



Embraced by Darkness

Keri Arthur

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She's hunting a killer—and shattering every boundary she's ever known...

Part vamp, part werewolf, Riley Jenson plays by her own rules, whether it's her stormy love life or her job as a guardian. But when her family's alpha male demands that she solve the mystery of a vanished girl, Riley can feel a trap closing in around her. Because the job comes with a catch: if Riley fails, her own mother will die.

Now the stakes are raised, the hunt is on...and when more women vanish, Riley is caught between a lover who demands that she give up her work, a serial killer who knows no boundaries, and a club where humans and supernaturals mix—at their own peril. Thrust into a realm of seduction and violence unlike any she could have imagined, Riley has to battle to save everything she holds dear. But the ultimate hunt has only just begun...

Embraced by Darkness Details

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Author : Keri Arthur

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From Reader Review Embraced by Darkness for online ebook

Melindeeloo says

No picket fences yet for Riley.

The thing I love about these books is that Riley is such a capable kick butt heroine. Being a werewolf vampire crossbreed means that the bad guys tend to underestimate her. Even when her equally amazing brother is around to lend a hand, it is still Riley that saves the day. Riley continues to struggle with her love life and search for her soul mate, and she continues to develop amazing new powers as a result of a fertility drug she was slipped in book one. Many of the characters from previous books appear, notably missing is Quinn and the horse shifter. Dia and her daughter make an appearance and drop some prophetic hints as to Riley's future. Riley also has a chance at some payback to the pack that tormented her and her brother when they were pups.

This series still has plenty of places to go and I looking forward to seeing where it ends up. This series is probably more suspense than romance, even given Riley's lustful wolf nature, so there are some scenes with the aftermath of bloody violence. But these are easy to skip over if they bother you without losing any story threads.

Tez says

Riley Jenson needs all her supernatural abilities to hunt down a particularly eerie serial killer, in Keri Arthur's Embraced by Darkness.

Riley Jenson is one of the Directorate of Other Races' guardians, trained to hunt and destroy her prey. With both vampire and werewolf genes, she is mostly werewolf, but has a host of other paranormal skills: she can switch her vision to infrared, is clairvoyant, and can wrap shadows around herself. Mixing searching for a missing pack member and investigating recent serial murders, Riley's on the hunt.

Set in Melbourne, this series was first published in the US, thus there are terms that don't seem to fit with the Australian characters. "Cell phone" is used instead of "mobile phone". "Mom" is used instead of "mum". "Ass" is used instead of "arse". North American readers shouldn't find this a problem, but for Aussie me it's jarring, and took me out of the story. Mind you, it had been over a year since I'd read a Keri Arthur novel (I read the first four quickly and consecutively), so reading the novels back-to-back probably won't make the issue too distracting.

Be sure to read this novel before The Darkest Kiss, as the latter's first chapter deals with a spoiler from the former.

The narrative flows easily, and the final hunt is particularly engrossing - Keri Arthur improves with each novel. Riley usually has numerous sexual partners, but now she's considering going solo with Kellen. Though his name was familiar, I didn't remember much about him. He throws Riley's phone out the window of a limo, and from there on I didn't like him. The move had "control freak" written all over it, not to mention the careless waste of money. Riley deals with the situation rather calmly, but in real life losing a phone means losing all your contacts and perhaps important files. I don't find Kellen romantic; rather an ungrateful

shite. It says something about him that Riley keeps pining for vampire Quinn, though I don't think he's any better.

And that whole mother thing in the book's summary? While that bit is featured, we don't actually end up meeting Riley's mum. But another issue from Riley's childhood comes to light, and a new supernatural ability saves the day. That she has so many powers gets her out of jams a bit too easily, and I don't care for her private life, but the rest of the book is fabulously intriguing and entertaining. That it's set in places familiar to me makes it all the more worthwhile.

I ♥ Bookie Nookie (bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com) says

Once again, Keri Arthur pulled it off. The series is still going strong for me. Riley is an awesome heroine!

In this book, she was more of a one man kind of woman--so her sex life was not nearly as outrageous as it normally tends to be. Being book #5 in the series, I think it was a good choice to put Riley at a crossroads of sorts...she is forced to make some tough decisions. Her life is ever-changing and in several ways not as I had expected. The experimental drugs that were forced on her in earlier books are beginning to have some very unexpected effects on her and I am sure they will continue to change her as the series continues.

