



Dark Universe

Devon Herrera

Download now

Read Online ➔

Dark Universe

Devon Herrera

Dark Universe Devon Herrera

What do you do when your whole life is played out as atonement for someone else's mistakes?

Lola has spent her life in the shadow of her older brother, until one day he does the unforgiveable and is disowned from the family. Now her parents are putting pressure on her to get married, have children, and live the perfect life. If she can do all this, maybe it will wash away the guilt they harbor for her brother's mistakes. She's completely set against it, and refuses to ever fall in love. Until Drake Thomas knocks on her door.

What do you do when the one person you trust the least is yourself?

Ever since Drake was a boy he's been alone. That was the way he wanted it. His father was abusive and he learned at a very young age that he has the same anger living inside of him. Terrified that he'll one day become the man who ruined his life, he stays away from relationships of any kind.

Will they be able to move past their misconceptions about themselves and each other, or will they learn that not only can they love, but together they are stronger? Only the Universe knows.

Dark Universe Details

Date : Published 2013

ISBN :

Author : Devon Herrera

Format :

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

 [Download Dark Universe ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dark Universe ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Dark Universe Devon Herrera

From Reader Review Dark Universe for online ebook

Lelyana says

“You don’t know me, because if you did you
would run far away from me, but I never said I didn’t care.”

I'm already smitten by Drake since Sapphire Universe.LOL! Really...bad choice of word.
I know Lo and Drake would be hilarious, I know Lo fall for him and he never realized it (for some of past
shit)...and I really wanted to punch Drake on his nuts...just like Nina and Lo did...twice...yup! He's gotten
punch on the nuts by the two girls!
Get that Drake!

Even Drake wasn't an alpha type I usually looooooove to see....he's sweet in his own way. He's also
humble..maybe just because he has nothing on his pocket?
It's good that Devon didn't make him rich or some Billionaire shit whatsoever. Sometimes, guys should be
poor enough to be a little bit humble. (grinning)...

Drake,Lo, and Nina also made me laugh and at the same time, this one was heart warming read.
Thanks to Devon Herrerafor writing a **not too heavy and dark** book.
Some surprises were made to be just like that and as I predicted before, just like Sapphire Universe, the last
chapters was quite tens...and the good thing is, this book was unputdownable!

My complaints, this is too short and Drake wasn't too alpha (I'm a sucker for a control freak alpha male, **sue
me!**.
I loved Lo..she's strong and easy to love. I loved her parents, even Caroline!
And we still have Con Man and Nina here as well.
And I wonder, would Devon make a story about Nick and Toni?
I hope so!!!!

Yvette ~ Nose Stuck in a Book says

It's been some time since I've read Devon Herrera's Sapphire Universe and, even though I recall loving the
story, it was the minor details of the narrative that escaped my mind. After reading just one page of the

follow-up novel, Dark Universe, I remembered exactly why I love the author's writing, which has an effortless quality, inviting the reader to return to the comfort of familiar characters. Some books take time to capture my interest, but this one had me hooked from the moment each protagonist is introduced. The romantic relationship between the book's main characters, Lola and Drake, has previously been introduced in the first book, but Dark Universe backtracks to fill in all the missing pieces.

Although Drake provides sporadic narration, it is Lola who narrates the majority of the book, which was perfectly fine with me because I absolutely love her character. I have to say that she's one of the most enjoyable heroines I've had the pleasure of reading about because I never knew what to expect from her, especially since half the words that come out of her mouth are purposely said for shock value. Lola is a brazen, blunt, and make-no-apologies kind of girl, which translates to a fun narrator. She's already proven herself to be a strong and fiercely loyal friend to former protagonist, Nina, but this book offers a different view of her, exposing her vulnerabilities and inner desires once Drake enters the picture.

