



## Demon Forged

*Meljean Brook*

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Acclaimed author Meljean Brook returns to the darkly sensual world of the Guardians with the tale of a prophecy, a devilish bargain, and a doomed love...

Four centuries ago, Guardians Irena and Alejandro would have succumbed to the need burning between them -- if a demon and a monstrous bargain hadn't shattered the possibility of love. Torn apart by her shame, Irena avoided Alejandro for centuries -- until a vampire's call for help threw her into his arms again.

Alejandro can control fire, but he's never been able to control -- or quench -- the flames between him and Irena. And he knows that Irena, hardened by her hatred for demonkind, will never accept that he now works at a demon's behest. But even as he fights for a second chance, a shocking betrayal and a deadly prophecy shake the foundations of the Guardian universe, and all Hell threatens to break loose...

## Demon Forged Details

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Author : Meljean Brook

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## From Reader Review Demon Forged for online ebook

### Christine says

I really ought to write something up for these books other than slapping 5 star ratings up here, but they kind of get my speechless when I've finished them! If you're a fan of this series, I bet you know what I'm talking about! I need to think about this..

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### Katie(babs) says

Demon Forged will absolutely, positively blow your mind. Where as Demon Bound was a bit restrained, Demon Forged explodes with such rich dialogue, descriptions and remarkable characters we have all grown to love.

The two main characters here are Guardians Irena and Alejandro who I first met in Demon Night. They really didn't make much of an impression on me at first. But after reading their story, they have become my second favorite couple behind Hugh and Lilith. Irena and Alejandro have a relationship much like the one Hugh and Lilith have. Alejandro loves Irena so much, but because of a very horrible event from their past, Irena keeps him at arms length. Alejandro will do whatever he can to have any type of relationship with Irena. She knows that she is his weakness and flaunts it to the point where he is at the breaking point. He thinks he knows why Irena can't love him and be with him, but how so very wrong he is. When he finds out why, he is shocked to his core. I certainly was.

The other side of Demon Forged deals with the ongoing fight between the Guardians and those various creatures of pure evil. The prophecy that has been foretold since the beginning is about to come to a head and the Guardians, as well as their allies, need to take up arms because what is about to happen is quite the doozy.

Now this doozy, as I call it, is in regards to a certain character and his reaction to his future told by Khavi, who has the Gift of foresight. When Michael figures out some very important things in regards to the prophecy, his part in it, and the one he is meant to love and be with, will send a tidal wave of shock and awe like you wouldn't believe. The way Meljan ends Demon Forged takes us in a direction no one would have expected. Meljean could have gone a different way with this book, an ending that would have been just as good, but perhaps not as profound. It's a big chance she takes and it works in so many ways.

Everything in Demon Forged seems more intense. The action and suspense will have you clutching the pages. Your heart will race. There is a great deal of suffering and a few deaths you won't see coming. (Meljean also made me care for Colin, that slick SOB vampire, as I call him. I am not a big fan of Colin, but that all changes because of one scene where he shows his deep love for Savi.)

There is also some freaky stuff Irena does with one of her statues she has created. This goes down as my favorite sex scene I have read in any book this year and it's very eye popping and so very naughty. If you were disappointed in the lack of sex scenes in Demon Bound, Meljean has delivered and more so. What Irena and Alejandro share starts out as a bit kinky and then transforms into something so very special. These scenes will not disappoint.

I can say hands down that Demon Forged is a well written near perfect read.

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### **Holly says**

Another winner from Meljean Brook. It dragged a little in the middle, but the end took me totally by surprise. The characters were everything I expected of them, though I'll be curious to see where some newly introduced ones are headed.

Overall? It was amazing.

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### **Kathy Davie says**

Fifth in the Guardians paranormal romance series revolving around a group of supernatural beings, guardians to the world against rogue vampires and demons of any level.

#### **My Take**

Oh brother, talk about miscommunication! I was a good chunk of the way through this story before I got interested in it. I hated Irena's character. I seemed as though her only concept of communication was by hitting everyone and anyone. You know, a good knock?out punch to the jaw. Gimme a break...she's had lots of time to get over her early life and she really needs to learn to use her words...!

