



Fangs and Fennel

Shannon Mayer

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Alena Budrene is not just a gifted Seattle baker—she’s also a supernatural. Having survived the virus that made her transformation necessary and outwitted an attack by a Greek hero, she’s ready to settle down and deal with the challenges of living as a “Super Duper.”

But nothing is easy for a woman who can turn into a giant snake. Threatened by her unprecedented strength, Alena’s enemies team up against her. What’s next on the menu? The duplicitous demigod Theseus—backed by a ruthless vampire gang and the power-hungry goddess Hera—is determined to lure her into a glorious, and rather public, battle to the death.

Now humans, even the ones Alena risks her life to protect, are afraid to acknowledge her existence. And when the friends who once rallied around her begin to fall prey to Theseus’s manipulative schemes, Alena realizes she must act before she loses everything. But will the price of success be too high to pay?

Fangs and Fennel Details

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From Reader Review Fangs and Fennel for online ebook

Denisa says

3.5 Fun!

It's not a really complex UF, it's the kind of book you read when you want to relax and have a bit of fun. I like this series, despite the fact that it's pretty linear and the characters are pretty flat. But not all reads have to be by Shakespeare to be inspiring and not all authors need to have Ilona Andrews' writing style for the book to be enjoyed.

This book is fun and engaging and cute, it made me want to read on and on; even more than that, it taught me some things about Ancient Greece. Can't wait to see what happens next to Alena and her friends!

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads.

FANGS AND FENNEL was a slight improvement on book 1. And, by slight, I mean half a star. With the mammoth jump from plain Jane to diva Lena out of the way, the rest of the protagonist's flaws paled in comparison which made this installment easier to swallow. The plot was more streamlined, the villain was slyer, and the humour was toned-down a few pegs.

Alena continues to waffle between heroine and wimp, although the gap between these two extremes seems to be shrinking. Her main issue in this volume was trust. Her allies don't have very high opinions of her capabilities, and given that she's a Super Duper fledgling I can understand why, but their apprehension infuriated her, so she kept trying to prove herself by... doing dumb things.

The story was primarily about Budrene taking her cheating husband to court, and in doing so attempting to change the way Paranormals are viewed in the eyes of the law. Her battle against Theseus, the second mythological barrier, was similar in structure, and as such, I enjoyed the pacing of this novel more than the first because it was strategy driven as opposed to purely bluster.

Since this is a trilogy, many things must happen in quick succession which means that there are multiple information dumps, the relationship between Lena & Remo progresses at lightning speed, and by the end of this title Budrene's accomplishments are dizzying. The lead's actions and dialogue are still on the immature side, so I'm having a great deal of difficulty taking her seriously.

Only one more book to go before Shannon Mayer can leave this series behind her.

Coyora Dokusho says

Eh, I liked it! But I read it last year and can't really remember the specifics. XD

Emalie says

Fangs and Fennel started a few days after the events in *Venom & Vanilla*. Alena is fighting for a divorce with her (ex)husband where she can keep her stuff - aka her baking shop.

The enemy of this book was kind of boring. I liked Achilles of the previous book more, because he was kind of a brainless brute, but because of it he was more fun than Theseus.

As well as in *Venom & Vanilla* I enjoyed watching Alena's character develop. She more and more embraces her role and learns to stand up for herself.

Still not enough Remo for me, but I have a crush on him, so I'm a bit picky ;)

Shannon Mayer's writing style was good as always and I can't wait to read the conclusion for this series.

Rating: 3,5 stars

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy:

It doesn't take long for *FANGS & FENNEL* to pick up steam. The fast-pacing of the novel promises a fight or a flee in every chapter. While it seems that everyone in *FANGS & FENNEL* either wants to kill or kiss her, Alena Budrene just wants to divorce her husband, keep her bakery, and be taken seriously by her friends and family. Most of the novel follows the course of one very eventful day as Alena attempts to win her court case and fend off Theseus, the newest Greek hero who wants to slay Alena's drakina form.

Unfortunately, the world-building and dialogue issues from the first novel carry over. Alena may also be a siren, but it's hard to believe that almost all the males of the novel fall in love/lust with her. She still doesn't swear, but continues to shout 'dingle nuts' or 'cat puke on a cookie sheet' at people. Supernaturals are still called 'Super Dupers'. And yes, she still says 'fricky deaky'. While I do have a special place in my heart for a heroine that stabs vampires with wooden spoons, it's hard to argue against her friends and family belief that Alena can't fight for herself when she immediately falls to pieces after every attack.

