



Black Fallen

Elle Jasper

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There's only one thing more lethal than a vampire.

A Black Fallen. Rather, a fallen angel engulfed in the blackest of magic.

And three of the most dangerous have descended upon Edinburgh...

Tattoo artist, RILEY POE, has changed. After surviving the bites of three potent Strigoi, she has acquired traits from each that parallel those of the most lethal of vampires. Her strength, speed, hearing are unmatched. She's a stick of dynamite, fuse lit. She's about to put those unique powers to good use. And she'll need them.

Now that the rogue bloodsuckers plaguing the Lowcountry are under control once more, and Riley, along with her guardian vampire, ELI DUPRE, Riley's brother, SETH POE, and Eli's brother, PHIN DUPRE, and Strigoi vampire VICTORIAN ARCOS agree to join JAKE ANDORRA'S elite WUP team. Worldwide Unexplained Phenomenon takes cases too powerful and dangerous for mere humans to handle. Comprised of vampires, humans with tendencies, immortal druids, werewolves and witches, there aren't many situations the WUP members can't handle. But there are unholy, lethal disturbances in the ancient city of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Riley and the others accept the mission.

Black Fallen Details

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From Reader Review Black Fallen for online ebook

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

3.5 Stars

This review was posted at Under the Covers

At the end of EVENTIDE I was quite excited about the fact that there would be a change of scenery for the series and the crew was going to Edinburgh, joining another team and hunting a different set of baddies.

Then BLACK FALLEN rolls around and at the beginning I thought it was all interesting, going to see new places and learning new things. Except that the learning curve got stuck there for a while. It felt like about half the book was an exercise in getting situated in Edinburgh, training with their new team, and Riley touching all the new people she met and getting flashbacks of their lives, which was a cool way of getting to know the, I might add. But just a little bit was discussed about the Black Fallen.

“The Black Fallen are angels engulfed in the darkest of magic. They’re obsessed, powerful, and completely undetectable. They’ve zero conscience. They move among humans as one of them, and only another fallen one can recognize them straight away. They’re from an ancient realm of holy and unholy, if you believe in that sort of thing. And they’ll not stop until they have what they desire.”

Although the Black Fallen were scary and I thought a great storyline to follow, I would’ve liked to see more of the battles with them throughout the book and, like I said before, a little less of all the training.

Then there’s Riley. I love her and she kicks ass, but sometimes she just pisses me off. For example, how many books will it take for her to learn to talk about the weird things that happen to her? Hasn’t she seen time and time again that she could’ve avoided a lot of trouble if she had said something to Eli sooner? But I digress. And speaking of Eli, I could’ve used a little more Eli sexy time. Just saying.

The haunted house storyline added a bit of creepy to the story that I liked and I think it worked well in the setting. But I admit...I missed Savannah, Georgia. I missed the tattoo parlor, I missed Nyx...I missed the whole gang that was left behind. As much as I thought I was ready for a change I don’t like that they weren’t there and I think the setting being in GA has been so much a part of this series it was like taking a character out as well.

However the last say...30% of this book was really good. Things started clicking into place and speeding up, we got action and answers, and I really like where the author went with the Black Fallen storyline. Although that might’ve been an easy way to resolve the issue being that she made them almost invincible.

But BE WARNED... There is a major twist towards the end of this book... I gasp, I didn’t quite cry but I might’ve screamed “NOOO”.... Twice. I do trust that the author has set that up to make it a great storyline for the next book.

BLACK FALLEN is another good addition to the Dark Ink Chronicles series, sexy vamps, bad angels, a very powerful heroine and a goth and gritty story.

