



Don't Rush Me

Jackie May

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Most humans have no idea that a dark and deadly underworld, filled with magic and monsters, exists. They wander through life blissfully ignorant of the supernatural world around them. Nora Jacobs is different. Nora knows exactly what kinds of hellish creatures haunt the streets of Detroit.

Thanks to a unique set of psychic abilities, Nora has managed to steer clear of the underworld most of her life. But all that changes the night the most powerful vampire in the city discovers her gifts and decides to use her as a tool to find one of his missing clan members.

As if that's not bad enough, Nora believes she's cursed. All her life, people, especially men, have been drawn to her—some to the point of obsession and violence. Underworlders, it seems, are not immune to this curse, and now she's caught the attention of some of the most dangerous monsters in the city.

Neck deep in an investigation only she can solve, Nora quickly makes as many new allies as she does enemies. Her biggest problem is staying alive long enough to decide which is which.

Don't Rush Me Details

Date : Published January 25th 2018 by Bluefields

ISBN :

Author : Jackie May

Format : ebook

Genre : Polyamorous, Reverse Harem, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Don't Rush Me for online ebook

Jenn says

Great Story, But Reverse Harem?

The thing is reverse harem is my personal book addiction and while this story presents a lot of male characters reverse harem, slow burn or not it really doesn't fit the bill.

Okay I get that slow burn reverse harem doesn't jump right into sex, but some of the set up between the male characters and Nora, there's just no transitioning that to an acceptable relationship. Henry, the vampire clan leader kidnapped her, tried to control her, mentally and physically tortured her and tried to forceably kill her. I Don't freaking care if he's Brad Pitt if those two ever get involved romantically I will be entirely done with this series it doesn't get more abusive and dysfunctional than Henry. I spent most of the book hoping he'd fall on an ash stake. I'm still hoping that's coming in his future in the series. He is not redeemable as a romantic interest. Parker isn't much better, he got Nora into the situation in the first place, he's also manipulative and conving and frankly I don't like his character much more than Henry. That said I don't want him killed off in the way I'd like to see Henry turned to dust.

Terrance has slipped into a father type role, at best big brother if that flips to romance it will be gross. Nick comes across more like a big brother as well, Oliver is more like a little brother. Ren is gay and Enzo is like healer support and little to no interaction outside of that.

Additionally it kind of bugged me when Nora got turned on because it didn't at all fit with how the authors has built her character. If she has a panic attack over a kiss on the cheek, she's not going to get turned on every time she sees a hot guy.

What the authors have here is a great start to a paranormal crime series. They've got a mostly likeable cast of characters and an interesting world. Nora is a character you want to root for, but she's not one who loans herself to the reverse harem craze. This is a female lead who's entire history with men is being stalked, attacked, molested or abused by them. If she can ever emotionally manage a relationship it won't be with multiple guys. And if it is, it will turn an interesting and gripping paramormal mystery series into somethingway too farfetched to be believable. I'm seriously hoping the authors change their mind about going the reverse harem route because as a parnormal/urban fantasy style mystery series, they have an absolute gem, as a reverse harem it's severely lacking. The type of tension and interaction created between characters for a romance to work just isn't there. I can't picture Nora romantically involved with any of these characters. It would be a seriously hard sell for me to accept her with any of them let alone all of them.

It's a great urban fantasy, it's got a wonderful Grimm or Sleepy Hollow sort of feel to it, like a cop drama with magic. And the story seriously excelled at those things, but romance, especially revere harem romance, it's definitely not.

Sakina Carter says

This was a solid start to this series.

I liked Nora a lot, although I am getting a little tired of reading about the heroine being abused as a child or having a traumatic childhood.

I am curious about her supernatural background. I am intrigued to see where this story is going. Definitely looking forward to book two.

Jessica says

----RHR Buddy Read----

This was a surprise! I wasn't expecting to like this. In fact, at the very beginning I was rolling my eyes thinking, "here we go again the abused foster girl reverse harem trope". BUT! They are making it work here, it actually makes some sense.

The romance is slow burn. It's sort of fun to try and guess who will be part of the harem and who will be friend-zoned. The story is full of little mysteries like this. Like, who is she? What is Nick? Who's really behind all that's happening in the story? Aaaand, I think, it'll change the way you see trolls. It did for me. Terrence! You're awesome!

Lola says

I received a free copy of this book through Netgalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

Ever since I first heard of this book I knew I wanted to read it and was eagerly awaiting the release day. When I saw it pop up on Netgalley I didn't hesitate and hit that request button as fast as possible. I really enjoyed this book. It's a great urban fantasy read and is marketed as having a slow burn reverse harem. I love a good slow burn romance! There is very little romance in this book, but I am curious to see how it will develop.

