



Midnight's Kiss

Thea Harrison

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In the latest Novel of the Elder Races, two souls who have long buried their passions are about to be consumed...

Ever since their scorching affair ended years ago, Julian, the Nightkind King, and Melisande, daughter of the Light Fae Queen, have tried to put the past behind them—and distance between them. But when a war breaks out between Julian and Justine, a powerful Vampyre of the Nightkind council, they find themselves thrown together under treacherous circumstances...

Kidnapped as leverage against Julian, Melly is convinced that her former lover won't be rushing to her rescue. But when Julian gives himself up to save her, they both end up Justine's captives. Armed only with their wits and their anger, Melly and Julian must work together to escape. But will they be able to ignore their complicated history, or will the fiery passion that once burned them blaze again?

Midnight's Kiss Details

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From Reader Review Midnight's Kiss for online ebook

Lisa Kay says

...Late Model Harley Davidson Motorcycle...

★★★★½ (This is a review of the audiobook.) Sophie Eastlake does the narration again for this series. I've said it before; she is a narrator I didn't much like at first, but have grown to really appreciate. One of my favorite things she does in this one is make the heroine sound the right age, as well as do the same for the heroine's mother. In addition, she has great inflection and pacing. She is good with the accents and the differentiation between the characters, even between the males.

I don't know how I managed it, but I read this one before Night's Honor! ****smacks forehead**** Real Life has been too crazy lately, I guess, is my only excuse. I was trying to figure out why Ms. Harrison was assuming I would know what was happening in the book's opening scene. Plus, it took me awhile to figure out that I **had** skipped a book in this series. While I was saying "Hmmm..." a bit much to myself, I wasn't completely lost. Still, even if you're not a strict "Must Be Read In Order" person, I would definitely recommend you at least read #7 before #8, as the plots interconnect.

As far as the story-line, I think I liked this one more than other people who have traveled along in this series thus far. Sure, the best one is still the first... and probably always will be, as it had such a powerful "Wow! Factor" at the end. Nevertheless, however lame it was for two mature lovers not doing a little more inquiry, their reunion is intense and eventually very, very sweet. In fact, I almost wanted to say that Julian, the Nightkind King, needed to do a lot more groveling toward Melisande, daughter of the Light Fae Queen. But, considering how sweetly the forgiveness scene was done between these two sweethearts, I can forgive this book tons. What's more, the sex scenes were hot, hot, hot. One local wasn't my cuppa tea, but it was still pretty hot.

Speaking of local... the setting was in my neck of the woods, which was kinda neat.

Also, it was certainly "action-packed," which is why I chose it for SOS's Bookshelf Bingo shelf by that name!

Esra says

wow it was good :D

review will come

Sharon ∞🔥 is an emotional book junkie 🔥∞ says

If you've been keeping up with the Elder Races, you know that something is going down with the Nightkind and that's exactly where this book picks up.

Melisande (Melly) has been kidnapped by Justine, a Vampyre who's gone rogue. Justine is betting that Julian will come to her rescue especially since she is all about taking Julian down.

Julian does show up but he and Melly have a history, and a not very pleasant one at that. However, the craziness of their circumstances makes some of things in the past seem petty. It's a good thing they work well together.

There's a lot of crazy drama and I really enjoyed getting to know more of the Light Fae. (Shane seems very interesting...) We did get a tiny bit of Graydon but not enough to have any grasp on his story.

I really liked the scenes between Carling and Julian although I wish there were more. I think it was needed.

The last chapter (aka epilogue) was great...I want some chocolate cake! ;)

The Good Stuff:

Dual Pov's? Yes.

Steam Factor? (Scale 1 - 5) 2-4...some were good but others, well, I was a little creeped out at the setting.

Angst? (Scale 1 - 5) 1...maybe.

Next book? Graydon's book, *Shadow's End*, comes out December 1, 2015!! I cannot wait!

Favorite quotes:

♥ "You are full of wow, lady."

♥ "I think it was worth getting kidnapped."

♥ "I'm a guy. I could totally make it happen in five minutes."

♥ "I baked you another cake," he said. "I hope I did it right this time."

Sophia Triad says

Julian and Melly

"I've gotten to a really dark place, Melly. The darkest place I've ever been."

