



Stained

Ella James

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After a fire destroys seventeen-year-old Julia's home and kills her foster parents, she chases the half-demon responsible across the country and back, determined to avenge her family and discover why a host of celestial baddies want her dead. With Julia is enigmatic hottie - Cayne, who has his own score to settle with the half-demon, and who might be just as dangerous as the creature he and Julia hunt.

Stained Details

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Author : Ella James

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From Reader Review Stained for online ebook

Lucy says

Julia's parents have just died when a hot guy crashes through the ceiling. Powers that have been with her for years suddenly make her a target, and she must rely on the mysterious Cayne for her life.

This was my first "proper" book that I read on my Kindle app, and this helped me highlight some things that *really* bugged me.

1. Over-description of things I didn't care about. At all.

Three of my phone-sized pages in and I already had two things to highlight. *Stained* starts with Julia looking down at her shoes. But of course they aren't shoes, they're "Hot Pink Converse All-Stars". I get that the very first time, we need to know this to make the point that Julia isn't used to brands, but do we need this *every single time she mentions them?*. I counted five mentions of "All Stars" before I stopped counting. I stopped counting 3% of the way through the book. In the end, I found myself crying "for god's sake, just say shoes!" And it's not just shoes. I discovered that she wears Abercrombie skinny jeans, brushes her teeth with Oral-B and at one point, Cayne does not just buy her food but "five dripping sodas, sixs bags of Doritos, one bag of peanut M&M's, and two jumbo cinnamon rolls". Just say food.

She also happens to be wearing a "spaghetti-strapped beige night shirt". Because of course, when her house burns down, the first thing I want to know is the shirt she's wearing. That's just common sense.

2. Awkward priorities when your parents are dead.

So, get this, Julia's parents have just died in a house fire. She hides in a warehouse when Cayne crashes through the roof.

A hot guy. Very hot. He had, too literally, fallen at her feet.

Your parents are dead, you could be in terrible danger. But it's okay, because a hot guy has fallen at your feet.

Those beautiful, hard-as-stone eyes

Your parents are dead.

"You're joking, right? That's gotta be the dirtest water you could ask for."

Your parents are, in fact, dead. Is dirty water really your main concern?

He swam gracefully

Good thing you broke away from your crying fit to notice.

And tears filled her eyes again because she'd cut her own hair and it probably looked horrible.

Can I just remind you that your parents are dead and your hair is probably the least of your worries?

He smiled rouguishly, handsome features exaggerated by his slick hair.

Sure, that's all I want to know when your PARENTS HAVE JUST DIED AND HE WANTS TO PUT YOU IN DIRECT DANGER.

And so on.

3. Weird descriptions

On its own, Julia's hand slid to the back of her neck.

Ghost limbs attacking their owners. Now *that's* a story I would read. Now, even someone with the most basic knowledge of biology knows that hands do not do things on their own.

cereal box watch

I don't even know what this is

Dread grabbed hold of her, and Julia started jogging

Yes, because "dread", also known as adrenaline, will make you start *jogging* and not maybe, I don't know, running?

he shook his head, revealing nothing

Other than the fact he doesn't want to answer your question and it's somewhat personal? Yep, nothing at all.

4. Just... ugh, the book

Cayne bothered me. He went from being mysterious to boring to vaguely interesting to just plain weird. I didn't understand Julia's attraction to him at all, and I didn't even get when exactly the romance happened.

Also, nothing happened. Sure, there were a couple of major action scenes, but it was mostly talking without us discovering a lot. Just that Cayne hasn't heard of Twilight, or something equally unimportant.

More things that bothered me

(view spoiler)

Julia also finds it "weird" that Cayne doesn't "know all that much". Apparently, he

didn't remember why women started wearing bras, seemed clueless about the *Titanic*, had never hit up a Beatles concert, thought prohibition was merely "prohibiting something" and didn't seem to know why Pearl Harbour was significant.

She then goes on to question him about American history, stuff which I can guarantee you that a good chunk of my history class wouldn't know, let alone a bloke who's been on the run for most of his life. And frankly, when you're on the run from a half-demon, why would you care about the American Civil War? Julia is assuming that Cayne would know all about everything that happened since he was born.

