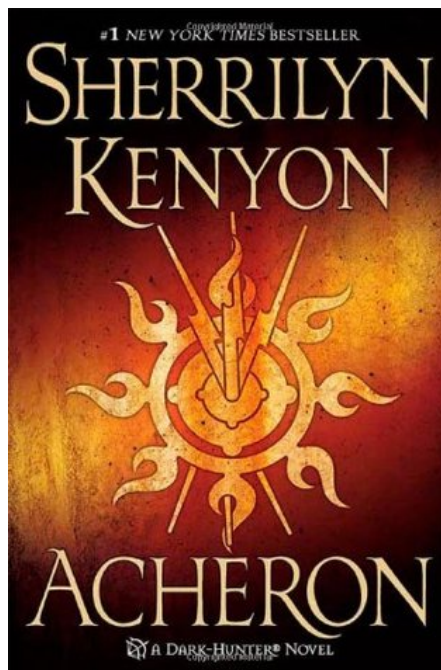




Acheron

Sherrilyn Kenyon

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Acheron Sherrilyn Kenyon

Eleven thousand years ago a god was born. Cursed into the body of a human, Acheron spent a lifetime of shame. His human death unleashed an unspeakable horror that almost destroyed the earth. Brought back against his will, he became the sole defender of mankind.

Only it was never that simple. For centuries, he has fought for our survival and hidden a past he never wants revealed - until a lone woman who refuses to be intimidated by him threatens his very existence.

Now his survival, and ours, hinges on hers, and old enemies reawaken and unite to kill them both. War has never been more deadly...or more fun.

Acheron Details

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From Reader Review Acheron for online ebook

?Karlyn P? says

Loved it. Best in the series, hands down. It is an emotional read, but I think some of the reviews (on here and on other boards) are over doing it a bit when reviewing the first part. I think its scaring some fans away! Truth is it is an emotional, bitter-sweet tortured hero story with an HEA. It's a captivating, enthralling, and non-stop page turning read. It is also funny and heart warming with some surprising twists that will make dark-hunter fans cheer! I think JR Wards books are equal in the emotional angst and tortured hero storyline, so dark-hunter fans should not hold off for fear of getting too emotional. Its an amazing survival story, and it truly is Kenyon's best piece of work. I loved how she used first-person writing in several of the chapters, it really added so much. And the world building remained solid and true to what we learned it all her other books, but it was great to read the history of Acheron and the dark-hunters all in one book. (instead of bits and pieces in all of her other books.) Ash's heroine was great, and this romance felt much more believable than many of Kenyon's recent books. This book will be a hard act for Kenyon to follow, but I am so glad to have it.

Ana says

[The hero gets beaten and raped every other page. (hide spoiler)]

twinfish2 says

This book was awful. The first part of the book was just the same thing over and over. Ok yes I get it he was abused, everytime he trusted someone they betrayed him, yes I get it move on. At one time I actually held the book in the air and screamed I GET IT, MOVE ON ALREADY!!!! My aunt,whom I was visiting, thought I was crazy. Tory was weak, weak, weak,as a character and just not right for acheron at all. Well since he turned into a wimp in this book maybe they did make a good couple? I think maybe Acheron and Phury from J.r. wards lover enshrined, took a class together on how to become whiney wimps, and they both graduated with A's in my opinion. In this class an A was not the grade to shoot for. I am done with buying the dark hunter series after this train wreck and her dream warrior books.

Kat Valentine says

I reread this this weekend,and it still brings tears to my eyes what Acheron went though at the hands of people who were suppose to love and take care of him and the sick terrible things that the gods did to him also.The first half of this book is a gut wrenched.But the second half is full of redemption and Acheron finding love and for the first time in his life knowing the touch of someone who did not want to hurt him in some way! Soteira is determined not to be put off by Acheron's bad ass actions and soon these two very different people will both have their moment of happiness and forever!!! Acheron has always been my favorite Kenyon character and I will always love this dark hunter!!!

