



## Dance with the Devil

*Megan Derr*

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Even in a world of secrets and misfits, Chris stands apart, an unusual product of black magic that left him born half-ghost. Long used to being bullied and maligned for his strangeness, he spends his days helping the paranormals that everyone else forgets about.

But the people he hunts and the mysteries he solves take him along unusual paths, many of them dangerous. Chris has never been a fan of running from a fight—even the fight that takes him to the door of the most dangerous man in the city.

## Dance with the Devil Details

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Author : Megan Derr

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Mystery

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## From Reader Review Dance with the Devil for online ebook

### **Julio Genao says**

#### **Dislike.**

The structure robbed the romance of tension, but even more eyeball-hostile to me was the writing.

It was dull, and repetitious, with many errors, and cliches, and unfunny puns, and long chunks of infodumpy background on the very large array of paranormals.

In other words: I can see the overall appeal, but the macro problems with plot, style, and tone were compounded by painful lapses in micro, sentence-level execution.

Not much fun for someone like me, then.

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### **Tamara (?) says**

Great narration!

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### **DaisyGirl says**

4.0 Stars

This was an engrossing novel set in a world of demons, ghosts, imps, goblins, witches, werewolves, and vampires. Chris White is a paranormal detective who fearlessly investigates this supernatural world. A product of the Woods – the poorer district of the city – he and his partner, Doug, are dedicated to helping the underprivileged.

This story is not laid out in chronological order but rather pieced together through a sampling of the cases Chris and Doug have solved. First off, Megan Derr dives right in to the world. No set up or intro. Just bam! ... and there you are. Couple this with the lack of chronology and, in the beginning, things are confusing. But, I was never truly lost. Rather, Derr unfolds her tale by doling out cases like puzzle pieces. The overall effect is a wonderful story that comes together like a jigsaw.

I especially loved reading about Doug and Zach's story ... so sad but really sweet!

Bottom line: An incredibly entertaining read with one really HAWT demon lord. Recommended!

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### **Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says**

This was fantastic, I liked everything.

First of all, the structure. The story is told in episodes, following the cases of Chris' paranormal detective agency. The cases are not presented in chronological order, so we meet the characters at different stages of their lives, knowing less or more about them case after case. Sometimes it puzzles us, sometimes it makes us more curious, but we keep wanting more.

Second, the characters. Chris is the protagonist. He is half ghost, his dad is a ghost tied to his house, his mother is a witch who had to use black magic to conceive Chris. His partner in the agency is Doug, an imp, who can use powerful magic, but he's also gentle and a little bit insecure, since imps are considered like slaves in their world. Sable Brennus, the demon lord, is dark, powerful and sexy, and when Chris and Sable meet, sparkles fly. Then there's Phil, a new detective in the agency, and Zach, a fascinating vampire. There is not only Chris' point-of-view, but there are also the POV's of other characters, and page after page we are invested in their own stories. Chris and Sable's romance is very sexy, because Chris is proud, he comes from the poorest part of town, and being a half-demon, he had to endure a lot of bullying when he was a child. He is also generous and idealistic. Sable is possessive, powerful, but he's smitten with Chris, who can bring out his more playful side.

Third, the world building. As I said before, there are a lot of creatures, each with their rules and history. In few strokes the author can paint a whole species, without needing a lot of info dumping. The cases often deal with magical books and I adore these kinds of stories. Also the richness of the world gives a lot of opportunity to devise new stories. I could read them for days.

The mix of fantasy, romance, mystery is winning. Recommended!

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### **M says**

In a genre literally saturated with Gay Paranormal Investigators, this book stands a head and shoulders above most of the other, similar stuff I've read. It's funny and compelling, and the cast of characters is seriously great. Told in a series of brief vignettes which are not in chronological order, the non-linearity is pretty cool and lends a kind of freshness to the story. The touchy-feely romance is a bit overdone, so minus a half-star for that, but it's not so overwhelming that I enjoyed the story any less because of it. What I'd really like to know, though, is *why is this not a TV show yet?*

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### **Alisa says**

Chris is a paranormal detective. His mother is a black magic witch and his dad is a ghost which gives him unique talents. His side kick is an Imp named Doug. Together they work on cases for the paranormal community that they live in. Chris is also the consort of a demon lord.