I am such a fan of these books and once again, loving the direction the author is taking the series. I am hopeful that it continues to please me :-

** Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews

If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

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Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

Kirsty says

Thank God I've finished this book. It took me a couple of weeks to finish it because I found it so boring. I thought this was a waste of a story in this series. Like I said in a previous review, Kellen is such a pointless character. I'm glad he's gone. That was the only good thing to come out of this book, even though there was no Quinn...at all!

It was good to see that Riley has stopped her constant moaning about being a Guardian and even seems to embrace it!

It was obvious that Riley and Rhoan's past was going to resurface at some point but this way was just

annoying. I at least thought that they were going to confront their mother. It would be great if we found out more about their father, it must be a story there!

Shera (Book Whispers) says

For me this was the weakest book, which considering how awesome this series is does not make this a bad book. Not in the least. However, every series has one book that just seems to lose some of the punch.

The mystery in Embraced by Darkness is probably where I had the biggest issue, because it was weaker than the other books and I could actually predict who the villains were and how everything was connected. Riley—again!!—kept leaving her weapon behind, and someone is basically out to kill her!!! (No really she has a hit man after her.) She kept making stupid mistakes because she didn't want to become a killer like her brother. Unlike, the previous books I found her struggle to remain "human" fell flat on its butt, and left me feeling annoyed.

One thing EbD succeeded at was the emotional build up. Riley and Kerren's relationship is seriously going somewhere and I love them as a couple. Riley is having to face how she is sabotaging her own relationships and realizing what she really needs and wants. The journey is beautiful and only nearly dying can bring Riley to the truth. The ending of this book is heart breaking and the thing I loved—and despised—about this book.

In the end there is no turning back, Riley fans can't give up. The murder mysteries each book solves are fun, but at this point it's clear I'm going to stick around for Riley's love life. It's addicting getting heavy does of fast past action (of both kinds) and the adrenaline rush each page turn brings.

Sexual Content: Some lesbian and bisexual themes, though that's not too new it's just a bit more prominent. The serial killers in this book are nasty. The things they do to the women may not be sexual, but it is sickening.

2/5- Average/disappointing, library check-out

Originally reviewed at Book Whispers.

It's Me - Yvette says

Slight spoilers ahead.

I have absolutely loved this series thus far and was excited to start this book. For me, this book was a little lacking (compared to the previous books in the series). Riley finally decided to go after her dreams and try to settle down with Kellan. Kellan, rightly so, has decided that he can't continue to be second to Riley's job - a job he can't protect her from -- and that is playing havoc with the alpha wolf.

Even though I'm "team Quinn", he wasn't in this book, except for in Riley's thoughts (and that is a big statement). At one point she thought her life might be coming to an end and she thought of Quinn. Interesting... This reader hopes that Quinn gets his shit together as I think Riley and Quinn would be an

awesome couple.

Riley is working on solving 2 cases. The case of the women being slaughtered seemed to resolve itself too quickly. And the case with the pack was a bit more interesting, but not nearly as exciting as the cases in the previous books.

This was still interesting. Maybe this book is just a stepping stone until the next book -- this reader hopes that is the case.

Still worth reading -- just missing something.

Lorre says

Big chances for Riley in this one! I'm curious to see how it plays out in the next book!

Louisa says

Wow, this book was so fantastic! So many ups and downs, and it was freaking fantastic! But that ending, oh! I need to read more!

Tilly Slaton says

sigh

Perhaps I am in a reading funk. Perhaps I am not giving Arthur's last two books a fair chance.

Nonetheless, I shall write my honest opinion. This book put me to sleep.

Riley Jenson, a Guardian / super non-human cop who is apparently judge, jury and executioner, wiggles her way into ... or out of... the fear of commitment to Kellen, an alpha werewolf yadda yadda ...

He wants to protect her. She doesn't need his protection. He wants the white picket fence. She wants to dig her fingers into her flesh to remove that deadly and numbing silver bullet before a monster with a barbed penis comes along and whacks her in more than one way. Boring? Believe it or not .. hell yes.

In Embraced by Darkness, Riley is contacted by her pack, the pack that tossed her off the cliff for being a half-breed, the pack that exiled her and her twin brother. Women are going missing, and for some reason, they have decided to bully her into the investigation by threatening her mother.

Still boring.

The sexual content is almost non-existent .. wtf? After the first two books in this series, there was promise of entertainment with interesting bestial intimacies between breeds and half breeds. What can I say? Rock on.

My original opinion of this series, is that I would rate it at the top of my charts ... along with the Anita Blake series. Well shit ... I'll have to place her books on lower bookshelves and reserve the higher shelf for new favorite authors.

Ok, I hate writing negative reviews... and there have been plenty in the past few months! That's wrong on so many levels ... bummer.