Sophia Triad says

Acheron Parthenopaeus or Apostolos (Atlantean God of Destruction) and Soteria or Tori Kafieri (Human)

Apostolos: Απ?στολος in greek, i.e. the man with a mission

His Soteria: Η Σωτηρ?α του in greek i.e. his salvation

Their song:

*Prison gates won't open up for me
On these hands and knees I'm crawlin'
Oh, I reach for you, well I'm terrified of these four walls
These iron bars can't hold my soul in
All I need is you, come please, I'm callin'
And, oh, I scream for you
Hurry, I'm fallin', I'm fallin'
Show me what it's like
To be the last one standing
And teach me wrong from right
And I'll show you what I can be
Say it for me, say it to me
And I'll leave this life behind me
Say it if it's worth saving me
(Savin' Me Nickelback)*

I think I have developed a major crush on Acheron after I read his book. I could write sonnets, haiku? and erotic poems to tell you all about my love for him BUT I think I will just describe his book for you. It is a very very long book, but it is not boring. It expands in two time periods roughly and it basically has six parts:

TIME PERIOD 1: Starting on May 9, 9548 BC and finishing on April 10, 9526 BC with a short additional chapter that takes place in 7382 BC.

Part 1: Appollymi's sacrifice

Part 2: The Diary of Ryssa, Princess of Didymos. The story until Ryssa is given to Apollo.

Part 3: Acheron's point of view. The story that starts when Ryssa's diary finishes and concludes when Acheron - as finally a God- depends completely on Artemis in order to feed.

Part 4: Acheron starts training his Dark Hunters (you may have already read this story in The Beginning-Dark-Hunter #0.5)

TIME PERIOD 1: PRESENT DAY

Part 5: When Acheron meets Soteria

Part 6: Epilogue and happily ever after

During the first time period (BC); Acheron experienced hatred, abandonment, betrayal, fear, pain, humiliation, weakness, torture, rape, hunger and thirst.

Acheron was the kid that his parents did not want to know. He was abandoned in his uncle claws and his became his tsoulos, i.e. his trained whore who was sold to the richest people (men and women) in Atlantis. Acheron is a God, but during his childhood he was just a human. His mother Apollymi hid him in a mortal

woman's womb (a queen nevertheless) and he was born with his twin brother Styxx as a mortal baby. Only his eerie eyes proved his unique heritage. The problem is that as a human (before his god powers were unlocked), Acheron was so weak and easy to hurt. His mortal parents were afraid of him, so he was sent far away to his uncle and they did not want to know anything about what his uncle was doing to him. His sister Ryssa was the only one who loved him, but her love caused more trouble than good for poor Acheron.

Goddess Artemis was his lover, his friend and then the worst manipulator and bitch.

During the second time period (present); Acheron experiences pure love, commitment, unconditional sacrifice, trust and true friendship.

His Soteria (Tori) will make him see the world in a different perspective. She will cherish him, embrace him, feed him even when he is not hungry (she is a Greek girl after all that needs to feed her loved ones until they burst), accept his past and acknowledge their common future.

If the first time period represents the darkness and the desperation, the second time period represent the light and the hope.

I loved the book as a whole, but I would like to point out two things that I found weird:

1. For someone who has been trained the art of seduction and all his life he was basically whoring himself; Acheron behaves far too innocently with Soteria in their intimate moments and there are many things that he had not tried before.
2. Acheron tries desperately to hide his old life and his negotiations with Artemis from the Dark Hunters who are also his friends. I mean, Why? Most of them have been raped at least once in their mortal life and all of them had been betrayed and humiliated more than once. I am sure they will understand when they find out about his sacrifices.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

STILL MY ALL TIME FAVORITE IN THIS SERIES!!!

Acheron was the first book I ever read by this author..... and it made me into a die-hard fan of Sherrilyn Kenyon (who up to this time, I had never heard of or knew about her books).

I decided to read this book again, before getting started on Styxx.

It's amazing that, no matter how many times I read this book, it continues to consume all my senses.....pulled at my emotions all over again.

I don't remember when last I was so I absorbed into a world and characters that became so real to me. Acheron, a character that has stayed with me for a very long time.

Acheron's life was an embodiment of tragedy and sadness and also of courage and happiness.

I cried, I raged as I experienced his parents rejection, the cruelty, the torture and the abuse – physical, emotional and sexual - he endured by evil family and foes alike, the manner in which people exploited him with no regard to his being- like Artemis and Apollo. I felt his fear, his grief, and his pain, his joy.

I struggled with the first part of the book, primarily because it was such a dark part of Acheron's life.. I had some moments.. But the 2nd part is what made it so special for me. It was like I suddenly saw light after being in this tunnel of darkness with Acheron.