Overall, a dull book with dull characters. The only thing I would say in its favour is that James knows how to write action. It was the only part in which I was actually entertained. 1.5/5

Wanda Hartzenberg says

I loved this fast paste, read in one sitting book to bits. Up to the end. The sequel will be out on Wednesday 4 April 2012 and that is the only thought that keeps me going. I need to read what happens to Julia and Cayne, so many questions remain unanswered. I love the relationship between Julia and Cayne and the constant high speed race against time their life takes, you as reader has to take the journey with them. There is no other way. This is a thrill a minute book and the ease of the authors prose will have you captivated. Of this I am sure.

I give this book a 7 ***** review. This is most assuredly a book that I would recommend my best friend to buy, I walked the hallways of my house coughing all over my kindle while reading this story (I have bronchitis) and I could not wait to read more, even making coffee, at times got to take up to much time away from the book.

Go out, get it, read it, love it, and then move on to the second sequel.

Patty says

***** I received a copy from Mark My Words Book Publicity in exchange for an honest review.*****

First Impression

You can never be too sure of what to expect when you start a new book. Although I read the synopsis, I found it very vague and still didn't know what I was getting myself into. Was I walking into an Angels vs. Demons version of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*? Or is this the Angel and Demon version of *Twilight*?

Opening Lines

The monster clawed the dark sky, hissing and spitting and belching ash. Its fat orange talons twisted the little house until it cracked, until the walls caved and the roof collapsed."

The Good

- Descriptive & Action - I enjoyed Ella's descriptions. It was easy for me to visualize what was taking place throughout the whole novel. Just take the quote above as an example! As for the action, the fighting scenes between Samzaya and Cayne and other Nephilims were well written. There was a decent balance between the action scenes and the rest of the story.

- Romance - Romance? What romance? No I'm kidding there was some. Thank you for not making it an insta-love driven book! At the beginning she points out he's hot and how nervous she gets around him but Julia gradually deals with her feelings towards Cayne. And while Cayne tries to fight his feeling for Julia he finally gives in...towards the END of the book...humph.

- The Ending - **CLIFFHANGER!!!** Yep, she gave us a cliffhanger as an ending, which I think was a great way to tie up a first book in a series. The cliffhanger that was given was perfect, if she chose anything else it wouldn't have flowed well.

- References – I know I said it in my first impressions that I wasn't sure it I would be getting the Angel vs. Demons version of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or *Twilight*, but this book ACTUALLY made a reference to both!! I actually giggled over this for probably 2 minutes.

Are you the reason that I haven't had a breakdown—because you hypnotized me?"

"I can't do it with you."

"Oh, and I believe *that*, Edward."

"Edward?"

"*Twilight!*" He didn't seem to recognize it. "You've never heard of *Twilight*?"

"No."

Amazing. "Well whatever. I still don't believe you."

&

Julia saw a flash of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and laughed, half ecstatic, half terrified. "You can't be serious."

The Bad

- The Beginning - The first part of Chapter 1 was solid! I can't say the same for the second part of Chapter 1, I felt like there was too much information that Ella James just crammed into the first 3 chapters. I was extremely confused with the description of her 'Sight' and feel like it could have been explained and portrayed better.

The In-Between

- POV - Once I got about 10 chapters in I kept hoping it would switch to Cayne's perspective, but it didn't. After awhile I was getting tired of Julia's perspective, not that I found her annoying but *Stained* had the perfect set up to have a dual POV. Also, some of the details that were given made more sense to come from Cayne instead. I had to wait until Chapter 27 to finally get his POV and that bothered me. Also, I felt the chapter that brought in Nathan was random! I sat there thinking, "Who the heck is this guy!" I ended up rereading the chapter prior thinking I missed something.

- Editing - I know every book has them, but this book has some serious grammatical and formatting errors. Not bad enough to the point that you can't read the book, but bad enough that you constantly notice them.

- History Lesson 101 - Similar to the beginning I had no clear understanding of Julia's 'Sight' or the whole Nephilim thing. I felt like I needed a crash course history lesson to bring up to par since no real background was given.

