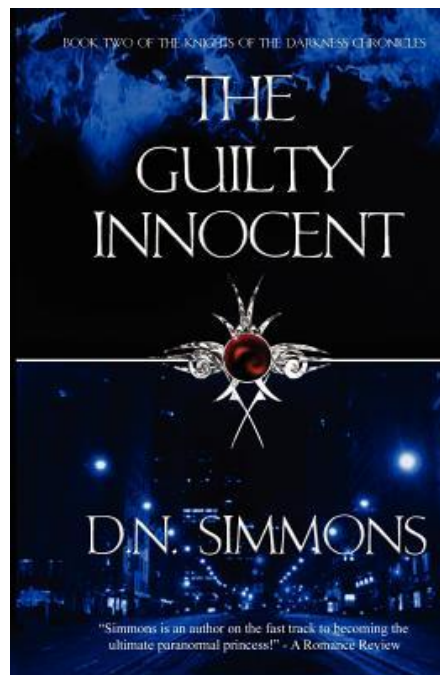




# The Guilty Innocent

*D.N. Simmons*

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# The Guilty Innocent

*D.N. Simmons*

## **The Guilty Innocent** D.N. Simmons

The Guilty Innocent is the second novel in the edgy, action-packed, sexually-charged, Knights of the Darkness Chronicles.

In this installment, Darian, the gorgeous, charismatic and charming master vampire of Chicago is framed for a crime he didn't commit, but why? His lover, Xavier, Natasha and a few others must travel halfway across the world to find out who and why before time runs out and all hell breaks loose!

Original, sexy and gritty, the Knights of the Darkness Chronicles will suck you in and take you for a ride you won't forget!

This book has been previously published and has been substantially revised from its original release.

## **The Guilty Innocent Details**

Date : Published August 22nd 2012 by Rushmore Publishing (first published August 24th 2005)

ISBN : 9780615688381

Author : D.N. Simmons

Format : Paperback 284 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Mystery, M M Romance

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## From Reader Review The Guilty Innocent for online ebook

### Jeanette says

This is a series definitely not for the faint of heart. The books have action, violence and graphic sex. The amount of violence was extremely large in this book. Our heroines' acceptance of paranormals feasting on others (even if evil) is pushing a boundary that I am not sure I can believe. The other is the paras' constant glorifying of her as 'so wonderful'. This has been compared to Anita Blake series and I couldn't finish that series either, but I also know I'm in minority. So if you liked Anita, I think you would like this series, too.

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### a\_tiffyfit says

Part of a blog tour. Steamy, gritty, urban paranormal with smokin' hot characters. Review to come!

This series is HEATING UP. Sadly, this one starts with the murder of Tasha's best friend and roommate, Annette. Her body is found in the trunk of Darian's car, framing him for the murder. Tasha, Xavier, Warren, Matthew, Elise, Sergio, and their supernatural allies together have only 7 days to prove his innocence before Darian will be executed per law. (Supernaturals are not privy to the same rights as humans, even though humans can be more monstrous. :( )

Now that we have all the players from book one and their backgrounds, there is much more action in this book. I think many would call this world hedonistic, and it is. I mean...if you have lived for hundreds of years, wouldn't you revel in pleasures as you can take them, too?

I'm already hoping that something happens to Tasha to make her live a longer/immortal life. Human lives are just too short. She nearly died in the first book while helping out on an investigation! In this book, she is in harm's way lots of times, but so is everybody else.

Back to the hedonism: this book is a guilty pleasure filled with Tasha's curiosity, her honest questions, her blatant interest in how sexual a vampire's kiss can be, etc. It's very human in that it's so focused on sex: so many humans are focused on sex.

Now here's the strange part: despite many scenes of sexual nature, it does NOT take over the book. Once again, it's seamlessly woven in so that it isn't the main focal point. The main point is tracking down the bastards who are framing Darian. And it gets worse...shifters are turning on their own kind all for the sake of...Ah. No spoilers for you.

Natasha and Xavier's relationship develops further, and her experiences in Russia seem to help her open up to other possibilities. I'm enjoying reading and seeing these developments.

Favorite passages from this book:

"In reality, there was no more danger from shape-shifter children than there was from other, fully human children. I thought it would be good for the schools to be integrated. It would allow the human and shape-shifter children to interact with each other. Kids weren't born with prejudices; they were learned from their parents. If you enlightened both the children and their parents, then the world would grow to be a better place." Pg 9

Didn't I say how I felt it was disgusting how quickly humans slam others and one another into second-class citizenship roles?