In spite of Irena, Brook has created an intriguing story that kept pulling me in—I was dying to know what the trauma was that had Irena so off?balance and Brook just kept letting it out in dribs and drabs. It was maddening. Then there's the worry about a demon being in control of the purse strings for the agency...and just what his nefarious plans are.

Oh, boy, that's a telling statement: "I do not like the man I become with you."

We get a lot of background history on Olek and Irena. It's enough to make me want to smack her around for days. Khavi cracks me up. Pay attention to what she says throughout the story--you'll understand better at the end.

Oh man, the battle at the end with the dragon and the airplane is TENSE with a good laugh provided by Khavi. And then things get really bad.

#### **The Story**

Irena and Alejandro are meeting Deacon in Rome...far from his home base of Prague. Beaten from his position by a nosferatu-born vampire. But Irena knows Deacon. Good in combat, loyal. It's worth taking the time to build him back up if only for his value to the Guardians and his friends.

When Khavi warns of an upcoming event, Olek and Irena are on the scene, but of no help. Too well-planned,

the shooter has escaped, but has missed his target. At least, that's the initial thinking. For Congressman Stafford is under investigation. And the oh-so-rigid Irena is furious with Alejandro's plans.

Detective Taylor is also threatened and Michael is being quite proprietary about her safety.

As for Deacon, he's concerned about Rosalia's attentions. If she suspects what he has agreed to do for the demon...

Then there are the nephilim. Their mission is to take out misbehaving vampires, but now they are targeting Guardians. And Anaria is leading the pack, intent on pursuing her plans to take Lucifer's throne.

### **The Characters**

**Irena** is over 1,600-years-old with half her childhood spent as a slave in Rome. Now she's a Guardian with a power for shaping metal. She also created the first vampire. Alejandro Sandoval de Córdoba y Hacén, a.k.a., **Olek**, is a Guardian with the Gift of fire who did not survive the Inquisition. He's been in love with Irena for centuries, apprenticed to her for years even though she will have none of him.

**Michael** is grigori and the Doyen. Not human as the tales have told. Instead he is a son of **Belial** and the leader of the Guardians with the power to "change any man or woman who sacrificed themselves to save another" into a Guardian, too. **Lilith** is a halfling demon, a daughter of Lucifer, who chose to become human and is now married to **Hugh Castleford**, a former Guardian who fell and became human, then fell again for Lilith. Lilith heads up **Special Investigations** (SI), a government-sponsored agency which polices the paranormal. She still has **Sir Pup**, her hellhound pet with her. **Congressman Thomas Stafford** is SI's "patron"; he's also **Rael**, a demon under Belial. **Julia Stafford** is his ambitious, wealthy wife. **Margaret Wren** is in charge of the congressman's personal security.

Other Guardians include **Rosalia**, a nun when she was alive, now a Guardian imprisoned for several years as a living pantry for a nest of nosferatu; **Dru** is a healer from whom **Pim** is learning; **Drifter** is based in Seattle where he's mated to **Charlie**; **Jake Hawkins** is still working on his teleportation Gift along with his newest Gift with **Alice**'s help as they flit about the world exploring archeological sites; **Selah** is strong in teleportation; **Mariko** manipulates glass as Irena does metal; and, **Radha** can disorient her target with illusions and pierce the strongest psychic shields. Novice Guardians include **Becca**, Pim, **Echo**, **Ben**, and **Randall**.

**Deacon** is a vampire whom everyone believes is on the side of the Guardians partly because he was once a chaplain in the navy. His partners are **Eva** and **Petra** and he leads a nest of vampires in Prague. **Caym** is the one who beat Deacon. **Lorenzo Acciaioli**, nosferatu-born, led the vampire community in Rome. He's also Rosalia's brother. She was the "little brother" he fed from in Rome. **Mr. Lukacs** has cancer and has made a deal to live forever.

