



Poison Sleep

T.A. Pratt , Tim Pratt

Download now

Read Online ➞

Poison Sleep

T.A. Pratt , Tim Pratt

Poison Sleep T.A. Pratt , Tim Pratt

The bad girl of the magical underworld is back and badder than ever

Someone wants Marla Mason dead. Usually that's not news. As chief sorcerer of Felport, someone *always* wants her dead. But this time she's the target of a renegade assassin who specializes in killing his victims over days, months, or even *years*. Not to mention a mysterious knife-wielding killer in black who pops up in the most unexpected places. To make matters worse, an inmate has broken out of the Blackwing Institute for criminally insane sorcerers—a troubled psychic who can literally reweave the fabric of reality to match her own traumatic past.

With her wisecracking partner Rondeau reluctantly in tow, Marla teams up with a “love-talker” whose dangerous erotic spells not even she can resist. Together they're searching the rapidly transforming streets of Felport for a woman who's become the Typhoid Mary of nightmares, infecting everything—and everyone—she touches with a chaos worse than death itself.

Poison Sleep Details

Date : Published March 25th 2008 by Spectra (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780553589993

Author : T.A. Pratt , Tim Pratt

Format : Paperback 321 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Fiction, Magic, Paranormal, Urban

 [Download Poison Sleep ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Poison Sleep ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Poison Sleep T.A. Pratt , Tim Pratt

From Reader Review Poison Sleep for online ebook

Melisande says

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier les éditions Eclipse pour m'avoir permis de lire ce livre. J'avais bien apprécié l'univers créé par T.A. Pratt, alors j'étais contente de pouvoir m'y replonger. Et franchement, je n'ai pas du tout été déçue de ce 2e tome qui est bien meilleur que le 1er.

L'histoire commence sur Marla, qui a été appelée d'urgence car une patiente de l'Institut psychiatrique Blackwing a tenté de s'échapper, une dangereuse criminelle. Sauf qu'elle a pu être maîtrisée et Marla ne comprend pas pourquoi on l'a appelé en urgence si Jarow est toujours là. Mais rapidement, elle apprend qu'il s'agit d'une autre femme qui a disparu : une mentaliste, qui était catatonique depuis plusieurs années mais qui s'est réveillé soudainement. Marla doit donc tenter de la retrouver avant qu'il n'arrive de choses fâcheuses, sauf qu'assez rapidement, elle va constater que des choses étranges se passent dans sa ville, tout en y étant témoin elle-même. En parallèle, un assassin a disparu et la guilde des assassins dormants est à sa recherche et demande l'aide de Marla pour lui mettre la main dessus, et qui pourrait bien en avoir après sa vie...

Ce 2e tome de Marla Mason est tout simplement génial, je suis définitivement fan de cette série. J'ai bien hâte de lire la suite, qui promet énormément. Le monde de la sorcellerie est vraiment ce que je préfère dans les univers fantastiques. La magie n'a pas de vraies limites et on peut toujours aller plus loin et faire des choses extraordinaires et lancer des intrigues complexes. Je ne regrette absolument pas d'avoir commencé cette série. Le tome 1 m'avait beaucoup plu mais certaines choses m'avaient dérangée, comme le fait que tout se résolve trop rapidement sur la fin, mais là, ça n'est pas du tout le cas. Jusqu'au dernier moment on doute, on se demande si elle va s'en sortir indemne. Donc c'est déjà un bon point pour l'auteur puisqu'ici on y croit davantage et on est dans une attente perpétuelle.

L'intrigue était très intéressante et bien menée. Mais il est assez difficile d'en parler sans trop spoiler, mais dans cette histoire, Marla va devoir prendre des décisions difficiles, d'être confrontée à un univers qu'elle ne maîtrise pas, le monde des rêves s'ouvre à elle. A chaque moment, on se demande comment Marla va faire pour retrouver Geneviève, qui sème le désordre dans sa vie, et cela à cause de ce qu'on lui a fait dans le passé. Elle est mentaliste, mais plus encore puisqu'elle peut mêler rêve et réalité, ce qui s'avère être extrêmement dangereux, surtout quand la population ignore l'existence des sorciers... Il va donc falloir à Marla de faire profil bas et de régler cette affaire d'une manière ou d'une autre pour protéger sa ville et pour ça, elle est prête à tout. Après tout, n'est-elle pas la sorcière la plus puissante et le chef de la ville de Felpport ? J'ai préféré ce tome là au précédent où l'intrigue est plus complexe et recherchée. Toute cette histoire autour des rêves, de la réalité altérées et de la ville « en danger ». c'était vraiment excellent et l'auteur a su relancer l'intrigue, en mêlant divers problèmes en même temps, si bien que l'on ne s'ennuie pas un seul instant (en même temps, avec le simple personnage de Marla, difficile de s'ennuyer, comme elle le dit elle-même).

