

Climax

Susan Mac Nicol

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Powerful modern warlock Quinn Fairmont found ecstasy with the silver-eyed and not-quite-human Cade Mairston, but to know true happiness the pair must best both the shadow of a long-ago lover and an ancient enemy who seeks to destroy love, light and all they hold dear.

A BLINDING LIGHT

It begins with a Book of Shadows discovered by a London coven. The grimoire is as dangerous as it is rare, which is why it evokes modern-day warlock Quinn Fairmont's desire. He collects objects of great power and beauty—like his lover, Cade Mairston.

Against all odds he and Cade found each other, but their perils have just begun. First is the ex-lover who once held Quinn in thrall. And, someone has been killing warlocks. Could it be one of his own kind? There are those too who would challenge Quinn's power in their quest to overthrow him as Grand Master. Or is the danger something darker, something invoked inadvertently, rising from the shadows, building from the very inside of a man until it brings an end with a quick flash of light? Of the truth, the surface has only been scratched. Now Quinn and Cade must go deeper and find both answers and an end. They must learn what lurks in the hearts of men...and whether it seeks to love or destroy.

Climax Details

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Author: Susan Mac Nicol Format: ebook 254 pages

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





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From Reader Review Climax for online ebook

Gina says

I'm so looking forward to what the third book would bring out.

Less live or die actions, but more of character oriented this time, and I loved it. There are some editing mistakes btw.. Once, Cade became 'she' and Quinn became Cade. It's manor, but in the context of the paragraph, it confused the hell out of me.

Despite the little oversight, it was a 4.6-star read for me.

Denise Shirley carter says

Double Alchemy (Book #1) was my first blog review back in March. It was also only the second paranormal book I had ever read-nope not even the Twilight series. I guess I prefer my books somewhat grounded in reality, at least a little, which is actually why I have LOVED the Double Alchemy books. Yes, they have a lot of supernatural events in them, but the characters are still living in the current reality, with humans getting in the way, and cell phone issues, etc. It helps me to relate to the characters and situations more if I can envision the environment they are living in a current state I can understand.

Double Alchemy: Climax picks up after Quinn and Cade have their HFN. And they are truly happy, which I love, and that happiness is quite evident in this book...along with more of the Susan Mac Nicol HOT sex scenes!!! As the world around them begins to come together in a vortex of evil, Quinn and Cade still find a way to connect when they can, but still are able to be independent people. I really enjoy that aspect of their relationships. Quinn is a dominant alpha male, and yet, he knows that it is Cade who runs their relationship, and he tries his best not to upset his man if he doesn't have to. Meanwhile, Cade puts his foot down, when he knows Quinn is out of line.

As the new character, Valensia, is introduced, you can see that it is going to be a challenge for our MC's to not allow her to come between them, even as the Warlocks and Witches find a way to an alliance. She initially tries her best to use her Fey influence to bring Quinn back to her bed, but is thwarted in her goal. Meanwhile, our villain from Book 1 returns, along with a very strong presence wanting to make his way into the current world and rid it of Warlocks and Witches.

Side Note: As I read what I considered the "Climax", which was at about 50% in the book (it wasn't the only one, but it sure seemed like it to me at the time), it was 3:00 in the morning here and I was reading it. I noticed about halfway through this scene, that I had one hand on my leg, and was rubbing my leg from the stress. THAT is the sign of a well written book, my friends. I was drawn in so much that I was physically stressed waiting to see what happened...and its a DOOZY!!!

After that point, things began to wrap up quickly, and probably more quickly than I would have liked, I'll say. Although, I will say that I literally bawled, as in, ugly cried when Quinn had to put Cade in the water (see excerpt above). I actually had to stop reading because I could not get myself to stop crying for a while-Susan warned me on this when I sent her a message and told her of my stress in the "Climax" scene (my response was "evil woman"). Silly me, I wasn't sure I believed her...I was very, very wrong.

I would have loved another 1,000 locations in it. If I had one thing to say that I would have liked to see

would be, more...more story, more conflict, more Cade and Quinn. If this book wasn't called Double Alchemy: Climax I would have thought there was a book 3 ahead, but sadly I think that Quinn and Cade will be destined to live in my re-read collection with two books.

