



The Siren's Touch

Amber Belldene

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One touch can change everything...

Hitman Dmitri Lisko is determined to avenge his father. Once he takes out the man he believes is responsible for his family's tragedies, he's done killing for good. But a mysterious woman may tempt Dmitri to change his plan.

Sonya Truss was murdered in a Ukrainian village in 1968. Now she's reappeared in San Francisco as a rusalka—the ghost of a wronged woman. And she's thirsty for the blood of her killer. But she has to make things right before she's trapped between worlds forever.

Sonya's enigmatic siren powers stir Dmitri's long-buried chivalry, and he finds himself compelled to help her. He also can't resist giving her a taste of the pleasures she never experienced while she was alive. Soon they discover that touch has surprising consequences. Yet when their shared mission comes to cross-purposes, they must choose between deadly sacrifice—or surrendering to the one act that can save them both.

The Siren's Touch Details

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Author : Amber Belldene

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From Reader Review The Siren's Touch for online ebook

Maria Rose says

Sonya is a woman who was murdered, and she wants revenge - and it seems as though Dmitri is the one who will be able to help her when she appears to him. Dmitri has his own plans for revenge, but he can't help wanting to help this beautiful spectre. And when his touch makes her inhabit her body once again, he finds himself wanting to help her experience all the things she never was able to before her untimely death. But time is running out for both of them - can they catch a killer and find some kind of happiness before it's too late?

I really enjoyed this intriguing and interesting romance! Most paranormal stories I read have shifters, or vampires or demons, and this is the first time I've read a full novel that involved a ghost as the heroine of the story. Sonya comes across as a lovely woman from a warm family, whose fate was decided too soon when her family was murdered in 1968 in the Ukraine. Until now she's been in limbo, but the time has come for her to enact her revenge, and when she appears to Dmitri in the present time she calls to him on a soul deep level (in part because she is a Siren, a woman who can tempt men to their doom). Dmitri is also Ukrainian, with a complicated family history, including a deranged abusive father and an uncle for whom he still works as a contract killer. He knows he's a bad person, but assisting Sonya in her quest might help him redeem himself. Developing feelings for a ghost is not something he expects, but when she is able to become a solid, touchable woman, he finds himself drawn to her even more. They share some steamy scenes together, even with the knowledge that there can never be a future between them.

The setting was really interesting, centered in the Ukraine and San Francisco (in the past and in the present) with a nod to Ukrainian folklore in Sonya's presence as a 'rusalka', a water nymph with a Siren's call. It's a mystery, a suspense story and a romance all rolled into one. And though it seems as though there is no way that there can be a happy ending for this couple (I mean, she is a ghost after all), I was pleasantly surprised with how the plot unfolded and how it all turned out. I'm looking forward to reading more as there is another mystery unveiled at the end that involves Sonya's sister. 4 stars for a unique and entertaining romance!

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the author for review.

Ashley Martinez (ilovebooksandstuffblog) says

An interesting supernatural story about vengeance, revenge, and second chances. I really enjoyed how everything played out even if it did take me a little bit to get into the story. The characters were nice but didn't have as much depth that I would've liked.

All and all it was an enjoyable read that I'd love to see continued in another installment that seems possible with the ending.

Betsy says

Characters: rusalka, enforcer

World Building: Ukraine crime, San Francisco

Plot: untangling past mysteries and family history

Sex: Medium

Read another: Yes

Stacy McKittrick says

I really enjoyed this book. Lots of fun stuff and sexy scenes, not to mention—GHOST STORY! Yeah, I love ghost stories. And I breezed through this one.

Celia Breslin says

I love a good story about vengeance, second chances, redemption, and love, and Amber Belldene's *Siren's Touch* delivers.

We meet two characters over tea—Dmitri the hitman and Sonya the rusalka (ghost)—both on a mission to right past wrongs. No spoilers here, but suffice it to say they team up for a second chance at happiness.

Belldene paints a vivid backdrop for her Ukrainian characters, placing the action in San Francisco. I particularly enjoyed the downtown scenes in Yerba Buena Gardens and Bloomingdales—oodles of action and a bit of trembling ground thanks to our ghost Sonya.

While I enjoyed Sonya and her dual personality—sometimes sweet and innocent while other times in evil and furious ghost mode—I love Dmitri. Love, love, love him. A hard man with blood on his hands; a man who has a kernel of hope for redemption locked deep in his gut.

He's a man of few words but what he says, and thinks, both pack a powerful punch. For example: "...she pressed her hand over his heart. He'd hardly known the damn thing was there until she'd showed up and insisted on touching it all the time."

His raw and honest emotion, his feeling of being unworthy, all of him pulled on my heartstrings and had me rooting for his success in not only helping Sonya but of purging his own past demons and healing old wounds.

Bottom line: *Siren's Touch* is a great read for paranormal romance fans. Enjoy the romantic journey where even a hardened thug and a lonely ghost can find their happily ever after. I look forward to the sequel starring Sonya's dead sister, Anya.

