



# Darkness Descending

*Devyn Quinn*

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## **Darkness Descending** Devyn Quinn

The first seal has been broken, signaling the end of days. Fallen angels in the form of vampires are infecting humans one by one, creating an army fit for Armageddon. Of the few who survive the infection, one stands alone above all others...

For one year, Jesse Burke has been suppressing the beast within, driven by vengeance to destroy the vampiric fallen angels terrorizing New Orleans. But a war of biblical proportions is too much for one girl to handle, and she must turn to slayer Maddox deValois for training, though it threatens her fiercely-guarded independence. At the same time, the sinister demon Queen Amonate is doing everything in her power to lure Jesse into embracing the darkness inside her soul—a power play that will trap her in a deadly web of deception between the forces of good and evil...

Before this war is over, everyone will learn that hell hath no fury like a woman possessed...

## **Darkness Descending Details**

Date : Published August 2nd 2011 by Signet

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Author : Devyn Quinn

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Genre : Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Angels, Demons

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# From Reader Review Darkness Descending for online ebook

**Nicole says**

Loved this one, I love everything Quinn writes. I heard she isn't writing anymore though?

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**Lori {Romancing the Dark Side} says**

**Original Romancing the Darkside Review:**

<http://romancingthedarkside.blogspot...>

This new dark paranormal world blew me away!

In the midst of a world where fallen angels are turned vampires that seek to rule the world, Jesse Burke struggles to maintain her humanity after being attacked but not turned. In her quest to remain human, Jesse decides to become a vampire slayer and hunt down the beasts that not only attacked her, but also took her sister away from her. Having no experience and guidance, she makes for a less than worthy slayer but refuses to stop. On one of her hunting nights, she meets the mysterious and sexy slayer Maddox deValois, who saves her from the vampire she's attempting to slay.

As a Palindrome, a sentinel created to fight the vampires (known as the Telave) on Earth, Maddox sees potential in Jesse and offers her a place to stay and training skills for her survival. He hopes to save Jesse from the same fate that stole his long ago lover Serafina. As Jesse and Maddox spend more time together, their dangerous attraction grows and threatens to lure them both into darkness.

This is a great new start to an urban fantasy series with a darker side. Devyn Quinn's world building is creatively graphic that isn't too overwhelming, never interfering with the plot. The setting of New Orleans, post Katrina just adds to darkness the of the story.

When we first meet Jesse she doesn't fit the typical kick ass heroine in urban fantasy, she's a bit rough around the edges and has major trust issues but grows into a strong leading lady by the book's end. Maddox is dangerously sexy but has secrets of his own that he struggles with making. These two characters definitely fall in the "tortured hero" category, which possibly plays a role in their mutual attraction. The sexual tension between these two is off the charts and I thank the author for including their steamy encounters which are sometimes looked over in the urban fantasy genre.

Darkness Descending skillfully combines a unique concept using light and dark, fallen angels turned vampires, all while creating suspense, excitement, romance and a bit of dark humor. The villains in the story are perfectly cast, they're powerful, evil and will stop at nothing to achieve their agenda. One of my favorite elements of the story is how vampires are portrayed, they are far from the romantic and sensual characters we're used to, in this book they're bloodthirsty beings who have no emotion and are cold blooded predators. Was I fond of the cliffanger at the end of the book? Not at all, but I anxiously await the sequel to see what dangerous adventures await Jesse and Maddox! If you were ever a fan of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel or Supernatural, you'll like the enticing and dark world that Ms. Quinn has created in her Vampire Armageddon series.

{Review copy courtesy of author}

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### **Dana Alma says**

Urban Fantastic! Astonishing! Ingenious! Darkness Descending by Devyn Quinn is a paranormal junkie's dream! Devyn Quinn has an undeniable melismatic flourish for spinning a truly wonderful paranormal! Vampires trying to annihilate mankind in a post Katrina New Orleans was pure brilliance. This incredible new view on the origins of vampires is a manifestation of creativity and sensational writing. Jesse Burke has overcome the impossible and she has intrigued me, I want to know more. Maddox has the makings of the next "Junk Du Jour", with the fighting skills we all want in our men. This thrilling new series is sure to please.

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### **Stacey (Sassy Book Lovers) says**

When I found out that I'd be receiving an Arc of Darkness Descending I was ecstatic. When it finally arrived in the mail I was literally jumping up and down with joy. Since seeing the cover and reading the blurb it's been on the top of my wishlist.

