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In this sequel to "Crimson Kiss, " Meghann O'Neill continues to run from Simon Baldevar, the creature responsible for her immortality. Taking human form, Meghann is found by Simon, who takes her as a vessel of his desires. Now Meghann is pregnant with his child. Simon has always believed a vampire's offspring will possess all their strengths and none of their weaknesses, and he will stop at nothing to possess his "child of the night."

Crimson Night Details

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From Reader Review *Crimson Night* for online ebook

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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It's not exactly a secret that I like dark romance novels, especially when it comes to bodice rippers and vampire novels. *CRIMSON KISS* was basically a combination of both, and I really enjoyed it, despite the dark content. And trust me, there was a *lot* of dark content: sexual, physical, and psychological torture; rape and abuse; bloody or gory descriptions; mentions of pedophilia & bestiality. It could have been a really awful book but I felt for the most part that Trisha Baker handled the content well. The relationship between Meghann and Simon Baldevar was obviously an unhealthy one, and even when she kept going back to him again and again, it was obvious that she was still caught up in his web. *CRIMSON KISS* made me feel uncomfortable, but it was also an interesting portrait of twisted characters who become infinitely more debauched and depraved with the jaded ennui that comes from immortality.

CRIMSON NIGHT is...not like that. First, let me just say that if you choose to write your (anti)hero as twisted as Simon is, you have two choices if you want him to end up with the heroine: he either (a) has to enter one hell of a redemption arc (and have a viable reason for wanting to do so), or (b) has to completely and utterly break the heroine psychologically, to the point that it becomes a grim Stockholm syndrome mess. I have seen stories that took both routes, and one usually becomes a dark romance, and the other a dark tragedy. Those are really the only two options when it comes to antihero "love" interests, but I got the impression that Baker wasn't sure which route to pick, so she tried to do both at the same time.

It did not work.

SPOILERS AND GRAPHIC CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS

CRIMSON KISS was a portrait of abuse. Simon isolated Meghann from her family, tortured her, abused her, forced her to kill and torture others (including her ex-fiance). He came damn close to killing her, just to prove a point! She was kept in isolation, unless he wanted to parade her around in front of others as a trophy to exert his power over her and show just how confident he was that she couldn't escape. When Meghann did escape, she wasn't just trying to kill him for her freedom. No, she was subverting his control, which he took personally. This was the set-up for what I thought was going to be an intense revenge arc, with the two of them resorting to bloody Machiavellian schemes to get back at one another, culminating in either hate-infused lust, or a twisted mutual respect (like the kind that Hannibal had for Clarice).

Instead, in CRIMSON NIGHT, I honestly felt that Baker set about ret-conning the events of the previous book. First, Simon decides that he doesn't want revenge on Meghann because she didn't really mean to kill him. It was an "accident." At first I thought this was arrogance on his part, but Meghann also seems to corroborate this later on. Boom - angsty revenge plot out the window. Second, Meghann starts looking back on her past with Simon with a rosy lens. She talks about the fun outings they had together, how much she enjoyed having sex with him. It's been a while since I read the book, but I don't remember this happening. She was miserable all the time. She was his prisoner. She was embarrassed by his weird kinks and depressed about being his sexual prisoner. Seeing his treatment of her seemingly romanticized like this really put a bad taste in my mouth.

Simon is still a bad guy in this book. His treatment of his sire, Nicholas, was awful. At one point, he uses his mind powers to convince someone to commit suicide. He disparages the two wives he had before Meghann for being unattractive (I think he describes her as being like "lard") and weak, respectively. He refers to the gay vampire, Charles, as a sodomite/catamite so many times that I lost count. There are some graphic descriptions of torture in this book, as in the other, but they are less frequent. Mostly, we just get to see Simon demean other women (and gay people), while Meghann admires his thickly lined pockets, sexual prowess, and predilection for intimidating people.

Then there was some stuff that was just weird. Weird sexual things involving blood and lactation (almost all the sex in this book involves blood, so if that's a quirk factor for you, be forewarned). The vampire pregnancy. The science used to explain said pregnancy (this was actually kind of cool). Simon's druidic/alchemy powers. Demon summoning. Entire swaths of the story set in Elizabethan England (and more ret-conning to make Simon look like a more sympathetic character). This story was just...weird. Uncomfortably weird. Weirdly uncomfortable. Uncomfortable.

