



The Dark Ones

Rachel Van Dyken

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To touch a Dark One is death.
To talk to an immortal is suicide.
Yet, I've been marked by both.
A Vampire.
And the King of the immortals.
My life is no longer my own.
And now I know the truth, my life was never mine to begin with.
It was theirs.
It's always been theirs.

The Dark Ones Details

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Author : Rachel Van Dyken

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From Reader Review The Dark Ones for online ebook

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

Buddy read with Nenia, Sarah, and Celestine!

looks at book

looks at average rating

looks back at book

I mean, this book reads like something the author just dashed off over the course of a couple nights without plotting anything beforehand. Like she literally just sat down at her computer with the intent to write a paranormal story, and then did it.

Without forethought.

Without any sort of consistency.

But with the definite intent to make every sentence its own paragraph.

The entire book was so random and read like she just made it up as she went along. Right until the very end new ideas and rules were thrown out there for no apparent reason. None of it made sense. None of it seemed remotely related to anything else. None of it served any sort of purpose except to up the word count, which is odd because the book was so short and a lot of it was filler.

Also, there was no worldbuilding whatsoever. None to explain why humans and immortals apparently coexist in the same world, and why a human's number might be called so they have to go to the immortals to teach them... or something. Except everything humans are taught in school about immortals is wrong. For some reason. Even though they all live together in the same world. Which is in Seattle, but you barely even know that because the city isn't described AT ALL. Hell, not even the house the characters live in is described. And aside from a brief physical description of each character when they're introduced in the second (or third?) chapter, they get nothing.

THERE WAS ZERO CONTEXT FOR THIS ENTIRE BOOK.

Genesis was one of those heroines who does nothing but blush, cry quietly, and be beautiful. She doesn't know she's beautiful, of course. In fact, her mom told her she was ugly her entire life because of some woman generations back who besmirched the family name. Because random dead relatives tarnishing the family name is totally a thing normal people care about in 2015.

Oh, and Genesis says "What?" a lot. Like it's seriously her favorite word.

Ethan is her mate, who's standoffish until two seconds later when he turns super possessive. The other immortals (a werewolf and two sirens) seem to exist only to act as relationship counselors and feed Genesis

(because Ethan is such a shit mate he can't even stop groping her long enough to let her eat). They all act like teenagers, and I was genuinely confused at times whether I was reading YA or an adult romance. It was so juvenile. One second Genesis has no idea what's going on and the next she's joking with the immortals like they've always been best friends and she hasn't been taught to fear them her whole life.

Again, this book made no sense. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Oh wait, wrong book (view spoiler). In the beginning, Genesis's number is called and she goes to a... place. Where there are some immortals in a room. And they use their powers on her and then this other guy Cassius comes up and touches her. Then suddenly the other immortals take her away like there's some kind of race against time and bring her to their house so Cassius won't find her. I'm pretty sure he knows where they live though, and he seems to live in the same part of the city because he keeps casually showing up places, so that, again, makes no sense. Even though Cassius is clearly their enemy, he's not. He's their king. But he's also their friend and brother. And he's not the bad guy, this other guy is. Only the other guy is actually kind of... not bad? I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE.

I can't even give quotes because I might as well just link to the book. It's so bad. Great idea, poor execution.

Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

I Loved this! Why did I not know it even existed? Seriously, I devoured it in one sitting and could get lost in this Dark world for days! RVD had renewed my Paranormal fire!

Kira Simion says

3.5 stars.

Some notes:

1. If the Dark Ones are good and bad, why do some seem bad?
2. At the end, why would Cassius have to die if he failed to get Stephanie to love him? Why wouldn't he just lose his immortal glow? (That would be more logical),
3. The book was action packed, but the speed was both its strength and weakness for there was more lust than love.

Good fast light read.

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

"She gave me her body. In return, I gave her my soul."

