



Shadow of the Vampire

Meagan Hatfield

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Even vampires should never sleep with the enemy.

Vampire princess Alexia Feodorovna has been undead for 125 years, so it's been a while since any man has made her pulse race. Until Declan Black. One look at his bronzed body and a fire like no other consumes her. Then she discovers that he's a dragon lord come to take revenge on the vamps who killed his parents. And claim a crystal said to imbue its owner with incredible powers.

Alexia is ordered to torture and kill the dragon lord. Yet with each reckless encounter, she finds herself consumed by his fiery passion. A passion Declan battles, as well. Will he be able to resist the fire of lust she kindles within him and keep revenge in his heart? Or will he risk everything to quench the burning desire and claim the vampire as his own?

Shadow of the Vampire Details

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From Reader Review Shadow of the Vampire for online ebook

Cindy says

Really liked this story. If this is Ms. Hatfield's first published work then my hat is off to her.
I was engaged with the primary and secondary characters. The pace was great, the book kept moving and kept my interest. I looked forward to picking it back up again.
I hope this is a series because the secondary characters deserve their own story to be told.
Great job Ms. Hatfield.
Look forward to future books.
Highly recommend.

Dija says

And then he began telling her the story of them. How this beautiful, sexy woman, this little vampire, had managed to cage him when no one else could. How the first time he'd seen her, his body had reacted with a want his mind told him repeatedly he could not recognize. But that every time she came near him it became harder and harder to resist the pull, resist the urge to kiss her lovely lips, even though it went against everything he had ever been taught, ever believed. Even more amazing, he knew that every conflicting emotion, every spark of infatuation coursing through him echoed through her.

The dragon King and Queen, have just been tortured and murdered by the vampires, and their only son, Declan, is out for revenge. On his raid against the vampires, he quickly finds himself overpowered and outnumbered, and is held captive and tortured for information on the mystical crystal with immeasurable power.

The vampire clan responsible for murdering Declan's parents is being corrupted by the current Queen's lover, Lotharus. The Queen is growing weaker and weaker, both physically and emotionally, and Lotharus is pretty much ruling the clan. Alexia, who's the heir to the throne, means to interrogate Declan but finds herself allowing him to feel her up instead. Less than 10 pages in, and she's already falling for the guy because of how hot he is and how "gently" he's handling her. Is it just me or does that positively scream "Easy, cheap ho!!"?

Nothing she'd experienced in her hundred and twenty years felt this natural, this right.

Really? You haven't even said a single word to him, and already everything he does feels "natural" and "right"?!

My initial annoyance at Alexia's behavior quickly changed into admiration, however, for the strong woman she truly is. She's lonely, abused, scared, and terrified about what's happening to her clan, and her inability to

do anything about it. She's just looking for some sincere company and all of that results in her instant trust in Declan. After the initial introduction, I truly began to see how much Declan and Alexia needed each other.

This book tore at my heart. The pain that both Declan and Alexia have suffered and continue to suffer throughout the story is heart-wrenching. I truly felt these characters and wanted a HEA ending for them from the bottom of my heart. Their's is one of the best love stories I've ever read. I literally devoured this book in 4 hours.

Alexia is an honest and strong heroine and I love how she never pretends to be more than what she really is. Lotharus was creepy and terrifying, but she never let him get to her, and faced him head-on like the royal queen she's destined to be.

And I really really want a dragon now! First Dragos from *Dark Hunter*, and now Delican. I'm not that crazy for vamps anymore; give me a dragon any day of the week! The things they can do with those tails, mmmm...

There's something almost legend-like and fairy tale-ish about the romance between Alexia and Delcan. I can just imagine Alexia telling her future kids: *Once upon a time, there was a wild Dragon King, who fell in love with the beautiful Vampire Princess...*

Chelsea says

You can also find this review at Vampire Book Club

In Meagan Hatfield's paranormal romance *Shadow of the Vampire*, Alexia is on the cusp of taking over the vampire horde from her mother. She's powerful, but her mother's adviser and fiance is far from excited about Alexia taking over. He leads the search for a crystal that will give the vampires total power.

