



When Darkness Falls

Shannon Drake

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WHEN DARKNESS FALLS...

In a windswept Scottish cemetery, Jade MacGregor's carefree vacation abroad is marred by a seemingly random tragedy. A year later, back home on a shadowy French Quarter street, she glimpses an oddly familiar face. Coincidence--or something far more disturbing?

AND TERROR TAKES HOLD...

Surrounded by her friends and engrossed in her work, Jade should feel secure. But somebody is dogging her every move. Somebody who knows what she saw on that long ago afternoon. Somebody who will try to rescue her from the evil that is waiting to destroy her.

INNOCENCE DIES...

When Darkness Falls Details

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From Reader Review When Darkness Falls for online ebook

Sherri Bryant says

I've had this book in my TBR pile for the better part of 8 years now and was never compelled to read it. Last year, I decided I needed to be proactive in culling down my TBR pile, I found this book in one of the many nooks and crannies I have books stashed in and pulled it out deciding this is one I would read, though the desire that grips most readers to read a particular book wasn't present for me with this book. I don't know why since paranormals top the list of my favorites in genre.

WHEN DARKNESS FALLS is the second story in Shannon Drake's vampire series. Characters from the first book make an appearance in this book, but this story does stand alone. The story begins in my favorite place in the world, Scotland, where the heroine, Jade MacGregor, is on a tour of a cemetery. The tour goes horribly wrong when the group is attacked by vampires. Jade is saved by a mysterious stranger and the police have a hard time believing Jade's tale. Fast forward one year later to New Orleans and Jade finds herself being hunted by the evil that she escaped from and the mysterious stranger again makes an appearance.

I honestly could not put this book down and found myself grabbing every spare moment I had to read, even if it was only a paragraph. Drake does an excellent job of weaving the past and present together to explain the history of the evil and the role the hero, Lucian DeVeau, plays in it. I liked Jade, though there are a few of those "too stupid to live" moments where she finds herself in mortal danger as a result of poor judgment. The supporting cast of characters were fantastic as well and I hope Rick Beaudreux gets his own story. Sophia and Darian were great villains that you will despise but will enjoy finding out what they do next.

I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this series with high hopes that it will deliver as this one did. Scottish Vampires....what else can I ask except for more please?

Sherry says

Heather Graham is one of my favorite authors. I don't think she could write a bad book if she tried. I am in love with "HER" New Orleans & the tours she gives us with her books. I love the mystery & suspense in which she weaves her tales. Delightful.

Emily says

This second book in Shannon Drake's vampire series was really quite disappointing. In addition to the myriad spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes, the plot and characters were very lacking. My copy is not even an ARC, so I was completely mystified as to why the publishing company would allow this manuscript to be sold in this condition.

Lucian, self-proclaimed "king of the vampires" is the hero of this tale, doing battle against an ancient foe that seems too powerful to defeat. Fortunately Drake has changed her vampire rules a little from the first book in order to make this villain vanquishable, otherwise this might not have turned out so well. As before random characters are conveniently the reincarnations of past friends, so much so that when someone says, "I feel like I've met you before" the reader starts trying to think of who they must have once been.

The narrative is slow-going with several little subplots that seem like excuses to showcase vampire cruelty to sub-characters without putting main characters in any danger. Then, despite that, main characters actually do find themselves in peril, except that the rules have changed, so they can recover. Whatever.

The book comes to its climax, a big show-down in a grave yard, but is over almost before it begins. Yay, the good guys win, the end. The reader is left going, "what just happened?" and wondering if it's even really over. Drake might want to leave some ambiguity, intending to resurrect this villain, which she might actually need to do because I know this series continues and Sophia seems like a hard one to top. However, it's just really poorly done and doesn't feel like a payoff at all for slogging through this lame book.

I really wanted to like this book. I tried so hard. Honestly, though, I couldn't bring myself to care. I do have to give it points for referencing Buffy the Vampire Slayer overtly, but I feel dirty about it because quite frankly a lot of the story feels like it was cribbed from episodes of Buffy. Specifically, her war with Spike and Drusilla.

Lisa says

All through this book I kept trying to remind myself that it was written way back in the year 2000 and therefore predated all the current vampires-as-sexy-romantic-interests mania. And that's pretty much the only reason I gave it 2 stars instead of 1 because I really didn't like one thing about the story.

First, the book moves at a SNAIL'S pace and is incredibly long and boring while it's crawling along. It takes ages and aaaaaages for the main female character to clue in to the fact that she's dealing with vampires and that's just boring and frustrating for the reader. Yes, if we were talking about reality, a person in Jade's situation would probably spend lots of time denying that vampires exist and would instead search for more mundane explanations. But this isn't reality it's a book, and the main purpose of a book is to keep the readers entertained so that they keep turning the pages. THE FRONT COVER ALREADY TOLD US THIS WAS A VAMPIRE STORY, IT'S NOT A MYSTERY TO US. So having to follow our clueless heroine around for 3/4 of the book while she looks at all these fantastical things happening and obviously carries on is just irritating.

Again, maybe this is excusable by the book's age and way back in the old Y2k the fact that the hero was a vampire was some huge reveal that you could spend a whole book leading up to, but here in 2016 it makes for a total snoozefest. It's no longer enough just to HAVE a vampire in your book, they have to actually DO stuff too.

(view spoiler)

All in all this book was just a complete dud for me.

Gina says

After picking this up as an afterthought in a used bookstore for \$1, this was much better than I expected. The worldbuilding was very good and I like the characters. Plot development and pacing could have used some serious work. I thought this was the 1st in the series but I was wrong. Reading in order may have helped with the issues I had with it. I liked it enough that I'll pick up the others if available cheap and used as well.