After reading that well known saga that dealt with vampires, werewolves, and a certain human, I never thought I would be reading another vampire paranormal romance. But when I heard that Rachel Van Dyken was going to be writing a paranormal romance, I knew I had to get my hands on this book. And OMG...RVD nailed it!!! Seriously, she didn't just give us just vampires, humans, and werewolves but she added every immortal beings you can think of from sirens, angels, archangels, and the dark ones.

The Dark Ones was more than just a typical paranormal romance. This book captured your attention right off the opening pages when you are introduced to a human named Genesis, whose number was called upon to serve the immortals. Genesis never thought she would be marked by not one just an immortal vampire named Ethan but also by a Dark One, a half human and half angel called Cassius. Now her life will never be the same once she begins her new life with the immortals.

When Ethan marked Genesis, his connection to her was so strong and intense. Literally, the bond was so strong as his bloods mixed along with Genesis. In this case, RVD does something differently with this book because she kept Genesis human. The reasoning for Genesis humanity to be kept intact will be further explained in the book when readers learn about the relationships of immortals and humans. The story of Ethan and Genesis is not just a typical romance story but a story built upon layers of the past, the future, and balances.

I really don't want to spoil this book because RVD completely surprised me with this book with all the twist and turns. A character that I wanted to dislike stole my heart at the end. And of course, RVD had two amazing secondary characters in Alex and Mason. All I got to say is go read *The Dark Ones*. This book had everything from romance, heartache, sacrifices, loss, sadness, laughter and banter. So if you are looking for a fresh, rousing, and enchanting paranormal romance that has everything then I highly recommend you to READ this book.

P.S.

Rachel please hurry up with Cassius book. I seriously can't wait for his story.

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly.com>...Rachel Van Dyken

Elizabeth says

"Survive. And when the flames threaten to take you higher and higher, give in. When the heat scorches you from the inside out, when tears no longer come, when the need is all you can contemplate...you survive."

The Dark Ones is the first book in The Dark One's Saga. With a blend of vampires, werewolves, dark angels, sirens, and more, Rachel Van Dyken offers a magical paranormal world that you will want to experience.

"Now do your job, Ethan. Go to her."

Genesis, the heroine, is a human who has spent her life serving the immortals. She understands her place in the world and when her number is called to work for the immortals she is surprised to find out the job she has been called for isn't exactly what she thought it would be. She has been called to mate with a Vampire King. Ethan is a vampire who has suffered great loss in his life. Although he knows it is his duty to mate, he fears he will never be able to love again. As Ethan and Genesis are put together, their relationship blossoms into a lasting bond that no darkness can pull apart.

"Loving again will take everything I have left."

Told in dual POV, **The Dark Ones** is an NA Paranormal Romance full of action and suspense. The writing style is free-flowing with magical characters living in a fantastical world. The passion between the main characters was tender and the emotional development that takes place between them is explored thoroughly as the plot unfolds. The supporting characters play a pivotal role in the series as they enhance the plot significantly with their magical powers and contribution to this world.

Overall, I highly recommend **The Dark Ones** to my Paranormal Romance reading friends. Rachel Van Dyken has an addictive writing style that flows naturally from one moment to the next. I am 100% invested in discovering each and every facet of this world! Cassius' story Untouchable Darkness is next and he is already loaded on my Kindle!!!!

*****The Dark One's Saga*****

For more reviews/reveals/giveaways visit:

Jilly says

This was surprisingly enjoyable. I really didn't expect much, so it was like that gift that is wrapped in a trash bag at Christmas and you're thinking you're getting a 6-pack and a lottery ticket, only to open it and find a great pair of earrings and matching necklace.

I see a diamond in Evan's near-future!

The world here is pretty fun. There are immortals who live in the world alongside humans. The ones we are exposed to in this book are vampires, werewolves, sirens, archangels, and "dark ones" who are archangelish. So, yay variety!

