



On the Hunt

Alexandra Ivy , Rebecca Zanetti , Dianne Duvall , Hannah Jayne

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Four of today's most intriguing paranormal authors entice readers deep into the shadows, where vampires, immortals, and other supernatural creatures heat up the night...

ON THE HUNT by Alexandra Ivy

Mika Tanner has loved Bailey Morrell, a beautiful Healer, since childhood. But his duty as a Sentinel, a supernatural guardian of an ancient race, clashed with her rebellious spirit. Now a dangerous new anarchist group not only threatens life as they know it—but any chance of their being together again...

SCORPIUS RISING by Rebecca Zanetti

With a deadly disease spreading like wildfire across the country, microbiologist Nora Medina needs to focus all her energy on stopping the pandemic. Playing with dynamite—in the form of her way-too-hot ex—is the last thing she should be doing. ?But forced to work with Deacan McDougall against unexpected enemies with the seconds ticking by, she knows the explosion is coming...

PHANTOM EMBRACE by Dianne Duvall

Immortal Yuri Sokolov was born with the ability to see spirits, yet he's never seen one as lovely as Cat Seddon, the woman who haunts his home and his dreams. But amid their star-crossed love, a new danger may have Yuri facing a different kind of eternity.

STAKE OUT by Hannah Jayne

Vampire fashion designer Nina LaShay has a lot on her plate—just two days until fashion week and the model who was flirting with her photographer boyfriend is now a corpse in her studio. But when dead turns into undead and dangerous, Nina must find out who's responsible...before the beautiful baby vamp takes too many bites out of the Big Apple.

On the Hunt Details

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Author : Alexandra Ivy , Rebecca Zanetti , Dianne Duvall , Hannah Jayne

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Download and Read Free Online On the Hunt Alexandra Ivy , Rebecca Zanetti , Dianne Duvall ,

Hannah Jayne

From Reader Review On the Hunt for online ebook

*Avonna says

This is a paranormal anthology with four very different novellas and as with most anthologies I enjoyed some more than others. It is difficult to get enough world building into a novella for the reader to be inside the author's world and have a strong plot and character development, but these all accomplish that goal.

On The Hunt by Alexandra Ivy is about a world of highborn warriors, healers, witches and other paranormal creatures who live among humans. Warrior Mika Tanner is sent on a mission which brings him back to the lover he lost. Bailey Morrell is a Healer for the highborn and must decide if she prefers her life of freedom from the highborns' strict rules or the warrior she left behind. This novella has a strong plot and romance, a side mystery, also. I really enjoyed these characters.

Scorpius Rising by Rebecca Zanetti is about an outbreak of a bacteria from outer space. It kills many, but if you survive your brain is changed, not for the better and you can continually pass on the bacteria. Deacon Devin McDougall is a present day soldier with all the characteristics of his Highland ancestors. He works for the government and must make hard decisions about the infected. He brings his ex wife and bacteriologist Dr. Nora Medina to work with the brightest from the CDC to try to find a cure. They still have different views of government that haven't changed since their split, but due to this threat, they must now come together to survive. The romance is very good and hot in this novella, but I didn't believe some of the ways the plot was handled in regards to the epidemic.

Phantom Embrace by Dianne Duvall is about a world of immortal warriors who all have different special talents and battle against vampires and the mortals who follow them. Yuri is an immortal warrior who can see ghosts. He has learned not to let them know he can see and hear them, but he breaks his own no involvement rule for Cat. Catherine has been dead for many centuries and is shocked when Yuri acknowledges her. They find out they can be together in dreams, but there are consequences. The romantic ending was sad, but satisfying.

Stake Out by Hannah Jayne is about a world with vampires and shapeshifters with a slightly comedic twist. Nina LaShay is the vampire designer of Drop Dead Clothing. Her boyfriend is Pike, who is a Hawaiian bird shifter, photographer. Her nephew, Vlad, is also a vampire who lives with her. Someone is turning runway models into vampires and overshadowing Nina's new fashion line. Nina, Pike and Vlad must stop the master vampire changing models and uncover the mystery designer trying to steal her spotlight. This is more of a fun mystery than a romance.

Thank you to Kensington Books, Zebra and Net Galley for allowing me to read a free ARC of this anthology for an honest review.

