


## **A Ferry of Bones & Gold**

*Hailey Turner*

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**When the gods come calling, you don't get to say no.**

Patrick Collins is three years into a career as a special agent for the Supernatural Operations Agency when the gods come calling to collect a soul debt he owes them. An immortal has gone missing in New York City and bodies are showing up in the wake of demon-led ritual killings that Patrick recognizes all too easily from his nightmares.

Unable to walk away, Patrick finds himself once again facing off against mercenary magic users belonging to the Dominion Sect. Standing his ground alone has never been a winning option in Patrick's experience, but it's been years since he's had a partner he could trust.

Looking for allies in all the wrong places, Patrick discovers the Dominion Sect's next target is the same werewolf the Fates themselves have thrown into his path. Patrick has been inexplicably attracted to the man from their first meeting, but desire has no place in war. That doesn't stop Patrick from wanting what he shouldn't have. Jonothon de Vere is gorgeous, dangerous, and nothing but trouble—to the case, to the fight against every hell, and ultimately, to Patrick's heart and soul.

In the end, all debts must be paid, and Patrick can only do what he does best—cheat death.

*A Ferry of Bones & Gold* is a 115k word m/m urban fantasy with a gay romantic subplot and a HFN ending.

## A Ferry of Bones & Gold Details

Date : Published September 9th 2018

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Author : Hailey Turner

Format : Kindle Edition 390 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic

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## From Reader Review *A Ferry of Bones & Gold* for online ebook

### Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

Although I am a big fan of Hailey Turner's *Metahuman Files* series, I was slow to pick up *A Ferry of Bones & Gold*. I haven't read an urban fantasy novel in years, and I worried that I would miss the romance. I wasn't sure if I would enjoy it.

Well, I enjoyed it. So much that while I still missed the romance, I didn't miss it as much as I thought I would. *A Ferry of Bones & Gold* drew me in. Here's how:

\***A compelling story that unfolds amid even more compelling world-building.** As former combat mage turned supernatural law enforcement agent **Patrick** investigates a series of murders by an evil occult intent upon world domination, he juggles enemies and allies, a sexy werewolf bodyguard, soul debts, and demon assassination attempts. Yes, it was as absorbing and thrilling as it sounds.

\***A diverse cast of supernatural characters** that made the landscape more lively and fun

\***Jono.** Ever since Kresley Cole introduced the Lykae in her *Immortals After Dark* series, werewolves have remained my FAVORITE paranormal heroes

\*Cleverly incorporating the gods and monsters of **Greek mythology** (with a hint of **Norse mythology** too!)

\***The writing.** As always, it was rich and engrossing.

The world-building was as dense and complex as the characters' backstories, and piecing it all together was challenging at times. Information reveals were occasionally muddled. Never fear, though - Turner includes a handy dandy index to help readers make sense of it.

The blurb is upfront that **the m/m romance is a subplot**. But at this point, even calling it a "subplot" is something of a stretch. I loved reading Jono's perspective, and his growing feelings for Patrick were palpable. But Patrick's feelings for Jono? Well, Patrick had a lot on his mind, what with saving the world and all, and when his thoughts did turn to Jono, they seemed to be driven by either lust or annoyance. At the end, I didn't believe that he felt anything particularly deep for Jono (or, at least, not anything independent of his guilt). In future installments, I would like to see Patrick's feelings evolve into more tangible and genuine ones. **This may not be a romance series, but Turner can write romance well (shout-out to my babies Alexei and Sean).**

Looking forward to the next one!

*Read for SBTB October - December 2018 Quarterly Challenge: Read whatever you like.*

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### Wendy says

It is no secret that I am a big fan of Hailey Turner's "Metahuman" series. I fell deeply in love with the characters from that series, especially Kyle and Alexei...they were awesome. So when I found out she was releasing a new "Urban Fantasy" series, I was all in !!

Now I have got to be honest here and confess, that I don't exactly know, which of the books I have read, fall under the "**Urban Fantasy**" genre. I just know, that I love reading PNR and that I have definitely read my fair share of those, either MM or MF. I am also a big fan of magic, so I figured **BRING IT ON** :P

She definitely brought it !! This book is full of all sorts of creatures... There are Gods, witches, vampires, shifters, mages ...you name it and they are in it.

