



Forged Of Shadows

Jessa Slade

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THE WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL HAS RAGED FOR MILLENNIA, WITH THE MARKED SOULS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. BUT THE NEW GIRL DOESN'T PLAY BY THE OLD RULES.

Liam Niall never meant to be a leader. Having barely survived the Irish potato famine, he escaped to Chicago, where he lost half his soul and gained a wayward band of demon-possessed warriors. Now, as they face a morphing evil, Liam grows weary and plagued by doubt --- until a new weapon falls into his hands. Her name is Jilly Chan. To save her demon-ridden soul, Liam must win her for his battle ... and his bed.

Waging a one-woman war against threats to the street kids she mentors, Jilly won't be any man's woman or weapon. But Liam --- with his hard eyes, soft brogue, and compelling hands --- is a danger to both her rebellious independence and her heart.

Two halved souls sharing one fierce passion will sear a fresh scar across the city. Who's in danger now?

Forged Of Shadows Details

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Author : Jessa Slade

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From Reader Review Forged Of Shadows for online ebook

Paranormal Romance says

The heroine has always been referred to as a rebel without a chance. Her upbringing with a mother who basically gave up and abandoned her 2 young daughters to the string of 'uncle' she brought home, has morphed the heroine into a woman with a mission. Though she does her best and tries her hardest, it seems that no matter how much effort she puts into her aid, she's never able to truly help. Now, she's fired from her social aid job and facing the bleak future of not being able to help wayward teens. Then, one night, she's attacked by this horrible demonic creature and saved by this giant hammer wielding man. This man, who sports a tattoo on his temple and has the psychical presence of someone important, tells her she's been possessed by a demon and is not a part of his little Club of the Damned. But the heroine isn't a team player. She only agrees to join because it offers her the chance to stop the drug infecting the streets and the kids she watches out for. She certainly has no desire to be a soldier in the hero's little army. The hero is a man who was always destined to lead but who takes this position so seriously that it has literally controlled his whole existence. Every second he is in charge means there's another chance he will make an order that results in the end of one of his soldiers or the end of the world. He feels every burden like a rock on his shoulders. But he knows the heroine is the most dangerous thing to his fragile control. She is insubordinate and blatant about it. She has ideas about changing how things operate without taking into consideration just how long he's been doing things. She is brash and impulsive and dismissive.....and he wants her so badly he can hardly breathe. Perhaps that the most frightening thing of all, the desire he has for her and the bond that's threatening to rattle his world of guilt, torment and duty. But neither of them are willing to submit to the notion of fated love and so, while they may be intimate, it's always with a firm wall that prevents any tender feelings. Or so they think. But when the shit hits the fan and they realize that without that bond, without that trust, the enemy will win and the battle will be lost. They have to struggle to accept it. But at that point, the surrender is just as sweet because despite their best attempts love as managed to sneak in.

Another great book for this series and the final book I had to read until the collection was complete. Funny enough it was the leader that got the last introduction and as expected, this book, like the others, was full of juicy angst and tortured characters. However, this time around, it was a hint of humor laced through it to battle the drama. It had a feeling that they were mocking their own damnation for most of the time and though the torment was honest and real, it gave this book brief moments of lighter tones. The hero and heroine were at odds for most of the book because the heroine was *jungho* and all about doing what she needed to do to save those she cared about while the hero was stuck in his ways. It was all fear that drove both of them. Fear to lose themselves and everything around them. Fear of failure. And fear of surrendering to the chance that their eternal lives could have hope and love. The plot was okay. I wasn't completely over the moon with the book as the heroine's character could be annoying at times. When she endangered her fellow possessed with her selfish need to prove herself, I was annoyed. But she smartened by the end and one thing she never was, was a coward. I thought this was a good book and I am so please with this series and really hope to see more from this author.

Shauni says

Intriguing, Intense, Impassioned, Engrossing all words that could easily describe Jessa Slade's *Forged of Shadows* and all of them would be true. Jessa writes a compelling story one that seems to climb into your psyche and stay with you. *Forged of Shadows* is the second book in Ms Slade's *Marked Soul's Series*.. the league has won a major battle and yet four months later evil seems to be gaining hold in the world instead of

offering them a moment's reprieve.