Jenny - Book Sojourner says

4.5 Stars

I went into this story having not paid much attention to the synopsis. My draw was simply having been a fan of Amber Belldene's *Blood Vine* series, which I loved. So knowing Amber had written a new book, I knew I wanted to read it. Fortunately, it only took me a few chapters to become totally engrossed in this story.

'The Siren's Touch' felt like I stepped into a modern day fairy tale, but a fairy tale with a very dark and twisted path and characters teetering on the edge of a deep abyss. This was a supernatural tale revolving around revenge and vengeance, but also second chances, redemption, and love. I also loved the mix of past and present, Ukranian culture and mythology.

I was spellbound by Dmitri and Sonya's story and figuring out how they were going to solve Sonya's issue and what the consequences would be. And at the same time Dmitri had his own revenge plot he was trying to fulfill. But plans have a way of changing, particularly when new information comes to light, and the plotter himself starts to make personal changes as well. When a book revolves around revenge, it can be difficult to know how to root for your characters or if you should even cheer for them. There were certain moral questions that came to light, and I loved how Belldene handled it all, and how the ultimate plot unraveled and concluded.

I also fell in love with Dmitri and Sonya. Each had tragic pasts. Dmitri had been raised in a very difficult environment, and had unfortunately made some poor choices in his life. Sonya had been murdered, and while she was innocent then, now, as a rusalka, she has vengeance in her blood. Both are faced with incredible choices. But the beauty of this story is how these two souls find each other, and in the midst of helping each other, end up saving themselves. Dmitri makes the biggest changes, and I loved his transformation. For such a hard character, he turns out to be the sweetest. And for Sonya being so out of touch with the present, she turns out to be the perfect match for Dmitri. Their love story was beautiful, and I was on the edge of my seat hoping for a happy ending for them.

I loved 'The Siren's Touch' and Dmitri and Sonya's story. I was also excited to find out there would be sequels to this story, featuring some characters introduced here. I can't wait to read more in this fascinating series!

Melissa says

A Really Great Read

I really enjoyed this read, my first from this author, but certainly not my last. I was drawn into the story as I read through the first couple of chapters and it was totally entertaining. I read straight through until the very end. I am a total lover of supernatural/paranormal reads and this one was different, and fresh. The author really took the story to places that I hadn't thought of before. It was fast paced and intriguing. There was also some pretty laugh out loud moments. I really enjoyed Dmitri and Sonya, and would like to get to know them better. I enjoyed the way that the book ended and it seems there is definitely an opening for a follow up novel. That would be awesome. I would recommend this book if you like a good light ghost story. I was generously provided a complimentary copy of this book for an honest review.

Jean Benedict says

this was a fun story about revenge.Dmitri is a hit man.Sonya is a girl murdered and appears as a ghost.Dmitri

is helping her find out who has murdered her. A lot of twists and turns and lots of romance. I won this book from Goodreads First Reads. This was a fast read.

Elisabeth Lane says

Gorgeous, fascinating, high unusual PNR. Review to come.

Petula says

This is such a fun read.

You could not have a less likely hero.

Dmitri is a Russian hit man, looking for vengeance. He has travelled to the USA to find the man he blames for all the bad things in his life. He is also coming off a month long vodka binge.

When a beautiful, very wet woman appears out of his aunt's tea-pot he knows he has finally cracked up.

Sonya is a ghost or siren, bent on getting her own vengeance against the man who killed her and her family.

This book is hilarious in places, the things our hero and heroine have to do to try and cope with "life". I have never read anything like this before. It is so much fun, even when there is danger.

Jillian Stein says

The Siren's Touch is the newest work from author Amber Belldene, an author I have loved reading since picking up her Blood Vine series a few years earlier. I was so excited to read this new work and have to say, hands down, this is at the top of my fave list of Ms. Belldene's books. I loved it!

Dimitri Lisko was in San Francisco for one reason: to kill the man responsible for his father's demise. He was a hitman, after all. What he was not in San Francisco was to help some type of siren ghost unravel the mystery of her untimely death and help her seek vengeance. But after realizing he was the only one who could see her, and eventually touch her, he knew he couldn't leave her alone. It helped matters that she was beautiful and had a personality that called to him like no female ever had. Just his luck...to fall for a ghost. A situation that is doomed from the start may have a happy ending built in...if they can just figure out how.

Wow. I absolutely loved the mix up of Ukrainian mobster tough guy meets otherworldly spectral beauty and the story of how these two unlikely worlds collided and what lengths they will have to go through to get to the bottom of a murder mystery. Ms. Belldene always puts a fresh and exciting view onto the paranormal and has always kept me glued to the pages she writes. As I said earlier, this book is at the top of my favorites list of her books. Dimitri is an unlikely hero and had never held the role before, which made me love him. He was this big burly man with a gruff exterior hiding a big heart when it came to Sonya. Sonya, having her life ripped away at her prime, is determined and open-minded when it comes to figuring things out. I loved these two together and the surprises along the way were wonderful and gave them a chance to become more than man and ghost.

