



Marked

Sue Tingey

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With no family and very few friends, Lucky's psychic ability has always made her an outcast. The only person she can rely on is Kayla, the ghost girl who has been with her since she was born.

But Kayla is not all that she appears.

And when Lucky is visited by a demonic assassin with a message for her friend, she finds herself dragged into the Underlands – and the political fight for the daemon king's throne.

Lucky, trapped in the daemon world, is determined to find her way home... until she finds herself caught between the charms of the Guardian Jamie, the charismatic Daemon of Death Jinx – and the lure of finding out who she really is.

Marked Details

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Author : Sue Tingey

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From Reader Review Marked for online ebook

Shaheen says

I feel oddly duped by *Marked*. I was expecting a paranormal-urban fantasy with some detective/crime vibes, and what I got was a paranormal romance that reminded me of the Merry Gentry books by Laurell K. Hamilton.

When we meet Lucinda "Lucky" de Salle, she's an awesome paranormal investigator who is called to her old highschool to deal with two troublesome spirits. She seems great - independent, thoughtful, intelligent. That lasts all of ONE chapter, and then she meets a demon, then a man, and then another man and before long, Lucky has transformed into the kind of protagonist I despise.

Lucky, tricked by the very hot Jamie into leaving her life as a paranormal investigator, winds up at the centre of the daemonic courts with five guards. But none of them feel that she needs to know anything, so she just bumbled around making a fool of herself for the entire book. She's Marked by two of them, and spends too long trying to figure out what it means (the phrase *sex-toy* gets thrown around a lot). Her chambers consist of a huge wardrobe of lovely evening gowns, a bed that can accommodate her and her five guards at once, and a bathroom that can hold all six of them as well. And still she doesn't GET it - poor little virgin girl (*Marked* has an unhealthy obsession with virginity) - and is shocked when she realises that her best friend Kayla's guards get undressed when they go to sleep.

(Honey, they aren't just getting undressed. Can you say *menage-a-cinq*?)

As annoying as it was that no one told her anything, *ever*, I think Lucky behaved irrationally. She responds to "be quiet, it's for your own good" by engaging in a shouting match. She responds to "don't draw attention to yourself" by attracting the attention of the entire daemonic court. She only needs five minutes in the Underworlds to decide that their *entire way of life* is wrong, and then happily calls them out on it, endangering both herself and those around her. Perhaps the author was trying to explore morality and ethical behaviour as human constructs, but all it did was make Lucky look silly. You do not go into the daemonic court and tell them that everything they're doing is wrong. You just don't. She's a dangerous combination of mind-numbingly naïve and annoyingly self-righteous. She trusts the wrong people, again and again, and then is surprised when they trick or betray her. She makes very few decisions, and many of them are quickly overridden by her companions.

I suspect that Lucky is brave and perhaps even intelligent, but the plot and the way the author chose to tell this story destroys her. It's incomprehensible that Lucky could be so clueless about everything and that she wouldn't ask demand more answers from her companions. She's also willfully ignorant (repeatedly ignoring Jamie's warnings that he's a daemon despite his gorgeous white wings) and doesn't use any logic towards understanding her situation.

To top it off, the writing was clumsy, the plot elements were transparent, and everything was predictable. *Marked* is a mess, a poorly executed amalgamation of different ideas that doesn't achieve coherence. I lost patience with the book about halfway through and the only thing that kept me going was that I - much like Lucky - kept hoping that everything would make sense on the next chapter, or the next, or the next.

I did enjoy the court-intrigue aspect of *Marked* and was disappointed that it was shoved into the background so the novel could focus on Jamie-Lucky-Jinx and their upcoming threesome.

If you like the Merry Gentry series, and other paranormal romances like it, you might find *Marked* interesting. I wish the blurb had been a bit clearer - I don't usually read this sub-genre of novels and typically don't like them.

That cover really sucked me in ...

This review was originally posted on Speculating on SpecFic

Diana von Dinchen's Welt der Bücher says

Erster Satz:

"Die Eingangshalle der Schule war kleiner, als ich sie in Erinnerung hatte."

Meine Meinung zum Buch:

Die Autorin Sue Tingey hat einen angenehmen, aber leider etwas langweiligen Schreibstil. Der Aufbau der Story ist mehr als durcheinander und die Charaktere haben weder Verstand noch Gefühl.