Teresa says

I am not sure why I continue to try to like Heather Graham's books, other than they are fluffy and mindless so I can read them during very busy times in my life.

This kindle edition was so very full of misspellings and lack of punctuation that it really began to annoy me. I usually can overlook some of that type thing, but goodness, when even the character names are misspelled so they seem like different people when you can tell from the surrounding story they are the same, its time to rethink your editor. Of course, I'm not a writer, editor, or in the publishing business.

I did enjoy the story for the first two-thirds, however, the last third just started to fall apart, in my opinion. Jade MacGregor seemed to be an intelligent person, writer, business woman, world traveler so rather savvy to surroundings. She was involved in a horribly traumatic event in Scotland, at the beginning of the book. It set the stage for the remainder of the book and was somewhat exciting. She is surrounded by a loving family and groups of friends who are supportive in the treatment she has needed to survive the trauma. And now it seems there are stirrings in her hometown of New Orleans, which repeatedly remind her of the horror she experienced.

Lucian DeVeau is also a main character who was involved in the happenings in Scotland. Their lives become entwined in the hunt for the evil that is stirring due to an evil vampire, Sophia and her minion Darrian.

During all the happenings, Jade seems fairly clear thinking and intelligent. She listens when Lucian tells her to Not open the door for anyone, etc. However, suddenly she and her supportive family and friends loose common sense and decide they can "Help" hunt these evil vampires. Really?? They fly off on their own and of course get into trouble and caught up into a traumatic fight of good vs. evil. By then I was so ready for the foolishness and typos to be over I just kept reading so I could say I had finished it. *sigh* I just can't be dragged into another of her novels.

Julie says

When Darkness Falls, by Shannon Drake (Heather Graham) is a vampire romance novel. Written a good five years before the Twilight books made paranormal romance hot as fire, the author sticks to the basics as we knew them at that time. Jade, an author, lives in New Orleans. She survived a mass murder in Scotland while doing research for a book. She finally starts getting her life back to normal. She has good friends and family and is dating the perfect guy. But, one by one, the survivors in Scotland are being murdered.

Lucien saved Jade in Scotland, and is back to help her now as she and her family are being sought by his oldest enemy.

Lucien is yet another tortured by his conscience vampire. He stays alive to keep peace and true evil at bay. His back story was interesting. Jade, of course, reminds him of his wife, who was murdered.

There just wasn't enough chemistry between Jade and Lucien. The book was maybe a touch too long, as it tended to drag now and then. I wish we could have had more of a solid ending for the couple. They have the HEA ending, but we aren't told which options they chose. Overall I give it a C+.

Glamdring says

Like the first book in this series, the story is more centered on the suspense part than the romance. And to be honest I also found it a little too centered on the bad guys rather than on the heroes relationship development.

Because the romance part was very weak and under developed, the only reason I don't give it 2 stars is because I really liked Lucian's story.

Gina says

Just as excellent as the first. A connection is felt between the characters, Jade and Lucian in particular, but with her sister, father, stepmother, and friends alike. The suspense and action was perfectly blended and kept me coming back for more. Drake's descriptions put you in the middle of the story with no going back. Can't wait to read Book #3, Deep Midnight.

Diane Paules says

Wow

The only thing I didn't like was the poor editing. Look past that and you have a wonderful story of love and vampires. I really enjoyed reading about Maggie, Sean, and Lucien again. A great read if you are a fan of the genre. loved it.

Phoebebb says

This book turned me into a reader. I never really liked reading ... until I found the right subject. This book introduced me to the world of vampires which inspired me to explore more into the paranormal world of reading. It is still to this day one of my very favorite books, and will always hold the very first memory I have of that feeling after you have just read a very good book.

Holly says

Better than the first book in the series, Beneath A Blood Red Moon, but once again the story seemed to fall apart towards the end of the book. The ending itself was extremely frustrating, and left more questions than

answers.

I love the character of Lucian. He is a near-perfect anti-hero. However, his heroine Jade ended up coming off as somewhat whiny. The secondary characters (Jade's friends from her writers group especially) were for the most part entertaining, and provided a bit of much needed comic relief.

For me, the single biggest problem was the fact that Lucian & Jade's future was left pretty much up in the air. The ending to BABRM while extremely far fetched in it's resolution, at least left little doubt as to the path that Maggie & Sean were on. Where as with this book, the reader is left feeling more than a little cheated out of a proper ending.

Serena Akeroyd says

I really love paranormal stories and it's the genre in which I want to write, so I can be a little critical, but in this book, I was quite disappointed by the lack of romance between the hero and heroine- Lucian and Jade. The basics were there and good they were, but I really wanted Jade and Lucian to be feeling the luuurve and it didn't feel as though they were. Which really made the story lacking to my mind. I loved the paranormal parts, which did feel under-developed, but still, great afternoon's entertainment!

JackieB says

I thought this was a good PNR. It had good believable characters and the plot generally built up tension well. The only slight drawback for me was that there were a series of flashbacks which filled in one character's backstory. I didn't think that it really needed filling in with the amount of detail (and flashbacks) which were used. I thought the flashbacks "diluted" the build up of tension in the main plot a little. However, I am not a big fan of flashbacks, so that may account for my feelings about them in this book.

Philip says

This is my first Heather Graham book that I have read. For me it was a book that was hard to lay down once I got started (but sometimes you have to make yourself do it). Just a little about it; Jade McGregor goes to Scotland to do research on old cemeteries, joins a group of college students to tour an underground tomb. She is then caught up in a vampire attack, where some of the college students are killed, she is saved by a mysterious man, she and a few students survive. Is this all over for Jade, or does things start happening that brings her back in to the clutches of death again. Find out about Jade's life, family, the mysterious man, the survivors and her fate.

*poor editing, but didn't hurt the book.
