



## Dark Need

*Lynn Viehl*

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**AN ACHING EMPTINESS...**Homicide detective Samantha Brown is a tough, highly decorated cop. But for the past twelve lonely years, since she nearly died of a gunshot wound, she has felt a deep inner longing.

## **A LONG-LOST LOVE...**

The mysterious Lucan, with his timeless ability to seduce women, is focusing on the emotionally battered Samantha, who has awakened his wild memories of a long-ago love.

## **A PASSION THAT WILL BE FULFILLED.**

As Samantha pursues a deranged killer, her only clue is a medieval cross inscribed “Lucan”—the name of a man who owns a nightclub near the murder scene. Drawn into a seamy underworld, Samantha falls for Lucan, who believes that he’s a vampire and that Samantha is his reincarnated first love. Now she must save this man who seems beyond redemption—and who fulfills her deepest, darkest desires....

## Dark Need Details

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Author : Lynn Viehl

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## **From Reader Review Dark Need for online ebook**

### **Yasmin says**

I pick up this book since I like If Angels Burn and Private Demon, even though they are boring in the beginning, but they become interesting in the end.

However, Dark Need tell many problems in the beginning yet didn't answers any of it. Please correct me if I miss anything.

First of all, the premise makes me interested as they started with mystery/detectives. Yet the police that depicted in this book kinda lame. I mean, they definitely know who's the serial killer yet they can't arrest him? Come on.

The romance between Samantha and Lucan didn't work for me, since both of them were unlikeable.

Samantha is sometimes fierce, and the other times dumb. She could pressing charges for people who harassed her and with the serial killer since he is right in front of her. Plus how come she didn't know about Goth?

Lucan is any of profanity words that I would like to spit since his appearance in the first book. I also hate Cyprien when he keeps pushing Alex, but this guy is just beyond another level. He still haven't move on from his ex-lover yet he plays with many women in bars, constantly bother Alex, and pushing Sam. Yikes.

And on top of that there still John's POV which I abhorred since he add nothing to the plot development. Besides, I feel like the Darkyn didn't consider the Brethrens any danger compared to the conflict between Michael/Richard/Lucan.

The only thing that I still await for this series is that Alex' research for the Darkyn's cure come to the fruition and the journey just become lesser compared to the Private Demon series.

Oh I also hope Jema/Thierry/Valentin come back but alas they aren't.

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### **Louisa says**

Really enjoyed reading this book! He still isn't my favourite MMC, but yeah, still a really great book! I can't wait to read more, because oh, that ending!

\*First read April 1st, 2011\*

He's not my favourite MMC but I guess he'll do. His love is the one thing that I like about him, and even then, he doesn't exactly treat her the right way. Yep :) Good story though!

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### **Emily says**

Police officer Samantha Brown is chasing down a lead on a murder when she meets Lucan. Lucan one of the Darkyn is immediately reminded of a long lost love when he sees Samantha. The fiercely independent Samantha is unwilling to yield to his powers over her, but Lucan wont take no for an answer. As the murders begin to pile up, Samantha discovers Lucan is her best ally but he is his own worst enemy.

I started really intrigued and the end fell flat just a bit.

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### **DarkHeart "Vehngeance" says**

I enjoyed the premise of this book, but it all seemed really rushed and disappointing at the end. I liked Lucan and Samantha, but their relationship seemed forced too quickly. The mystery of the murders was initially quite engaging, but seemed more of an afterthought at the end of the book. I think it could have been a lot better but was left feeling like Viehl must have been on a deadline and had to quickly wrap everything up rather than taking the time to develop relationships and provide a satisfying conclusion to the murders. And I'm still not warming to Michael and Alexandra. Meh...

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### **Catherine says**

I disliked this book intensely. This is what I get for impulse buying and not waiting to read reviews. I would estimate that well over half this book was spent in povs that weren't the main characters. A lot of time was spent on one of the previous character's brother, John. That man was the most boring character to read about! Why was so much time spent on him? It wasn't his book!

I have once again accidentally picked up a book in the middle of a series. I hate when that happens. I think I'm going to stop buying books on the spur of the moment.