The vampire's enemies are the dragons who live high in the mountains. When dragon lord Declan is captured, Alexia is ordered to torture him for information on the crystal. Instead she falls in love. Something about him draws her to him over and over. He can't resist her either, even though he came to vampires to take revenge for his parents' deaths.

Hatfield writes vivid love scenes that keep readers rapt. Her attention to detail for all senses is notable and helps immerse the reader in the world she's created.

The strong cultures of both the vampires and dragons help paint an intriguing world for the characters of *Shadow of the Vampire*. One that, despite the book's flaws, I would be interested in seeing more of, with or without the same characters.

There were two things that held me back from truly enjoying *Shadow of the Vampire*. The first relates to characterization. We're given good background on the characters in the novel. This, of course, is a big plus. The problem comes in when some of their reactions don't ring true given said background. My real problem is that Alexia has been a victim of rape, yet early on reacts positively to the idea of being helpless during sex. Declan is sensitive to the idea and he's mindful of not being overbearing in that way, which fits with his character (and what readers want from him), but Alexia's reactions just don't fit. Later, sure, but from the get-go? No, I felt like Hatfield was just placating readers' enjoyment, mine included, of that type of

interaction. The scene I'm referring to would have been great if I didn't already have this knowledge about our heroine's past.

Secondly, the book drags on a bit. Certain chapters, particularly toward the end of the novel, have prompt pacing but you had to work to get to them.

Shadow of the Vampire shows promise, strong characterization and Hatfield has the command of prose that can really grab readers, if you can get past the pacing issues.

Wanda says

Now I'm not really into Paranormal kind of books. But I'm going to be really honest. What brought my attention to the book was the cover. After I saw the cover I read the description and I was convinced. I had to read it.

Reading this book is like watching a movie in your head. For every word I read I imagined a scene in my head. Meagan knows how to write a scene so well that you envision yourself in her book as an extra.

Well in "Shadow of a Vampire" Alexa and Declan were rivals, she was a vampire and he was a dragon. And they both were after each other for revenge and after a crystal that has magical powers. But things start slowly changing after Alexa captures Declan and basically holds him prisoner, but is he a prisoner of her desire? I can't write more without spoiling the book. But this is a **MUST** buy **MUST** read. It's definitely a **GOOD CHOICE** for **READING**.

Damaris (GoodChoiceReading) says

This book was like watching a movie! Every time I stopped reading I could not wait to get back to it and finish it. Everything just fell right into place. I liked how right from the beginning this book starts with the action. From the prologue till the end there is always something happening? This was definitely different from other Vampire books I've read. This book was different in the sense that for once the forbidden love was between Vampire and Dragon and not Human and Vampire or Wolf and Vampire. Definitely a change and I loved it. I've only ever read one other book about Dragons and it was more of he was a shape shifter.

Don't get me started on the hot scenes in this book! Hot hot hot! I loved that Meagan Hatfield did not only write the scenes between Alexia and Declan from one point of view. She gives you both point of views at that moment and how they are both feeling. So you get to read what Alexia is feeling and thinking and then Declan. I really liked that because it helps you feel the emotions and picture things better.

This book actually made me teary eyed a couple of times. I found it very sad at some of the things Alexia goes/went through. Then when she finally falls in love it's a little emotional because of her past. She doesn't know if she should stay or go since their love is forbidden. I was torn! But even with everything she went

through she held her head up high and refused to give up on anything. I found myself also feeling sorry for her mother. I got teary eyed with a couple of scenes that involved her mother. Actually through out the book you get a little bit of almost every character. Which I liked a lot! Meagan's main focus of course is on Alexia and Declan, but she gives you a little of every character.

Declan, I love reading a story where the big and bad guy falls in love without even realizing how. I picture Declan as Mark Walberg ha-ha. For some reason his attitude in the beginning and through out the book reminded me of him. He was very sexy and strong. The way he wants to protect Alexia from her past and now was so romantic.

Lotharus is the perfect bad guy!!!! I hate him loll, but his character was thought up really well. He definitely had my yelling "you bastard!" ha-ha

Tallon, I really like this character a lot. She was so strong and such a warrior it was hard not to like her. She did not really fear anything but losing her brother Declan.