*ARC provided by publisher

SANDRA says

This one seriously pissed me off, I was going to wait to write the review but I just can't. I have loved this series since I accidentally ran into the series. And now I am thoroughly disappointed, what I thought was going to be EPIC was not! I mean really the whole book dragged since I first picked it up and then some shit goes down which was interesting, but then the huge battle that I thought was going to be amazing and grueling is literally described and over with in 1 page!!! I mean maybe 2 paragraphs of the one page was about the actual fighting, and (view spoiler) So the good stuff, hmm hmmm hmmm hmmm umm the scenery descriptions were good, it had potential to be really good, I saw what I thought she was heading and then changed it so I mean it was good, yea we had some tear jerking scenes that had me sniffing (no tears, though). The question now is will I read the next book, more than likely just to see if a certain someone is saved and if she can improve the book more than this one. So yes I will continue on until she really kills it for me. I am saddened. :'(

Hbeebti says

Honestly I'm still trying to figure this one out. I liked it. I'm torn between 3.5 and 4. It takes a couple of chapters to get used to the nonstop descriptions of everything. It's been awhile since the last book and I was trying to remember what happened last time. Anyway I was kinda bummed that there wasn't enough Eli and that there was sooooo much training and just talking. I wanted more of Riley and Eli and less of the other stuff.

But then BAM! Everything changes and I am left asking WTF? Seriously?? Oh come on! How many times can Riley go through this, seriously. If you read the other three books you know what I mean. I wasn't happy about what went down about half way through. Then it ends and I am left unsatisfied that there wasn't any, um.... ok how about, something wasn't fixed or made right? Trying not to give anything away here. Which was a good set up for the next book but I wanted a different ending for certain reasons. Dammit now I have to wait for the next book because I know I won't be left hanging because that would just be mean.

Shelley says

[After reading Eventide, we all know that there is something profoundly different about Riley Poe. She may or may not be human. She's definitely more strigoi (vampir

Deelylah Mullin says

Wow. 4.5 stars. I just... wow.

Oh. My. Word. As I sit, rocking in the fetal position, I want to beg Ms. Jasper to allow me to read even the ROUGH DRAFT for the next title in the Dark Ink Chronicles series. Black Fallen, the newest title in the series, takes the reader on a rollercoaster of emotions and a flurry of activity. While we do learn more about the characters we've come to love, we meet more characters, and (temporarily?) say goodbye to others.

While this is the fourth title in the series, I think Ms. Jasper does a wonderful job with backstory in the first part of the book, and one could begin with this title, although reading prior books would help with the deeper understanding of the culture, and the interplay between characters.

There's no tap-dancing around this. There's a major plot point involving Eligius Dupre. Seriously. I had to figure out whether Ms. Jasper would resolve prior to the end of the book, or move it out to the next book (Please, tell me this major point resolves well...). I could have consumed this title in one sitting, if I'd had the time. Eli is described by Riley as, "Deadly predator. Violent vampire. Fiercely loyal ... My sensitive, hot, kick-ass vampire fiance." I think that this description is extremely telling as foreshadowing in the story. OMG! Y'all need to hurry up and read this book so I can talk about it with someone! There really isn't a lot I can say about Eli without spoiling. ****covers mouth with duct tape**** Moving on...

Our secondary characters were pretty important in this story. Jake, Gabriel & Darius, long-time natives of the area, are part of the WUP that brought Riley and her group to Edinburgh, Scotland. I am ALWAYS excited when a story is set in Scotland. I think the countryside is breathtaking, there's room for much description of the surroundings, including the air, smells, and mood driven by the weather. I was also geeked that there was Celtic, Gaelic and Pict lore mentioned. In the first 5% of the story, Jasper brings us this excellent description - foreshadowing again, methinks - of a statue: "...a derelict angel, wings hanging limply behind him, his hands raised and cupped over his mouth as if shouting something at the top of his lungs. Water spurts from his hands and washes over him into the fountain's pond. For some reason, the statue chills me." This statue seems to have a pull for Riley, and shouldn't be discounted through the reading of this title. Noah Miles, Eli's best friend, plays a pretty significant role in Black Fallen. He is truly a good friend to Eli as well as Riley. Ginger and Lucian, the werewolves in our band of unlikely comrades, didn't get a lot of 'airtime' in this title...but I believe that they'll get more in the next title, purported to be in werewolves territory, during a war. Sydney, the archivist, has but one purpose: to lead the WUP to the Book, read the spell to destroy it, ensuring mankind continues to thrive. No pressure. The group should be protecting her with every spare ounce of energy they have, but this protection seems to be for Riley, and no one is telling her why, although they are constantly saying things like, 'You really don't know, do you...' and the like. Victorian Arcos also appears in this unlikely band of warriors. He's still got the hots for Riley, but he seems to have reigned in the urge to kiss her senseless every second of the day. Tristan and Conwyk, immortals from the 12th and 13th centuries - now - turned - human, seemed to form easy bonds with Riley. Especially Tristan. As a swordman and trainer for Riley, Tristan was quite interested in ensuring that Riley was kept safe. I think part of it was that 12-13th century sense of chivalry. All the immortals seem to have it. I LOVE it, even though it leans toward the male chauvinist side of things.