Wow! I just LOVED this book! I had so much trouble putting it down. A dark and exciting new world has been opened up to us.

Each description of the towns and the damage that had been done by (cyclone) Katrina are so well written you can just picture everything as if you're there and walking through it all. That mixed in with a fast paced plot with many twists and turns, packed full of kick ass action, danger, forbidden romance, sexual tension that'll have your toes curling, strong minded characters, vampires (take) taking over the world, what more could you ask for?!?!

It's so great reading about a female heroine, Jesse Burke is such an amazing character going through all that she has and still coming out on the other side. She's strong minded and has the will to never give up. There's more to Jesse than meets the eye.

Jesse's saved by Maddox who is a demon hunter and has devoted his life to fighting and killing vampires (take.)

The attraction and sexual tension between the two will leave your insides buzzing. With all the secrets and trust issues they both have, will it last? Can't wait to see what is in store for Jesse and Maddox.

An amazing start to a brand new series and an ending that'll leave you coming back for more. If you love Urban Fantasy/Paranormal Romance then sink your teeth into this amazing story, you won't be disappointed.

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## **Kelly at says**

Freakin Loved!!!! Review will be posted soon

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## **Ami says**

This is my first experience with Devyn Quinn ... and I like it. The myth is not very different, Vampires are Fallen Angels that feed upon humans (a race called Telave), the fledglings are Kindreds, and the sentinels that are immune to the bloodlust are Palindromes. It's not a difficult "world-building" to follow.

In this post-Katrina New Orleans, Jesse is an exception. She's the only female that can survive bloodlust, with demon inside of her. She's not a vampire nor Palindrome (since all Palindromes are male) and she fights the demon that whispers bloodlust every single time. Until she meets Maddox, one of the Palindromes, that helps her to find her strength to fight the vampires. Though Maddox is not without issue, he's an addict, he lets vampires drink his blood.

I like the "darkness" of New Orleans Post-Katrina, I like how Jesse is not a common heroine/slayer (she has demon inside her!) and how Maddox is not a perfect hero (my God, he's an addict!). I love the attraction between them and definitely looking forward to his redemption after breaking Jesse's trust ((view spoiler)Stupid Man!), and I definitely ENJOY the rather twist cliff-hanger in the end.

I think this is a series that I will love to follow next ...

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## **Jan says**

Jesse returns to New Orleans post-Katrina to hunt the vampires that killed her sister and left her infected with a demon that drives her to crave blood. Jesse is woefully unprepared to fight the vampires but luckily runs into a real vampire hunter, Maddox, who recognizes her unusual status as a human infected but not turned into a vampire. Together they and other hunters try to staunch the ever increasing number of vampires that may be signalling the End of Days.

I enjoyed this book a great deal. I like the vampire lore that Quinn has developed. I also like that the vampires are pure evil. Not that I don't enjoy a friendly vamp now and then, but it is nice for them to be a clear enemy for a change. I like that the characters are flawed. Jesse is brash and makes bad decisions (understatement). Maddox has his own ghosts to deal with. There is lots of action with this motley crew of slayers. Looking forward to the next installment.

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## **Slayashell says**

This book left me in a quandary after reading other reveiws i thought the main female lead would turn out to be weak but far from this i found her to be strong her iron will to hold onto who she was even with the

demon that wanted to consume her soul from within. She showed so much strength of character, and her willingness to try and fight with her body, a body that was failing from the battle that raged within her was amazing. I am hoping to see so much more of the physical battle and kick butt attitude come to the forefront with book two, with the changes that happen to her in the end of book 1. Now for the part that was hard to take the male lead although sexy was weak willed and addicted to an addiction that led him to do something that could have been detrimental to the woman he was falling in love with, this happens halfway through the book and will leave you with the omg i don't believe he just did that mouth hanging open moment although he does redeem himself in regard to showing how much he loves her in the end of the book. I will say that in most of the UF and PNR books the male character has been to hell and back and done some pretty horrible things before ending up being the strong outstanding man that shines throughout the books, this man is still under going his struggles to pull it all together. I am so hoping he will finally be the amazing man we all like to see standing alongside and sometimes in front of his lady in book 2. That all said I really did enjoy this book. I read it in two days and am looking forward to seeing the changes that will take place in book 2 with both of them.

