



## Soldier of Fortune's Downfall

*Charlie Richards*

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## **Soldier of Fortune's Downfall** Charlie Richards

Out of the Cage: Even the best laid plans can go awry, sometimes in the most wonderful of ways.

Raven cares about one person: himself—his comfort, his desires, and his freedom to do as he pleases. He's fed up with scientist Sampson Marlow making decisions for him and ready to start a new chapter in his life. One last assignment goes horribly wrong, and he's the one who ends up in a cage...of sorts. Seeing the silent war between the two parties from the shifter's point of view gets his conscience involved—not that he'd ever admit that to anyone. Upon escaping the wolves and returning to the scientist's facility—fully intending to hand over his resignation—Raven finds himself drawn to a small Arctic Fox shifter held captive by the scientists. Although it puts Raven's plans to move on and forget that paranormals exist on the back burner, he can't seem to help himself. Raven does something he never thought he'd do. He goes to the enemy for help in freeing the shifter. Raven just wants to return the little fox to his skulk. He sure as heck-fire ain't gonna keep him. Then he'll move on with his life. What could possibly go wrong?

## **Soldier of Fortune's Downfall Details**

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## From Reader Review Soldier of Fortune's Downfall for online ebook

### Purplegirl says

I love this series and I know every book can't be good. This is one of the slower ones. I didn't buy the storyline. Raven and Liam just didn't do it for me. I don't know if it is a setup for a new series because there didn't seem like as much interaction with the Stone Ridge Wolves as usual. And the interaction that was there just didn't seem right. I don't know, I guess I just didn't like this one. This is a 2.5 but I can't round it up.

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### Beth says

[One was one of the bad guys missing. I will assume that will be dealt with in future books as the fight with the scientists has been going on throughout most of the series.

The other thing I would have liked to have in the book was learning how the Shifter Counsel dealt with Liam's

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### M. says

#### Interesting read

The story is detailed enough that if you haven't read the rest of the series you won't be lost. Liam and Raven. An arctic fox shifter and an ex-military, ex-bad guy. A fast and furious romance. It was ok.

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### Phaney says

Strangely enough (given the fact that we did not get to know Liam until after the first third of the book, and there is not too much interaction between the protagonists), I'd consider this actually one of the better books in the series. Not the best, though, mostly because of the ending, which, frankly, is lame.

I really need to apologize in advance for all the probably unnecessary spoiler tags. However, since this book is so new, I'd rather err on the side of caution.

Raven here has a *really* fast turnaround. (view spoiler) Eh, insta-love and pheromones, I suppose.

"Raven knew his ability to read people wasn't always the best." Understatement of epic proportions, yet also the one redeeming factor to make his past and present behaviour even remotely believable.

Okay, Raven's not nearly as likeable as Jared but the two together are sort of fun. It's just a bit odd that so much of this story is taken up by (view spoiler) before we ever get around to the viewpoint of Raven's mate. Kind of makes it less about romance for a good long while. (view spoiler)

Remember all those stories where someone is turned on by the sight of their beaten or abused love interest?

Yeah. That squicky thing.

“And how sick did it make him that he wanted to ravish a severely malnourished and injured man?” And this (view spoiler) is what makes the difference. Acknowledging the wrongness. It turns something that would have been squicky into... well, in this case something that fits with the story *and* redeems the guy a tiny bit more.

Logical question. (view spoiler)

(view spoiler) No fabricated drama, even if in this case I'd actually understand it. Excellent! Of course this might be done in the spirit of rushing this book to an end...

Oh, cheap copout! (view spoiler)

All of a sudden there the book went way down for me. But it's almost the end, so eh.

(view spoiler)

One last thought.

Is there really *no* book by this author that does not have at least one homophone error? I don't always comment on it (it's redundant, really), but the one yesterday? Check. This? Check. Different ones, too. First it was *gate* for *gait*, now *fair* for *fare*. And Raven's "viral"? Sure you don't mean *virile*? That was a good one!

There's so much more, though. I wish someone'd proofread these books before publication. Hell, I'd do it in a heartbeat.

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## Candice says

[Did Liam ever get his smell back?? (hide spoiler)]

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## Jessica says

I liked how there was an actual plot but the ending seemed abrupt. It kind of left you feeling like a HFN more than a HEA. What's their next step? Where's the evil scientist? What happens to Liam's ex- alpha?

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## Kath says

Well to me this felt really kind of unfinished. In general the stories ate becoming more sexual encounters than anything else and shorter...

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## Katherine says

**How can a fluffball be a threat**

Another one of the bad guys switches sides as in this book Raven, a mercenary for the scientists working against shifters, decides to stop helping the scientists and then starts actively helping the shifters.