So. The Black Fallen are fallen angels, as the title would imply. I like the lore behind them. Canthor, Danu and Athios. "...Two have been condemned for some time. But we know very little about the youngest one, Athios." They can create minions, known as Jodis, to do their dirty work. The Fallen feed from the souls of the innocent, which irks Riley and other WUP members.

Riley Poe, owner of Inksomnia, a tattoo parlor in Georgia, has been bitten by 4 vampires. She's sort-of like a vampire superhero. She's got these abilities, and they're the best of what the four vamps that bit her have/had. She's still learning to hone her skills, and keep her talents under control. It's with Riley's talent for seeing the past of a person with a mere touch that we get to know new characters in the story, via Riley's flashbacks.

I ****really**** feel for Riley. I got to know her a little better than in the last book, and she went through a gut-wrenching emotional trauma that would have sent me running for the hills, sobbing like a baby. I admire Riley. She compartmentalizes her emotions, only letting out what is needed for the vengeance she seeks. She seems to take everything in-stride. Even at the 72% mark...she seemed to simply go with the flow, trusting all

would work out. This is the ONE thing that I struggle with about Riley. She is really intense, and I don't think she would simply roll with the punches on this SPECIFIC thing. I got hung up on it for a few minutes, and decided that I would turn into a simpering idiot if the secondary conflict didn't resolve by the end of the book. **Runs around room, 'Bbbbbbbth! Bbbbbbbth!'**

At the end of Black Fallen, we do have a resolution to one conflict arc, but a second must be important to the next title in Ms. Jasper's Dark Ink Chronicles series. I'm sure she didn't leave the massive cliffhanger to simply wreak havoc on my emotions... I cannot wait for the next book in this series!

Donna says

In my review of EVENTIDE, book three in this series, I said that BLACK FALLEN would be the make or break book of the series for me. I wasn't all that thrilled with EVENTIDE and I didn't really like where it was all heading, in multiple manners, so BLACK FALLEN was going to be the book that would have me either keep reading or not.

And I'm done.

It's just gotten so incredibly Riley-serving that I can't even stomach it anymore. And the crappy thing is, Riley really isn't that bad of a character. She's a creature of circumstance and she's dealing with what's happening the best she can. But she's the sun to all of the other otherworldly planets orbiting around her and the world can not function without Riley. All the dudes are crushing on her, everyone is thinking about her, everyone's opining on her, everyone has a comment about her, everyone wants to protect her, she's a magnet for every cock on the planet. Whatever. The writing itself has just gotten downright bad. Its taken what is rightly a fine character and just Mary-Sued the shit out of it until it's insufferable.

The story itself, of BLACK FALLEN, was turning into an episode of Family Guy without the humor. Six minutes of verifiable plot and the rest of the time was spent on irrelevant asides. Chicken fighting would have made this book better. I'm talking pages upon pages of superfluous backstory of characters that had three and a half seconds of scene time in the book and were only there to show how fantastic a fighter Riley was and to have them comment on how beautiful she was. I got all the backstory on characters that don't even qualify for secondary. Methinks we didn't have enough plot to fill the pages because not enough plot filled the pages even outside of these nonsense flashbacks.