"You don't have to be there anymore," she told him gently. "Don't you know what happens at

the darkest point of the day?"

He stroked her soft lower lip with the ball of one thumb. "What?"

She rubbed her fingers soothingly along his muscled forearms. "A beautiful, brand-new day begins, and it's all fresh and full of promise."

She smiled into his gaze. "That's why magic in the fairy tales happens at midnight, you know."

When you reach that point, you have the power to change everything."

4th book in the Elder Races about the vampire race after the books *Serpent's Kiss*, *Devil's Gate*, *Night's Honor* and this time the action continues from the previous book "Night's Honor".

Xavier in the previous book is the second in command of the vampires, while Julian in this book is the vampire king, i.e. the vampire's ruler. Julian was not very likable character in the previous books. He was always thirsty for power and he did not hesitate to challenge Carlin for her position. In this book, he is actually nice and romantic and ready to sacrifice himself for his love.

Melly or Melisande is the daughter of the Light Fae Queen. Julian and her have a history together full of misunderstandings. Unfortunately they broke up not nicely, but they still have feelings for each other. When Melly is in danger by Julian's number one enemy, Julian will not hesitate to sacrifice himself to save her.

There is romance in this book and second-chance love and vampire fights, but there is also vampire politics that move the overall story of this elder race forward.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally posted at Smexy Books

<http://smexybooks.com/2015/05/review-...>

Favorite Quote: "Oh soldier, how did we come to such a place?"

Midnight's Kiss picks up right where Night's Honor left off. The Nightkind (vampyres) demesne is currently engaged in a battle over the throne, with Julian Regillus, the reigning king, and Justine, a powerful council member, at it's center. Melisandre (Melly), heir to the Light Fae throne, is kidnapped by Justine in hopes of bringing Julian to heel when he hears his former lover is in trouble.

Julian and Melly had an explosive three month affair over twenty years ago that was destroyed when Julian accused Melly of betrayal. Unwilling to believe her innocence, Julian breaks it off and never speaks to her again unless absolutely necessary. Over the years they have danced around their pain, trying to get over their love for one another and move on with their lives.

Melly is convinced Julian will not be rushing in to save her anytime soon, so she is shocked when he appears in the neighboring cell. Now both he and Melly are prisoners with no hope of rescue in sight. Forced to work together to escape, they find their past intrudes on their present when the passion they thought long dead flares to life. But can Julian forgive Melly's betrayal? And if so...will Melly forgive his?

I have wanted to learn more about Julian since *Serpent's Kiss*. His appearances so far has painted a picture of a ruthless, arrogant, unfeeling man who would do anything to secure his absolute rule over the Nightkind. In here we finally get Julian's backstory, learning everything there is to know about his life, his turning, his broken affair with Melly, and the true reasons behind his push for the throne. Harrison gives us Julian's side

of the story, which paints a very different picture of the events that surrounded Julian and his past actions.

Suspense, mystery, humor, and dramatic romances makes for a delightful series that continues to engage and intrigue with each new installment. The smooth storyline and personable characters immediately drag you back into Harrison's supernatural world as though you never left. Heavily character driven, the world building continues to expand and evolve though Harrison tends to set boundaries; evolving certain sub worlds within the ongoing storyline in a series of installments. Right now we are fully submerged in the Nightkind demesne and its ongoing political upheaval.

Midnight's Kiss embodies a trope I enjoy-second chance love with a bite. Two former lovers who have turned enemies. Pain, sorrow, anger, and distrust are the emotions that brew between Melly and Julian. I love when two seemingly indomitable wills meet and clash. Watching the hero and heroine go from antagonists to lovers is a delicious storyline; made only better when there is a volatile history that precedes it.

"I shouldn't care so much. I shouldn't care at all."

In Night's Honor, Melly came off as a bit of a diva. An actress and Light Fae princess, you got the feeling she was a pampered, spoiled, self entitled, brat who got what she deserved when Julian left her. Only Melly isn't any of those things. She is intelligent, down to earth, loyal, strong, and very resourceful. Kidnapped and terrorized, Melly instantly takes stock of her surroundings and begins to plan her escape. She has a great sense of humor and a formidable arsenal filled with snarky goodness. Seeing Julian has actually come to her aid is a shock to her emotional grid. She still loves him but the pain he left her with keeps her from falling into his arms and begging for a reconciliation.