Don't Rush Me is a well written fast paced book. It follows the story of Nora Jacobs, who always kept her distance from the underworld, but at the start of the book something happened that pulls her right in the middle of a mystery. Underworlders are disappearing and she has to figure out why and where they go. The story kept my attention and I liked learning more about Nora, her friends and the world as I progressed through the book.

I really liked Nora, she is a great main character. She has been through a lot and has some mental scars she is still dealing with. She keeps her distance from people, but actually longs for family. I liked how she was capable and smart and didn't hesitate to ask for help or backup if necessary. I liked that about her. I also liked seeing how she met some great characters and how she interacted with them. I also thought it was realistic she didn't immediately get super close with anyone and even after she made some friends made it clear she was not ready for romance yet. Which totally makes sense after what she has been through. I am looking forward to see her overcome some of the mental scars she has and get closer to some of the people she meets.

This book is filled with great side characters. My favorites were probably the troll Terrance and sorcerer Oliver. I thought it was great to see some less common paranormal species like trolls as well. And I am curious what type of paranormal creature Nick is as we don't discover that in this book yet. Oliver was great too, I liked how he had some struggles as well and how nice he was to Nora. Nick was a bit of a charmer, but in a way that felt realistic and I liked how he respected Nora's boundaries. Then there is Parker, whom I didn't fully warm up yet, he seemed a bit typical vampire, but I did mostly like him. And I could understand why he acted the way he did and I liked that even after pushing Nora almost into something he backed off when he realized it made her uncomfortable. I liked how the side characters all had their own personality and the book really came alive thanks to them. I also like how they all respect Nora, they don't want her in danger, but also understand there are things she has to do herself as that made the most sense.

There is basically no romance yet in this first book, which makes sense given what happened to Nora and how she's still dealing with that. There is the potential for romance and multiple possible love interests. I am already making guesses who she will end up with and I am eager to see how that progresses in later books. It was great seeing how Nora found some new friends in this book and I liked how she interacted with each of them.

I liked Nora's gift, she can read imprints from objects and read people's thoughts if she touches them. I actually read another book this month about someone who could read imprints and I think it's a fun ability to read about. I liked how Nora's ability came in handy and how we get a feel for her abilities. I do have the feeling there's more we don't know yet and am excited to see where the story goes in the next book. I did feel that her imprint ability could've been developed a bit more. At the start of the book there are lots of mentions of imprints, but as the book goes on there are less mentions of the imprints and only when relevant to the plot. That might be because it wouldn't add to the plot, but I would've liked a line here and there to know where she read imprints to make that aspect come alive a bit more.

There is a big variety of paranormal species that are introduced in this book and I liked how there was enough information to get a bit of a feel for them. But there's also still enough to discover or that could be worked out in future books.

To summarize: This was a great start to a new series and I am excited to see where the series goes next. Nora is a human with special abilities and tries to stay away from the underworld, but in this book she gets pulled right in the middle of that world. Nora was a likeable main character and her actions felt realistic. I liked how she was smart and capable and not afraid to ask for help or backup. And she also was ready to help her new found friends. She has a bit of a sad and harsh backstory and it was great to see her make some great friends in this book. There is a great group of side characters in this book and I liked how each of them has their own personality and it was easy to remember who was who. There is a hint of possible romances, but it doesn't go there yet which makes sense and felt realistic given what Nora has gone through. The world building was done well, we get a feel for the underworld and the different paranormal species. I also liked reading about Nora's gift and am looking forward to learn more about the characters and world in the next book. This was a great start to this series and I hope book 2 will be released soon as I can't wait to spend more time with Nora and her friends.

Runningrabbit says

In a Rush for the Next Book

This was a great read if a little slow in places. The characters are all likable and the personalities are a good fit. I suppose this could squeeze into the urban fiction genre and, so far in the story, I can not see why the reverse harem category. There is no sex in here and no hint of hot and steamy any time soon although she has a number of interested romance possibilities. The novel could pass for YA or NA.

This is another one of those series where the ardent reader is left trying to gain the power of the seer in an attempt to discover when the next book is going to miraculously appear. I get so many emails that feat is a no go, and surfing for all those authors I am waiting on is akin to waiting for an immaculate conception. Just how am I supposed to keep apace of it all? My calendar holds whatever I can keep abreast of, so authors, look at the stats for succeeding novels in a series and shudder in horror. Hint hint put novels out with at least naming a month for the next book in your series, and try to put it out within the following three months to maintain continuity so the reader has enough recall.

So in a nutshell I am in a rush for book two. I recommend this to readers of the Kindred series, Secret McQueen, and Nikki Jefford.

PS next book so far scheduled for May 2018

Helen 2.0 says

RH author: *sees literally any female character*

If someone were to ask me, "What's a Mary Sue?" I would point them to this book. Nora Jacobs is so textbook special, it makes me want to hurl. Needless to say, this causes a lot of issues in the book.