Die Idee hinter "Marked - Eine teuflische Liebe" hat definitiv Potenzial, leider weiß die Autorin nicht wie sie das vorhandene Potenzial einsetzen soll. Der Beginn der Story ist dagegen wirklich toll, sehr spannend und intensiv, was definitiv meine Neugier geweckt hat. Leider hat sich dieses Gefühl sehr schnell gelegt, denn auf den nächsten ca. 300 Seiten passiert so gut wie nichts. Ich habe mich regelrecht gelangweilt beim Lesen und habe mich oft gefragt was sich die Autorin nur dabei gedacht hat solch ein Buch zu schreiben.

Erzählt wird das ganze aus der Sicht von Lucky de Salle. Ich finde sie unglaublich schwer zu beschreiben, denn auf der einen Seite ist sie tapfer, stur und auf eine komische Weise doch ziemlich interessant. Auf der anderen Seite ist sie aber viel zu gutgläubig, naiv und ziemlich langweilig. Eigenschaften die sich teilweise total gebissen haben, aber im Großen und Ganzen wird sie viel zu blass dargestellt.

Aber auch die Geheimnisse die die anderen Charaktere (und teilweise auch Lucky) umgeben sind mehr als frustrierend. Dass die Autorin nicht gleich alle Informationen an den Leser weitergibt kann ich völlig nachvollziehen, aber man erfährt rein gar nichts. Zudem hat Lucky die Angewohnheit alles zu hinterfragen ohne irgendwelche Antworten zu bekommen, was das Ganze noch frustrierender macht.

Leider sind auch alle anderen Charaktere sehr blass gezeichnet worden. Vor allem Jamie und Jinx, die einen gewissen Anteil an der Story haben, hätten viel mehr Aufmerksamkeit verdient. Zudem habe ich vergeblich nach der "teuflischen Liebe" in dem Buch gesucht. Eine Liebesgeschichte bahnt sich zwar schleichend an, für meinen Geschmack war es dann aber doch zu wenig.

Fazit:

Mit "Marked - Eine teuflische Liebe" hat Sue Tingey einen interessanten, wenn aber auch eintönigen, Fantasy-Roman erschaffen, Viel verschenktes Potenzial mit zu blassen Charakteren.

Das Buch erhält von mir 3 von 5 Federn!

Lisa Feld says

[Asking much more powerful demons to act as bodyguards and having them mark their employer as their slave/sex toy... why aren't those demons in ch

Liz Barnsley says

4.5 stars

This is one of those books where you get to the end and think to yourself “BOY that was fun” a beautifully written well flowing Urban fantasy/fantasy with a terrific story and some really really great characters.

The premise starts off fairly simply – Lucky is a true psychic which does isolate her but she has always had her constant companion, ghost Kayla – then one day Lucky, after a series of unfortunate events, finds out that Kayla is not quite what she has always believed. So begins a rollicking adventure set both in our world and another – where Lucky goes on a journey of discovery about her own heritage and abilities.

The world building is very clever and again a whole lot of fun, the sights and sounds of the Underlands coming to glorious life – a gorgeously lively otherworld that will absolutely capture your imagination. Likewise the characters are stunning – realistic really for a fictional bunch, their interaction and dialogue is sharp, ironically humorous at times with a touch of angst that genuinely makes for some stand out moments.

Lucky is a terrific main protagonist to anchor the tale – she is confused a lot of the time (well you would be wouldnt you!), amusingly over awed, but very intelligent and often ingenious. Kayla was my favourite though, she is so well drawn and intriguing – add into the mix the obnoxiously dazzling Jinx, the enigmatic Jamie and oh boy bodyguards Mr Kerfuffle and Mr Shenanigans (ha ha brilliant) are simply the best duo I’ve seen in fantasy fiction for a while.

Suffice to say this was a marvel and I thoroughly enjoyed it – I’m sad to leave them all behind and cannot wait for the next instalment which promises to be a corker.

Highly Recommended

Vesper Dreams says

Marked is a gripping and immersive story following the lovely Lucky de Salle in her journey to the daemon world. The author does an absolutely splendid job with the descriptions, providing you with enough imagery to put you right into the middle of the story, if not into the shoes of the main character.

Speaking of the characters! I literally loved all of them. They were so well-rounded, believable, and unique in their own ways-- not one of them... (more via website)

BookHeroin says

Wanna read this so bad! The cover looks really good!

Yzabel Ginsberg says

[I received a copy of this novel through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.]