I absolutely loved the world-building in this one, which I think is very important, especially when it comes to a fantasy book, but... I have got to admit, that I felt a bit lost at times.

There was just a lot of information to process, which is to be expected, because this is the first book in a series. Now, it's not the book nor the author's fault, that I had to go back and re-read certain parts. This is mostly because English is not my first language. My English might be good, but it's not perfect by any means.

That doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it though, it just took me a bit longer to read, which ...wasn't such a bad thing :P

Now I won't go into the whole plot, because don't want to spoiler anything, but also because I wouldn't be able to explain everything properly. This is one you just have to experience for yourself... at least I think you should !!

I got sucked into the story from the very first page, which is also the exact page I fell in love with **Patrick** <3

Patrick is a **mage** and he works for the **Supernatural Operations Agency** (SOA for short). All he wanted was to go on vacation....sucks to be him !!

The romance in the story took a bit of a backseat, but I myself didn't mind one bit. That said, I do hope we get a bit more "Patrick and Jono" time in the second book, because they were **HOT** together. I also want to give some extra credit to all the other characters in this book, who made this story so interesting.

**Highly recommended** ;)

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## Bev says

I was so torn with this book. See, by the half way mark it really wasn't doing it for me and I set it aside. In fact, I returned it through KU. Then it started to niggle at me and wouldn't get out my thoughts so I downloaded it again and .... I'm glad I did.

Once the real action kicked it up a notch and the big reveals about Patrick's past started to flow I was hooked. But this needed to come way, way earlier in the story and this is where it lost its shine for me. The author's imagination and world building is phenomenal, though at times I felt it overshadowed the characters and this frustrated me. This is a longish book with plenty of opportunity for more character details and fleshing out, they're all so fascinating and I'm hoping that the author gives us more on them in future books. I mean, at times I was so desperate for them to be fleshed out I would've been glad for flashbacks, and me no likey flashbacks. Jono's transformation into a were-creature fascinated me but it was so lightly touched on I was clamming for MORE.

Both Jono and Patrick are such strong, badass characters who still have quite a way to go with their relationship because the romance, what very little there was of it, took a back seat to everything else that was going on. I can't even say it's a HFN because their relationship hasn't really gotten off the ground yet so I'm hoping for a lot more Patrick and Jono together time in the next book. Jono is all in and was from the get to, Patrick needs to extract his head from his arse and get with the program.

So all in all I'm really glad I went back to it.

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## Jennifer?Pher? says

Sometimes I forget that I kind of *do* like Urban Fantasy and not just Paranormal Romance. I think somewhere in my head I think too much Fantasy and not enough Romance just won't work for me.

Sometimes I'm just silly.

The beginning of this book took some getting used to, so many freaking acronyms guys, but once I got my groove I couldn't put this down.

Hailey's writing is superb.

The world building was amazing, so many supernaturals! I can't wait to see where else we get to go in this world and man, this world is fantastic. The words created such a brilliant visual I felt like I could see the magic.

This was super exciting. *We have another body*. Gah! Time was running out and the stakes were high and I felt every bit of it. The twists and turns just kept coming and I felt winded.

Ok, let's talk about the Romance. Yeah, it is for sure less in UF but man, what we got I freaking loved. First of all, I loved Patrick. He just kept going. How he did I don't know but his strength and resiliency were

astounding. I can't wait to learn more about him and I can't wait for him to become a new him, a him that is loved. Really, I can't wait.

I'm going to go with equally here, yeah, that sounds about right, I equally loved Jono. Here is another example of keep on keepin' on. An Alpha without a Pack is never good. How he survived alone for so long is unreal. I love that he just accepted his fate and rolled with it. It wasn't a complete hardship for him though (wink, wink) and I love that he was honest about that too. I hope he just keeps on giving that slow and sweet. Whew!

And then these two together? Wowza.

So yeah, there definitely was romance, just not a lot of time for it. It was there though. It was fast, it was fate but at times it was sweet. It was also off the charts hot. These two burned up the pages for sure.

