



Touched by Darkness

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An exciting, new Urban Fantasy Romance release.

After seven years on the run, Dr. Kara Cantrell believes she and her son, Alex, are safe. She's wrong.

Kara settles in the sleepy town of Zorro, Texas, convinced that she and her child have escaped the sinister reach of a supernatural underworld. But the appearance of Damien Morgan, a dangerous, alluring man with superhuman abilities, upends her quiet existence. Damien realizes that Alex is a fledgling Sentinel, and Kara is a matched, psychic conductor for him. She wants nothing to do with him, refusing to revisit the hell she experienced seven years ago. But she has no choice, as her son is projecting his abilities, leaving him vulnerable to unseen forces. Not only that, but someone—or something—is murdering people in Zorro. Kara is forced to work with Damien, tapping into a mystical link that triggers desires both of them must ignore. But as they work together to protect her son, and to track the killer, evil stalks them, reaching out—with the touch . . . of darkness.

Touched by Darkness Details

Date : Published November 15th 2013 (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Catherine Spangler

Format : Kindle Edition 361 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Touched by Darkness for online ebook

GCB-LovesGoodBooks says

I really wanted to smack the mother upside the head. If not for that, maybe I might have gotten into the book a bit more. But there were other problems as well... for me at least.

It is well written, which was very nice. But ugg... the female lead just made me want to shake her... hard.

Bev says

This not the usual genre that i usually read. I was quite impressed with the book! I am looking forward into reading the next book.

What would you do if your only son was born with powers and you knew that a bad entity would try and find you ? Would you do everything in your power to keep your child safe?

The book kept me wanting more to find out what happens! I give this book 5/5 stars!!!

Jennifer Erwin says

This was slow for me to get into, I don't like the characters or their interactions, so I stopped at 85%. I'm giving up. It feels like a "B" rated movie that is trying to portray itself as an "A" rated movie. I love "B" rated movies, especially when they know they are "B's". This just felt like it was trying to hard, and fell way short.

Anita Hargreaves says

Good

I prolonged reading this, as expecting a short cliffhanger for free at Amazon but concise and room for book 2. Passionate Dallas supernatural romance with good vs evil. Sexy, romance.

Christine Rains says

Dr. Kara Cantrell moved to Zorro, Texas with her son Alex because nothing exciting ever happened there. It was quiet and safe. Until the murders started and the gorgeous Damien Morgan showed up. Kara senses immediately that he's a Sentinel - a protector of good and warrior against the evil Belians - and flees his presence. She can't go through the nightmare she experienced with her husband years ago. No more Sentinels in her life. Except her son is one, and untrained, he's a beacon to the Belian. Damien offers his help in return for Kara helping him. If they can't work together, the monster that prowls Zorro will not only have her and Damien, but her son as well.

A fantastic first book in this paranormal romance series. The mythology of Atlantis was original and fascinating. It fertilizes the ground so amazing stories can spring from it. The characterization is great. I'm a fan of Kara. A strong and intelligent widower determined to give her son a happy and normal childhood. My heart went out to her. Damien frustrated me at a few points, but he redeemed himself. Alex is a sweet and smart kid. As a mom, I'd be proud to have him as my son.

It's a fast-paced tale with a few dips down to slow when there's explanations of utilizing their powers. Yet it's the first book and sometimes these bits are necessary. I'm eager to continue reading on to the next book in the series.

Rob says

I can't decide whether to give this 2 or 3 stars. I finished reading it, and it was OK. I just have major objections to one of the main premises of the book. Sex is power, I don't think anyone denies that. But the first half of this book is fraught with the spectre of rape and Stockholm Syndrome. "If you want to save the town, and the world, from this supernatural killer, you **MUST** have sex with me." His charm and the guilt trip eventually wear her down. And because he's a supernatural **STUD**, all her objections are washed away in wave after wave of orgasm.

Yeah. Still pretty much rape.

