



Moon Shadow

J.R. Rain

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Ten years ago, federal agent Samantha Moon was the perfect wife and mother, your typical soccer mom with the minivan and suburban home. Then the unthinkable happens, an attack that changes her life forever. And forever is a very long time for a vampire.

Now in MOON SHADOW, private investigator Samantha Moon is asked to look into a mysterious sighting at Lake Elsinore. If the rumors are true, then southern California's biggest natural lake just might be home to its very own lake monster. As Sam looks deeper into the unlikely sightings, using both her natural and supernatural talents, one thing becomes increasingly clear: there's something in the water.

And when two boys disappear, Samantha Moon knows this is no legendary monster. Indeed, she is about to discover that something evil has taken over Lake Elsinore, an evil that spans centuries and even worlds—an evil that has set its sights on those she loves most...

Moon Shadow Details

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From Reader Review Moon Shadow for online ebook

Stella Kydd says

Much better.

Debbie says

Another Marvelous read by JR Rain!!!

What a variety of fiction, Well thought out, made to be read with speed and no bumps. This writer has accomplished it all!! Very descriptive writing & very detailed for those with a squeamish bend. You will enjoy!!

Donna Langley says

Holy Guacamole

Wow is wow. Another amazing story. I was wondering about a lake monster about what it could be! Wow never thought. And so strange to think the dear Frankenstein was still alive so to speak! I like Franklin a little more now lol. So the premonition of Sam's daughter was a scary one and shown true! Dumb kids. Truth driver heart attack is a real fear for sure, glad he made it as glad the kids did as well and omg Luke. She saved him to. I love max so far.

Shon Chewning says

Kids

She loves her kids. I enjoy reading this book. Sam is a great Vampire. She's caring and exciting. Her family and friends she protects and also strangers. I'm loving this series. Thanks

T says

I struggled to finish listening to this. I officially cannot take any more of the authors repetition without yelling at the Bluetooth speaker in frustration. Its book 11 for fuck sake. We KnOW her name and that she's a flipping vampire! I wonder if the narrator (a skilled narrator - which is probably the only reason I made it this far - well that and that the first bunch were free) has also developed homicidal tendencies toward the author.

I still recommend the first 5 or so in this series, especially the ones that are "read and listen for free" with kindle unlimited. But I see very little reason to pay for the later books or the hour long short stories.

Nancy says

Fun, fast read! New characters/monsters, new abilities discovered, and quite a few typos. All in all enjoyable read. Some real LOL moments, especially in chapter 38 "Kingsley's tale"

Kara says

“Moon Shadow”, Vampire for Hire #11, advances the roles of Talos (the vampire bat that Samantha often becomes) and Franklin (Kingsley’s butler). The rest of the book is darned annoying.

First, throughout the book the author very pointedly lets us know that we’ve missed some very important things by reading his novels in order, but by skipping his short stories. Thanks for the many annoying ads, Mr. Rain.

Second, Samantha’s daughter Tammy is completely over-the-top annoying. Seriously. The gratuitous “rebellious teenager” imagery is a complete mis-fit with Tammy’s powers and her awareness of what her mother has endured for ten years. I call bullshit.

Third, the author repetitively repeats, over and over again, events from previous books.

Fourth, like the originally great, later annoying, TV series “Once Upon a Time”, the author introduces yet another key figure from the paranormal world. I feel like he’s just ticking off boxes. OK, now Dr. Frankenstein is done.

Fifth, for a famed defense attorney and a former federal agent turned private investigator, Kingsley and Samantha continue to be REALLY STUPID at putting themselves in harms way.

Sixth, Samantha is overly comfortable with mind-reading and altering memories.

Seventh, 40 uses of the words “weird”, “freaky” and “cute”. The book would make a good drinking game.

2.5* for “Moon Shadow”, rounded to 3* - meh.

Vicki says

I love this series! Sam is funny and smart. The PI job she is investigating is a monster in a lake and two 12 year old boys are missing. Sam has been having a dream about her daughter Tammy dying. All of these books has so much going on besides just the investigation. We learn a lot about Sam and the people in her life. Really a great book.

Henry says

J R Rain tends to rehash much of what happened in the previous books in the series. Having read them all, I find this nothing but padding. He has also become too wordy for my liking.