Overall I am super happy with this read. I'm glad I took a chance on it even if I feel it isn't always my thing. I just forget sometimes it can also be my thing.

Um, when is the next one?

Superb.

*\*\*ARC provided by the author via A Novel Take Promotions in exchange for an honest review.\*\**

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## **Cadiva says**

Whisper it quietly but I think Hailey's written another amazing pair of lovers who might have just kicked Alexei and Sean to the curb in my list of favourites (but please don't let the Russian pyrotechnic know okay?!).

I am absolutely head over heels for Patrick and Jono, both individually and as a partnership. Patrick is every thing I love in a flawed hero, both metaphorically and literally as his magic has been damaged beyond repair when first we meet him.

Jono is a British boy, and every time he spoke, visions of North Laandon (that's the accent I hear) fluttered through my head, bringing with them the sounds of the city.

The world building in this book is beyond brilliant, the mythology of the Greek Pantheon is seamlessly merged with that of the Norse Gods, and with the folklore of West African, Egyptian and European cultures.

In terms of the plot, it's fast paced, complex, at times sets the heart racing and at others makes you melt and at the centre is a new group of characters I know I'm going to love just as desperately as the Alpha Team in Hailey's Metahuman Files series.

I'm not giving away anything plotwise because I'm not spoiling it, but this is everything I want in the opener of a new series. The romance is present but doesn't overtake the urban fantasy, and the fantasy is firmly rooted into the "real world".

There's good guys to root for and bad guys you want to see wiped off the face of the Earth and a bunch of brilliant secondary characters I want to know more about.

Now, I know this book isn't even out yet, but when can I have the rest please?!

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

All fangirling is my own work because I am such a mythology nerd.

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## **Alisa says**

I have a lot of feelings about this book. Most of them good. Some, not so much.

First the good. I loved the concept of the story and it was really good to see an actual urban fantasy that also includes a m/m romance. I loved Patrick and Jono and thought they were great together. They had a ton of chemistry and were smoking hot in the smexy scenes. Their relationship is fated mates kind of thing which I love. It's one of my favorite tropes so that was a giant win for me. I also really liked all of the side characters. There were a lot of them but they all added to the story.

Now the bad. What on earth did the copy editor actually do? Not his/her job, because this was so clunky and messy in places. So, So much info dumping. So much information told to the reader over and over and over. Yes, I know Patrick has a soul injury. You've told me 399x now (ok, slight exaggeration). The world building was also very clunky. It was dispersed in random places and didn't always make sense. The author held back info the reader needed until the end while simultaneously giving out too much information in other places. The book was way too long. It could have easily been cut down by 50-75 pages. So much pointless stuff like the telephone call from an old friend at the end. Zero reason for the scene to be there (and the reader doesn't need to know every line of a conversation). Look, we're at the end. It's time for the book to be wrapped up. I as a reader am ready to move on to another book and yet here the author is, just throwing in random, pointless scenes. There was way too much of it in this book. This type of stuff happened too many times and by the end I was super annoyed.

I actually read the notes in the back cuz I was sure this had been self pubbed w no editor. Then I saw how she had all these beta readers (which doesn't do any good if they're the author's friends and they're going to only give you good feedback) but apparently there was an editor. An expensive one too according to their website. I don't even know what to say about that (Ok, I do, but I'm going to refrain).

So....this had the potential to be an excellent book. There were a lot of good things about it. Things I really, really liked. The lower rating though is due to the abysmal editing. I liked it enough to read the next one. I do recommend it. Just be prepared to skim in places.

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## **Simone says**

**\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\***

*Magic, willed out from his tainted soul, spun itself into a pale, glowing blue sphere no bigger than a golf ball. It nestled against the curve of his hand, mostly hidden from sight.*

It was one of those phone calls. One of *those* phone calls you are bound and determined to ignore when you are already halfway out the door and mentally in full-blown vacation-mode, attuned to weeks of umbrella-decorated cocktails, a nice tan and loads of hot sex. But when Special Agent Patrick Collins's boss at the Supernatural Operations Agency aka SOA and guardian for almost his entire life calls and sends you to New York, it is not a '*your mission, should you choose to accept it*' call. You accept. Period. Especially when there are higher powers involved - umm, and I don't mean the worldly kind - and you owe them a soul-debt that makes you their good little soldier. This phone call is the reason why Patrick, mage by trade with a military background, ends up knee-deep in dead bodies - or should I say parts of dead bodies? - while dealing with several quite obnoxious and demanding gods, a cult set out for world domination, agents gone rogue and ghosts of the past that should better have stayed dead, culminating in some kind of Ragnarok...