Double Alchemy: Climax gets 4.8 out of 5 pieces of eye candy. Another amazing piece of work by Susan Mac Nicol. Her books are now an auto buy for me. At this point, I can only request...Ms. Mac Nicol...what about a Double Alchemy: Climax Climax?:) (Wow, I didn't realize how dirty that sounded until I typed it.)

The Novel Approach Reviews says

In order to truly appreciate *Climax*, it is best to read *Double Alchemy* first. I am not a fan of paranormal fiction, as a rule, but I have been trying selective paranormal reads lately. This duo was one that made me glad I was stepping outside my comfort zone. These two books have a lot of supernatural elements to them, but the characters are still living in the here and now, not some alternate universe. This is helpful when trying to relate to the characters and situations, as I can imagine their surroundings more accurately.

Climax picks up soon after the end of *Double Alchemy*. Quinn and Cade have gotten their HFN. They are truly happy, and it's clear in this book. Part of that love and happiness is the scorchingly hot Susan Mac Nicol sex scenes! Swoon... Seriously, she is one of the few authors whose sex scenes are always a turn on.

There are still way too many secrets that Quinn is keeping from Cade, things that are really important for Cade to know. Their world is turning into a vortex of evil, but Quinn and Cade still find ways to connect whenever they can, and that is plenty! Each man still has his career separate from the other. I like that they retain their independence within the confines of their relationship. Quinn is definitely an alpha male, but he knows that Cade holds a lot of power in their relationship, which is made clearer than ever when Quinn's green eyed monster reared its head!

The new bitch in town is Valensia, queen bee of the Witches, as Quinn is the King of the Warlocks. She and Quinn had a really steamy past. Valensia is part Fey, so the magical and mega-powerful attraction is there. Quinn has to fight to overcome it every time he is near her. This presents a challenge for Cade and Quinn to not allow her to come between them, as the Warlocks and Witches are forced to form an alliance to fight a common enemy. Valensia initially tries her best to use her Fey influence to bring Quinn back to her bed, even going so far as to strengthen it with additional magic. Eventually, she realizes that Quinn and Cade belong together and tries to concentrate on their common goal.

The fifteen-year-old bratty villain from Double Alchemy is still around and has recruited help in the form of a regular human and a Book of Shadows. This is an ancient, rare and dangerous book of spells, some of which have never been tried. Quinn's book geek side really wants to keep the book for his collection. I totally understand that urge! The book brings with it a very strong evil presence which wants to inhabit a human vessel and rid the world of Warlocks and Witches. It will take all the combined powers of the Witches, Warlocks and Cade's Fey healing abilities if they are to be successful against this evil.

Quinn's secrecy with the knowledge that he has of Cade's Fey side turns around and bites him in the butt. It broke my heart when this happened. It was really hard to see a strong, both physically and supernaturally, man brought virtually to his knees in pain. It was a triumphant day when Cade was finally aware of the depth (pun intended) of his powers and abilities. He is truly the perfect equal for Quinn. Together, their powers

compliment each other's and they appear unstoppable.

As an added bonus, Ms. MacNicol throws a little political intrigue into the mix in the form of an attempt to overthrow Quinn's leadership on the Warlock Council. Once that rebellion is taken care of, things began to wrap up quickly, probably more quickly than I would have liked. The end felt a little rushed. We had had almost 600 pages building to this point and while the outcome was very satisfying and worth waiting each of those 600 pages for, I would have liked to see the pacing slowed down a bit.

While *Climax* served as the end of the magic/human problems, I could have used some more Quinn and Cade time. This was truly a plot driven book, where the first one was more character driven. There were conflicts between the men, and the heartbreaking ugly-cry-face scene where Quinn had to put Cade in the water, but I am a selfish, selfish reader. I want an Oompah Loompah NOW!

Don't misunderstand, these negatives are tiny little problems in a huge, sweeping masterpiece. I love Cade and Quinn, Percy and Jomo, and Valensia kinda sorta grew on me, eventually. Even that damn Withinner, Taliesin, garners a little sympathy from my cold dead heart. This is a perfect cap to the stories contained in this pairing of books and men. Well worth the investment of time and money and emotion, which may just be the biggest price of all. Double recommended, but especially to fans of Susan Mac Nicol's work specifically, and paranormals in general.