So if you want a book full of action, romance, twist, love and betrayal then this is the one for you! Meagan Hatfield wrote this book really well and it was my first book by her and won't be my last. I definitely recommend this book.

Among The Muses says

In this amazing new novel by Meagan Hatfield, you will be swept up in the immediate action, intrigued by the mysterious events, and mesmerized by the dynamic characters and the tragedies and triumphs that surround them, that make up Shadow of the Vampire.

War between clans was growing more fierce, claiming too many lives. Desperate to change the course of events, a dragon King, one of the last of his kind, makes a bold and costly decision. He sets out to seek revenge on his enemies, the vampires, for the deaths of his parents, and to capture a powerful crystal in their possession, said through ancient prophecy, that it had the ability to change the fates of his people.

Declan Black was determined not to see the remaining dragons, who looked to him as their new leader, be decimated in numbers until they eventually would cease to exist at all. But, little did he know that the daughter of the vampire Queen, Alexia, had too much at stake to simply allow Declan to walk in and take the valuable crystal out from underneath her nose. Unfortunately for Declan, he quickly finds himself in the hold of the enemy.

During the time of Declan's capture, under the watchful eye of his sexy, blond captor, both he and Alexia, sense that his time in captivity has unleashed a turn in emotions and leaves them questioning loyalties. Alexia, the sole heir to her mother's throne, is tragically alone in the caves of her royal palace, without the necessary support, love, and guidance she desperately needs and seeks. With the surprising help of her new prisoner, Alexia is slowly awakened to reality that maybe not is all as it seems in her own kingdom, as well as the taught hate towards her enemy, and may have to lean on Declan for more than support.

Caught in the feud between clans, the demands of their positions, and the forbidden lust and love that develops between the two, both Alexia and Declan are forced to make tough decisions that may have

irreversible consequences for both them and their people.

Our hero and heroine both portray strong characteristics of those from two different clans with different perspectives. The tragic events (including physical and emotional abuse) and loneliness that surround Alexia, has you gaining more and more sympathy for her as you get to know her. But, not so much that you think her weak. In fact, I found her to be a survivor who wants to be the best leader for her people, and who grows stronger and more confident as the tale unfolds while still maintaining a sense of vulnerability. Declan, too, changes his opinions and personal characteristics throughout the story. Neither character is the same person that he, or she, started out the story as. I also truly enjoyed the way their growing desire and need for one another was written. It never felt rushed, but rather consuming with the high amounts of sexual tension.

The conflict is very strong in this story. Not only between the initial reactions of the hero and heroine's feelings towards one another and their forbidden love, but also the conflict between the protagonists and the antagonists. The antagonist -- specifically Lotharus, the vampire Queen's future husband, is definitely portrayed as an a villain! He's a vicious, power hungry male, who believes woman to be inferior. His cruel domination over Alexia will have you wanting to see to his demise immediately.

The secondary characters are just as strong. In fact, Hatfield includes some great additional characters with the perfect set-ups to see carried on in a series. I have my heart set on one character in particular -- Griffon! *mmm*

The style of writing in which Hatfield uses creates a great fast-paced action, with a believable plot that stays true to course, and subtle imagery that allows you to 'play out' the picture in your mind. I never felt like something was dragging on longer than necessary, and if the characters did stay in one place, we were only rewarded with new information. The only problem that I had was the ability for myself to come up a clear picture of the physical geographic setting. For example, it was mentioned that the vampires "inhabited the ground beneath the earth", but a couple of times I found myself questioning how some of the characteristics associated with their niche could be possible. But, I can't give examples for the sake of not including any spoilers.

With all the twists and turns in the plot and sub-plots, you'll be sitting on the edge of your seat right from the beginning. The steamy sexual tension that continues to build will leave you begging and pleading for closure as much as the two main characters do! And when it is finally rectified, you will not be disappointed!

This is definitely an adult category book based on the physical violence (including rape that is implied) and for sexual content.