L'écriture de l'auteur est fluide, agréable à lire. Et même si c'est écrit à la 3e personne, et que Marla est le personnage principal, on n'est pas uniquement centré sur elle. On a également deux autres groupes qui nous permettent d'avoir une vision d'ensemble beaucoup plus large et de voir ce que les « méchants » préparent et pourquoi ils le font. Et c'est l'avantage d'un texte avec ce type de narration là, car nous, lecteur savons des choses, enfin... c'est ce que l'auteur veut nous faire penser. Evidemment, il sait nous mener en bateau et nous cacher des informations jusqu'à ce qu'on arrive vers la fin et que là, la vérité éclate, nous surprenant encore et toujours.

Je dois dire que Marla m'avait manqué, ainsi que ses sarcasmes et sa manière d'être. J'aime énormément ce personnage, on ne s'ennuie pas un seul instant avec elle. Dans ce tome, on découvre un autre aspect de sa personnalité, et cela avec le charmeur avec qui elle va devoir collaborer pour faire régner l'ordre dans sa ville, mais aussi lors de négociation avec les autres sorciers. La vie privée de Marla est ainsi évoquée, nous montrant qu'elle n'est pas seulement une sorcière puissante, mais également une femme qui peut avoir des sentiments. Mais cet aspect là, ne prend pas toute la place dans l'intrigue, ça ne l'écrase pas, donc c'est d'autant plus agréable parce que ça ne devient pas niais ou autre. A la limite, on est content pour elle, qu'elle puisse enfin avoir une vie et quelqu'un à ses côtés.

Rondeau, que j'avais beaucoup apprécié dans le premier tome, est un peu plus effacé dans ce tome-là, ce que je trouve dommage, néanmoins il est quelque peu remplacé par de nouveau personnage, comme Joshua, le fameux charmeur qui pourrait bien changer la vie de Marla et par bien des façons. On découvre aussi davantage les autres sorciers qui sont sous la « direction » de Marla, ils sont tous mobilisés puisque la ville est en danger et qu'il faut trouver une solution pour mettre la main sur Geneviève et cela rapidement. Je m'attendais à retrouver certains personnages dans ce tome, étant donné la fin du précédent, mais ça n'a pas été le cas... je suis certaine qu'on les retrouvera dans le prochain, créant ainsi de gros problèmes.

En bref, ce 2e tome est vraiment excellent, avec une intrigue qui tient bien la route, des personnages toujours aussi attachants et intéressants. L'univers de T.A. Pratt est riche et intéressant. On y voit de plus en plus la « politique des sorciers », les complots qui peuvent exister et les desseins de chaque personnage. On voit que Marla a encore du boulot devant elle et que pour garder sa place en tant que chef de la ville de Felport, il va falloir s'armer sérieusement et qu'il ne faut pas baisser sa garde, car les ennemis ne sont jamais très loin.

Lightreads says

Urban fantasy with endlessly creative magic and a badass heroine who is not fetishized or slut-shamed for her bisexuality or her kinkiness, and an overarching plot about rape recovery that is only a little bit hamfisted.

Yeah, don't get excited. Because it was also so boring. *So boring*. So boring I was kind of rooting for the emo assassin to finish off the protagonist at the halfway point, because then it would be over. So boring I don't even care enough to figure out why.

And this is me, so that's pretty damn boring.

Jay Daze says

Prepare yourselves, I will be complaining about the end of the book, that is why I've checked the spoiler box.

I felt pretty conflicted about Marla Mason as a main character all the way through Poison Sleep. It is not that I have to like her. There are times that I admired her cool ruthless manner. Here was a female character that didn't bend or compromise for the reader. Marla isn't gonna beg for you to like her. Yet at the same time I

found it difficult to care about any of the characters, to take an interest in what happened to any of them - except maybe disgraced teacher, now personal assistant Ted. As the action picked up this sort of fell away and I got over my diffidence. Stuff was happening and it was pretty interesting: there is a god-like woman who can literally bend the shape of reality - who is crazy and is manifesting her nightmares on the streets of Felport.

