



Make Me

Parker Blue

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Make Me Parker Blue

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Make Me Details

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Author : Parker Blue

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From Reader Review Make Me for online ebook

Maghon Thomas says

You ever hear the saying, "some things are too good to be true" ...? When you have the luck and life of Val, you should never hold things and/or people too close, as they WILL leave her. *sigh* I am one of those really crazy HUGE fans of this series!! I was so excited to see this title on NetGalley while I wait for my copy to come in-THANKS NETGALLEY- that I literally screamed when I got my approval notice, and then I dropped EVERYTHING and jumped in to read this one!! Seriously, I really am a crazed over-zealous fan LOL :) This will be my first "real, official, big" review, now that I have a blog and can talk all I want!!!

This is book 4, so you may see some references to the first 3 books, but I will try NOT to put anything too bad in the spoiler part :) The first few sentences of the first book had me screaming-seriously, as Val is kicked out by her STUPID mother on her 18th birthday. Her step dad and sister love her, but they are stuck in the middle, so they say nothing. Val's luck continues to go to hell-pun intended :) She finds out the truths about her "demon" heritage, and even finds out that there's a demon underground meant to help demons fit into the human population. She meets Micah who then becomes like a mentor to her. She also gets a job with the police on a special branch of supernatural watchers. There she meets Dan, who, KINDA becomes her love interest, and fellow cop partner. I loved Dan until he became very STUPID-yes I keep using that word because I cannot publish cuss words on the internet LOL But she also becomes a roommate to Dan's sister, gwen, whom I LOVE!!! and she also gets Fang--FANG IS SO AWESOME!!! Fang becomes her true side-kick, as he is a hellhound-terrier mix :) I giggle at his image in my head! And along the way, she meets Shade-Shade is very, very swoonworthy!!- and finally gets a happy ending, or does she?

Ok, now that we've got the past established, let's get to this book, which is basically a all out mess for Val. She sacrificed the most important thing in her life to Shade only to have it continuously bit her in the.... yeah, back there ;) I think I stayed furious at Shade throughout this WHOLE book, as I really, REALLY was in love with him until now! Hot damn, I told you Val has terrible luck. But in this installment, pretty much everything you could think would happen, did, all for the worse. She goes to Austin with the Vampires-as she is stuck in that damn contract- and ends up trying to help the vamps, the demons, AND the humans, as an Apocalypse would kill them too LOL I think all the truths she learns from this book will hurt the most, but will help her the most in the long run. She learns exactly who her real friends are, who's got her back, who's gunna break her heart, and who is a crazy, evil, nut case :) There is so much humor in the book-especially from Fang, and so much action, as Val is a true kick @\$\$ heroine, and tragedy, mixed with sad and happy times. I really don't want to give away too much.

The writing is like no other! Parker Blue makes me feel like I'M IN THE BOOK living things out, instead of Val. I'm not sure just why I have grown attached to this series, or these characters, quite like I have, but I can tell you part of it is due directly to great writing! It's still considered a YA, although no actual sex, there are some slight undertones, so maybe the older teens. I would recommend this WHOLE series, to everyone I see LOL or blab to on my blog! Get them all! I am now sad again that I have to wait for the next book to come out... I shall have to re-read this a few times LOL!

Suzanne says

Spoilers for previous books.

Absolutely amazing. I am in love with this series. I think they are getting better every book.

Gwen and Micah get kidnapped by a mage demon. And the ransom he requires, is the *Encyclopedia Magicka*. A book that is kind of like a witches book of shadows but this one is written by witches and is extremely dangerous in the wrong hands, mainly, the hands of a mage demon. So Val needs to find a way to free Gwen and Micah without handing over the books.

On top of this, Val also has to help the vampires find the chupacabras (goat suckers) who are killing animals all over the city of Austin before the vampires of the New Blood Movement can make themselves known to the public and Val can be released from her contract with them.

And to top it all, she had to leave her boyfriend Shade in the hands of another succubus, Dina, the leader of the Demon Underground in Austin, who wants him, a lot.