... and all that when Patrick's soul already took a deep hit the last time it happened and he failed spectacularly. But that's not all. Not by a long stretch. Throw some vampires, witches, sorcerers, seers, faes and werewolves - just to name a few - into the mix and you might get an idea of how much Patrick has his hands full with reconciling the whole bunch of old enemies and new allies, although the enemy/ally part might get mixed up a little.

And then there's Jono... Jonothon de Vere, Alpha werewolf without a pack and with ties to some deities himself, doesn't fall exactly under Patrick's favorite species, but something about him makes Patrick feel magically - no pun intended - attracted to this guy. Jono seems to understand Patrick's lonely soul - and vice versa - and wondrously doesn't care about his damaged soul and tainted magic, so when the immortals set their mind on both guys not leaving each other's side, their connection deepens gradually and both men form a special bond, boosted by magic.

**Lordy! Once again I'm doffing my metaphorical hat to Hailey Turner's power of imagination!** It's been a year and a half - almost to a day - that I discovered her *Metahuman Files* series and became one of its biggest fans since. But I'm honest here, so when I heard that the author's next series would be Urban Fantasy I gulped, winced and cringed a little because even if I'm all in for some hot superheroes, I'm still more of a down-to-earth kind of girl and fantasy is usually not my thing. But when Hailey writes it I'll read it and boy, was I wrong! I loved the world she created here with magic being a part of the everyday life, a healthy dose of mythology and gods living among mortals, running around in jeans and T-shirts. And with Patrick and Jono she brought two flawed and damaged characters to life whose complexity unfolded bit by bit and I'm sure there are some layers I still have to peel away. Contrary to the *Metahumans* it's not an already established team who has to save the world, more like a crowd of unlike allies cobbled together by a mutual cause, but I have a feeling just like between Patrick and Jono, their bond will deepen over time and we will get to see more of these guys. The story is plot-driven with action scenes and underlying tension - umm, there's a lot going on, like *a lot*, and we are talking about only a week here - and a romantic subplot that will surely develop over the course of the series. The sex - albeit not quite as long and frequent as in the *Metahuman Files* - was hot, sweet and sensual.

So why not 5 stars? It took me a bit to get into it. I mean, I love me a detailed worldbuilding, but at the beginning it was quite the info dump. So many agencies and names were introduced and background stories only addressed with a lot of hints and insinuations that my old muddled brain needed some time to adjust and process what was going on here. I had to turn back a few times when I scratched my head and asked myself



'who was that again?', sure I've read the name before and that pulled me a bit out of the story. For all those with the same issues, there's a detailed index at the end of the book, I just realized it a tad too late.

I absolutely *loved* the second half, though, and since there are quite a few unsolved threads, I can't wait to see where this is going. Soooo, Hailey... please write faster! ;-)

Highly recommended for all die-hard and aspiring fans of urban fantasy!

*\*\*\*ARC generously provided to me by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!\*\*\**

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## **Deborah says**

If it wasn't for the fact that I'd irritate myself with my corniness I'd refer to this book as spellbinding.

Usually it takes me a chapter or two to settle into a book. To get a feel for it and see if I'm going to like it. This hooked me immediately. Which was surprising in a way because this is a first in series and it comes with a ton of information. And I do mean a ton. We have a world where magic is prevalent. This comes with witches, mages, vampires, soul eaters, werewolves etc.

Then there's variations within each group.

*All magic users were taught according to what their magic had an affinity for. Some practitioners handled the elements. Other practitioners healed. Still others tried to raise and enslave the dead...*

Patrick Collins works for the SOA (Supernatural Operations Agency). Patrick is a mage (a combat mage) on his way to Maui. He's actually at the airport when he makes the mistake of answering his phone. So Special Agent Patrick Collins finds himself in New York City. Trying to solve a series of murders. The bodies are mutilated with astrological signs sliced into the eyelids.