I almost gave up. But I don't like not finishing a book I'm supposed to review, so I made an effort.

First reason is because I didn't exactly get what I expected. When I got the ARC, the blurb I read led me to believe the story would be focused on paranormal investigation. The actual story, though, is more of the paranormal/supernatural romance type, with very little investigating in it. Not saying this is bad per se, but I'm not a huge proponent of romance at the best of times, and this one, like many others should I say, just didn't work.

Second reason is... the one that always makes me grit my teeth and feel like climbing up the curtains and scream: "Stop holding back information!" Typically goes as follows: Important Character finds him/herself in dangerous circumstances, and needs to tread on eggs; however, in order to properly tread on eggs, you obviously need background information—background information that other characters have, but refuse to disclose for Some Reason, usually of the "you don't want to know" or "don't look" kind. Which is the best way of getting Important Character killed, or at least committing some Horrible Faux-Pas, but whatever, I guess we're dealing with some Schrödinger's Logics here.

So when half the book is filled with such inane moments, of course I'm bound to be annoyed. Lucky being a bit of a doormat in that regard, too easily allowing shifty characters to derail the conversation, didn't help.

Third: Male Posturing. I am oh so fed up with all those hot sexy love interests immediately crapping out testosterone as soon as they end up in the same room. I can understand Lucky not wanting to be involved with guys if it's meant to be like that all the time. Also the whole "now you bear my mark" thing, a.k.a "You're Mine In Whatever Way I Choose, by the way I never asked your opinion before lumping this on you but it's fine, right, I'm sure you don't mind". In a nutshell (I hate that expression so I'm going to use it just out of spite): doormat female character being treated like an item, and thrown under false pretenses in a world where women's most prized value is to allow their future husbands access to positions of power (and then they can pop out kids, then get offed when they've outlived their usefulness).

And there you also have the plot, not making much sense, and without much happening. The last chapters became a little more interesting (although still with the whole let's-be-sex-toys-together thing at moments when it just shouldn't have been there); yet what led to it could probably have been avoided had Lucky been a little less dumb, and her "protectors" more forthcoming with what may be taking place behind the scenes and how to start playing the political game. Seriously, you don't dump a person into such a situation "for your own safety", then tell her "actually you're in great danger here too", then add "but I'm not going to explain to you how it works because Reasons."

I'm afraid I'll have to pass on the next one. Definitely not my thing.

Lyn says

Susan Tingey's 2015 novel *Marked* is a fun paranormal urban fantasy in the style of M. Night Shyamalan's 1999 film *The Sixth Sense*, but with a lot more going on than the protagonist's ability to see ghosts.

Yes, Lucky de Salle can see ghosts and has since birth, or back as far as she can remember. In fact, Lucky has a spirit that has been with her her whole life and who follows her around everywhere. Lucky has drawn the ire of the psychic community for years because of her dismissal of most clairvoyants as being fraudulent.

But when Lucky is called to investigate a haunting at her old school, Lucky finds more than just ghosts, and she learns that much of what she had previously thought was true was only the tip of the iceberg. Lucky discovers that there is a great deal more to her special abilities than she previously understood and the reader is introduced to a universe of good and evil, seen and unseen. Tingey's description of the supernatural plane – The Underlands – is especially good.

Tingey is a talented writer and this moves fast. This was surprisingly her first published work and is very good for a first effort. *Marked* is full of interesting and entertaining characters and the plot, somewhat bogged down in the middle, picks up at the end. Tingey has also thrown in some fun occult twists to keep this out of the "formulaic" bin. A very unique and complicated love triangle is a major element in the plot.

My only gripe is with the cover. My edition has a white field with cool looking black wings with feathers artistically falling off. This together with the paranormal and occult description led me to believe this was going to a lot more like *The Sixth Sense*. If I were marketing this, I'd choose a cover more akin to the one below as this, in my opinion, fits better into the urban fantasy romance category.

Still a well-written and entertaining book.

Milo (BOK) says

The Review Was Originally Posted Here: <http://thefictionalhangout.blogspot.c....>

With no family and very few friends, Lucky's psychic ability has always made her an outcast. The only person she can rely on is Kayla, the ghost girl who has been with her since she was born.

But Kayla is not all that she appears.

And when Lucky is visited by a demonic assassin with a message for her friend, she finds herself dragged into the Underlands – and the political fight for the daemon king's throne.