Into the battle comes Jilly Chan, a diminutive power house that refuses to allow life to control her destiny. Jilly had the kind of childhood we read about, a needy mother who went from one man to the next, each one lost himself. A brother who escaped life via a cult and a sister who escaped through drugs and prostitution and Jilly thinking she failed to save them never understood that she too was lost. She is determined to save as many lost souls as she can. Of course, she has no idea that she is in all actuality fighting for their very souls. One chance meeting, a glance and temptation was offered and in a dream accepted. One man calls to her.. promises a chance and yet she refuses to let any man control her.

Liam Niall (doesn't the name alone evoke thought of lush green hills and delightfully decadent nights?) the reluctant leader of The League. Liam wants nothing more than to protect what is and he considers the talya of the league his and to fight evil. Confused by the changes brought with the mate bond of Sera and Archer, Liam is convinced that they bring destruction to the league. That their bond can not be good and yet when Jilly Chan walks into his life he is lost, again. Liam, being the true leader that he is has to battle his desire for Jilly, sure that she will be his destruction or he hers. Refusing to understand that with the bond they can become so much more.

Together, they travel a road sure to challenge them.. they must learn how to work their bond, how to work together and how to accept that in the end they have no choice. That together their tattered souls become whole. I enjoy the concept and soul mates however an author chooses to describe it and Ms Slade's use of the bond mate works. The couples realize that they would never have really looked at the other in "normal" circumstances. Liam is arrogant, domineering, controlling and worse the Authority.. just the type that Jilly would run from had she met him in other circumstances.. Jilly on the other hand is sensuality in a small package a lure to Liam who is sure should never get involved with anyone. To him Jilly is the temptation that will lead his demon back to hell. And yet, they work, united they have the ability to see and release the pieces of soul that remain floating after evil destroys the body.

They find in their fight that the league is up against an old enemy they thought dead and that he had found a way to release a new demon on to the world AND that while the league fights the mate bond He has discovered it's true power. That one is stronger when one connects with the other half of their soul.

This book just like *Seduced by Shadows* was dark and driven. You don't enjoy it you inhale it. It possesses and pulls at you never letting you go. Most definitely not a light read but a very good one.

Shauni

For more reviews on Jessa Slade and others visit [Tea and Book](#)

Terripatrick says

FORGED OF SHADOWS by Jess Slade is the second in the new MARKED SOULS series.

In Book 1 - *SEDUCED BY SHADOWS*, readers are introduced to the league of talya, possessed by teshuva, keeping the streets of Chicago relatively clean of a legion of demonic emanations. The talya, as immortal repentant demons are really good at cleaning up the slime but their job takes a new turn with a female talya. What happens when you introduce a determined woman into a cluster of warriors? The world implodes!

In Book 2 - FORGED OF SHADOWS begins four months later with all the slimy brilliance, amazing dynamics and another female talya. Liam has led the league in the battle against evil seeping through the veil for over a century, but everything changed with the mating of Archer and Sera. Now Liam has a greater challenge. Jilly Chan is a rebel in search of a cause and not displeased at superhuman powers but there is no way she's mating with Liam just so he can control her as a new warrior for his cause. The evil has morphed beyond the powers of the teshuva and the league now have to learn to fight as a team instead of rouge warriors.

Jessa Slade has created a dark and dramatic world where the action flies off the page and the dialogue is vibrant. Every page is rich with a full cast of unique characters and graphic action. FORGED OF SHADOWS takes the reader deeper into the horrors hidden from mortal sight and the dark powers that are working to benefit humanity, even though they really just want to redeem themselves.

This is a series that shows great promise for many books to come. Ms. Slade's talent for metaphor and dark quips is enhanced by sensual scenes and a wonderful romance that requires a huge sacrifice with potential for immortal rewards.

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Styles says

I presume you know what the book is about. I'm letting you know what I liked or disliked about it.