It was thin. The build-up consisted of this one dude dream-raping Riley (but she liked it, come join me in the corner for a good gag) and a couple creatures possessing people and then when they die they turn into white goo (which I'm sure is just a metaphor for all the cum Riley produces in her myriad of admirers). The book is over three hundred pages long. Half of that are sparing scenes taking place in a training room where after Riley fights everyone applauds her fantasticness or she's admiring the bulk of the big dudes with whom she's training (because, as you very well know, every male in history was like 6'5" and FILLED with muscle, bodily variations are a new invention . . .). The rest of it is . . . flashback nonsense sprinkled with minor plot developments (see above re: cum demons and dream rapes). The end of the book comes about, the day is saved, for now, and on to the next mission.

Look, I get it. Big, burly, muscly, sweaty dudes are typical in romance novels because these books are FANTASIES. I get it. Totally. But when the entire book is just downright ridiculous, the ridiculousness of the typical, that otherwise would have blended in with the scenery, becomes ridiculous too. It's Riley's story.

It would be hard to have a book that doesn't revolve around her. It's only reasonable to have her be the center of attention, whatever that attention is, good, bad, whatever, but there's a difference between having a story about a character and having the universe revolve around that character. Characters literally gravitate around Riley and orbit her, be it in the vein of interest, congratulations, protection, help, bringing dinner, unwelcome sexual advances, whatever they are every character, good, bad, or all of the above, pander to Riley and that makes for a real crappy story. It doesn't feel like a natural story; it feels contrived and all I want to do is roll my eyes.

In a book where dream rape constitutes legitimate seduction, the protagonist has no more than three guys chasing her tail, where even the women are in marvel at her awesomeness, and everyone else is showing outward concern in the form of weird chapter interviews that lead into the chapter itself, this just isn't working. The series has lost sight of itself and the writing is now pandering to a character instead of telling a story. Give me a character who is the center of the action. I'm fine with that. But she can't be the center of everyone's lives:

The change in Riley now is like mist to black vapor. It is as obvious as a knife plunged into the heart. She won't accept her mate's fate. Will not. I can see it in her eyes. There's a fury there that is chilling. For the first time since arriving in Edinburgh, I feel like the Fallen have no chance in Hell of surviving. Not Riley Poe anyway.

This . . . is awful. They're like peeks into people's diaries (all the chapter headers are from different characters) but these characters writing them are only in existence in relation to Riley. They don't have their own concerns about what's happening; they just care about Riley:

Aye, this lass is by far the most intriguing of Andorra's pack of misfits. Riley Poe. I vow she'll give the Fallen a run for their coin. Makes me want to stay and join the team, although I know my bride, Andrea, would no doubt clout my ears for doing so.

Because the world revolves around her. They would cease to function if Riley weren't the glue holding all their lives together. It's awful. It's awful because Jasper got in the way of her own story. Riley was actually a good character and even through the mess that is BLACK FALLEN I still liked her as a character. But for all that is holy how has Riley not come off the page and screamed WILL YOU ALL BACK UP OUT OF MY SPACE ALREADY? This girl can't wipe her ass without no less than four people being concerned about anal paper cuts. She can't go up to her bedroom, after a heinous event with her fiancé, without getting sexually hounded by two men that are supposed to be her friends and who are offering thinly guised support in the form of hot beef injections. Characters don't have thoughts without Riley in them. They don't eat without Riley, they don't fight without Riley, and I'm sure they can't breathe without her either.

Blech.

Give me a no-nonsense character that commandeers a story all day long. But keep the self-serving writing to yourself. I don't want it, the character doesn't need it, and it just ruins the story for all involved. I will say it was nice that Riley had female allies that weren't catty pseudo-adversaries. It was a nice reprieve from the otherwise typical competition that female characters get into. But then again everyone was already bowing at

Riley's feet anyway. She could probably kick them in the face and they'd thank her for it.

