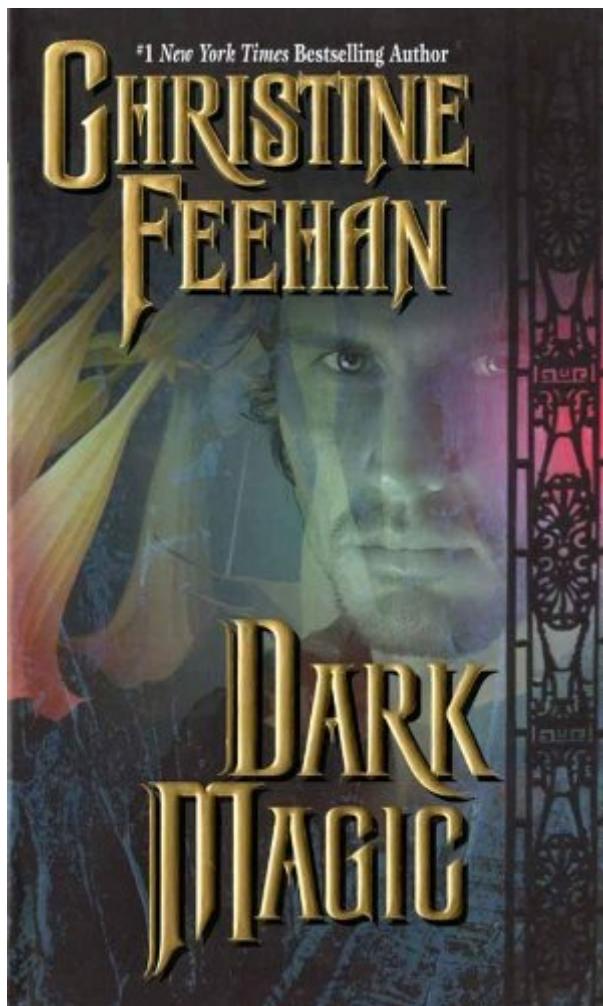


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Dark Magic (The 'Dark' Carpathian Book 4)



Synopsis

Young Savannah Dubrinsky was a mistress of illusion, a world-famous magician capable of mesmerizing millions. But there was one-Gregori, the Dark One-who held her in terrifying thrall. Whose cold silver eyes and heated sensuality sent shivers of danger, of desire, down her slender spine. With a dark magic all his own, Gregori-the implacable hunter, the legendary healer, the most powerful of Carpathian males-whispered in Savannah's mind that he was her destiny. That she had been born to save his immortal soul. And now, here in New Orleans, the hour had finally come to claim her. To make her completely his. In a ritual as old as time . . . and as inescapable as eternity.

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Customer Reviews

Warning: Will contain spoilers and a trigger warning for one scene of rape. This is such a great book. There is so much to keep the reader going and not just the action, I was more captivated by the progression of the relationship than by anything else. Seeing this big, bad hunter, whom everyone fears, with Savannah was really interesting to read, from him trying to humor his lifemate when she was trying to talk to him, to him telling her to kill him after the beast takes over and

then he turns into a big softie. Every time Gregori is mentioned, in past or future books, I swear he steals my heart. I really thought that this book was very appropriate for him and Savannah, even with him attacking her. That needed to happen, I don't condone it and as horrible as it was, so Gregori could grow and come out of the dark ages and that he needed to compromise to make Savannah happy. And Gary, he was an amazing character that was also needed to help Gregori and the connection between all three characters was amazing. Gary also steals my heart and I can't wait to read his story Dark Promises, it's going to be so great. After seeing Gregori in the last three books, it's so great to see him tease and be teased, to have fun, especially with a human after he basically got on to Mikhail for his friendship with Father Hummer. The book even talks a little bit about Julian, getting the readers ready for his book. After that one scene, this was an amazing, sweet, cute book and yet it was also filled with action and mystery.

and I run into the same issue I had last time and a part of the reason I started having trouble with this series. It's all well and good to do the women are equal storyline but you can't have it both ways. If the lifemate is a fated thing and you allow those righteous 21st century liberated moms the privilege of raising their daughter with a choice then you should also be giving them all ALL the information needed to make that choice. If you are one of a race of people whose men require a lifemate to save their own lives and reduce the threat to others then that should be part of the information given to all of the children of the race. Free will is only free will if you know what you are choosing and why. To deliberately choose to cause pain to a lifemate or not even tell your child that she may be a lifemate and leave that path open especially when you as a mom know what the bond entails is criminally deficient, imho.