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

Climax is the second part of the Double Alchemy duology, and as such I would recommend reading them in order. We rejoin Quinn and Cade as they continue their search for Jeremy. Through the search, we find new characters to find out about, including Misty and Valensia. The first half of this book is mainly about that as Quinn continues to do his best for his Warlocks as Grand Master. Cade is by his side throughout, although I'm not sure I would be. I understand Quinn has his secrets, but it would drive me insane! The second part of the book is more about the various schemes and events that Quinn is organising, trying to do what is best, even when opposed by members of his own council.

Whilst I was totally engrossed with this story, there were parts where I wanted more - Misty, for example. There's a whole story there just waiting to be told, but we didn't get any of it but the bare bones. Also, Cade. I want more!!! Seriously, my kindle nearly went for a burton when I realised I had reached the end of the book, and there was simply no more. Yep, this is one of those books - where you have no idea about where the ending is until you trip over it!

With the same high quality of writing as in the first book, this fits seamlessly and snugly with the first book. I read these back to back and am thankful for that. With an amazing cast of characters, this is one story I am going to miss, and will be keeping to re-read in the future. Absolutely recommended by me.

* A copy of this book was provided to me with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book, and my comments here are my honest opinion. *

Merissa

Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!

Tina says

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Taliesin, garners a little sympathy from my cold dead heart. This is a perfect cap to the stories contained in this pairing of books and men. Well worth the investment of time and money and emotion, which may just be the biggest price of all. Double recommended, but especially to fans of Susan MacNicol's work specifically and paranormals in general.

ScuttlebuttReviews says

Review by Karen, posted at ScuttlebuttReviews

To fully appreciate *Climax*, first one really should read *Double Alchemy*.

As I started with the *Double Alchemy*, and really enjoyed it, I looked forward to this sequel. Luckily, there were only a couple of weeks between the release of the two, so the characters and plot were fresh in my mind.

Within *Double Alchemy: Climax*, there are essentially two distinct plot lines: one a continuation from the first book with the Witch Finder, and the other, a new strand that centers around Cade's non-human side and how this effects Quinn.

As this is a continuation, Quinn, the Withinner Taliesin, Cade the water sprite, Percy, and Daniel are all here present. But there are also a number of new character that provide new insight and interest.

I really enjoyed the carryover of the Witch Finder's continual hunt of Warlocks. Finding the Book of Shadows kick starts the story and gives the plot real impetuous. Warlocks and Witches, although on the 'same side', appear to be at loggerheads with each other. As the leader of the Warlocks, Quinn needs to get the BoS from the Witch leader, Valensia, who just happens to have some fey in her as well. From the first book, we know Warlocks and fey have a strong attraction to each other, and there's a bit of a subplot provided in that Valensia is also Quinn's last female lover.

Despite Cade and Quinn now living together, there are a couple ripples along the path of true love, mainly provided by Valensia, who doesn't hide her continued attraction to Quinn. This evokes some really strong feelings in Cade, and ramps up the sex between him and Quinn.

The combination of these two plot lines really worked for me, and the denouement of the Witch Finder strand snuck up on me a bit. I was getting lost in the world building and romantic elements and Bam! It was over.

The other part of the book concerns Cade, and the discovery of his true heritage and abilities. There is also the introduction of Cooper; a work colleague of Cade's who is flirty and attracted to Cade.

This part didn't work as well for me, especially the Cade/Cooper thing. I understand it's introduced to show that Quinn, who is portrayed as very strong, is vulnerable when it comes to Cade, but that was proved much more effectively later on when Cade becomes more in touch with his non-human heritage.

Overall, I love the developing of the relationship between Quinn and Cade, the suspense of the Witch Finders plot, and the introduction of Valensia (who should have her own book). On the other hand, I feel as

though too much was made to fit into one book, making it a little rushed. That said, *Double Alchemy Climax* is still a thoroughly enjoyable sequel, and a must-read if you've read the first.

Love Bytes Reviews says

5 stars, reviewed by Roberta.

Wow, this book is action packed and filled with lots intrigue and suspense. I was hooked!! At one point, I hated anything that kept me away from this book. I couldn't wait to finish this book and yet, I didn't want it to end.

This is the continuation of Double Alchemy, which really should be read first in order to really get a feel for these characters and a bit of the plot. Now, I liked Quinn and Cade. A LOT!! I thought they each brought something to the table in their relationship, yet for me, it was Cade that had me. Let's get into the characters for a bit.