Usually I'm distracted by all the other characters that appear from previous books and hate it because it detracts from the main characters. This time I wasn't irritated so much as transfixed with horrified fascination. Alex and Michael appear from some previous book in the series. I guess they have a history with Lucan. Alex makes some mention about giving Michael a face back. He had no face? Really? That little tidbit right there derailed my attention from the story while I tried to figure out exactly how that worked. I know I could always read their book to see, but I'd rather not. There was also another part where Lucan and Michael's pseudo-daddy, Richard, has sex with this girl and there's mention made of his uh... manly parts not being recognizably human any more. I was disgusted but seriously entertained.

Well, enough about the side characters. On to the main characters! What was Samantha's deal? She was supposed to be a smart cop but she seemed dumb as bricks to me. Also, she doesn't know what Goth is? Seriously? That stretches credulity to the max. A cop definitely would have seen stuff like that before. When something happens to her partner she feels horrible for it because she was screwing around while the event happened. I couldn't help but notice that she got over that one in no time at all. I did however feel really bad for her with the situation with her creepy old partner. That's a really horrible situation. I can't really see events going down like that, but what do I know? I can't claim to be a cop.

Lucan had the potential to be interesting but... nope, he was just creepy instead. He wants Sam because she looks like an old flame he never got to be with. I know he denies it later but he thought it often enough to

make his denial of it ridiculous. The man was so hot and cold too. It was bad enough that he groped her while he invaded her mind, he could at least stay consistent. One second he wants to do her, the next he ignores her. Then he threatens her with injury by glass while they're doing it and she's forced to ignore it to prove her feelings. Now that's just stupid right there. What if he loses control of it mid act? Ouch!

The finale was a big let down and the final reveal of who the villain was made me lift my eyebrows in disbelief but I don't want to get too into that and spoil it for someone. Needless to say this was not my style of book and no one can convince me it was a Romance just because it was in the Romance section.

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## **Zeek says**

Because of Lucan's gift, he has become known as the executioner for the King of the Darkyn when it's time for a life- or a walking dead- to be exterminated. But more people than those who are to be brought to justice seem to end up dead around Lucan. When the deaths cross over into the world of the humans', Det. Samantha Brown is called in.

With a cool exterior, Samantha is often misunderstood. But for all her strong-will, she can't seem to keep her buried passionate nature in check when around the enigmatic goth-club owner, Lucan- the prime suspect in her murder investigation. Their desire for each other is undeniable and they soon find out they are connected in a way that Sam would never have believed ... before meeting the Darkyn.

In the meantime Lucan is setting up his own plans. Plans set into motion long ago and ones that will involve the hierarchy of the Darkyn, including the lover of Michael Cyprien, who we first met in *If Angels Burn* (Darkyn, Book 1). Plans that could ultimately take his life.

I liked *Dark Need* quite a bit, but it tends to get confusing with all the scenarios going on through out it. I had to read it twice to absorb it all.

One thing that bothered me most was the fact that it is more of a set up for *Night Lost* as much as it is Lucan's tale- which was sorta of frustrating and a shame because Lucan is a great character.

I think I would have been satisfied if the author would have given us a peek at Lucan and Sam after the big finale- which really wasn't a finale though she did tie up Sam and Lucan's conflict. And too, I would have liked if we could have gotten more of Lucan and Samantha- or at least more inside their heads- rather than all that was going on around them. But. I can see where this one was a must for the over all telling of the Darkyn. Still, *DN* made much more sense after I read *Night Lost*. If you are reading this series for the first time and you come to *Dark Need*, be sure to have bought *Night Lost* so you can read it immediately after. It will make the experience more enjoyable- guaranteed!

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## **Starry says**

Samantha Brown was a policeman that was busy with cases of killing, she was highly appreciated as a cop. But once she was shot by a madman. The only evidence she had was the a medieval cross inscribed "Lucan"- the name of the owner of a new nightclub near the murder scene. Drawn into a seamy underworld, Samantha falls for Lucan-who believes he's a vampire and Samantha is his reincarnated first love. Now, she must save

this mysterious, seductive man who seems beyond redemption if he is to fulfill her deepest, darkest desires.

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#### PREVIEW:

lena was dumped by the club guy after a day of spending time with him. he is a cheater, he dates girls and the next thing you know bam, its over. she will not be dumped, she is special and she will show that to him. so she brought a new dress and all and went back to the club, and he just called a cab and said she should leave. she declined the cab and walked on the sidewalk, and a strange guy went up to her and held out a cross and asked if it were hers. but it wasn't, it was her ex-dates cross. she took it from the man gratefully and thought about him taking her back as his when she returned it tomorrow. the strange man ends up taking her to the church, and says that she should clean herself with holy water for the sins to go away. she did, and suddenly she couldn't breathe, but before she died she heard him say "you should have letted him touch you".