But then I got to the end. I'd been having trouble with the lovetalker thing. Joshua is a fellow who makes everyone fall in love with him. Marla - smart Marla - knows this and knows if she fucks him she is completely under his spell. So what does she do? She hires him, spends lots of time with him and fucks him. Did I mention that Marla is supposed to be intelligent and someone who likes to be in control and not mind fucked by a pretty boy? (Yes, I guess this could be her character flaw. She was with a succubus last, but all through the novel I was just thinking of how much an idiot she was, one with no self-awareness. Yes, I guess this could be Mr. Pratt being all smart and deep, but this was where I could just not relate or sympathize with Marla.) I guess this is a switched gender femme fatale thing but it comes off as a creepy willing surrender. It bothered throughout the book but comes to a head at the end.

It seemed pretty obvious to me when the possibility of a spy in Marla's camp came up that **spoiler** Joshua was going to be the spy. And he was. So for the coda after the big baddie is defeated, Marla still loves Joshua like crazy, watches him stab poor plain helpful Ted to death and then snaps his neck **after** the stabbing cause lovetalker-boy threatened her beloved city. A resolution that is waaaaay too much like getting between Jim Kirk and his beloved Enterprise - it was dumb on the original Star Trek, is is dumb and lame in this book.

Up until this really disappointing ending I would have said the book was alright, but being able to resist Joshua's magic love powers because she loved her city even more knocked my respect for the book down many many many levels. I hated the lovetalker and hated Marla's bogus ability to resist the magic seduction even more. I sentence Tim to a thousand reruns of Kirk and his love affair with his Enterprise.

(That said I've loved a lot of his short stories and might even try further books in this series - since I did buy all of them together - second hand.)

Stephanie Griffin says

POISON SLEEP is the second book in the Marla Mason urban fantasy series, and it's almost as good as the first. I would give it 4.5 stars out of 5.

The imaginative world that Marla lives in just gets more interesting with the addition of a dreamworld that people are falling in and out of. This dreamworld belongs to one woman, Genevieve, who is an escaped patient from the Blackwing Institute for criminally insane sorcerers. Marla must stop Genevieve before her dreamworld touches too many people, and brings the city of Felport to ruin.

The fantasy elements are superbly drawn, and the characters have actual character, although a longer book wouldn't have hurt in order to examine them more thoroughly. Marla isn't my favorite heroine, she swears too much among other things, but once I get past those unnecessary elements of the story I really enjoy the fast pace of the action.

If you liked BLOOD ENGINES, you will like POISON SLEEP. I'm looking forward to book #3 – DEAD

REIGN!
~Stephanie

Denzi says

(copied from my amazon.com review)

I had some issues with "Blood Engines," the first Marla Mason book. While the plot was interesting and kept me guessing, I found the characters and writing style very flat. I am fairly certain that if I hadn't started with the prequel, "Bone Shop," I never would have picked up "Poison Sleep."

And that would have been a shame, because I really enjoyed "Poison Sleep." The title character is still a nonsense, ass-kicking thug of a magical city manager, but she seems to have actual feelings and thoughts beyond that one-note character description. Some of this may be due to the early introduction of a "beautiful boy"--a man with the magical ability to wind anyone and everyone around his little finger, definitely including Marla. Some of it may be growth in the author's writing. And some of it may be that "Poison Sleep" is more of a "howdunnit" than a "whodunnit."

T.A. Pratt's penchant for alternating points of views is a weak writing choice and often unnecessary, but it does mean that we understand the villain(s)' motivations and plans early on in the story. If we assume (as I always tend to) that the main character will win out in the end, speculation turns towards how Marla will figure things out and fix the mess. In fact, in this book, the few "whodunnit"-style mysteries that Pratt leaves for big reveals are obvious and flat, while the rest of the magical procedural is hard to put down.

The one other major problem with "Poison Sleep" is that a large part of the plot revolves around a magical young woman whose mind was fractured due to a rape in her youth. Pratt's take is just as cliched and nearly as insensitive as any other pseudo-psych, "rape makes characters more *interesting*" tripe prevalent in urban fantasy.

That said, I still raced through "Poison Sleep" in a three hour marathon session, and found myself itching to pick up the next book in the series. If Pratt continues improving at the rate he's been going so far, book three will be fantastic and book four will blow my mind.

