



Loving the Enemy

Charmaine Pauls

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If your father is a powerful criminal, you can't trust anyone, especially not the stranger who saves you.

Lily is on the run for her father's sins. Having escaped a brutal attack on her home that left her dad's small army and her beloved nana dead, she finds a job and a cheap room in Camps Bay, South Africa. When the men from Sky Communications track her down, she's forced to flee again. This time, Lily ends up homeless, alone on a bench under a brewing winter storm in a violent city. It's a lucky coincidence that Jacob appears through the mist just before a gang finds her in the dark, deserted park. Or is it?

After offering Lily shelter for the night, Jacob's flat is destroyed in an explosion. With Jacob's help, Lily tries to locate her father in search of his protection. In a whirlwind escapade from Africa to France, danger always a step behind, Lily learns about desire, love, survival and trust. Eventually, she'll also learn about betrayal ... and the truth about the savior to who she gave her body and heart.

This novel is a prequel to the Seven Forbidden Arts series, but reads as a stand-alone. There are no cliffhangers.

* This book contains consummated love scenes and explicit language. Reader discretion is advised.

SEVEN FORBIDDEN ARTS

Loving the Enemy (Prequel)

Pyromancist (Book 1)

Aeromancist, The Beginning (Book 2, novella)

Aeromancist (Book 3)

Hydromancist (Book 4)

Loving the Enemy Details

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From Reader Review Loving the Enemy for online ebook

Talia (Red Hot Ink) says

ARC kindly offered by Netgalley in exchange for honest review

Charmaine Pauls, you are a genius!

This woman monopolized my attention for two days straight. She owned my every thought. All the other parts, however, I'd gladly hand over to Jacob.

Hi Jacob, I would now like to address to you personally. My name is Talia, I live in Florence, Italy and I'm sure your smart brain can figure out the rest to come pick me up and kidnap me for the rest of my life.

P.S.: If you need assassins chasing me to make that happen, just let me know and I'll hire a few on Craigslist

Tons of love... seriously, tons.

Talia

Sadly, Jacob's not real and I'm currently suffering of major breakheart. It was unavoidable, I guess.

Truth is, this book blew me away. It was the epitome of page-turner. I couldn't unglue my gaze from the screen. Who needs to feed and visit the bathroom when they've got a book like this on their hands? Not me, that's who.

So, let's put a little order in here. The plot was amazing. I haven't read a lot of '*on the run*' books but have always loved it when a sprinkle of this flavor factored in a story. Now, I know I'm going to actively look for them. The suspense mixed so flawlessly with the romance made the love story a natural progression. Jacob's secret is revealed perhaps a little too early in the narration, but for the more complicated twists you have to wait till the end and that was nice.

I think what I really loved about this book was the fast pace and all the little shanigans they had to think of in order to stay off the radar. Stealing, deceiving, acting. It felt forbidden, exciting and sometimes downright naughty. Lily and Jacob travel through half the world with every possible means of transportation, staying in hunting cabins, camping in the woods, on a yacht and so much more. My head is still reeling from the amazing journey!

Also, another thing Miss Pauls deserves a standion ovation for... Lily.

It's rare for me to fall in love with the heroine as well as the male counterpart. Heroes are usually more likable and what draws readers in in the first place. Too many times we read of supposedly strong heroines that are nothing but whiners and spoiled brat. Nu-uh. You won't find a brat here in a mile radius. Also, the age gap made it all the more enticing and real. Their relationship sometimes reminded me of Bones and Cat, "Halfway to the Grave", my most favorite book.

Lily... at first I didn't see what made her so tough, having I read other reviews pointing out this fact. The thing is that she has to go through a lot. She's called to make tough decisions and sometimes she gets things wrong and commits mistakes. Other times, she's too naive or trusts too easily. In a word, she starts like a very human, vulnerable girl.

But during the course of the book, we can literally see her toughen up. It's gradual and natural. A girl becoming a woman under life's harsh guidance. In the end, I was so proud of her for who she had become. Which doesn't mean she turns into a cold-blooded killer Mara Dyer's style. But she certainly understands that you either kill or get killed.

