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Dragonbane: A Dark-Hunter Novel (Dark-Hunter Novels Book 19)



Synopsis

Out of all the mysterious boarders who call Sanctuary home, no one is more antisocial or withdrawn than Maxis Drago. But then, it's hard to blend in with the modern world when you have a fifty foot wingspan. Centuries ago, he was cursed by an enemy who swore to see him fall. An enemy who took everything from him and left him forever secluded. But Fate is a bitch, with a wicked sense of humor. And when she throws old enemies together and threatens the wife he thought had died centuries ago, he comes back with a vengeance. Modern day New Orleans has become a battleground for the oldest of evils. And two dragons will hold the line, or go down in flames, in Dragonbane, the next explosive Dark-Hunter novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Sherrilyn Kenyon.

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Customer Reviews

When you develop a long history with a series you have loved the way I've loved this one, it's hard to let go. But sometimes, it's the best choice. I feel like I've said, "this is the last one" to myself a fair number of times, only to get sucked back in by my memories of stories past. (Dance With the

Devil, anyone?) But the thing is, even when one kind of brings back the glory days the way The Guardian did, IÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cm getting to the point where it all feels recycled. Even the good stuff, done so many times, doesnÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct shine the way it used to. ItÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs been so long since weÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ve spent time at Sanctuary, I have to say I was kind of excited to return. I loved the Fang and Aimee days; the Howlers; Wren (swoon!), so I dug in with relish. Only to get completely lost almost out of the gate. I have read every single book in this series. There are so many books, that Goodreads has about 80 different lists wrapping them all up with the Dream Chasers and the Were-Hunters, Dark Hunters, Hellchasers, and so on. IÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ve read them all, some of them 2 or 3 times. And yet I couldnÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct have been more lost in a mining cave without a flashlight. Is this Sherrilyn KenyonÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs fault? Yes and no. SheÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs made her world so complex that even a devoted reader canÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct keep up. IÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cm not saying she is inconsistent or that no one will understand it, but itÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs just too big. ItÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs unwieldy. And while the readers-much-smarter-than-me may be able to keep up, I donÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct want to work that hard. Then there is the romance, which is like the last gazillion before it. The hero has been abused and derided thousands of years, known no love, you know the drill. This time it's Max, the resident dragon at Sanctuary. His mate from long ago shows up after 3000 years, asking him to help rescue the children he never knew about. SheÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs been a statue for most of this time, and there is so much backstory I donÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct remember. Oh, and for a little extra joy, Kenyon is now tying her Lords of Avalon books into the series, which I havenÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct read, confusing me further. Bottom line: Max was betrayed. Max had no one. Seraphina returns and gives him hope. She touches himÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã , Â| wait for itÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã , Â| LIKE HE MATTERS. They live happily every after. The only difference from the standard Kenyon pairing was that instead of being a paragon, the heroine was actually pretty unlikeable, considering she was one of the people who threw Max away on their first go around. Kenyon does advance the larger story arc. We see the Malachai, Ash, Styxx, Savitar, Apollymi and even Stryker in addition to the New Orleans were-community. It ends with a war brewing. But this really is it for me. I am sad about it, I really am. And no doubt, there will be people with better memories and more room in their brains who will love this complex jigsaw puzzle in a way I just canÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,ct. ItÃfÃ¢Ã  Ã ,cs more work than pleasure for me at this point. I still love Zarek, though.

I give this book 3 stars because of the strongly mixed feelings I have about its presentation, especially when compared to the rest of the author-goddess' works. Pros: Great back-story on Max