There were so many memorable characters in this story that I either hated or loved with total passion.

Acheron, beautiful, broken, lonely, lost....

Ryssa, Acheron's sister who loved him and protected him where she could. And how she was used the same way like him by her father, who married her off to Apollo, who clearly had no feelings for her. And the final tragedy in her life and how much heartache it caused Acheron was so damn sad.

Styxx, Acheron's twin brother, who had turned away from him and had become the favored son at Acheron's expense.

Artemishave I ever hated a character so much as hers?? Her cruelty towards Acheron... I just love to hate her!!! Okay, I did feel a "tad" sorry for her... she lost the man that she realized too late, was the only man she loved... what, the "heifer" actually shed a tear or two...to no avail, I might add.

Savitar, his dialogue is witty, funny...i had so many laughs with this very mysterious character..who is he really? A surfer god??? **Tory**, Acheron's true love. What a fabulous character. I just fell in love with her from the first moment she gets up on stage to deliver her speech on the finding of Atlantis. And the scene where she finds Acheron, working as a builder at a construction place is an absolute HOOT!!!!

And Simi.....she has found a place in my heart.

I adore her. Unforgettable, quirky, dangerous, sweet, enduring, cute and love her style Acheron is her Akri. The dialogue and interaction between the two is spectacular.

I adored the modern Greece parts in this story, so vividly described that made me feel that I was right there, on a Greek beach looking for Atlantis as well.

I loved the connection and chemistry between Tory and Acheron. The interaction between them is so lovely....Having to go through some trials and tribulations and finally finding happiness together was more than satisfying for me.....and I loved the connection between Acheron and Tory as a young boy, her grandfather had been rescued from war-ravaged Greece by Acheron and taken to America, where he was told stories about the lost city of Atlantis. Tory had been told those stories by her grandfather and it was the reason that she wanted to find Atlantis ...it was destined that Acheron and Tory were meant to be together. Pre-ordained.

So, arrived at the last page and still as unforgettable as before.

OF COURSE HE IS!!

And now it's time for me to meet up with Styxx and Acheron again!!!

I am so looking forward to that!!!

1st Review 2011

MY FAVOURITE OF ALL SHERRILYN KENYON'S BOOKS EVER!!!! I KEEP READING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN....ACHERON IS THE MOST AMAZING HERO.....OOPS...SHOULD THAT BE GREEK GOD!!!!

Beatriz says

Postergué demasiado tiempo este libro por la nostalgia que me causaba saber que develando los misterios de Aquerón, finalizaba, al menos para mí, una de las sagas fantásticas más entretenidas que he leído.

La espera se ve recompensada, ya que es un libro simplemente maravilloso, que nos entrega con extremo detalle la vida de Aquerón, desde su nacimiento y todas las circunstancias que rodearon su crecimiento, hasta el presente. Permite entender cabalmente como se convirtió en el líder de los Cazadores Oscuros y se nos regala al fin una historia en la que él es el protagonista.

Un libro desgarrador, emocionante, emotivo, que te tiene en vilo durante toda su lectura. Decir que es adictivo, es quedarse corto.

Michelle says

I hated most of this book.

Book 1 Acheron's torturous human life: Good stuff. Artemis was always a bitch.

Book 2 Present Day: Crap shit. Did someone else write this book? I wasn't buying any of it, and I had many moments of extreme eye-rolling.

I don't know what was worse, the horrible music and cheesey serenade in the club, or Acheron saying he wanted Tory on a platter. It didn't seem like those were things he would do or say at all.

Alp says

Have you ever read the book that gave you so many feels, which you had to experience heartbreak all over again and again while reading?

ACHERON is the best book I've read this year, ABSOLUTELY GREAT! I can feel that the author put so much energy into this. It is a very long story, yet truly enjoyable. I loved every single line of it!

This book contains two parts. The first part is about Acheron's past and the second one is about his present day. If you've ever read the other books in this series before, you would have already known some parts of Acheron's life, but we never can be sure of what exactly happened in his past. So, let's start with the first part of this book which will reveal to us the truth about who he really is.

Acheron was born cursed and doomed to a life of misery. He grew up without love from his human family. Every day of his life was like living in a horrifying world alone, filled with neglect and torturous agony.

"He will be a destroyer, this child," the wisewoman said, her ancient voice loud and ringing so

that all could hear her proclamation. "His touch will bring death to many. Not even the gods themselves will be safe from his wrath."