In conclusion, this book was one hell of a ride. Fast, furious and exciting. The plot grips you on page one and doesn't let go until the word *end*. The characters are incredible and their growth and change will surprise you as well as their sizzling chemistry, which was out of the charts. The hot scenes were well placed and magistrally written. Not thrown there as many writers do nowadays, not page fillers. The idea this book exudes is that of a finely crafted art work. Everything balanced to its perfect point.

This is one of the best books I've come across this year and one hell of a prequel to a series that sounds enticing as well. I'm sure going to keep reading it and keep a close watch when it comes to this author.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Engrossing with several twists. Oh and plenty of steam!

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Great plot that keeps you on your toes and I love that the author brings strong women to the characters. With plenty of twists, action, and suspense, this is one book that will not be boring in the least. Plus love that Jacob can bring the heat too! Yes! Yummmmy

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### **Talia (Red Hot Ink) says**

English review here

*ARC gentilmente fornito dall'autrice in cambio di una recensione onesta*

Finalmente ho trovato un po' di tempo per recensire in Fuga Col Nemico.

Lessi inizialmente il libro in lingua originale quando uscì un paio di anni fa, e fu il mio primo romanzo del genere "in fuga". Mi sono immediatamente innamorata del genere, della suspense e della sensazione di costante tensione e pericolo derivante dal loro status di fuggiaschi. Così quanto ho scoperto che sarebbe stato tradotto nella mia lingua, ho letteralmente fatto i salti di gioia.

Una delle cose che adoro di più di questo libro è come mi porti in così tanti posti dalle anime completamente diverse. Tutto inizia in Sudafrica, per poi spostarsi in altri stati vicini, per poi continuare su uno yacht e infine in Francia, passando per il Nord Africa.

Un'altra cosa che mi ha affascinata è stato leggere di tutti i trucchi che Jacob e Lily hanno dovuto mettere in pratica per sopravvivere e scappare dai loro nemici, dal sedurre e borseggiare ricchi residenti di un hotel a farsi suturare una ferita da arma da fuoco da un veterinario, pistola puntata alla tempia.

In particolare, mi sono innamorata di un personaggio: Jacob. Fin dall'inizio capiamo che non è chi dice di essere e l'ombra della sua vera affiliazione incomberà per la gran parte del libro, rendendo ogni rivelazione più significativa e pericolosa. Jacob è un eroe assolutamente imperdibile. Assertivo, deciso, sempre in controllo... tranne quando si tratta di Lily.

Lily è una ragazza giovane, ingenua, innocente, cresciuta sotto la campana di vetro costruita dal padre. Quando però la sua villa viene attaccata e diventa una fuggiasca, Lily è costretta a crescere, a farsi scaltra. Vederla maturare e diventare una donna è stato interessante e ha costituito un enorme sviluppo del suo personaggio.

Nonostante la suspense e l'azione, però, si tratta pur sempre di una storia d'amore. Ho adorato il modo in cui Lily si è pian piano fidata ed innamorata di Jacob e di come sia stata la prima a tentarlo e non vice versa. Jacob cerca di respingerla più volte perché sa che non potrà mai esserci un lieto fine tra loro, ma è solo un uomo e ciò che prova per Lily cresce di giorno in giorno.

I momenti "hot" sono decisamente bollenti, persino di più di quanto mi ricordassi dalla prima lettura. Vedere Jacob perdere il controllo e cedere alle avance di Lily è stato uno dei momenti clou.

In conclusione, *In Fuga Col Nemico* è un must per gli amanti del "romantic suspense".

Costellato da personaggi interessanti e tridimensionali, ambientato in moltissimi luoghi diversi e originali, romantico, sexy e pieno di colpi di scena, mi ha rapito a pagina uno e non mi ha lasciata andare se non dopo aver letto le due faticose parole: la fine. Fine che però non è che l'inizio, visto come questo libro è il prequel di una serie altrettanto imperdibile e consigliatissima.

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## **Nicole says**

*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley*

**4 golden stars from me**

I am so excited about this book, it was close to perfection. Loving the enemy is a prequel to Seven Forbidden Arts series and i have to say if this is the prequel the series are gonna be very promising.

