



Dark Mercy

Zoe Winters

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1955, Las Vegas, Nevada

Angeline has been on the run from her sire, Linus, for centuries. She's tired, and she's lonely. High from mescaline-induced blood, she sees a sign—a church that seems to glow in the distance—and she knows. Her future mate is in that building.

Important Author's Note:

Dark Mercy is the beginning of Hadrian and Angeline's story, not the end. Their HEA will happen later in their own full-length novel. This story is important both for the overall series and for this couple, but it's not their HEA. Just a mild disclaimer so no one goes in with false expectations for this story.

Dark Mercy Details

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Author : Zoe Winters

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From Reader Review Dark Mercy for online ebook

Monique says

Originally reviewed at AsianCocoa's Secret Garden

Dark Mercy was an incredibly engaging story with a noble sexy priest, and an evil bitchy vampire. Even though this was only 76 pages long it was so full of events and details that it didn't really read like a novella.

Father Hadrian is the priest that Angeline has decided to turn into her mate. There's a sense of darkness to Hadrian that Angeline finds intriguing. She has been alone for years and when she meets Hadrian she feels a kinship towards him. This story was heavy with Catholicism which added rich details to the characters' story line. There's a brilliant cliff-hanger ending that was cruel for the character as well as the reader. I enjoyed the twists that occurred in Dark Mercy and am looking forward to reading the rest of Hadrian and Angeline's story.

Petra says

<http://hazelthewitch.blogspot.com/201...>

One word that comes to my mind when I think about this novella: sinister. It might be the setting, because Las Vegas is just creepy (for me anyway), or the combination of a church with the twisted thoughts of the Father. Or all of it together. So if you like dark stories, this is something for you. :)

This story introduces us to the world of Angeline, half demon/vampire and half human, and Father Hadrian. Another character, Tamara, joins them soon. To be honest, Tamara is the most interesting character for me and I'm super curious who she really is and what is her story. Other thing I find quite interesting is the unique way of how Christians see the afterlife in this story. Very unusual.

This is light erotica, which is not usually my cup of tea, but the paranormal twist makes the story enjoyable for me. All in all I think the author managed to turn this novella into an intriguing introduction to the world of Angeline, Hadrian, and Tamara and that readers will want more.

Maghon Thomas says

I was thinking that this was going to be a typical vampire book-you know, blah, blah, I wanna kill people for their blood, and oh, woe is me, blah- hahahaha, but NO! First, it's told mostly from Angeline's point of view, and she is struggling with the fact that she still has "human" thought, but is a "monster". She is just looking for companionship, and even though she goes about it the wrong way, I still feel bad for her. I'm not sure if it's due to her bad turning, terrible sire, or the fact that she's just so lonely. And then we get a look into the priest, Father Hadrian. I am thinking I am definitely going to like him in the future, as he is going through some tough things in this story. He's pissed that he's a monster, and torn from his vows, and then decides

that he can use his powers to “save” people. Now, by saving, you may not be thinking of the same thing that he is thinking.

This is the short, fast, beginning of these two, and I have a feeling that this story line can turn into some great drama, as well as some of the coolest characters. I am very, very interested to see if Tam will be in the picture for the next round, and I cannot wait to see what Father Hadrian is going to do with his new found glory. However, with the ending that this book has, I have NO IDEA where the author is going to take us... So, I'll jump on and hang on along for the ride

Proserpine says

I liked:

First of all the characters: Angeline seems to be a fairly shy and nice girl, the kind of woman that you trust at first sight, but she hides a black heart filled with pain, resentment and even fear. This character was quite hypnotic and her quest was almost honorable, but the problem is that she does not realize the implications of her actions and the consequences are enormous! Yes, I like the fact that nothing goes as she want!

Hadrian is a priest (Oh yeah, I want to know more) who seems to live the life he desire. His description: Tall, sexy, handsome, and he want to save as many people as possible. His past isn't really explained in this book, but he seems to be the perfect gentleman mixed with the perfect savior of mankind! Perfect challenge for the perfect Angeline and vice versa!

This story in general wasn't something I never read (even if the "priest" thing is unusual) but I like the way the author turn everything upside down! Everything I thought would happen didn't or ended up with a twist.

What I, liked most:

The end was surprising: I didn't expect this kind of fate, but I like being surprised and it made me love this story even more!

I loved how the author, Zoe Winters " played" with her characters! The scenes were well described and I was always drawn to the action and the characters.

"Didn't like"

I would have liked more information on our two main characters, but since it's a short story, Zoe Winters didn't put the emphasis on that.