"You are delusional if you think I would ever let you take me again, after the way you treated me. You see this?" With her free hand she waved her fingers in the air down the length of her torso as she shook her head. "I've said it before and I'll say it again. You're neeevvver getting this goodness again."

Julian is centuries old and his attitude reflects that. Born during the Roman Empire, this former battle horned soldier is an uber alpha wrapped in a thin veneer of civility. Sexy, morose, sarcastic, and a wee bit inclined to drama, he rules the demesne with an iron fist, hiding his emotions behind a mask of supposed indifference and boredom. Only two people have been able to see behind his mask-Carling and Melly. Melly was the first woman for whom he was willing to change his life for. Willing to give up his throne and whatever else was needed to keep her in his life. Her betrayal devastated him. Already feeling he wasn't even close to being good enough for her, discovering proof of that broke something crucial inside of him.

Before her, he hadn't known that he had been slowly expiring of thirst over the centuries. No matter how many people he tasted or how many lovers he had taken, he'd been dying inside. Dying. Then she had lit everything up inside of him-only to snatch it all away again, leaving him bereft and alone...

The reconciliation blends gently with the on going conflict. Being trapped in a prison isn't conducive to any smexy times, it does however allow them to spend time together with no outside interference. Their chemistry is as strong as ever and the scenes drip with sweaty bare-chested alpha male posturing and some reluctant internal swooning on the heroine's side.

She made another sound that was purely sexual, husky and needy, and the warmth of her body nestled against him. The soft curve of her breasts pressed against his bare chest, her hips brushed against his painfully hardening cock. [...] The ravenous hunter in him took fierce note. All the signs were there. She would be his for the taking, all his again.

Non stop action speeds the story along as Harrison reveals each new subplot. As each scene unfolds, we watch Melly and Julian face their fears and overcome obstacles while dealing with the external factors that try to stop them. Neither plot nor romance is sacrificed. They balance and complement each other through the entire arc; merging together towards the end.

It does take some time for our hero and heroine to make nice and finally discuss what occurred 20 years ago, which I found a little strange. I will admit I guessed early on what had happened and was put out by how easily Melly and Julian forgive the situation. Harrison gives a reasonable explanation for the choices they make but I still wanted to see something besides perfunctory understanding and forgiveness. It fell flat considering the build up that received.

The ending is a dramatic undertaking as a series of events lead us to an admirable conclusion. Harrison gives us a brief look in to Graydon's story-Shadow's End (Elder Races, #9), set to release December 1, 2015-that had me bouncing in my chair. I am SUPER PSYCHED FOR THIS BOOK!!

Harrison continues to write stories that any paranormal romance fan who loves action, suspense, humor, and a sizzling romance is sure to enjoy.

Rating: B

AH says

Another strong installment in the *Elder Races* series. **Midnight's Kiss** focuses on Julian, the King of Nightkind and his love interest Melisandre, heir to the Light Fae. The book picks up right where **Night's Honor** left off, so it is essential to read these books in order. This book is more character driven than the others. A great majority of the book stars Julian and Melisandre alone and the two must work together in order to survive. My one criticism of this book would be that it contained a scene of "sex on the run" or "sex while escaping from bad guys," which kind of makes me laugh. Considering the psycho character they were escaping from, it would be a bad idea to get caught with your pants down. Anyhow, epic battle scenes, hot and steamy love scenes, a happily ever after for our couple, and the promise of another book in the series made me a happy reader.

Thank you to NetGalley and Penguin Group/Berkeley for a review copy of this book.

Ren says

4,5 stars

sigh.

It was good and definitely better than Night's Honor (that I believe, a novella will do. Not a full length novel *snicker*).

Frankly speaking, I tend to like the Wyr characters and not the Vampyre, because Idk...they seems antagonistic. Sure, in Devil's Gate, Duncan convinced me otherwise and I did like Carling Severan, but

Julian, the Nightkind King? I'm not quite sure since he kinda like antagonist in Carling's story.

But, like she did with Aryal, Harrison did it again with Julian. He's more than what I had read about him in previous books.