Lucky, trapped in the daemon world, is determined to find her way home... until she finds herself caught between the charms of the Guardian Jamie, the charismatic Daemon of Death Jinx – and the lure of finding out who she really is.

Reading a Jo Fletcher-published book is always something that I'm going to look forward to because you know that most of the time, you'll get something good and Sue Tingey's confident debut is an example of that, with the first novel in the Soulseer Chronicles being a very well written offering that should be worth a look for fans looking to read something that focuses on a world parallel to our own, with a great urban fantasy feel that's richly developed.

Marked follows the journey of Lucky, a psychic whose ability to see ghosts has always made her an outcast, with no family and few friends to speak of. The only person who she can rely on is Kayla, the ghost girl who has followed her around since she was born, but even Kayla, is not quite who she appears, and when Lucky finds herself visited by a daemonic assassin with a message for her friend, she finds herself pulled into the political battle for the Underlands and the fight for the daemon king's throne, even if she, at the same time, is doing everything to try and get back home.

The characters are intriguing and whilst there is a romance subplot it is handled well and never slows the story down. As well as Lucky and Kayla we also find out that Lucky soon gets caught between the Guardian Jamie and the charismatic Daemon of Death Jinx, who are the other two characters involved in a love triangle with Lucky, but it never really feels as though we've 'been there, done that' before, with Tingey writing well enough to avoid the clichés and resolve the romance plot well whilst at the same time, moving the story along nicely. The supporting cast of Mr Kerfuffle and Mr Shenanigans are nice additions to the book as well as bodyguards, and any Neil Gaiman fan should feel right at home with the style of this book, as it's smartly and compellingly written with some confident prose.

The world that we are introduced to combines Heaven and Hell into one place and is a fascinating approach to Urban Fantasy which keeps the fresh feel of the novel rather than it being again, the same old story that we've seen countless of times before. It's different and blends the modern-day British setting with the parallel world very well indeed, not falling into the trap of having all demons evil and all angels good, blurring the lines between the two factions wonderfully well.

The character interactions and the relationship between Lucky and Kayla is pretty great throughout the whole novel and we get some nice, well rounded characters here that work. When combined with the extremely well paced first offering and richly developed world, Sue Tingey's Marked a fascinating opener to what should be an excellent trilogy. It's currently available to buy in the UK although (according to Amazon.com) it won't be available in the USA until October 6, and is something that you should certainly consider picking up when you can.

VERDICT: 8/10

Nichole says

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley. Lucky de Salle can see and communicate with ghosts. Because of this, she was bullied as a child, and made an outcast as she grew older. She also outed anyone that was a fake claiming to be psychic. Her best friend for her whole life has been a ghost named Kayla. But is she really a ghost or something else? Strange things start to happen that have her questioning what Kayla is and if she can really be trusted. This book started out good, fizzled in the middle, then picked up speed again at the end. I can't say it held my attention enough to continue on with the series.

Kirsty 📚 📖 ❤? says

Sometimes I really love having started reviewing books. Especially when you get an email from a publisher saying would you like a paperback trilogy gift in return for some reviews? Yes please!

Lucky is of a rare breed of people that can see ghosts and spends her days writing books that debunk the fake psychics. She's accompanied by her ghostly best friend Katya. Seeing ghosts everywhere means that Lucky has no other friends except Katya so lives a quiet existence working from home. Until she is asked to remove some ghosts at her old school and comes face to face with demon Henri le Dent who insists that Katya 'comes home'.

Turns out Katya is not a ghost but demon royalty and we go on an adventure to the Underlands on a journey of discovery complete with all new demon bodyguards and a dragon. Lots of twists and turns in this book. And for the most part it's really good. I do think that when the truth of Lucky's true parentage is revealed she takes it so much better than I probably would. In fact she doesn't seem to question it much at all.

I think it's classed as a paranormal romance but there's hardly any romance... well apart from accidentally becoming engaged ('marked') by both a Guardian and a Death Bringer which is apparently unheard of. The ending of the book though promises much more movement on the romance front whether Lucky will have to choose between her handsome daemons or just share her life with them both.

It's a fun book, it's very descriptive. I love the rich detail of the demons with their exotic skin colours (maroon, aubergine, duck egg blue..), tails, horns and even wings. The author gives us such a rich book with her characters. For the most part they're well developed, as much as they can be when nearly everyone is hiding a secret and we learn about Lucky as she does. I quite like that approach.

Overall it's a fun flirty beach read and I'm looking forward to reading the next two.