1. **The plot, the characters, actually the entire damn city revolves around Nora.** There is not thing going on in this book that isn't focused on how beautiful, interesting, and different she is. Even when we get insight on other characters and their thoughts, it always ties back to her. Characters have no personality other than their feelings towards Nora. How fucking boring is that? All you need to know about the cast of Don't Rush Me can be summed up by their feelings for her:

- Xavier: wants to hurt Nora but also kind of wants to sleep with her
- Henry: wants Nora to be his mate, starts hissing when anyone suggests otherwise
- Oliver: has spent most of his life watching over, thinking about, or protecting Nora
- Parker: finds Nora fascinating, gasps at every thing he finds about about her (he gasps A LOT)
- Terrance: instantly protective of Nora
- Nick: totally ready to do anything Nora asks
- Elijah: is unsure whether he wants to marry or murder Nora
- Cecile: really fascinated by Nora's unique powers
- Shandra, Nadine etc: super grateful to be saved by Nora.

You get the idea.

2. **The main character is immediately set up as a victim.** Within the first few chapters, we find out Nora has a horrible (like insanely, unnecessarily horrible) past that's left her scarred. Her whole life has just been one injustice after the other.

This is a common trope with the Reverse Harem genre, and I just don't get it. What's the point of putting

your heroine through so much off-screen abuse, characterizing her immediately as the innocent victim/martyr? There's no character development to be gained from this, since it always happens before we meet her.

I think most of the reason authors use this trope is as a plot device to justify a heroine's love interests being insanely protective. It's pretty clear in this book from how Henry reacts upon discovering her past:

Seeing everything I've been through, he doesn't just become drawn to me; he instantly becomes protective of me. And possessive.

Now that is just lazy authoring. Most of the abuse that RH heroines suffer is next-level shit like rape, domestic violence, kidnapping and so on. You shouldn't make a character go through such a major personality-warping experience just for the sake of triggering protective instincts in her boyfriends later on.

3. Every other sentence validates the heroine's beauty, brains, and personality. This gets old really quick. Seriously, every character, even the villains, thinks Nora is the most gorgeous amazing unique incredible fucking person they've ever met. And since Nora can read thoughts, she hears these thought processes every other line.

From Oliver: *He thinks I'm beautiful. He likes my sea green eyes even though they look haunted. He's never seen me smile, but he's sure it would be it would be radiant if I did, and he wishes I would do it.*

From Henry: *"That's a very beautiful name, love, for a very beautiful woman."*

From Terrance: *"Come on now, Trouble, you're a beautiful woman; don't be so afraid to show it off."*

From Cecile: *"Welcome, you beautiful woman!"*

From a fae guy she met two seconds earlier: *I hear his thoughts. 'She's the most beautiful creature I've ever seen. I need to get her on the dance floor so I can feel her body against mine and become the envy of every man in this club.*

From some random bimbo at a frat party: *She lets go quickly, so I only get the briefest thought from her. 'She's so gorgeous. She looks fun.'*

From Elijah: *He keeps thinking about how beautiful I am.*

and: *"You're a very interesting woman, Nora. And, if you don't mind my saying so, the most beautiful one I've ever met."*

These are just a few examples out of many, MANY similar instances in the book. Apparently it wasn't enough for Nora to think she was special and unique (which she obviously does: *"I am different. Not that I know why. My inexplicable allure has always bothered me"*). We as readers needed to be constantly reminded of that fact from every direction.

You could argue that all the validation is justified, since there is a plot point that aims to explain why every character is instantly obsessed with Nora.

All my life, I've been sought after. There's something unnatural about me that puts men under a spell. I mean that literally, as in, magic is involved. I call it a curse.

So this curse Nora carries around with her makes every man she meets fall in love with her instantly.

There are several reasons why this plot point doesn't remedy all the problems I have with this book.

One is that Nora's 'curse' may explain why everyone is constantly, vocally drooling over her, *but it doesn't justify it*. Nora is still an intensely annoying character to have to put up with. Who cares why she's a Mary Sue? It only matters that she is.

Another reason is that the curse doesn't affect every character - notably, not women - and yet every character still fawns over her 24/7. Cecile thinks Nora is beautiful and interesting. Random Bimbo #1 at the party was super into her. Ren, Nick's gay friend, calls her an 'instant bestie'. So clearly even without the curse, everyone Nora meets just *loves* her.

Third, having this curse involved sort of invalidates the romance of the series. I can't get behind any romantic relationship where all of Nora's boyfriends are under the influence of magical lusty juju. I'm sure that this is a plot point that will be addressed in future books, but it already makes me uncomfortable.

Finally, it once again sets Nora up as a victim. With this curse, she inevitably has all kinds of men panting after her, through no fault or virtue of her own. Stop victimizing your characters!