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

This review is only for

Prequel

The Scorpius Syndrome by Rebecca Zanetti

I started this novella prequel immediately when I realized my ARC of Mercury Striking mentioned that the whole pandemic was explained in this prequel. The story had its own romance pairing. Nora and her sexy, bossy, ex-husband Declean McDougall

Wow this guy was like the Alpha incarnate. He even growled and this isn't paranormal.. Well it's almost post apocalyptic but still he's human. Just extraordinarily so.. Male

8 years since they divorced and aside from Nora thinking how she tried to get over him.. Dating several men and even moving in with one.. But they all failed. Nothing regarding Deck moving on.. Because I fully believe he just wanted her back always. They were like kindling and a spark. So hot.

Ms Zanetti has an amazing way at world building. I encountered this in another series. She sucks you in easily. I love post apocalyptic stories and am always on the hunt for my "safe" romance in this genre . I'm so glad I signed up for the next installment because I'm already hooked and intrigued by Lynne's story. I'm a little bummed she had a love interest in this book... And I'm hoping that there is zero chance of a triangle in Mercury Striking. But either way here goes.. I'm diving in.

Jeanny says

The arc for On the Hunt by Alexandra Ivy, Rebecca Zanetti, Dianne Duvall, Hannah Jayne Kensington Books was kindly provided to me via Netgalley.

Anthologies are a mixed bag but I felt I stacked the deck to my benefit being I am familiar with the majority of the series & authors included in this book. Below I included a premise of each story complied in this anthology followed by my thoughts & ratings for each.

Hunt by Alexandra Ivy

Premise:

Mika Tanner has loved Bailey Morrell, a beautiful Healer, since childhood. But his duty as a Sentinel, a supernatural guardian of an ancient race, clashed with her rebellious spirit. Now a dangerous new anarchist group not only threatens life as they know it—but any chance of their being together again...

My thoughts:

Sadly I wasn't a fan of this story. I thought the dialogue stiff & the character development unimpressive. The story felt like an originally written regency or historical type romance that was "revamped" to fit into the paranormal romance genre. The paranormal aspects felt like filler to me.

Rate 1 star

Scorpius Rising by Rebecca Zanetti

With a deadly disease spreading like wildfire across the country, microbiologist Nora Medina needs to focus all her energy on stopping the pandemic. Playing with dynamite—in the form of her way-too-hot ex—is the last thing she should be doing. ?But forced to work with Deacan McDougall against unexpected enemies with the seconds ticking by, she knows the explosion is coming...

My thoughts: The timeframe in this story felt contemporary. I found the science & circumstance plausible. The characters multidimensional & extremely likable (especially Nora & her BFF) The H was a typical alpha male but he made an effort to conform to what he thought was healthier & more appealing to the h. This story surprised me in that it engulfed my interest completely. I read it in one sitting & was anxious to look

into the series. In general I'm not a fan of highlanders but the apocalyptic world & science was irresistible to me. It turned into my choice of mind candy.

Rating: 4 solid stars

Phantom Embrace by Dianne Duvall

Immortal Yuri Sokolov was born with the ability to see spirits, yet he's never seen one as lovely as Cat Seddon, the woman who haunts his home and his dreams. But amid their star-crossed love, a new danger may have Yuri facing a different kind of eternity.

My thoughts: I should start my confessing I find a romantic tale in which one of the protagonists is a ghost cruel. It's unbelievably sad to find love after death with a live person. We all know the only suitable option available for the coupling to be successful, so that ruins the ending straight away. However, my preconceived notions on this type of romance did not detour me from enjoying it. The author did a fantastic job of setting the scene, the chemistry, & entire process of falling in love was heartfelt. What can I say except the story pulled on my heart strings.

Rating: 4 stars

Stake Out by Hannah Jayne

Vampire fashion designer Nina LaShay has a lot on her plate—just two days until fashion week and the model who was flirting with her photographer boyfriend is now a corpse in her studio. But when dead turns into undead and dangerous, Nina must find out who's responsible...before the beautiful baby vamp takes too many bites out of the Big Apple.

My thoughts: This was a nice bit of fluff. It was a mystery set during fashion week & the entire plot was fantastically absurd. It's the type of story you read to simply be entertained & escape reality.

Rating: 3 stars

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This book counts towards my Cliterary Genius 2016 A to Z book challenge. Letter O

Jen Davis says

This anthology is a pretty mixed bag of mostly paranormal romance. It features a few stories from ongoing series... none of which I was familiar with. Here's a breakdown:

On the Hunt – This is my first story from Alexandra Ivy, and served as a pretty good introduction to her Sentinels series. She clearly lays out the basics of the world from the beginning, so I never felt lost and it was easy to focus my attention on the romance.