His story in this part was not only shattered my heart into pieces but also drained me emotionally. I didn't know why people around him could be so hateful and so cruel, even his human father and his twin brother detested him, hurt him, and humiliated him in every way they could.

Gods hated him. Humans hated him. He couldn't live like common people because wherever he went, men and women wanted to use his body as a source of sexual pleasure. My heart broke for him and all that he endured through his entire human life. I cried like a baby every time he was treated like garbage. It was so hard for me to read and to know that he was repeatedly beaten until blood flowed from every inch of his skin ever since he could remember. It was sad to see him falling in love and starting to have some hope, but then everything fell apart. He was betrayed by the only woman he gave his heart to.

Why had he ever thought for one moment that Artemis would be any different?
In the end, he was what he was.
Nothing.

And he was Acheron Parthenopaeus. Cursed whore. Despised slave. Incapable of being loved by anyone.
How stupid of him to fall for her lies. To think for one minute that something like him could ever have had value to a goddess.

The whore was tired now. He was finally broken. And it wasn't by the hand of his master or a client. It'd been by the hand of the only person he'd ever loved. Defeated and lost, Acheron lay down on the cold balcony and closed his eyes, praying for death to finally come and end this nightmare that was his life.

"Life isn't about being fair," he breathed. "It's not about justice. It's all about endurance and how much we can suffer through."

Oh, my poor heart! **sobs out loud**

What he had tolerated as a human was more than I could ever imagine. It was a wonder he didn't turn his back to all mankind, on the contrary, he has devoted his life to protecting them. Acheron is the most selfless hero I've ever read! Oh, how can I not love him?!

When I finished this part, I felt like I had no tears left to cry! Despite the fact that I was so exhausted from reading his miserable past, I can wholeheartedly say that it's worth every tear I shed and every moment of heartache. Sherrilyn Kenyon did an excellent job on this!

And now, get ready for the second part, Acheron's present day!

I admit I had high expectations of Acheron's woman and when I knew who the heroine was, my first feeling was—NO! It couldn't be her! Tory first appeared in 'The Dream Hunter' (Dark-Hunter #10) as Dr. Megeara's little sister. She was just a nerdy girl back then, nothing special about her that would catch my attention. Who would have thought she would grow up to be Ash's woman?! Then I thought, alright, I would give her a chance to prove that she deserves him, and she did so! She had proved herself over and over again until I can see how worthy she is of his love. Tory has a heart of gold!

Tory pulled away from his lips and wrapped her arms around his neck to hold him close as the true horror of his human life tore through her. And to think she'd dared to accuse him of not understanding what it was like to be mocked or humiliated. Thank God she had no idea of the depth of his sorrow that made a mockery of hers.

She couldn't speak for the tangle of emotions that gathered in her throat to choke her. She was angry for him and heartbroken.

And in that moment, she realized how much she loved this man.

There's an unforgettable moment when Ash was on the stage, singing a song to Tory.

She'd never heard this song before but the lyrics were beautiful . . .

Heaven's gates won't open up for me.

With these broken wings I'm fallin'

And all I see is you.

Those lyrics brought tears to her eyes. All her life, she'd had a fantasy about a great-looking guy in a band singing to her. She knew how stupid it was, but to be here right now having Ash of all men sing to her.

It was surreal and it was wonderful. Most of all, it made her want to cry.

Not only Tory who wanted to cry, but it was also me! No, actually I burst into tears! I did as my lovely GR friend, Jen, told me, to listen to this song (Savin Me by Nickelback) while reading this scene. I could feel tears running down my face, but I couldn't stop them. It hit me square in the middle of my heart...This is his song! It's him!

After all he had been through, I truly rejoice that he finally found the woman who would stand beside him, who would give him true love, loyalty, solace, and care, without expecting anything in return. I'm so happy she came into his life, showing him how to love and trust again.

She'd taught him to finally embrace who and what he was. Woe to the rest of them. Because he was now the Harbinger not just for his mother, but for a slip of a woman who held his heart.

For her, he'd do anything.

Even end the world.

"You are the most beautiful woman in the world, Soteria. This is the woman I fell in love with and there's nothing about you I'd ever change."

****Sigh****

And in the end, Ash finally got his very beautiful HEA. He was surrounded by people he loved, who loved him back unconditionally. He and Tory became a part of each other's life and it's simply wonderful!