Again, this was a fantastic story filled with action and suspense. It is fast paced and flows along really well. Another one that I just couldn't put out of my hands for very long without the lure of it calling me back.

Val is her usual awesome self, but this time she's accompanied by Austin, a sexy cowboy vampire, who helps to protect her since she's lost her kick ass powers by cashing in her "v" card. Jack, the previous keeper of the *Encyclopedia Magicka* is along for the ride too to try to help her, as the new keeper, to use the books and get her powers back from them. Dan also returns to the fray in this book to help rescue his sister, Gwen. We also meet a couple of new characters who help out along the way, David, another incubus and Pia, a siren.

Again, I cannot recommend this series enough. If it sounds like something you think you might be interested in, you need to read it now and wallow in the awesomeness that is the Demon Underground series.

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Urban Fantasy Reading Level: Young Adult

Disclosure: I received an eGalley of this title from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Synopsis: Shapiro has a secret she's desperate to keep—she's lost her slayer powers. As the new guardian of the *Encyclopedia Magicka*, Val expected the books to give her powers to replace those that disappeared after she lost her "V card" to Shade. But the encyclopedia exacts a price for every spell, making the job of guardian a tricky proposition.

When a rogue demon kidnaps Val's roommate Gwen and Micah, leader of the San Antonio Demon Underground, Val is plunged into the middle of a Solomon's Choice. The rogue wants the dangerously potent *Encyclopedia Magicka* in exchange for her friends' lives; the succubus leader of the Demon Underground in Austin is demanding the books be destroyed rather than let them fall into the wrong hands and wants Shade for herself, swearing to do everything she can to prevent Val's turning over the books.

The kidnapping isn't the only crisis Val faces. She's been betrayed by Fang. Demons and vampires are disappearing. The vamps of the New Blood Movement are forcing Val to keep the terms of her agreement to work for them to combat this new threat.

The Demon Underground is challenging Micah's leadership, and everyone is depending on a now-powerless Val to set things right. Val needs all the help she can get. Even if it means forgiving Fang and spending time with a dangerously sexy cowboy-vampire.

My Thoughts: I was really happy to get this from NetGalley in time to read right after I'd finished the first three.

Wow, so Parker Blue mentioned after the 2nd book that she planned to "do another and maybe a 4th," but the way she left this one, I'll be terribly disappointed if she doesn't write another one; this book ends with quite a mess on Val's hands. I certainly hope things aren't going to be left like that! Thank goodness - I just checked parkerblue.net and she intends to continue the series *whew*.

Does that give you an idea of how much I love these books? An interesting note on the series as a whole – the entire series has taken place, so far, over the course of just a few months. The first book, *Bite Me*, started at her birthday, which was a bit before Samhain, and this latest book ends right after midnight on Christmas of the same year. That's a lot of action and happenings in a young girl's life over not much time, and Val has grown tremendously. Also, hellhound puppies on the way – yay! Hopefully they'll make an appearance in the next book.

I highly recommend all these books to the folks who enjoy urban fantasy and paranormal fiction of all kinds. I've only seen one negative review on each book so far (probably the same person), so a lot of people seem to agree with me. Check 'em out, why don't ya?

Beth says

The Demon Underground series has been a consecutive series of events since the beginning. *Make Me* take place immediately following the events of *Fang Me*. We find Valentine Shapiro still struggling with the change in her powers from Succubus/Slayer to the keeper of the books of Encyclopedia Magicka. Val must hide her loss of powers to rogue vampires, or it could be death sentence. Val is also still stuck in a contract with the New Blood Movement vampires and Alejandro, their area leader.

Alejandro wants Val to go to Austin to find out what is going on with the government and the delay in announcing the existence of the supernaturals. Alejandro sends Val, Austin, the vampire, Jack, the last keeper of the book, and Val's hell hound, Fang, with her to Texas. Shayde, Val's boyfried, takes himself to Austin to help back up Val.