Also, the mystery surrounding Sonya was well thought out and developed beautifully as the story progressed. I was so worried for these two and had no idea how they would be able to have any kind of happy ending!

But not to worry...Ms. Belldene came through beautifully *dreamy sigh*

Overall, if you're looking for a new paranormal romance with a fresh view and a dash of heat, this should be on your shelf! I'm also hoping that the way the ending was set up, we will see a series out of this amazing

story. Thank you, Ms. Belldene for another fabulous read!

Lydia says

Well, this was... new.

I dare say, I've read stories involving lots of mythology facts and legends, from many cultures. But Slavic folklore was something that had eluded my attention - until now.

Dmitri Lisko knows he's no innocent man. And he also knows that daddy dearest was not an award-winning example as a father when he was alive. But he still blames one person for what his family had to go through - and now he's finally out to get him. But upon arriving at his aunt's house, where he's supposed to stay while stalking his target, he releases a rusalka from one of her antique teapots. Sonya Truss found an early death at the hands of suspicious militsya men many years ago. Now that she's back as a bloodthirsty ghost, she has only a little time to take revenge before she completely loses herself to her bloodlust. Both sexy ghost and broken ex-hitman have people to kill - but each one's vengeance is fated to destroy the other's chances...

I admit that I didn't know what a rusalka was. Like I said, I'm not very familiar with Slavic mythology. So I looked the term up, and I was shocked. The rusalka is truly a fearsome creature, and I couldn't finish reading all the info because I freaked - plus, I googled some images, and I assure you I had some pretty vivid nightmares focusing on what I saw.

Still, Sonya was one rusalka I wouldn't mind around. I've seen many friendly ghosts in books and all that, but it was really different from what I've read so far. Sonya was sweet, funny, and cute. She had that innocence that only children possess, and at the same time, a kind of wisdom that kept surprising me - and Dmitri. She was understanding and forgiving to an extent, and while she did want to live, even if she knew it was impossible, she still didn't mind passing on as long as those she cared about were safe. She was ready to throw her revenge aside just for Dmitri's sake, and while many might see it as a weakness and falling in love way too quickly and unrealistically, I say it was natural.

Because if you saw those two, you would see their chemistry and how well they fit together.

Dmitri was the typical thug, who may be that tall, dark, brooding man we drool over when we spot him, but he was by no means handsome. His nose was broken, and he had scars. Nothing like those perfect, flawless male heroes in romance. And yet he still manages to get the reader to swoon, despite his addictions, and his chaotic life, and all his hangups. He was secretly a huge, cuddlesome marshmallow, a teddy bear of a man that can screw you to oblivion, and then wrap himself around you to cuddle you to sleep - and if that's not hot and awesome as fuck, I don't know what can be!

And you wanna know what makes him even better? He was such a knight, even if he didn't believe so himself, that he kept holding himself back, despite his raging need to get the sheets burning with Sonya. He was such a... well, a MAN, that he fully acknowledged that, yes, a guy with healthy sexual urges wants a woman, not a broomstick. Sonya kept seeing herself as fat because she was comparing her pin-up-model

body with the toothpicks that walk around the streets nowadays, and our boy Dima kept insisting, half of the times in his head, the other half quite loudly, that he liked her that way, and in fact she was much sexier and that made him feel better as a male. Wow, just... wow! Not to mention that he, too, was ready to throw away his life and his revenge, and everything he had accomplished so far, all the riches and the prestige that waited for him back in Kiev, to be with her, if only for a little while, to make sure that she at least avenged her death and that she would pass on happily.

It made me wanna cry every time he sacrificed one more thing for his ghost's sake....

The good thing is, I sense there is another book coming. If that is true, given Belldene's amazing hot scenes, funny dialogue, and plethora of plot twists, I seriously can't wait!

****I was given an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The opinion stated in this review is solely mine, and no compensation was given or taken to alter it.****

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Stephanie (Bookfever) says

The Siren's Touch was not my all-time favorite book, but I still think it was a good story. It reads very quickly and I really liked Dmitri and Sonya as the main characters.

This book is pretty different from other paranormal romances I have read. The story features Dmitri Lisko, who's a hitman and wants to avenge his father and then there's Sonya Truss, who was murdered in the 1960's and has now appeared as a rusalka, a ghost or water sprite out for revenge for whoever killed her.

I liked how this book had Slavic mythology. Lately I've read a couple of stories featuring it and I must say that I really liked this part of the book.

Dmitri and Sonya had some pretty hot chemistry right away. I really liked them as a couple. But I have to admit that other than them, I wasn't that into this story. I liked that Sonya was a rusalka because it was different but I really am not that into stories about ghosts, to be honest.

I've always liked Amber Belldene's writing and it's no different in The Siren's Touch. The pace was steady and I enjoyed reading it. If you're looking for a quick but good paranormal romance with a twist of Slavic mythology then you should definitely read this book!