I enjoyed this book a bit more than the first in the series (Seduced by Shadows). It was a bit easier to follow; not as chaotic. It seems to me that's due to Ms. Slade easing up on the intellectual aspect of her writing style. While both books were easy enough to understand, the second was just easier to follow. I didn't have to work so hard to keep up with the constant shift of focus/thought/emotions of the first book.

The chemistry wasn't as intense between Liam and Jilly as it was with Archer and Sera (sear-ah).

I'll keep reading the series as Jessa Slade impresses me as an author with amazing potential. Her talent is obvious and she's wicked smart. She's an author that will just keep getting better as she refines her craft. Once she synchronizes her style with the right genre she'll realize unlimited success. David Sedaris comes to mind when I think of Ms.Slade.

K. Lincoln says

The first in this series really tickled my fancy because of the spark of imagination apparent in the teshuva/repentant demon possessed against bad/demon/djinn possessed.

It was cool! Veil between the worlds being strained, malice and ferals preying on unsuspecting humans, and a fated-mate bond between a male and a female, both fighters.

There's still plenty of that world-building magic going around. And like Sera's death-counseling in book one, Jilly, heroine this time, is from a slightly different background than your run-of-the-mill urban fantasy heroine.

She counseled teens at a halfway house, sports spiked blue-dyed hair, and is of Asian descent. On top of this you actually get glimpses into her past life as a neglected/abused child and the consequence on her family, something all-too-often glossed over in other similiar characters.

And yet, you'll notice that this one got a slightly lower score than the first in the series. I guess I was willing to forgive the whole 'I can't be with you because of duty' reason keeping apart the romantic leads in the first book, but that, coupled with a kind of slow pace, and sometimes ambiguous dialogue, caught up with me in this second book.

Don't get me wrong, the sub characters are still interesting, the demons scary and yucky, and the romance present enough but not overwhelming the story. Corvus, the main bad guy, is presented in a more nuanced way, as well as the natural development of why female possessed are popping up now as well as the soul-stealing drug, solvo continues in a nice information arch.

But I expected the relationship between the leads to be slightly different or to grow in different ways, and while Archer and Sera from book 1 provide snarky comments on the developing romance in this book, it wasn't enough for me to fall in love with Jilly and Liam for their own sakes.

This Book's Food Designation Rating: That second helping at the buffet where you go back for all the really good things you liked the first time and they're great, but you are a little full and notice that the meat is a little tougher and the spices a bit more cloying than you remembered.

Lynsey (A Bookish Life) says

What the hell happened here? I really enjoyed book one, but I'm afraid this one was just disappointing on practically every level.

I was expecting this series to be very formulaic- and it is- as are nearly all these types of Paranormal series. The only one I can think of that really tries to shake things up a bit in terms of how the couple meet and what they have to face in each book, is J. R. Ward and her Brotherhood series. But anyway, I digress. So I was prepared (if not totally accepting) for it to start out the exact same way as the first book, with a new female coming into the League and for one of the warriors to be overwhelmingly drawn to her and for him to want to be the one to help her through her transition (which involves sex) and for them to fall in love yada, yada, yada. And honestly, I could have coped with that, and with this being almost a carbon copy of the first book even down to the same bad guy, had it had even just a smidgen of the same warmth and charm that book one had.

But it didn't.

The romance was as flat as a pancake. The angst and conflict between the main couple, League leader Liam Niall and Social worker-type Jilly Chan, was contrived and childish. The sex scenes were meh. The dialogue was in no way as amusing or charming as it was with Sera and Archer. The plot was dull as dishwater and the repeat of the bad guy made it even more so. The writing, which had been quite clever and poetic

previously, has also suffered a deterioration. I'm kind of gutted, really.

I don't think I will be continuing the series as it's going to be very hard to muster up any excitement for future instalments after I've been bored like this. I shouldn't ever have to be bored whilst reading. What up with that?