Look, I know it's not funny, but they're donuts!! DOUGHNUTS!! (I've been on a diet for 3 weeks now. I would KILL for a doughnut. I couldn't look away. Sorry)

The humans, on the other hand, are kind of pathetic. They exist solely to serve the immortals if they are called into service. And, although it is rare that they are called, they are schooled from birth on how to best serve them. Our heroine, Genesis, is called. She's scared shitless because she knows that if she makes one wrong move, the immortals will simply kill her and call another.

The next human will have to dispose of it properly. If they're lucky...

Genesis is brought before a panel of immortals so they can decide who claims her. It is a fight between a vampire and a "dark one", and the vamp wins. But the Dark One is a poor sport, so he intends to steal her away. And, it's on!

Epic battle time.

Personally, I liked the Siren, Alex, the best. He was hilarious and I hope he gets his own book in this series. My second favorite was the werewolf, Mason. He was adorable and sweet. The vampire, Ethan, was third on my list. A little too broody for my taste, but then vampires are supposed to be broody I guess. They always seem to be, anyway, so it must be a requirement. And, Ethan had his charm too.

Aww, poor baby vampires have to live forever with perfect health and looks. Let's give them something.

Our group of immortals live in a house together and they have their quirks that make them pretty lovable. One such quirk is that they have never seen The Lion King. Genesis rectifies this problem.

And that's how I ended up spending my evening between a vampire and a werewolf, eating steak and watching a Disney movie while they argued over the animal kingdom, not to mention the lion's choice in song.

That sounds like a fun evening to me. Here I am, like a chump, watching Disney movies with my kids while eating celery. Some people really know how to live.

sigh I miss m&m's.

This book was a fun and charming paranormal romance. I loved the world and the characters and I'm looking forward to continuing the series.

Amanda says

This is shaping up to be a great PNR series for me. Even though The world building is not that strong

because I'm the kind of reader who prefer the author to paint the whole world clearly to me without feeling too much like info dumping. But once this story hit 30%, things really took off. I enjoyed the secret revelation and twist to the story.

Genesis is a human who was summoned by **The Dark One, Cassius**. All her life, she had been taught to be humble and ready to serve the immortals. But when she finally immerse into their world, she found out that what she had been wrong all along.

Ethan is a vampire and one of the Elder. Despite his reluctance to have another mate, he decided that in order to save Genesis from Cassius, he needs to mate with her. Ethan had a heartbreakng backstory with his previous mate, which make him not wanting to be with another human. He was quite a hothead and everyone tends to get on his nerve.

By the way, this is not a love triangle if you are reading into the blurb too much. However, there are some great supporting casts that I would like to read their books asap.

Alongside Ethan, we have **Alex**, a manwhore Siren who provide tons of comic relief, his sister, **Stephanie** and **Mason**, a vegetarian werewolf who had an obsession with feeding people. And of course, The Dark Ones, Cassius. He is part angel, part human, who is consider the King of Immortals. He is such a complex character that I was having a hard time understanding his motives and whether is he even good or bad.

As this is a PNR, with the power of mating, is bound to have some kind of insta-love, which in this case it doesn't bother me. The attraction and love between Genesis and Ethan is hard to me to determine whether is due to the mating or not and what do I care. I'm just happy for two of them. Seeing as we got some hint into Cassius's love story, I think his romance will have a better build up compare to Ethan.

However, everything is not just peachy and dandy with everyone. There is a problem with mates dying among the immortals and they are looking for a probably solution in Genesis. They think she might be the key to unlock the curse and restore the balance. We also have the archangel from the higher up trying to make things even more difficult for Ethan and Genesis. Can they be even more paranoid? What's up with all these test?

Overall, I think this is a pretty kickass first book for a series and Rachel already have me liking all her secondary characters. I will definitely be reading the rest of the series.

Cristina says

A first for me once again because this was my first paranormal romance novel and I didn't really know what to expect...but bottom line is that...

It was a little hard to keep up with all the characters: vampires...

...werewolves...

...archangels...