"Being five-feet-two has its disadvantages as well as its perks. I've never had to reach for high things. I just looked for a tall person then acted helpless; it never failed." Pg 71

I liked this one because this is my mom (she's Korean and 4'10"). She has perfected the "look helpless" way of getting people to do things for her)

"Well, I hold the act of making love in high regards. I don't think you should just screw anybody just because you're hot for them. People should treat themselves with more respect than that, especially women. I know some people may call me a prude, but that's how I feel about it. A lot of heartache in this world is due to people giving themselves away far too easily. ...people put so much emphasis on sex, like it's the end of the world if they don't get any. And it's the actions of the irresponsible people engaging in these shallow sex acts that cause so much trouble. The vast spread of AIDS, herpes, and other STDs, not to mention unwanted pregnancies and abortions, can be contributed [sic] to some people who just wanted to have sex simply to have sex. People kill people over sex, people betray others over sex, and it's ugly." Pg 170-171  
I couldn't agree more. In my opinion, this is why people break up so often, why there's so much divorce, disease, and that feeling of unfulfillment no matter what. There's no connection. It's just fucking.

Well, I'll let you read. I gotta get onto book 3, THE ROYAL FLUSH.

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## Nicholas says

It has probably been well over a year since I'd read *Desires Unleashed* and relinquished my thoughts about it to those who'd give a listen, and *The Guilty Innocent* succeeded in bringing it all back:

The human character of Natasha and her relationship with two elite Chicago vampires Darian and Xavier in a contemporary world where such supernaturals including shapeshifters are a part of everyday society.....

.....an elite sector of law enforcement aptly branded the acronym S.U.I.T.s (Supernatural Unit Investigation Team) that exists to keep the supernaturals in line.....rampant sexuality.....

This second time around we find Natasha in far better control of her ability to see into the near future. Her best friend's body is discovered inside the trunk of vampire Darian's car, which leads the S.U.I.T.s to put Darian behind bars. The novel henceforth and to its very end tells the tale of Natasha's efforts to clear Darian and seek out those responsible for framing him. She enlists the aid of werewolves, wereleopards (so to speak), familiar vampires and characters from the first book, and John Fallon. (John --- women everywhere want you, don't they? Am I not mistaken that this character is based on you?) There's also a mafia twist to the plot which provides a refreshing landscape of situation and intrigue.

Now, I adore D.N. Simmons' writing. She's an up-and-comer who's already up and here for us all to enjoy, a good contemporary contributor to the dark rich vastness of vampire lore, and she does it all with astounding ease. On the strength of a stand-alone novel, however, I only recommend reading *The Guilty Innocent* after you've read the first. On the strength of its nature of being the second in a series, it's a fantastic companion, "the further adventures of," if you will..

That's a good thing for D.N., because you have to buy the first to appreciate the next, and the first indeed makes you crave more. As Stephen King once said to me and in the same context, keep 'em coming, and I indeed look forward to more of the further exploits of Simmon's delightful entourage of characters in her ambitious *Knights of the Darkness Chronicles* series.

---from "Nick Reads & Reviews"

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## **Jillian (NetGalley Addict) says**

This book was part of a blog tour, I received a copy for my honest review

This is the second book in the Knights of the Darkness Chronicles; Natasha is trying to get a grasp on her psychic abilities when Darian is accused of murder. Xavier, Natasha and a few others have to prove that Darian is not the killer and they don't have long to do it. I started reading this book and felt a little lost, so I went and read the first book in the series. It helped a lot, I liked Natasha in the first book but I loved her in this one. She is a very strong woman, she is surrounded by alpha males and yet she holds her own and doesn't let herself be pushed around. Elise, an ex of Darians is a complete bitch, I loved to hate her, she had lots of attitude but she had flair. Xavier and Darian were sexy as ever and it was interesting to see them trying to navigate their relationship with Natasha. The change of scenery was nice, the whole group going to Moscow and not killing each other seemed like a big challenge in itself, let alone finding the people who framed Darian. This book was a great sexy, suspenseful read, there were a few scenes that I found humorous but I honestly don't know if that was what the author was going for or if I have a dark sense of humor. I can't wait to get my hand on the next book in the series to find out what my favorite characters are up to.

