



## How to Love a Monster

*Lyssa Dering*

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**How to Love a Monster** Lyssa Dering

*Dying at the hands of government goons was always going to happen. Waking up in a dark and twisted afterlife? Not the plan.*

**Seraphim has the superhuman ability to control his own brain.** Or at least, he used to, before his government-mandated brain surgery. The surgery killed him, but life isn't over yet. He's just woken up, shivering and alone, in the rain-soaked alleyway of a city he doesn't recognize.

**Fiend is a childhood monster.** Dreamed up by Seraphim's friend Wish, he was imprisoned in Wish's subconscious until the birth of Wish City, a place for people with superhuman abilities to take refuge after death. Now Fiend is free—and in charge—and he's on the hunt for anyone with abilities once they cross over.

Eager to play with his new toy, Fiend quickly makes contact with Seraphim. **Lost and injured, Seraphim lets Fiend slither into his heart.** But under the **aching pleasure** the two find with each other is **a hunger that can't be denied**, and lurking in the shadows of the neon city are truths neither man nor monster is ready to face.

**How to Love a Monster** is a gay erotic horror romance featuring twisted and kinky M/M sex, a diabolical love interest, and an HEA ending.

Word count: 50,000

## How to Love a Monster Details

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Author : Lyssa Dering

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## From Reader Review How to Love a Monster for online ebook

### **Micah says**

I had SUCH high hopes for this book and was so dissatisfied. First, there's mention of superpowers, and the beginning of the book is set as if superpowers will be the focus of the book. It isn't mentioned again until the very last chapter and even then it's only a sentence or two. 2nd I despise this cliche of falling in love with your abuser. I officially tapped out at the lines "do you want to rape me" and then a few pages later "I love you, baby" I'm supposed to root for that? I'll pass. Overall thought this was poorly written, poorly structured, and just not enjoyable.

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### **Sara Bauer says**

I never expected to fall in love with a semi-evil character who eats brains. No one was as surprised as me. ... Then again, Dering is very good at making monsters lovable.

Sweet, sexy, "special" Sera wakes up in a bad place, but Fiend has been waiting for him--with a pretty deviant purpose. There is nothing traditional about this love story, except for the love, I guess. Sera and Fiend belong together, no matter their substantial differences. Their sex is hot, hot, HOT, and they both want to protect the other.

I love Dering's voice, writing from the perspectives of both Sera and Fiend. I love the way she builds relationships, and did I mention the sex? Damn good stuff. Like I said, I never expected to be so charmed by a character who eats brains, but I miss Fiend already. Now one of my favorite books, I was sad when this was over.

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### **Shanna Matheo says**

I was in the mood for something different. How to love a monster is certainly different and surprisingly sweet. Half way through the book I found myself wondering how in the hell did I end up rooting for the creepy (and make no mistake, he's creepy) Fiend of this story. I liked it though.

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### **~\*\*Anna\*\*~ A Romance Reader says**

What an interesting book! It was so unique and different from anything I've read before.

I have to confess I loved Fiend. I don't care that he eats brains. He just wants to be loved for who he is, and he's so sweet and loving. I liked Seraphim too, but the star was Fiend.

I want to read more about Wish City and Wish himself. That whole world captivated me.

This was my first book by this author but it won't be my last.

Thank you Barbara for putting this book on my radar ?

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### **Am4u ~ AprilMarie4u ~ says**

#### **Rating:**

4 stars

#### **Genres:**

MM Romance, Paranormal, Dark, Horror, BDSM

#### **The characters:**

Fiend (the mmc) is a monster (not in appearance though) with dark cravings. He can't help the way he was created and struggles with some of his darker desires.

He was disturbingly sweet at times, and vulnerable. I'd describe him as a monster with a fetish just wanting to be loved for who & how he is.

Seraphim (other mmc) finds himself in a strange new world, and is just trying to survive. Soon enough Fiend finds Seraphim, and they discover they share some similar dark desires. Although, some of Fiend's darker cravings might be too much for Seraphim to ever accept.

#### **Overall:**

Like most novellas, things get wrapped-up too quickly. However, I'm more than willing to overlook this because it was a fun & entertaining read. Also, an interesting mix of sweet & dark.

#### **Warnings:**

Over the top sweetness, horror content, & hot as fck breathplay.