Midnight's Kiss really exceed my expectation. After a disappointment that is Night's Honor, I set my expectation very low even this book have one of my catnip's, a "second chance" theme. While I'm disappointed with Night's Honor, it's necessary to read it, because readers will get a glimpse into the both h/H, Julian and Melisande. Once upon a time, or roughly 20 years ago, they were lovers. Then, Julian found that Melisande or Melly cheated, and their relationship turn sour. Now all they did is hating each other, grated each other nerves, and shout whenever they met.

But, when Julian betrayed by his own kind, and Melisande kidnapped for leverage, he didn't hesitate to come in the rescue. Now, before you think Melisande will be damsel in distress, oh you wrong. REALLY WRONG. Because Melisande is not a mere heroine, she's quite a fighter too, and without her, Julian might not make it through his captive alive. I did thought that Midnight's Kiss kinda same with Kinked. Both have two h/H that strongly dislike each other, both have kidnapping theme and try to rescue themselves before worst thing happen. Both have...a sex scene in the unlikely places, eventho Aryal and Quentin did it in Elven abandoned castle, while Julian and Melly did it in a cell. What with all of this, they can get horny in a dire situation? *rolling eyes*

And it comes to why I rated this highly than Kinked, because Midnight's Kiss is well delivered. The problem with Kinked is the villain defeated easily, while in Midnight's, it's more complicated. Maybe because this is Julian story, Harrison try to do her best, and I'm glad that she did it. Harrison show that beneath his antagonism that appear in Serpent's Kiss, Julian is a complex man. He didn't sugar-coated his situation. Born as gladiator, then general under Hadrian's leadership, to be turned into Vampyre by Carling and become a Nightkind King, relax and well-being are alien conception for Julian. All he know is fight, fight for his life, fight for his Sire's, fight for his demesne, until he didn't know when to stop

You breed a dog to fight then set him to fight for long enough, after a while that's all he knows. He'll fight and he'll fight, until eventually somebody comes along and puts him down

Melly once change Julian when they first become lovers and what considered as her betrayal by cheated is a nail to his "never ending darkness" coffin. But, did Melly indeed cheat? I know that a silly mistake can break a relationship and heart is a fragile thing that can be broken. Julian did a mistake, a silly ones, but he admit his mistake to Melly, for accused her to cheat on him. Why...I just realize why so many romance reader like to read when the hero said sorry and groveling. IT'S SO SWEEEEEEET to read it! I end up read Julian's plea to Melisande over and over, because he messed up their relationship badly and I become giddy because of it. I know that maybe it will sound heartless and you can call me sadist if you want, but it's like a "I told you so" moment, and "women are always right" , lol!

What about Melly? I end up like her, so much! Girl can fight, like I said before, and she also willing to forgive Julian too, to not prolong his suffer. This is what I like, she accept Julian for what he is and willing to fight for him too. It kinda corny and also overused, but Melly is a light for Julian's darkness.

I'm glad that Julian and Carling also end up their indifference. Carling did wrong to Julian, but so did Julian and both admitted it. That's what make them a great person and while once broke, a bond can't be easily

mended, at least they must start somewhere. What happen to Julian is kinda familiar tho. He's too stressed out and he needed a break. It's refreshing to read about a leader whom feel this way. Often I read a hero, alpha ones, that seems so confident with his leadership, seems like he born to rule the world. But Julian is not Dragos. Dragos might be born to lead, and Julian accept when Carling want him to rule Nightkind demesne, but in the other side Julian can be overwhelmed too. To give him a break is what a nice thing that Harrison write and...dang, I want to take vacation too after reading Midnight's Kiss. I really, really can appreciate Julian's feeling and his struggle!

The sex is so steamy, and aside from one sex scene that happen in the most unlikely place, have a tender feeling on it. What can I said? I'm easily to pleased. I want a smut, and Harrison know how to did it. Julian indeed is a sexy beast *wink (and whyyy....I can totally imagine him looked like Spike). The scene with Harley also make me happy. Well, biker is not my thing and I don't have any urge to read about biker romance, but men with a big bike always make me go "awwww ."