1

Angela says

I would actually give this book 3.5 stars, but since that isn't an option and I really, really enjoyed the other books in this series, I went with a 4.

First, I really appreciated how Elle Jasper was able to move the characters and the storyline out of Savannah and into Edinburgh pretty seamlessly. I like how we discover that the big, bad vampires that Riley has been battling really aren't all that big and bad compared to the more ancient evil of the fallen angels (a.k.a. "Black Fallen").

I also really liked the majority of the new characters that were introduced in the last book and were more thoroughly explored in this book. Jasper is really good at giving each character its own distinct voice.

Now, onto the one thing that I really, really did not like at all that was the fact that Jasper appears to have lifted entire scenes from other books that she has written and pasted them into this book in the form of Riley being able to use her new power to experience certain parts of peoples' pasts.

Jasper also writes adult historical romances under the name Cindy Miles and, although I haven't read them, I can tell from the descriptions of these books that she has taken scenes from a couple of them and put them directly into this book. In "Black Fallen," she introduces a character named Tristan de Barre, whom is also a character in her book "Spirited Away", and another character named Gawan of Conwyk, whom is a character from her book "Into Thin Air". In "Black Fallen", Riley touches each of them and experiences snippets of their past which are written in italics and seem to be directly copied and pasted from the books that these characters first showed up in.

This annoyed me SO much! Not only was it stupidly lazy, but those two characters really weren't even necessary to the plot of this book. I felt as though Jasper knew that her book had to be a certain length, so she just added those characters in because they were characters that she already knew well and which she could then just copy and paste their back stories into this book. All this did was create unnecessary confusion and piss me off, because I was really, really loving this series prior to this!

Now, of course I'll read the next book when it comes out because I need to know what happened to Eli and Victorian. But I really hope that Jasper stops using the copy and paste controls in this next book and actually just writes the damn book!

gremlin says

This was ok, and the story kept me engaged while I was reading it, but looking back there were more cons than pros.

The series made an abrupt turn and many of the good things about the series (New Orleans, the cast of

characters there, Riley's work, even the good relationship stuff) were all missing from this as she and Eli packed up and went to Edinburgh to help a team of supernaturals try to defeat the Black Fallen there. The new team is not as engaging as the crew back in New Orleans, and the way we kept dropping into the past via Riley's new power got really annoying.

All in all, I'm not sure I feel like reading the next book or any more after it.

Jocie says

I give this book a 3.5 It would have gotten a four but the first half of the book is kind of slow and hard to get into. However, the second half is very entertainig and it easily sucked me into the story.

TinaMarie says

While I really like this series and the many of the characters this had lots of jumps, things didn't seem to blend or connect well, I felt jarred as a reader.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/bl...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Heidi

Beware of possible Spoilers

Riley and Eli have officially joined WUP (Worldwide Unexplained Phenomenon), now that Valerian is no longer a threat. Their first mission takes them to Edinburgh, Scotland to try to defeat the Black Fallen (fallen angels) that are wrecking havoc there. They train with a couple of the best swordsmen, who actually lived by the sword in their own time, as beheading is the only way to kill a Black Fallen.

But Riley's world is turned upside down when Eli disappears one night, taken by the fallen. She won't believe he's dead until she can prove it though. She must fight that much harder to defeat these evil beings and discover exactly what happened to her beloved.

Meanwhile, someone else has an eye for Riley and is invading her thoughts and dreams. Could it be the key to finding out what happened to Eli? Or could it lead to her destruction?

This is another book in this series that I found to be underwhelming. I wanted to like it, and hoped the new storyline with a new evil to fight would breathe some life into the flailing series, but unfortunately that just wasn't to be. I struggled to continue reading this book, and had to force myself back to it over and over again. The only thing I found remotely interesting is when Riley accused Noah of invading her dreams, and that was short-lived.

I'm trying to pinpoint the reason I don't like this book. There is lots of history, sometimes too much that it becomes confusing and bogs the story down. But I really think the lack of emotion is what bothers me the most. Riley supposedly loves Eli, and he her, but I just don't 'feel' it! Especially when Eli disappears and it takes no time before she's kissing another man (not saying who!) and she doesn't really seem to have any remorse.