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*ARC provided by author for my honest opinion. A positive rating/review was not required or requested.*

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### **DW says**

What?!?!?! Did I just fall in love with a guy that eats human brains and drinks blue juice from a carton to survive. I believe that I did. Do I feel ashamed? Nope, not in the least. The reason is because even though he is a monster, he still has feelings. He can't help that he was made that way!!

Sera has this crazy ability to control his brain. After a surgery issued by the government he dies and wakes up in a whole new world. Everything in this new world is different but it's also strangely the same?!?!

Fiend is a monster on the inside but on the outside he is a normal looking man without any hair on his entire body. He is awkward in a very sweet way. His plan is to eat Sera's brain but he feels different with Sera. He wants to keep him and make him his!!

They fall into this weird routine day in and day out. Sera is weary of Fiend but he also feels safe with him.

It was a very odd story with a little mystery but I couldn't put it down. I kept waiting for Fiend to give into his cravings and eat Seras brains.

Oh Dear Lord, I almost forgot. Fiend is a LICKER. He licks Sera from head to toe. That's kinda hot and nasty at the same time!!

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I have no regrets reading about Fiend and Sera!!

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### **Carly says**

I really enjoyed this book and it has tons of elements that I always love. The only problem was the length. Since it was so short I felt like there wasn't enough world building. I would've like an explanation of why there are 'specials'. I would've like more backstory and more time spent around Wish City, but all in all it was an enjoyable read. I loved Fiend and Sera. Fiend was just my kind of character. I will definitely be reading Halloween in Wish City when it comes out!

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### **Barbara? says**

So I totally need a fluffy bunny, rainbow farting, unicorn story after reading this. But you know what? I freaking LOVED it. I mean seriously....an anti-hero who eats brains?

We have Seraphim. He has a special brain. He can make his body do things with just a thought...heal, sleep and come, with no physical touch. Awesome right? But we all know what the government does to "special" people. So he finds himself in Wish City after death. A place created by a secondary character, Wish.

Wish is special too. He can create things with his mind, as in physically or beyond the grave. Wish was Sera's first crush and he told Sera he was going to create a city where all the specials could go. But Sera can't find Wish in the new city. Instead he finds Fiend...or rather Fiend finds him.

"It is a pretty dream. And Seraphim took the truth about my origins so well. Could I tell him about my hunger? If I didn't divulge that I wanted his brain especially, could he accept me?"~Fiend

So then we have Fiend. OMG...how can you *NOT* love Fiend? Fiend was created by Wish as a child. He's the monster under your bed...he's the Boogeyman. And guess what??? HE EATS BRAINS. Yep! But Fiend has feelings...Fiend can love.

"I know now that it is not his brain I need, no matter how delicious it would taste. It is his heart, his trust, his closeness."~Fiend

This story was so awesome. I couldn't read fast enough. It caught my attention from page 1 and didn't let up. It was definitely different than **ANYTHING** I've read and I've read a lot of different stuff. But this is my first time with a brain-eating hero. So if you're looking for a slightly gross, definitely different but hot story, this is it.

"Dying is hard in Wish City, but I wasn't willing to risk my own life to learn if I could starve. All I've ever wanted is to be real, my sweet. I enjoyed power; I won't lie about that. But I only wanted to live." Fiend gives me a sheepish look. "And then, I wanted you."

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### **Erica says**

I'm awarding this book extra points for ingenuity and crazy-dangerous-hot sex, but I'm deducting points for lack of world-building. I understand wanting to have a slow reveal of the details, keep the reader guessing and all, but sometimes it just goes too far and the not-knowing goes on for so long I become annoyed and no longer even care about what the heck is going on. Luckily the sex was smoking hot and the ending was super-sweet.

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### **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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? Read for the Unapologetic Romance Readers **Halloween 2017 Reading Challenge** for the category of: *a romance novel romance about zombies* ?

The blurb on Goodreads is super confusing, because I don't remember reading any of the parts about Sera controlling his own brain or the details behind the government mandated experiments. All of that was sort of *hinted* at, but as far as I can remember it was never stated in such black and white terms.