As with the first book, the wall that separates the humans from supernatural is about as imposing as an ant hill. Characters travel between the restricted sections without issue. Nothing stops supernaturals from vaulting over or just driving through the gate. The watchdog police group from the first novel are no longer a concern, especially since two of the three main members are now crushing on Alena. While there are some humans that want the wall demolished, Alena never makes up her mind about whether supernaturals should be re-introduced into human society, even as she's petitioning the court to be considered a legal person.

Most of the novel's problems come from the mishmash of supernatural groups. It's less a melting pot and more a jello salad with marshmallow and fruit – sometimes it works, but a lot of the time it doesn't. There

are gods, mythological characters, Greek monsters, Greek heroes, Arthurian characters, werewolves, vampires, and Vikings. These are very different groups with rich established mythologies. Once a character interacts with yet another group, that character's purpose and personal narrative becomes overly complex. For example, Merlin: the shifty warlock from the first novel, who purposefully transforms naïve women into monsters for heroes to easily kill, is now also a divorce lawyer. This means he's works within the human world and, potentially, the vampire gangs. Maybe Merlin working with vampires or drakinas could work, but in this novel it doesn't.

When you let go of the structural problems and the childish aversion to swearing, *FANGS & FENNEL* can be a fun read. The plot zigs when you expect it to zag. Though the plot choices may not be the best, they keep you on your toes. The promised hot romance between Alena and Remo remains lukewarm but still sweet and believable. If you enjoyed *VENOM & VANILLA*, then you know what to expect and you won't be disappointed. Just like all good sequels *FANGS & FENNEL* packs more action, characters, and, finally, more baking.

Bambi Unbridled says

The *Venom Trilogy* is back with our super duper heroine's continued battles against her soon-to-be-ex-husband, a segregated society, and a supernatural goddess. This urban fantasy series is a melting pot of humans, supernatural and mythical creatures. I enjoy the light-hearted take on this segregated society that highlights social issues and inequality between the species.

In *Venom & Vanilla*, our heroine, Alena Budrene was changed into a supernatural after she contracted the Aegrus virus and was slated to die. Requesting to be made into something special, sorcerer Merlin made her into a greek monster, the Drakaina, a venomous snake that is two stories tall. Alena then begins her battle against her cheating husband who left her to die and steal her inheritance, in addition to battling the Goddess Hera and her champions.

Fangs & Fennel picks up not long after the culmination of the last story when Alena defeated Achilles. She is appearing in divorce proceedings to try to convince the human court that she should not be declared dead after becoming a supernatural, and to prevent her lousy ex from stealing her money and business. But Hera's latest hero chooses this time to show up and make her life even more difficult, and Theseus is not the dumb brute that Achilles was. Theseus is sly and crafty, and Alena has to stress that he is not coming at her in a head-on attack, but instead may whittle away at her base of support before all is said and done.

Alena is still endearingly likable. Her good girl instincts are battling her monster instincts, and the monster is starting to win. She even lets a curse word slip once or twice! I like that Alena is growing into her power and becoming more independent. She doesn't want everyone coming to her rescue all the time, and hates that people don't believe in her. I can definitely identify with that.

Things are also heating up with the delectable mob boss vampire, Remo, and his honeyed cinnamon aura. I like these two together, but Alena needs her self-confidence boosted a bit more before she can really take on Remo. Right now he is running the show, and it would be too easy for Alena to get stuck in his gravitational pull.

I had a good time with this one, but the ending felt a bit rushed. I was more interested in the divorce proceedings and revenge on her ex-husband than I was with Theseus and his machinations. I do enjoy this series and I am a little disappointed that it's only going to be a trilogy. I could see myself reading this one for an extended period. The secondary characters are so fun and interesting that I never get bored.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this book that I received from the author via NetGalley.

Stacy says

I marked this title DNF after reading 5 chapters. The same issues I had with book one were front and center in FANGS & FENNEL and I can't make myself read when a grown woman says things like 'poopie list' in a sentence. The main character comes off kick ass and strong in one paragraph then turns into a whiny 2 year old in the next. I can't imagine a scenario where I find myself reading any more from this series.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Rtc

Judi Easley says

My Review:

The story continues in this second book with Alena and her friends. She has a new villain in this book, and he's a demigod. He's tougher than the last one, and he seems to have a head on his shoulders and knows how to use it. He's stealing her friends and family right and left! And there's a new weapon to use against the super snake this time. It really hurts!