You're probably asking yourself why I didn't give it a one-star since I hated it so much. Well, that's the thing. I didn't hate it. I hated the romance, and I hated Simon, and by the end of the story I even hated Meghann because she was just *so* passive and idiotic. But I didn't hate the story. I couldn't put the book down, and finished it in a day. I've never read a vampire story quite like this.

Whether that's a good thing or a bad thing is entirely up to you.

3 stars

Sunny Wolfe says

[I am very frustrated right now. I just read the ending again for the 2nd time, before moving on to the last

book. Okay - I understand why Simon had to leave. I thought he could have put off this flight a few more days since Meghann just woke up!! Instead of telling her on the beach that he was leaving, taking their son, and he would see her in about 20 years!!!!

Arghhhhhhh!!!!

But this is why I am mad.

Meghann - May

Anya says

My favorite book series ever!
This is just pure awesomeness!
It's just simply GOLDEN!

This is a dream cast I made for this series
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVKTRQ...>

Vellini says

2.5 stars

Really disapointed by Meghann, she became weak and stupid and couldn't stand by any decision she took, suffices for Simon to touch her and everything he did was forgiven. Simon on the other hand, evil, great villain, he was the only reason I finished reading.

Tai says

I really went back and forth on this one, hence the 3.2 rating (I think I've been unconsciously using Karen's "start with 4 stars" principle).

I liked the book, but all those flashbacks to the past had my mind wandering at times and hoping the book was finished. I know the first book had them too, but I guess since they involved the main characters being dealt with, it kept my attention throughout. Simon's flasbacks on the other hand, dealt with people I didn't care about at all, so at times it felt like those long winded narratives that your grandparents made you sit through as a child when all you wanted to do is go outside and play.

I was a bit disappointed with the way the author decided to change up bits of the background story to try to make you have more sympathy for Simon. I expected her to do something to push Meghann more to his side, but the way she did it in this one kinda overrode everything from the first book, and made it illogical. Maybe I wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't read both of these books back to back, but I did, and with everything from the first book still fresh in my mind, it was a little difficult to get over. Also, one of the main reasons I loved the first book was that the author somehow made me love Simon's character without making any excuses for his evil ways. Trying to clear up his back story in this book just cancels all of that out.

Meghann was so wishy washy at times, I really wanted to slap her. Yes, I want her to be with Simon overall. But after all the things he did to her in the first book, she should at least have him work a bit harder to gain her trust. Instead, a ride in his Ferrari, a few picnics, and him wiping her tears away was enough for her to be apologizing to HIM for leaving him in the first book.

Wyñter says

I was so happy when they finally got together again... but than ending up crying cause they can't stay together.

Charlotta says

Wow! I don't even know what to say, but I'll try for the purposes of this review ? I loved this book. We get to see Simons not see evil side, but he's still pretty much totally evil. I love him. Alcuin, you snake! I did not see that coming. Jimmy, just go away and die, seriously, just go.

It was great to read a bit of Simons history, and the real love that exists between him and Meghann, that try as she might she just can't shake. I'm super excited for the next one

Shelley says

This is the second book in the Crimson trilogy and also one of the darkest, and more bizarre books you will read in the vampire genre. Most of this book focuses on the life and times of Simon Baldevar from the time he was a young boy, to when he was transformed into a vampire unpto and including his torrid affair with Meghann O'Neill, and the birth of his twin children.

I have to say, yes, Simon is a real bastard and evil SOB in this book. He goes out of his way to make each and everyone he meets terrified of him. When it comes to Meghann, however, it seems that Simon has a heart and knows love afterall. Has Simon actually changed? I highly doubt anything will pierce his black heart, but time and the last book in the trilogy will tell. Simon is a brutal monster who forced vampirism on Meghann to take her away from her family, then used sexual bondage and spiritual servitude to keep her under wraps.

I found Meghann to be really selfish and broodish over the course of this entire storyline. Yes, we find ot that thanks to Meghann's hard work, Jimmy survives his transformation into a vampire, but ends up fleeing after finding out that Meghann married Simon to "keep her safe from their enemies." Meghann is such a masochistic and self-destructive character, you find yourself having a hard time actually rooting for her. Subconsciously she loves Simon, but hates what he does to her.

This book is a long read,and I found myself reading over paragraphs that just seemed to dwell on the same information over and over again. The fact that Meghann finds herself back in Simons arms, goes to prove that she is as much of a sadist as he is.