Such a feisty heroine deserves a strong willed hero and Drake doesn't disappoint. His character is more of a wildcard, with a troubled past and a closed off attitude. Drake's a bit of a mystery and is oftentimes frustratingly vague but understandably so. Drake's views about life and love are just as jaded as Lola's, making them an unlikely match, yet their chemistry is undeniable. Theirs is a somewhat strange relationship characterized by playful and snarky bickering at work and steamy encounters between the sheets. Who needs terms of endearments when you can have sarcastic comments? The unconventional romance works for their characters' personalities.

Although Dark Universe would be categorized as part of the New Adult genre, there are elements of action and suspense that distinguish this story as something more than your typical NA Romance. There is a bit of a twist added into the plot, but it's one that's set up early in the story so the reveal wasn't so much of a shock. Although I knew it would be an issue, the more pressing concern dealt with the romance between Lola and Drake, which starts as a casual, physical relationship and evolves into something deeper. Dark Universe isn't so much a sequel as it is a companion novel to Sapphire Universe, with the two narratives running almost parallel to each other for much of the book, and I loved getting to re-experience past events in a new light and getting to experience Drake and Lola's journey to happily ever after.

Lelyana says

Kassandra says

3.5

I'm going to start off by saying that I didn't read Sapphire Universe before reading Dark Universe, and let me tell you that was a BIG MISTAKE. I know that on goodreads it says you can read Dark Universe as a stand alone novel, but I HIGHLY recommend you to read Sapphire Universe before reading Dark Universe.

Lola Chase is a twenty-six year old woman that is trying to live her life the way she wants to, but her parents want her to be, have, and live a perfect life. She is constantly pressured by her mother to date and find a respectable man to marry and have a family with. But Lola knows how to speak her mind loud and clear. When her mother sets her up with another guy, Lola is ready to lay her cards on the table after taking a look at the dark handsome guy standing at her door. She lets him know that she doesn't do relationships, but strikes a deal that they can be each other's arm candy. What Lola didn't know before making a deal with the guy, was that he was not the date her mother set her up with. The guy she talked to was Drake, and he was looking for her father to make his own deal with the family. This is one of the things I loved about Lola's character. She knows how to voice her opinion in a sarcastic way, that I very much enjoyed reading. Lola had me laughing through out the story with her sarcastic outbursts and thoughts. I truly enjoyed reading from her POV.

Drake Thomas is a dark handsome cowboy that has lived a life of hardship. Since the day he was born his own father resented him and his mother, because they ruined his opportunity to become a professional rodeo. Once Drake grew up he suffered his father's physical and verbal abuse, and when he finally strikes back at his father he realizes that his father's blood runs inside his veins. Drake gets it into his head that he doesn't deserve to be loved by anyone and that he can't love anyone in return. He is also the type of guy that doesn't do relationships and doesn't like people knowing about his life or his family. I did love Drake's character because I just have a thing for guys that are kind of broken. There are a few chapters that are told from Drake's POV and I enjoyed them as much as I enjoyed reading from Lola's POV.

Lola and Drake's relationship develops from the deal Lola strikes with him the moment she meets him, believing that he was the date her mother set her up with. Drake agrees to the deal because he knows that Lola only wants him as arm candy with no strings attached. But as Drake and Lola start spending more time together and get to know each other a little deeper, they start to feel emotions they've never felt before. They don't know what they are feeling towards each other, but they are enjoying all of their sexual encounters. And let me say these are some INSANELY HOT sexual encounters. But after Lola and Drake go through some tough situations and they show their support to each other, they realize that there is something more to their no-strings attached relationship. But Devon Herrera throws a little twist in the story I was not expecting that might damage Lola and Drake's relationship.

Dark Universe by Devon Herrera had a lot of potential to be a great read. I'm going to admit that I am to blame for getting lost a few times in the story, because I didn't read Sapphire Universe. I experienced a few what just happened moments. This is also the very first time ever I wished a book was a little longer. Why? Because I felt that I got cheated on some scenes in the story. What do I mean by this? Devon Herrera fast-forwarded a few scenes that I really wished were in the story. I can't expand more on this, because I might ruin the story for all of you. But other than that I loved Lola and Drake's story. I actually can't wait to read the next installment in this series :D!