So, let's find something positive to say about this book. The hunter becomes the hunted. Yup, that's about it.

I recommend this book to those who intend on reading this series. I do not recommend immature adults or children getting their hands on this book, as the violence, although brief, is fun-filled with bodies are ripped apart. The sexual content is vague, brief, and borrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring.

~happy reading :p?

Anzu The Great Destroyer says

1st read: ~Oct 2009

2nd read: ~Feb 2015

Ambre says

People have such low standards for their heroines, it is really kind of sad. Riley does stupid stuff, treats her boyfriend like crap, and is openly disdainful to her boss. I guess that adds up to totally cool if you have super powers?

I keep thinking she will start to annoy me less, but quite the opposite. Her whining about not being able to sleep with everything with a penis, her constant rudeness to everyone, and the fact that she can't think her way out of a paper bag make me crazy.

The books are pure filler. Something to read when there is nothing better available. But reading this after finishing one of Nalini Singh's books, I am just flabbergasted by the people who consider Riley capable. If she wasn't too stubborn or forgetful to carry her weapons, she wouldn't need her superpowers half the time. Not being a dumbass would avoid the other half of the need. Of course, then the books would just be about her overactive sex life, and how unreasonable her boyfriend is to ask her not to screw every guy she sees, and her gushing to him about how great he is and then moping because he isn't Quinn. Blech. Compared to Singh's Elena, she is just another whiny werewolf.

Shelley says

Synopsis: The book starts with Riley on holiday on Monitor island to recover from all the events of the last year (and last four books). She is contacted, in her head, by a member of her former pack, Blake Jenson, who

demands that she looks into the disappearance of a pack member, Adrienne, and threatens to hurt Riley and Rhoan's mother if she doesn't comply. (A mother who in all aspects of life; abandoned them because of their dual heritage. Blake, it seems, is also the new alpha of the pack, and someone Riley and her brother Rhoan have no use for at all.

Half werewolf, half vampire Riley Jenson is now a full fledged guardian in the Directorate of Other Races thanks to a drug she was forced to take when she was kidnapped. If she wasn't in the directorate she would be involved with the military like others were forced do. Her brother warned her that being a guardian came with risks, and that he didn't want her to become one.

When she arrives back home she is given another assignment. Females are being torn apart by something evil and preternatural although nobody knows what is actual doing the killing. Once Riley puts a stop to the murders she swings her attention to the club Mirror Image where shifter and humans are allowed to dance with the end game being sex. Women connected to the club have disappeared and Riley believes that was the story Adrienne was working on before she disappeared and ended up dead. Now she has to retrace her footsteps and hope she and her twin brother Rhoan don't get killed by two human with supernatural powers.

I always wondered by the author didn't attempt to try to spin off Rhoan. His story is just as compelling as Riley's, although he wasn't experimented on, or drugged in order to cross breed with. I like the fact that Riley and Rhoan compliment each other; which shows up during the final battle with Blake at their old ranch.

Another plus, that is for me, the sex scenes were so in your face this time around. It was all about Riley trying to solve two mysteries and her relationship with members of her family she didn't know anything about.

Laura says

Description:

She's hunting a killer—and shattering every boundary—she's ever known....

Part vamp, part werewolf, Riley Jenson plays by her own rules, whether it's her stormy love life or her job as a guardian. But when her family's alpha male demands that she solve the mystery of a vanished girl, Riley can feel a trap closing in around her. Because the job comes with a catch: if Riley fails, her own mother will die.

Now the stakes are raised, the hunt is on...and when more women vanish, Riley is caught between a lover who demands that she give up her work, a serial killer who knows no boundaries, and a club where humans and supernaturals mix—at their own peril. Thrust into a realm of seduction and violence unlike any she could have imagined, Riley has to battle to save everything she holds dear. But the ultimate hunt has only just begun..

my review:

In the 5th Riley Jensen series by Keri Arthur you'll find a fast paced story. Riley will have to deal with having to solve 2 crimes, her abilities and of course her love life. I think so far this is my favorite book in the

series. I liked #4 more than I did the first 3 but this one focuses less on mindless sex and more on the story line.

Michelle(Chelle) aka Nightshade - Cake Whisperer says

I'm going to give this book a 3.5. Now don't get me wrong I still love my Riley Jensen, but come on now - no Quinn. Point deductions for that!!! It was an interesting story line and of course Riley is her usual kick-ass self. But on another note - how many times can this poor girl get shot full of silver and live to tell the tale....LOL. Obviously I'm glad she does but in this book it was a bit overkill. IMO. Still loving the series though.