Mika is a Sentinel, a warrior trained to defend the world's "high bloods," essentially beings with magical powers who live apart from the human world. It's been 10 years since the last time he saw Bailey, the lovely healer who he thought he was going to marry. You see, Mika is dedicated to his calling. He lives in the Sentinel compound and embraces all that comes with that. Bailey wanted freedom, though. She chafed against the rules and the limitations, ultimately choosing to leave so she could live life on her own terms.

Now a tracking job has landed her back in Mika's path. Of course, neither has stopped loving the other. Time and distance has only made them more appreciative of the bond they share. So this is a second chance at love story, and it's put together well. I felt like Ivy did a good job of making me understand these two, establishing their feelings in these hundred pages or so. The only thing that bothered me is ultimately, one of the characters has to turn their back on the feelings and wants that were enough to separate them in the first place. Yes, the romance works out, but it didn't feel balanced. Even with the little surprise at the end, only one of these characters is really having to sacrifice for the sake of love. That's not cool.

Rating: B/B-

Scorpius Rising - Argh!!! I was so CLOSE to loving this one. (view spoiler)

(*Deep breath*) The story started out really good. Nora is a super-smart scientist who has been divorced from her husband Deacan for the past eight years. As the story begins, he is on board a military plane which snatches her from her vacation to work on a top secret government project. A bacteria from a meteorite has infected a handful of people, but it's deadly and it's spreading fast. From the get-go, it's clear that Deacan wants her back. He regrets the man he was, who drove her away and he is trying to change his ways and settle down for her.

The virus outbreak and plot surrounding its containment is very well done. So is the sexual tension between Deacan and Nora.

I really am a fan of Rebecca Zanetti. It was her name of the cover that made me pick up this book. But in the last 10%, this story really got my dander up. (view spoiler)

Rating: I don't want to talk about it.

Phantom Embrace – This story is part of Dianne Duvall's Immortal Guardians series and it felt very obvious I was jumping into a story in progress. Best I can tell, this story happens at the same time as the events of Night Unbound, book 5 in the series, just told from the POV of a different character. As a result, there were times I felt like Duvall was trying to put too much in the story that a new reader would not understand... and at times summarizing events that probably played out over time in the other book. That was tough for me, as someone unfamiliar with the series, but based on how it all played out, this would probably be a great addition for people already familiar with the books.

Yuri is a Guardian who helps protect the world from evil vampires. He can also see ghosts, including the lovely Cat who haunts the home where he has been staying. At first, she has no idea that he can see her, but he finally reveals his ability and the two fall in love. There aren't many ways that a love story involving a ghost can have a HEA, so expect a bittersweet ending. I liked this one fairly well, but I think it would have been much better if I had read the series leading up to this point. (Side note: I liked this story enough to go on to read the other books in the series –and I ended up totally loving them. Then, I read this one again and enjoyed it even more.)

Rating: B on the first read/ B+ on the second

Stake Out had a definitively different feel from the other stories in the anthology. While the first three were romances, this one was not. While it wasn't a bad story, it was very out of place among the others. It was more a quirky contemporary UF about a vampire fashionista whose models are turning up dead on Fashion Week.

The main character is from Hannah Jayne's Underworld Detection Agency. But this works fine as a standalone. There is a love interest here but it's very secondary to Nina's obsession with "winning" Fashion Week and stopping her newly turned vampire model from a killing spree. A little too glib for me and the tone too light from what I like in my Urban Fantasy.

Rating: C+

**ARC provided by publisher*

Dali says

I love anthologies for two reasons. One, they give us more of the characters we enjoy. Two, they're a wonderful way to get to know new authors. From this anthology I was really, truly looking forward to reading Yuri's story by Dianne Duvall, but I've also read other series by Rebecca Zanetti who I know is a wonderful author. I've never read anything by Alexandra Ivy or Hanna Jayne, but as I mentioned before, this is a good opportunity to get to know their writing style and creations.

In Phantom Embrace, Dianne Duvall gives us the bittersweet story of Immortal Guardian Yuri Sokolov and Catherine Seddon. Don't misunderstand, it's a great story told like only Dianne can and it does have a happy ending. It's just that loving a ghost has its drawbacks. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Yuri's immortal existence can be summed up in three words: "*hunt, sleep, repeat.*" For centuries he's had his kindred and duties as a guardian. He's also felt a deep loneliness. But since he was transferred from New York to David's house in North Carolina he's felt a companionship that's hard to explain, because he's the only one who can see the lovely ghost he's been spending time with.