Yes this is a very different world that's been created here and I loved it.

Patrick has a troubled past, he has more baggage than any one person should ever have to carry.

I loved this book. The world building, the characters and of course the romance. I do love a hot muscled werewolf and Jonothon is delicious . This book is fast paced in fact there's never a dull moment.

I can't wait for the next one.

I very rarely give 5\* but this book held me completely captivated from the first page to the last.

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## **fleurette says**

I've started this book completely unaware that this author is already familiar to me. I have read first two books in Metahuman Files series and really liked them. But I have to admit that I enjoy this book even more.

Maybe it's because it is more on the urban fantasy side than science fiction and I'm generally more keen of this genre. And even though the world and idea of magic presented in Soulbound series is not tremendously innovative, it is still different enough from the other concepts I know to be fascinating. I really appreciated the world-building – both its familiarity and the dissimilarities.

And, as always with Hailey Turner, the characters are exceptional. Here we have two tortured heroes – Patrick and Jono. Their past is so interesting, I certainly want to know more about it. Their former experiences are so significant for their present reactions and acts. It's so good to see Jono and Patrick relaying on each other and working together. I seriously hope they will also work as partners in the next books.

The plot is also truly grabbing. Terribly magically damaged bodies are found around New York City, just before the summer solstice. The main suspect is Dominion Sect, the one that once already tried to take over the god's power and almost succeeded. Patrick Collins, special agent to the Supernatural Operations Agency, is sent to contain the mayhem.

Another thing that has to be mention is the city of New York that is like additional character in this story. The city with its famous points, attractions and everyday life is so much a part of the whole experience, I can't imagine setting this story in any other city. I'm so glad Patrick is moved permanently to New York and that the next book is likely to be also set in NY.

I can't wait to read the next book in this series. I hope it will be rather soon than later.

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### **~Volha~ says**

All men's souls are immortal, but the souls of the righteous are immortal and divine.

Socrates

Ms Turner has done it again. She brought new world and new magic into our lives. I would venture a guess that this is the best urban fantasy novel I've read to date. It is spectacular! I loved every page! Among humans and immortals, werewolves and vampires, mages and witches we find ourselves at the epicenter of an epic battle between good and evil. How much are people willing to sacrifice to become omnipotent? Too much or not enough?

Whatever comes from God is impossible for a man to turn back.

Herodotus

Patrick Collins's life is bearable. He knows the score and he settles his debts as they come. As a man with secrets in his past and many enemies he is always aware and always ready. But this case is the straight nightmare that will bring him face to face with the truths and memories better left forgotten. As he fights to keep everyone alive he has to learn to trust and forgive himself, to open up and to start living again.

Jonothon de Vere is someone who believes in Fates. He is a creature feared but strong and loyal. He does not know what future brings but he knows that Patrick is in it. At first they clash, shamelessly flirt and antagonize each other. But as the danger mounts they become a force to be reckoned with, they become a team and with the help of their allies they forge forward straight into the abyss.

Death does not concern us, because as long as we exist, death is not here. And when it does come, we no longer exist.

Epicurus

The story is so engrossing, full of Gods, paranormal creatures of all types, mages and witches, but all of them are connected by their desire to fight. Some choose the side, some are forced to it. But no one stays behind. It was a wondrous experience and I felt privileged to read it in advance. I can only say that this book is off the charts good. The plot twists, the mystery and suspense, the brotherhoods and divided loyalties, the magical fights and diverse characters bring forth a magnificent story that will keep you on the edge of the seat. I highly recommend it!

P.S. As this is the first book of hopefully many it ends on HFN.

\*\* ARC was kindly provided by Leslie Copeland for my honest review \*\*

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## **Jewel says**

4.5 Stars

This book was so up my tree, I can't even tell ya. Loved it!