Meghann goes from wanting to abort her own child, to having twins that are also Simons. Simon has

Meghann so twisted up, that even she admits that he didn't rape her, and get her pregnant against her will. This, of course, is all horse hockey, as anyone who read the first book will tell you.

I find myself kind of annoyed by the undertones of this book. Meghann believes that she is so strong and able to take care of herself. But, when the time comes, it's people like Charles, Jimmy and Simon who come to her rescue time and time again.

What we learned:

1. Vampire pregnancies are in fact, very, very rare.
2. The only other previous vampire couple to try to have a child, ended up with the mother, Melina, dying before the baby is even born. The baby, of course, is still borned (dead). Lucian the father ended up taking his own life so he didn't have to live with the failure.
3. Meghann and Simon's son Mikal is called the Philosophers Stone. He will, prophecy claims, be able to walk in the sunlight, and if his parents drink his blood, they will be able to do the same.
4. Meghann ends up having a girl as well, Elizabeth, who was born mortal, and ends up staying with her and Charles after Simon leaves to protect Mikal from his enemies.
5. 350 previously, it appears that Meghann and Simon's destiny was already foretold. She was named his Soror Mystica, or mystical sister. She is the female half of the male-female partnership. In alchemical lore these two work together seeking the philosopher's stone, or Holy Grail.
6. The one thing that did change over the course of this book, less violence. I'm not saying there wasn't any, it was must muted a bit more than the first installment.

Final book in series: Crimson Shadows

MBR says

5+ Stars for the 2nd Book in the Crimson Trilogy!

Crimson Night picks up where Crimson Kiss, the first book in the Crimson trilogy left off. Fascinated as I was to continue with the tempestuous love between Lord Simon Baldevar, a 400 year old vampire and his at times reluctant and fiery consort Meghann Katherine Agnes O'Neill, I had to take a breather and read a bit of good old romance before rushing headlong into this one.

When I picked up the 2nd book in this trilogy, I was prepared to face more of the same variety of horror and macabre scenes that I encountered in book 1. However I was pleasantly surprised to find out this book tended to be a bit mellow compared to the first book and it delivered more on the development of the relationship and the feelings between Simon and Meghann.

This story kicks off with Meghann realizing that her last encounter with Simon has rendered her pregnant and Meghann continues to grow weaker as days pass by because of her body's inability to hold in whatever blood that she tries to consume, something that is vital for her survival. What Meghann does not know is the fact that that very night Simon forged an unbreakable link between them that ties them together which would let Simon know the minute his Meghann needs his help, something which Simon is betting on to happen since he knows just what the rare happenstance of a pregnancy between a vampire couple means on the mother.

Frantic with worry and not knowing what else to do, Dr. Charles Tarleton, Meghann's faithful companion

and best friend in the whole world seeks out Dr. Lee Winslow, a brilliant gynecologist who also is an ex-lover. Though Lee is far from happy to hear from the man who broke his heart 10 years ago, there is a shared history between Lee and Meghann that makes Lee swear to do everything he can to help Meghann survive what looks to be a very risky pregnancy.

With an abortion totally ruled out because of Meghann's weak condition, Lee barely manages to understand the complexity behind Meghann's rejection of her natural instinct to drink blood and it is only Simon's timely appearance that saves Meghann from wasting away until death comes calling. Once again, Meghann becomes dependent on Simon for nourishment which sickens her to the extreme but with no other viable option in front of her, Meghann concedes to Simon's wishes for the moment in return for Simon's acceptance in allowing Meghann to take care of her mortal ex-lover Jimmy who has been rendered insane by Simon's cruelty when turning him into an immortal as a means of revenge on Meghann.

As any mortal pregnant woman, Meghann too is susceptible to mood swings and emotional upheavals from which she finds solace only in Simon, her Master's arms, something that makes Meghann continually question herself on the reason as to why she feels such conflicting emotions when it comes to Simon.

Simon is a man who is biding his time, who has learnt from his past mistakes with Meghann, who swears that he would never hurt her again, and continues to charm her and woo her back into his life with his tender side, something that only Meghann is witness to.

Before long, Meghann has to face the true nature of her unchanging feelings towards Simon which proves to be the best thing that ever happens to her as Simon loves, cherishes and takes care of her in a way that totally melted all my antagonistic feelings towards Simon, which were at an all time high during the initial stages of the story.