Juju221 says

When I started to read this I did not realise it was book 2 in a series, not that it bothers me, I am not the type of person who must start at the beginning and work their way through, if you are, be aware this is book 2. Book 1 is *Seduced by Shadows* and it looks really good. Could *Forged of Shadows* stand alone as a book, absolutely and I will say this now, loud and clear, I liked it! There you go, no waiting till the end to find out what I thought... I liked it. Would I have liked it more had I read the first book? I can't answer that, I think having prior knowledge of events would have helped me flesh out some of the scenes more, but this did not mar my understanding.

This is a good book in my opinion, why? It has the ingredients I like in Sci Fi or Urban Fantasy or Paranormal Romance or... *insert own term here* it is complicated with characters who embrace their complexities and push the boundaries of their story arc striving for more, for love, life a better existence. It is a book about hope, and how love can free you so hope can find you.

The main characters are Liam and Jilly: Liam, a 200 year old former Irish blacksmith who survived the famine but who became possessed by a repentant demon to become a warrior to fight evil and ultimately to lead his motley band of warriors. If you like your heroes lean, tall, mysterious and devilishly good looking (including facial markings) then Liam is the man for you. He takes his role as leader very seriously, determined to do a good job and slay evil with his hammer. When Jilly is thrown into the mix he doubts himself, wondering where this new path will take him, she is irreverent and exasperating and totally a match for him. When they meet explosions happen, physically, literally and metaphorically.

Jilly doesn't suffer fools gladly and after a difficult life and working as a social worker (youth worker) with street kids she has developed a thick skin, a wall about her emotions. She felt she couldn't 'save' her own family so she is trying to save others. Where Liam is the dark and the shadows Jilly is the fire and the speed, rushing in full force and learning as she goes. They truly compliment each other and through many trials develop their relationship. Jilly is a great female character endearing yet forceful and someone you come to care about.

The secondary characters are very interesting too, Archer and Sera who were the protagonists in the first story, and in particular the baddie Blackbird. I don't want to say too much and spoil anyone's reading. I was lucky enough to meet Jessa Slade after a blogger panel at AAD and she gave me book 3! I shall be starting it soon.

On the whole this is a complicated tale, full of intrigue, stick with it and it will take you on a fantastic journey. A great read, I give it 4 frilly knickers out 5.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Original review at Smexybooks-<http://www.smexybooks.com/2010/06/rev...>

Favorite Quote: "My world was always at stake. I just forgot I cared. Until I loved him."

Liam Niall is the leader of the League, a band of immortal warriors who are possessed by repentant demons. They now must fight evil to repent for their transgressions.

Liam never wanted to be a leader. Having barely survived the Irish potato famine, he escaped to Chicago and lost his soul. Now he and his warriors are fighting a losing battle as evil is gaining the upper hand. But as Liam starts to lose faith, a weapon drops literally into his lap. Her name is Jilly Chan. Jilly is a community service worker who's made it her main goal in life to save the street kids of Chicago. When one of her kids goes missing, Jilly takes to the streets to find him.

When Jilly finds herself trapped by "something" that means to kill her, Liam arrives and saves her life. Little does Jilly know that Liam has been searching for her. Jilly has a demon that's about to possess her and the transformation can be deadly. Liam is there to help her with the transformation. Jilly is on her way to becoming the second female talya known in history.

A talya is a human, usually male, who is possessed by a repentant demon. These demons possess humans to fight evil in order to return to a state of grace. Only a human who is trapped between a rock & a hard place surrounded by fire are up for possession. Once it happens, you are now part of the League.

Now, Jilly tries to deal with her new life status she is also drawn to Liam. But Liam has been fighting the battle for good for centuries and is not sure that Jilly is what he or the league needs. But as he and Jilly divulge deeper into the demons plaguing the city and into their own emotions it soon becomes clear that not all battles are fought in the streets of Chicago.

In the second book of The Marked Souls, Forged Of Shadows, we are once again drawn into the desperate lives of the league. And desperate is the only way I can think to describe them. They ride the edge of anger, fear, and loneliness. Their stories are dark and edgy. Seductive and sinister. I do feel that even though it can be read as a stand alone you would understand more by reading the first one in the series.