"I think you are a witch, Savannah, casting a spell over me." After a bit of a rocky start for me, I think this ended up being my favorite that I've read in the series so far. Ever since the first book I've been waiting to read Gregori's story. After seeing how he reacted when Mikhail and Jacques' lifemates challenged them or sought to be independent I was just waiting for him to finally melt for a female. Then when I found out that his lifemate was going to be none other than Mikhail and Raven's daughter I was even more excited. Ultimately the book was satisfying and I got to see all of the reactions I was hoping for out of Gregori as he and Savannah embarked on their new life together. Like I said though, things started out a bit rough and I

wasn't sure I was going to like it. If you read the first few books in this series then you know how powerful and dangerous Gregori is, amongst his people he is known as The Dark One and he has been dangerously close to turning vampire or meeting the dawn for quite a long time. Only the knowledge that his lifemate is out there is the only thing keeping him from doing that. Five years earlier Gregori claimed Savannah but it did not go well (imagine being 18yrs old and having to turn yourself over to someone as powerful and scary as him!) so he agrees to give her five years to live her life on her own before he will come to her. This sends Savannah to the US and she ends up being a travelling magician and living amongst the humans. Being that he has claimed his lifemate yet not fully merged the two of them, Gregori is very close to madness by the time he meets with Savannah again and of course Savannah is not any more willing to join with him than she was 5 years earlier. All of this leads to a few disturbing scenes between the two of them, one where Gregori's inner beast is released and he basically forces himself on her and in the process really hurts her. It was kind of horrifying and I couldn't see how they could work their way back from that. I thought the author did a good job of expressing Gregori's horror and guilt over what he's done, I could tell he truly felt awful for doing that and was prepared to end it all to spare her that violence again. I was a little surprised by how quickly Savannah got over all of that, but I guess the lifemate bond is stronger than anything a human can understand. "One who has gone centuries in utter darkness takes a long time to believe he will not lose the light." Once all of that is over with, I actually quite enjoyed the book. I really liked seeing Savannah trying to get him to see that there was more to him than just the monster he believed he was. There were a few very touching scenes between them as she made him believe what she saw in him. I also enjoyed the struggle between the two as Savannah sought to be partners and face the danger around them as a team and all he wanted to do was lock her away and keep her safe, in true Carpathian male style. It was interesting seeing a true Carpathian female for a change and not a human turned Carpathian so we didn't have that long period of denial over what she had become like there were in the prior books. But Savannah was a female Carpathian with a twist because she had been raised in the new era of Carpathians by a formerly human mother, that combined with having spent time in the human world herself, she understood and respected the Carpathian way of life but she also challenged it and sought to break some of the antiquated traditions. I liked that the standard formula from the first few books was mixed up a bit with this storyline. "Why did I want him to have a sense of humor?" she wondered. Gary shook his head. "Don't be asking me. You created the

monster. One thing I loved about this book though was what a softie Gregori could be come over Savannah and a few others they pick up along the way. He was always as powerful and dangerous as ever but he had this whole other side to him that Savannah brought out and it was lots of fun to see. I loved Gary and thought he was a great addition to the book, some of my favorite scenes were ones with the three of them together. There was also one really great scene with Aidan, from the previous book, who stops by and sees firsthand the effect Savannah has on Gregori and his reaction was hilarious. I only wish that Mikhail and Raven were in this book (I was kind of surprised they weren't seeing at this was their daughter and all) because I am sure that Mikhail would also have gotten a kick out of how much Savannah had Gregori wrapped around her little finger! Over all I did enjoy this book and like I said I think it was my favorite in the series so far. The writing was still very good, but I have noticed it's gotten a little easier to digest as the series goes on. The first few books were very dense and took a while to get through but this book and the last book were a little more accessible. I also liked how the threat in this book was linked to the occurrences of the first two books, it helped to link the series together, and I thought the action and danger in this book was very well done. Looking forward to seeing what else this series has to offer in the other installments! She was his world, would always be his world. She was his laughter, his light. She showed him how to slip easily between both worlds. She gave him faith in humans that had never been there before.

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