

Sunset

Arshad Ahsanuddin

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An unlikely savior emerges to prevent the advent of mass destruction and genocide descending on the world...

By Day

Los Angeles, 2040. When the terrorist known as Medusa threatens to kill millions with a stolen nuclear bomb, Nick Jameson makes a fateful decision. He reveals himself on global television as a Daywalker - a vampire with a soul. To save Los Angeles, Nick exposes not only his own gifts but three separate cultures based on millennia-old magic.

By Night

The three metahuman races exist in careful balance, working to maintain a fragile peace. Nick and his fellow Daywalkers successfully master their natural bloodlust. The Sentinels, armed with both magic and steel, repress their warlike instincts. And even some Nightwalkers, normally their natural enemies, have deserted the Court of Shadows to join the triple alliance. Nick Jameson is deeply involved with two such Nightwalkers - handsome Lorcan and powerful Rory. Both men love Nick. But neither can protect the new Ambassador to Humanity from the events he has set in motion.

By the Sword

Jeremy Harkness was lured into Medusa's service under false pretenses. A loner with no one and nothing to cling to, he was willing to die for his cause. But the night Medusa tried to obliterate Los Angeles, Jeremy met Nick Jameson, triggering the onset of his own psychic gifts. For Jeremy is the third race of metahuman, a Sentinel, born to kill the Nightwalkers with no quarter asked or offered. And neither Medusa nor the Court of Shadows will settle for peace when they can make war.

Betrayal and treachery lurk around every corner on the road to coexistence, and at every turn, Nick must question who to trust among his metahuman allies, friends, and lovers—before their civilization is plunged into the depths of darkness and bloodshed. With millennia-old magic, emerging romance, and ever-shifting allegiances, this inventive series unveils a scintillating, homoerotic world of Nightwalkers, Daywalkers, Sentinels, and Humans, who battle for world dominance in the not-too-distant future.

Sunset Details

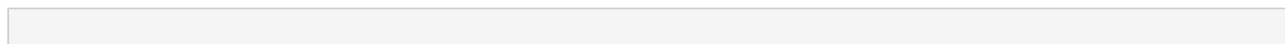
Date : Published October 3rd 2012 by Amazon Digital Services (first published February 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Arshad Ahsanuddin

Format : Kindle Edition 504 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Science Fiction



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From Reader Review Sunset for online ebook

Kaje Harper says

This is a book that repays some patience on the reader's part. It opens with an action sequence that really involves the reader with the main characters, but then the next 30% of the book is a little thick with multiple POV's. The required elaborate world-building happens too fast, with information often dumped in big blocks in conversations instead of demonstrated by actions and events. There are frequent flashbacks, although segments are well-labeled by date which does help. If you stick with it, however, the world becomes understandable and the characters come clear. The story is imaginative, there is romance (with the sex primarily off-screen) and action and clever plot, and a futuristic SF-meets-fantasy world to discover.

Bookwatcher says

[Nick love Scott, but Scott love and is married and love his wife. Jeremy love Nick. And oh the best, Lorcan and Rory, both love Nick too. But hey, it's not that easy, Takesh love and live with Rory (yeah, that one...that love Nick)... And of course, everything change because they ta

SueM says

4.5 stars.

Wow! This is a really difficult book to categorize or define, but I loved it just the same! Ahsanuddin's world building is amazing - very detailed and complete. It's based on the world as we know it, until a terrorist attack causes the magical world, until now hidden from mortal eyes, to be suddenly and shockingly unveiled. This world is based on vampires - Nightwalkers; Sentinals - mortals genetically programmed to become supernatural hunters of vampires/defenders of humanity upon first contact with a nightwalker; and Daywalkers - former nightwalkers who have regained their souls (the process of which shall remain undisclosed in this review). All three of these races have access to magic and some form of psychic ability. They are also technologically advanced - AI's, teleportation and space travel in particular - way beyond humanity's progress in the same areas. Ahsanuddin's science/physician's background obviously shows through here as everything is neat and logical without (well, for me anyway) glaring inconsistencies.