What I loved most about the 2nd book was finding about Simon's past from his point of view, which takes the reader along with Meghann on a journey of discovery as to why Simon is the way he is. Though there are no excuses whatsoever for his penchant for debauchery and despicable behavior, you can't help but empathize with Simon and nod along in something close to understanding as to why Simon turned out the way he is. Simon's take on his past life opens up the doors to a side of Alcuin, Meghann's savior in book 1 that I always suspected of, but in the end I was surprised when Alcuin did not turn out to be a true villain in the end.

It is the relationship that fosters and grows between Simon and Meghann that captivated me throughout the better half of the book as I reveled in the care and attention that Simon languished on the mother of his children. Though Meghann continually swings back and forth between her decision to stay with Simon and completely give herself to him at first, Meghann learns to accept the fact that some part of her would always wholeheartedly love Simon no matter what cruelties lie beneath his beauty and charm. And it was quite refreshing to see Lee and especially Charles's view on Simon take a turn for the better as he realizes that the immortal whom everyone keeps saying has no heart finally begins to show signs that he indeed has one, and is vulnerable towards the only woman he has ever loved.

This book invoked so many emotions from deep within me as I read along. Loathing and contempt towards Simon were one of the first strong feelings that took root inside of me during the first couple of chapters as I saw nothing in Simon that was worthy of my treacherous heart's yearning to see at least one redeemable quality in my villainous hero. However as I read along, Trisha Baker managed to make my emotions do a total 180 degree turn as I was seduced right along with Meghann to fall bit by bit in love with a vampire who would cross no bounds whatsoever in his attempt to keep Meghann by his side. And towards the end, it was

deep and utter sadness and a feeling of melancholy that spread through me as I realized that a happily ever after was not possible for Meghann and Simon, as the one thing that was supposed to bring them closer than ever ends up being the catalyst that drives them apart - for now.

I recommend this series for those who are interested in reading a tale of love between vampires that is a tad different from what you normally encounter. But mind you, these stories are not for the faint of heart because you encounter many vicious and heartbreaking things before you get to the bittersweetness of it all towards the end.

I picked out some quotes from this book as well, scenes that just have to be shared in my review, which otherwise would be incomplete in my opinion.

(view spoiler)

MelaDWolf says

4.5 "What the fu*k did I just read" stars!

This book was part two of Crimson series and I couldn't move my eyes away. It was unbelievable, unthinkable book who would make you understand that nothing is like it seems to be.

This book left me without words. Everything that I thought I know about first book about this series, every my word, every my theory,...this book broke down. Literally, in just few sentences author broke down every word from first book.

Even, if this book is most from heroine POV, we still get few hero (or anti-hero?) POV. You know that old one "Every story has two side."?? Well, this one is about what our hero say what happened in the past.

It is weird to call Simon hero. He is NOT. He is arrogant, evil killer who only care about himself...and Meghan- our heroine.

The problem was- you can't really trust Simon. He can lie and he do that with smile.

On some level, that is reason why I liked this book so much. You never know what you read is true or not.

You don't know what to think. You don't know should you like characters. And whenever...and I mean WHENEVER... you make your own conclusion, with a lot of evidence in book, it just BOOM!

Nothing! Everything you was so sure that is going to happen didn't. Every character that you started to like, just made you hate them.

And still you can't move away from book, because it is so unpredictable.

About characters... I'm again going to say that Simon is evil man and you can't love him, but God, his love to Meghan, was like little light in dark. Because of that light you start to find something else to like. But, it's not important how dark, homophobic, old fashioned, cruel this man was (and I hate every one of that characteristic), I still find him one of most intrigued character of any book that I read.

I didn't like Meghan at all. She was just so stupid and blind to a lot of things in world. When I think about Meghan, all time I heard one song in my head, from singer in my country. It goes something like "She falls in love 5 to 6 times, in every three minutes." When I look at this I can see that It sounds sooo much better on Bosnian language (Love you Zdravko Colic!!!).

And no, Meghan didn't fall in love that often, but she did change her mind so much.. Relationship that Simon and Meghan had was described in one sentence.

"I love you, almost as much,as I hate you."

Also, I wouldn't give even a thought about forgiving Simon, but he does found way when thing is about Meghan.

I didn't feel anything special about another characters, if you don't count little bit of hate that I have for Jimmy.