I finished this book with the biggest smile on my face. It gave me almost every meaning of love, from the love between fathers-mothers and their children to the love between lovers, siblings, relatives, husbands-wives, and most of all, love for all mankind. The story touched my heart in every way. This is one of my memorable reads.

I LOVE THIS BOOK.

Grecia Robles says

***** 5 Agapay Achimou STARS *****

—Fui destrozado como niño y hecho a un lado, igual que un trozo de basura que nadie quiere.
Pero tú no me tratas de esa manera. Ves en mí únicamente al humano y tocas cada parte de mí.
Me haces sentir completo y querido.

Haber pasado por catorce libros antes de llegar a este valió la pena, Ash vale totalmente la pena. Este libro destrozó mi corazón lo machacó y lo hizo trocitos para después volverlo a unir, me hizo bajar al tártaro para después llevarme a los campos Elíseos o haré la referencia atlante me bajó hasta kalosis para después llevarme a katoteros, pero no me arrepiento por Ash fui capaz de hacerlo.

Este libro es bastante largo con casi 800 páginas no pensé que lo leería tan rápido y debo decir que hasta me hicieron faltan páginas no quería que terminara ya a lo último estaba en una nube de felicidad, este libro fue **Imperfectamente perfecto como su protagonista**

*******SPOILER ALERT*******

La historia está dividida en dos partes

Primera Parte

Esta parte fue de dolor sufrimiento, angustia, impotencia, rabia y frustración desde las primeras páginas yo tenía mi corazón encogido y los ojos escocidos emocionalmente me dejó hecha polvo fueron más de 400 páginas de puro sufrimiento de llorar a moco tendido terminé con los ojos hinchados.

Aquí se relata el principio de Acheron desde su creación, nacimiento, vida y muerte como humano hasta

llegar a ser Dios, la creación de los Dark Hunters y los Daimons y el principio de su relación con la Diosa Vaca de Artemisa.

La vida como humano de Acheron fue lo más triste y doloroso que he leído en mi vida NADIE absolutamente nadie se merece lo que le pasó a Ash ~~excepto Artemisa y Estes~~, fue repudiado por sus padres humanos, fue esclavizado criado para ser una prostituta y vendido, fue violado y ultrajado, le hicieron las cosas más horribles y eso siendo todavía un niño.

De adulto fue golpeado y martirizado, nunca recibió una muestra de afecto sólo de su hermana Ryssa y hasta a veces me daba coraje con ella porque no hacía lo suficiente por él y era egoísta TODOS fueron unos idiotas **en esta parte odié a todo mundo quería que corriera sangre y especialmente la sangre de Artemisa**

Artemisa fue el ser más cruel en esta parte de la historia se aprovechó de la soledad y necesidad de amor de Ash, fue un ser egoísta, aprovechada ensimismada que sólo piensa en sí misma, sólo quería ser amada y que le dieran, pero todo en una dirección jamás hizo algo desinteresado si golpeaban a Ash lo curaba sólo por su propio beneficio nunca lo vio como una persona sino un objeto que utilizaba y desechaba a su antojo por eso y más **ODIO A ESA DIOSA VACA ZORRA DESGRACIADA y no hay castigo suficiente que para que pague**

Si tan sólo Ash hubiera dejado que Simi se la comiera, el mundo Dark Hunters sería un mundo mejor libre de perras

Segunda Parte

—Tú eres la mujer más bella del mundo, Soteria. Esta es la mujer de la que me enamoré y no hay nada acerca de ti que yo cambiaría.

Esta Parte es consuelo, esperanza, reivindicación y sobre todo amor.

Yo en mientras leía esta segunda parte

En esta parte me enamoré más de Ash si eso es posible, me dio tanta ternura su necesidad de amor es que yo me quería meter al libro y abrazarlo y consolarlo, porque después de tanto tiempo todavía no se creía digno de amor, todavía reviviendo su pasado.