The main characters, on the whole, are somewhat on the dark side, with tortured pasts for many of them. One of the key themes throughout this novel is 'Magic requires sacrifice' and that is certainly reflected in many of the characters. Many have painful pasts with heavy emotional or personal losses. Yet there is also a hope for redemption and a hope for love, despite all the struggles, for many of them too. In many ways, the bare glimmer of hope is all they have to continue the struggle through dark times. For me, this is one area I could use a little more emotional connection to the characters. For me, Ahsanuddin's writing left me a little detached from all the turmoil and I personally would prefer a bit more involvement with the characters. Others, indeed, may find they prefer the small distancing effect.

One small quibble - at times I found that significant time had passed from one paragraph to the next (say, for example, 6 months), but the time lapse is not apparent till a few more paragraphs later. I then needed to go back a bit to make sure I hadn't missed something, throwing me out of the story for a time. This may be due

to the particular file format I read it in, or it may just be the way it was written; either way I found it a little disconcerting.

I recommend this novel for readers who love fantasy and sci-fi, and also those who like non-traditional M/M romance. Personally, I really enjoyed this novel, and I'm looking forward to the next novel by this author.

Jason Bradley says

second edition moves right on up to 5 stars!!

Katy says

Please note: I originally read and reviewed this book in August, 2011. Since my original reading of the trilogy, I have become a beta reader for Arshad Ahsanuddin, and my re-read was of the third edition upcoming of the paperback.

My Thoughts: If I could, I would give this 10 out of 5 stars – this is one of the most amazing things I've read in ... a long time. I was initially intrigued by Arshad's description in our forum that it was a "gay vampire" story – but it is SO much more than that. It is a romance of unbelievable beauty; it is an adventure, full of thrills, excitement and terror; it is a science fiction story, part space opera, and has elements of self-sacrifice for the greater good; it is about vampires, and magic-users and humans and how difficult it is for everyone to try to live together – but how wonderful it is when they do. It is about redemption, hope, love and growth. It is ... *AMAZING*. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

The basic plot revolves around Nick Jameson, who is known as a Daywalker, or a vampire who has been redeemed and received back his soul. He is instrumental in stopping a plot that would have destroyed the greater Los Angeles area with a nuclear bomb; as a result, the metahumans are exposed to humans, and Nick is then appointed as the Ambassador to Humanity. We are introduced to the various races – the Nightwalkers, who are the vampires; the Daywalkers (already described) and the Sentinels, who are magic-users genetically programmed to hunt and kill the vampires. In North America, an unprecedented situation has been created where a truce has been put into effect – the Armistice. Opposed to the Armistice are the unaffiliated Sentinels and the Court of the Nightwalkers.

I can't go into the plot much, because I don't want to spoil things - I will say that I laughed many times; I cried several times, too, and that is very unusual for me. I felt like these characters had become my own friends, confidantes and enemies – Arshad is masterful at descriptions and characterizations, and you will come out of this book truly feeling like you just returned from another world.

This book is followed by *Sunrise* and *Moonlight*, which were the original trilogy. Later was *Starlight* as well as a number of novellas, which are being incorporated into the 3rd edition paperbacks. I absolutely love this series of books, and it is only lack of time that stops me re-reading them over and over.

Disclaimer: My original review was done after having received a free copy of the first edition of the ebook in exchange for an honest review. This review is only slightly altered to fit in my current standard of reviewing.

Synopsis: Bloodlust, desire, supernatural powers, and conflicting passions ignite on every page of *Sunset*, the groundbreaking vampire drama by Arshad Ahsanuddin. With millennia-old magic, and ever-shifting allegiances, this inventive new series unveils a scintillating, homoerotic world of Nightwalkers, Daywalkers, Sentinels, and Humans who battle for dominance in the not-too-distant future. In *Sunset*, the action starts in Los Angeles in the year 2040. The terrorist Medusa and her followers lay siege to a star-studded celebrity awards ceremony, complete with a nuclear bomb. One individual, the vampire Nicholas Jameson, must come forth in all his supernatural might to thwart the imminent mass destruction. As Nick takes on the terrorists, the fragile peace between the races hangs perilously in the balance as the supernatural peoples are exposed. It is up to Nick to uphold the Armistice formed by these tenuous factions. As conflict escalates for the imperiled Armistice, Nick must undertake whatever means necessary to secure peace for his family, friends, and the world as he knows it. Can Nick overtake the dark forces and guide the humans and metahumans into coexistence? As clashes rage and desires smolder, *Sunset* offers a gripping tale of fantastical political intrigue that is certain to pique the passions of vampire fans and hot-blooded romance devotees alike.