The premise hooked me from the start. Repentant demons trying to secure their place in grace by "shanghaiing" humans as vessels. Liam and Jilly are fantastic protagonists. Strong, stubborn, and loyal to their causes. Neither truly believes they deserve love. Liam is tired of the endless war and his losses. You can feel his weariness as you read. Jilly, even though she has to be in the league now, still has her own agendas and this causes some interesting conflicts between her and Liam. They both want what's best for their "charges" but hide behind their responsibilities to avoid commitment.

The word play is riveting and the story line is fast and action packed. I enjoyed that you don't know till the very end what the outcome would be. The supporting characters are intense and make for some humorous scenes. The villain is a study in contrasts and I was surprised by my feelings towards him. The beginning is a little slow because you are given a lot of technical information and explanations about the league and demons. Once you get past that it picks up speed and is hard to put down until the end.

Rating: 4/5

Tania says

"Forged of Shadows" by Jessa Slade. Book 2 in the Marked Souls series.

This book was OK. It focuses on Liam and Jilly. Liam is the leader of a group of men possessed by repentant demons. They are called talyans. Jilly is the second woman to be possessed by a repentant demon. (The first being Sera, from book 1)

Jilly and Liam are a mate-bonded pair (I'm still trying to figure out WHY they specifically have to be together. I don't recall an actual reason being given. It's more like, he ran into her first therefore they are a mate-bonded pair, kind of thing as far as I can tell. Was the same in the first book as well.) Jilly has a history of abandonment. Liam has issues being a leader. Put them together and you have a lot of misunderstandings between them. Mainly them not really trusting the other. They both feel "forced" into the relationship now that they have to work together to save the world.

The overall storyline was OK. The bad guy is the same one from the first book whom I did not like before and I still don't like now. He never really seems to do anything! He shows up at the end and just kind of stands around until Liam actually goes after him. A lot of internal issues with both main characters. I didn't really "feel the heat" between Liam and Jilly.

I am going to read the next installment in this series only because I bought all 4 books at a good price and I just can't leave a book unread. Hopefully the next one will grab my attention a little more.

Terri Patrick says

FORGED OF SHADOWS by Jess Slade is the second in the new MARKED SOULS series.

In Book 1 - SEDUCED BY SHADOWS, readers are introduced to the league of talya, possessed by teshuva, keeping the streets of Chicago relatively clean of a legion of demonic emanations. The talya, as immortal repentant demons are really good at cleaning up the slime but their job takes a new turn with a female talya. What happens when you introduce a determined woman into a cluster of warriors? The world implodes!

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Ann Aguirre says

A truly worthy follow-up to a fantastic debut. Recommend for those who enjoy Larissa Ione's books. The only problem is, now I have to wait until April for the next one.

Wendy *Sebella Blue* Mitchell says

This is the second book in Jessa's Marked Soul series. It chronicles the story of Liam, the leader of the Chicago league Talyans (humans possessed by repentant demons) and Jilly, a social worker dedicated to street kids, who is slated to possibly become a talyan. This is a DARK series and not for those looking for a quick cute read. It deals with characters who are jaded and just plain disillusioned with life and humanity in general. However through the new bonds being formed and the admission of female Talyans, a slim ray of hope and light begin to emerge.

This book was not nearly exhausting to read as the first installment of the series, and I was compelled to read it in one sitting. The characters were fleshed out more and the reader is pulled into their world. It is not a happy world and this series and the feeling of utter hopelessness and futility sometimes overwhelms the romantic aspects of the book. The chemistry between the main characters to me leaped off the page mainly because I was so desperate to see some joy brought to these unhappy people.

I highly recommend this series, but be prepared for what it is, and what you as the reader will need to invest.

Becky says

I really like the book. I can't wait to see what is next. I found the series at my library, Digital Library so I can read them on my kindle. But on this one I found they had it on audio. Jessa did a great job with how the story is written. The book flows from once scene to another and the characters work really well together.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

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Read the rest of my review at Smexy Books

Richard Bunaskavich says

Interesting book