I would have loved to know more about Linus! Jeez, this character is mysterious and really sadistic! (I love the preview of this monster).

The fact that it was a short story, Hadrian is a very interesting character and I just can't wait to see what his life would look like now.

I recommend this book, I enjoy the entire story and paranormal lovers will like this one: if you are and Happy ending freak, maybe this one isn't for you, but you should try it anyway!

Shelby Young (The Haunted Rose) says

Cover Thoughts-

I don't really get how the cover matches the book. It's a nice scenery but I would just want something more eye catching. But hey, it matches my blog design.:P

First Thought-

Vampires! My favorite of all supernatural creatures! :) Hopefully it's not unoriginal.

What I liked-

This is going to sound bad but I loved the ending. It's a sad ending too. I wanted to cry and yell Hadrian! All Angeline wants is to fill the emptiness in her heart. The ending will blow you away! My favorite scene is the one where the girl Hadrian fed off of appears again and Angeline realizes she isn't dead. It left me with so many questions and I really must read more of the story!

What I disliked-

Nothing really. The story was okay. It wasn't the best but I don't have any complaints.

Overall Readability-

It was a dark little story that I could almost see myself telling over a campfire. It was fast and easy to get into. I recommend this to all vampire lovers so you can see the darker side of vampiric nature.

My Final Thought-

Ohmigosh! That was such a sad ending! What's the full length novel? I must know!

5 out of 5 Haunted Roses

blog review is located- <http://thehauntedrose.blogspot.com/20...>

Megan says

This was a great short story about Angeline and Father Hadrian set in the Preternatural world. Father Hadrian was introduced in the third Preternatural book, The Catalyst, and was intriguing to say the least. I was pleasantly surprised when I realized Dark Mercy featured the story of his making. After this short introduction to Angeline and Hadrian I am excited to see what is to come. Both characters are dynamic and their religious backgrounds add to their allure. I'm glad Winters let us know that this is not the end for them. The ending was intense and left me with a lot of unresolved feelings. Can't wait to read the rest of their story!

Silvia says

This review was originally posted on my blog, Darkest Sins.

Forgive me, Father, for I'm about to sin... I'm going to crush on Father Adrian even more than you could ever think... After all my blog is called Darkest Sins, I think a crush like that is sinfully appropriate, isn't it?

As the author's note says, "Dark Mercy" is the beginning of Hadrian and Angeline's story, that means you

don't have to expect a HEA here. Now, am I the only one who enjoys a non-HEA when she finds one? Because I have to say this, despite the fact that I'm thrilled I will be able to read more about those gorgeous characters and their story, I thought that if only this was a full-length novel, the finale would have been a hell of a great one! Don't get me wrong, I love HEA (who doesn't, right?), but when I find a dark story like this one, I love the unexpected even more than usual, and if the events turn out to be different from my expectations (and even more exciting), I can only be a very happy reader.

"Dark Mercy" has a special overwhelming charm that makes you curious from the very beginning and in the end leaves you think about a possible dark side that everyone could have inside... You got it, woah if this story is not one to read!

Katherine McCarthy says

My Thoughts

Dark Mercy is a short story in the Preternaturals series that nicely sets the stage for the full-length novel to come. As the author states, the story is important for the characters and their situation. Which, by the way, is a situation that is completely unique and not one I've ever read about before. So if you're looking for something different, this is it!

About the Characters...

Angeline is quite a tempestuous character. She's fiery, temperamental and well, maybe even a bit neurotic. However, I liked her. She has not had an easy time of being a vampire and she showed enough vulnerability to arouse compassion.

Hadrian is the hero in this story. He's conflicted like no other hero I've ever read about. You'll have to read the story to find out what I mean by that because to say more will be going into spoiler territory. He's kind-hearted but is definitely no pushover. And he does have a bit of a dark side that makes him attractive. He and Angeline make quite a couple and I cannot wait for their HEA to come out.

Bottom Line

This is a novel that any lover of steamy Paranormal Romance will not want to miss out on! It's a great short story even without the HEA and I'd recommend reading it.

I've read the first book in Winter's Preternaturals series, Blood Lust, last year. Which was awesome. I rated it 5 stars. I plan to soon read #2: Save My Soul and #3: The Catalyst that was just released. In fact, how's this for timing my lovelies, this week only, there's a huge sale on all three of the Preternaturals novels.

Blood Lust is 99 cents,
Save my Soul is 99 cents and
The Catalyst is \$2.99

This is fate, yes?
Happy Reading!!