I think Harrison can be a hit and miss with Elder Races books, but Midnight's Kiss is one of my favorite Elder's book right now. I end up read it twice, and you know that my favorite part is when Julian grovel, hehehe. Next is Graydon and Beluviel story in Shadows End, and I'm so sad the publisher didn't published Elder Races anymore and Harrison going indie right now. Kinda messed up my collection since I collect all Elder Races books in paperback :/.

Barefoot and shirtless, and dressed in jeans, he stood at the counter in front of a pan of chocolate cake. Evidently, she had slept hard for a couple of hours, for the cake was not only baked, it also appeared to be cool. He had opened a container of store-bought, cream cheese frosting.

His head bent, he focused on spreading the frosting evenly. He took such care with the task, gently working the knife so that he didn't damage the delicate surface.

For some reason the sight brought fullness to her chest. Tears sprang to her eyes.

"What did you do?" she asked.

It was a stupid thing to say. She could see very well what he had done.

He looked up to give her a smile that creased his face.

"I baked you another cake," he said. "I hope I did it right this time.

D.G. says

This is one of those books I ended up enjoying even though I was annoyed at the characters most of the time. Can't really pinpoint why that was, maybe I found the action exciting. The hell if I know.

The reason for Julian's and Melly's rift has to be one of the lamest in the history of romance. I could have believed it if Julian had been dumb or gullible but obviously he wasn't. The fact that he didn't show Melly

the evidence of her infidelity - like I expect a grown man to do - was pretty stupid. The whole thing was mind boggling.

Something happened at the end that gave me my biggest WTF moment. Am I to believe that a 700-year old man would take to (view spoiler) so readily? Please! If he had brought it up, I would have been more comfortable but as it was, he didn't seem the type to acquiesce to something like that so readily.

I'm not sure if I'll continue reading the series. I haven't been satisfied with any of the last few books.

Stacie says

3 1/2 "It grew on me" Stars!

Going into this book, I was skeptical because I really didn't like Julian. As the story started to progress, I though "This is like a very bad horror movie". Not a B movie, maybe a C movie... I don't even like horror movies :-/ The highlight for me was Melly. She was somewhat smart... at least rational. At times... Maybe... IDK. But the "mommy" thing was a little annoying. Maybe she wasn't a highlight after all... :-(

So anyway, I kept reading because despite my not liking Julian, and being confused about if I liked Melly, they started to grow on me. The bad horror movie scenes started to dwindle, and I found myself becoming vested in Melly, Julian, and the Nightkind demense. Eventually we got to some vampyre fighting action, not to mention some pretty good bedroom action and the golden ticket- open, honest communication between the MCs. Communication makes me happy!

So guess what!/? I liked it! I'm happy I read it! On to the next book. I think it's about Dragos!!! Yay! Happy reading!

Kathleen says

This ain't no Dragon Bound, but it started well, until maybe the halfway point. A schizophrenic story, split into fragments of romantic-erotica and horror. Blood and guts and sex and profanity. The intriguing political threads simply lost all hopes of nuance. Sledgehammer, anyone?

I felt the plot was flat -- of course Justine must die, but did she have to be so stupid, and so one dimensional?

Yet some scenes were good. The biker bar. The discussions about photo tampering. The hairpin. The motorcycle up the steps.

But...sex amidst the desperate tunnel escape? Filthy, exhausted, and fleeing feral vampires? I lost faith in these characters. TSTL! And the time delay cost them dearly at dawn. Then during a later battle scene, amidst legions of treacherous vampires, bombs, and burning cars, Julian stops to wipe his face and reflect on all the sweet things he wants to tell Mellisande. Really?

Too many sex scenes -- about four of them. The last one (sex at Tahoe) added nothing to the story. It needs a more nuanced and intelligent plot. Numerous scenes of bloody battle and killing carnage does not a story

make. Gratuitous sex can't change that, no matter how graphic.

Also, Julian wasn't fair to Melly, to hold a grudge for 20 years without telling her why or hearing her side. Big misunderstanding / poor communication trope lasted far too long in this book.

Sadly, no Dragos, Pia, or Liam. But we see Graydon.

Ps. This author must like to tour grand houses, because she waxes on about home and garden in all her books. I skim all the sections that describe the glorious mansions. Blah blah. Show me a glossy two-page spread in a magazine, but leave it out of the story.

namericanwordcat says

I read this book because I trust Thea Harrison as a writer. This trust is justified. Its is a super fun action adventure love story.