Which brings me to one of the big issues for me with this series. Riley's field of romantic prospects is just too wide, and it gets larger with each book. There is Eli, Victorian, Noah, and even Julian (Vic's dad). And, now of course there is another prospect. I'm okay with the possibility of her not ending up with Eli, and her having a strong friendship or two that could evolve into more later, but it seems like every unmated male she comes into contact with wants her. I'm sorry I just don't feel that anybody is that irresistible and is just too much to be believed.

Also, I find this series to be too repetitive. I mean how many people can really invade Riley's mind and seduce her in her dreams? Please for the love of all that is holy find a new shtick! Please! And, also one of her dreams was just like a sex scene with Eli in Eventide, just in a different location. I thought maybe it meant it was Eli in the dream.... but no, apparently Jasper just really liked that kind of scene.

Now Riley is off to another destination to try to solve one mystery that was not solved in this novel. I would like to think the series will finally get better, but I'm quickly losing hope.

Dorine says

Rated 4.5 ~ Also posted at TBR Mountain Range.

An addictive paranormal series, THE DARK INK CHRONICLES books keep you up all night, wondering what will happen next. BLACK FALLEN continues Riley Poe's adventure and leaves you grasping for more.

I didn't think it was possible, but Elle Jasper has written another mind-numbing, soul-sucking paranormal thriller that nails you to the wall. As for the DARK INK CHRONICLES as a series, I bet you can't read just one!

Word of warning—the DARK INK CHRONICLES series should be read in order for the fullest enjoyment. That said, I honestly think a reader could read BLACK FALLEN and not be completely lost without reading the three novels before it. Although, I have no idea why you'd want to since the whole series is so freaking awesome, but you could try BLACK FALLEN and then start from the beginning to catch up on what you missed. If you're a stickler about reading series books in order, then you can read my reviews of AFTERLIGHT, EVERDARK and EVENTIDE. I try to stay away from spoilers, but in a series such as this, it's nearly impossible to do when one book's ending leads to what happens in the next.

In BLACK FALLEN we leave half the secondary cast of characters in Savannah, Georgia, while Riley Poe and her fiancé Eligius "Eli" Dupré join the Worldwide Unexplained Phenomenon (WUP) team in Edinburgh, Scotland to fight the Black Fallen. Along with them are Noah Miles, another vampire and Eli's best friend, plus Victorian Arcos, one of the strigoi vampires who bit Riley and added his DNA to her special blood. Other team members are immortal, werewolf or vampire and various otherworldly beings. Riley met some of them when she was recruited but she's continuously surprised by the variety.

It doesn't take long for Riley and the others to feel the dark, evil foreboding that has draped itself over Edinburgh. There's an awakening that's just getting started and when the Black Fallen are fully themselves, the evil will certainly be crushing. The Black Fallen are recruiting beings to do their bidding, building their strength. Will Riley Poe and the rest of the WUP team be strong enough to eradicate them?

First, each of the team will be trained in the art of sword fighting because the only way to kill the Black Fallen and their minions is to lop off their heads. Yes, this is described in vivid detail, as are many other absorbing fight scenes. BLACK FALLEN has great horror and gothic inclinations so it appeals to more than one type of reader. Riley's special tendencies will also come into play, but does she have enough control over her new-found abilities to assist in time?

Now engaged to be married, Riley and Eli have become more comfortable with one another. Their love and passion knows no boundaries, intent on protecting one another from the evil that grows around them. There's more than one love story brewing amongst the characters which heightens the sensual awareness and protectiveness of all.

There are very few novels that grab me from the first page and insist that I read them cover to cover in one sitting. So far, every book in the DARK INK CHRONICLES series has made me lose sleep and avoid anything else that dares to interfere with turning the last page. Always so darn good! I may not always agree with everything that happens within the pages, or I may want more of something in particular, but none of that matters because I thoroughly enjoy reading these books. To me, it's not about each book being everything I expect or want or need, but the fact that they mesmerize me from beginning to end.