Ash es el hombre perfecto y LO AMO LO AMO LO AMO y todas las cosas por las que me quejé en los anteriores libro están olvidadas de hecho Ash I'm sooo sorry, es uno de los personajes que se va a

quedar en mi memoria y mi corazón para siempre *He is simply pure perfection*

Su historia de amor no pudo ser más perfecta, fue tierna, divertida, dulce con momentos sexys y hots y por una vez **estoy agradecida que Sherrilyn Kenyon, no haya escrito las escenas de sexo con Artemisa tan explícitas porque leyendo lo que hacía Ash con Tory a mí me hubiera dado algo**

Él le había ofrecido incluso fugarse para casarse con ella, pero se había negado. —Chico —dijo ella, furiosa con el hecho de que siquiera lo hubiese sugerido—, tú eres mío y quiero que todo el mundo lo sepa.

Tory fue perfecta para Acheron, los adoré juntos cada vez que ella decía y hacía las cosas correctas para Ash mi corazón daba un vuelco de felicidad, lloré por las cosas más tiernas que ella le decía y su happy ending es uno de los que más me ha confortado y de los que estoy agradecida y si alguien merecía ser amado era Acheron mi sexy Dios Atlante que aunque le he declarado el amor a varios en esta serie tu eres el principal.

Mis Escenas Favoritas

- Cuando Ash le canta y dedica a una canción a Tory aquí lloré de felicidad y emoción.
- Cuando Tory le dice que lo ama y él no puede creer que alguien sienta amor por él otra vez lloro.
- Cuando se reúnen todo los personajes principales de los otros libros para ayudar a Ash porque es su amigo y es lo menos que se merece.
- La boda y ver que Ash se puso smokin
- Cuando Tory le dice sus verdades a Artemisa ~~aunque quedé insatisfecha esta perra puta se merecía lo peor~~

De verdad disculpen porque esta reseña no tiene ni pies ni cabeza es tan incongruente y subjetiva y todos mis sentimientos salieron a borbotones y faltaron tantas cosas que decir.

Pd: Jaden es un personaje que me tiene intrigada desde el libro de Xypher, siento que es otro ser torturado ay Jaden Jaden Jaden creo que me puedes llegar enamorar

Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

The heroes:

Acheron...

From the very first moment I read about Acheron I was in love. The mysterious, sexy, brooding, loving goth Dark Hunter leader captured my heart from the first page! He is powerful but tries not to take advantage of his power even when people let him down left and right. He takes care of those he loves and protects those he feels responsible for, he is always there when the others need him and never asks for sth in return. You

can't dislike him if you try. (Although at some points I thought everything would be better if he killed one or two or a hundred people!):P

Tory...

Tbh Tory isn't what I had in mind for Acheron. I wanted a heroine a little more punk-ish. Maybe a badass with blades and scars(someone like Tabitha) but Tory had her own advantages. She was fearless, loyal and accepted Acheron just as he was. In the beginning I didn't like her at all because she seemed like a judgemental bitch but she grew on me.

Simi...

I ABSOLUTELY ADORE Simi! I love the little demon girl... She is a combination of wisdom and naivety, naughtiness and innocence and you really can't help liking her, just like her *Akri*.

Artemis...

Artemis is a royal bitch! She takes advantage of Acheron and hurts him in every opportunity, she is uncaring, heartless, selfish, cold. She thinks only of what she wants and she doesn't care who has to be hurt to get it. So of course I'm a fan!;)

There are many others, Apollymi(whom I love), Lysa(for whom I don't feel neither hot nor cold), Nick(who starts to get on my nerves), the Dark Hunters and the Weres but if I list them all the review will be longer than the book!

The story.

The story is written in two parts, the first one is Acheron's past(11.000 years ago), and the second part is in the present.

Acheron's past was painful to read and I mean it, I felt pain in every page. I've read the book about 10 times and I can't bring myself to re-read the "past story". Acheron has suffered every way a human can suffer, he has been shamed every way a human can be shamed, every awful thing someone can think of has been done to him. I really was impressed that with so much abuse he didn't become feral.

In the present Acheron continues to put up with Artemis' abuse but she is the only one that dares hurt him(and dare she does). I really don't get why he let even her but I guess if you kick someone one time too many... Of course with the love and understanding of our heroine he'll get over the past...blah blah blah. This was kind of expected. The "present" story was entertaining, funny and sweet but nothing really original. I think I liked it more because Acheron finally got his HEA than I did because of the story itself.

Generally the book was addictive. Do I think it could have been much better? Yes I definitely do...Did I like it regardless? Yeap...I loved it!

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

OMG I give this book more than 5 stars So So good!!!!!! Poor Acheron I cried at lest 4 times while reading this book and I am not a crier!!