Thanks to Hannah & Olivia at Quercus books and JoFletcher books for the hard copies

Blodeuedd Finland says

I liked this, the underworld, well it's just fun. And it was light and it left me wanting more.

Lucky can see dead people, and her best friend since childhood is one. Kayla, the friendly neighborhood ghost. Lucky also wrote this book telling the world how fake mediums are and they all hate her now. So now all she has is Kayla. She was a bit of a hermit, poor girl. I guess it's like that with all ghosts running around.

Then someone comes for her help and the adventure begins. Adventure and adventure, more the danger, the secrets and the demons. Lots of demons.

And the secrets were juicy. I also liked the world she created and the dramas unfolding. The end was something too. All is nice, but all is not nice. So sort of a cliffie and not a cliffie. I mean stuff is going down,

but for now it's nice. Until something happens. I am very glad I have book 2 nearby.

I liked the start to this series and stay tuned as there will be more. Fingers crossed for some budding romance too ;)

Clayton says

Come check out my Book Blog for more fun stuff and reviews!

A Copy of this book was provided by NetGalley in exchange for an Honest Review

THERE WILL BE SOME SPOILERS HERE YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

The Book Blurb: "In a world filled with charlatans, Lucinda "Lucky" de Salle's psychic ability has always made her an outcast, even as it has also made her a sought-after (if reluctant) investigator of paranormal phenomena. With no remaining family and very few friends, she has only one "person" she can rely on--Kayla, the ghost girl who has been her constant companion since she was born.

When Lucky is called in to investigate a spectral disturbance at the all-girls school she attended as a child, she isn't surprised. She herself had had a terrifying confrontation with the troubled spirits of two girls who died in the attic room. But when Lucky goes up to the attic, she discovers that the vicious little girls are the least of the problem--a demon has been released into this world, a creature of such malevolence that even the spirits of the two girls are afraid. When the demon demands that Kayla be handed over to him, Lucky realizes that this case will be like no other she has ever experienced.

For one thing, it seems that her chatty, snarky spirit companion is not what she has always seemed to be... "

This is going to be the first and hopefully only time I do this. This is a book I DID NOT FINISH, prior to writing this review. And part of the reason is the above blurb, which is from Netgalley itself. I made it through half the book before I just about threw my phone (its an EBook) away from me in a combination of horror, surprise, and rage.

You see, that blurb makes the book seem like a supernatural mystery story. Its not. Its Paranormal Romance with an almost fanfiction level main character. You ever hear jokes about people who Roleplay online, who have those "Half demon Half Dragon MC with a Tortured Past who has no idea about their heritage and just wants to be loved!" kind of things?

Well! Lucinda does not start out that way, seemingly. But rather, ends up BECOMING that way. Also the stuff that the Netgalley / Amazon blurb mentions take place in the first chapter of the book. And yes, this is the blurb used on Amazon page. That's right.

Here come the spoilers. Under the little cut right here.

You see, the blurb from Netgalley lies. IT LIES SO HARD! It misrepresents what the book is actually about. Now if you go to Goodreads, you get the following blurb:

"With no family and very few friends, Lucky's psychic ability has always made her an outcast. The only

person she can rely on is Kayla, the ghost girl who has been with her since she was born.

But Kayla is not all that she appears.

And when Lucky is visited by a demonic assassin with a message for her friend, she finds herself dragged into the Underlands – and the political fight for the daemon king's throne.

Lucky, trapped in the daemon world, is determined to find her way home... until she finds herself caught between the charms of the Guardian Jamie, the charismatic Daemon of Death Jinx – and the lure of finding out who she really is."

Its very different you see? VERY different. Because, frankly, at around the 45% mark you find out that our main character is the daughter of the Demon King! And her childhood spirit friend is her Demon Sister! And has been protecting her! I had to stop reading when, after reaching the Underlands with the help of an Angel (excuse me, Guardian), he tells her that they have to find her steed before she goes to Demon Court. Her steed...is a Dragon.

I just went "Yup, I give up here. That's it. You win book."

I can handle quite a bit of stupid. But when a book so blatantly misrepresents itself, I can't take it. Further, Lucky has no ability to defend herself. She tries to be a "strong female protagonist" in words, but she has to have 3 bodyguards to defend her against the demon who threatens her in the early going. Well technically 2 demons and an Angel. And of course the Angel is hot as hell. Why would he not be right? This is Paranormal ROMANCE.