Karen-Leigh says

I skipped a lot of the in-between books from 4 to 10 and this one filled in a lot of the gaps. Kind of like reading the end to see if you want to read the entire book. I can come back to buy 4-10 next time I want to read this series but right now I have others I have to get to.

Mary Ellen says

I had a hard time getting into the story this time, which was disappointing because I was intrigued by the “Loch Ness in CA” possibility. It has just become increasingly difficult to slog through all the repetitive background/back story business to get to the meat of the current story.

There are still all the problems encountered in every other volume, i.e. missing words in sentences, lack of continuity, and the general feeling that an editor and/or proofreader has never seen these books. Those things can be grudgingly overlooked if the story is compelling enough, but most of the action is only taking place in the last quarter of the book while the first three-quarters are filled with ad nauseam rehashings of every book that has come before! I find myself wondering what these books would be filled with if the author wrote each story under the assumption that anyone reading a volume with the number 2 or higher after the title is already familiar with the characters and the action thus far! It is frustrating and unfair to those of us who have followed the characters from the beginning to have to sit through a very long primer before we can move forward with a new case and fresh adventures, and it gets longer and more frustrating with each new book!! I usually finish these books within 24 hours, but this one took a few days because I just kept losing interest.

When the story finally moved forward, it had interesting new characters, startling new revelations about characters we already knew, and more Southern CA locations to explore. I greatly enjoy reading about places I’ve known all my life, and seeing them through the author’s eyes. Because of my familiarity with these locales, it’s easy to envision the action, which adds a new depth to the experience each time. When I revisit these places in person, I will probably have moments of wondering if I just saw a ghost out of the corner of my eye, or if I’m looking at a building that has been newly repaired after a supernatural battle has been waged. I may even look up every now and then, wondering if that shadow I saw was a passing odd-shaped cloud or the fast-flying, quickly disappearing glimpse of a dragon from another realm!

These books can be a lot of fun to read. I just wish they would jump into the new material right away, and trust that the reader has all the back story they need.

Kim Norman says

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. I'm a big fan of the Samantha Moon series in general but this one was longer than the usual book in the series. I liked that about it as previously I have felt they were too short and over way too soon.

Deborah Yunevich says

Things are heating up

Frankenstein's monsters are real. What is the lake monster and where did it come from? Samantha has the toughest fight of her life, while also dealing with issues with Tammy.

Wendy says

I love Samantha Moon. I love her continued exploration of what she is, of other realities, of spirituality, of her children's power. I love Kingsley and Allison and everything about this series. It's just a giant Samantha Moon love fest in my ereader right now. Thank you so very much, Mr. Rain, for continuing this series.

Kat Lebo says

Moon Shadow, Vampire for Hire #11
by J.R. Rain

One of the "writing rules" I often see is that you must put your favorite characters in jeopardy. Boy, howdy, is that ever a rule Rain takes to heart! As usual, this entry to the Samantha Moon series is chock full of angst, introspection, pop culture references, action, and danger, Will Robinson, danger!

Samantha's friend, Detective Sherbet has recommended her to investigate what might be living in Lake Elsinore in Southern California. Her client, Roy Azul, is a businessman who owns and operates a set of lakefront cottages and who believes he has seen some sort of monster swimming just below the surface of the lake. Coinciding with his sightings of this monster is the disappearance of two local boys. Although there is a long history of sightings of something large and odd living in the lake, Azul never really believed it until he saw it for himself. Can Sam help him discover what he saw?

Along the way to that discovery, Sam becomes interested in also finding the two lost boys. What she discovers is almost unbelievable even to Sam. Her investigation leads her to a whole new and unknown subset of supernatural creature and a mysterious castle sitting along the edge of the lake. Soon she finds herself in mortal danger that she escapes only with the aid of her dragon form, Talos. Determined to get to the bottom of what is going on in Lake Elsinore, she enlists the help of Kingsley and knowledge from Archibald Maximus. She and Kingsley return to the Lake, only to find themselves deep in an age old mythos and, of course, once again in mortal danger.

But that isn't the only thing Sam has on her plate.