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## **Rose May says**

Note: This review, and all my reviews, comes directly from my blog - Romantic Rose's Bookshelf (<http://romantic-rosesblog.blogspot.com>)

Book 1 in the Vampire Armageddon series

First, I'd like to thank the wonderful ladies at Romance Reviews Today for sending me this book for review – check out their website here: [www.romrevtoday.com](http://www.romrevtoday.com). Thanks again, ladies!!!

Alright, down to business. This book was one of them puzzlers. The book started out and I wanted to cry. The book was all tell. The characters were wimpy, not at all kick-ass, their actions were awkward and all over the place and there was absolutely NO build-up of sexual tension so the 'smoldering heat' and lust kinda smacks you in the face when it first comes up. I was terribly disappointed because, well, I hate not liking books. And the first third of this book was headed toward a low D grade. But then...

But then the book totally changed pace. I don't know if the author wrote the first 130 pages, set the book down for a while, and then picked it back up again when she had developed some actual writing and character development skills, but after that 130 page mark the book actually became... decent. Enjoyable. Kinda cool. Not kick-ass awesome... but not bad. And I was overjoyed – really, really excited that I wasn't going to have to read another 240 pages in the style of the first 130 because I might have taken Maddox's gun and shot the book to pieces. The book, after page 130, showed that this author had potential – and since the plot was really interesting, I'm hoping that Quinn develops her talent very quickly for the next book in the series – which I will be reading.

So, here's a quick re-cap of the plot for ya'll before I dissect the book a little more closely. Jesse Burke is a human infected with a demon – it crawls under her skin and whispers dreams of immortality in her ear at night. However unlike every other human being who has been infected, Jesse refuses to give in to the demon's demands – and thus hovers between a state of humanity and undead-ness (which is what one turns into when yielding to the demon's demands). Angry and feeling the hopelessness of her situation, Jesse decides to kill as many of the vampire/demons that infected her as she can. After doing some research into vampire slaying, Jesse sets out for a cemetery in the middle of the night and attempts to kill her first undead.

Only it doesn't go so well. And Jesse almost dies. Until some guy named Maddox shows up with his gun and blows the thing to pieces. Maddox then invites Jesse to his home sweet home for some training and sleep – after all, if she wants to be a slayer she has to learn from the best, right? But what happens when Maddox learns that Jesse has a demon inside her – and is on the verge of becoming something he's determined to destroy?

So, let's start off with what sucked (vampire pun – get it?). The first 130 pages, as we already established, sucked in very frustrating ways. The characters don't act believably make really weird decisions, talk like they're best friends when they've really just met, sleep in the same bed even though they've known each other for mere hours... it's all very odd and unrealistic and awkward for the reader. The romance is terrible, with no build-up of sexual tension or even hints at it. The world building is confusing and doesn't make much sense – there are a lot of holes in the story. People are dying all over the place from strange bites to their body and the police all think it's because of some rabid animals? I don't think so. Humans are way too suspicious for that, and we love conspiracy theories. Surely someone has decided on vampires by now. Also, hasn't anyone seen the attacks or the feedings? No one is that careful. If there are truly that many vampire/demons (that also isn't explained very well – are they demons that look like vampires, or are they pretty much what we would call vampires except they have demons inside them... it's bad when you can't tell what species something is) someone would've caught them at something by now and in such a viral world, it would've been all over the place. The book makes humans out to be a very non-assuming, kind of stupid race which is pretty dumb. Just sayin'.

But after a while I got used to the shaky grasp I had on Quinn's world and I got comfortable enough with it to enjoy the story. And the plot was AWESOME. And Jesse was pretty cool, too. I liked how strong she was and how enigmatic her role in the epic battle between heaven and hell's warriors (on earth, of course) is. I really wanted to know more, and that kept me hooked for a lot of the story. I loved the legends and the action – that was my kind of story. The plot was well-developed, moved at a good pace, and always had a hook to keep you reading. The plot was this book's saving grace, along with the admiration I felt for the heroine. She's stuck between two worlds, hurt and hunted by everyone, lied to and very confused yet she's strong, determined, and ready for action. Boo. Yah. Baby.