**Anaria** is a grigori, half-demon, half human, Michael's sister, and co-creator with Lucifer of the nephilim. Imprisoned by the Guardians over 2,000 years ago, she has escaped and "intends to take the throne in Hell and eliminate free will". The nephilim's purpose has been to destroy vampires who go bad, but now they're veering from this path and following their "mother". **Khavi** is another grigori, a Guardian, and Zakril's sister; her husband was **Aaron**, slain by Belial. Trapped in Hell for over 1,000 years, she also foresees the future.

**Detectives Andy Taylor and Joe Preston** are with the San Francisco PD; they know about the Guardians, have worked with them in the past. Now Taylor's at risk. **Captain Jorgenson** is their boss and a jerk. **Special**

**Agent in Charge Bradshaw** is based in San Francisco and he also knows about demons and the congressman. Well, he should since he's also a Guardian, Luther. **Colin Ames-Beaumont** is the daywalking vampire, nosferatu-born. Powerful. And able to open the Chaos Realm. He's partnered with **Savitri Murray**, also nosferatu, the SI resident geek, and Hugh's little sister. **Jason** is Taylor's brother, in a coma from which he will never recover.

**Caelum** is the Guardian realm on another plane of existence. The **Chaos Realm** is where those who do not fulfill their bargains with demons go to scream eternity away and the dragons and nephilim live.

### The Cover

The cover is aflame with a smudgy sky, a city in the background and the leather-aproned Irena in a fighting stance in the middle of it all. Daggers in both hands, her shoulder-length, blonde hair lifting in the wind of the flames, Irena is ready for Alejandro or the nephilim.

The title is too apt as Irena is indeed *Demon Forged*.

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### Erin says

Any book that I can't put down even when I'm starving for dinner and desperate to pee, gets five stars.

If you know Meljean Brook's work already: everything you've heard about the ending of this book is TRUE. By which I mean it is awesome.

If you don't know Meljean Brook's work, here is why I like her:

1. She knows from strong heroines. I know that phrase, "strong heroines," gets tossed around a lot in certain genres (paranormal romance especially), often as code for "has a superpower" or "there was this one time she got really mad and yelled at some folks." Brook's heroines are complex, emotional, damaged, sometimes broken, always strong. There are no TSTL moments here. And Irena is my favorite Brook heroine since Lilith.
2. Brook always shows, never tells. Demon Night was almost too dense for me. Her massively complicated worldbuilding requires a certain amount of exposition, but it is bare minimum. Demon Forged gives us a bit of a clearer look into character motivation than earlier installments, but just barely.
3. As a reader, you never feel pandered to. There's a certain amount of work to do to read a Brook novel as it deserves to be read. Her supernatural creatures are more than just really strong or really fast; they're as different from regular people as they would have to be, in reality. Just keeping up with what the hell they're talking about is work, not that I minded a second of it.
4. The woman can write an action scene. The first fight scene in Demon Forged was exciting, and just when I thought it was over, Brook tacked on a sentence that was the perfect downbeat for all that frenetic action (the mirror hitting the floor). Not since the Bride have I been so psyched to watch a heroine kill people.

Demon Forged takes an already great series and ramps it up to unstoppable. Not every book in the series has moved the action this far forward, but I hope they all do from now on.

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### **Vleigh says**

Got confused in parts -- the writing wasn't always very clear to me. But it picked up steam by the end with several action-packed scenes and romance.

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### **Lena says**

So much series plot = good, but tbqh, I didn't quite care for Alejandro or Irena. I was way more invested in Rosalia/Deacon based on the scenes in this book alone (and I admit I rushed a bit to get to Demon Blood).

Irena and Alejandro fell in love long before the book starts, and I didn't feel like we saw enough of that. (Also, apparently it started with them as a teacher/student pair, and I was...meh on that.)

On the other hand, Savi/Colin and Jake/Alice! (And Drifter, being cool as he always is.) Meljean Brook does the BEST cameos.

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### **Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λον says**

I have to admit that I am a big fan of many pnr series but Guardians series by Meljean brook is by far my favourite. The series has so many great books that I can't decide which is my favourite among those! Like the rest of the books, "Demon Forged" has a great story and characters. First, we have Irena. Irena is a very difficult but strong woman. She had a tough life as a human, she was raped and enslaved and had also a tough life as a guardian. Then, we have Alejandro, a strong guardian and a pride man. And then, we have those two as an item. Their relationship is like metal and fire, strong and hot. Of course, their tragic life means a lot of anger between them, but passion too.