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## **Bex 'n' Books says**

Reviewer: Brittany

Rating: 5 out of 5 Fairies

Holy Hannah! I cannot express enough how much I loved this book. I read the last one and thought I'd love for this to be a series. And what do ya know...EUREKA! I was informed it was. Imagine how giddy I was when I learned of this and received the book. I was entranced from beginning to the end. I was even called a giggly little school girl at work I loved it so much. I think my stomach got quite the workout from this lovely novel.

The dialogue is so good and Natasha is so brave. I'm glad that she has embraced her abilities more from the first book. It is very unfortunate what happened to Annette but I'm proud of how feisty Natasha became because of it. She was sad and forlorn when she found out and the lovely men in her life were there to help support her. This book is filled with strong, independent women and true flippin' gentleman. It's not everyday you get to read about the gentlemanly ways of these male characters. It's enough to make a girl swoon! Not to mention I wanna take the species of today's males and give them a lecture. They could sure learn a thing or two from these characters.

The action was super intense. Their time is Russia had me on the edge of my seat. The dialogue throughout the whole book was so well written. I could envision every scene as if it were playing in front of me on the big screen. Speaking of which...I sure would LOVE to see these come to a big screen. There was a resolution for Darian, Sergio, Devin, and even Annette. I honestly thought whenever Xavier made the deal that he did with Eremai, that he had fallen off his rocker. Silly me, I shoulda known there was a method to his madness. And I'm super happy that Natasha is coming to terms with their method. Not to mention their relationship. Oooohhhhh I can't wait to see where that relationship is gonna go.

However, I have an inkling in my belly that at some point she is gonna have to be turned. Especially since everyone keeps ranting and raving how she a human, humans are vulnerable, she's going to get injured, blah, blah, blah. Honestly. Men. They think us women are less resourceful than we really are. Hmph. I guess we shall see! Or at least I will. I can't wait to start the next one. Especially since I know there's several more. Oh I can almost taste the excitement. Job well done 5 Shining Stars!

Disclosure: This book was provided by the author in exchange for an HONEST and not necessarily positive review.

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## **ILVN says**

In the second installment of Ms. Simmons Knights of the Darkness Chronicles, *The Guilty Innocent*, she further explores the budding relationship of Natasha, a psychic with precognitive talents and Darian, the Master vampire of Chicago and his second in command, Xaviar. Just as this book gets started, Natasha world is rocked from all sides. Her soon to be lover is accused of a murder he did not commit and Natasha and Xaviar must enlist help from the entire supernatural community to solve the murder and prove Darian's innocence before he is executed!

Ms Simmons gives a refreshing view of love in its many forms. From Natasha trying to come to grips with her attraction and the growing intensity of her feelings for two very alpha vampires, Darian and Xaviar, to the strength of the relationship between two very sexy werewolves, Aidan and Warren and the incredible mating of the feline shifter Queen with her chosen King, she shows that whether your relationship is m/f/m, m/m, or m/f, it can be incredible and exciting! The emotions in this book felt real and not in any way contrived or forced. Natasha's naivety was well balanced with her strength and open honesty. She was not afraid to ask the hard questions and to be herself. It was refreshing to see a strong female character that was not afraid to stand up for all that she believed and no rush into anything intimate before she was ready.

The best part of this book for me was the nonstop action. There were times I was sitting on the edge of my seat and white knuckling my kindle afraid one of good guys was not going to make it out of the conflict alive! The action scenes were written in such incredible detail that I was sure there were bullets whizzing by my head! This book is an enjoyable read from beginning to end!

Review by I Love Vampire Novels

[www.facebook.com/ilovevampirenovels](http://www.facebook.com/ilovevampirenovels)

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## **Diana (Offbeat Vagabond) says**

Original review here:

<http://offbeatvagabond.blogspot.com/2013/03/guest-post-review-50-amazon-gc-giveaway.html>

*The Guilty Innocent* is book two in D.N. Simmons' Knights of the Darkness Chronicles series. I absolutely loved the first book, *Desires Unleashed*, so I jumped on this very quickly. This time around we follow Natasha after tragedy strikes someone she loves. To make matters worse, Darian has been framed for it. She now has seven days to prove his innocence, if not, Darian goes to trial and they know they will shoot first and ask questions later. And Darian will destroy anyone he has to before that happens. With the help of her shapeshifter cop friend Warren and the help of her and Darian's lover, Xavier, they set out to Russia to find the evidence they need to clear Darian. They uncover that things go way past the Russian mafia and that Natasha and her newfound friends are in a lot of danger.