So, on the end, if characters were so shit like, why the hell did I give 4.5 rating??? Because of all surprise that this book have. Today, books are so easy to read and to predict. On this one I don't know what is going to happen in next page.

To be honest, I was going to give this book 5 stars rating, but on the end, Meghan was much stupider that I expected, and I was like "I knew that you are stupid,but this much?? Hell,NO!!!" .I mean, Meghan, for the God sake, what the fuc*ing hell where you thinking!? I just can't and won't understand that last scene. I'm not even going to try, because doing something stupid like that is lowest of lowest.

Caroline says

I'll make this as **comprehensible** as possible. This one isn't as *macabre* as Crimson Kiss but I still found this one a *refreshing change* for Simon's character. In a more narrative manner, Simon's past/history were given ***proper telling and justification*** on why Simon turned and made himself like that, how he transformed, what is the *significance* of every 'person' that *came and were* part of his life and why he end up killing them and how he **gradually** became the **Vile.Evil.Fiend** that he is now. The 'scenes' were jumping on going back to the *past* and back to the *present* through **Simon's story-telling**. Crimson Night is lighter than

the first book; Crimson Kiss. But I'm grateful that Simon's character was **slightly redeemed**, Perhaps he really does *love* Meghann, the **tender, gentle and soft side of Simon** is introduced to us here. Perhaps he *learned* that the only way to **reconcile** with Meghann and get her by his side again is to convince her by **treating her with tender and gentle ministrations and by treating her as a woman**, maybe not necessarily 'equal' but to treat her as a **fellow vampire being and not a toy or a doll to DOMINATE with**, probably Meghann made quite an *impact* and an effective *influence* through Lord Simon Baldevar's life(and also perhaps Meghann's pregnancy helped to soften Simon's **unfathomable** character) but we still know that he is still the **Ruthless.Despicable.Evil.Reprobate sonofabitch** that we all know he is and perhaps it's just lurking and *hiding* underneath.

I also got kinda **annoyed** with Meghann in here (you know **SUNNY, you're definitely right about this one =D**). She's a **stupid.annoying.fickle twit** who I think she **forgot that she's Simon's fucking legal wife**(you married her DUMBO!) and I think she *indeed* became a **cheap promiscuous** in that 40 yrs. length of time away from Simon(of course '*moments*' with Jimmy Delacroix is an exception) you know, what happened to that **good Catholic girl who strictly adheres to the 'sex after marriage' thing?** Being a vampire is no exception to being **promiscuous**....oh well it's the way how she want it and it's her way of life, maybe being a vampire *corrupted* her and perhaps she's thinking that she's old and mature enough and she's a 'lonely' vampire who just wants *sex* every now and then when ~~the itch strikes in~~ or when she *fancies it* and also she's thinking that "well I'm a vampire and totally almost *indestructible* so why do I have to be **scared of contracting STD?**, I'm devoid of disease and death so the hell with it, I'll go fuck anyone I want"oh well, damn her for being a **'dumb bitch'** just like what Jimmy said.

I'm **definitely excited** to read the next one; Crimson Shadows. And I **totally understand** why Simon *have to do that* in the end(after Meghann gave birth) so I'm also kinda anticipating what will be the next complicated conflict.

For the benefit of the rest(hello there Sunny! :D), here's my very own Lord Simon Baldevar, Earl of Lecarrow.

And this will be Lady Meghann Katherine Baldevar(former Ms. O'Neill), Countess(yeech lol) of Lecarrow.

Melanie says

The women is a hypocrite and the guy is a psycho. But he is a reforming psycho and he does have some redeeming qualities. Better than the last book

Julz says

DNF 64% I must confess to loosing interest after secondary characters ruined story.

The Charmer: Lets Talk About Books says

Meghan, Meghan, Meghan.....(sigh).....maybe she can't help herself. Simon will always be a muthafuka but he is hard to resist. I am still searchin book stores for the final book of this series, and I've had no luck in doin so. I want to read it right now. I really didn't care to read another vampire book but I'm glad I came across these. They are not like other vampire books; the main vampire in this series is truly the bad guy, and I like that a lot. So thanks to the older lady in the book store who brought her books in to sell. To bad she didn't have the third book.

Karen says

[She's selfish, materialistic, and just as amoral as Simon though she seems to think herself above him. Her bi-polar, I love Simon/don't love him, love Jimmy/who's Jimmy, was so frustrating! Though Simon may act tender and loving towards her now, it aggravated me how easi