Had I seen the Goodreads blurb I would never have touched this with a 10 foot pole. Its not my thing.

But now that I have read half the book I can easily say this is some of the worst stuff I have seen. Lucky spends the first half completely in the dark as to what is going on. Everyone around her knows, but no one will tell her. She will complain a bit, then give up and just go with it, assuming they will tell her. She gets tricked early on by a human named Phillip who tries to sacrifice her to a demon, and DESPITE THIS tries to save his ass! Its...insane.

The only characters I enjoyed were her two demon bodyguards, Mr Shennanigans and Mr Kerfuffle. They were polite, charming, and had fun names. But Kayla the Demon Spirit is an asshole, and Jaime the Guardian (Angel) is obviously trying to get in Lucky's pants, and why I have no idea! Also the author spends a LOT of time describing what Lucky wears when she goes out with the various hot guys (Jaime, Phillip) to make sure you know she is hot, and they are hot. Everyone is hot.

Fuck me this book nearly broke me. I could have tolerated the romance. I could not tolerate the madness. A dragon, for a steed. REALLY! REALLY!!!! IN THE DEMON REALM!

I rate this a 2/5. IF you like Paranormal Romance you might enjoy this. I however, do not.

Mieneke says

I love hidden worlds parallel to our own, as witnessed by my love for Emma Newman's *The Split Worlds*

and Lou Morgan's *Blood and Feathers* books. So when I read the synopsis for Sue Tingey's debut *Marked* when Jo Fletcher Books announced their acquisition of the story, my interest was immediately piqued. I was very lucky to have the chance to get an extra early look at *Marked* and I'm really glad for the chance, because *Marked* is a wonderful story.

The basic premise of *Marked*, that of a girl able to see ghosts, one of whom is her best friend Kayla, who has been with as long as she can remember, is great. It creates an interesting starting point as her abilities have turned Lucky into somewhat of a recluse, avoiding crowded places so she won't run into the dead. She makes a living writing and sometimes consulting people who have a ghost problem. The status quo is disturbed first by an exorcism – or rather Lucky's version of it – gone wrong and later by the arrival on her doorstep of a young man who pleads for her help. I was immediately captivated by Lucky's voice. When I first received the book I had a quick glance at the first page and found myself two pages in before I knew it. When I sat down to read the book properly, the same thing happened. Tingey has a very comfortable writing style that draws you in and keeps you reading and Lucky's voice comes through clearly. As a main character Lucky is easy to relate to and she has a wonderfully wry sense of humour. She's also seemingly quite content with her life, so she isn't really happy about having it shaken up. But she is also genuinely kind and when faced by a young man who needs help – the kind of help only Lucky can give – she can't make herself turn him away, despite Kayla's exhortations to do just that.

Marked has three main subplots: solving the mystery of who is behind the attacks on Lucky and Kayla, figuring out who Lucky really is and then there is the romance. The mystery of who sent the demonic assassin Henri Le Dent, or Henry Toothy Pegs as Lucky dubs him, to summon Kayla back to the Underlands reveals some pretty convoluted politicking in those Underlands. Following Lucky's attempts at untangling all of the possible leads was a lot of fun. My one complaint with the story would be that there were a lot of misdirections and steps to retrace in this mystery plot and at times it became so complicated that it was hard to keep the lines of power and who influenced who straight.

In her attempts to figure things out, Lucky is inevitably brought to the Underlands, which was a setting that I adored. I loved that the Underlands were Heaven and Hell combined or rather there are no Heaven and Hell, there is just the Underlands. The Underlands are a cut-throat, "every daemon for themselves"-kind of place and affection, much less love, is a luxury most cannot afford. It is also in the Underlands that Lucky discovers her true nature and history, a discovery that very much distresses her. Her gradual understanding and acceptance of the situation was well-developed and lovely to see, especially once she realises that despite everything she dislikes about Underlands society, she loves the friends she's made there.