Theresa says

Well, the stars speak for themselves. This story was even better than the first one!

Derna says

*****4.5 stars*****

*****I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review*****

I have been looking forward to reading this book. After first met Lola Nina's best friend, and Drake in the first book Sapphire Universe. I was pleased that they were getting their own book as by the end of Sapphire Universe I was left with some unanswered questions about them, and felt they had a story to tell.

From the first chapter, I remember why I had loved Lola Chase. She's funny, sassy, outspoken, with a great attitude, and who is never afraid to say exactly what she was thinking. I liked Drake Thomas, and the fact he was a sexy cowboy even better, but he was stubborn and frustrating at times.

Both Lola and Drake have issues, they have family secrets, and each as heartbreaking as the other, and understandably is the reason they both have their walls up, stay away from relationships, as they are afraid of letting anyone get too close.

Lola and Drake are a great couple, they work well together, the banter between was great so funny at times. From the moment these two first meet which was very funny, you can feel the chemistry between them. I loved the friendship that had which started off more as "friends with benefit" these two are very physical with each other, so there is plenty of hot sexy moments. Let's just say Drake knows how to make a girl very happy ;)

I loved that it was told from Lola and Drake's POV as Devon does a great job of letting you get inside their heads you see Lola's insecurities and Drake's fears. I loved watching that as much as Lola and Drake try to keep the relationship purely physical, it turns into something more as they slowly get to know each other they can't deny the emotions that they start to feel, and walls start to crumble.

The storyline was heartwarming and heartbreaking. After reading the prologue, and discovering what happened to Drake in his past, my heart went out to him. Devon Herrera doesn't fail to deliver on the romance, the emotions, the sexiness, the suspense, and the surprises, many reasons I didn't want to put this book down.

Overall like the first I really enjoyed this book it was a quick read. I like Devon's writing style; it's engaging from the start, and Devon has a way of bringing the characters to life. I liked the epilogue, but I wished it had been longer I needed an extra page or two to be completely satisfied.

I loved that like Sapphire Universe Devon puts quotes at the start of each chapter, and I was so pleased that Devon did it again in this book, as you know I love my quotes, and again Devon had so many good ones.

I would recommend this book, but I do think you should read Nina and Connor's story in Sapphire Universe first as although Lola and Drake's story is separate it is happening at the same time and as I read the Sapphire Universe a while ago I found that I wanted to go back to it to recap on parts.

Favorite quotes:

“Calm, cool, sexually confident Lo has officially left the building, and drooling, incoherent and sexually deprived Lola has taken her place.”~ Lola

'I didn't think I could possibly deserve a woman like you. I still don't, but I'm too fucking selfish to give a shit.'~ Drake

“My skin flames under his touch and the air I was taking in get stuck in my skin”~ Lola

“Love is never black and white. People are never wrong or right. it's all about choices.”~ Connor

“You don't know me, because if you did you would run far away from me, but I never said I didn't care.” ~ Drake

“I let go with him in a way I've never done with any other man I've been with. He makes me laugh, he makes me angrier than any other person in the entire world, and I don't know what I would do without him” Lola

“Drake laughs and I melt. Having someone make you melt when you're supposed to be angry with them is major”~ Lola

“Love is not a product of the reasonings and statistics. It just comes--none knows whence and cannot explain itself” ~ Eve's Diary.

“The frankest and freest product of the human mind and heart is a love letter” ~ Mark Twain

Devon Herrera says

It's RELEASE DAY!!!! Go get your copy of Dark Universe here:

<http://www.amazon.com/Dark-Universe-T...>

Five stars for the experience of writing this book! I got to delve into the mind of that elusive creature, the male, and boy was it fun! We are introduced to a young Drake in the prologue, then to Lola for the first half. The second half however, switches back to Drake's POV as a fully grown man, who is starting to realize that maybe, just maybe, he's worthy of being loved after all. I hope you all love this story as much as I do! On to write Hard of Heart (my standalone where the hero is a young war veteran with PTSD) and then I'll finish this series with Nick and Toni's story!