Oh, but ladies. One more thing that made this book sink low, low, low. The hero. Was. Pathetic. He does NOT deserve a capital 'h'. He was addicted to a demon's kiss (otherwise known as a vampire bite) really weird and kinky-odd, he was awkward, out-of-place and pretty depressing. I sincerely hope he gets better because I did not like him. He was the antithesis of Jesse and instead of helping her I feel like he drags her down. That's a no-no in a romance, so Mr. Hero Maddox better get his broad backside in gear and fast. He's also inconsistent and a bit of a Debbie-downer. Like I said. Pathetic.

That's all there is to this considerably long review! Stay tuned to my blog for updates on the series and if it's worth your while!

“Sexy”ness rating: is rated hot, however it's not terribly sexy due to its rather unpredictable nature. No build-up of sexual tension... it was really weird. Just a sex scene plopped randomly into the middle of the book because the author thought she needed one.

Overall Rating: C-

Bottom Line: I can't give this book any higher than a C-, but the second half of the book shows the author has some real potential. I'll be keeping up with this series to let you know how it develops and if you should struggle through this one to get to the rest. While the romance isn't very well developed the plot is pretty

cool.

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### **Ju says**

I really found this book to be amazing. I loved how the story was told. The main character Jesse was tough yet vulnerable. Maddox is dark and tough but there is a gentleness in him. This is a dark and gritty fantasy taking place in New Orleans and a must read.

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### **Bookaholics says**

Darkness Descending by Devyn Quinn  
Paranormal Romance –Aug. 2nd, 2011  
4 stars

Jesse Burke lives in a world filled with strife. Fallen angels have become evil vampires and are infecting the human population. Humanity is trying to stay alive. Jesse was taken and attacked along with her sister. But unlike her sister she survived, but she can feel the demon inside her growing from her infection. Scarred, starving, and homeless, she seeks to become a vampire slayer but bumbles the job badly. Then, she is miraculously saved by a mysterious man named Maddox.

Maddox saves a waif from certain death only to discover she has been infected. As one of the resistance, he feels there is great potential in this rebellious and stubborn young woman. But he has never met anyone that has survived the vampires' infection and does not know the consequences. Maddox is a Palindrome - a sentinel created to fight Telave or vampires on Earth. He is totally resistant to the demon infection. However, Maddox is tortured by the knowledge that he was not there to protect his lover Serafina from her death. He adopts the untrusting Jesse and helps her learn how to survive and fight. They grow closer but Maddox has a dark side and a secret addiction. Will their growing attraction have a chance? As the tension mounts, Jesse soon finds herself a pawn between good and evil...

This urban fantasy is set in a bleak world that is dark and fascinating. I enjoyed reading the mythology behind the Fallen Angels and The Enlightened One. Maddox is a fantastic and complex hero. His strength and determination make him a very admirable character even as he fights against his darker side. However, Jesse is not nearly as likeable. She is turn stubborn, naive, irrational and often immature. I found myself largely ignoring the sections she was highlighted and skipping to Maddox and the interesting storyline. This world has great potential, and I hope to see further development in the storyline and the main character as she matures.

Dark, gritty and violent. This is a story filled with a shadowy world that urban fantasy lovers will enjoy.

Reviewed by Steph from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

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### **Sobia says**

2.5 stars



Huh this was sorta pretentious read....like it had illusions of grandeur but ended up lacking ...in all ways but one...the setting was amazingly done...I could see everything in my head really well...

But I really didn't like the rest of the book, and I nearly added it to my DNF shelf a time or two....but I sloughed through, though it still surprises me that I made it to the end!

Right from the start the heroine bugged me. She had a tsft moment in the first couple pages..I know I was supposed to think she was just naive, but that's not how it came off, IMO . I tried to get past it, and give her the benefit of the doubt but she never really improves.

And the hero... I didn't like too much either...better than the heroine, sure. But that's not saying much. He's got a depressed/ self hatred thing going on that is only marginally explained....

Also, there are a few other secondary characters, but the little we get regarding them didn't whet my appetite at all...

The romance aspect while present is unsatisfying. Really really unsatisfying. It didn't even feel like romance to me...maybe because before a relationship can really form (and this is sorta a hot button issue) (view spoiler)

There was the potential for the story to go deeper into the heroes ...I guess you could call it an addiction, but the story glosses over it. One minute it's a major plot point, the next everything's resolved. Maybe it'll be mentioned in the next book, but at this point I don't think I'll be reading it.

