

The Bitten

Written by L. A. Banks

St. Martin's Griffin

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Reviewed by KaTrina Love

The 5th installment of the exciting Vampire Huntress series is intoxicating and edgy. The Vampire Huntress series is the hottest urban vampire series imaginable. It's an ingenious mixture of hip hop, street gangsters, hot babes, and powerful men in a subtle place of good versus evil that is an extension of the world we know. This installment concentrates heavily on Carlos Riviera; the street wise, savvy, street business drug dealer turned Master Vampire who loves Damali, the Vampire Huntress. Riviera's situation is comparable to his standing in the middle of a chess board with the Vampire council on one side, the Neteru and her Guardians on another side, the church clergy on the opposite side, and older jealous Master Vampires on the last side.

Riviera is surrounded and things are closing in on him fast. But that's not even the worst part. Riviera, the leader of evil, and Damali, the leader of good mixed their blood. The mixture of that blood and their explosive love could compromise the delicate balance of life. But there is yet another threat looming:..."There is a key for the Seven Seals as specified with in the 6th chapter of Revelations...someone from the 6th realm – a Master Vampire – has stolen the key that will unlock the 6th seal...when opened, the 6th seal turns the sun to ash, making it black like sack cloth...perpetual nig ht...the moon will turn to blood...Heaven will roll away...The opener of the seal would be powerful enough to mark his territory with the sacred number of our empire..."

Banks' writing makes you want to live in Carlos and Damali's love and become a permanent fixture in the bellicose world of Vampires and Slayers that she's created. From one moment to the next, we don't know if the Vampire Huntress is Vampire, Neteru, or both. Factor in that Damali and Carlos share strong soul ties, along with his being a Vampire and her being a Vampire Slayer and you have a family feud, a kinetic explosion of immeasurable consequences that will widely affect the future.

If you are a fanatic Vampire Huntress fan like I am, then you've been on this ride before, but The Bitten is the deepest, most emotional, and passionate journey of them all. I read 448 pages in one evening because this thrill ride was so intense, exciting, and unpredictable. So get ready because this thrill ride will leave you emotionally spent.