Natalie says

"Love is never black and white. People are never wrong or right. It's all about choices. You can choose to be with her, and be what she needs, or not. You can't choose to love her, but you sure as hell can choose

how you do it."

Opposites attracting, friends with benefits, meddling moms, past secrets; these are just a few of the yummy themes running through Dark Universe.

Book two in The Universe series, is the story of Drake and Lola. Lola is anything but your typical rich girl. She is snarky and witty with just a touch of bitch that I love so much. Her mother on the other hand is not a fan of Lola's attitude. Mom wants nothing more than for Lola to meet that perfect guy, the one with the perfectly pressed polo shirt, member of the country club and with deep pockets. Lola wants nothing to do with the men her mom tries to set her up with. She is perfectly content on her own until a case of mistaken identity brings Lola and Drake together.

"Calm, cool, sexually confident Lo has officially left the building, and drooling, incoherent and sexually deprived Lola has taken her place. "

Drake is a total swoon worthy cowboy complete with a troubled past. Feeling undeserving of love due to a tough life with an abusive father, Drake wants nothing to do with relationships until he meets Lola. The relationship that forms between the two is hot and sweet. Both have put up walls trying to keep their pasts a secret but once together feelings start to seep through. The twist in the plot added that extra something to hook you to the story.

I really liked both characters but Lola was my favorite, she was such a fun character to read. I especially loved how she would answer the phone when her mother would call. The witty banter and sexual tension between Lola and Drake were terrific and that's what really separated this book from book one, Sapphire Universe which had a much more serious tone. Some parts did move a bit fast for me and I would have liked more explanation on other parts. I also highly recommend that you read book one, Sapphire Universe as the plots intertwine; otherwise you will feel lost at some points. With that said however, I did really enjoy the book. It was a quick and easy read with some great laughs and romance.

"It's so clear to me right now. That knot in my chest has always been love. I adore her. I would die for her. I would kill for her."

Lustful Literature says

****KIM'S REVIEW****

3.5 Stars

"How do you take the pain away without absorbing it into yourself? How do you fix something you don't understand without breaking?"

Drake's father is a mentally and physically abusive drunk. One day it gets a little out of control leaving Drake with a secret and making him feel he'll never be good enough for anyone in fear of becoming the man he hates most.

"People who seem simple on the surface, are usually the most complex."

Lola's parents especially her mother believe that if she has the "perfect life," acts like the "perfect daughter," that it will make up for what happened with her brother. Her mother fears that because she's 26 and not in a relationship, she'll end up alone. She is constantly setting her up on blind dates and Lola can't take it anymore. One night her bell rings and she assumes it's Vincent, her blind date. They go out and she asks Vincent to be her pretend boyfriend to get her mother off her case. Only she finds out a little too late that Vincent is actually Drake!

"If I have to hear one more comment about 'The Universe' and its 'plan', and how you have to 'read the signs' I might have to get a little handsy, and not in the nice way."

You can tell from the minute they meet that they are attracted to one another. Lola decides to ask Drake to be her pretend boyfriend instead. Neither of them wants a real relationship so this is the perfect set up.

"Don't all women want to find Mr. Right and fall in love and live happy ever after?"

"Dreams like that are for naïve little girls who have yet to witness the horrible things tow people who are supposedly in love can do to each other."

But how long can you pretend to be something you're not without it starting to feel real?! Drake is withholding a pretty big secret and when it comes to light will Lola be able to handle the truth? There is also something else the Universe is holding out on them and when it comes to light will they be able to get past it?

"Nothing makes sense to me right now. One plus one equals what the fuck?"