P.A. Lupton says

I loved the first three Riley Jenson books. I had a bit of trouble with Dangerous Games, but I enjoyed it by the end and I was looking forward to Embraced by Darkness. Unfortunately, I was a bit disappointed and I'm a little worried the magic of Riley Jenson is gone for me.

There is no denying that Keri Arthur is a good author. I like her writing style. I like the paranormal world she's created. I love the fact that her heroine kicks major ass. So, why was I disappointed? I think this is a matter of personal taste. I'm a huge romance junkie. Although I can, and do, enjoy a good Urban Fantasy, it HAS to have romance in it. And by romance I don't mean sex. Those are two very different things. Riley Jenson has sex, but the romance was missing, along with Quinn.

Keri Arthur made me fall in love with Quinn and Riley in the first three books. I was angry with Quinn in the last book, but I wasn't ready to let go of him—and I definitely was not ready to embrace Kellan. I just don't feel the magic between the two the way I felt it with her and Quinn. I need to feel like there is romance somewhere in my novels and that's what was missing for me in this book.

Now, with that being said, I will place my trust in this author. She's brought me too much enjoyment to give up on her. Not only that, but I've read the reviews for the next book and Quinn is making a comeback, so I will definitely read the next book. I am keeping my fingers crossed that Quinn will be the hero I know he is and fight for his woman.

Sarah says

Riley is supposed to be on holiday to recover from events in the previous books but she never has been one to sit around doing nothing. This time her holiday is spoiled when she is contacted by a member of her mother's pack - the pack that exiled her & Rhoan for being half breeds. Riley wants as little to do with them as they have had to do with her but now they need her help - one of their pack members has gone missing and they want Riley to find her. If Riley refuses then her mother will be killed - a threat she knows they will be happy to carry out.

I'm already a big fan of this series and Embraced by Darkness was a great installment. We have seen Riley go through a lot in the year we've been following her but she has some difficult personal decisions to make this time regarding her relationship with Kellen. I started getting really bad feelings about Kellen near the beginning of the story but I'm not going to say if I was right or not - you'll have to read the book to find out. I just find it very hard to trust Riley's taste in men given her history!

I liked finding out more about Riley & Rhoan's upbringing and their relationship with members of their old pack. It would have been nice to have a chance to meet their mother though. I do love the strong bond between Riley & Rhoan though - they have always been close but as you learn more about their mother's pack it becomes clear that they've only really ever been able to rely on each other. It's good that they are still always there for each other.

I enjoyed the hunt scenes with the bad guys towards the end of the book and was really unsure how Riley would escape. There was a really interesting twist to the way Riley's powers are developing due to the experimental drug she was given at the start of the series, I'm very curious to see how this changes things for her in the future. I did find the bad guys abilities were a little unbelievable and didn't think we were given enough of an explanation for that. I was also a bit surprised at how easily they are defeated at the end considering how powerful they were.

This is a great series for fans of urban fantasy but I would definitely recommend starting with book 1 Full Moon Rising. Riley has developed quite a lot as a character throughout the series & I think you'd be missing out if you didn't read the books in order. I liked the fact that Riley's hormones played a smaller part in this story - I don't mind sex in a story but it can get a little repetitive when the main character is repeatedly having sex with many partners, especially when it is often with people she doesn't like & just as a part of her job. If you haven't started this series yet but are an urban fantasy fan then I would definitely recommend giving it a try.

Cassie says

It's strange, but there's something relaxing about reading these books, even though I'm not really that into this series. They're a bit too dark and gruesome for my tastes. I also find them a little boring because Riley thinks so much and keeps repeating things over and over and over... The overriding theme of this particular book is that Riley prefers hazelnut coffee, but several things are almost as good.

I did have an "oh that sucks" moment at the end of the book. It's amazing how often Quinn was mentioned without actually appearing in the book. I guess we know what that means.

I thought the bird scene was cute, but that's probably mostly because I have a soft spot for birdies.

I guess that, after five books, I shouldn't still hope the writing changes. I got pretty annoyed that the entire end of the book was Riley telling the baddies that guardians are awesome and that they're underestimating her, because she's a guardian. Because she is a guardian, you know.

Debora M | Nasreen says

Promosso a pieni voti anche questo quinto romanzo dedicato alla nostra Riley, mezzosangue metà licantropo e metà vampiro, che assieme al fratello gemello Rhoan si troverà nuovamente invischiata in una caccia all'assassino veramente particolare e sanguinariamente intrigante, per gli amanti del genere.