When in Austin, Val discovers the delay is caused by attacks that are believed to be done by a mythical creature the chupacabra.

To make it more complicated, Shayde is held by another succubus and a Demon named Asmodeus wants the books so he takes Val's, best friend, Shade's pregnant, by Fang, hellhound and Micah, leader of the local Demon Underground, hostage.

Fast, easy and entertaining. I really enjoy this series but I do find there is disconnect at times with the characters becoming, in my best terms, shallow. I had a really hard time with Shade's character and some of Val's actions. That being said, I wanted to jump right into *Dare me* to find out what happens next. In the end, *Make Me* was between a like and really like for me.

I received this copy of *Make Me* from BelleBooks- Bell Bridge Books. This is my honest and voluntary review. *Make Me* published April 20, 2012.

My Rating: 4 stars

Written by: Parker Blue

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Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/make-...>

Reviewed for:

Marsha says

Okay, it's official, I LOVE THIS SERIES!!!! "Make Me" is a wild roller coaster ride of excitement, intrigue, betrayal, kidnapping and more. This installment finds our heroine, Val Shapiro being forced to go to Austin, Texas with the vampire congregation led by Alejandro but not before she discovers that some of the demons have not been as protected from negative people in society and they want a change. She is reeling over her new duty as Keeper of the Magicka Encyclopedia and hasn't even had a chance to begin her training when this trip comes up. There is no way her boyfriend, Slade will allow her to go without following her. So, he follows but is told that he cannot stay with Val since she is on official business.

After arriving in Austin, it is discovered that the Vampires led by Lisette have three of their members missing and rumor is going around the city that there is a chupracabra (goat sucker) on the loose. Since one of the missing vamps is a man Austin sired he requests Val's assistance in locating him. She renegotiates her deal with the vamps to state that once she takes care of the chupacabra situation she is free from her contract.

When Shade arrives in Austin, he decides to seek out the demon underground there. It is headed up by a succubus, Dina and she seems to have a stranger than usual hold on the men. She demands that Val leave both the encyclopedia and Shade with her. She refuses to do both but Shade steps in and agrees to stay with Dina. Although she is not happy about it, Val leaves Shade and goes on the hunt.

Soon they discover two mentally wacked out vamps who turn out to be Austin's missing friend and one other of Lisette's men. They find the ashes of the third. The demons also seem to be missing two men as well. It is discovered that it was the wacked out vamps who were responsible for the animal deaths in the city but they cannot figure out why they were doing it. They are placed in the hospital to heal.

Meanwhile, there is a rogue demon named Amodaeus who kidnaps Val's roommate Gwen, Micah and

Princess the pregnant hellhound. They are being held hostage for the books. Unfortunately, Val does not discover this until it is too late and it will have dire consequences for Gwen.

This book really brought a lot of information to light. The Demon Underground is not all it seems, Val's opinion of the vampires will need to undergo a change and her relationship with Shade will become at risk. Amidst all of this craziness, there is still the snarky humor with the hellhounds but my heart truly ached for all of the pain and responsibilities thrown upon the shoulders of Val. This series just gets better and better. I do not know how long we will have to wait for the next book in the series; but, I can tell you I am at a loss to know what will happen next. Hopefully, we will get another installment before the end of the year.

Aly says

I was really excited to try this series and I have not tried this author yet. I was not disappointed! This series seems like a series I should read from the beginning just because the book was very good. I think I may have to start from book one! I enjoyed the story line and the characters. Being my first book and starting in the middle of the series, the author helped fill me in and I didn't as lost as I thought I would. I think this series is definitely worth I read. * I received this book from Netgalley and this is my honest review*

Stephanie says

ORIGINAL POST And GIVEAWAY of a special three volume Galley I received from Bell Bridge Press (10" by 8" softcover). It contains the first three novels in the Demon Underground Series by Parker Blue and I am giving it away. To enter complete the form below. US postal addresses only, 18 or older. Ends Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 12:01AM EST. FANGS, WANDS & FAIRY DUST 5-1-2012

MAKE ME

Demon Underground #4

by Parker Blue

Bell Bridge Books

Kindle: 535 KB, March 13, 2012

Paperback: 224 pages, April 20, 2012

Age: Young Adult

Disclosure: Provided by publisher via Net Galley.