I enjoyed Lola and Drake's banter with each other and found myself laughing out loud a couple times. But I honestly didn't really feel their connection to each other. I felt like it was a little too fast paced and wished it would've slowed down a little. I wanted to read more of how these two started to connect. Also certain things were happening or happened and I felt like I was missing pieces of the story. This is the second book in this series and I was told you'd be able to read this story as a stand alone but right now I'm not so sure. Either way this was a fast read for me and if you're looking for something light with a little suspense, this is definitely the book for you.

"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. - Mark Twain"

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Shirley Frances says

Lola has never been one for a relationship. Her mother, on the other hand wants her to find a man to marry. Lola enjoys her independence and although she has seen her best friend, Kaylee, find true happiness in love, she wants nothing to do with it. So when Drake steps into her life, she is determined to not be affected by him.

Drake has had a rough past and thinks himself unworthy of being in a relationship. He doesn't get involved. He loves them and leaves them, but something about Lola makes him second guess himself.

Drake and Lola, both gun-shy about relationships, come to a mutual agreement that satisfies them both. Lola gets her mother off her back about settling down and Drake gets a chance to live his dream and have a beautiful woman to warm his nights.

Devon Herrera did an amazing job with Lola and Drake's story. At first, I was a bit hesitant how it would all play out since both were so determined to avoid a relationship. I wondered how the author was going to bring it all together in the end without it being the same old story I've read so many times.

I loved how the author brought Lola and Drake's connection to the surface. Their interactions were funny, sarcastic and flirtatious. But most of all, they were honest. They were straight to each other, even if they weren't honest with themselves once their emotions came to play. Yes, I wanted to throttle them a time or two, but most of the time I was rooting for them to work it out.

Needless to say that their chemistry was amazing. Every time these two came together, their need for each other jumped off the page. Although I enjoyed those scenes immensely, I have to admit that my favorite scenes were the ones where one or both of them showed some type of emotion. I loved it!

Packed-full of conflicting emotions, Drake and Lola's journey in finding the love they longed for had all the elements I look for in a romance. The characters grew throughout the story while staying true to themselves, their connection was established, explored and developed and their sexual chemistry was off-the-charts HOT!

Dark Universe is the second book in The Universe series, but it can certainly be read as a stand alone.

All in all, a great addition to the series and a worthwhile read!

Liesel Felix says

"Love is never black or white. People are never right or wrong. It's all about choices..."

We first come across Drake in Lola in the first book Sapphire Universe. I thought back then that the couple was quite impressive and since then have been anticipating this book.

The story starts off describing Drake's rough childhood. Early on he came to witness and even experience firsthand this immense amount of uncontrollable rage. Ever since a certain incident he has come to terms that he will never be suitable for any kind of permanent relationship. His resolve is put to the test once he meets Lola. On the outside, she is this attractive, sharp, and opinionated young woman but deep within she is caring and delicate-borderline vulnerable even. To him she is perfection.

There are so many factors prohibiting them to be together. Just as much as Drake has secrets, Lola harbors a couple of her own too. Her parents are also not too privy on their growing relationship for a couple of reasons. For one, mom thinks he isn't the right fit for her given his economic standing which never mattered to Lola.

They both decide that all they ever would be was “friends with benefits” and what incredible amount of benefits they are! Drake is pretty uhhh... (what is the word I’m looking for?)...skilled. It helps that Lola is pretty vocal herself. As they try to focus on the physical aspects of their agreement they both can’t prevent it from developing into something more.

I enjoyed Drake and Lola’s story for so many reasons. Just like in Sapphire Universe I was impressed at how the author was able to portray the characters to where they felt so real.

The dialogue between the main characters was playful and in some instances just downright hilarious. In fact, from the very beginning Lola grabbed my attention with her bluntness that had me in tears in the very first chapters. As much as I found it amusing it also tackled the serious issues of psychiatric disorders and abuse. There was a certain amount of suspense that also kept me on my toes.