I highly recommend this book for anyone looking for a fantastic, action packed, highly engaging, dark paranormal romance! You will be pleasantly pleased -- and sated-- and sending out letters or requests, and crossing your fingers for Hatfield to turn this in to what could be a great series!

Laurie Garrison says

This was a excellent read! Hatfield has a wonderful talent that shows bright in this highly intense action packed sexy book. The talent she has is to take you in depth in the characters in a short length of time and add so many twist and turns you can't seem to turn the pages fast enough to learn what's happening next. In this book you get tons of intense action, torture, fighting, (dragons against vampires), betrayal, HOT Sex,

and a huge cliffhanger that really makes you want the next book or maybe its two books yep, that's it two books. I would like to give a warning to those that are of the faint of heart ,there is a lot of torture in the first of the book for both Declan and Alexia, so be prepared it starts right off. With everything going on in this book I never felt lost or confused on who is who or what is what. The way Meagan writes it, its very easy to read and understand.

What would you do if the woman that compels you with hot passion is your enemy? The very one that could have killed or had a hand in killing of your parents, then she is the one that captures you and beats you then throws you in a dungeon. Is she the brutal monster or someone else? If not, is there anyway he can keep her without his family killing her.

They both also have another problem, she is a vampire and his family won't accept her unless she is a dragon, now how are they going to be able to jump through that hoop.

Now for Spoilers! If you want to know more.

There is so much in this story I don't want to give out to much, but yet I want to touch on what I enjoyed most, the only thing is I have a problem with that because I enjoyed it all. There's a war going on between the vampires and the Dragons. Alexia (vampire) is soon to be queen, her mother (named Catija, vampire) is being controlled by the evil general (named Lotharios, vampire). Alexia's mother and the evil general kills the King and Queen of the dragons, well lets just say the dragon King and Queen was pretty much tortured to death by them. Now Alexia needs a crystal to have power, so this is were we get into the action, Alexia knows Declan (dragon) has it so she captures him in hopes he will tell her where the crystal is, when he doesn't comply he thrown in the dungeon, later she comes to see him to see if she can get more information out of him, but what she finds is an attraction between each other. I know this is one big spoiler here, I just cant resist. After Declan and Alexia escape Declan is still in week state, but when Alexia is thrown off a cliff he jumps and changes into a dragon in mid flight avoiding the pain and the hard rain trying to get her, This is one intense moment where you really can't turn the pages fast enough to see how he gets her and makes it back up the high cliff.

I do believe this book will hit this top of my favorites of this year right now it's tied with the top one so far, that's how much I enjoyed this story. I would recommend this book to anyone that reads PRN reader even some UF readers that enjoy a little sex would like this book.

Dragon Warrior will be released in 2010 check out Meagan website.

This is one version on this review if you want more sopilers you'll have to visit my blog on my page.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

SPOILERS PRESENT

I usually rate a book 5 stars for one of 2 reasons:

1. It was fantastic! The writing, the storyline, the characters. Fantastic.
2. I would re-read it. Some books even I can admit don't have the best writing, or a few plot holes...but I've re-read them. This one had both of those reasons! At no point did I skim, nor did I even want to. In fact, now I have a new reason to rate a book a fiver: I stayed up til almost 2am finishing this book. Mind you I was up with my 3 year old around 5 am.

It's been a long time since I've stayed up past 11:30 to read.

Okay, so, moving on. Alexia is a vampire. Her mother is the queen of the horde and she has a particularly brutal reputation. Or at least she did until recently. Ever since Lotharus came into their lives, he has gone from Queen's consort to actually ruling their matriarchal society from behind the scenes, going so far as to rape Alexia (our heroine) to keep her in fear of him. Can I just say, that a lot of villains annoy me. They either fall flat or just don't seem worthy of the good guys (ahem the Lessers from the BDB). I think that Lotharus was above and beyond the worst villain ever created. Man this guy's brutal. Not only do we hate him, but we want him to die a slow, horrible death. In fact his "comeuppance" and subsequent death weren't nearly enough for me. I mean homeboy raped our girl, drugs her mom, turns their people against them, tortures her man, tortures our girl some more, and steals her power and her mom's and kills her mom and almost kills our girl! I mean it was touch and go for a while. And our hero? Holy moley do I want him for myself!!!!

