. But who is the real opponent ?

When it comes to Bec McMaster's novels, I don't only love twice. I love every single time a new book is released. I talked about danger and passion and for me, these two words describe perfectly this author's work and talent. Not only we get amazing romance that make me swoon, gasp, sigh, laugh, cry and dream, but there's the good storylines and surprising plot twists and the powerful connection between the COR's members and their funny interactions. I love when they're together; bickering, discussing theories and strategies or making bets. And I just love this name; the Company of Rogues. It sound classy and sexy ;p

And with an ending like the one in You Only Love Twice, thank God the next book is at the end of the month because I'm dying to know how everything will be solved. Plus, it's finally Charlie's turn and I've been waiting for his and Lark's HEA for years !

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## Mei says

I love this world!!!

I love the way McMaster makes the situation more and more complicated with each book! When you finish the book you think that it was the most complicated one, but the next one is even more and the next even more.... and it just continues to escalate! WOW!

Here the Russian court is brought into as big players in the never ending game for power!

New weapon is discovered and it is terrifying! With that how can you be sure of anyone?! Who to trust?!

I loved Gemma and Dmitri/Obsidian! Their love story is love-overcomes-everything type! Even the monstrous machinations and mind manipulations cannot stand up to it!

But the best part is that their love story was tightly woven into a bigger story about treachery, power grubbing struggle and vengeance!

The secondary characters are very important too and each one is fleshed out very well! We get to see how they feel, what they think.

I also liked the interaction of the couples who got together in the previous books! It was endearing and very sweet!

Seeing how this book ended, he tiny, teeny thing (that doesn't have anything to do with this book, by the way) that surprised me is that I was expecting the next book to be about Malloryn and Adele, but it is instead about Charlie and Lark! But I'm looking forward to it! :)

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## Caz says

**I've given this an A- at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars rounded up.**

The third book in Bec McMaster's *London Steampunk: The Blue Blood Conspiracy* series, **You Only Love Twice** boasts an engrossing, intricately-woven and high-stakes suspense plot woven through a steamy second-chance romance and I was glued to it from pretty much start to finish. We've reached the middle of a five-book series, and the author provides some compelling plot developments, drawing together threads from the first two books to reveal the terrifying nature of the threat faced by this version of Victorian London, and who is behind it. This instalment also ends on rather a massive cliffhanger – but fortunately, Ms. McMaster isn't going to make readers wait too long to find out what happens next as book four, To Catch A Rogue, is coming out in October .

Be warned –there are spoilers in this review, so if you're planning to read the series and haven't yet, proceed with caution.

In case I haven't made it clear, the novels in the *Blue Blood Conspiracy* series need to be read in order.

Each book focuses on a particular romantic pairing and has a self-contained plotline, but there are also overarching storylines that run throughout, so I would advise going back to book one, *Mission: Improper*, in order to fully appreciate the intricacies of the stories and of the richly detailed world that the author has created.

I don't have space in this review to delve too far back into the on-going storyline, so I'm going to assume anyone reading this is familiar with the *London Steampunk* world of these books, and knows what the Echelon is, what blue bloods, vampires, dhampir and mechs are, and is aware of the basic conflict that has featured throughout; namely, the overthrow of the corrupt and degenerate ruling class (the Echelon) by an alliance of more progressive blue-bloods, mechs and humans in the original series, and in this one, the unrest that continues to plague London as everyone struggles to settle into the new order... a new order that someone is intent on destroying.

A highly trained spy and deadly assassin, Gemma Townsend is one of the Company of Rogues' most valuable operatives. Five years earlier, she'd been on a mission in Russia, working with the Duke of Malloryn (leader of the CoR) to undermine the creation of an alliance between the Russian Blood Court and the Echelon, when she'd met and fallen for Dmitri Zhukov, who was working for their opponents and in favour of the treaty. The pair fell in love against the odds and their better judgements, but in a heartbreakingly tragic betrayal, Gemma was shot by her lover and left for dead. She survived thanks to some quick thinking on Malloryn's part, and believes Dmitri died in St. Petersburg... until a recent attempt on her life was thwarted through the actions of someone she could almost swear was him.