I wasn't sure about this for about the first 30% due to how the story is told. It's done in a series of case file clips. Each chapter is a case that they have previously worked. They are not presented to us in chronological order and at first the flow bothered me. After I got used to it and got to know the characters I decided that it didn't bother me after all and I found myself enjoying it. I will definitely be reading the next in the series.

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## Kristen Burns says

### 3.5 Stars

#### **Review:**

\*I received an ecopy of this book from the publisher. This has not influenced my review.\*

This was a light, easy-to-read urban fantasy, just as the other books in this series have been (I started with Books 5 and 6), and I do mean that as a compliment. The writing was clear. The plot was uncomplicated. The characters were easy to like. It was just what I was looking for, something that would be enjoyable and that I'd be able to get immersed in despite my difficulty concentrating at the time.

That being said, the way the plot jumped in time between two storylines (past and present) confused me at first. I didn't pay attention to the case numbers that headed the chapters, so I didn't realize we had jumped into the past the first time and couldn't understand why the MC was suddenly acting like his lover was a stranger and why he said he'd never been in the casino even though he was just there when the book opened. Oops lol. Once I realized though, I ended up liking the way it jumped in time. It worked.

The plot was also unusual in that there was no single focus to it. The main character, Chris, was a detective, so we got to see him solving a few cases. We got to see the past when he first met his demon lover and his friend/business partner Doug. There were also chapters from Doug's POV because he had his own romance subplot. There were a couple parts from Phil's POV too, though I'm not sure what the point of that was, to be honest. And then the climax was just about a case in the present. But just like I didn't mind the jumping around, I didn't really mind the lack of singular focus either because it was all interesting and fun to read about.

As for the characters, they were so likeable! Chris was grumpy but good-hearted. Doug was good-natured. Sable was irresistible and surprisingly kind for a demon. This would've been a great group to have a whole series about, but alas, it's just this book since the rest of the series is about different characters.

I also liked the idea of a half-ghost/half-human and a storm demon. We should have more of those in books.

Overall, this was an enjoyable, uncomplicated, fluffy read with easily likeable characters!

#### **Recommended For:**

Anyone who likes M/M, paranormal/urban fantasy, likeable characters, and detective work.

### **Original Review @ Metaphors and Moonlight**

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#### **Initial Thoughts:**

Easy-to-read urban fantasy with likeable characters! Full review soon.

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## Ilhem says

I'm pretty sure that Megan Derr sprinkles her books with "perlimpinpin" powder. It took me some time to get into the story, I wasn't thrilled by the romance(s), didn't particularly fall in love with the characters and the cases were not captivating but when I closed the book, my overall feeling was that I liked it. "Perlimpinpin" powder, I tell you!

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### **ttg says**

Very fun paranormal mystery about Detective Chris White and the many cases that take him across the city to help other "abnormals" in need, including werewolves, vampires, goblins, and even a lusty demon lord (who becomes very invested in Chris.)

The book is broken up into nine "cases" that stretch over several years. The cases are told out-of-order though, which may sound confusing, but was actually a lot of fun, as you start "at the present" and then shoot back to the past to earlier cases, like one where Chris meets his imp detective partner, or another where his client is an exasperating, handsy, demanding demon that won't leave him alone (and one he can't seem to stop thinking about.) Then it shoots back to way later, where things are established and warm, but you shoot back in time again to see how things reached that point.

I found the mixed-up timeline playful and interesting, even though sometimes I had to make a mental checklist of which character had already been introduced.

My only wish was that I kind of wanted to see Sable at full-power to see what that might be like. That, and Chris is extremely capable, which was a nice change of pace (no wilting flowers here), but I wouldn't have minded seeing him slightly more vulnerable on a case, just to heighten tension more.

Sable is a very pushy alpha. In some ways I found his intense devotion sweet, but if this was an m/f romance, I would have hated his character and how he never took "no, back off" for an answer during some of the early cases.

That aside, I still really had fun reading this, and I recommend it to anyone who likes paranormal stories and mysteries. The format was fun, the characters were super appealing, and the writing was very imaginative. I definitely look forward to checking out more in the Dance with the Devil series.

(I also think this would make a smashing TV show, especially with its many colorful characters and all the different cases.)