Since he was a boy he could see and talk to phantoms. He also understood that relating with them wasn't a good idea. But this particular ghost who had been following him on his hunts and to his room didn't feel threatening at all. Once he decides to interact with Cat, he quickly bonds with her deeper than with any other living person he's known. But as he knew, there's always a downside when it comes to the phantoms that roam the Earth. Could mere companionship be enough? Can love persevere between Cat and Yuri? > ??

I fell in love with these Immortal Guardians right from the start and have eagerly followed each of their tales. Enjoying Dianne's wonderful story telling and relishing the ties she creates between the main characters from each book while bringing back the rest of the gang. Each character is different but they have common denominators like loyalty, fierce protectiveness and a gooey center that make them very appealing.

The story about Yuri was slightly different though. Not because he isn't all these things, on the contrary. But because of how things ended in Night Unbound, the previous book in the series. I was more eager than usual to get to know further about him. And albeit not a full length novel, we get everything from backstories, explosive confrontations and fight scenes, to the sweet and sexy development of the main characters' relationship, more of the overall plot and of the Immortal Guardians we've met in the past. So every component needed for a great paranormal romance packed in this great novella.

I liked getting to know about Cat's past, which was interesting and surprising. I loved Cat and Yuri's relationship, though unusual, bloomed. It made me smile with its tender and sultry moments, thrilled me with its action and excitement and even though bittersweet, it also gave me a satisfying and happy ending for Yuri and Cat.

I can't wait to be introduced to the rest of these authors and their work. The complete list of novellas and authors:

ON THE HUNT by Alexandra Ivy

SCORPIUS RISING by Rebecca Zanetti

PHANTOM EMBRACE by Dianne Duvall

STAKE OUT by Hannah Jayne

* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via NetGalley. The excerpts are from that copy. *

More reviews * Stalk us on FaceBook * As well as Twitter * Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

Claire Robinson says

3.5 - Places came and went, even people. But her books always travelled with her. Stars!

On the Hunt was definitely a book of two halves for me, in that I have read books by two of the authors (Rebecca Zanetti & Alexandra Ivy) and have no previous reading knowledge of the other two (Dianne Duvall and Hannah Jayne).

Weirdly, or maybe it's just coincidence, I actually enjoyed the two novellas by the authors I was already aware of more than the two I wasn't.

Alexandra's was full of myth and magic, and although book 2.5 in a series, it was easy to read and nothing was confusing in relation to the characters or the storyline. Whereas I struggled with both Hannah Jayne's and Dianne Duvall's offerings because of that reason, they felt like they were very much part of a series, and I felt like I was missing something with both of them.

"I've changed."

"I haven't."

"Good."

Rebecca's offering *Scorpius Rising* is the prequel novella to her new *Scorpius Syndrome* series. As you would expect she gives the reader an uber alpha male and a sassy, feisty female character along with a fast paced storyline to keep you interested.

"Your mind may not be clear or your heart. But your body knows who owns it."

My only bug bear is once again her use of odd dialect in relation to her characters accent, I have never heard a Scotsman in today's times use the words *Mayhaps* or *Garna*, I may be wrong, and it was only a small niggle. This was an interesting start to the series, I am interested to see where she takes it in the first full length book *Mercury Rising*, due for release January 2016.

All in all a great little selection for the PNR reader, I think with mixed collections such as this you are always going to enjoy some of the offerings more than others, but on this occasion they were all pretty entertaining.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was my pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

This review is only about Rebecca Zanetti's *The Scorpius Syndrome* #0.5

I'll make this short:

The world is facing a pandemic, bacteria from space have taken a piggyback ride on a meteor and infect humans. These humans either die, go crazy and/or have heightened intelligence. Nora is a scientist and specialized in bacteria. Her ex-husband Deacan kidnaps her under the order of the government to research this looming pandemic.

* I had a bit of a tough time connecting with the characters, Nora was a bit boring. Deke was alright, I suppose but...

*...he changes his mind like (hopefully) his underwear, the only thing he doesn't change his mind about is the heroine and his love for her. In the beginning he says he is a different man than he used to be. Within the span of a couple of weeks he decides, nope, can't be different, will always be a warrior.