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Woot!!! Thank you **Impatient Elf!!!!** I can't WAIT to read this! <3

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## **Dia says**

It's my first book by this author and the first book in this series. I enjoyed the suspense and the world building even if paranormal is not my favorite. Now I really want to try The Metahumans series by this author. For some reason I postponed it.

I'll give this one 4 stars because it was intense and full of action. But it was exhausting to read. For me. As much as I loved the couple, there are SO many secondary characters. My head was spinning! And I am sorry to say this but I think it could have been shorter. I wouldn't have minded. So many creatures, vampires, gods, immortals... I really think you have to have patience with this one. The story is revealed slowly. In the end we get some missing pieces that help us better understand the main characters. But honestly, I would have preferred more hot scenes. This book is full of action and suspense, but not much romance. I don't know what I feel about the forced bond between them. I suppose we will get more relationship angst in the second

book.

This doesn't end in a cliffhanger and maybe I'll give the second book a try.

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## **Len Evans Jr says**

### **Just perfection from start to finish!**

Awesome book populated by wonderfully flawed characters with the perfect balance of action and romance! Full review tomorrow! Highly recommend it to all that love sexy paranormal stories!

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## **Eugenia says**

### **Dang!**

Well, this is my third go at writing this review before my Kindle deleted everything. (I miss my iPad!).

Let's leave it at a few critical observations:

1. It's Urban Fantasy.
2. Gods, magical creatures, magic users and normal humans roam our contemporary world.
3. Hell and it's allies are seeking to take over topside.
4. The gods are in this fight and still use humans/creatures/magic users as their pawns.
5. Hermes is a punk rocker.
6. The military has magic combat branches as do the intelligence agencies.
7. The world building is confusing at first.
8. After an initial WTF is going on, I got into the story.
9. There is a lot less sex than in Turner's Metahuman series.
10. Lots o' action.

I enjoyed it after my initial confusion. If you need to brush up in your gods, use the glossary.

Cheers!

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## **haletostilinski says**

### **4.5 stars!**

Whew. What a story.

It's no secret that I positively adored Turner's Metahuman Files series, Jamie and Kyle especially but I eventually came to love Alexei and Sean almost just as much.

For that, it was a tough act to follow because I was expecting a lot - couldn't help it.

For the most part, this story held up for what I've come to expect from this author, who is definitely an auto-

buy for me.

A lot of the good and awesome in this story was a little lost in the setting up of this world, which is understandable. There is SO much going on in this world. It actually has gods - greek gods, norse gods, other gods...as well as mages, sorcerers, witches, wizards, werereatures, vampires and so on.

And we see just about all of those I listed in this, so there was a lot of introducing and explaining how each supernatural creature worked, and the gods' part in all this.

It tended to make it drag at times, which is why I ultimately rounded down instead of up, but it wasn't so bad that I ever lost interest. It did just enough explaining before getting back to the story that I didn't feel like it was too slow or meandering. It just came close to that at times, I felt.

Also, I could have done with *more* of Patrick and Jono, a lot more - but seeing as this is the first in the series, I expect a lot more is to come with these two. Didn't make it less frustrating that this barely felt like a beginning for these two. Also, with Patrick having been through so much, and (view spoiler) having a damaged soul, I felt like his walls were UP and Jono barely cracked through the surface of them in this book, I felt, even with (view spoiler)

I mean, the main action takes place over a weeks time. Not a lot of time, and these two aren't in love yet - they barely get time to get to know one another and act on their attraction, so that was understandable. It was slightly reminiscent, to me, of Jamie and Kyle of book one of the Metahuman series, which means I hope we get to go more in depth with Patrick and Jono.

They definitely had that spark, and that chemistry that made me perk up and want oh so much more, and the sex was definitely hot (although, compared to Turner sex scenes of the past, not nearly as steamy as those. Definitely hoping for more in future books ;)).

But despite a pretty crowded book and a barely starting romance, the plot was interesting and engaging and had me glued to the pages, waiting to see what happened next. And the connection between Patrick and Jono had me wanting more, excited to get scenes between them.

There were a few twists and turns as well, and it made for an exciting read, and with the story not over yet by the end of this, I'll be eagerly awaiting the next book in this series.

\*\*\*ARC generously provided by the Alpha Book Club in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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