Cade Mairston is this great character. He's an anthropologist and professor and he's worked really hard to get where he is in his life. He's had such tragedy in his life and he's finally got someone who loves him. Cade is starting to find out more about his Fey side and he wants so much to learn as much as he can. Cade is this wonderful blend of snarky and sarcastic when it's needed, however, he's also learning that there is more out there than the thought and sometimes it's a really dirty fight. Cade is Quinn's home, his salvation. What he needs to come home to and have a bit of sanity. Cade is more than willing to take up that job. He's pretty damn good at taking on Quinn in whatever mood he's in. It's fun to watch Cade handle Quinn.

Quinn Fairmont is Warlock with so much going on in his world that he doesn't even know how to get it all settled. He's got QuinCo, his company running smoothly with his partner, Jomo. His Warlock duties on the other hand are keeping him hopping about. Quinn is dealing with rumblings in his group about him not being the right person for the job. He's got people dying and he needs to find the Witchfinder General and stop whatever plans he's got going on. But the very best thing that Quinn has going on in his life is Cade!! That's the one thing that brings him any peace. The love that they share is what truly sustains him. Quinn is such a complex character. With all that has happened in his life and just how strong and determined that he is, I'd be in awe of him if it weren't for some of the stuff that he does that made me unhappy with him, we'll get to that in a bit.

Cade and Quinn's relationship is central to this entire book. The other stuff that happens throughout the story is important, don't get me wrong. But for these two men, they are each other's whole world and what effects one of them, truly effects the other. They give each other the chance to be themselves and yet, also to become better men than they already are.

This book has some wonderful secondary characters. As always, there is Taliesin, Quinn's Withinner, Percy who is Quinn's Marshall and friend. There is also Jomo who is Quinn's business partner. There are plenty of other characters that we get to see more of. James Barton Smith who is trying to take Quinn's place of Grand Master and change the course of how the Consortium does it's work in a direction that isn't necessarily the right way. Justin Leichner who is a childhood friend of Quinn's who has Quinn's back. There's Daniel, who is Quinn's surrogate father as well as being his uncle. Valensia is such a wonderful character. She's such a strong woman. She holds lots of power and the best part is that she's not afraid to get her hands dirty. I like that about her. Granted, she tries to get back with Quinn, but she's not the same person that she was when

last they tangled. But then again neither is he.

The book was really cut into different parts, the first part was finding out to whom The Book of Shadows belonged too and also finding the Witchfinder General. Another part is his dealings with the Warlock consortium and those within that are trying to gain a foothold in order to remove Quinn from his job as Grand Master. The final part was in regards to Cade and his being a Water Sprite and what that would entail.

There were just a couple of things that I wasn't sure about. I really didn't understand the character, Cooper. I didn't understand his purpose in this story. The fact that he was so forceful trying to get into Cade's pants, even knowing that he's with someone, that just didn't sit right with me. Now the bit about Quinn that is actually a rollover from DA, that he was so hesitant when parceling out information to Cade regarding his Fey nature, his Water Sprite abilities. I really hated that part. If you love someone, you don't keep something that important from them...just my humble opinion.

There was so much happening in this book that I swear that you won't be disappointed. This was a wonderful continuation of the Double Alchemy storyline. This was such a wonderful ride. The suspense and action were just the right balance, especially alongside the romance of Quinn and Cade!! When I got to the end, I was like...WHAT?! There has to be more!! I'm hoping that Susan hears my plea and maybe has something else up her sleeve. Trust me...you'll feel the same. So, if you're ready to read a book that will keep you on the edge of your seat, and a fair amount of pulse-raising, hot and sexy times...this is the book for you. So, sit down and have a drink handy..you'll need it and get ready to continue on Quinn and Cade's journey.

A copy of this book was provided for reviewing purposes. Please visit www.lovebytesreviews.com to see this and many more reviews!

Tracey says

Quinn and Cade, Cade and Quinn <3 love these two!

When you put mm and paranormal together, for me you come up with something great. I really enjoyed getting away from reality with the paranormal side of this book. At the same time it was a very grounded to human activities which was nice.

Obviously, this is book 2/2 of Double Alchemy so you really need to read book 1 first, which was fab. This book starts with our couple happy, but trouble stirring in the warlock/witch world.