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samantha brown(sam) went to a scene with her other detective buddies, and there was a lady laying on a bench with a cross around her fingers. sam finds the cross later on and gets it from the dead lady, and behind it had five letters... "LUCAN".

Lucan, former chief assassin of the Darkyn high lord Richard Tremayne, suzerain of a newly formed and still nameless garden was sent a box of dead flowers in them. and then later on he found out there was copper in them - one of the things that could kill him. but before he received the box, he heard about someone dying close to his club, and turns out it was the lady that he dumped a few days ago after using her to feed.

samantha went to work to find out from her boss that two new guys were coming in to work with them for a while, a guy and another one named Wesley Dwyer. oh-no. wesley... the last time samantha worked with him she ended up almost dead. while she was working with him she had to move houses so that he'll stop stalking her, make a new phone number so that the guy would stop following her, and tried staying away from him because he was creepy from day 1. but noone believed that dwyer seduced her, all the guy just thought she either lied or made it up to get attention. later on harry showed sam a name of a new club owner... lucan enterprise. looks like he may be the name of the lucan on the cross.

sam meets lucan at the club later on when she went in to his office to ask questions, and lucan ends up sucking her blood from her hand to his mouth. but before lucan can do anything more, sam pushed him away saying she doesn't want it. lucan then looks in her eyes and makes her forget everything and think that he told her everything he knows about lena.

after lucan fed from 2 beautiful women his joy he did not feel. all he could think about was sam and how she looked just like frances. frances never letted lucan touch her until the day before she died... and sam reminded her of frances, but sam seems more of a mysterious person. lucan told his servant to find info. on everything about sam, and later on the servant comes back to say that sam is 31, lives alone, childless, and people think that she's a lesbian, has been in no relationship at all, and worked for the detectives for 12 years.

sam's partner harry dies later on, which breaks sam's heart because he was a great partner and they were the best of friends. sam tried to use her powers to see who killed harry but she couldn't see the murderer's face (sam's power is to touch someone that is dead and she can see the last few moments of life of the person before they died/got killed). sam will find the killer, and she plans to make the killer pay. sam finds out that lucan is a Darkyn/vampire.

later on sam ends up having \*\*\* with lucan, and the next day lucan dumps her.

**FACT:**

lucan's powers come from his hand, he can kill any breathing thing with one touch, that's why he always wears gloves.

when lucan loses his temper or gets mad, he shatters glasses that are near him without touching it.

lucan and sam fight which leads lucan to put a sam's gun on him and says to shoot him, but sam didn't do that and admits she's in love with him. then lucan gets all crazy and they both ended up making good love to each other, and then lucan ties her up to handcuffs so she can't stop what he's about to do the next day (Risk dieing fighting michael)

lucan stole michael's lover alexandra (alex) and bites her so that when he fights michael, michael might smell his lover's scent on lucan and get distracted and weaker.

later on sam gets free of her handcuffs with the help of her neighbor goth teenage friend chris. chris later disguises sam as a goth and sam went to the club to see michael, the crypien, and a bunch of guards.

later on Wesley Dwyer comes out of nowhere and shoots sam on the side while sam and alex were trying to calm the faryl (i think i mayb spelled it wrong). lucan ends up making a truce with michael and the crypien in the end, and lucan knew that sam was dieing but he had to try and give sam alexandra's kn/vamp blood. in the end lucan thought sam would never come alive again and was about to give up and send sam away when sam woke up to having fangs. sam is becoming a kyn. and sam and lucan love each other in the end forever.

pg.507

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## **LibraryLass says**

I enjoyed this one much more than Private Demon. It got me further hooked onto the series.

These are really strange books for me, because although I enjoy them, there are certain parts which make me distinctly uncomfortable. The *l'attrait* thing for me is very close to mind control and to use it to (almost) have sex is just a bit too near to the bone for me. But still I feel compelled to read them (no pun intended).

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## **Jen says**

Ok I seriously didn't think this was going to be a series of books where I would cry, let alone full out bawl my eyes out for more than half the book! HOLY COW!