Sera is a psychic who has, apparently, died. While he was alive, he was friends with a guy named "Wish" who promised him that he was going to create this great mental afterlife that he could frolic in when he died: think heaven, only for psychics, except that it's called, appropriately enough, "Wish City."

When Sera gets to Wish City, he finds out - surprise, surprise - that it's not exactly what Wish promised him. Paradise is downright ugly, with drugs and cheap sex filling the streets. Everything is dark and grungy and completely unlike what Sera expected.

Fiend, like the city, was also dreamed up by Wish, and like the City, he's a creation that managed to get loose from his creator and take on a shape all of his own. Fiend likes to eat brains, and next up on his cerebral prix fixe menu is Sera. Only... he's attracted to Sera physically as well, and decides to toy with his food before eating him - but that doesn't quite go as planned, either.

HOW TO LOVE A MONSTER falls into that hateful three-star review territory for me. There was nothing particularly wrong with the story but it didn't wow me enough where all I wanted to do was gush. It entertained me, and then we parted ways. I did think the world building was very odd, and while original, there were many aspects that confused me and could have used more fleshing out.

While reading, I kept having this sense of *deja vu*, wondering what this book reminded me of. Then it hit me: those weird dark fantasy movies from the late 90s like *eXistenZ* (1999) and *Dark City* (1998). Both of those movies had an incredibly original world with a compelling storyline and scenery, but - for me - also felt kind of confusing and sometimes even nonsensical (and not in a good way).

I bought this while it was 99-cents and for that, I think it was a good deal. If you're a fan of bizarre stories and/or are looking for m-m erotica that doesn't fit the usual mold, you'll like this, I think.

P.S. I realize that Fiend isn't a zombie, but since I don't read zombie novels for the most part, I decided to go ahead and use him for a zombie category on my Halloween romance challenge. He eats brains - I figured that was close enough.

3 stars

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### **Laxmama says**

2.5 Stars This was different and a bit confusing. Enjoyable ??? I never got a real feel for the MC Sera and I am not a huge fan of insta-love so that's my personal thing.

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### **?♥? Michaelle &♥? says**

4.1 Stars

Very subversive and thinky. I liked it a lot; similar to how much I like The Administration series. The world is a bit terrifying and the characters are fucked up (especially Fiend). I mean, holy hell - it has to be a good story with some interesting development for me to feel sorry for and sort of like an actual bogey-monster that eats brains.

Also, Wish reminds me of that creepy kid in the Twilight Zone episode where everyone is afraid of what he can do - like making things/people disappear. We didn't get a whole sketch of him but what we were presented with I really didn't much like. Everything he did in that epilogue still seemed very self-serving.

Kudos for those pre-story author notes/warnings. Take heed for they are all very true!

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### **Trio says**

Oh what wonderful fucked up goodness. That was so captivating and it just completely consumed me to the point where I couldn't stop reading and wondering what would happen next. It was such a treat to be taken out of reality to that degree - it's the best part of reading and it doesn't happen nearly enough.

Beautifully dark, hopeless and hope-full, Sera and Fiend are incredible together. Very well done!

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### **Sunshine says**

[nightmare (hide spoiler)]

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### **Eugenia says**

#### **3 Crazy Stars!**

I confess that at first I didn't know what the hell was going on in this story. I was perplexed, but intrigued enough to keep going. I'm am so happy that I did!

This book is hard to explain since it takes place in a type of afterworld created from the brain of one person, Wish. Wish City. So, everyone in the story is dead and are, in essence, ghosts. Yet....they can still die, say if

someone eats your brain.

So, the MCs: Fiend is ruler of Wish City, but he gained his power nefariously solely to ensure his own survival. He is a monster of sorts who lusts after brains, but it's not his fault since Wish made him that way. Sera, is recently arrived after dying from a brain operation. He's been held prisoner for some time. Now he finds himself Fiend's prisoner who lusts after his special brain.

OK, there is drugged addled sex. There is breath play, rape play, serious tongue play. I found the sex between the MCs super hot, especially with the real element of fear thrown in....will Fiend be able to resist eating Seraphim's brain?

Both of the MCs were ridiculously starved for real love an affection, and aside from the brain thing, they were really sweet together, even during rape play.

So if you can get past the initial "WTF is going on here?" This book is a creative treat. I mean, you gotta love a brain eating monster who wants to cuddle.

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