Filled with totally creepy things that insure rapt attention, you'll consistently sense something diabolical around the corner. Love this series—it engages me like no other. Sensually explicit, BLACK FALLEN combines sinister with sexy—romance with heartbreak—setting your nerves on edge while grasping for more.

Review and book courtesy of Romance Junkies.

Sharon ∞💎 is an emotional book junkie 💎∞ says

3.5 ★'s

Riley and Eli have been recruited by WUP, or Worldwide Unexplained Phenomenon team, and are on their way to hunt some Black Fallen in Edinburgh, Scotland. Riley is still trying to get used to all her new powers and while they make her stronger, sometimes they leave her at a disadvantage.

Wow...I'm not sure what happened with this series but it up and took a left turn and left me hanging in the dust! It's gone from a fairly simple story of dealing with some bad@ss vampires to now dealing with every sort of paranormal creature in existence...*almost*.

Now that...I could handle, but what was hard to handle was being bombarded with sooo many new characters. And on top of that, one of Riley's new powers enables her to see part of a person's past with just a touch. So now we have all these new characters who have lived hundreds and thousands of years and we're reading stories about their lives with MORE characters. Talk about confusing!! I do have to say that by the

end of the story, I did get a handle on who's who...but then there's my other problem.

The problem is that Riley is what I call a "Marilyn"...everybody lusts after her...even the women want to be her best friend! And this isn't the first book where we've encountered this...it's just that it keeps happening. Of course, they're all extremely good looking, sexy and total bad@sses themselves. It just gets old...it would be *amazing* to come across someone who isn't attracted to her.

But back to the story...The gang arrived in Edinburgh and immediately start training and training and training. I get that they need it but besides all the characters and all their side stories, there is a lot of training going on and not a lot of action and when we do get action, it's something crazy and short lived. It also bothers me that Riley doesn't stop and think for herself anymore. Some things were pretty obvious but she just didn't catch on.

We don't really get much of her and Eli and what we do is Eli basically being her sex toy. What happened to the Eli we know and love? I MISS him!! I get that he's there for Riley but I wish he had a bigger part.

Then there's some crazy drama...not sure how EJ is going to work things out but bravo to her! It definitely woke me up and the story became so much more interesting. The 'problem' is now I have to read the next book to find out what happens and if anything gets worked out.

There's also a part with a ghost in the place everyone is staying. I'm not really sure what was suppose to come of their interactions besides what Lily showed her at the end. Could that be all it was about?

And I really felt something was up with that creepy angel fountain! It really bothers me about all the attention devoted to it and...then nothing??

The ending battle with the Black Fallen was a bit of a disappointment. What in the heck happened? It almost felt like the author ran out of room and needed to end it quickly. It was disappointing and not very believable.

I know this all sounds pretty negative but there were good things about the story. I really enjoyed Riley and her new powers, I love the deepening of her friendships with Noah and Victorian and I do like quite a few of the new characters.

Like I said, I have to read the next book to find out what happens. It's not a cliffhanger, just things left unfinished. Whatever you do, **DO NOT** read the blurb for the next book, *Darklove*, **HUGE MAJOR SPOILERS!!** 'Nuff said.

Favorite quotes:

♥ "I'm so in love with you, Eligius Dupré." I kiss his nose. "It actually took a vampire to claim my icy heart."

"Your heart has never been icy," he answers, and kisses me. He fingers the wings at my cheek. "It was just waiting on me."

Ellie says

Black Fallen, Dark Ink Chronicles #4, by Elle Jasper
Grade: C+

“It actually took a vampire to claim my icy heart.”