The romance between the couple for me was also remarkable. I thought that Drake and Lola connected perfectly. I loved that they shared the same interests even if they came from entirely different backgrounds. I admired Lola and how she was quite the aggressor in the relationship. She knew what she wanted and never hesitated to demand what she needed from Drake.

I appreciated how integrated Connor and Nina were in this story. While their role was vital in this book they didn’t overshadow the main couple. I loved how the dynamics worked between the two men and was impressed how Connor was able to motivate Drake into moving forward.

There was however one tiny thing that I felt was unsatisfying about this story – the epilogue. Can you really blame me if I wanted more? Don’t get me wrong, the story doesn’t contain a cliffhanger persee. I just needed another paragraph or two to satisfy my morbid curiosity. When you get to the part I’m talking of you will totally understand why I say this. ;-)

Overall I enjoyed the second book in this series. Just like its predecessor, it was well delivered and had the perfect balance between comedy, suspense and of course romance. I would most definitely recommend this one.

liezelsbookblog.net

Nikki Groom says

Dark Universe is a stand alone book, but I would definitely recommend reading the first in the 'Universe' series-Sapphire universe (links below) to get the full feeling of all the characters and meet the delectable Connor. It is told in dual POV, which totally works for drake and Lola's story. Devon does a great job at getting into the mind of a man.

I just love Devon's style of writing. It's so easy to lose yourself in the world she creates and devour the characters she brings to life. I really enjoyed the first in the 'Universe' series and i'm pleased to say I enjoyed this one more. Devon has grown notably as an author an her ability to tell this story, sucked me into Drake and Lola's world.

Lola is a sassy, smart mouthed and a whole bundle of fun. It's obvious why she attracts men easily. She's most men's dream come true. She can keep up with the best of them when it comes to riding horses, drinking and many other pursuits! Like most women, after being hurt by a douche bag ex, she swears off relationships. Even when she meets Drake, and feels the gravitational pull like never before, she try's to keep it simple. The Universe has other plans and Drake is about to shift her world on it's axis.

'I don't sleep around, I'm not a virgin by any means, but my panties stay on until the time of my choosing. And trust me, i'm choosy. If you're a total tool, you can count on going home alone every night.'

Drake- Ah, sweet, sexy, freaking HOT COWBOY!! There's not a lot that's sexier than a man that can ride. And ride, he can ;) I had forgotten how much I love a cowboy until he came along. He needs somewhere to stable his horse, and a place to work. Lola's father gives him work, and pretty soon, Lola and Drake are kicking up the dust and rolling in the hay. Their banter had me chuckling all the way through. Drake certainly gives Lola a run for her money and she doesn't get away with her smart remarks and pranks. She has certainly met her equal.

'I didn't think I could possibly deserve a woman like you. I still don't, but i'm too fucking selfish to give a shit.'

With every story, you know there's going to be a twist. When I sussed out what that was, I was like 'Oh man, that's gonna hurt...shit, how are they gonna get around that?' What i didn't expect was how it was all going to come together in the climax, jeez, talk about holding your breath!

'Love is never black and white. People are never wrong or right. it's all about choices. You can choose to be with her, and be what she needs, or not. You can't choose to love her, but you sure as hell can choose how you do it.'

This isn't an epically long read, but it delivers none the less. The characters are believable, sweet and very funny. The story is easy to pick up and hard to put down, a perfect combination if you ask me.

4-4.5 STARS

Christina says

Oct. 30th. I can't wait

Chris- Bookaddict says

5 funny, amazing, breathtaking, heartfelt stars !!!!!

I ABSOLUTELY LOVED DRAKE AND LOLA !!!!! I loved having Con Man and Nina so involved in this book to!!!!

This story can be read as a stand alone, But like I always try to suggest to get the full meaning behind all the characters I would suggest reading book #1 first. This is where we first meet Lola & Drake.

We meet Drake in the first book as he is interested in Lola who is Nina's Bff and I was excited when I found out they were getting their own book. They deserved to have their story told.