No remuneration was exchanged and except as noted, all opinions are my own.

Val Shapiro has a secret she's desperate to keep—she's lost her slayer powers.

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the dangerously potent Encyclopedia Magicka in exchange for her friends' lives; the succubus leader of the Demon Underground in Austin is demanding the books be destroyed rather than let them fall into the wrong hands and wants Shade for herself, swearing to do everything she can to prevent Val's turning over the books.

The kidnapping isn't the only crisis Val faces. She's been betrayed by Fang. Demons and vampires are disappearing. The vamps of the New Blood Movement are forcing Val to keep the terms of her agreement to work for them to combat this new threat. The Demon Underground is challenging Micah's leadership, and everyone is depending on a now-powerless Val to set things right.

Val needs all the help she can get. Even if it means forgiving Fang and spending time with a dangerously sexy cowboy-vampire. www.bellebooks.com

Parker Blue's Demon Underground series (BITE ME, TRY ME, FANG ME, MAKE ME) is a mix of the adult (sex, virginity, death, falling for a cop, being a succubus) and the not-so-adult (vibrating magic books, talking hell-hounds: one petulant King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and one Captain Courageous Jack Russel Terrier). If it weren't for Fang and Princess, Val's life of killing vampires and then being their employee/security, being a demon, rejection by her parents, etc. would kind of suck.

There are many characters in MAKE ME in the series of books (two more books are contracted, and a novella and a short story are planned - Parker Blue Facebook), and two locales: Austin and San Antonio, Texas. The vampires and demons were hard to keep track of. Most of the character definition of everyone but Val and her cousin/mentor/demon underground leader was written into the previous novels.

In MAKE ME Val's word and her honor, has stuck between vampires and demons, neither group is all bad or all good, all right or all wrong. A desire for power is perhaps more corrupting than having it apparently. And, as per genre-norms all magick has its price and sacrifice.

Even though Val is pretty young, she regularly deals with adults and ancient vampires on an equal footing, and she was even part of the police force. Having lost her virginity, or her V-Card, Val's fighting and healing powers are drastically reduced. Her only real weapon now is her succubus' ability to ensnare men. She does have a set of magic books which will teach her what she needs to know in a magical situation: the right spell for the job. But for each one her succubus nature is reduced.

But in many ways MAKE ME feels more YA than than FANG ME. And, she doesn't have an opportunity to hook up with her Shadow Demon boyfriend. At one point she has to feed of a vampire male-friend, Austin and in doing so reminds me of a young Anita Blake, it is the sexiest thing that happens in the book. The cover reflects this "return to innocence" with a Harry Potter vibe.

But it's hard to have a story about a succubus without some mention of sexy so if you are totally dead set against it for your self or a young adult then, well, while this is extremely innocuous in this regard the subject does come up.

There is the death of someone close to Val and I felt it was brushed over in an "it's sad but let's get back to business" way. Of course if they don't more people will die. Most situations are resolved at the end. This is a

fine continuation of the story and leaves room for the series to progress in several directions.

Ferdy says

2.5 stars — spoilers

This was just an ok read — the plot was rather predictable, the romance was crap and the main characters were difficult to relate to. Val was more or less likeable bar her tendency to let people walk all over her. It's irritating that she gets pushed in to doing things she doesn't want, she rarely has control over her own life — which makes for very frustrating reading. This time around, Alejandro and his vampires force her into going to Austin with them to investigate a bunch of missing vampires. She then later gets cornered in to finding out what happened to a bunch of missing demons. Val for some reason doesn't protest putting her life in danger and taking on everyone else's BS - what she should have done was tell everyone to fuck off, especially her boyfriend, Shade.