Riley Poe, tattoo artist and human with special tendencies, has left her home of Savannah, Georgia with her fiancé and vampire Eli Dupre to join with the Worldwide Unexplained Phenomena team. The team is in Edinburgh, Scotland hunting three Black Fallen, former angels who are so powerful they can even kill vampires. The Black Fallen are killing all Edinburgh and the team is hoping that Riley is the key to stopping them once and for all. Things aren't what they seem in Scotland and as Riley makes new friends she also makes new enemies and she must dig down deep to stop the killings and save the ones she loves.

Black Fallen picks up right where Eventide left off with Riley and Eli joining the WUP team and heading off to Scotland for their first mission. I liked Black Fallen much better than Eventide and I feel like it's almost a new series because most of the characters are new or were just introduced. We get no time in Savannah but it does let a new reader join without feeling like they've too much since we learn so much about the new characters on Riley's team.

Eli and Riley are still very much in love and Riley is still trying to figure out how to use her new powers that she got from being bitten by the strigoi vampires. With her new powers a small touch lets Riley experience certain events in the person she's touching life and this gift allows us to learn more about some of the new characters. Gawan and Tristan are by far my two favorite and I would pay good money to get their full stories. I really hope we get to see them in future books.

So much happens in Black Fallen that it's very hard to write a review without spoilers. To say this book is an emotional rollercoaster is a vast understatement and I didn't know if I loved or hated Riley half of the time. I know that the events that occur need to happen and that a lot more twists and turns can be expected in future books but I need some time before I get back on the crazy train with Riley. I am hoping to see some more emotions from Riley and have her be a little more upset over her actions. I felt that at times that yes she had a job to do but some really heavy stuff was happening and she should have cared more.

This series is difficult for me because I either love or hate what's going on. Riley doesn't do easy but I love that about her and I hate that about her too. I am really looking forward to what happens next and I'm hoping that Riley can get a happy ending soon.

Ramblings From A Chaotic Mind says

It's been a long road for Riley. At this point she's gone from a very human, rockin tattoo artist to a semi human who has had 4 different vampires bite her...and only one of those was by choice. She's learning how to adjust to these new found abilities she has acquired with the help of her incredibly sexy fiancé, Eli.

Faced with an opportunity to become something more, she leaves behind her home to help a whole new set

of friends across the globe. Riley must learn to trust and control her abilities quickly when a new foe presents itself bent on destroying everything she holds dear.

I will be honest. I think this book is flawed. Majorly. I have been a champion of this series since book one. I have felt that with each book the writing got stronger and the story got better with each curve that was thrown the characters way. Black Fallen takes away everything that the readers have come to know about these people and instead throws a bunch of new characters into the mix for the sake of extending the story arc. Riley has been asked to join an elite group of warriors that make up the WUP team. They consist of other supernaturals who make hunting down the baddest demons their only business. Along with Eli, Victorian and Eli's best friend, they set off across the world to train. I hated this. I had come to love the supporting cast of characters these books have provided, and to suddenly be ripped away from them...well it sucked. As did the absence of the person Riley has been, a tattoo artist. A kick ass one.

Riley has the ability to touch someone and view their past. While I appreciated this first hand account of the new characters lives, I think Jasper leaned too heavily on it at times just for word count. I really don't need to know about the first time someone had sex with their wife unless it directly relates to the story at hand...which it didn't. These looks took page upon page at times and mostly didn't further the story along at all. Now times that by a whole handful of characters...it was overwhelming.

Add to this the stripping away of everything Riley has come to count on, I was both furiously turning pages (in between the weird look backs) and being horribly frustrated with the story line. At points the book dragged like a two legged dog and then it got super manic towards the end, ending with a bang that made me want to throw the book across the room. As it was I yelled and scared my poor skiddish cat.

I love this series...but I did not love this book. I'm not happy with this weird locale change and brand new cast of characters who may or may not play a big part of the following books since Riley heads back home at the end of this one. Most everything about this book felt off, like the author was grasping at how to hold everything together for the next few books. I will continue with this series though despite all this because my love for the characters runs deeper then this one book. I can only hope that with Riley heading home, the old feel of the books will reappear.

I give Black Fallen by Elle Jasper 2.75 stars