I have to say I am in love with Lucan :) When we first met Lucan, we came to hate him, even before we knew who he was - he was the evil guy who without any provocation at all decided to break into Michael's house and check out his new *sygkenis* - he ended up taking blood from Alex's nurse and having his way with her, twice, almost killing her..

NOW we hear from Lucan's POV - but we don't really get it from him.

In this book we meet Samantha - Sam is a homicide Detective in Florida where Lucan now owns his own *jardin*

Samantha meets Lucan by going into his Goth club, to ask questions about a murder. Both victims were connected to Lucan.

When Lucan sees Samantha for the first time, he is reminded of his previous human Love that he lost 200 years ago. She is her exact twin.

The romance happens quickly in this book - I'm actually not even sure WHERE it started. All I know is their first time together was so sweet -

Because of His "talent" of breaking things with a mere touch of his bare hands. But the tenderness and trust - oh it's was just all the right things :)

Another character we meet in this book is Faryl - the Darkyn whom because a Changeling because he refused human blood - he lived in the jungle off of snakes and wild animals - turning him into a changling himself. He hates himself and goes to Lucas for Mercy -

Alex and Michael head over to Florida to try to catch up with Faryl, because Alex is curious about the Changeling and thinks she may have figured out a cure -

There are a few more surprises towards the end - one of them leaving a BIG HUGE CLIFHANGER!! so beware of that :) I'm more than a little anxious to jump into the next book now - ready to find out how it plays out - who joins in and what happens -

This is DEFINALY so far the best books in the series :)

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## **LizBookAddict says**

**5-SEXY-TORTURED-HERO-STARS!!!**

**Why oh why does this author not write epilogues!!!!!!**

**The story is brilliant, the characters are brilliant but the romance... oh the romance...**

**Lucan and Samantha have moments of pure hotness and attraction and even a mind-blowing submissive sex-scene (not the bdsm kind) but the exploration of their love and romance is tragically skimmed on by the author. Its like she just wanted mind-blowing action climax out the way and thought "oh yeah, the H/H need an ending, lets give them 2 sentences"!!!! NOT COOL!!!!**

**But I loved it! Love Lucan and loved Samantha and her freaky powers.**

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## **Ana T. says**

Another book I've read during my vacation was Dark Need. I've been enjoying Viehl's Darkyn world and this book 3 in the series was no exception.

Homicide detective Samantha Brown is a tough, highly decorated cop. But twelve lonely years after she nearly died of a gunshot wound, she aches with a deep inner longing. In pursuit of a deranged killer, her only



clue is a medieval cross inscribed "Lucan"-the name of the owner of a new nightclub near the murder scene. Drawn into a seamy underworld, Samantha falls for Lucan-who believes he's a vampire and Samantha is his reincarnated first love. Now, she must save this mysterious, seductive man who seems beyond redemption if he is to fulfill her deepest, darkest desires.

I liked it because I liked Lucan. He is extremely bad as a character, he is a killer after all. But he shows internal conflict about what he is, about how he can't touch people. Samantha, the cop, has quite a few problems, she has been harassed in the past by a fellow police officer and almost killed because of it. Now that cop is back to torment her.

I really enjoyed Lucan and Samantha's rocky relationship. Lucan is sure he can persuade her to come to him, thanks to his Darkyn power, and Samantha fights him all the way through till the papers change and he wants to send her away when she is decided to stay.

I think the main problem with Viehl's books is that there are always so many characters and subplots around that sometimes one feels a bit lost. Of course that's always a way of keeping us on edge about what's going on. Cyprien and Alex show up yet again but that is always a good thing, I really like Alex and how she keeps Michael, and everyone else on their toes. Cyprien and Lucan are involved in a fight for power that leads to Lucan threatening Alex. However he is not as bad as he would have us believe and Samantha and Alex, with the help of Samantha's neighbour - a goth girl I quite enjoyed, end up saving the day. Regarding the Darkyn's society I have yet to fully understand Richard and his motivations and since the book ends with a big cliffhanger I'll be looking forward to the next one.