I had to trust Harrison because I didn't care for the hero or heroine much in the previous books in the series nor did I care one drop about if they got together again or not.

They are a great couple. The plot is action packed with lots of couple time. I like each of them a lot. We get to see our old favorites in the series. Good stuff.

The reason they broken up in the first place is irksome for me but it is a small fly in the picnic of an otherwise very good time.

Enjoy!

Dorsey aka ♥? Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Review to come.....

Reading In Pajamas says

◆Review & Giveaway: Midnight's Kiss: A Novel of the Elder Races, Book 8 by Thea Harrison ?

<http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-2ma>

Publication Date: May 5, 2015

Reviewed by Reading in Pajamas/ Cori

Rated 4.5 Stars

REVIEW:

I love this series! Thea Harrison hooked me with the first book in this series when she introduced us to the Elder Races Series. The Elder Races series is an exciting, unique and addictive paranormal romance series that includes gryphons, weres/ shifters, vampires, fae, witches, many other paranormal creatures and the ultimate alpha dragon. Midnight's Kiss is the 8th book in this series and it's still just as exciting as the first

book. I loved Julian, the vampire NightKind King and Melisande, princess of the Light Fae. They have a history and are brought back together in this book. The chemistry between them burned up the pages and the sex was HOT! Their story picks up where the last book left off so I recommend you at least read Night's Honor before this book or start at the beginning to fully enjoy the books. I enjoyed the previous release, but it was lighter on the romance side, mainly because of the hero's personality. That is definitely not the case with the King Vampire. I recommend this series for paranormal lovers looking for an original and sexy series. It's one of my favorites and I can't wait to read the next book.

*Review copy provided by Berkley/NAL in exchange for an honest review.

Ferdy says

Spoilers

This wasn't as fun or entertaining as the other books in the series. The story, main characters, and romance were a let down and never really managed to capture my full interest.

-There wasn't much to the plot, the heroine (Melly) was kidnapped by an evil cliched baddie. The hero (Julian/her ex) went to save her, and that lead to both of them being trapped in an underground prison for over half the book. The rest of the story was them escaping and having a showdown with the bad guy. In between all of that there was lots of inappropriate sexy times and some mild angst.

-I was expecting to enjoy the romance, in Xavier's book Melly and Julian's interactions were quite entertaining to read, but in this they were just annoying and passionless (despite both of them being super horny for each other).

Melly was a lusty doormat who acted like a teenager and Julian was an egotistical fool who only cared about his own man-pain. They were so irritating, both of them were centuries old but instead of behaving their age, they acted like hurt children, especially Julian (who was actually millenia old) as he never listened or communicated properly.

On top of that, when they were imprisoned and in danger, instead of focusing and trying to find a way out to safety they spent most of their time arguing, perving on each other, and having sex. It was so frustrating to read. They had chance after chance to escape and find help, but instead they wasted time shagging and monologuing about nonsense, they should have been running for their lives. I was especially annoyed when Melly escaped that she didn't think to call her powerful mum for backup and help, she wasted her time doing nothing. She was such a thick cow.

-Julian and Melly's relationship consisted of nothing but petty feelings, sex, and insta-forgiveness. Julian dumped Melly twenty years ago because he thought she cheated on him, even though she denied it he didn't believe her or give her the benefit of the doubt. So there were separated for years all because Julian had no trust in Melly. It was hard to believe he ever loved her when he had no faith in her whatsoever.

How did he not figure out that the photos he was sent of 'Melly' sexing that other guy were fake? How could someone millenia old be so easily fooled? It was even more daft as Melly had an identical twin sister who hated Julian and was against their relationship. Surely, it would have clicked with him that Melly and him were being set up by her sister? Julian being so thoroughly fooled over something that obvious just made him look like a grade A dumbbo. Also, Julian not believing Melly and thinking she was nothing but a liar showed how little he respected her and thought of her. The jerk.

-What was with Melly forgiving Julian for believing she was a cheater and treating her like dirt for 20 years? He didn't deserve to be forgiven after all he'd done. How could Melly have a relationship with someone who didn't trust her or listen to her? Why was she so weak? What really pissed me off was Melly apologising to Julian despite doing nothing wrong. WTF?! She had nothing to be sorry for. He was the one who let her down and destroyed their relationship. Ugh, he was an undeserving scumbag.