Following Gemma's shattering betrayal in Russia, Dmitri – now a powerful dhampir known as Obsidian – wanted nothing more than to forget her, and thanks to a combination of technology and conditioning, has been able to do exactly that. He no longer has any memory of those events and doesn't want to remember them; he's learned to hate Gemma, but when the leader of the dhampir orders her death, he finds there's something in him that won't allow him – or anyone else – to kill her. He doesn't understand why – she used him and betrayed him and he wants revenge – but instead of carrying out his orders, he kidnaps her in order to keep her safe. He knows that he's likely signing his death-warrant, but whatever is driving him to protect Gemma is stronger than his fear of retribution.

The scenes between the couple are electric and filled with intense emotion and chemistry that five years have done nothing to quell. At first they're both furious, each believing themselves betrayed by the other, and it becomes clear to the reader – and to Gemma – that Obsidian's recollections have been altered somehow. The more time he spends around her, the more he begins to question everything he's been told and everything he thought he believed in, which gives Gemma hope that he may be amenable to helping the CoR... and that perhaps they can have another chance at a future together.

The author splits the narrative very skilfully between the romance and the overarching plot, which certainly thickens in this instalment. The murder of a former serial killer sets off a train of events that lead Malloryn to the realisation that the threat London faces is far greater than previously imagined; an old adversary is out to cause chaos, foster anarchy and overthrow the queen, and he won't rest until he's destroyed Malloryn in spirit, mind and body.

Bec McMaster is a fantastic storyteller, and I was on the edge of my seat several times, particularly in the last section of the book which is full of brilliant, shocking twists and turns. I love second-chance romances, so Gemma and Obsidian's storyline was one I was really looking forward to, and the author definitely doesn't disappoint on that score. Gemma is a terrific heroine – lethal in a fight, but possessed of a big, loving heart, she's quick-witted and fiercely loyal; and while Obsidian is slightly less well-defined, it makes sense

that he would be so given that he's suppressed his memories for years and is only just coming to know himself once more. The strength of their connection just leaps off the page, and the depth of their feelings – the hurt, the desire and the love – is evident in every moment they spend together. The sex scenes are earthy and passionate, the action is fast-paced, and the cliffhanger ending has me looking anxiously at the calendar and thinking October can't come too soon!

I loved the affectionate banter and close-knit relationships the author has drawn between the rest of the Rogues, and watching the way they accept Obsidian for Gemma's sake and then for his own. I was also really pleased to get to know a bit more about Malloryn, who has been a strong, somewhat enigmatic presence in the series so far – I'm now even more excited than ever to read his story in the final book.

If you're already hooked on this series, then you probably need no urging from me to go out and grab **You Only Love Twice**; if you have yet to try a book by Bec McMaster and you're a fan of steampunk/paranormal historical romance then I have no hesitation in recommending the London Steampunk and Blue Blood Conspiracy series most strongly.

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### **Keri says**

It took me awhile to get caught up in the story, but once I did, didn't want to put it down.

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### **Sharon says**

**\*\*I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

Oof that ending is going to keep me on edge until the next book. Also, I'm just so excited for Charlie and Lark's book. I have been waiting for it for 2 years, and it's finally coming next –I can't even fathom right now.

Here are some of my thoughts:

- I love Gemma. She is so strong and competent. Also, I appreciate that we get to see how strong the bonds within the Company of Rogues have become. It is wonderful to see this team of misfits actually become a family. It's become especially clear in this book. The nonstop bantering with everyone is hilarious and adorable.
- Obsidian/Dmitri is great too. I seriously feel bad for his past. He deserves so much happiness and I am relieved that he has found a place with Gemma and the COR.
- I'm not a fan of second chance romance, but it somehow has worked here. They're not afraid to challenge one another. Lots of sweetness and protecting one another.
- Malloryn and Adele's scenes are intriguing. I honestly can't wait for his book now too.