Of course I knew I was going to love Lola, She is very outspoken and holds nothing back when she needs to. She has worked hard for everything she has. She is independent, loving, caring. She has the ability to love and wants to love Drake.

Drake, he is a hard working cowboy. Who works on Lola's Parents Property helping out with the horse's. Drake grew up in an abusive home and he knows deep down that he is just like his father. So he stays away from relationships and love.

I love how Devon brought these two together and built their love on friendship first. Watching Lola show Drake that he was worthy of being loved and it was ok to love someone was great.

Lola and Drake made me laugh as well. They were so fun, the banter between them was funny.

I even loved Lola's mom. As much as her parents where trying to push her to get married, have children, etc her mom stole my heart with her understanding with the whole situation.

And some of my favorite quotes:

"Fucking her wrecked me. Making love to her might just renew me."

"It's so clear to me right now. That knot in my chest has always been love. I adore her. I would die for her. I would kill for her."

"Do you want me to kiss you, Lola?" he whispers. Words are beyond me at this point, so I just nod. "You've got to do better than that. You have to give me what I want to get what you want." "

"I know you're tough, Lola. I can still hurt you, trust me. I don't want to, but that's exactly what will happen if we take this anywhere."

"Calm, cool, sexually confident Lo has officially left the building, and drooling, incoherent and sexually deprived Lola has taken her place. "

I look forward to what Devon gives us next

Devon YOU ROCKED IT CHICA <3 <3

Got my ARC whoop whoop

Lori says

Find this review and more at [Lusty Penguin Reviews!](#)

Dark Universe, the second book in the Universe series, is a compelling contemporary romance by Devon Herrera. The author creatively and effortlessly uses the first person point of view to pull the reader into this engrossing story. The first half of the story is told through the eyes of Lola Chase, and the second half is told through the eyes of Drake Thomas.

Tired of being set up on dates by her mother, Lola decides to give the next guy the brush-off, but everything changes when she lays eyes on Drake. Nothing like the country-club types her mom usually sends, Drake is a ruggedly handsome, muscle-covered cowboy. But, Lola's mom didn't send him. Drake is looking for a job and place to board his horse, which Lola agrees too. While working together, Lola and Drake discover that they are really attracted to each other. Since neither of them is looking for a long-term relationship, they agree to be friends with benefits with no emotional entanglements. Their sexual chemistry is blistering, and their bedroom play is passionate and scorching hot. Sassy and playful, Lola just loves to give Drake pet names and tease him too. I really loved the playfulness of her character. Their rapid-fire, witty dialogue provides many laugh-out-loud moments throughout the story. As they spend more and more time with each other, Lola realizes she doesn't just like Drake, she is falling in love with him. Lola feels safe with Drake. Lola never thought she would find the one, but I really enjoyed reading the story through her eyes as she figures out she is in love.

The second half of the story is from Drake's point of view. Fine with the friends with benefits arrangement, Drake is shocked when Lola confesses her love. Not knowing what to do or how he feels about it, he leaves her a Dear John letter. Coming from an abusive home, Drake truly believes that he is incapable of giving or receiving love. On top of that, Drake harbors a secret that he knows will end any potential relationship he could have. When he runs into Lola, Drake can't believe that she is willing to talk to him and forgive him too. Drake does some serious soul searching and sees that he loves Lola, which is a beautiful thing to see.

Drake and Lola are captivating characters as they separately come to discover that they are in love. I really enjoyed being in the heads of both characters on their journey. Also, I thoroughly enjoyed the quotes at the beginning of the chapters. These quotes were meaningful and fit right into the story, providing depth as the story unraveled. Herrera interweaves characters from the first novel with just enough background information to understand what happened earlier, successfully making Dark Universe a stand-alone story.

Lively characters and stunning plot twists make Dark Universe a book that will keep you hooked to your e-reader until the last work is read.

I received an eBook copy of the book for the purpose of an honest review. I was not compensated for this review, and all conclusions are my own responsibility.