Nile Princess says

Not since Brian Lumley's Harry Keogh-verse, have I found a vampire series of this caliber. The author builds an extremely complex world that at times went over my head, but was always engaging, interesting and supremely intelligent. All of the characters resonated with me. You know a book is good when even the characters you dislike inspire you to think and re-evaluate your position. Nick, the main character, is incredibly multi-faceted and I liked that the author chose to, at times, humanize him and at others show him to be the bad ass that he is. The book is action packed and moves quickly. There is no drawing out of secrets to lengthen the story. You're practically on the edge of your seat the whole time. I shouted at this book, laughed out loud, had minor heart attacks....I was invested! My one complaint is that I hate when authors pair the main character with characters I dislike / find unworthy. Last guy in should not get the man! For the number of people that were in love with Nick, the author's pick was my last choice. For those worried about the m/m aspect of the story, let me assure you that the physical aspect is never really focused on. There are zero sex scenes in this book; they're simply alluded to.

I know that I should read Book 2 next but it's the prequel to Book 1, and I just don't have that kind of patience. It's on to Book 3 for me. I will come back to it but I just need to see if Nick gets with the program in the romance department. Maybe the mortal can have a little accident...fighting Nightwalkers is quite dangerous work after all and Nick has many enemies. :-)

This is a full-length (300 page-ish) book that is WELL worth more than the Kindle price I paid. You will not be disappointed.

„•*°*!Gwendolyn!°**★°**★ says

Good Story, but, it left me so Frustrated.

Gosh....really....

I tried, really I did. But OMG, this book is not for me.

The plot was fab.

The energy within the pages is awesome.

But, as a whole I was frustrated because

1. The amount of love affairs in this book was overwhelming. At least for me THEY were, key word...THEY.
2. The love.... honestly I just need one guy to be in love with one guy and not every guy to be in love with the one guy, that one guy...yes, EVERYBODY FELL HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE PER SE, WITH ONE GUY... NICK ^_^.
3. The fade to black love scenes simply pissed me off. Yes, as I complain about all the love affairs, I also complain about the gawd awful fade to black. I don't even like erotic' books much. But, fade to black, always pisses me off in adult books.

So, I might resume this series one day. But, today I must say I'm frustrated I give up. If I find that the fade to black is not an occurrence via reviews in the following books.

Ultimately DNF

Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says

've been waiting a long time to finally read this book and I was mesmerized by the astonishing world building in this story. It's a sci-fi/ paranormal story where one can see that a lot of planning went into creating a complex and believable world with 3-dimensional characters that truly captivate the reader. There are no explicit scenes, but they are not needed as the author manages to showcase the characters' vulnerabilities and intimacies in other ways. The sci-fi aspects are very creative and work well with the story; they are also very visual and add a lot to the feeling of exploring a very new world that is not known to the reader.

There is a religious aspect that is important but never feels preachy or out of place. It seemed important to counterweight the damned. I would have loved, however, to read about the reactions of the human population in general, especially about the religious implications (existence of a higher power, angels, ...) and learn how foreign governments reacted (like England and France where part of the story took place), as I really did enjoy the political elements of the story.

I know that some people have problems with multiple POVs and I do as well at times, but with the complexity of relationships in this story it helped me a lot to get the whole picture.

I'm usually not a great fan of many flashbacks, but they all added a lot to the story and helped me tremendously to understand the dynamic between the characters and the magical races better. However it always took me a moment to get back to the present afterwards. I also must admit that I am somewhat cautious about the second book, because it seems to be completely in the past and I like to continue a story to the future instead of going back before the events I already read about happened, but since this book hasn't disappointed me that's not gonna stop me from reading the next stories.

One of my favorite aspects beside the great storybuilding and the creative sci-fi aspects are the flawed characters. The story never pretends that any character is beyond reproach. They all have flaws and weaknesses and even the good guys of the story make difficult decisions, can be brutal, wrong, merciless and have to live with the decisions they have made and the consequences of their actions.

Though I wondered: (view spoiler)

This is a **MUST READ** that I can recommend to anyone who wants to read something with substance and complexity that is never the less fun to read and addictive in a way that one doesn't really feel the length of the book :)

Jason Bradley says

amazing work! The world building in this series is beyond compare. I suggest this to anyone who loves epic stories.