Oh my goodness, Simmons has done it again. I read this in a day. I couldn't put this down. I loved this even more than book 1. I loved Natasha in this book. I love that in a room of vampires and shapeshifters she can hold her own. I loved her attitude in this book. She bends over backwards to protect those she loves and cares about. I loved her even more in this book. I loved Xavier in this book as well. He was incredible and he definitely goes high on my book boyfriend list. Oh my goodness, just perfect. I loved all the characters in

this book. Most surprising was Elise. In *Desires Unleashed*, she was awful. She was quite the b\*\*\*\*. Actually she starts off with quite the attitude with Natasha. We know Elise wants Darian and was obsessed with him in book 1. So much so that she pushes aside a fellow shifter that wants and loves her, Sergio. I loved him a lot in this book as well.

This story was just full of action, tears, and laughs. It was fast paced and I breezed through it. The idea was great. Someone had the cajones to frame Darian. They want something from him and they need him out of the way to get it. They are planning something big and the team have to work to stop it all. That is if they don't get killed on the way. The moment they set foot in Russia, they are constantly getting shot at and chased down. It was quite an adrenaline rush.

I loooooooved this book so much. It is definitely one of my favorite reads this year (along with *Desires Unleashed*). It was full of very light and very dark moments. It was sexy, emotional and all around fun. I loved all the feelings that were explored in this book. I found myself crying at times especially near the end. Not to mention the amount of laughs this book brings specifically from Devin. He is a shifter with quite the personality. I loved him the moment he opened his mouth. I hope we get more of him in the future books. This book is also full of some very memorable scenes. Like what Sergio has to do when he needs to spy on the enemies. I had tears in my eyes, I couldn't stop laughing. Let's not forget the very end. Oh goodness, now that is how you end a book. Natasha asked quite the favor from the boys and it took me about five minutes to compose myself and continue reading. But it is a favor I was glad to witness. I am one happy woman right now. You have to start this series. It is an amazing PNR/UF read, wonderfully written and chalk full of characters worth raving about. Highly recommended.

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### **JustJen "Miss Conduct" says**

Book 2, more of what I loved in book 1. Natasha is taking more of an active role in this one, as it is told from her perspective. I enjoyed the plot and all the characters, but was disappointed that Darian was separated from the story most of the time while he was stuck in jail.

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### **Melanie says**

I won this book from Goodreads and I did enjoy it, however, I just didn't like the whole threesome thing between Natasha, Xavier, and Darian. I guess I'm just more of a fan of the more traditional romance. It did remind me of the Anita Blake series and it was quite good. Lots of action, suspense, and romance.

Natasha Hemingway is a psychic and clairvoyant, who works as a photographer. Her world is turned upside down when she finds out that her best friend is murdered and one of her lover's, Darian, is being accused. Now it's up to her and Xavier, her other lover, and two were-leopards to go and prove Darian's innocent. They must hurry and rely on Natasha's visions because they only have a week to prove Darian's innocence.

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### **Jonel Boyko says**

This was such a brilliant sequel to *Desires Unleashed*. It kept me even more captivated than its predecessor and knitted together some of the loose ends left over from the first novel. The characters returned with a vengeance and I could barely put it down.

I appreciate that Simmons fills the reader in on all of the pertinent details from the first novel, while continuing on with the new story. It allows past readers to refresh themselves on what had previously happened. There is also enough detail that someone could begin the series with this novel and not be lost. I also appreciate that this novel has an actual ending. Don't get me wrong, to get the full impact of the series, one should read the first novel first and there is a great deal of room for sequels to come after but I enjoy the fact that this novel has a beginning and an ending, never leaving you hanging or confused.

Simmons somehow makes situations seem simultaneously off the wall and completely normal. This novel is so well written that you can't help but get caught up in the storyline. She evokes emotions in the reader that coincide with the action in the story. Simmons made me laugh, she made me nervous, she even brought tears to my eyes. Each and every emotion is evoked naturally through the author's amazing storytelling skills.