Those friends are mainly her bodyguards, but also her best friend Kayla. I loved her bodyguards: Mr Kerfuffle, Mr Shenanigans (those names me giggle when we first meet them, because on first impression they should be the other way around), the wonderful, lovely dragon Pyrites, and of course Guardian Jamie and Death daemon Jinx. The latter two are the ones we get to know best, especially as they are the book's love interests. Now stop rolling your eyes—yes it is a love triangle, but no Tingey doesn't follow the trope. I actually loved how this triangle was resolved, which is a hard thing to do, because love triangles are always a hard sell for me. The interplay between Jamie, Jinx, and Lucky was delicious and I loved the way Tingey gave a big, fat wink to Jamie and Jinx's natures in their physical appearances. While the romance was great and I loved seeing these relationships develop, the more interesting relationship – conflict-wise, that is – was the friendship between Lucky and Kayla. The angst Lucky feels when she discovers Kayla has lied to her, the trust issues, but the undeniable deep bond of affection that remains despite her anger at being lied to, they all served to make this friendship layered and feel very true.

The one problem with getting an advanced review copy of a book this early, is that it takes that much longer

before I'll be able to read the next book and in the case of *Marked* that is a big problem. I loved this book. The characters, the atmosphere, the humour, the romance, it all worked. *Marked* is a wonderful debut for Tingey and the start of what looks to be a great trilogy. At the end of the book, we leave Lucky in a good spot, but the battle is far from over, in fact, it has hardly begun. So I'm left with only the one question: "When is the next book out?" *Marked* will be out in May and if you're a fantasy fan in general and of supernatural or urban fantasy in particular, I highly recommend you check it out when it does.

This book was provided for review by the publisher.

Sarah says

1st read - April 2015

2nd read - June 2017

Lucky is a psychic with the ability to see ghosts, something that has always made people look at her a little strangely and made her a bit of an outcast. In fact, her best (and only) friend is a ghost called Kayla who has been by her side for as long as she can remember. Lucky generally tries to keep herself to herself but when she receives a call from her old school about a ghost problem they're having she agrees to help by performing an exorcism. It's only when she gets there and discovers that the problem is actually demon related that Lucky realises she's in over her head and her world is turned upside down when she makes a startling discovery about her best friend. Not only is Lucky now being hunted by a demonic assassin but she finds herself in the middle of a political battle over who gets to rule the Underlands.

Marked is Sue Tingey's debut novel and she really starts her Soulseer Chronicles with a bang, I love discovering new authors and my only disappointment here is that I'm now going to have to wait a year for the next instalment. This is the kind of story that sucks readers in very quickly and you end up completely losing track of time while you're reading. The world building was clever, I enjoyed the contemporary British setting and feel to the beginning of the story but I also loved getting to visit the parallel world of the Underlands. Imagine heaven and hell aren't two places but instead one place combined, a place where demons of all manner roam alongside guardian angels. Not all demons are evil and not all of the angelic creatures are good so it's not always easy to spot friend from foe. This is the world that Lucky finds herself drawn into thanks to her relationship with Kayla. Lucky is completely thrown by everything she discovers, she is confused, shocked and scared but at the same time it is exhilarating getting to explore a new world and she soon realises that she could have a very different life in the Underlands to the lonely existence she had at home. She just has to decide what kind of future she wants.

I really enjoyed the relationship between Lucky and Kayla, they have been friend's for Lucky's entire life but Kayla has been keeping some huge secrets and that really effects the way Lucky sees her. Lucky is initially heartbroken by the way she feels that Kayla has betrayed her and it's not going to be easy for her to get past the lies and untruths she has been told. Their relationship is complicated but there is a strong bond between them and it's obvious that Kayla has Lucky's best interests at heart. There are some other really fantastic side characters in the book too, a particular favourite has to be the dragon Pyrites who was absolutely adorable but I also found myself incredibly amused by Lucky's bodyguards Mr Kerfuffle and Mr Shenanigans.

If you had told me about a potential love triangle before I picked up this book I probably would have been hesitant to read it, I'm so sick to death of that trope that it's starting to spoil books for me, but I have to admit that it is done really well here. Lucky has caught the attention of Guardian Angel Jamie as well as Jinx, the

Daemon of Death, and it's very easy to see why they both hold such appeal to her. Jamie and Jinx are almost complete opposites and it's impossible to decide if I prefer the dark and brooding bad boy or the enigmatic angel. In fact I'm really, really, REALLY hoping that she's going to keep them both, there were a few hints that they'd be open to sharing and that's definitely the outcome I'm rooting for!!

Marked is a fantastic start to this new series, it has plenty of action, some great twists, brilliant characters, realistic world building and just a hint of romance. The story is a great mix between urban fantasy and straight up fantasy and I'm looking forward to more of that as the series continues. It's definitely a book I'll be reading again and I'll be eagerly waiting for the next book when it releases next spring.