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed this. **4 stars** and I am ecstatic to read the next 2 books. This series and the characters in it can go on forever and I'll be happy.

#### Things that you might want to know **WARNING: Spoilers below**

Happy/satisfying ending? (view spoiler)

Love triangle? Cheating? Angst level? Other things to note? (view spoiler)

Tears-worthy? (view spoiler)

Humor? (view spoiler)

Favorite scenes? (view spoiler)

What age level would be appropriate? (view spoiler)

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## Roobie says

**??3.5 stars??**

*You cannot forget your pain without forgetting all the goodness that comes with it.*

*Pain is what makes the pleasures of life seem so vibrant.*

*If you didn't know pain or loss, then you would take for granted what had been gifted to you.*

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## Celestine says

### **This is the book where the Company of Rogues turns into family.**

Yesterday I watched the movie *Deadpool 2*, and at the beginning Wade Wilson tells the audience that this is a "family film." Well, he was right because the directors and writers hammered it over our heads that the ragtag band of misfits becomes more than a squad out to save a teenage boy, they become family. Now, maybe Bec McMaster was inspired by Deadpool's clutch of superheroes, but I actually think she pulled it off better than the Hollywood writers and producers. At the end of *You Only Love Twice* I was getting all the feels and was totally in love with the way the Company of Rogues not only became a team but became a family. And Gemma and Obsidian were the catalyst for it all.

For a second-chance romance, the circumstances and emotions and plotting were complex. The history of Gemma and Obsidian is murky, and his mental conditioning has wiped away sentiment, yet Obsidian has a feeling in his gut that he needs to protect Gemma. Their journey is scorching hot and Siberian winter cold, but it is so full of emotion for two spies who should never have crossed that line - twice. I loved every minute of this novel. The history of Gemma and Obsidian and the suspenseful plot are doled out in pieces that just kept me turning page after page long into the night. This was also one of the more complex of McMaster's storylines. Usually I have a good feel for where the story is headed, and this book really kept me on my toes. There is surprise after surprise in the plot, and one should expect no less of these masterful spies - and the villains that challenge them every step of the way. Part of what keeps this book so engrossing is the vile manipulation that leaks out of Ghost and Master, the two main villains.

McMaster is one of my favorite authors, and this just might be my favorite of her books. I highly recommend this novel, but do yourself a favor and read the London Steampunk books, and then the earlier books in this series, first.

Book source: Purchased.

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## Ami says

I feel like a broken record whenever I say that Bec McMaster **does** it again, for me. Sure Obsidian's *conditioning* situation bears so much resemblance in my head with Bucky's (and how Steve is the one who can only come through his memories -- much like Gemma here for Obsidian), but, you know, ROMANTIC and all that ^^.

**I LOVED** those early moments when Obsidian *kidnapped* Gemma and it was just the two of them. I always tend to love McMaster's heroines more so than the heroes. Gemma is another one of those. The way she actually manages to slip the lock-pick out of Obsidian's careful checking, the way she uses her body to flirty with him... and even when she is (view spoiler), Gemma kicks EVERYBODY'S ASS INCLUDING MALLORYN (haha). She's definitely on TOP of the list.

As a hero, Obsidian is alright but I admit, I *think* my favorite hero will be either Malloryn or Charlie. Current standing so far on these heroes - from top to bottom - is Byrnes, Obsidian, and Kincaid. But Obsidian is sure a romantic one, from the way he provides Gemma with the bath and her favorite soap, till these words that he says to her....

**And I will be there for you. Every step of the way. For you are mine. You've always been mine. I will take your pain for you if you cannot bear it. I will guard your back when you heart is heavy...**

AWWWWWWWWWWW!!!!

Loved the twists and turns in this book ((view spoiler)). I also loved how McMaster gave 'tidbits' of what might be very intriguing story of Malloryn and Adele for the fifth book.

And I seriously cannot WAIT for the next book. **CHARLIE AND LARK!!!! FINALLY!!!!** I am so happy that I don't have to wait until next YEAR for it because it's COMING IN OCTOBER!!!

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