My other objection is minor, but still valid. This supernatural sex is **ONLY** hetero. The author explicitly states that: Sentinals and Conductors are always of the opposite sex. Really, Ms. Spangler? Such an attitude in the 21st century?

★Moonrise Books says

Dr. Kara Cantrell's main goal in relocating to a small, sleepy town halfway across the country is to protect her son, Alex. Alex's father, being part of a supernatural world Kara was only beginning to understand, was brutally murdered. Devastated, Kara was left without the answers she needed to keep her son safe... but the supernatural world won't let them get away that easily.

Alex's father, Richard, was part of an otherworldly species known as the Sentinels. And now that Alex's abilities are getting stronger, Kara is forced to admit that her son is just as otherworldly as his father. Further, she realizes that she cannot run to keep her son safe, and cannot teach him what she does not know. So, when she meets another Sentinel, Damien Morgan, she is determined to get the answers she needs. What she doesn't realize is that Damien needs her help as much as she needs his.

Sentinels are formidable creatures, capable of incredible feats. However, these same feats make them vulnerable, as their energies are broadcast, and can be picked up by an evil species inhabiting earth--a species whose primary goal is to destroy the Sentinels. Besides Alex's abilities, Damien is keenly aware that Kara is a conductor, and that he needs her help to battle the evil forces. But Kara has gone down this road before, and it's a road that threatens to destroy all that she has come to know and love in this world.

This was a fantastic read with memorable characters and a well-paced plot. I loved it! And although Alex's role is significant, Kara and Damien's romance is in the forefront. A great story, and a wonderful

introduction to the Sentinel series. I'm excited to read the next book!

Michelle says

Surprisingly good

This was truly unexpected and really really good. It helped give me lots of thoughts interestingly enough it made me think about a whole lot of other things and other possibilities definitely a good read.

Lorna says

Supernatural beings that aren't werewolves, witches or vampires? That's what you get with this book. It's part one of a trilogy about a group of beings named Sentinels, reincarnated from Atlantis, by way of another galaxy. Sentinels are tasked with killing the evil beings from their world, called Belial. Since it's an older book(although a re-release I think), it may not be a new read for you, but once I found it, bought it and started it, I read it non-stop and totally enjoyed myself along the way. It was a one day read for me this week.

The story centers around Kara, a doctor with a young son, Alex. She has moved to a small town in hopes that she can escape the supernatural nightmare of six years before. Alex's father, a Sentinel, was killed right in front of her by a Belial. After his death, she runs when she finds herself pregnant. She doesn't want her child to be touched by the world of his father, but that's all about to change, as Alex is coming into some of his powers. Damian is a Sentinel and he is chasing a Belial that he believes is living in the same town as Kara. Since Belial's take over bodies, everyone in town is suspect-especially the weak or the sick. He is shocked to realize that Kara is a conductor and a match to help him to do his work. But he is more surprised that Alex's power is unprotected and transmitting loudly for any Belial to hear.

This ended up being a really good romance and actually a who done it. We meet all sorts of the towns people, and I never figured out who the Belial was. The way a Belial receives energy is by killing people, so they are pretty much psychopaths. There are several murders and lots of suspects. It's up to Kara and Damian to save the day. Did I mention that conductors and Sentinels work best while having sex? Oh yes. So there are some pretty steamy scenes involved and they were very well written, as is this whole book. The characters were interesting and each had an intriguing back story.

I really liked the story, the characters and the mystery. The premise is different then the usual paranormal romance and I totally was on board for that! This is the first book by this author that I have read, and I will definitely be buying the next book in the series soon.

(RabidReads.com)

H.L. LeRoy says

What a terrific book! Touched by Darkness is a completely original and exciting urban fantasy romance that will keep you hooked from the very first chapter. The characters are deftly drawn with real emotional shadings that pull you into the world and don't let go. Tightly paced, the book is a master class in how to

write with passion, soul and intelligence. Every single page has depth to it and serves the story, adding atmosphere and tone as it moves the reader forward.

Touched by Darkness is thrill-packed, original, and creative. I really enjoyed it.