Jo * Smut-Dickted * says

I'm not sure I can add something someone else hasn't. Great world building. Told in what felt like sort of a staccato style that was just very fresh for me - it kept me on my toes. Enjoyed learning about the characters - so different, so unique, so not perfect. Absolutely enjoyable. Frankly I want to know more about what happened after and I understand the next book is what happened before -- do these need to be read in order?

Roger - president of NBR United - says

This book couldn't have been better for if the Author sat down and asked what I want in a book from magic user and vampire to redemption and lot of romance and character development with all of this is was still a fast paced read that I didn't want to put down but had to because of work. I fully recommend this book to everyone.

Sheri says

Daywalkers, Nightwalkers, and Sentinels. They are out there.

This was a great book. It was fast paced and well written. The world building was amazingly complex and detailed. The author was able to put his thoughts and ideas into words in such a way that helped to create this stunning portrait for his readers.

The inner structure of the different races was incredibly intricate. It was a bit confusing at times trying to understand the hierarchy within each group and the alliances and rivalries between the vampire species, but it was well thought out and written well.

The characters were great. Nick, the protagonist, was easily likable. All of the characters were complex with deep backgrounds and painful pasts, though I found emotional attachments to the characters difficult, which is one of the only things I found lacking in the book. When I am reading I want to be able to feel for the characters, and it just did not happen here. There were also times throughout the story where it seemed to jump time without warning, and that a bit confusing as well.

Overall, this was an entertaining story.

Interview with author Arshad Ahsanuddin:
Making Connections Blog

SueM says

This 2nd edition with new edits has managed to eliminate the feeling of distance from the characters I encountered in the previous edition. The scene with Michael Danvers' parents now really makes me cry as I feel closer to Nick than I did previously. It is now truly a 5 star read for me.

Katy says

If I could, I would give this 10 out of 5 stars – this is one of the most amazing things I've read in ... a long time. I was initially intrigued by Arshad's description in our forum that it was a "gay vampire" story – but it is SO much more than that. It is a romance of unbelievable beauty; it is an adventure, full of thrills, excitement and terror; it is a science fiction story, part space opera, and has elements of self-sacrifice for the greater good; it is about vampires, and magic-users and humans and how difficult it is for everyone to try to live together – but how wonderful it is when they do. It is about redemption, hope, love and growth. It is ... AMAZING. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

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Syfy says

I don't quite know what to write. My eyes are still blurry with tears from the end of chapter 45. But never fear, by the end it was HEA... until the next time....

There's a glossary, principal cast of characters, and timeline provided. That was a good place to start.

Thus armed, I begin a 47 chapter journey....

In part one we meet Jeremy and get to experience his undiluted introduction to the world as it really is. Within the span of moments, Jeremy goes from being a terrorist, a devout follower of Medusa, to throwing his lot in with magic wielding vampires and stalwart Sentinels. Believe me, Jeremy did not fall in with the riff-raff this time.

Nick and Scott, Anaba, Layla and Takeshi... so many wonderfully crafted characters.

The economic writing style is amazingly effective, giving a wealth of information at light speed. It's smart, very readable with crisp, clear imagery. The action is immediate, dire, and handled so efficiently it feels like a well choreographed movie.

The depth and history of this veiled society is revealed bit by bit, as well as the relational ties between the players. Flashbacks, as well as small jumps back or forward in time, are clearly identified and strategically placed.

Being aware of each persons numerous titles and standing in the hierarchy is imperative to keep track of the goings on, but hardly a chore, as I became more and more invested in their lives and fascinated by the powers each of them wielded.

The level of betrayal, deceit, and behind the scene maneuvers employed is staggering. So multilayered, the intricacy is a delight to read.

These people's love affairs are no exception either! With psychic ability, and immortality in the mix, that translates to powder-keg emotion fiercely guarded and dangerously suppressed. When loosed? Oh the drama!

A romantic,science fiction fantasy of epic proportions for sure, one to satisfy the niggling government conspiracy theorist in all of us nerdy folk. I thoroughly and completely enjoyed this. More than pleasantly surprised actually, because I received a copy free of charge for an honest review. I honestly did not expect it to be this good!

(At the end of ch 13, the illustration? Day-um I want that as a tattoo!)