Cade and Quinn are dedicated to each other and they both show jealousy when people try to get between them, nothing's gonna come between these men though.

Quinn showing jealousy in kitchen - loved it

It's not as action-packed as book 1, but still as enjoyable as we get to watch a relationship develop and grow even more, don't get me wrong there's action, danger and heartbreaking moments that will tug at your heart strings.

Susan does a great job with the sex scenes, not every session is detailed some were just teased and left to our imagination.

If you love mm pick up this page turning book along with book 1 you won't be disappointed.

4.5 stars.

GayListBookReviews says

C+

Double Alchemy: Climax, well what can I say? There certainly are plenty of climaxes throughout this story with Quinn and Cade really getting to know one another on a higher level, even more so than when they first met in book one. If you are looking for an all out love interest with many well written, hot sexy scenes you'll not be disappointed here.

So book two: Is about the intimacy between two people, their desires for one another, what makes each other tick in the bedroom and out, whether it be the garden or lounge. This book really encampasses what it is to really love, how they would feel if they were to lose each other, fears from outside influences, the changes each of them go through and how it reflects on their attitudes to their relationship.

Cade has come to terms with his new life and finally grasping who he is and where he came from. Quinn learns what it is to love, trust and balancing his own needs and fears with that of his partner. There are plans to make, futures to build and love that will go on for eternity, whilst coping with the pressures of living within a human world and the paranormal.

Quinn disappointed me on occasions, he queried certain acts, spells and abilities that I expected him to know, with him being the Grand Master of the Warlocks. His Marshal Percy appeared to have more knowledge in certain areas. Although Quinn wasn't quite so reckless and hasty in his nature as before. Quinn appeared to lack knowledge in certain areas of the warlock and witchcraft thaumaturgy. He questioned a number of issues, that his Marshall had the answer to, things I felt that as a Grand Master he would know. Made him look too human and not the great feared powerful warlock he is supposed to be.

Funniest quote in a serious situation, that made me laugh out loud. Quinn looked at the other two warlocks in apprehension, a sinking feeling in his stomach "If the tests are correct? Do we have a contingency plan in case this ritual is a load of bollocks?"

This sequel does settle the conclusion from book one, and there is plenty of paranormal activity throughout. I did struggle a little with this read, for me it didn't provide some of the answers to some of the characters that I was hoping for. No less it is a good read with a good storyline and I enjoyed this tale between Quinn and Cade.

Reviewed by Teddy

To see more of this review and others like it please visit us at Gay List Book Reviews at www.gaylistbookreviews.wordpress.com

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

A review by The Blogger Girls.

Magic abounds in this conclusion of Double Alchemy. It was so good to see these guys again, and they really seem to have settled into their relationship since we've seen them last. As with the previous book, there is a lot going on here, both overall and individually.

Quinn is still the Grand Poobah of the Warlocks and has a lot to deal with there. Not only is he still trying to take care of finding and eliminating the Witchfinder General, but there is dissension among the ranks of the Council. In the search for the Witchfinder General, he is brought back in touch with the Regina of Witches, Valencia, with whom he has a bit of a sordid past. All of this makes things quite interesting, but then there is also the business of Cade and his Fey issues which are carried over from the previous story.

Quinn and Cade have matured quite a bit and even gotten a tiny bit kinkier in their relationship which makes for some hot loving. Even though their sex lives have kicked up a notch, what with the extra Fey mojo kicking in, most of the heavy stuff is off the page, though you never get a sense you missed anything. And while the tables have turned a bit here in that Quinn seems the more insecure of the two, there is no doubt they are committed to each other. Thankfully, Talisen has been a bit more under control and even has a few issues of his own to deal with.

I have to say I didn't feel quite the same excitement with this one, even though so much happens. There were some events that sort of came out of nowhere and just didn't draw the emotions I expected. But, there is a lot to love about this interesting world. The descriptions of the settings and locations are vivid and totally give you a sense of reality. I loved the added characters, even or especially Valencia, and what they each brought to the story. As with before, I'm still a bit intrigued by some, most notably, Talisen, and hope to see more from this world some day.

If you're looking for a different paranormal filled with lots of magic and action, be sure to give these witches, warlocks and fey a try.

Overall Impression: I really liked it.