Corey Wisniewski says

Touched by Darkness is a great start to what is sure to be an exciting series. This book is about a woman who has had a difficult few years while raising her son who has special powers. She meets a man who is like her son and together they unravel what is happening in the town they live in. This book has it all. Action, suspense, mystery, romance, and emotional ups and downs. This book was well written with good descriptions of the characters, the events and everything in between. The action makes you feel like you are right in there with the characters. The suspense leaves you on the edge of your seat. The mystery of the story definitely leaves you wondering which is nice. I love when a book can truly make me try to figure out the mystery of it. The romance...wow... it is steamy but not over done or overly graphic. This book kept me on my seat and very engrossed in the story. I ended up staying up WAY too late finishing the book. I will definitely be reading the next books in the series. This book was well written with good descriptions of the characters, the events and everything in between.

Katrina says

While the concept was interesting and the writing is decent, I found the pace of this book too slow for my liking. That and the heroine, whom I found exasperating and unappealing made it a heavy go. Hopefully, in the next book the pace will pick up.

TINNGG says

Actually, it should be darned grateful it didn't get DNFed. Why? The first 50+ pages were one long What Would I Do moment. Then...

You get the real grit about what is involved in the whole Sentinel/Conductor non-relationship. Frankly, it skeeves me out. Ok, to be honest, I do not like it when sex is reduced from an entanglement to a ah... meaningless religious ceremony or something. And I *really* don't like it when the H shrugs at the possibility of pregnancy (because apparently a ghost suit is unheard of) and says things like "if it's the will of the One". Yeah. Then you realize the organization has conductors it can send out to assist the Sentinel.

As I said to someone, it reminds me of something a friend came up with to mess with Nigerian scammers - Sophonda Cox and her Prostitutes for Jesus.

How womantic.

The characters... maybe I should just stick with the h at the moment. Given to being a drama queen (as opposed to calmly telling him to get lost, she panics and scares her kid half to death), she really got on my nerves for the first half of the book.

Am pretty sure there's been a 15 day wait to PURCHASE a handgun for some time - she goes and buys a baretta (that the local hardware store in bumblefart nowhere just *happened* to have in stock?!) and takes it home. Has to wait on a permit to carry though. Huh.

The H? Well, he was tied to that What Would I Do moment. What would I do? Shoot, shovel, and run like hell.

Mara says

I came to this author thanks to a tweet where someone was talking about her Sfi Fi romance (in comparison with Last Hour of Gann).

I downloaded a sample of that book, then realized she wrote a UF series too and the first book was free. So why not? (Damn me to Hell and back. I keep repeating the same mistake...)

First, let' me clarify this is not a UF, not even a UF romance (if that really exists :). This is the usual paranormal romance, and honestly it's in the low range of them.

It's not a spiteful or hateful book. But it chocked full of first-book syndrome: useless info-dumps interrupting scenes, flat, uninteresting, boring writing. Cardboard characters: a simply ridiculous mustache-twirling villain, totally unappealing irrational heroine and a hero I could do without, a so-called genius 7 yo boy who's dumber than a brick.

The plot was a para version of the usual romantic suspense (serial killer idiocy) and the mix didn't came out good.

Honestly I skim-read most of it, above all because any "story" was in the last pages.

The romance was even worse. No chemistry and the worst excuse for sex since the invention of the mate bond. I didn't think we could get lower, but we did.

The ending was a nice WTF moment. Absolutely out of the blue and with no base in the story itself.

Nancy says

Sentinel Damien Morgan arrives in Zorro, Texas to expose a Belian murderer and protect a human woman whose ability as a Conductor allows her to magnify his power. Kara's young son, Alex, is just beginning to show his own Sentinel traits. His father was killed by a Belian, and Kara doesn't care to get involved with another warrior from Atlantis because it means risking her heart all over again. Yet when one person after another dies by violence in this small town, she realizes there's no choice. Someone she knows has been compromised by the Belian, and the only way to keep the killer away from her son is to link with Damien.