Kelly says

If I hadn't read the author's note beforehand and known that this book doesn't give us a HEA, I probably would have been aghast at this ending. It's dark and not very pretty but there is some great setup for Hadrian and Angeline's story to come. I can only imagine the many different paths Zoe Winters can take us on with the information she's given us here. It's going to be fun. And hopefully dirty.

I like both of those things.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Sophia says

I was intrigued by the blurb on this novella and mistakenly thought that I was reading a prequel to a series when really I was reading a book somewhere in the middle. My mistake didn't cost me thankfully as the story didn't reference anything, but the immediate character's pasts.

The story begins when a lonely female vampire determines that a priest is her fated mate (granted she was high at the time). She visits his midnight mass for months and continues to like what she sees. The priest is torn between liking what he sees and following his calling. But in the work of one night, Angeline, entralls her priest, Hadrian and makes him vampire thinking to make him her own, but Hadrian is more than he seems. He comes through the transformation not a bloodthirsty monster held in Angeline's control, but a sentient being with his own plans. Hadrian is determined to retain the good in himself even if Angeline's actions took his life and forced him to start anew.

In truth this one is a prequel of sorts because it introduces the dark, tortured Angeline and the strong good Hadrian, but leaves things very open at the end for what is to come next. It has a gothic tone to it and is devoid of romance with just the physical attraction between Angeline and Hadrian. There is the presence of another being that will probably get her own story later too.

This one should be thought of as a teaser or introduction more than a complete story. I'm intrigued enough to want to go back and begin at the beginning with this series and work my way through.

Sara says

Dark Mercy marks the first Vampire book I have read in over 15 years. Being a fan of Anne Rice I have not found another author who could write a sophisticated Vampire who drew me in enough to read a chapter, let alone a full book.

The words Dichotomy and Etymology come to mind instantly with this story; Angeline whose name means "Angel" and Father Hadrian whose name means "Dark One" is just one example. The relationship between these two is amazing. Told from the POV of both Angeline and Father Hadrian you get the entire story and I appreciate that.

"God didn't want her anymore. Well fine, fuck him anyway. She'd carried this anger for a long time now, and yet, she stubbornly kept the rosary, carrying it around with her like a tarnished ticket to heaven."

"He'd seen human nature in all it's intriguing, delightful, and disappointing forms, but this woman a was study in contrasts he couldn't quite unravel."

Dark Mercy is a wonderful, dark introduction to Angeline and *Father Hadrians* story. It does not lead you down the obvious path; there are a few twists and turns that I did not expect and that does not include the ending.

I could not have picked a better story to reintroduce myself into the world of Vampires. Zoe Winters has the skill to weave a story and keep you glued to the page. She also has the great ability to give this reader a total crush on Father Hadrian and a new type of collar fetish.

I cannot wait to read their full book!

Michelle says

Today is my stop in the *Dark Mercy* Book Tour hosted by Dark Minds Book Tours

Dark Mercy is a quick read, but one that is packed full of page turning greatness. *Dark Mercy* introduces us to Angeline, half demon half human, and Hadrian, a human priest that Angeline has set her eyes and heart on. Later on we are also introduced to Tamara who also plays a key role in this duos story.

I knew going into *Dark Mercy* that it was going to be a short story, and as the author points out, wont end with a 'Happy Ever After'. But even after all of this i still found myself enjoying *Dark Mercy* and wanted to find out what was going to happen, not only to Angeline, but also Hadrian. When a new character, Tamara, is brought into the mix it was interesting how she reacted to Hadrian and Angeline. The characters were realistic and the description used to describe not only their mannerisms, but also the city these event take place made it easy to imagine everything that was going on.

When the story progresses we get to see a different side to both characters. Hadrian has a dark and controlling side to him and this shows in his displeasure at what Angeline has done, and even after she confesses and says she wanted him as a mate and someone to love, he still disregards her feelings and walks away and leaves her. I did feel sorry for Angeline though. I didn't like the way she went about things very secretive, but I don't think she deserved to get treated the way she is by Hadrian.

Zoe has done a great job of getting me interested in these characters and their world and I really need to know what happens next to them. Anyone looking for a quick read should check out *Dark Mercy*.

L.E.Olteano says

I'm tempted to say short and sweet, except it's not quite sweet, this is more of a bada\$\$ read. Short and dark, definitely. I'm all for dark generally, as you know.

For me this read split into two different parts, basically. The first half or so of it was, for me, a 5/5 read. Great tone, vivid writing, lovely imagery and scene building, it was all awesome. The second part of it was, for some reason, less entertaining despite the fact the real pulp of it if you will is exactly in that part of the read. The turning point was probably the altar scene, and I'm not commenting any further so I won't spoil your read when you give this a try. Sufficient to say if you're sensitive about church stuff, you shouldn't really read this, that's my honest opinion.