-Why the hell did Melly/Julian have to have sex when they were exhausted, beaten, hurt, and half dead?! It wasn't romantic, it was idiotic and took me right out of the story.

-Enjoyed the world and most of the secondary characters.

Disappointing, Julian/Melly's relationship just pissed me off. Their Big Misunderstanding was ridiculous, and Melly was stupid to forgive Julian for hurting her and thinking so little of her. I hope they don't feature much in future installments, I'd rather not read about such a silly couple again.

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

2 Dumber Than a Box of Rocks Stars

Good.

Effin.'

Grief.

As evidenced by my rating and review title, I was less than impressed with this book.

And - sadly - being that I was also less than impressed with it's two predecessors (Night's Honor and Kinked), I'm thinking I might take a break from this series for a while.

There are so many things about this book that I didn't love.

But let's just jump right to **Point of Hatred (POH) #1...**

POH #1:

MELLY.

Besides being a complete and utter idiot,

she had the maturity of a gnat,

and the decision making skills of a teenage boy.

Which is truly just an insult to teenage boys everywhere.

But really, if you took a teenager and subtracted 10 years, you'd have Melly.

Because what normal, well-adjusted, responsible adult - keep in mind she is supposed to be 300 YEARS OLD - actually still refers to their mother as **"Mommy"** ?

And still calls on Mommy to solve all of her problems.

And, after being held captive, fighting for her life for a few days, and being on the cusp of planning a massive counter attack, what are her priorities?

"Put me down. I need to dry my hair at least partway. If I don't it will go crazy."

And let's not forget *this* little nugget of wisdom:

"Don't you know what happens at the darkest point of the day?"

"What?"

"A beautiful, brand-new days begins, and it's all fresh and full of promise...That's why magic in the fairy tales happens at midnight, you know. When you reach that point, you have the power to change everything."

But wait, you might say, that was such a sweet little gem of profoundness.

Hmmmmmmm, no.

Not when paired with everything else that this little idiot said or thought.

Lord I disliked this woman.

And the fact that Julian loved her?

As trifling as that love might have seemed?

Made me *NOT* like *HIM*.

Because the fact that he would *actually* want to spend time with this airhead?

Truly made me question his judgement.

POH #2:

ON THE RUN SEX

Let's have a survey, shall we?

If you were a powerful, really old immortal being who was being held captive and tortured by another powerful, really old immortal being, and you were *finally* able to free yourself from the restraints holding you in said position, your first instinct would be to?

- a) Run for your life
- b) Run for your life and call immediately for help
- c) Run for your life and make a plan for retaliation
- d) Hang out in the dungeon where you were being kept, where no one but the BAD GUY knows where you are and fuck like rabbits while passive-aggressively waxing poetic about "the way we were?"

Well, if you answered d, *ding* *ding* *ding* then you too have earned the title of one of the biggest idiots known to man.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am ALL for the bumping of uglies in random settings.

Obviously.

But, I mean *seriously*.

People are trying to *kill you*.

Dontcha think it might be more sensible for less fucking and more fleeing?

POH #3:

THE BIG RIDICULOUS BETRAYAL

****Spoilers****

So supposedly Julian and Melly broke up "in the 1990's" after ONLY 3 MONTHS OF DATING *snort* and broke up because Julian received photographic evidence that Melly had cheated on him.

Melly denied this adamantly to him, of course.

Oh and, by the way, did I mention she has a twin?

That looks exactly like her?

And didn't like Melly's relationship with Julian?

...See where I'm going here?

And it took 20 years for these idiots to put this possibility together?

Aren't you supposed to get smarter with age?

But I digress.

In addition to the above mentioned POH's, this book suffered from a somewhat convoluted and yet overly simplified plot.

Too much time was spent in some areas and too little in others.

But mostly, I just didn't feel the connection between Melly and Julian.

He was supposed to be 3,000+ year old badass King and yet he falls in love with this dingbat of a woman who acts in grade B movies, calls her mother "Mommy" and has the intelligence of a poodle.

I'm sad for him.

He deserved better.