Lasting Impression

Overall, *Stained* was an interesting book. I had its flaws but those won't deter me from reading the rest of this series! So if you're looking for a YA – Fantasy with a little bit of romance I would recommend giving *Stained* a read!

All quotes came from Ella James. "Stained." iBooks.

SATIN SUE says

We start this story with Julia, her house is on fire and she is standing watching because there is nothing she can do. she finds that her foster family are in the house and she takes off before she can be placed into care again. while sleeping in a old warehouse and changing her appearance so she can leave her past life behind her.

While sleeping she hears a noise and a hot guy falls in through the roof.. she finds he is hurt and she tries to heal him. In comes the Angel of Death and the guy fights him till he chases him off.

the two start to get to know each other but refuse to get to close and let to many secrets pass. but they both have one goal and that's to kill the Angel of Death.

They both set out on a journey that is very deadly and scary. the two only have each other. and both find that they are in love with each other.

I have to say I loved this book, full of action and kept me on the edge of my seat. This is only the first book in this series and I'm happy to say I'm looking forward to reading the next book. I just hope it has as much adventure as this one has. Id like to thank Ella for giving me the chance to read this amazing story.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

This book was free on my Kindle. I liked it, I read it pretty consistently since I started it, but it never really grabbed me. I found the relationship between Cayne and Sam to be weirdly introduced, rushed, and poorly explained. The premise was nice, it was an interesting story, but I don't think I'll continue with the series unless it is free. The whole story was like the blind leading the blind and not necessarily in a good suspenseful way but in a not very well thought out way. However, I'd really like to know what those freaking stains mean!

WTF Are You Reading? says

Here, yet again, it stands to reason that where there is great story telling there is authoress Ella James. This tale is nothing like the sweet "be still my heart" love readers were served in "Before You Go". "Stained" is an action packed, mile a minute thrill read, filled with demons, fights, wings, angst, mystery, suspense...and maybe...just a little...ROMANCE.

What Are You?

Julia is a girl who loses it all on the night that her house burns down at the hands of a mysterious demon that she sees moments before she is forced to flee her burning home; leaving her dead foster parents and all that she has known behind to start a life as...

Flash forward. Julia...abandoned pecan factory...death demon...hot guy...a fight...hot guy almost dies...and Julia heals him.

That right, she heals him. So we the readers are left with the same question for both Julia and the hottie that falls through the roof of the afore mentioned pecan factory, who we later come to know as Cayne.
Who are you?

So Now What?

She saves him from his injuries and he saves her from Sam. Oh yeah, did I not tell you that Mr. Death's name is Sam, and that he is not only hunting Julia, but is also locked in a to-the-death battle with Cayne?

It seems that Cayne and Sam are playing a dangerous game of cat and mouse and Julia is the shiny cat toy with feathers that neither can resist.

This is where the real fun begins. While on the hunt for Sam readers get to see the sights of Memphis, find out that Cayne is a half demon with missing memories, learn about Julia and her mysterious birthmark, fight more demons and...I would love to tell you but you're just going to have to read it.

Not Your Average Angel

Cayne is not your average angel, and this is not the hot angel + cute girl = show me your wings and I'll love you forever. This story is a battle from start to finish. Julia and Cayne are both battling for sanity, truth, love, and their lives.

This is an intelligent read full of characters that are not always perfect, but who are able to think on their feet. The story plays out before the reader like a flawlessly conducted symphony. Every scene, player, line, and setting doing its part to make the experience of "Stained" the masterpiece that it is.

Review cross-posted from <http://wtfareyoureading.blogspot.com/...>

Rachael says

Really really really really loved it!...really :)

Jennifer says

I loved everything about Stained. Period. I love the story line, the characters, the writing. The excitement started from chapter one and didn't end until the last page! Julia is 17 and has been in and out of foster homes most of her short life. After viewing the Angel of Death hovering above her current foster parents home she takes off to avoid going back to the orphanage and ending up in another foster home. After all, she is almost 18. With no where to go and no money, she takes refuge in an old pecan warehouse only to have one angry demon and the most gorgeous guy she has ever laid her eyes on "drop" in on her. Julia has a special power of seeing aura's and being able to heal so she comes to Cayne's aid by healing him. Cayne, mysterious and hard to read, decides to use Julia as bait to kill his enemy Samyaza (Sam) and the two embark on a cross country road trip. When Cayne's memories start to come back, he thinks Julia will be better off without him but she is not giving up that easily.