Grade: B

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### **Danielle G says**

2 stars

This book was ok. I liked Samantha I thought she was a great and intriguing character. I found many parts of this book dull (especially when the priest was involved) and felt like a lot of them could have been excluded. There was not enough scenes of Samantha or Chris who were the characters I really enjoyed reading about. I also feel that Lucan using his mind powers to make Sam dream about him and want him kind of creepy and un-endearing. He did redeem himself in my eyes in the end but overall this book just didn't do it for me. Too many boring parts and it was unfortunate because there were some plot points that could have been very exciting (sam's stalker for one) but were just not well played up or written. It all felt very slap dash to me and I was seriously disappointed because it had so much potential as a story.

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### **Melissa Wehunt says**

Dark Need: A Novel of the Darkyn by Lynn Viehl (2006)

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## **marlene says**

this book just confused me. i have no idea how or when Sam and Lucan suddenly fell in love. come to think of it i cant possibly understand why either. well, other than the fact that he sounds to be thrilling in bed. after Sam's look into his past and having a good idea he isn't after her but chasing the ghost of love past, i can't see where this love affair comes from.

Alex and Michael make healthy sized appearances and saved me from getting bored with the book. Again i am not so sure why Alex is so forgiving at the end of the book. after all the revelations and mind rape i would be pretty damn mad. all of a sudden she shrugs and says its all ok.

at this point i just keep going to see where Alex ends up. i kind of love her.

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## **Jess the Romanceaholic says**

We met our hero in the previous book (Private Demon), where he was introduced as a really, really nasty guy.

One thing I like about Lynn Viehl is that there's not a single characters of hers that is two dimensional -- even the bad guys have their redeeming qualities..

Lucan reminds me a lot of Lestat from Anne Rice's novels.. He's selfish, powerful, and has a bad temper, but is also tired of all the bullsh.... Yeah.

Samantha, our heroine, is a homicide detective with a really ~~disgusting~~ cool "power", even as a human.. Add to that her innate resistance to the vampire hypnotism (which I can't spell because, hey, it's French, and I'm not), and you've got a perfect foil for Lucan

As with any of the Darkyn novels, you really need to read the series in order, because all of the books are interconnected and you won't know WTF is going on if you try to join mid-series or skip around.

Fans of the series will be glad to see that Alexandra & Co. do continue to play a big part, as well as the fact that there are some lovely twisty bits (haha pun intended - you'll see!) involving Richard, the high king/lord/whatevertheycallit

And of course, I will admit that as many people have pointed out, sometimes LV does tend to jump into the ILY's a bit fast... \*shrugs\* Being a fan of fated-to-be-mated stories, this doesn't really bother me, even though technically these don't fall directly into that category. I see it more as a love-at-first-bite-sight thing.

Overall, this is one of my favorites in the series (and yes, I glommed the whole bloody thing this past week -- it's KILLING me that she's moved onto the Kyndred spinoff now, but I digress).

Solid 4 1/2 Stars

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## **Mara says**

I have a weird "relationship" with this series. There's much to love: the UF setting, pace and plot, the darker world, the heroine. And yet. And yet I can't really warm to it. As a UF it's good enough, but with too many unexplained points (why doesn't she freak out? why is Raphael playing cop? her past is only hinted at, but could be used more), as a PNR you wonder where the love came from.

The overall arch makes also a strange bedfellow. Stories are left hanging, including the main couple's. I know I didn't like Alex and Michael in book one and here my dislike is confirmed. What else has he do to you before you say "no more"? And go find a stake?

This is almost a coral novel, where the focus is on the many and not the single people who should make the heart of the story.

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## **Styles says**

Samantha and Lucan

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

Lucan... well, yum. e. :) I genuinely enjoyed this story in the series and I'm certain you will too.

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## **Megzy says**

Lucan was the bad boy in the previous books. I was so glad he didn't change 360 degree. Sam and her partner's relationship was very realistic.

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## **Cindy says**

Good read and I'll forgive them for the cliff hanger ending since I have book 4 on my desk. After finishing 3 of these very intense books containing multiple incidences [both current and historical:] of mayhem, torture, murder and other assorted atrocities committed by various cast members - I really wonder how there are any Kyn left? Medieval villages weren't all that large and they've been unable to make more [until now:] for 500

years - and there have been mentions of jardin wars, multiple assassination assignments for Lucan, as well as the Brotherhood's intense desire to slice and dice them one and all. How are there any left?

That said, it was good book - we all knew Lucan couldn't be the villain he was being portrayed and I really liked the heroine. Looks like she's permanently on the night shift now...