Declan Black is the King of the dragons, the sworn enemy of the vampires. But he is a new king seeing as Alexia's mom and psycho lover Lotharus have recently tortured and killed Declan's parents. Silver is deadly to dragons in this world, and Lotharus had their bodies cremated and then sprinkled the ashes into melted silver to make weapons. Sicko.

So Alexia captures the dragon king and from the first moment, those two are hitting sparks off of each other. In fact they are so sparky, that Declan is able to almost seduce Alexia right there in the first 15 pages...and it was fabulous!!! As I said, I want him for myself.

Alexia's no slouch either. She may be afraid of Lotharus but she can still hold her own as a warrior. In fact she helps Declan get free once she realizes just how psychotic and power hungry Lotharus really is. See the vampires are a matriarchal society, but they haven't always been, and Lotharus found some ancient journals from their first and only king. He wants to be king, and he will force the women to demean themselves since he has found a way to clone male warriors, and to strengthen them against the memories that come with drinking blood and against the sunlight...it's kind of cool how he uses the elder's pure blood to do all that.

I think that Declan and Alexia were a great couple, I loved how they thought, how they acted around each other, how Alexia could be strong as a warrior and yet cry on Declan's shoulder. I liked how the ending played out after her death (yes you heard me, she died!!! Well, came so close to death, that there's really no other word), and I just LOVED what happened when Declan fed her his blood and she turned. Her new life as a dragon queen will be hard, but I loved the concept. And apparently there may be another female heir to the vampire queendom...Declan sent out his Hunter and his sister to find someone important (I won't give it away), and his friend Falcon to find that alleged heir.

This book kept me on edge to the point that around midnight I brushed my teeth while not putting down the book, I tried to read and wash my face (that didn't work out so well) and I even propped it open so I could change and keep reading. The action just never stopped. be prepared to read this in one sitting because there are no good "stopping points" you'll just have to set aside 5 hours or so to read the whole book at once.

Nisha says

I'm wavering between a 4 or 4.5 star rating. It's a really good concept. No werewolves vs. vampires crap. Instead, we got dragons and vampires. The writing was really good too. But there were a few WTF moments that prevent this from being a 5 star book.

The hero is the newly inherited dragon King, Declan. His parents have recently been killed by the vampires

while protecting some powerful and precious crystal. He tries to retrieve the crystal and ends up captures and tortured by the vampires, specifically the villain and the heroine. Well, the heroine is the vampire princess, Alexia. She's a good person, but put in the worst of circumstances, being in close proximity of the truly effed up villain, Lotharus. He's awful, I want to kill him for what he does to her. (view spoiler) The rest is just them teaming up and saving the world. Oh wait, I forgot, this happens while they have sex right and left. In fact, they even get caught a few times.

I liked, not loved, the main characters. To be honest, they were interesting, but I never got personally invested in them. As in, Declan never haunted my dreams. The bad guy was awesome/awful. And the random other characters were really interesting. I was sad about Alexia's mother and the abuse she took from Lotharus. Tallon, Falcon, and Griffin, the other dragons, had their own start to their arc during this book. Obviously we are getting 2 more books for this series. I liked Falcon, though I'm pretty ambivalent about the others.

The plot had a few twists and turns, which were kinda good. But I was disappointed with the last twist and dream sequence. If you want to know what that was, check out my updates.

Anyway, overall, this was a great read. I think anyone who reads PNR would really enjoy it. It's better than most out there, plus no more werewolves.

new_user says

Enough of my friends gave Meagan Hatfield's *Shadow of the Vampire* a high rating that I won't feel so guilty when I give this paranormal romance a three-star. Cons just outweighed the pros.

First, I loved Hatfield's development of her dragons! Too many times I read a paranormal romance to find the "paranormal" aspect undeveloped, potential untapped- just an extra hairy dude. What's the point? Hatfield's dragons drink blood, form societies and dynamics, half-shifts, etc. She has definitely fashioned her own mythos. Dragons in this secondary world even *turn* humans and vampires into dragons.