About half way through I read that this is a series and the next book, Stolen, will be released soon. The end of the story was perfect to lead into the next book. My heart was pounding and my head was screaming "No No No!!! This can't be happening!" I need more Cayne, I need more Julia, and I need to have answers to my questions.

Excellent writing for YA and adults alike, with just a few errors. I would love to see Stained available on Barnes and Noble and Smashwords soon. Prepare to be sucked right into Julia and Cayne's world and hang on because after reading Stained, the ride looks to be wild and exciting!

Shelly Crane says

Loved it!

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

DNF at 10%

Beware the men with Abs. Because these guys can make women do ANYTHING:

Tolerate stalkers!

Accept no answers or explanations for supernatural occurrences!

Get over parents' deaths!

Allow themselves to be used as bait for catching a half-demon!!

Seriously, Julia has to be THE stupidest protagonist I've seen in a LONG time. One set of Abs drops from the ceiling into her world (no, really, that happens), and boom! There goes her brain!

Because, sure, it's TOTALLY OKAY to trust a hot, sexy guy with Abs who refuses to tell you anything, sets you up as bait, and bosses you around. He's TOTALLY OKAY to completely and utterly trust - it's no problem that hours after meeting him she's totes sure he's got her back.

Actually, this book is so incredibly dumb, I may very well plug along to the end. I'm up for a new so-bad-it's-good book and this one would work PERFECTLY.

Not recommended if you believe protagonists should have a smattering of common sense. Or be more upset about their parents' deaths than getting damp panties over a set of random Abs.

Laura Hartley says

So I just finished reading *Stained* and I loved it. I have to admit, the only reason I read this was because I randomly stumbled across it on my kindle and was confused as to how it got there, but I sure am glad that it found its way to my library! I was initially reading this on the Kindle app for iPod which is my least favourite method of reading but once I'd started *Stained*, I just couldn't stop! *Stained* had me gripped from the beginning to the end with its compelling story and characters and I can't wait to read the rest of the books in this series!

The story centres around Julia and Cayne and there are very few other characters. I absolutely fell in love with Cayne as I suppose any teenage girl would. He's badass. Like Nephilim badass. He's super hot, super alluring and super secretive and you can't help but fall in love with him. From the minute he burst through the Julia's ceiling (literally), I was completely under his spell. You can see both Julia and Cayne develop as the book goes on and you get more and more engrossed in their story. What's interesting is that both of these characters are searching to find out more about themselves, but the more they learn the more complicated things get. Whilst Nora is one of the 'stained', Cayne is a Nephilim and it appears that these two races have it out for each other, though this isn't explored that much in book 1. Although this book is written from the third person perspective, you still get glimpses into Julia's thoughts and you really understand her as a character. Sometimes I found Cayne thoroughly confusing, but I liked that we didn't know everything about him because it added to the allusion.

Some aspects of this book are pretty predictable, but some really aren't. Just as I'd started to get into the groove of this book, there was a random passage featuring some new characters teasing me just enough to have me turning pages like crazy trying to figure out how this new info would all fit in. You feel a build up as you're reading and you just know that something is coming, but you're never quite sure what it is.

Stained ends on such an abrupt and unanticipated cliffhanger and as I hadn't been keeping tabs on how far into the book I was, I found myself frantically pressing the 'page turn' button, willing there to be more. I cannot wait to get started on *Stolen*, the second book in this series, so that I can find out exactly what happens to Cayne and Julia! I, rather shamefully, have to admit that I have never purchased a book from Kindle ebook from Amazon but for this book I think I'll have to make an exception because I need to know more!

Having finished reading the book, I have to say that I don't think the cover is particularly representative of the content. The girl standing there is nothing like what I'd imagine Julia to be like, particularly because she has very short hair and I can't really imagine her in those clothes, but hey, that's just the way my imagination sees things. Personally, I feel the cover lets the book down a bit, but, as they say, never judge a book by its cover! For me, the cover is the only negative thing about this book, everything else is brilliant!