* The heroine couldn't live with him being a warrior and angry all the time when she was young. Granted, a couple of years have gone by...but she has reservations in the beginning of the story and at the end she's totally fine with it.

* They go at it like rabbits while the bacteria is spreading amongst people and a villain is infecting people on purpose. Also, the heroine has a lot of reasons to not sleep with her ex-husband yet she loses half of her super-intelligent brain when he is around.

* The villain has three chances to infect the heroine yet she always escapes.

Given that this is a novella I can imagine it is hard to make the characters shine in such a complicated world. I did like the world building and the prospect of a post apocalyptic world so I really look forward to reading the first full novel in this series. The writing is fluent and it does make you want to read on. Rebecca Zanetti definitely has talent!

Doris says

On *The Hunt*, is a collection of short stories by 4 authors (3 that I am very familiar with) all were good but a few were a bit slow for me. I am a fan of Alexander Ivy, Rebecca Zanetti and Dianne Duvall so were familiar with their stories. Hannah Jayne this is the first book I have read from her. All in all they were good but could only give it a three star.

Dianne says

You know that feeling when a 12 ft long dessert table is standing before you and you can have a taste of everything on the table without guilt? Yeah, it's like that, **On the Hunt** is four brief tales from four powerful authors and a feast for the imagination, best part, they are all calorie-free! Alexandra Ivy, Rebecca Zanetti, Dianne Duvall and Hannah Jayne each have concocted short stories in their creative mental kitchens and the results are simply amazing. Looking for some quick, entertaining and intriguing reading? This is the way to visit with both old authors and new.

From healers to guardians, vampires to genius killing machines, there is never a dull moment!

I received an ARC edition from Zebra in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Tanja ~ T's Book ~ KT Book Reviews says

Wow you guys! What an incredible collection of authors and short stories! This is a must read for diehard fans of any or all of these authors. *On The Hunt* by Alexandra Ivy was a sexy fun romp into the supernatural. *Mika and Baily* are the epitome of second chance romance. Loved every second.

Scorpius Rising by Rebecca Zanetti is going to be one of her biggest hits! It is a nail biting, ripped from the headlines kind of a read. Smart, exhilarating dialogue keeps you turning the pages into the night. Simply put I adore book one and can't wait to get into this series again!

Phantom Embrace by Dianne Duval is a hauntingly beautiful read for her fans. A bit confusing at times however I liked this ghostly read :)

Stake Out by Hannah Jayne was a fun little read from a "new to me" author. PNR fun is all I can say about this one. The story was a quirky kind of read to me. I am sure many will like it.

All in all a great collection from some of my favorite authors and a nice introduction to a new one!

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AJ says

Note - I only read *Scorpius Rising* by Rebecca Zanetti and *Phantom Embrace* by Dianne Duvall.

Both 4 stars

* * * * *

SCORPIUS RISING by Rebecca Zanetti - 4 stars

This is a prequel novella to *The Scorpius Syndrome* series.

A meteor has crashed into earth, bringing with it a highly infectious bacteria that kills most of its victims, but leaves the survivors either with enhanced abilities or and / completely stripped of their humanity. Nora is a brilliant microbiologist who is bought in by the government to work with the CDC to try and find a cure. And coming to collect her is none other than her hot, military-man ex-husband, Deacon.

Nora and Deke had a mad love when they were younger and married when they were just 18 before their different lives and their hot-headedness tore them apart. Now it's 8 years later and they have both grown up and have realized that what they had was the once-in-a-lifetime connection that people rarely find. And while Nora is determined to do her job and go home, Deke is determined to win back his girl.

This novella is fast-paced, exciting, romantic and super sexy. Nora and Deke's chemistry is absolutely sizzling, and there's a great mix of sexy time and swoony romance as they find their way back to each other. All while faced with death and horrifying violence as they battle to keep the bacteria under control while they find a cure. But betrayal and sabotage may cause the end of the world as they know it.

It's a great start to a new series that I'm really excited to dive into. Rebecca Zanetti does suspenseful, action-packed romance so well and with a brilliant set-up, I can't wait to go on with the story of Nora's best friend and fellow microbiologist, Lynne.

4 stars.

* * * * *

PHANTOM EMBRACE by Dianne Duvall - 4 stars

Book 5.5 of the *Immortal Guardians* series, this short gives us the story of Immortal Guardian Yuri. Time-wise, it takes place during the events of *Night Unbound*, Zach and Lisette's story, which is a hugely intense time for the Immortal Guardians. They are facing down an enemy unlike any they have seen before, and the

warriors are under threat and gearing up for an epic battle.