Her longtime friend and boxing coach, Jacky, is pushing Sam to allow Anthony to train and begin competitive fighting. That's been going on for the last episode or so, but now Jacky is pushing hard for Sam's permission. If she tells him the real reasons behind her reluctance, will it change Jacky's relationship with her? Even more important, will it change his relationship with Anthony, for whom he has become a sort of surrogate father since Danny's death?

Also, Tammy has entered that fabled and dreaded stage -- the American teenager. At 14, she is testing her limits not only with her mother, but with her burgeoning powers, as well. Sam begins having a recurring style dream about Tammy; a dream in which Tammy has taken up with the wrong sort of friends, is smoking, drinking and dabbling with drugs, but the worst of the dream is seeing her daughter riding in a car that is broadsided by a big rig. Everyone in the car is killed. As the dream comes again and again, the details become clearer. Sam knows it isn't just a dream, it's a prophecy. How can she safeguard her child short of locking her up and throwing away the key?

What does the future hold for Sam's children?

Add to all this, that her best friend, Allison, has shut Sam out of her mind and is avoiding Sam because one of her coven mates, the ghost Millicent, thinks Sam may be a bad influence.

There are many issues and many backstories in this episode. Rain did a bang up job of telling those backstories, such as the relationship of Sam to the first alchemist, Hermes Trismegistus, and how that relationship ties in with her own family and with the boys who have disappeared at Elsinore. He does a wonderful job with the telling of the Frankenstein story by Kingsley, and he does it in a long sort of monologue, with no written dialogue for Sam, yet her sass and attitude is so very evident in Kingsley speech, that you can hear her voice and know exactly the comments she's made. Reading that was great fun.

I had a couple of questions going into this episode:

First: What would Sam think of Judge Judy's show being cancelled? Every episode to date has included references to the show and Sam's loyalty to it. Again, Rain handled that with panache, as the very first line of the book is: "I was missing "Judge Judy," and I wasn't happy about it."

Second: In "Moon Bayou," Samantha Moon Case Files Book 1, co-authored by J.R. Rain and Rod Kierkegaard, Jr., Samantha is propelled back into time to Civil War era New Orleans. At the end of the story, she is stranded there, with no way back to her own time. Yet, in "Moon Shadow" here she is back in present day. I wondered how that would be handled. And, (sigh) it is still somewhat of a mystery. Rain handles it by having Sam have flashes of memory of being in the time, but no real memory of it. She knows something is off, but what? This is mentioned a few times in the first half of the book, but really not mentioned again, so those of us following, I guess will have to wait for the coming of the second Case File, "Blood Moon," to see if Sam's predicament is solved in that episode.

There were some discrepancies I noted that stopped my progress in the book (hate that!). The first is at 220 on my Kindle:

...His guess: the thing was going about sixty knots.

"I assume that's fast?" I said.

"Almost seventy miles an hour."

...

"You blink and you miss it."

"Because it was going seventy knots."

Um, no, it was going 60 knots or 70 mph.

And at 705, I had to read this several times:

...to dip into his mind and tell him what to think, to gently suggest that he back off about my son competing in boxing. Accept... accept I had seen inside his mind... and it was tortured, deteriorating, damaged from years to taking punches. ...

I'm pretty sure that should have read "Except... except I had seen inside his mind..." I tried to make sense of it with the word accept, but just couldn't.

There were two other places that stopped me, for grammar reasons. I don't think either was technically wrong, just a bit awkward (2885 and 3482 respectively).

But, for the most part, the novel was full of all the fun and exciting things that Rain seems to excel at writing. Lots of pop culture references, from Pawn Stars to the Kardashians to Harry Potter and Facebook. Enough action to satisfy the largest of adrenaline junkies and lots of insight into Samantha Moon and the world she now inhabits. I suppose I should have knocked a star off for the few negatives I mentioned, but then, if I could have I would have given the book 7 stars, so at 5 stars, there was nothing to knock off. And yes, I look forward to the Valentine themed Samantha Moon short coming out soon, the new Case File coming out soon, and the next novel in the series, "Vampire Fire." I'm not sure how I feel about the Moon Origins series Rain is starting, but I am looking forward to the next in the Jim Knighthorse series. Looks like my 2016 might have a lot of J.R. Rain reading in it.