Shade turned in to a right bastard, he blamed Val for everything that happened to him when it was all his own fault. And stupid Val felt guilty even though it was Shade that was in the wrong. If he hadn't demanded to go with Val to Austin then he would never have been controlled by the bad guy, Dina - but because he was irrationally jealous of her spending time with Austin (the vampire) he forced her to let him go. And because of his ego, he later made the decision to stay with Dina the succubus, knowing that Dina could end up controlling him. Val begged him not to stay with Dina yet he still turned around and said it was Val's fault that he ended up being controlled by crazy Dina. Shade was also pissed that Val didn't save him when she didn't even know he needed saving and then he went and got pissed when she did save him because it made him feel less of a man... what a fucker. He was so pathetic and unmanly blaming Val when he was at fault. I thought her last love interest, Dan, was awful but Shade was ten times worse. I'll be pissed if Val takes responsibility for Shade's mistakes and begs him for another chance when it should be the other way around. I hate that Val is such a doormat and always feels responsible for everyone. She really needs to get a backbone and stop letting people treat her like shit. Her family are vile - throwing her out, treating her like dirt - but does she have a go at them? No, she thinks she deserved all the shit they threw at her - Val needs to tell them and Shade to piss off.

Val's interactions with Austin were pretty great, he's a far better love interest than Shade.

A quick, easy and somewhat entertaining read. It would have been more enjoyable if Val found her spine and didn't let everyone control her all the time. The side characters - Fang, Austin, Jack and Gwen were all decent enough. I'll still read the next one to see what happens with Val, her family and Shade/Austin.

Jessie (Ageless Pages Reviews) says

Read This Review & More Like It On My Blog!

My overall enjoyment with this series has severely decreased with each subsequent volume, and *Make Me* is no exception. Many of the previously mostly enjoyable characters change drastically for no (or a supremely stupid) reason (Val, Shade, especially, come to mind), the pacing is off (very noticeable and distracting in the first and last segments), the uneven POV shifts from first person to third person omniscient, certain elements feel shoe-horned in and pretty *deux-ex-machina*-y ((view spoiler)), and... I was bored. A lot. Initially a charming if somewhat formulaic series about a teenage vampire Slayer, the Demon Underground series has grown bloated and boring. This is one of the novels I've gone back and forth on rating - from a 2 to a 1,

finally meeting in the middle at 1.5 stars. There was literally nothing about this fourth foray into Val Shapiro's life that I enjoyed.

I hate not loving books I expect to enjoy. The first three (*Bite Me*, *Try Me*, *Fang Me*) were never the most original or innovative of the young-adult paranormal genre, but they were snarky and often funny, with a strong and decisive protagonist. The reads of the first three were based on the strength of Val, her inner monologue and Fang, the talking mind-reading hellhound. Now, that previously strong girl has morphed into a whiny, annoying and often harebrained version of the girl who used to be Val Shapiro. A love triangle and stupid assumptions mar a lot of what good Val does bring to the table; I won't deny I still like reading about can-do girls who can defend themselves, but I wish so much time hadn't been spent on melodrama and boy troubles.

I had issues with the style and presentation of the novel and its plot from the beginning. Ones I don't recall having with the previous three, which either means this series is somewhat forgettable (true) or that something has changed, or I've just outgrown these particular books (entirely possible). For one thing, I hate when authors jump between first and third POVs for character narration. It's weird to be in the head of Val and then in the next chapter, be jerked to distantly viewing Micah and his subplot. It just doesn't work; it causes a problem in my reading and in how I relate to and invest in the characters involved. I don't care what one the author chooses, but it should be one and it should be used for the entirety of the novel. Sure there are some authors and characters that could pull off the dichotomy, but Val and Parker Blue are not among them.

I'm not even going to go into the myriad other problems I had with this book because I'm underwhelmed, disappointed and frustrated. I'm done. All I can really say is that I won't be reading the inevitable fifth addition to this series.