But while it's all going down, Yuri is falling in love. Born with the ability to see ghosts and spirits, he learned the hard way not to interact with them in any way less they become fixated on him and he never gets any peace. But there is a woman who hangs around David's house where the Guardians all gather, and occasionally follows him out onto missions. She is beautiful, yet sad, and he feels himself unexpectedly drawn to her, so one night he reaches out to her.

"I can feel your sadness ... I wish I could alleviate it, little one."

Cat is the deceased sister of Immortal Guardian, Bastien. She was murdered by her vampire husband over 300 years ago, and she has watched over her brother and the other warriors since he became one of them. She has been drawn to Yuri since she saw him, but had no idea that he could see her. And as soon as he initialises contact, it's like the floodgates have been opened. They have watched each other for so long, spending time in each other's company, that it is as if they already sort of know each other. But now that they can converse, they spend time together watching movies, listening to audiobooks and talking about anything and everything. They both revel in every moment that they have together, and Yuri finds himself returning early from his hunts just to that he can spend time with Cat. But they are in an impossible situation.

"How I wish I could hold you in my arms."
... "As do I."

I really enjoyed this novella. Yuri has always been a bit of a background character in the series up to this point, and I really enjoyed getting to know him more. I loved watching him and Cat fall for each other, and I loved the way that they made things work between them. And despite their circumstances, this book has all of the emotion, feeling and passionate romance as others in the series.

"I've waited five hundred years to find you. Five hundred years to love you."

"I'll come to you."

I love how their story played out, and finished it with a huge grin on my face. It was a great read and a very meaningful addition to the series. I am so happy that Diane Duvall gave us this story.

4 stars.

Note - Again, I'd definitely recommend reading these books in order to get the full impact of the story, and this one is spoilery if you haven't already read book 5, so please don't skip anything!

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

On the Hunt is a collection of four novellas by Alexandra Ivy, Rebecca Zanetti, Dianne Duvall, and Hannah Jayne. All the stories have the same theme of hunting or being hunted. I loved three out of four of these the last one just isn't my cup of tea, I really didn't like anything about it.

On the Hunt: Alexandra Ivy

An in between novella for the Sentinel series. Mika has always loved Bailey. But for reasons of her own, aside being very head strong, parts ways from Mika. Years later Mika is tracking down a boy and it leads him straight to Bailey's front door. After all those years no matter how hard she tried Bailey could not forget Mika and her love for him and his sudden reappearance is doing things to her head. When the runaway boy leads Bailey into a trap by a psycho looking to live forever Mika is her only hope and she knows it's only a matter of time before he does.

I love this series and I am always happy to see another HEA to come out of the universe. On the Hunt is an action packed and feel good romance. I love a good second chance romance.

SCORPIUS RISING: Rebecca Zanetti

Disregard what the the goodreads.com blurb it is very wrong, the only thing right is their is a strange pandemic going on and it's not killing everyone but mutating some. Nora Mendina just started her well deserved vacation when a bunch of government agents basically kidnap her. The man behind it is her ex-husband Deacan MacDougall. Deacan has very much changed since she left the damaged military man she once knew the only thing that hasn't changed was his feeling for her. Unfortunately getting back together wasn't the reason for her abduction. A meteorite landed in the Nevada desert and the group of students who found it got sick with some kind of alien bacteria. As one of the world's leading Microbiologist and her best friend the are racing to find a cure. While trying to find a cure her assistant is contaminated and goes crazy and starts spreading the bacteria. Deacan is determined to stop the pandemic and convince Nora she still loves him.

I loved this story it was a brilliant beginning to the new series. It's exciting and romantic, and so in depth detail wise. It reminded me a little of The Andromeda Strain mixed with Fated. Great story I can't wait for more

PHANTOM EMBRACE: Dianne Duvall

Yuri Sokolov has lived a long time as one of the Immortal Guardians, and as such he has special abilities even when he was human he could see and talk to ghosts. Cat Seddon haunts the home of the Immortal Guardians, her brother is the only connection she had to the mortal plain and since he's an Immortal Guardian that's where she stays. Cat has become fascinated with one of the Russian guardians, she follows him and watches him, never knowing that he could see her too until one day he spoke to her. From them on out they created a close friendship than soon developed into something more. They even found a way to visit each other in Yuri's dreams. But with dangers unbounding against the immortals and Yuri getting more

reckless. Cat is afraid he is injuring himself on purpose, he is but not for the reason she thinks. The more injured he is the longer his healing sleep is the more time her has with her.