This book has so many tragic scenes but the meaning is this: all we have to fight our demons and all we have to be sometimes alone, but there are times that we have to swallow our pride and let the love make things better because for the person who loves us it's not important if we are damaged but it's important to be there for us!

Thank you Meljean Brook for this great book!

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### **Starfire says**

I really don't know what to say about this book, other than wax lyrical about how much I enjoyed it.

As with previous Guardian novel, I found myself getting at least a third of the way through the book before I had ANY idea where the plot was going - the thing is that I enjoy Meljean Brook's characters and dialogue so much - I enjoy \*spending time with them\* so much - that I didn't really miss it.

And then when it finally DID kick in... whoah. The stakes were raised, and \*stuff\* was suddenly happening - not just to our main leads (about whom more soon), but to the whole Guardian-verse - overarching-plot seeds that were sown back in books 1 and 2 started to bear fruit.

Characterwise, I \*LOVE\* Meljean Brooks's writing. Both the male and female leads in this were easy for me to identify with - Irena was almost the epitome of the "broken competence" archetype I so love (and a wonderfully straight-shooting, snarky bitch to boot), while Alejandro was all style, grace and panache, and I pretty much heard every line he uttered in Antonio Banderas's voice. This may not provide much of an endorsement for people who \*aren't\* me, but trust, me, it's pretty much Starfire heaven when it comes to fun characters. And yes, the characters are also flawed and three-dimensional, and yes they grow and change and develop over the course of the book... but it's their amazingly identifiable and styley nature from day 1 that has me loving them, and loving spending time with them.

So yes. I've now put the next book on hold at the library, and will absolutely be buying it as well. Because this series? This series is ABSOLUTELY a keeper in my book

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### **Ashley says**

Four centuries ago Irena's shame and Alejandro's pride destroyed a love that could have withstood an eternity. Now Irena's heart is as hard as steel and it only melts beneath Alejandro's dark and smoldering stares whenever they're forced to be in each other's presence.

Irena's sixteen centuries as a Guardian have sharpened her into a quick and blunt instrument delivering pointed comments with developed wisdom and at times, with unveiled anger. She is also often misinterpreted. Recently betrayed by Michael, leader of the Guardians, her mentor and the one she looked up to above all others, Irena's disappointment is known throughout the Corps but she'll not allow it to prevent her from protecting those who need it. She's a warrior, a hunter, quick to react and quick to judge every situation. Her hatred for demons is soul deep and the fact that the Guardians, in her mind, have become subservient to them only deepens her disappointment with Michael. As far as Irena's concerned, she's a being who lives for the hunt and the kill and her skills are not useful to the scheming minds of her fellow Guardians and their alignment with the hellspawn Lilith and the Demon Rael. Given the chance she'd slay them both.

Alejandro has loved Irena from the moment he laid eyes on her in Caelum four hundred years ago. He knew that it was she who made the beautiful weapons that the Guardians used with her Gift of manipulating metal. Her demon kills were and still are legendary and one would be wise to be worshipful and intimidated by her but instead Alejandro challenged her the moment their eyes locked. She kissed him that day after bringing him to the ground with merely a knife. Instead of humiliation he felt lust and determination to satisfy her wild soul.

No woman could be more Alejandro's opposite. He's well read while she could care less for words. He doesn't cultivate hatred for demons while she burns with it. Irena was and still is warrior to the soul. A woman who detests politicians while Alejandro, a politician in his human life, has also played that role as a Guardian. And if called to do it again, he will even knowing that it will take him further and further from Irena's heart. It's only Alejandro's Gift of fire that meshes with Irena but it's also enough to fuel a combustible passion.

The world that the Guardians find themselves in DEMON FORGED is darker and more desperate than ever.