In questo romanzo, che vede mancare interamente il nostro beneamino Quinn (anche se il signorino si è più volte comportato male con Riley, ci manca), abbiamo il piacere di veder investigare assieme i due gemelli, rileggere di alcuni capitoli interamente dedicati ai due, senza amanti assatanati intorno, è veramente piacevole. Come è piacevole e incredibilmente divertente leggere dei loro scambi di battute e punzecchiature continue, Rhoan è sicuramente un fratello straordinario.

Un'altra nota molto, molto e ripetiamo "molto", positiva è la nostra Riley che, forse per la prima volta, si dimostra come qualcosa di più che una lupa in calore. Non che la ragazza non abbia avuto un profilo interessante, nei precedenti libri, tutt'altro, semplicemente usava continuamente la scusa del suo essere "lupo" come uno scudo dietro cui ripararsi e giustificarsi per il suo non riuscire (o non volere?) impegnarsi esclusivamente con Quinn, il vampiro che ama.

In questo caso il suo rapporto con l'Alfa Kellen si sta facendo sempre più importante e, alla proposta del suo compagno di renderlo esclusivo, Riley va in tilt dimostrando che, a tutti gli effetti, sente il bisogno di essere libera, ama la sua natura di lupo... o molto semplicemente che Kellen, per quanto perfetto per il suo sogno, non è perfetto per la sua realtà. Fare i conti con questi dubbi ha reso Riley più riflessiva e molto più profonda come personaggio; decisamente un passo avanti rispetto ai primi due libri.

Avremo il piacere di seguire Riley, caparbia e avventata come sempre, lungo una tortuosa caccia all'uomo, la ricerca di suo cugina scomparsa, la comparsa di nuovi poteri e la scomparsa di qualcuno di importante; dopotutto era stata avvertita.

Una profezia sul suo futuro farà impazzire, letteralmente, il lettore fra supposizioni, paure e speranze... Chi saranno i tre uomini importanti, nel bene e nel male, per Riley? Chi le farà del male? Chi si prenderà cura di lei? E perchè la Morte sembra osservarla senza toccarla?

Non ci resta che attendere con ansia il prossimo romanzo di Keri Arthur.

Summer says

I have to say that so far each book in this series has gotten a little bit better than the last one. Once again Riley is involved with another murder investigation with the Directorate. She's finally kicked Quinn to the curb and is spending quality time with Kellen. Some people from her and Rhoan's past make an appearance and ask Riley for a favor. However, these aren't friendly people and they don't ask nice. Kellen asks Riley to make an important decision in this book too.

I don't want to give away the ending to this book but let's just say by the middle of the book I could tell it was happening. I really love Rhoan though and wish he was in the books more, though he is in this book quite a bit. Quinn is only mentioned in this book which was nice. I liked him at first but his unfair demands on Riley grate on my nerves. It was nice not dealing with his drama. Although, I read he comes back in the next book. Ugh.

So anyways, it was excellent and I had a blast reading it.

Dorri says

In the beginning of the fifth installment of Keri Arthur's half werewolf, half vampire heroine, Riley Jenson, we find her chasing her tail with boredom on a forced vacation. Even the beauty of Monitor Island can't seem to calm the new huntress Riley finds rising inside her. But all the doubts and worries circling inside her are shoved aside when the Alpha of the red wolf pack shows up to get Riley to searching for a missing wolf of their pack. All the old hurts rise inside of Riley as she remembers how the pack treated her and Rhoane before driving them from the pack to fend for themselves. She tries to tell him off, in typical Riley fashion, but his threat to kill her mother forces her to take the impromptu job.

With this threat hanging over her head, Riley hightails it back to the mainland and her job as a Guardian. Looking into the disappearance of a wolf takes back seat to the job the Directorate suddenly hands her way. Human women are being torn apart by something evil and seemingly preternatural, although there is no proof that something other than a human is actually killing the women. Until the dead husband/lovers begin showing up dead with no mark of violence on them. Also leading Riley to believe the murders are preternatural is the new trick brought on by the ARC1-23 injection, the ability to see the spirits of the recently departed. The dead women's spirits give her clues that lead her to believe the murders and the missing wolf pack girl are suspiciously intertwined, so her wolf self tells her to let the hunt begin.

There are many side players who have reoccurring roles that brighten the entire story, such as Cole's with his witty crime scene banter, the Cow's snappy and snippy grudging assistance, Kellan's need for her to be his sole girl, Liander who is the strong man who loves her brother, and Rhoane, always there to back her up.

This book spins you about and makes you cheer Riley on just so we can read more. Keri Arthur is a delightful writer who gives depth to her world making it enjoyable, wonderful and pleasurable to read. I know I'll keep reading.