Let's talk about the story Lily is on the run for her father's sins. Having escaped a brutal attack on her home she ends up homeless, alone on a bench under a brewing winter storm in a violent city. Then Jacob appears (not by coincidence) offers her a shelter in order to win her trust and extract information from her. Instead of taking information and killing her he falls in love and becomes her protector from the other ones who after her (i can't say why).

Lily is young, innocent but very intelligent for her age and such a teasing minx when it comes to Jacob (when she tries to seduce him...that was fun) combined with her honesty that creates a super lovely character (she won me from page one).

Jacob is the classic Alpha male (don't get me wrong i love classic alpha males and he is one of them) Sexy and for a personality like him very moral (he tries very hard not to fall for Lily's seducing attempts) he is caring,overprotective (ooh my i won't stop saying things about him...i'm in love!!)

A very enjoyable book with fast plot, great characters,a lot of action,hot scenes..the perfect combination for a book.  
I'm so happy and looking forward to read the following books of the series!!

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## **Mimi says**

This books was very entertaining . It's about lily a young innocent girl that is running away from this group that is trying to kill her , they managed to kill her beloved nana also everyone else that was taking care of her and all this is because she believes that since her father is a big bad criminal they are after her to get to him .

Lily although innocent is smart . She escapes from the people that are after her almost all the time . But one day she finds herself without money nor a home , so she stays in a park . Now it's where things get even more interesting .

Jacob is lily savior somewhat he gives her a home and gives her what she needs , which lily is super grateful for this, he even tells her that he will help her find her dad .

But little does lily know that Jacob her knight in shining armor is actually out to kill her .

These two characters where quite something together they had a pretty good chemistry between them .

Jacob was very protective and possessive over lily , I totally loved that .

Something that really caught my attention was how lily father he collected paranormal things or even people . That really caught my attention from the story .it made more interesting .

Although I enjoyed the book very much their was something that I felt was just either to corny or missing I really couldn't put my finger on it but that s why I had to give it 3 stars .

Overall great fun sexy entertaining read !

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### **EroticaAfterDark (Lilith) says**

**FREE: Amazon US | Amazon UK | Amazon CA | Amazon AU**

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### **Wanda Hartzenberg says**

This is for me, actually close to a four star read. I do not like erotica and thus, lots of the passages in this book was not for me.

However, I really dislike it when the erotica is the story which is not true here, it is an intrical part yes. But it is not THE story.

Jacob is kinda hot although how he perceives ownership of woman drove me nuts.

Our nineteen year old spoiled brat turned out to be very smart and a fun character and the plot moved fast, giving and taking from the reader the entire time.

Nothing is as it seems. Even when the boards are flipped over, do not trust what you read. The truth is far more complicated and as a prequel this book does an amazing job of letting you get a taste of a world thankfully not my own.

WaAr

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### **Deborah says**

This book has been patiently sitting on my kindle for ages.

Dubious surprised me in a big way and Consent was just as brilliant. This put Charmaine on my 'author to look out for' list. So when Old Enough came up I paused. Yes I paused. It wasn't for long but one subject I've never really liked is the older woman/younger man. In the end I read the book based solely on the author



and she won me over big time. The same with Young Enough.  
So having really enjoyed the four books I'd read I started to look at others.

Loving the Enemy is an enjoyable read and I will probably continue on with the series.

So what's the problem?

While I enjoyed this read it wasn't exactly what I'd expected. The writing wasn't as sharp and it just didn't have the same edge as her more recent books. At times it read more like a YA book.  
I think I'll probably enjoy the next book more now that I have more idea what to expect.

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### **Teri says**

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley for a honest review.

For a prequel, this was a really long one. This is a complete story in itself.

As Lilly's character grew in this story, I then also grew to like her. At first, her begging for sex was annoying. But when the actual act occurs, it's quite hot.

I was surprised that we didn't get to experience any of the seven experiences. If that is what this series will be about, why not give us a glimpse into that world? Without having any idea on how the paranormal side of this series, not sure if I will continue the series.