As you guys know, I'm not a church fan or anything, not a religious zealot or whatever for any religion. I'm big on God, not big at all on church. I generally dislike any religious content in any reads, I just don't roll with it well. This is a clear part of my Review Policy for a reason. But I was willing to give this a try despite that, just because of that awesome start. Despite my reluctance, it wasn't the church related content that triggered my wavering interest, but the nature of the chemistry between Hadrian and Angeline. It was really awesome chemistry for the first half or so of the read, I was basically riveted. But then when they actually began to interact it lost me.

I really liked Angeline as a POV, however Hadrian was not doing anything for me for a while there, and towards the end there he began to actually step on my nerves. I guess for some he'll be this really hardcore vigilante sort of churchy dude, I don't know. To me he read somewhat extreme and not in the good way. I think Hadrian is the sort of wildcard character, you're either going to totally be Team Hadrian or sort of dislike him as the read goes on, like it happened to me. It's not the fact that he became sort of hardcore that had me losing interest, but the way he exercised his new found strength. I can't really talk about this more or I'll give you spoilers, I'm just saying that Hadrian was cool for me up to the "worthy or not" point. That's where he lost me completely.

Overall the writing was good, though as a personal preference jumping POV is not that hot. It's more insightful, I know, but it can backfire, and it sort of did for me here. But if you like vampire stories, dark (to sinister) reads and some churchy-flavored things mixed in your reads, including worth-of-saving vigilantes sort of hints, then this will be a treat.

butterfly-o-Meter Books

Shah Wharton says

3.5/5

This novella is the introduction to a couple of vampires - drawn to one another - who become enemies. However, they were not always vampires.

Angeline fell for and seduced a priest. A hot priest, of course :) However, this holy man turned the tables on her plans to 'turn' him into her vampire lover, so that he was not to be the darling, submissive and loving pet, she'd longed for. Cleverly, he flipped a magical switch and although he was originally drawn to her sexually,

he saw things quite differently once he'd returned from the clutches of death, a 'new' vampire, holy-man.

He set about his plan of vengeance on Angeline, and of righteous pay-back on the sinful in his community. Once a useless 'man-of-the-cloth' without power to change things, now a holy, sin-kicking vampire with a cause: to rid the planet of those who will not repent, while brainwashing those who wish to repent, into living better lives. I enjoyed this twist. Certainly, it is original to my knowledge. Apart from Priest: The Movie (but that was different - check my review here). The Priest was a rebel and an ass-kicking dude, but he was a vampire slayer - clearly not the same.

I imagine if you're especially religious you may not enjoy this angle of the story. You've been warned :)

There was another much more interesting character I should mention - a strange and magical being who longs to die before another demon can kill her for her power, and use it in awful ways. Trouble is, no one but this demon seems strong enough to fully end her immortality. She was sad, sorrowful, but also radiated the strength of millennia.

So, for the heartbroken vampiress who lost her loving holy-man, the righteous preacher who has scores to settle, and for the sweet child lost in lingering life and pursued by a power-hungry demon on his path to destruction - Cheers Zoe. :)

Where I felt things let me down is more difficult to tell. I wanted to feel more attached to the characters, more invested in the romance, than I was. Nevertheless, this is only a novella and I think she packed in a lot of information and weaved a full web in such a short book, already. There was little room for more.

So there, you have it. Introduce yourself to this new series - see where the characters end up on their adventures. I wonder if the Holy-man and Angeline ever reunite or forgive one another? Mmm?

Vidya-BooksAreMagic says

Angeline is a centuries old vampire, who has lived lonely for years. She lost most traces of humanity, that she possessed when she was human and intended to be a nun. Her sire, Linus, who created Angeline, made sure of that. After so long, she was searching for a mate to ease her loneliness. She finds someone - Hadrian, a priest, who works to alleviate the pains of the sinned humans. Angeline wants Father Hadrian...

Excellent written Zoe! Hats off! Its a short novel of Angeline and Hadrian, but as the author has mentioned in her note in the book description, this is not their 'happily ever after'. So, I can't wait to read their full story. The world building and characterization is just great! If Zoe has tried to build an audience with this short novel, she is clearly doing a clean job..it really will attract the readers to read the full story of Angeline and Hadrian.

For such a short story, the author has done an amazing job of taking the readers to the world she built and scaring them. A new author to look forward to!