Hatfield's not afraid to incorporate Declan's tail-swinging side in fights (neat!)- and when he and the heroine are getting frisky. LOL! He has a tail, and he's not afraid to use it, folks. Declan's very endearing, however, when he uses his wings to cushion heroine Alexia's head. Yeah, he's sweet like that.

Alexia, on the other hand, seems rather incompetent. She's sympathetic because she isn't harsh and she faces scary mofos and she's appropriately scared without dissolving into tears or shrillness. That said, she isn't very proactive, and her efforts seem weak; she's a spectator in her fate. Declan was far more competent. Even after a thorough torture session, he comforts her. This relationship is believable, however, and demonstrated in some nuances, e.g. Alexia cries with him, when she so rarely allows herself to cry.

That brings me to the sex breaks. Too many. I was starting to dread them. I was afeared! LOL. Every time a scene started to get cozy, I thought, "Oh no!"

Sex breaks slowed *Shadow's* momentum. So did lengthy "build-up" when the heroine operates on a misconception we are expecting thanks to the author's prep, bemoans her fate for five more pages until someone disabuses her of her fool ideas with the solution we knew about twenty pages previous. Romancelandia hyperbole in the hero and heroine's inner dialogues -mostly in the heroine's, since the author

lends them slightly different voices- also slowed momentum, emotion metaphors (black holes, dude), and a flowery, unsophisticated prose, e.g. "He beat his fist against the ground, relishing the dull ache vibrating into his head."

Sentences like these overweight with unnecessary articles, adjectives, etc. made the narrative slower, less lean. Though Hatfield tries to create fast-paced action scenes through the use of shorter sentences, she used mostly fragments- not my favorite device. I would have liked tighter writing, and that wordiness is really the cause of my low rating. A few clichés also detracted from my enjoyment.

Otherwise, Declan's a healthy, lively hero, we see plenty of interesting relationships and character dynamics -enough for a series, for sure- side plots and fighting, ra! I recommend this more for readers who consider themselves romantic, don't mind flowery, and love a hero with long locks. Then this is good stuff!

Ashley says

My Review:

Alexia Feodorovna is just two days away from ascending the throne as Queen of her vampire horde but the occasion is destined to be a somber one. Mercilessly abused by her mother's lover and first in command, Lotharus, Alexia's ascension hangs in the balance as he strives to overthrow not only her upcoming rule but their entire way of life as well. What Alexia needs to facilitate and secure her position within the horde as Queen is the Crystal of the Draco, a rock prophesized to grant its owner pure undiluted power. Unfortunately, only her millennium-long rival knows where the stone is hidden for after all, it is he that stole it. Luckily, Alexia's successfully captured the thief, Dragon Lord Declan Black, and she'll use all means necessary to retrieve the intelligence she so desperately requires.

After the recent torture and murder of his parents - the dragon King and Queen - whilst in the hands of the vampires, Declan hopes to decimate his enemies once and for all with the Crystal of the Draco but he never planned on getting caught himself. Now, as the last remaining full-blooded dragon heir, Declan is needed desperately by his flock. Instead, he's shackled deep within the Horde's dungeons plagued by pondering thoughts that involve nothing of escape but rather of the lithe blond vampire who captured him. While he strives to hate the little female, her sadness reaches deep within his battered soul igniting a fiercely primal need to possess and protect. Together, he and Alexia form a forbidden bond within the darkly oppressive catacombs of her home, soothing each others aches and fears. When it becomes obvious that Lotharus has horrifically abused Alexia, Declan can only see a haze of red rage at the mention of the detested vampire's name. Confused, Declan grapples with the fact that where he once sought to destroy the vampires for revenge, he now only burns to avenge Alexia and the foul treatment she's bravely endured.

Pulsing with a dark menace, Lotharus is an evil villain of the worst kind, one with a dangerous strategy as well as all the patience in the world. Working to eradicate the vampires horde's current matriarchal society, Lotharus's evil intelligence has succeeded in isolating both the Queen and Alexia, allowing him complete control. Once his carefully laid plans reach fruition, both of the hated females will be dead and he'll reign as King - the first King of the Vampires to rule in over a millennium. But the Dragon Lord Declan poses a problem. Like Alexia, Lotharus must have the crystal to secure control over the horde as well as granting him the means to destroy the Queen and Alexia. Everything has been running in Lotharus's favor until Alexia befriends Declan. Wary of the potentially dangerous alliance, Lotharus is quick to punish Alexia but he needs Declan to locate the crystal before he can put the detested dragon down.