And a pet peeve of mine... Ending the story with a sex scene. I hate that!!

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### **Donna Sweeney says**

Kindly provided with an ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.....

SPECTACULAR !!!!

Oh I ATE this book up !!! Start to finish 6 (ish) hours.....I couldn't stop !!!

This is Lilly and Jacobs story and quick summary Lilly's dad is a very powerful underground baddie, but on the surface appears business man of the year. Lilly as a result has been raised in comfort and idolised her dad.

One day ALL that changes is a very bloody thirsty way. Lilly runs and is left to survive, negating the big wide world alone searching for her family.....with me so far ?

Lilly finds the world cruel and harsh and very soon hits rock bottom.....enter Jacob - pauses for moment to appreciate the splendure that is this man !!.....okay paused and continuing.....

Jacob takes pity on Lilly and agrees to help her. Sounds to good to be true meeting your very own knight in shining parker, complete with cable ties !! (you need to read the scene where Lilly and Jacob meet to appreciate my humor here peeps x).....well you know what they say "if it looks to good to be true, it probably is".

This is where our story really goes bam!. I have not read for a while a thriller, suspense, romance with a touch of the paranormal and I have obviously missed it, as I could not put this down until it reached it's conclusion.

I did what any satisfied reader would do finishing an awesome read.....I quickly checked for the next book !. Its out and TRUST me I will be devouring that story too !!

I would ABSOLUTELY recommend this book....it is exceptionally well written and just ticks so many boxes. Plus it is duel POV.....sighs with delight !!

I very well done Charmaine.

Many thanks to Netgalley for this opportunity.

Later peeps xxx

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### **A??ela W. says**

This was a pretty good read. Lily Reid is on the run with a price on her head all because of her father. In Camps Bay, South Africa she finds a job and when the men from Sky Communications track her down she is forced to run again but this time she winds up being homeless. Jacob Miller is a mercenary, and the man hired to deliver her to her father's greatest enemy. When Jacob saves her from a gang he offers her a place to stay. Lily really shouldn't trust Jacob but she feels bad for getting him caught up in the mess she is in so she ditches him before anything happens to him. The sex scenes in this book were hot has these two have a intimacy. This was my first time reading this author. This book was well written with no errors in grammar or spelling. I am looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

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### **EroticaAfterDark (Lilith) says**

**FREE: Amazon US | Amazon UK | Amazon CA | Amazon AU**

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### **Carvanz says**

Whoa! This book was freaking amazing! Talk about high octane thrills, suspense and passion! This one has it ALL! I'm not sure what I was expecting when I started but this far exceeded anything I could have

imagined. There is never a dull moment. It starts off with a bit of a gentle push and suddenly it's taking the reader on a ride that never slows down.

I absolutely loved the fact that Lily a naïve virgin morphs into one strong independent woman throughout the story. Jacob is definitely an alpha hero but when the need arises, Lily shows she's more than capable of taking care of herself, him and the situation. I know I read most of this book with my jaw hanging open.

I'm definitely recommending this one! Do not put it on your TBR, open and read it NOW!

Dual POV

Safe (view spoiler)

Triggers (view spoiler)

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### **Eleni Achilleopoulou says**

I enjoyed this book! It was a solid, well rounded read with good plot and great characters. This is a prequel story for a paranormal series that at the end introduce us to the main characters of the books to come. I would love a little bit of paranormal in the prequel which only had a reference to the subject...

So a little taste of the plot:

Lilly is a sheltered and naive 18 year old girl who is on the streets trying to escape her fathers enemies. When Jacob find her, she is starved and too tired to think why a total stranger is so generous to give her not only food and a shelter but also protection. They start a journey to Paris so she can find her father. On the road they don't only fight with the enemies but also their feelings and desire for each other. Till they reach the final destination the truth will surface and no one is prepared for the revelation...

This was an easy and smooth read with some twists that picked your adrenalin and some good and juicy scenes. I liked it and I would love to read the next book

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### **Coco.V says**

? FREE on Amazon today (12/03/2017)! ?

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