Read in order and make sure you have 3 & 4 before starting 3...

Darkyn

1. If Angels Burn (2005)
  2. Private Demon (2005)
  3. Dark Need (2006)
  4. Night Lost (2007)
  5. Evermore (2008)
  6. Twilight Fall (2008)
  7. Stay the Night (2009)
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## **Ruby says**

This review was first posted on <http://www.rubysreads.com>.

Lynn Viehl is, of course, only one of many writers that has dipped her toes in the vampire genre. Her take is that vampires (here called Darkyn) are former Knights Templar that contracted a sort of viral infection that forced them to drink blood, grow fangs, have supernatural gifts and be sensitive to the sun. Oh, yes, and live very long lives. In the first book, we meet the head of the American vampires, Michael, and his lifemate, Alexandra Keller. In their story, Alex becomes a Darkyn, but not quite. She doesn't feed from any human directly and is devoted to finding a cure for the "disease" of vampirism. Or Darkynism. Whatever. Alex and Michael make more than an appearance in this novel, as they did in *Private Demons*. I should mention that Alex was the first Darkyn to be made in centuries, but since her change there seem to be more on the way.

Each of the Darkyn novels so far has had an individual plot that feeds into some larger, overarching ones. There is, first of all, the fact that the High Lord of the Darkyn has appointed Michael the seigneur of the United States. Michael's rule is in its infancy, and so it suffers from all the things that fledgling governments suffer from. Rivals who wish to usurp his power, renegade members who don't follow rules...and I lost interest in my list already. Also concurrent is Alex's aforementioned search for a cure. Oh, and I can't leave out the continuing conflict between the Darkyn and the Brethren (who are basically evil priests). Each novel brings the readers and the characters further into the story. In that way, the Darkyn novels remind me of Nalini Singh's *Psy-Changeling* series.

That said, Viehl is not as talented a storyteller as Singh. She does not quite pull through on the romance front. Her stories are compelling and I enjoy her writing style, but through all three of the Darkyn novels that I've read so far, the heroes and heroines have spent more time apart than together. This would be fine except for the fact that I always end up wondering what, exactly, brings them together and keeps them together. Except, of course, for the hot sex. This is one reason why I am glad to see Alex and Michael pop up in each installment. It gives the readers a chance to see their relationship develop in a way that their own story didn't.

By now you're probably wondering, what about Dark Need in particular? The hero, if you can call him that, is Lucan. Lucan's special Darkyn power is an ability to kill by touch. For many years he has acted as assassin for the High Lord, Richard. Lucan has also been the enemy/rival of Michael and was very much put out by Richard's decision to appoint the latter as seigneur of America. Lucan is a Tragic, Misunderstood hero, who Loved and Lost. Plus, he is also Tormented By The Gift of Death. Samantha, the heroine, is also Tormented. She is an Orphan. She has an Amazing Figure that she downplays. If my random capitalization didn't do the job for me, I will point out that many of these attributes are Paranormal Romance Standards. Oh, and I forgot to mention that Sam may or may not be a lesbian. Until she meets Lucan, of course. Then there's no question at all. Finally, Sam has a Special Ability. Since she was shot twelve years ago, she has developed the talent of seeing the last moments of murder victims' lives. This turns out to be both useful and convenient since Sam is a homicide detective. Sam's occupation is also the instrument for the meeting between the two. When someone starts killing people and framing Lucan by leaving objects that link him to the crime scene, Sam and her partner get the case. When Lucan first sees Sam, he is struck by her physical resemblance to his lost love—and her ability to withstand the hypnotizing trick that is the specialty of the Darkyn.

I did enjoy reading this story, Paranormal Romance clichés or not. The problem was, I wasn't satisfied when the book was over. I felt the story was cut off too soon. This may be because Viehl was setting her readers up for the next chapter in the Darkyn universe, but I'm guessing that the next book probably won't feature much about Lucan and Sam. I base this assumption on the fact that Dark Need does little more than mention the hero and heroine of Private Demons in passing.

The other thing I have to confess is that I skimmed many of the later chapters with Alex's brother John. I just plain don't like him. He's boring, self-righteous and altogether unsympathetic. I stopped caring about his personal journey in the first book. I just hope Viehl is going somewhere with this guy—but I'm having a hard time bringing myself to care.

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