Okay. Whew. That was one hell of a rant.

I've refrained from posting a star rating, because I can acknowledge that I'm unduly biased against Mary Sues. I hate them so much. Don't Rush Me is all Mary Sue, all the time.

In addition to that, lots of my friends loved this book. So I don't want to drag down the rating on a book they like. That would just be mean.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

DNF at about 30% in. Way too many cliches and TSTL scenarios on the part of all of the characters.

Brittain *Needs a Nap and a Drink* says

This book could have been it. It could have been my favorite book of the year but it just wasn't quite there.

Don't get me wrong, there were some really cool elements to it. I mean, who writes about trolls these days? And not evil trolls but really cool trolls with big personalities.

However, the thing where all men are obsessed with this one girl and her blood smells good and all that shit is just too much like *Twilight* and y'all know how I feel about that shit. Also, the plot was just a bit too weak to give the characters the room to develop.

It was so close though. There was talk of mental illness and recovery. There were instances of good friends and bad friends. The plot wasn't enough and there needed to be more female characters. The girl felt like a prop. Like a really nice car that all the guys were lusting over which was not enough to justify the rest of the book.

The elements were there. The intent was there but it didn't do it for me. It was so. damn. close.

That being said, I may still read the next book in the series. I'm cursed by curiosity.

Runningrabbitt says

KU 4.5

This was a great read if a little slow in places. The characters are all likable and the personalities are a good fit. I suppose this could squeeze into the urban fiction genre and, so far in the story, I can not see why the reverse harem category comes from. There is no sex in here and no hint of hot and steamy any time soon. The novel could pass for YA or NA.

This is another one of those series where the ardent reader is left trying to gain the power of the seer in an attempt to discover when the next book is going to miraculously appear. I get so many emails that feat is a no go, and surfing for all those authors I am waiting on is akin to waiting for an immaculate conception. Just how am I supposed to keep apace of it all? My calendar holds whatever I can keep abreast of, so authors, look at the stats for succeeding novels in a series and shudder in horror. Hint hint put novels out with at least naming a month for the next book in your series, and try to put it out within the following three months to maintain continuity so the reader has enough recall.

So in a nutshell I am in a rush for book two which I now understand might be available in May 2018.

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

Buddy read with the Reverse Harem Revolution group.

What a nice surprise this was! Nora is a loner living in Detroit with psychic abilities. She has been a repeated victim of sexual abuse during her time in and out of foster families. Now, she lives alone, and steers clear of all men and even friends. It's safer that way, especially with her gift that allows her to read people's thoughts when she touches them.

Nora is drawn into the underworld when a vampire discovers she knows about them. She ends up involved in a college fraternity mystery involving dark magic and the kidnapping of paranormal beings.

This is a slow burn reverse harem, so we meet several men who may end up in Nora's harem. There is a vampire, a troll, a werewolf, a sorcerer, and a gorgeous guy who works for a supernatural agency (literally, his name is Gorgeous) whose supernatural identity remains a mystery.

I found this to be a very quick and easy read and was intrigued and engaged by the plot and all the characters. I'm definitely in for book 2!

This does have the typical RH trope where the female comes from an abusive background so is a loner and doesn't do well with men or friendships. (We know her harem will eventually become the exceptions to this.) But, it still worked for me.

My favorites are definitely Terrance the troll and Nick Gorgeous, the mysterious "something." Dragon shifter? Not sure yet. I also liked Parker the vampire because... vampires are awesome.

:)

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

This book is what happens if you friend zoned your reverse harem. It's a funny concept and I ended up liking this because it's different.

Ashley says

This book is probably better than I thought it was, but it was unfortunate in that I read it right after one of the best books I've read this year (The Bird and the Blade, read it!), so that was always going to be a hard act to follow, but a Mary Sue book was definitely the wrong way to go.

Everyone loves Nora. But she doesn't date and feels the need to tell everyone that 700 times. Then all these guys like want to protect her even though they just met her and a few say she can live with them or whatever, which I didn't get. Some of the guys were decent characters, I liked Oliver, and I liked that there were trolls. I haven't seen trolls since Stolen Songbird, and I'm a troll fan. But I just don't think I was in the mood for this type of book. I think it's going to be RH, I'm kind of over RH at the moment but this would be a slow burn one if it is.

BleuBelle says

DNF. So confusing, so many male characters and all are head over heels for the Heroine. Characters behaved like they were in their teens, very childish and immature. And I hated Henry and his threats. The writing style wasn't really good. So not my style.

Marguerite (Lady RH) 🌸 says

Rating : 3.5 stars

review to come.
someday.

TW: stalkerish obsession and mental rape

Jeanny says

3.5 stars will definitely read book 2. I really enjoyed this story but this isn't a RH not sure why it's listed as such. I'd say this is UF if asked.