This book very much reminded me of the series *Hush, Hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick so I'd definitely recommend this to any fans of Patch and Nora. This ebook is only £0.77 on Amazon, which is incredibly

cheap for such a fantastic novel so get your hands on it now - no excuses!

The BookWhisperer says

Awesome Read! *Stained* is an incredible display of this author talents. I was impressed from the start by the character building and amazing storyline. As a young adult romance I was impressed by the gruesome detail, but I found it to add to the suspense of the book. Julia and Cayne are mysteries that fate brought together. As they build a deep seeded romance over these 157 pages; leaving readers hanging on every word and touch. The journey that they are following is a fresh and inventive twist is like nothing I have seen before. It is a slow and steady build that is packed full of action and intensity. As the mysteries unravel I found myself clawing through the pages. As the story hits its peak everything seems to fall into place. The end offers a cliff hanger that will disrupt the harmony promising more action to come. I can not wait to see more from this fresh voice, and will be following the continuation of this series. BookWhisperer Recommended Series!!!

Proserpine says

This story was full action-packed, after only a few lines, I jumped into this book and it was hard for me to put it down! The plot was intense and the characters were intriguing (Oh, Yes, Cayne!!!) and quite interesting.

As we start to read this book, we meet Julia, she's hiding in a "cottage" when she's almost hit by the fallen Cayne, a strange winged guy. This weird guy seems disoriented and injured but then another winged man appears and they begin to fight. We don't really know Julia or her past at this point but when Julia lays her eyes on Cayne we know that something will come up from that encounter.

Julia possesses a pretty nice supernatural power: she can heal, yes, nothing we haven't read yet, but she's able to see people's aura. A fine way to read people's emotional state. Above this, she seems to be resourceful, stubborn and nobody can put her aside! Exactly what the dark, mysterious, brooding and sexy Cayne seems to need! I give my dark/hot/sexy stranger guy for the eerie Cayne!

Stimulating plot: there's a lot of half angel/demon, half angel/human and demon stories out there but the author: Ella James, always maintains the suspense around her characters (Cayne and Samyaza) and the background situation.

I have a love and hate relation with the fact that the author decided to hide (for almost the entire book) Cayne's intentions and knowledge about Julia and the whole situation they got wrapped up into. But it was also the right thing to do it!

Oh My God... what an ending! Everything seems to get spiced up and I turn the last page and I'm left with THAT! Ms. James, you're a wicked author.... But you can be sure to have a new fan on your list! I'm looking forward to read the sequel (Yes, already released: *Stolen*)

I love the book cover, I find it mysterious and tumultuous. The mix of dark and bright colors give a "burst" effect on the character: displayed by Julia on the cover and it's quite ingenious.

I recommend this book to every YA PNR Lovers: you love war between angels and demons, this book is for you! Buy, borrow, put it on your TBR pile!

Tanya says

Stained
Book 1 in the Stained Series

*** First , I am so glad that a goodreads friend was reading this and it caught my eye. I can't ever thank her enough.***

Amazing. Compelling. Such a adventure. Pulls at my heart. Redemption

I have so many great things and thoughts about this book. I simply loved it from start to finish. I literally read it in about 12 hours. This book has been a adventure. Such a great writing style. Great characters, I felt what they felt. Don't be fooled by the fact this is a YA paranormal romance, if ages had not been addressed I would never have noticed. A smart intelligent story , with a emerging "fresh"history . I simply loved it ! I have already downloaded the next book, Stolen :)

At the start of this book we are introduced to Julia. Her family has been massacred by a angel of death, a half demon bent on killing her. Cayne , a beautiful male with memories forgotten. They find themselves together on a quest so to speak to kill Sam our angel of death. Julia is special in so many ways, she can heal and search aura's . Cayne is a warrior . Redemption peeks an eye through this story. A path has been chosen , Cayne will protect Julia ... to lead her to find out what she is ... Stained... and what that means

LOVED IT !!!!!

Amy Thompson says

Loved it Ella James! Why have I not read this yet? What is wrong with me? So glad I found Stained. I loved the story and I am in love with Cayne. Yes, I will be reading the next book. A new book boyfriend and half-demons? What's not to like? If you haven't read this book yet, you need to.