...sirens, demons, dark ones and much more...

I love Rachel Van Dyken and her writing style and that I think had a lot of influence in me liking this book. I finished it pretty fast because I couldn't put it down and had to see what was going to happen next.

You may wonder why only 4 stars?

Well that's because there where some parts I didn't know what to make of and that weren't quite believable but because where talking about fantasy here I chose to look past them and enjoy the book...which I did :D

Will I be reading more paranormal romance?

But for now I'm taking a break and going back to contemporary romance :P

Jacqueline's Reads says

Four words to describe this book

I FUCKING LOVED IT!!!!!!!!!

6 Truly the Best Paranormal Book Ever Stars

I love Rachel Van Dyken, one of my goals is to read ALL of her books. So when I heard her latest book was

going to be a Paranormal one, I was ALL over that. I love me my paranormal books. If you are on the fence about this genre, then let me explain my love for it.

I love paranormal reads because it's like taken to another world, where everything is magnified by ten. It's like the can't breathe without each other kind of love books. This is the STUFF I crave and gets my body going.

Genesis is the Heroine and she is human. Ethan is a Vampire. Genesis, from childhood, has been taught about Vampires. Should her number be called, she will be there to serve them. Don't think sexual, think more on an educational basis.

Genesis is called and is placed in Ethan's care. However, someone wants Genesis, someone who shouldn't want her and will upset the balance. Ethan needs to protect Genesis or everything will be at a lost.

I found it very interesting that in this world Genesis is aware of the vampires. I actually liked this. The storyline never read typical and I was always wondered what would happen next. Genesis from an early age was made to feel like she was ugly. This was completely adorable and she falls into the damsel in distress category I love so much.

I also love all the other characters that come to play in the book. It's one of my favorite things about Rachel Van Dyken reads. She creates these side characters and you sort of get attached to them and with each book you read, you get to know them more. There are not only vampires, but angels and werewolves in this world. I loved how everyone has their own back story and it just made the read feel different and flow well.

I love the banter between Ethan and Genesis. Genesis doesn't fall for Ethan, she is confused because she thought she was there for a reason, but it turns out it wasn't the reason at all. While she ponders her new situation, Ethan can't fall for Genesis. Ethan's troubled past won't allow it. This created wonderful tension and I was wrapped up in knots over it!

There are so many things that went on, it was addictive and exciting. I loved everything about this read. I read this book in one sitting and I couldn't put it down. When I finished reading it, I wanted to read it again. I am definitely getting the paperback and audio version.

You did good Rachel. You did good.

Questions

Is this a standalone? (view spoiler)

Is there a HEA? (view spoiler)

Will there be a book 2? (view spoiler)

An ARC was Provided

The Dark Ones PRE-Order bitches.... ASAP - > <http://amzn.to/1FrUKaV>

Jennifer says

I was long overdue for a paranormal romance!!!

The Dark Ones is the first installment in Rachel Van Dyken's paranormal romance (PNR) series titled: The Dark Ones Saga. The author has created a fascinating world featuring humans, vampires, werewolves, sirens, angels, and other immortals. In a sea of PNR novels that start to bleed together after awhile, you likely haven't read this story before. It's fast-paced, fun, incredibly sexy, features suspenseful and emotional conflict, and ends with an epic teaser for the next installment which makes the entire saga difficult to put down. Oh, and lucky, lucky you! Each book in this collection can be read as a standalone. They interconnect with each other in the same paranormal world but each story features a different romance. You can safely start with whichever one strikes your fancy...or you can start with this first one and go in order. Whatever you decide, just start!

My favorite quote:

“Sometimes it's best ... To love for a moment than to never experience it.”

Tink Magoo is bad at reviews says

4.5 stars

Loved it. This was a slightly different take on the whole vampire genre. Throw in some angels, werewolves and sirens, it had me hooked from the start. Yes it was a bit predictable but who cares.

Now I hope we get all their books!