Their numbers are devastatingly low while their threats have multiplied and converged into a power greater than they've ever faced. Emotions are taught while they all await the moment that their skills are tested and their lives may be forfeit. It's in this time that Irena's strength and natural ability to lead are needed. When the Demon Rael, a.k.a. Senator Stafford and political backer of the Guardians and their Homeland Security division of Special Investigations, is struck by the bullet that kills his wife during a political rally, the Guardians suspect foul play on the demon's part and launch an investigation. Because of the Rules, Rael could never directly kill his human wife but he could bargain with another being not bound by the Rules to commit the murder. If Rael is responsible, the Guardians will slay him and Alejandro will assume his position as Senator Stafford. Both Alejandro and Irena are assigned to the investigation.

For four hundred years, Irena has allowed Alejandro to think the worst of the catalyst that had ultimately drove them apart. Her shame forced distance between them but perhaps it's the recent doom that has settled over her and her fellow Guardians or perhaps she's just tired of fighting her desire for Alejandro but she feels that now is the time to tell him the truth. He's punished himself long enough. At the same time, Alejandro makes the decision to fight for Irena. He let her walk away four centuries ago and every day since then. Enough is enough. And when Alejandro and Irena finally come together, they collide like two fierce predators, each fighting for dominance, each stripped to their hot cores. They're rough with their strength, explosive with their emotions and blistering with their heat.

When the Guardian's worst fear becomes a reality, Alejandro and Irena are willing, determined even, to sacrifice their lives to destroy the evil intent on enslaving humanity despite the fact that they've have renewed their love and cemented their bond.

DEMON FORGED is by far the darkest novel in the Guardian Series and it's not just because of the events that occur but also because of Alejandro and Irena, their past, the dilemmas they face and the fact that they're more serious and seasoned Guardians. Alejandro is dark and sultry and embodies the deadly precision of a very skilled swordsman. Irena is solid in her stance, brutally direct with a temper that's like a constant lit fuse just waiting to burst into flames.

With Irena, you always know where you stand. She's not one to play games, she's lived too long. She's also a bit barbaric, a hunter of large game that eats the hearts of her kills. She's raw and simply fascinating. Although, having lived sixteen centuries, she's a bit set in her ways and at times, quick to judge without looking at all angles. But like the steel she works with, she will bend but not for just anyone. Her anger with Michael is justified and I felt deeply for her reasons. But even though she disagrees with her leader, she never abandons their cause.

Alejandro is achingly intense and a man who prides himself on his control. This is a common trait in Brook's heroes but to witness them when their rigid control snaps is like ambrosia for the hussy soul for it usually shatters during sex. But while each of Brook's heroes share this trait, they all break their control for different reasons. What was interesting about Alejandro was that although he was prideful, he wasn't necessarily arrogant. He's a silent man who rarely speaks unless the situation calls for it. He's dangerous and mysterious - a predator. Alejandro broke my heart on two specific occasions, both of which were incredibly heroic and are burned deeply within my reader heart. He and Irena were more than worthy for one another.

Obviously there is a lot more to DEMON FORGED than Alejandro and Irena, much of which are best experienced on one's own. I will mention though one new aspect to Brook's Guardian novels and that is the time she spends in POV's other than the lead hero and heroine. There are two other romances cultivating in DEMON FORGED in addition to Alejandro and Irena but all three snagged my undivided attention. Brook never fails to astound me. The world is evolving. Several plot arch's are converging and the novels are taking

on a more Urban Fantasy feel but the romance is still very much center stage and the sex is still very integral to the growth of her characters. What Brook ends up delivering is my perfect romance novel.

DEMON FORGED took me on a journey through a miasma of emotions. I cried tears of indescribable awe. I laughed and cheered. I held the pages with white knuckled fingers and bated breath. I flung myself back into the couch with shock. I smiled and frowned. To encapsulate it all into one sentence: I loved.

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## **Melindeeloo says**

### **'Forged' By Passion And Consummated In Fire - Great Book in an Awesome Series**

Demon Forged is absolutely the best of Meljean Brook's Guardian series to date. Character rich and well crafted, Demon Forged is equal parts romance and a story which builds on and adds some surprising developments to the overall arc of this excellent series -- I thoroughly loved this book and I am only barely resisting the urge to gush and rave.