Felicia says

Ok, so THIS is why it's good to give series that don't TOTALLY hook you a second shot. I really really really loved this second book in the series. The characters were more developed and the whole book felt more coherent and well put together on EVERY level. I really enjoyed the world immensely, and the characters were so interesting. I enjoy a female character who can function properly and doesn't have to have abandonment issues or past abuse she's whining about (which a lot of vaginal-urban-fantasy tend to have lately). Men AND women will enjoy this world, so if you like Jim Butcher OR the more lady-ish stuff I'd give this a shot.

This was just fun. I'm eager to read book #3!

Michael says

The second book in the Marla Mason series does exactly what a sequel should do: it builds upon the world, raises the stakes slightly, and maintains all of the elements the first volume had going for it.

In this volume, Marla Mason, chief sorcerer of Felport, is dealing with several simultaneous threats, all of which are developed into an interesting aspect of the story. She's being hunted by a slow assassin, trained to kill his targets slowly and horribly over a long period of time. The city Marla runs is also being threatened by a sorceress who has escaped from an asylum, and the sorceress's bizarre dreams are beginning to mesh with the reality of Felport. On top of these two problems, Marla has two new hirees, neither of who have much experience with the magical world.

Hilarity ensues.

There are lots of good things I can say about this series. It's fast-paced, but it's also witty and complex. It's very funny, and Pratt borrows from many different myths and spiritual systems in developing the magic of his world. According to Marla, "Everything works," from voodoo to necromancy to love potions to chaos magic, and everything in between. *Poison Sleep* is happy pagan fun time.

I'm very disappointed to learn Pratt's series was dropped by his publisher after the fourth volume. Well, at least Marla and I can have a couple more adventures. In the meantime, perhaps the series will be picked up by another publisher. I can't believe that, with all the crappy looking urban fantasy out there, this series wouldn't have enough of a following to keep it in print.

Matt says

'*Poison Sleep*' was a fun adventure story with simple ambitions that it largely met. It's told in the mystery novel style, but there isn't a lot of detective work involved and the twists probably won't come as any surprise. The story suffers somewhat from an unnecessary hipness, but the middle portion of the story where the author focuses on the faerie tale aspects of his narrative are quite good. Most of the characters are shallow, but are generally likable and filled with suitable promise of heroic destiny. However, there is a certain lack of native cunning to their plans which results too often in things falling apart for completely predictable reasons. You are never surprised by the characters, nor instilled with a feeling that they are smarter - and save for their magical prowess - more capable than you are. My biggest complaint with the characters is with the protagonist, who really suffers from the lack of a schtick. At the very least she needs to be, "blows up stuff good", but for all that she's supposed to be a powerful sorceress she comes off as helpless without her nifty cloak and dagger toys. All the minor characters are far more interesting and would be far more interesting in the lead role.

But the single biggest problem with the story is the ending, which - not to give away too many spoilers - turns the whole book into a zero sum episode suitable for a network TV series. The characters don't grow or deepen in any way, even in relation to each other, and save for the rescued damsel in distress and the mounting pile of corpses scarcely change. It's pretty safe to say that whatever character development transpires, it will have no bearing at all on the next book in the series. For me, it is enough to drop the story

from three stars down to two.

Still, worth your time if you are a fan of this sort of thing.

Mortalform says

"So? It just takes a combination of skill and a whole lot of practice. I mean, you can't give a random guy on the street a scalpel and expect him to perform brain surgery successfully, but we don't say brain surgeons are magical, even though there are some people who could *never* do that job successfully, no matter how much they practiced. Some people are born with perfect pitch, and that's not something you can *learn*, but we don't say it's 'magical'. The stuff I do, that people like me do... it's a way of changing the world. A way of messing with the root commands of the universe. We call it sorcery because that's a useful catchall term. There's a lot of it we don't understand ourselves. Some of us consort with gods and demons, but if you'd rather call them extra-dimensional aliens, you're welcome to. It's not any more or less accurate. And so what if some of the acts we perform seem dependant on the will of the magician or some inborn capability?" p149

"If it happens, it's part of the natural world, Ted. There's nothing in the universe that *isn't* natural. We say 'supernatural,' but that's not exactly what we *mean*. Think of it like light. There's a visible spectrum that people can see. But there's light at both ends of the spectrum that we can't see naturally. That doesn't mean that the infrared and ultraviolet parts of the spectrum are *unnatural*. Humans are pretty stupid, Ted. We have a nasty tendency to assume our own limitations are somehow the limitations of the universe. That's one of the first prejudices sorcerers have to overcome. " p 150

Alex says

SO much better than the first book in the series, and a good entry point to the series as far as I can tell.