Sabrina says

Get it here:

Amazon US * Amazon UK

Why has no one forced me to read this before?!? I honestly don't know why it took me so long to pick this up since I'm such a huge fan of RVD's but clearly I'm just crazy. This book had me gripping my Kindle and holding my breath until I could get all my answers, and I loved every second of it.

The story thrusts us right into the world of Paranormal beings and leaves readers grasping for clues as to what is actually going on. I loved that not everything was explained about the Dark Ones and all of the paranormal aspects of the story right away. It made the story so captivating to get these hints about everything. It wasn't done in a way that I felt lost, but rather it added a suspense feeling, which i really enjoyed.

Genesis and Ethan were the main focus of the story but there was also a lot going on around them involving other characters. Everything came together really well and I liked that other characters were such an

instrumental part of this book. I still loved getting to watch Genesis and Ethan fight each other, though, and that was my favorite part of their relationship. Ethan was so scared to let himself feel again and watching that battle within his character made me love him even more than his intensity did.

Bottom line, don't make the same mistake I did and ignore this book, it's just too good for that!

Aira Cabrera says

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

I thought I'd never read a book with vampires in it ever again. I was wrong. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED THIS ONE! The romance was so freaking good, ahhh all the feeeels!!!! I know I know, it was too soon bla bla bla, but I never complain about that happening. I LOVE love. I can't explain the feeling this book gave me. It brought me back to those feelings I got when I discovered paranormal books in high school.

Genesis has been training all her life to serve the dark ones. She was supposed to teach their children how to use technology. Kind of like a high class baby sitter. There was always a possibility that her number would be called, but she never really expected it to happen to her. When her number was called, everything she thought she knew was a lie. The immortals didn't need her to teach their children anything about technology. They needed her for something else.

Genesis has been marked by the dark one, Cassius. Ethan then whisks her away and marks her in order to save her. Ethan hasn't bonded with anyone in a long long time. Some painful events kept him from wanting to get too close to anyone else. He tried so hard not to care about Genesis, but he just couldn't help himself. She was entirely lovable!

This book is very fast paced. I wanted to slow down while reading it. I never wanted it to end. It was just soooo good! That sneak peek at the end for the next book slayed me. It's going to be torture waiting for it to come out. I may cry.

BLOG POST

Stacey is Sassy says

The big, bad toughies are scared of...LOVE.

Well, now I get it. *Rachel Van Dyken* has been on my radar for a little while. I knew she wrote romance but I heard that she only wrote clean romance. There is nothing wrong with clean romance, but I like a bit of sizzle in my reads. When I mentioned to a few friends that I heard she was clean, the responses ranged from – LOL, Hmm...maybe there might be one or two that were clean, and lastly...her books have enough connection between the characters that you don't need to see them in the bedroom. So...my interest was piqued and I put her to the test.

Firstly ...where do I start? She has written A LOT. There were contemporary romance, historical romance and paranormal romance. I was in the mood for Paranormal so The Dark Ones was the first cab off the rank. Not a bad start to be honest.

Wow, *The Dark Ones* really packed a punch. I was sucked into this story from the beginning until the very end. Vampires, werewolves, sirens, demons, archangels and the dark ones, all come together and we see how they live with humans.

Genesis is human and has been groomed to serve the immortals. She knew all along that she could be called up to serve them and was under the impression that her role would involve teaching immortal children modern ways. Her grooming and teaching were mainly from her horrible mother who belittled her and made her feel ugly and useless. Imagine her surprise when she is called up to do her duty and finds out that everything she has learnt is a lie. She meets The Dark One who is the King of the Immortals and he takes a fancy to her almost immediately. NOT A GOOD THING AT ALL!! She also meets some of the Elder Immortals that know how much danger she'd be in if The Dark One, Cassius, actually claimed/mark her. They spirit her away and try to hide her from Cassius.