and the Omegrion in general. Some dropped information on Savitar and some parts of ancient history we're all still pretty well in the dark about. Different storyline premise that we haven't seen before, namely mates who've just been separated forever and working on a reconciliation due to misunderstandings. Also some obvious setup for future books, and some good higher-level drama, namely the attack on Olympus and the alliances of all-the-good-guys vs. the Gallu.Cons: Pretty much everything else. Many of the other reviews have already stated the overall problems with the book's structure. Too much about the main characters is told instead of shown, since so much of the conflict between Maxis and Seraphina is literally ancient history, and only visible through repeated flashbacks from both perspectives. The action and mayhem of the present day is rushed, without the true suspense and anticipation that the author-goddess has historically been so adept at creating. Here's my overall diagnosis of what's going on with this book, and indeed, with all of the author-goddess' works in recent years with a few notable exceptions: If she were to commit to writing each of her books in the same basic format as *Acheron* and *Styxx*, she would produce one masterpiece after another, giving herself both the space and the freedom to tell a sequential story from beginning to end, truly dig into the heart of the characters, and take us with her on the journey of the characters' lives. Imagine if we had gotten the story beginning on the day that Maxis and Illarion were taken into custody by Dagon, then to the first calling of the Omegrion and his conviction, then forward to his meeting Seraphina, their subsequent Mating, the abuses by her tribe, his leave-taking, the cursing of Seraphina's tribe, and then, THEN fast-forwarded on to the present day in Sanctuary. Day in the life of Maxis, the sense that something's about to happen, some hazy looks at his hoard and the items he protects. Flip to Seraphina waking up from the curse, and proceed with the rest of the book. The only flashbacks that would've been necessary would have been the truth of what happened with her Basilinna while she was away, the dramatic reveal of what really happened with the prince's murder in front of the present-day Omegrion, and the war against the Gallu that followed. Lots of fighting, lots of drama, end with them back together and the Gallu temporarily pushed back, all set up for the next book. THAT would have been a fantastic book. Yes, it would have been the same length as *Acheron* or *Styxx*, most likely. Yes, it would have been more complicated. But it would have been a heavy hitter, and a powerful story to witness. The sex would have been incredibly hot, instead of the fairly rushed affairs that it was, peppered throughout the narrative. The characters would have felt like deeply understood acquaintances, instead of passing biographies relayed via flashback. The conflict would have felt deeper, because of the depth of acquaintance with the characters. In conclusion, the story itself is good. I have the utmost faith in the author-goddess for being able to construct that to everyone's satisfaction and intrigue. The

execution and telling of the story, though, was so rushed and temperamental that it became difficult to get through in parts. I don't have any way of knowing whether this altered story format and the rushed nature of it was a result of the author-goddess' personal preference for the story, or if it was a function of the genre constraints. I imagine she probably had to get some kind of special permission to make Acheron and Styxx the extended length they were, so if that couldn't be done with every book, I can understand having to work within the boundaries the publisher has set for her. Otherwise, it's difficult to understand why she would have elected to go with flashback-heavy storytelling instead of the long-form for a character as obviously important to the Were-Hunter world as Max. The next few books in the series, per the author-goddess' website, are for Illarion, Falcyn, and Urian, in that order. It's my hope that for these projects, since all three of them are ancient-origin characters, she will return to more long-form storytelling. Falcyn interests me in particular, since he is not technically a were-hunter, he's drakomai. So I feel like we need to get his story from the very beginning. But that may just be wishful thinking on my part. I still love you, author-goddess! Looking forward to the next installments, and the continuing evolution of the world.

I'll be the first to tell you that I'm a Sherrilyn Kenyon fan. However, I'm not a fan of this story. It could have been so much more but I felt like the whole book was centered around a 'family' reunion all the way through. I'm reminded constantly of who's who, what animal they are, who they're married to, and what their traits are. I don't care. I so wanted the story to focus on Max and Seraphina but the attention shifted to all the other characters who already had books and between the other dragon brothers who will no doubt have follow-on books. It moved from one issue to the next and kept exploding/distracting the reader from the real point of the story which should have been to fall in love with Max and Seraphina. But alas, I'm annoyed by all the characters because they are all one-dimensional. When a series gets this long, and has been fabulous, at a certain point it should just stop while it's still considered good. Dragons are great. I want to read about them and not be distracted with werewolves, Greek gods, demons, and weird twisted history that seems to conflict internal thoughts from the first part of the book.

It's sad to know that this series has gone from fantastic to bad to really bad. I think the last one that I read that was really good was Acheron. I tried to read Time, Untime, but it made no sense what-so-ever. I have loved everyone of the dark hunter series. but I think Ms Kenyon has reached her limit for this series. every one she has written since have been way too complicated, and in no way enjoyable at all. So yeah I hate to say goodbye, but at this point, I won't bother with anything

else,she chooses to publish.

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