This was a very bitter sweet one for me to read. It takes place before and during Night Unbound and if you've read it, you know what happens to Yuri at the end of the book. The entire thing made me want to cry it is such a sweet and romantic story that doesn't seem like it should have a happy ending, but it had me crying like crazy.

STAKE OUT: Hannah Jayne

Unlike the rest of the Underworld Detection Agency, this one is told from Nina's point of view. Nina has made her break in the fashion world and is now getting rest for Fashion Week in New York. Until some pretty stiff competition shows up and starts showing up Nina. Next thing she know the model she just fired for hitting on her boyfriend winds up dead in her studio, and then undead and running amok and changing the rest of the models. Nina, her photographer boyfriend, and her nephew try and track down the bite happy model and find out who is behind it all before it ruins Fashion Week and her career.

I just didn't like this one. I didn't like Nina or any of the other characters, the story seemed bland nothing about it really stuck out to me as special. It just isn't my personal preference.

Jo says

I'm a fan of three of the authors in this anthology, and I must say they did not disappoint with these novellas.

4Stars On the Hunt by Alexandra Ivy

A novella from The Sentinals series. In this world Ms. Ivy created there are high-bloods amongst humans. High-bloods are humans with hidden and powerful abilities, who was outcast by humanity because they fear their abilities. Mika is a Sentinal, a hunter, who is faster and stronger than mere humans. Mika takes his Sentinal duties very serious, and except for the one woman he loved, nothing is more important to him. Years ago he fell in love with Bailey, a Healer, but then she left him without a word. Now he crosses paths with her again, while tracking one of the kids from their monastery.

Bailey is used to being second choice, she had years of experience with her parents, who had more time for their students than for her. And because she was afraid of the same thing happening with Mika, she left him, but she never stopped loving him. After healing a scared high-blood, she is confronted with Mika who is looking for young Jacob. And seeing Mika brings back the question of whether she made the right choice in leaving him.

This was a sweet second-chance love story. I really liked Mika and Bailey, and found their romance very sweet.

4.5Stars Scorpius Rising by Rebecca Zanetti

An introduction to the new series by Rebecca Zanetti, The Scorpius Syndrome. A meteor falls to earth, and a dangerous bacteria is released. Nora Mendina, a microbiologist, is detained and brought to DC on her first

day of vacation by her ex-husband, Deacon McDougall. He needs her help in finding a cure for the deadly bacteria. And he's intent on proving to her he's a changed man, and that they were always meant to be.

Nora and Deacon met when they were very young, they fell in love and got married. But when Deacon returned from war, neither he nor she knew how to help him with the anger and darkness he had acquired, and they divorced. Now both are older, but the passion and love they shared is still there. Will they be able to fight this time for their love, and will Nora and her best friend, Lynne Harmony, be able to stop the bacteria infection before it becomes unstoppable?

I loved this novella. Nora was strong-willed and Deacon a very dominant hero. I have always had a weakness for a Scottish brogue, and Deacon was just yummy. I loved their romance, and the fact that even after all the years apart, their chemistry and love was just as strong.

The plot with the deadly bacteria infection was fascinating, and I can't wait to read more of this series. A definite winner.

4Stars Phantom Embrace by Dianne Duvall

Anyone who reads the Immortal Guardians series, and has read Night Unbound would love this novella. After reading Night Unbound, I was quite devastated by what happened to the Russian Immortal Yuri Sokolov. But now I can happily say that after reading this sweet and wonderful novella, I'm very happy with how things turned out for him. A sweet and very romantic novella, and a must read for fans of this series.

2.5Stars Stake Out by Hannah Jayne

This was my first book by this author, and although it was very quirky and funny, I just couldn't find the same connection with it like I did with the other novellas. The writing was good, but most probably because I haven't read this series I just didn't enjoy it that much.

sraxe says

While I only read Rebecca Zanetti's Scorpius Rising, the reason why I'm even giving this a two is because the Scorpius thing seems a bit interesting. Also, I don't feel that the other authors in the anthology deserve to be given a one because I didn't read their stories. I may end up reading them at some point, but I haven't done so yet.