Samantha (Book Lover's Cozy Cafe) says

So by now if you've read the series we all know what's going on with Val and the gang, so there is really no need for a recap. If you're reading this and have never read the series, I highly recommend you reading it, it's very good, and captivating. Parker Blue has made a fantastic world, that just sucks you right in, and with each book you just want more.

In this book, Val and a few of the gang travel to Austin to help out with a situation out there. While out there, Val meets another succubus. Instantly she dislikes this succubus for a good reason, she has entralled Shade. And with her being neurotic as she is, she can't handle that. But she has to maintain herself because she has a duty to the Demon Underground, and to the Movement.

During this book she also gets close to the charming, arrogant vampire Austin, haha no pun on the location either.

It's a great book, my only complain on this book and the one following this one, is that Val gets a little whiny about and over Shade. It gets a little unnerving and something I would expect from a character 16 years old and younger not someone who is 18-19 years old. But other than that another phenomenal book.

Susan Angela Wallace says

Make me by Parker Blue.

Val Shapiro is a succubas lust demon. She has lost her strength and speed. She is desperate to keep this a secret. When a rogue demon kidnaps Val's roommate Gwen and Micah, leader of the San Antonio Demon Underground, Val is plunged into the middle of a Solomon's Choice. The rogue wants the dangerously potent Encyclopedia Magicka in exchange for her friends' lives; the succubus leader of the Demon Underground in Austin is demanding the books be destroyed rather than let them fall into the wrong hands and wants Shade for herself, swearing to do everything she can to prevent Val's turning over the books. Fantastic read with brilliant characters. Loved val and fang. Love this series. Can't wait for next part. 5*. Netgalley and belle bridge books.

Shelley says

Genre YA Urban Fantasy

Rating 3 1/2

Review

Make Me (Demon Underground #4) by Parker Blue picks up pretty much where Fang Me left off. In fact, the entire series so far has been told over a period of a few months.

Valentine (Val) Shapiro has lost her slayer powers. She's extremely desperate to keep that secret from the rogue vampires who would love nothing better than to take her down permanently. Val has been a thorn in the vampire's sides for years and she's still only 18 years old!

Val is part Succubus which she tends to call Lola. Lola is the only thing standing in the way of Val being killed outright. Lola is able to take control of any vampire; unless that vampire happens to be female then she's in deep trouble.

Val remains under contract to the New Blood Movement and Alejandro until they come out into the open and announce that they exist. Since she's under contract, this means that she has to travel to Austin, Texas along with Alejandro and his crew. This crew includes Austin, who has been trying to teach Val how to fight off vampires.

Val is also the current Keeper of the Encyclopedia Magicka. The only problem is that Jack, the former keeper of the books, is so busy catching up on TV shows, and eating his heart's content in food, that Val hasn't been properly trained. What Val does know from Jack, is that she needs to be careful using the books or she could permanently lose her Succubus powers as well.

While in Austin, Val and crew discover that someone is creating rogue demon vampires. The villain, and her reasons for creating these chupacabra's, shall not be spoiled by me in this review. Let's just say that things don't exactly end up the way Val thought they would when she agreed to work with the vampires.

Val's already complicated life really delves into the darkness when her best friend and roommate Gwen, along with Micah the leader of the Demon Underground, end up being kidnapped by a demon named

Asmodeus who wants the books Val now holds. He even brings back a former nemesis of Val's, Lily Armstrong, in order to prod Val into giving up the books.

Naturally, there's a huge twist regarding Gwen that I'm not sure needed to be done nor shall I spoil. Val's life is already problematic, and now thanks to her contract with the New Blood Movement, her former bosses at the Special Crimes Unit have terminated her with prejudice.

She is also betrayed by her so called best friend Fang who wants things to change in San Antonio's Demon Underground and needs Val's help in order to bring about the changes that will make the Underground better and safer for Demons.