Antonio Diaz says

Marla Mason vuelve a la carga. Esta novela es una continuación de la anterior, en el sentido de que ocurre después temporalmente de la primera 'Blood Engines'. Aunque apenas hay algunas referencias a esa primera novela, hay que decir que hay varias menciones a su final. Esta es una novela independiente, y teniendo en cuenta como acaba, estoy segura de que un lector casual podría empezar por la tercera o la cuarta sin ningún problema.

La pega habitual en los casos de series de novelas independientes es la redundancia en las explicaciones. Como el autor tiene que asumir que quizá el lector tenga en este libro su primera experiencia con el 'Marlaverse', tiene que presentar de nuevo personajes, escenarios y sistemas de magia. Esto se suele hacer bastante cansino para el seguidor habitual, pero Pratt consigue hacerlo con un mínimo de páginas y casi casi ni se nota.

Lo mejor de la novela sigue siendo Marla. La brute-force-o-mancer se maneja como un elefante en una cristalería, más preocupada por llegar a los sitios que por la delicadeza necesaria para realizar ciertas maniobras. Hamil, su consigliere, es un interesante contraste, al ser un mago especializado en la sutilidad. La

aparición de Joshua Kindler, un futurible empleado de Marla con la habilidad de seducir a cualquiera (hombre o mujer) para echar un cable en el departamento diplomático me parece muy inteligente.

Se echa de menos a Rondeau, el ayudante y mano derecha de Marla, que aunque está presente en la novela tiene muchísimo menos protagonismo que en 'Blood Engines' y esos diálogos tan chispeantes entre ellos dos casi han desaparecido.

El único problema que le he encontrado al libro es que le he visto las cuerdas al titiritero. Hay ciertas escenas y desarrollo de los acontecimientos absolutamente predecibles, y aunque es un viaje dulce, personalmente me amarga un poco la experiencia saber cuál es el destino.

Los nuevos tipos de magia que se presentan siguen siendo frescos e interesantes, y conocer por fin a los habitantes de Felport (ausentes en la primera novela, que se desarrollaba en San Francisco), ha sido magnífico. Ya se indica el quién-es-quién y se empiezan a presentar los equilibrios de poder. Pratt se ha guardado unos cuantos cartuchos en la recámara, así que interesará saber qué le deparará a Marla en el futuro.

Aunque el primer libro me gustó más, porque considero la trama más redonda (y tenía más elementos flotando y siendo intercalados brillantemente), este libro gana al estar ambientado en la ciudad de la que Marla es gobernante.

En resumen, si te gustó el primero te gustará este, pues tiene todos los ingredientes del primero, con suficientes novedades para mantenerte interesado.

Yo desde luego seguiré disfrutando, que con todos las novelas y relatos que tiene publicados Pratt sobre ella (acaba de terminar el Kickstarter para la novena novela), tenemos Marla para rato.

Samantha wickedshizuku Tolleson says

Holy \$h!t-balls this series just got freakishly good!

I was a bit perturbed by Marla in the book, but I realized that she is doomed from the get-go for any type of romance. That and she has the same type of outlook on having a romp that I do. My life shouldn't center around it all of the time, and I certainly don't want to read about it either.

I also liked that Marla was back on her home turf. The first book was just completely odd and unique in that aspect, but if you really want to start this series then start with Bone Shop. It's a prequel to the first one.

Hope everyone enjoys this.

Andrew says

I wrote a fairly bitchy review of the first Marla Mason book, but the series was re-recommended (and I had a long airplane flight) so I tried the second one. It works better -- but still scrapes against my tastes in unfortunate ways.

As friends have opined, Marla comes off better on her home turf, where she is the generally-aggravated but not-usually-sociopathic gang leader for a gang of powerful magicians who would all be worse for civilization

than she is. Also, she interacts with very few muggles in this book (the one who is a major character, she is completely fair with). I don't mind so much when she is vindictive and mighty-makes-righty towards other sorcerers, because that's clearly their social norm.

So my problem has been clarified: I get very little sense of Marla caring about anybody or anything. (See earlier reviews about the brutal-hero thing.) Story events try to demonstrate it -- she cares about her assistants, she cares about her city, these are crucial plot points -- but each time it feels out of place with the narration. We are told that she kills only as a last resort, and my response is "really? uh, I guess." Maybe this is on purpose; not all of the characters in the book buy it either.