Guardians Irena and Alejandro - whom Irena calls Olek- have a history, in fact they have 400 years of history. Originally teacher and student, Irena and Alejandro had been stoking an attraction and headed toward an eventual consummation until a fluke and a bargain lead to hurt, shame and anger which causes them to separate for 200 years and which hangs between them for 200 years more. For the past 2 centuries Alejandro and Irena have been antagonistic 'friends', dancing around the anger and need that still burns between them - both wanting more, both unsure of the other's feelings, and both too stubborn and proud to take a chance on breaching the distance and facing the truth of what happened to force them apart.

Demon Forged is probably the steamiest of the Guardian books. Somehow the sensuality level in Brook's books always seems to fit the leads - and both Alejandro and Irena are passionate and intense. And even though Brook makes us wait 400 years for the pair to finally come together, she builds the anticipation by giving us a glimpse from the past of the barely leashed attraction between Irena and Alejandro, so that we truly understand the depth of the need that both have suffered. So it is not surprising, that when the pair - who have spent hundreds of year verbal sparring as 'foreplay' - finally connect, it is so hot that it is literally on fire.

Demon Forged is really hard to summarize, there is a lot going on here as Irena and Alejandro's story is woven tightly in with the Guardians' struggle to prevent pieces of the prophecy from falling into place, and that part the story was amazingly good too. I can't really talk about most of the things that I loved about the book without heading into spoiler territory, but with two more books to go Brook adds new characters, begins threads for future pairs, and continues the development of what now is a fairly large cast. Probably the most impressive was Brook's development of Irena who was not a sympathetic or particularly likeable character in [[ASIN:0425224538 Demon Bound (The Guardians, Book 7)]]. Irena is utterly fascinating here and she is so much more than what she first appears to be. At the start of Demon Forged, I couldn't have imagined Irene and Alejandro together - they seemed to be polar opposites, her brash directness to his subtle manipulations, her rough power to his grace and finesse - but as Brook delves into their histories and personalities and gives us a chance to watch how Irena and Alejandro interact with the rest of the Guardians, it is clear that they are just what the other needs. Brook also makes good use of the rest of her cast of Guardians, vampires, demons and Grigori. As one of the characters who clearly has an increasingly important part as the series moves forward, I found Khavi's expanded role in the book to be really interesting, as she appears, pull some threads to redirect the future, drops her often embarrassing

announcements of what she has (fore)'seen' and then vanishes. And, always a nice reward for fans of the series, many of the past and future leads have small but significant parts to play in the story - including sad, poignant and shocking parts.

Personally, I think that to appreciate Demon Forged readers should have at least read Demon Bound, but for readers new to the series - and for those of us fans who are a bit on the memory challenged side needing a refresher - Brook starts out Demon Forged with a dump of the history of the Guardians and if that is not enough, Brook also has collection of "if you are starting with this book..." summaries on her website which have only moderate spoilers for previous books, but have enough information to catch new readers up on the series arc. So if you want to start here and then go back and read the earlier books later - you're good to go.

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### **Renegade ♥ says**

[ Michael's sacrifice brought tears to my eyes which I wasn't expecting. Adore and am fascinated by that character so this was some devastating, heartbreaking stuff. I absolutely hate the thought of him suffering so...

But I have faith.

I know Ms. Brook won't let me down. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Anita says**

I gave up on this paranormal romance after the first chapter (18 pages). I expected to like it more, because I liked the first 3 in this series, but I skipped book 4 (this is book 5), so maybe the series goes downhill. I disliked Irena, the protagonist. Maybe I'm just fed up with characters who feel a whole lot of guilt and shame, or maybe it was just too over-the-top in this particular book. Whatever it is, I set the book aside weeks ago and can't bear to go back to it.

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### **Edie says**

Irena is the awesomesauce, just so you know.

And this book has also firmly cemented (7 foot into the ground) my adoration of Brook's work.

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### **Dina says**

The story is still interesting, but darker and more depressing. Romance between protagonists was missing something. The anger and fights between them were somewhat artificial and left me uninvolved

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