Torn between her destiny and her heart, Alexia's awaiting loneliness once Queen is unbearable to even contemplate. Knowing that in two days time she'll never be able to touch Declan again, Alexia relishes in their stolen moments of passion for they'll have to sustain her soul for a lifetime. Still determined to save her horde from the ruthless Lotharus despite Decaln's wish that she become his Queen, Alexia grasps what's left of her tattered strength and prepares to fight for her birthright, leaving Declan behind with the gift of her heart. Hoping for a miracle, Alexia resolves to take back what's hers and end the Dragon/Vampire War forever.

My Thoughts:

SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE is a dark and dangerous tale of forbidden love. Penning gruesome torture and soaring love with an awe inspiring balance, Ms. Hatfield fearlessly guides her characters along a journey that's destined to shred and reshape the very fabric of their souls.

Declan, a strong and virulent character who's absolutely fearless, follows his heart while questioning little over its strange direction. I really enjoyed this about him. He doesn't fight his feelings too hard and soon he's grasping hold of Alexia with all his might. This of course makes his inability to protect Alexia from Lotharus while in captivity all the more frustrating and just a little bit terrifying.

Just as strong as her hero, Alexia refuses in any way to shirk her duty even though it means she'll be giving up Declan forever. With Lotharus at the helm of her horde, Alexia must sever his position for to not would mean entrusting her people to a madman. Her decisions aren't easy and I empathized greatly with Alexia's plight.

Finally, the worldbuilding was just enough to be interesting but never overwhelming. SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE is very much a character driven plot with the focus being nearly entirely upon Declan's and Alexia's relationship. Overall, a lovely balance with no plot holes to plunge into or head scratching questions at the end. A nice read, not the best, but entertaining with an added touch of anxious excitement for what's hopefully soon to come.

For paranormal romance lovers that enjoy minimal worldbuilding, a character driven plot, and a strong can-take-anything-that-comes-at-'em hero and heroine, then SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE is the read you've been hungering for. Enjoy!

Erika says

3.5 stars

Writing didn't flow smoothly all of the time and I didn't like how the heroine was capable of hurting hero in beginning and how he thought of killing her. BUT, I did end up enjoying their love for each other as the book progressed. Very Romeo and Juliet. Both characters ended up being very likable. Hero was quite sexy.

Got annoyed when hero references that he dated before and even had a couple of serious girlfriends in the past. Wish he hadn't ever had a serious one but ah well... I am sensitive to that stuff since heroine only had cruel past experience.

Stephanie G says

Alexia is a vampire princess who fights to keep her people safe. A recently discovered crystal can give the one wielding it immense power. After an attack from her dragon enemies, Alexia must do all she can to get the stolen crystal back. Once she is face to face with the dragon, she realizes it will not be as easy as she thought. Declan Black is unlike any male she has come across and he brings out feelings in Alexia she didn't even know she had.

Declan knows he should be trying to kill the little blonde vampire sent to torture him but his body has other things planned. Alexia is his enemy but all he can think about is kissing her soft lips again and protecting her from evil hidden within her own people. An evil that will stop at nothing to destroy them both.

Both Alexia and Declan have an immense amount of pressure and responsibility on their shoulders. Alexia is soon to become queen and is fighting against her own people for control of what is supposed to be her birth right. She is definitely one of the strongest princesses I've ever read about. She is a worthy fighter who just wants to protect and take care of those around her. I liked Alexia because everything she wanted, she wanted for her people. Even though she presented a tough exterior, she is scared she will fail them. Declan was perfect for her. Even though he was chained in the dungeon and beaten, he could only think about keeping Alexia safe and avenging a wrong that was done to her. Declan is a passionate character that you would definitely want as a friend and not as your enemy.