I think it's a ground-level stylistic thing, really. The author is doing third-person intimate without the intimacy -- at least, that's how it comes across to me. No doubt fans would say she's doing it without the wallowing in angst and maudlinry. (I just started the thirteenth-ish Weather Warden book, so clearly I have no claim to restraint or subtlety.)

Anyhow, the fireworks are exciting enough (this book has assassins, treason, an excellent secretary, and an insane universe-warping dream-weaver on the loose) that I am willing to keep on with the series and see where it goes.

Isaac says

Disclaimer: I've been marathoning this series, so some impressions may be flawed, and this review a little weak.

Poison Sleep is the second book in the series, and picks up right after the first. I'm not sure if it's specifically the result of the publishing deal, or if this arc was conceived as a whole, but the early books all form a cohesive work.

As such, if you haven't read the first book, I'd recommend you stop now and go read it. While the Marla Mason books *can* be read individually, they greatly benefit from being read in consecutive order. For best results, I recommend reading in story timeline, but that does engage in some spoilers and inconsistent writing style as T.A. Pratt jumps a little in the short stories.

Also, the city, *Marla's city*, makes its first mainline novel appearance here (in other words, you've already met it if you've been reading the prequels and short stories as recommended above). Felport is a character in itself, a Platonic ideal of the post-industrial East Coast city. It could be Camden, Bridgeport, New Bedford. I vaguely remember it being somewhere near Baltimore, but it doesn't really matter. Felport is a fecund ground of power and depth, where the humans echo the city, and fight to live in dirt, grime and honesty.

There's a lot of symbology in the Marla Mason books, and it's shown here. We see the city both from within and without Marla's eyes, and there's a lot of similarity. How much is one shaping the other? How much is the magic and how much illusion? That's left to the reader to decide. Marla is slowly becoming a more... positive person, and so is the city.

Which of course, means it's prime time for disruption. Once again, Marla is torn between both sides, and so is the city. There is an external threat that serves as the a-plot, and an internal threat that serves as the true

narrative — and they frequently exchange sides. In this gray and grey morality, no one is without sin, and everyone is playing Batman, even if it's in their own head.

The character of Gwendolyn is a key part of this. She is both threat and martyr. A power and a damsel. Marla defines herself in terms of what Gwendolyn is not, and finds where her perspective limits her virtues. One of the common re-occurring themes of these novels is that the protagonist is *not* a good person, and routinely makes her own life more difficult by unconsciously rejecting morally good, if perceptually weak acts. Her rejection of kindness makes her hard. Once again, see the city itself.

All of this praise aside, this is still not quite the read that the next book becomes. The formula's there, but needs some tweaking. Some of the characters exist purely to be a plot device, or allow Marla to be 'better than'. Still, there are definitely some interesting plot twists, and a lot more polish in the writing. Read it, and then go on to book 3, *Dead Reign*.

Brooke says

Poison Sleep is a fantastic second book in a series. I really enjoyed *Blood Engines* (Book 1), but *Poison Sleep* takes the cake! Fantastic story, amazing plot, the characters are likeable and interesting. The dream reweaver was a new paranormal power (for me), and Pratt pulled it off quite nicely by mixing up the dream world and the nightmare world. As always Rondeau, Marla's partner, is hilarious and adds a touch of lightheartedness to any situation, well, when he's not freaking out.

The addition of the two new characters: Ted, the assistant, and Joshua, the lovetalker, didn't feel rushed or pushed upon me as a reader. It felt like a natural progression for Marla to hire them on as a part of her team. Ted and Marla really worked well together, and even though I was a little disappointed with the outcome, it didn't make or break the story. The sweet, sensual, hypnotic lovetalker is well, seductive times 10 million. It was nice to see Marla be vulnerable to someone for once, because she is usually very strong willed and independent.

The choices for the antagonists were clever, especially Z (Zealand), because the mentally ill sorcerer, Genevieve, looks to him for protection and gives him a creepy power in order to do so. I will say that having their POVs to read through was very insightful. It's always nice to take a peek inside the head of the bad guys.

T.A. Pratt is on the path to having a really exciting and successful new series in the Urban Fantasy world. It's great to get a male's perspective, since the genre is dominated by females. If you are into magic, great plot, edge of your seat action, and maybe a little romance tossed in, you must check out this series!

I must also give props to Dan Santos the AMAZING cover artist for the Marla Mason series, as well as many other books out there. Please check out his website!