Alena not only has to figure out the finer points of being a Super Duper Monster, but she now has to figure out how to beat this all too real enemy. One that can really hurt her. And her allies are getting scarcer with each passing hour.

At the same time, she's decided that she needs to divorce her lousy cheating husband. But how can she do that when the human courts think she's dead? She needs to think about this. So what's a girl to do when she needs to think? She bakes!

Ms. Mayer, as usual, has come through with an even more delightful second book in this trilogy. I can only imagine what the third book will be like! But you can be sure I'll be reading it. I totally recommend you do too! This trilogy is one of those to read again and again, and I'll bet you'll find something new in it each time you read it.

This story was offered to me by 47North and provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I am not being compensated in any way. All opinions are fully my own.

~ Judi E. Easley for Blue Cat Review

Tony Parsons says

Seattle, WA. Alena Budrene (daughter, sister/wife, supernatural, Super Duper, narrator, Drakaina, woman siren, shapeshifter, giant venomous snake) had hired Bradley Froat (lawyer).

The divorce case was seen before Judge Watts at the King County Courthouse.

She was tired of Roger Budrene (husband) cheating on her with Barbie.

Tad (Alena's brother) had been seeing Dahlia.

Alena owned/ran Vanilla & Honey bakery.

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A fairly well written paranormal book. It wasn't always very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish, but never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. It could make another great paranormal movie, animated cartoon, or better yet a mini TV series. This was kind of dorky, or cheesy for me so I will only rate it at 3/5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; MakingConnections; 47North; Amazon Digital Services LLC; book Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Beth says

In the first installment in The Venom Trilogy, Alena finds herself transformed into the wrong side of a "super duper", making her a prime target for the "heroes". And those so called heroes are teaming up against her. They keep trying to pull Alena into a battle to the death when all she would like to do is cook. Alena must decide to face the battle or lose all she holds dear.

Mayer, once again, shocks me with her ability to create worlds with such realism and heart. Fantastic second installment to this trilogy and I look forward to this world where paranormal meets mythical gods and goddesses.

The full review will be posted closer to publication date..

I received this ARC copy of *Fangs Fennel* for a honest and voluntary review. This book is set for Jan. 10, 2017.

My Rating: 4 stars

Written by: Shannon Mayer

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Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/fangs...>
Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Fangs-Fennel-V...>

Reviewed for:
<http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Jessica Frances says

Fangs and Fennel is book two in the Venom Trilogy and I loved reentering this world. In this one we see more Gods, more questions are answered and a clearer picture is forming for who is on which side of the coming battle. I also loved the progression of Alena and Remo's relationship. I just love them together. And I loved the surprise visit of Alex, even if it was only very brief! If you enjoyed the first book in this series, then you will love this one, too.

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Really good. I'm seriously enjoying this series and its uniqueness. I hope the final book continues on it's trend.

I did have a few problems. She seemed to roll over and play dead when it came to her ex. She didn't get her recipes from the safe when they were in danger.

She didn't use her siren ability on the judge or ex to get justice. She is a little too feminist acting for me. Getting help doesn't make you weak.

However, I did find this book better than the first.

Oh, still no sexy time in this book. Honestly, I didn't miss it. I didn't think with her character it would have fit well. So if you have to have sex in your story, this isn't for you. This is a UF and not a PNR read.

Diana says

Book received from NetGalley

I could not get into this book, I don't know if it was due to the fact I haven't read the first book in the series, or if the story seemed too close to other PNR/Urban Fantasy books out there. Her other series, Rylee

Adamson, feels better written and has a better plot. I'm not saying people won't like the book, it just didn't hit a chord with me. Two chapters of reading/seeing Super Duper constantly did me in, I just could not finish it. It's more of a 1.5 star read rather than a two star. Which is sad because I was looking forward to reading this since I could use a new Urban Fantasy series to read.

Constantine says

Rating: 3.0/5.0

I liked the first book more. I feel the first book was darker and had more thrills and mystery to it than this one. The sequel is not bad, it is OK overall and interesting in some parts but I feel the book has turned fully into a fantasy without the same degree of darkness that the first book had.

There are some new characters in this sequel and some characters that appeared in the first book get killed too. There are some nice events that happen and the protagonist gets a better understanding of her true power here.

I will continue reading this series and read the third instalment in the franchise in the near future. I hope it gets better.

Note: I have received this book for free after participating in a giveaway.