Lotharios is a vampire who leads the soldiers and he is not happy with a woman on the throne. He is a vile creature who enjoys torture, rape and murder. There is no question that he is evil from the moment you first read about him. He is the dark cloud hanging over Alexia and her mother and enjoyed torturing Declan. I couldn't decide if I wanted Alexia or Declan to be the one to finally put him out of every one's misery. The climatic fight between the three at the end was worth the wait.

The vampires and dragons are at war. It is an emotional one for both sides and they have each suffered great loss because of it. There is a lot of hate amongst the people and I want to keep reading to find out how it ends. Megan Hatfield had me addicted from the beginning. I really hope this is the start of a series because Shadow of the Vampire left me wanting more. No really, there were two cliffhangers!

~Stephanie G

Desperado says

I'm actually giving this novel **3.5** stars. The romance was great. The storyline was great. The supporting characters were interesting. Even the villain was intriguing; Lotharus was a real piece of work. Why only 3.5 stars instead of 4 or 5, then? Because the hero & heroine were complete, lust-crazed idiots. My pinky toe has more common sense than Declan & Alexia had combined. At least when something's ready to come down on my foot, my pinky toe knows how to get the hell out the way! As my friend Catherine said (paraphrasing) "You don't reward stupidity with triumph!" *This is not a review. This is just my explanation of why I'm giving this novel 3.5 stars & not the 3 stars you see. GR hasn't gotten around to giving us those half stars yet!*

Jennifer M says

Declan is a lord, forced by tragedy into leadership. Alexia is a princess about to ascend to her throne. They become "Romeo and Juliet" in a centuries old war. Only this Romeo has scaled wings, and his Juliet has fangs. With both their races clashing in a deadly battle to possess a crystal foretold to grant the owner power to rule all, Declan and Alexia have more than just their undeniable passion for each other to contend with.

This book starts off with a bang and the action just doesn't let up the whole way through! Dragons take the place of werewolves in the traditional archenemy role for vampires in this story, and let me just tell you, it works fantastically! (Who needs fur when you can have WINGS?)

I love that both of these main characters are in a transition in their respective societies. Both put in a position they are resigned to, but neither is really ready for. Throughout the story we get to see them both become the leaders they're intended to be. The descriptions of both the vampire horde and the dragon flock were so important to understanding the evolution of the characters. Not only what they lived with every day, but what they strived to create. I really liked that we learned more than just the names of many secondary characters. Too often characters that aren't the "main focus" of the story get shortchanged in the depth department. Including many points of view can sometimes be confusing, but it was done very well and brought some much needed clarity to parts of the story. I loved being able to get into the head of Catija and Tallon especially. (Would have LOVED to get into Griffin's head a little, so I'm hoping that'll be a point of view for another book, oh... and Yuri, too... yummmeeeee.)

Declan and Alexia together were just incredible. They started out hot and just got hotter as the story went on. I loved that they didn't do the "does he really like me" "does she really like me" think that some couples do. They felt the attraction and were honest about it from the beginning. (A little early in the overall story, but I'll chat about that in a minute.) They knew they wanted each other, and fought through, literally, the heavens and the earth to be together.

Now, for my only two criticisms. I do understand that Declan and Alexia were attracted to each other from the start, that they felt a connection, or rightness with each other. That's fine, but it was a little hard for me to understand how they let down their guard for, at the time, an enemy, so soon in the story. I'm also not a big fan of extended bad-things-happening-to-good-people in a story. There were a few too many passages full of silver gunshot wounds and references to horrible acts perpetrated by Lotharus (or Lotharass, as I started calling him) for my taste. I know, things like that create drama and ways for a character to "overcome" in the story. I've been told that by authors time and time again. But I still don't like too much of it.

Overall, I really, really liked this book. I liked the action (most of it, lol) and loved the relationships, both the romantic ones, and the familial bonds. I honestly can't wait for the next book to come out. Luckily for all of us, there are a few plotlines screaming "please write about me" at the end of Shadow Of The Vampire. And I just realized that there will be a semi-prequel story available in July as well, Dragon Warrior, so we won't have long to wait!