While the Scorpius bacteria was interesting at first, it quickly got overshadowed by the lacklustre romance and the purportedly genius villain who was actually a complete idiot.

First, the romance. This is a second chance romance. The h and H, Nora and Deacan, were married at eighteen and divorced twenty-five. And they've now been divorced for eight years. Nora was the one who divorced him and he let her walk away without once trying to stop her. During the eight years, he's never tried to reach out to her. If you're hoping that they'll hash out their previous issues and work things out that way, you're going to have to find a different book. (view spoiler)

The entire romance was so fucking forced. Instead of them resolving their previous issues and naturally falling back into things with one another, everything about their new relationship is forced time and again.

Now the genius but super idiotic antagonist. (view spoiler)

Anyway. I also had an issue with the writing. While it's not horrible, I noticed that the author has a tendency to want to list out every single action of a character during dialogue exchanges.

George **nodded**. "I know." His **gaze sharpened**. "Just in case, I have the vice president under tight security."

Deke **grimaced**. "How's he feeling after the heart attack last month?"

"Not good." George **rubbed his chin**. "I'm glad we kept it quiet."

The government kept a lot quiet, but Deke was okay with that. For now. He **lifted an eyebrow**. "I hate to sound cold, but who's third in line? Just in case? Is it you?"

George's **eyes widened**. "Hell, no. How can you not know the order of succession?"

Deke **shrugged**. "Don't really give a damn until it matters to my job."

George **shook his head**. "Third in line is the Speaker of the House."

"A politician?" Deke **wincing**.

"We're all politicians, jackass."

Deke **snorted a laugh**. "Oh yeah. I forgot."

George **studied him** like a hawk searching for dinner. "You've seemed more at ease since the crisis started than you've been all last year."

"How so?" Deke **took another sip** and allowed the aged liquor to heat down his throat.

George **shrugged**. "You're a man of action, McDougall. Always have been and always will be. Strategizing, being on the sidelines, hasn't been good for you."

Deke **shifted in his chair**. "I've done my time, and I've done my action. I've earned peace."

Just waaaay too many actions. Sometimes they can be distracting, as they were for me. I kept noticing how the author felt the need to include actions along with almost every single line of dialogue. This isn't necessary. And I'm sure that there are people who won't notice or won't mind, but it was something that I noticed that bothered me a lot.

Ezinwanyi says

3.5 stars. But my favorite read was the Dianne Duvall short. I really LOVED that story, it flowed with the series. LMAO that Yuri loves granny panties.

ON THE HUNT (The Sentinels #2.5) by Alexandra Ivy - ★★★ Mika and Bailey were interesting but I think I would have enjoyed this better if I had a background in the series. This story featured a second chance at love for a healer and the sentinel. I am glad that their wounded pride took a back seat to their love and they were able to deal with the issues preventing them from being together. I would like to read this series and then try this novella again.

SCORPIUS RISING (Scorpius Syndrome, prequel) by Rebecca Zanetti - ★★★. This story would make an excellent tv show as it had all the elements for drama. Deadly disease, psychopath on the loose, a couple rediscovering love and trying to establish boundaries and political intrigue. Nora and Deacan were married but became estranged. 10 years later, they are thrown back together as a deadly bacteria has been introduced to mainstream society. This one is going to be giant series when it gets going and I am anxiously awaiting book 1.

PHANTOM EMBRACE (Immortal Guardians, #5.5) by Dianne Duvall - ★★★★★. This story was the titan of this anthology. Perhaps it stood so because I am intimately acquainted with the series and it is one of my favorites but WOW!.I will NOT admit that I cried. I will just say that it was a dusty on the train and the wind blew the dust in my eyes! But I felt this one for real!

In the last book, Night Bound, we saw Yuri and Stanislov fall to the rogue vampires who attacked the Immortal Guardians. This book was the like the last couple of episodes before that book's finale. It was emotional, it was sweet and it continued the storyline while detailing a romance between Yuri and Cat (Bastian's sister). If you are a fan of this series, then this book will be an excellent addition.

STAKE OUT (Underworld Detection Agency #6.5) by Hannah Jayne - ★★½. I am not familiar with this author but it was okay. I would have enjoyed it more if I had some context from the prior stories. I thought Nina and Pike were kind of entertaining. Nina was a fashion designer and a newly made vampire. Someone is murdering her models, and her boyfriend Pike helps her try to figure out who is stealing her shine. I need to read a couple of this author's prior stories before I decide if I enjoy her writing style.

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