The characters in this novel made a seamless transition from the first instalment in the series. They continue to grow and become further developed. They are each strong characters who stand up for what they believe in and for their friends and families, regardless of personal cost. They are also very emotionally developed characters. As a reader, you really get to know the characters and the worlds in which you live. You can actually feel the characters' turmoil (both physical and emotional) coming through the author's words. I also love how you these characters give you insights into their worlds, and the multiplicity of worlds that make up the lives of these phenomenally loveable characters.

This novel has romance, intrigue, suspense, and supernatural elements all put together in a very entrancing, fluid whole. What more could you want?

Please note that I received this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Inara says**

This is the second book in the "Knights of Darkness"-Series and is told by Natasha's POV who is still learning to master her new found psychic abilities with Darian's help. When someone in Natasha's personal environment is killed and Darian is accused of murder Natasha and Xavier move heaven and earth to find the real killer and help Darian. They only have a couple of days to prove Darian's innocence before his trial and they know Darian would never let himself be sentenced to death – a massacre would be the outcome. But to find the real killer is much more complicated than they thought, involving the Russian Mafia, politicians on Darian's playlist and an intrigue to bring Darian down. With the help of the were-leopards Eloise and Sergio they venture into Russian Mafia territory...

This book is fast-paced with much action and fighting, the plot is quite interesting and there's NOT at every second page a sex scene to fill the pages! But what puzzles me still is why two powerful vampires have fallen so quickly and deeply in love with Natasha, I really can't see the reason but it seems to be so... shrugs. What I didn't like was the constant description what and how much Warren is able to eat, we know by now that a were-metabolism needs much food – it started to annoy me and it's utterly boring. Secondly the author has to be careful not fall into the cheesy trap, Eloise and Natasha suddenly best friends?? I liked Eloise more as a rival for Darian's affection but all of a sudden Eloise sees the goodness in Natasha and the error of her own ways... oh my!

Nonetheless I liked the plot, most of the characters (although we didn't get to see so much of Darian as I would have liked), the (few) sex scenes are hot and steamy and I will of course read the next book in the series "The Royal Flush".

Website of the author: <http://www.dnsimmons.com/>



## Autumn says

I give this book 4 stars

I have to say that the author did a better job getting the story going this time around. I was so sad that Annette was killed off right away but I see why the author decided to do it this way. Natasha had to grow into her own and she does because she is trying to save Darian and trying to bring Annette justice at the same time. In the first book we briefly meet Elise (who was Darian's lover) and Sergio (in love with Elise). In this book we see more of their relationship. I really like Sergio he is the big bad protector of his pride but he is soft hearted at times. It surprised me that John a vampire that helps Natasha and Xavier clear Darian name kisses Natasha its like she is their kryptonite lol I love the fact that we see a different side of Xavier and Natasha we get to see their dark side. Natasha is surprised by her need for vengeance but i for one would want pain to anyone who hurt anyone I care about.

The scenes that hit me the most would have to be Annette's funeral and wake. It made me feel like i was there and I cried when Annette's mother gave her the locket. Then there's the end of the story i have to say i loved it!!!! Natasha asks Xavier and Darian to have sex so she can see who they are together let me tell you to was one hott scene. I have a feeling that Natasha is going to be turned at some point either by force or at her own will. I think she is going to get tired of everyone calling her weak and just human. (I know i would if I was her) I guess I will have to wait to see if I'm right or not and I cant wait

Natasha talking about her visions:

"I've seen all sorts of things, such as murders, rapes and sexual orgies, to name a few. The orgies can sometimes be entertaining if I allow myself to pry, which doesn't happen often. But sometimes, you know.....I can't help myself."

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## Furio says

read in Apr. 2006

I guess I could just copy the review I wrote for Desires Unleashed, praises and criticisms being largely the same for this second episode as well.

First this book is outrageously pricey for a common paperback and in desperate need of a good editing: typos are just as frequent as in the first volume but there are grammar mistakes, inconsistencies and name switches as well.

The book is not entirely bad: it can be a good easy read (not always easy because of the typos, actually), quick, pleasant; it can be a nice way to spend a couple of hours if you like vampire/slash/sexy fiction and if you manage to suspend disbelief.

Problems begin if you slow down a bit and try to look for some sense in what you read.

In this second volume Ms Simmons focuses exclusively on Natasha, who was a dull character in the first episode and is an outright catastrophe in this second one.