Raven was not so deceived about what he was doing. At first he believed that winning against shifters was right as they were a threat to humanity. Then once he realized they were sentient he wondered if full extinction was the best plan. Finally, captured by Declan's people and living among them for months, he saw how peaceful and good shifters were and decided not to fight them anymore. But in this book Raven finds out he has a shifter mate which makes him decide to start actively fighting the scientists.

Liam is an arctic fox shifter. A fluffy adorable thing as a fox, he has been experimented in for months. His shifted form makes some of the scientists people question the mission, as a small fluffy little fox certainly isn't a violent threat to humanity. Liam is grateful for a chance for rescue but has some secrets about his own past that cause problems for his future.

Another easy light read in the Stone Ridge universe.

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### **Hc says**

Switching back between following the events and first person mind speaking (see comments below) with a little confusing. It jumped back and forth between the two of them several times. Did have a lot of action to keep you interested and we see yet another soldier fall for a shifter. I have a feeling this will not be the last time that happens as well. Overall impression is I liked it but the sex scene was a little rough at the end with a newbie in the driver seat.

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### **~♥ Elle ♥~ says**

The ending was a bit rushed. I wanted to see the couple all settled down, not ending in a transition of sorts. I hope there's more of Jared and Raven working together in the future. Reading about them at each other's throats would be priceless. There were many loose ends that i feel the next book cannot come soon enough! :)

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### **ReviewerLarissa says**

Okay paranormal story. It moved really fast and I would have loved to see Raven and Liam a little later on. This story only spans a few days and moves very fast. Loved Liam and Raven though

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### **Jab Forbes says**

#### **Cute addition**

I really liked this book. It won't be amongst my favorites, but it was certainly enjoyable. Glad to see Raven fleshed out, tho some aspects feel inconsistent with his previous appearances.

Ah, well. It's just a fun series.

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## **Bradley Mathis-Krone says**

### **How did I miss this one?**

I was re-reading this series because I just got #26 and I realized I have never read this one before. Wow!!! The stories interweaving is still amazing. Maybe I'll find another gem in the series before I get to the latest one.

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## **Sophia says**

I was so excited when I saw that this was to be Raven's story. Raven is one that has been an enemy of the shifters and has done bad things so I was very curious how Ms. Richards would turn him into a hero that I would like. And I'm happy to report that I did find him more than likeable.

Raven makes a deal with Miach that allows him to escape from the shifters in exchange that he will not report to the scientists what he has learned while a prisoner. Raven's good with the deal because he plans to quit working for the scientists. He's known the truth about both sides for some time. Seeing how the shifters were careful in his treatment as their prisoner just brought it home for him compared to how the scientists lied about the shifters and do torturous experiments on the ones they capture. Just as Raven starts to walk away he finds himself intrigued by the scent of a little arctic fox shifter who is up for some severe testing. Raven has suspicions about who the little fox shifter is to him, but has no plans to try a relationship once he helps him escape because he doesn't feel that he is good enough.

The plot was strong and moved along at a good action-paced clip in the beginning before switching up a bit for character and relationship stuff. I liked many things about this installment. I like that Raven isn't instantly different even though he has a soft spot for his little Liam the fox shifter. He is gruff with the others and matter of fact about things. He isn't altruistic and admits that he's only working with Declan and his group to break Liam out. He has no plans to join in or stick around. I like how it's not a matter of instant acceptance for him either. The others don't trust him and in some cases don't like him. He will have to earn their trust. In a way, this felt like the beginning of a story even though there is closure for Raven & Liam because I want to see what happens now that Raven is one of the good guys.

There were several little threads left dangling that I look forward to see where they go. It was good to get a little peek in with the Stone Ridge gang and with Terrance & Perrin.

Nice strong installment in the series. Oh, and I would recommend that this one not be read out of order because of all the references to Raven in previous Stone Ridge stories.

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## **Riayl says**

I had been reading both this series and Kontra's Menagerie and around book 11 of this series and book 7 of KM I kind of got frustrated. I haven't actually checked back with the older books so it could be, and probably

is, all in my mind but it felt like the books were getting shorter and had less plot and more sex. So I backed off from these. But I liked the idea of the arctic fox shifter, so I decided to give it a try. I was much happier with this one. It helped that 80% of the book was not sex. :) Don't get me wrong, I like sex in my books, but I like a little sex with my plot, not a little plot with my sex. So, my faith somewhat restored, I guess I will go back and give the books I skipped a try. Though the kinda cliffhanger ending was growl-inducing. lol Er, not really cliffhanger, just not a solidly settled ending? That might make more sense. \*nod\*

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