Ethan a vampire elder is attracted to Genesis and has to claim/mark/mate with her to get her out of Cassius's clutches. With his friends, Mason (werewolf elder) and Alex and Stephanie (siren elders) they manage to protect her.

The mating of Ethan and Genesis isn't smooth and loving. Ethan has a history that made him weary of mating and falling in love. Genesis because of her upbringing thinks his rejection is based on her ugliness and inferiority. Their journey together to find happiness was great and I liked seeing them face and conquer their obstacles together.

The Dark Ones is full of intrigue and mystery. I was interested to see how all the immortals live and work together. Their secrets must be kept, yet they live relatively normal lives. They work, shop, eat and drink like humans, but some of them need a little more to keep them in top form. While I was mostly interested in Ethan and Genesis, I couldn't help but be intrigued with Cassius, Mason, Alex and Stephanie too.

There were some intimate scenes which definitely had just the right amount of heat to tick the right boxes for me and showed the connection between Ethan and Genesis. They were not overdone or hardcore, just the right amount of sexy to get my heart pumping.

Well now that I've finished my first *Rachel Van Dyken*, I can definitely say that it won't be my last. Her writing style is smooth and easy to follow. I felt connected to the characters she created and I wanted to know more about the supporting ones. Rachel doesn't write overly descriptive or too much inner-monologue which is a HUGE plus for me. It kept the pace and storyline consistent and interesting.

Next up, *Untouchable Darkness* and finding out how Cassius is dealing being...HUMAN!!

To buy *The Dark Ones* from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/1XEoDhK>

I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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I read this book for the Unapologetic Romance Readers' New Years 2017 Reading Challenge. For more info about what this is, [click here](#).

When I was a teenager, I used to spend all my time on this great site called Quizilla. It's now defunct, but it was basically the early 00s version of Wattpad + personality quizzes. With a few discerning clicks, you could find out which dysfunctional Care Bear you were (Nihilism bear), what weapon you were (sais), what element you were (water), or just forgo all of that and spend your time reading poorly written fanfiction or vampire smut.

One of the popular stories at the time was this serialized PNR, written in the second person in a "choose your own adventure" format, called "Would an Angel, a Demon, or a Vampire Fall for You?" The heroine was YOU, and as you read the story you would "choose" various actions and then the "result" would be a scene with the character that you were "meant" to end up with (i.e. the angel, the demon, or the vampire).

I bring this up, because Rachel Van Dyken's DARK ONES reminded me of this smutty story, except instead of an angel, a demon, and a vampire, it's about an angel, a siren, a werewolf, and a vampire. The heroine is not YOU, but she might as well be for all the personality she has. Like Bella Swan and her ilk, she's basically a place-holder for the reader; she's been told her whole life that she's ugly (and of course she believes it, because blonde hair and light eyes are so *hideous*), never mind the fact that all these paranormal frat boys are falling over her left and right, even though it's Forbidden. Smells play a key role in the sensory experience of the story. Everyone smells like a Bath and Body Works. Sex is a key plot point, and has the power to Change the World. There are dream sequences. The world is half-assed and not explained. The heroine is a virgin but comes like the hero just Konami Coded the hell out of her vag. It is, literally, just like those smutty, terrible stories I read as a teenager.

Ironically, that ended up being the book's saving grace. As with DEAD SEED, an *actual* story that I read on Quizilla that was "cleaned up" (no) and republished, I found it hard to be mad at something that had brought me such joy as a sad, angst-ridden little teen, no matter how badly (so, so badly) it was written. Plus, I picked this book up while it was free, so there was zero financial stake.

That said, this is the second book by Dyken that didn't work for me (the first was her new one, *CHEATER*). I'm thinking that her style might just be totally incompatible with my tastes. Still, it was cool to revisit the past, and I knocked one book off the Kindle, and got to do a great buddy read with some ladies from my Goodreads romance group, so let's not call it a total loss.

Read Sarah's review [here](#), Heather's review [here](#), and Celestine's review [here](#).

1.5 stars