She is the dictionary picture of the silly goose with just some obnoxious flies going on in between her ears: one second she whines for her murdered best friend, a few lines later she seems to be deeply interested in what she or the other characters are wearing or eating: we are given whole paragraphs of clothing details,

right out of a very cheap harlequin for under-educated teen-girls.

At times the author manages to put a witty remark in her mouth but it is soon spoilt by her endless silly blubbing.

How is a reader supposed to believe such a less than average featherhead can make two (gay!!!) gorgeous, brilliant, successful vampires fall in love with her simply escapes my understanding, not to mention the fact that every male creature in the book (and I mean EVERY SINGLE ONE) is said to be intrigued by her.

To add to an already outstanding characterization blunder, Natasha blubbers endless commonplaces about love, relationships, respect, religion and so on only to bed or at least feel roused by killers such as vampires; neither does she hesitate to peep at the orgies (!) she passes by (!).

This inconsistency tract is believable but it is hardly endearing in a main hero.

Other characters are nearly non existent: all are gorgeous, there is not a single plain person in the whole book; they have lots of sex (sketchy and commonplace, much worse than in the first episode) and they all rotate around her.

Matthew and Warren, who in the first book were hot, endearing AND nearly believable are here little more than extras. I missed them painfully.

Borrow this book, just do not buy it before you have read it and found it to your taste!

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## **Jacque Talento says**

I received a copy from the author for an honest review.

In this second book of the series, Natasha is trying to find the one responsible for the murder of her best friend, Annette. Why would someone want to kill such a kind, wonderful person? With Darian being the accused, she refuses to believe he's responsible and has to team up with Xavier and Warren to find the responsible party to bring them to justice. But teaming up with Elise isn't going to be such an easy task with her snarky comments coming at Natasha full force every chance she gets. She is also going to try to find out her feelings for the men in her life. I am really enjoying this series.

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## **Maria says**

I received a complimentary copy of this book as a part of a book tour in exchange for a fair and honest review. I rated it 4.5 out of 5 Stars.

Picking up the storyline roughly four months after the end of the events in *Desires Unleashed*, D.N. Simmons continues her world building in *The Guilty Innocent*, the second book in the *Knights of the Darkness Chronicles* series. Featuring many of the characters we met in the first book, we become more immersed in the supernatural world, the continuing conflicts between humans and the supernaturals and the emergence of humans with psychic powers. Once again, I found myself turning to pages to discover what was going to happen next.

When Natasha Hemingway became involved with the supernatural community and discovered her psychic gifts four months ago, she had a lot of learning and accepting to do. Now dating Darian, the Master Vampire of Chicago, and his lieutenant and lover, Xavier, she's becoming comfortable with her own gifts and with the supernatural community. At least until her best friend, and roommate, Annette Balfour disappears. Worried and a little frantic because she can't see her in any visions, Natasha knows she's in trouble. Asking detective,

and werewolf, Darren Davis to help her track down her friend, Natasha knows the clock is ticking on her friend's life. She just never imagined Annette's body would be found in Darian's car trunk.

A 1600 year old vampire and Master of the city, Darian, would never hurt his lover's friend. Framed for a murder he didn't commit, he's only seven days away from trial and execution. Having to trust Xavier and Natasha to save his life is difficult for a man who's used to being in control, but he's got no other choice. When an ex-lover, and the leader of the Leopard pride, offers her assistance, Darian knows he's running out of time.

Ms. Simmons does an excellent job of juggling all of the characters she's introduced so far in the series and having them all play a part in Darian's life. While it's difficult for Natasha to get along with Elise, Darian's former lover, and Sergio, Elise's fellow pride leader, she accepts that if she wants to save Darian's life she'll have to learn to get along with more supernatural beings. Open minded, she also enjoys learning more about the supernatural world.

When Natasha's psychic dreams lead Xavier, Natasha, Elise, Sergio and 2 other supernaturals to Moscow on the trail of Russian mobsters who framed Darian in order to gain possession of information they needed, will the team be able to work together and make it back to Chicago before Darian is executed? Will Natasha be ready to take her relationship with Darian and Xavier to the next level? You'll have to read *The Deadly Innocent* to find out. I can't wait to read the next book in this series, *The Royal Flush*, which guarantees to have the pack, the pride and the vampire coven working together as they hunt another enemy.

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