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### **Ami says**

#### **4.1 stars**

Megan Derr is one of those prolific authors that everyone else read (and love) -- which is part of the reasons I'm a bit weary to try hers. I have a tendency to not be part of the in-crowd \*grin\*. BUT ... I'm glad that I give this series a try. Must personally thank my friends, Cleon and Lada, for the push towards her stories.

I know that I will not read all in this series (since one of the titles is said to have a polyamori relationship

\*shudders\*), however, this one is REALLY good. Chris White -- the half-ghost, paranormal detective, and Demon Lord's consort -- is adorable, especially when he's grumpy. Doug, his imp partner at the detective agency, is also likeable with one heartbreakin phase in his past. Sable, the Demon Lord, is annoyingly romantic for a demon.

This is actually a collection of cases (short stories); the way it is structured, it starts with a case in the present, and then a case in the past. Usually, it gets confusing -- but somehow it works here (although I admit, I was "warned" by reading other reviews first).

Sable's repetitive terms of endearment in calling Chris "beautiful" should've annoyed me to no end, but again, somehow it doesn't. Maybe because Chris is annoyed by it also, and he's just so cute when he's angry, so I keep wanting Sable to do it to Chris.

I can't even choose which story is my favorite. I love them all -- though I must say I love the past stories slightly better. I can't help it, I love to read about Chris's first meeting with Sable, Chris's first dance with Sable, Chris's story with Doug ... ALTHOUGH, the present story relates to Doug and the vampire, Zach, is lovely too. Oh, okay, I love 'em all!!

I have a couple of niggles though. The mystery part, in all cases, are pretty 'weak'. Like it is solved reall quickly? Then again, it is not really a mystery/thriller. Another one is there is no story where Chris tells Sable "I love you" for the first time. I feel robbed of that moment :).

Overall, lovely collection...

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• \* ° \*•**Gwendolyn**•°\*\*★°\*\*★ says

Reads a little weird, **not at all in chronoLOGICAL order**...but, oh by golly' it's frustratedly good! Okay, this is what I felt like when I started reading~

**Frustrating, Yet Fun!**

#### WHAT WAS FRUSTRATING & WHAT WAS FUN

**?Frustrating~**The book was told via cases , and was not in chronological order.

**?Fun~** Chris and Sabin personalities , gosh, I love those storm eyes!

**?Fun~** cases were different and very interesting.

**?Fun~** The side character's Doug, Rita and the Red Fairy/Pixie pure sweetness and lots of fun!

**Gosh, Really I Liked it !**

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### **Emma Sea says**

Hmmm, weird. I did not enjoy that book, and yet I think I'd like to read the next one. It was like a spoonful of an unfamiliar food, which you want to repeat before you're completely sure you don't care for it.

I didn't like the structure of the book, with alternating chapters in the present and the past. This wasn't because it was confusing, but rather because I then knew from the beginning how the MC's ship would pan out i.e. not even a hint of sexual tension. I didn't like the 'mysteries', which felt disjointed and uninteresting. There wasn't enough angst or sex or romance in the MC's relationship: was this the most bland ship I've ever read?

The whole thing made me feel really uncomfortable and unsettled, yet there's nothing inherently wrong with the book: I guess it's just not for me.

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

[wait months after their first

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### **Jilrene ♥ says**

A fun read! This is a series of shorts told as detective cases. Really cute.

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### **Christina says**

3.5 Stars

So fun! We follow Chris White, a paranormal investigator through his world of demons, ghosts, witches, vampires, goblins, and many more "abnormals". The structure of the book was unique in that it's written as a collection of cases in which each one is presented in non-chronological order. I thought this would dampen the characterization and the relationships but I still felt the tension and the build-up. It created more questions that had me excited to find the answers to. We have no idea how any of the characters met or why they are together. It was an interesting way to get to the answers. With each case we get a little more information. A drawback for me was that even though we get the answers to the questions, there were huge gaps in time and I wanted to know more about what the characters were feeling and doing during this time.

The mysteries/cases were weak but the world was well developed. You weren't inundated with facts, it was just laid out chapter by chapter as the characters became more developed. I actually wanted more details about the abnormals. I think because there was so many, the details were lacking. Hopefully, we'll learn more as the series progresses. All the characters were strong and had their own voice, including all the side characters. It was fun ensemble. The only character I had a problem with was Phil. She was whiny and clingy.

Note: there were a lot of typos.

This is a world I will definitely be re-visiting soon.

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