Oh and let's not forget the amazing number of info dumps....it seemed like every few pages were getting more info dumped on us....an okay I'll admit it, I started skimming those bits...there was just so much! Maybe if I'd been more invested in the story, knowing the world better would have mattered more...

Oh and the seemingly endless pages of intro-freaking-spection! Usually I enjoy getting inside characters heads, but not to the exclusion of the actual story!

Lastly the endings a cliffhanger...a poorly done one...it was too abrupt, and sorta left me with a *With?* feeling.

So yeah, a disappointing read... I'm not sure if I'd recommend it to anyone, but if you're looking for a good PNR or a UF with a strong romantic element, I'd skip this one altogether

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## **Catherine says**

### **DNF**

Usually I have more patience than this. I can keep pushing through almost any book in the hope of it turning into a good read. But this? For some reason, there is no patience. I'm done. I am bored and I am irritated and I just want to move onto a book I might actually like.

More often than not, I like being dropped into a story and left to catch up—in moderation, of course. I don't enjoy huge info dumps or long pages of introspection to introduce me to a character, but I still need *something* if I'm supposed care about the events unfolding. You can't just have huge clumps of back and forth dialogue between two characters I don't know well enough to care about. Especially when what I *do* know of them from how they have talked and behaved to date leaves me cold.

The heroine was thoroughly irritating. Her attitude was so back and forth that it could flip flop multiple times within a page. She had no place to go, was skin and bones, and was pretty worthless at her big goal of killing vampires. The hero talks to her for just a few minutes and decides to let her come home with him (for some reason) because she'll need training. And she goes. Right... But then when she gets there she keeps jumping to conclusions and cussing at him and threatening to leave. But then she'd flip back to being emo because she didn't *really* want to leave, because she had no place to go. But then it would flip again and she'd curse at him again for something and then it would flip back. I, personally, would have kicked that rude, psycho freak to the curb.

Then for some reason they decide to sleep in the same bed for the night—sleep being the operative word. But they wake up in close contact and come close to having sex—by page 62, mind you—for *some* reason. Apparently he's willing to get close to a virtual stranger who he knows is infected. And she...well, her character doesn't make a lot of sense to me, so I don't really know what motivated her. She had these random (completely random) moments of finding him hot and feeling that he was someone she might be able to risk being close to without having to worry too much about the demon inside of her. But they only talked for like an hour or two the first night, so any attraction reads hollow. Especially because they both are dirty and run down and she is gaunt from resisting the demon. And then they both comment on the other not smelling that great and needing a shower.... I can hardly resist, myself. ;)

Other than the characters and the lack of motivation presented, I just don't think this author's style is my type. I've read a book of hers, *Siren's Surrender*, previously and had the same problem with it. There I was able to find likable characters and an interesting world to help push me through it. Here I don't have that. It's all tell, tell, tell, tell. I couldn't sink into the book and forget that I was being told a story. I also felt the characterizations were too clunky and in your face. I prefer a more natural feel to the personalities and dialogue.

The one thing that I can say in this book's favor is that the hero, Maddox, actually has a job. It was very different and very refreshing. He was totally upfront about his need to work to maintain a roof over his head and to finance his vampire hunting. I have to admit that I would assume he would have built up a nest egg in his long lifetime, but it's possible he couldn't, so I'll let that go. But what was great about this job (or what I saw of it) was that it was at a construction site and he couldn't go wandering off on his own during work hours, like so many other PNR and UF characters. He was stuck there for his 8 hours and only when he was off could he be a badass. I also found it interesting that he admitted to lying about kicking a bad habit his partner was worried about him having. I think that has a lot of possibilities.

Although that stirred my interest slightly, by that time it was too late. I got to page 134 and I was done.

Review posted on Fiction Vixen.

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**Sarah says**

the book starts out really slow but by the end you're going omg when does the next one come out i have to know what happens next

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### **Hbeebti says**

I enjoyed this book. In fact with all the mixed reviews I was kinda worried that I wouldn't enjoy it at all. This had just enough action to keep me happy. Small amount of lovin. The thing is that I enjoyed this book but then around the last 100 pages or so it just kinda was a let down. I know the ending was a cliff hanger of sorts for the next book. But somewhere along the way I lost some interest. So yes the characters were enjoyable. The storyline was pretty good. But I didn't love it the way I thought I would in the beginning. Overall it wasn't a bad read. Maybe the next book will pick up speed and catch my attention again.

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