On the romance side of things, Shade, who Val lost her V to, becomes cold and bitter after he follows Val and crew to Austin because he's jealous of the vampire Austin and Val's closeness. After another Succubus takes control of him and uses him for her own desires, Shade lays all blame at Val's feet and the relationship suffers a major collapse. I guess we should have seen that coming since Val's relationships don't last all that long.

Overall, while I still enjoy Val, she came across like a teenager with major angst in her life. Yes, she does have serious problems, but it's time to stand up and make a choice about what she wants to do with her life now that she doesn't have her slayer powers, and the books are causing all sorts of fun for her.

This series has been, mostly, about Val and Fang's relationship and how they work together to fight the villains. This time out, not only does Fang do Val wrong, but he's not all that funny. Maybe it's because he's about read to have a litter of puppies, that his thoughts are otherwise preoccupied.

With the surprise ending to this book, one can only hope that there will be a book # 5 in this series to tie up several of the storylines once and for-all.

Expected publication: April 30 2012 by Bell Bridge Books

Vicci says

I just finished the fourth book by Parker Blue. Make Me a preview from Netgalley. First I must say i love this series and I could not put Make Me down. I really really great read. I have to say it is the best so far. I do not want to give away anything but you will laugh, scream and cry by the time you finsih this book. toally worth every tear and scream you let out. Best one Yet! I don't know how I will do waiting for the next book. Need it NOW! Please read this book!

Nicole says

Pretty good, but I liked the first three books better. I was just so sad to see some characters change so much & not necessarily for the better. I guess that's what happens in life too, but it still stinks when people you think you know turn into a-holes all of a sudden. I still like the series though because the books are fun, quick reads.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

*Part demon, part human, we are secretly born.
Persecuted, violated, forsaken, forlorn.
For freedom, for privacy, we have all made a pact.
Three to serve: one to lead, one to protect, one to act.*

It would seem that my favorite half succubus just can't catch a break. Val Shapiro has been hunting bad vampires for as long as she can remember, but lately her life has been a bit harder than usual. Ever since she lost her Slayer powers along with her V card, she only has her succubus half, Lola, to rely on in fights. Speed and strength of a regular human aren't nearly enough when you spend your days fighting vampires, not even with some training in martial arts.

Val's new boss, leader of the 'good' vampires, has to go to Austin to take care of business and insists on bringing Val along. That would normally be fine, but her boyfriend Shade is complicating matters by being jealous of the vampire lieutenant Austin and wanting to come along. Besides, things aren't running smoothly in the Demon Underground either. A none-too-small fraction of the Underground has turned against Micah, their incubus leader and Val's cousin. They want things to go back to the old ways, when protecting half demons was far more important than blending in, but Micah wants to lead the organization the way his father did before him. Val isn't quite sure what to think of the matter and would like to stay out of it if at all possible, but the new fraction is convinced that she would make a much better leader than Micah, so avoiding the problem isn't really an option.

All these things, however, pale in comparison to the challenge of keeping the *Encyclopedia Magicka* safe. Torn between her job and her duty towards her own kind, Val is forced to use any means necessary, including her succubus half Lola and the rather unpredictable book, to save everyone and everything she loves.

Maybe six months ago, after a recommendation by a trusted friend, I picked up the first three books of the Demon Underground series and read them all in two days. They were incredibly entertaining, with great worldbuilding, likable characters, and interesting plots and I became an instant fan. Needless to say, my expectations for this book were sky high, and I'm sorry to say it didn't quite live up to them. (A love triangle? Really, Parker Blue? Why would you do such a thing to a perfectly good series? *cries*)

Shade was my biggest disappointment by far. He was almost unrecognizable in Make Me. Without any warning, he and Val went from being a sweet new couple to having trust issues, balance issues, issues with unfounded jealousy and lack of communication. When exactly did their relationship become a power struggle? They were perfectly happy at the end of book three.

Val was also a bit too whiny for my taste. She had a right to be, all things considered, but I still didn't appreciate the pity party. Even Fang, her loyal hellhound, wasn't as funny as he usually is.

I'll probably still read book five when it comes out, but my expectations will be a lot lower.

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