It was so sad to see what Acheron lived through and man do I hate Artemis what a dirty BITCH she is.....

I love this book love that Acheron got his happy ending I loved Tory's personality.

Penny says

Rating Clarification: 4.5 stars.

Acheron is an **incredible book, the best of this series** hands down. The only defect for me is that the second part is not as strong as the first one.

Acheron is a memorable character. He is part of every single book of this series, and finally getting to know this mysterious and essential character was a treat, fantastic.

The book is divided in two very different parts:

The first part is Ash's past, his life story. It was **full of heart and soul, emotionally wrecking**. I absolutely loved it, it was incredible.

However, the second part paled in comparison. After such an overwhelming and painful past, his present, his true love story, deserved to be much more than what he got. It was truly disappointing to read just a normal romance next to such a strong first half. I wish his love story could have been memorable,like his life was, instead of just one of many in the Dark Hunter series. He deserved EPIC.

I'll keep reading the Dark Hunter series, but this book is going to be hard to top.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Finally. I *finally* found a book in the series that earned my full respect. If I hadn't had some (early) issues with the heroine Tory, I would have certainly given *Acheron* a 4.5 or higher rating.

90% of this review will be ranting over only about 10% of the content, which seems quite unfair, when I

adored most everything about *Acheron*. But as many of you know, it's sometimes easier to talk about the bad than the good because the bad sticks out as little details that pick at you, whereas the good blankets you as a nice feeling, which is harder to describe.

Let's move the conclusion from the end to the beginning : *Acheron* was my favorite book of the series so far. We're finally getting some much-needed world details that **SHOULD** have been included (not character details, just world details) from the beginning. I strongly believe that only part of this world was fleshed out at the start, which is why some details seem to be dropped in haphazardly, and not like they were planned as late reveals or a full-circle thing. While there were some full-circle details included, I didn't get enough of a sense that everything had been mapped out cohesively. But let me not get off on that tangent again. It's a fact : This world was not constructed as seamlessly as it could have been. The damage has been done. I can only hope that there will be some definition going forward from here on out.

Part 1 : *The history*

I am glad for every page, long as it was. The true impact of *Acheron's* struggle would not have been as strong as it was if this section had been condensed. This poor guy could not catch a break.

You almost have to wonder how *Acheron* managed to evolve into a decent person. Some people are just cut from a different cloth, I guess.

As for *Styxx* - (view spoiler)

I guess I'll have to revisit this spoiler after reading *Styxx's* book and see if my opinion has changed at all.

Part 2 : The present.

I remember reading about *Tory* in the prequel-of-sorts story involving her cousin *Megeara*. I liked *Tory* in her youth. She stood out as being someone who would benefit from a follow-up.

Did *Tory* fit for *Acheron*? Yes and no? I'm not going to lie...I was kind of disappointed by how basic *Tory* had become as an adult. She was much more amusing as a teenager. Her teenage self was spunky and determined. Some of that attitude did cross over to her older version, but the formerly cute personality didn't translate nearly as cute in the present day. The opening scenes with *Tory* came across as a frumpy version of *Bella Swan* in a business suit (complete with klutzy moments), and it rubbed me the wrong way. The visual of her in a blazer and full length skirt had me imagining a bad 80's boxy jacket adorned with shoulder pads, combined with a boxy, shapeless floor length skirt. Don't ask me why. I'm aware that cute blazers do exist. But given what I already knew about *Tory*, I doubt she had much fashion sense. As usual, when a book description makes me imagine a character as less-than-appealing, I try to re-imagine the visual in my head. So what if *Tory* was described as basic and outdated? I'll make her basically better.

Okay, so half of me wanted *Acheron* with a kick-ass or larger-than-life type to keep him on his toes, and half of me wanted *Acheron* with a sweet damsel-in-distress type that he would rescue and fall in love with (getting to rescue someone in the way that he couldn't be rescued). I figured he'd be with a sexy, strong BAMF or a delicate beauty - something on the extreme end of either spectrum. I totally did not expect average in every way.

And you might ask, what is wrong with average? Aren't most of us average? Doesn't this make the character more relatable?

Sorry. I wanted EPIC for the man who waited 11k years to find the one woman who stood out for him MORE than all the others.

Tory (present day) was a rehash of several other females in this series who just wanted to love and care for their man and take away their hurt. Which IS a good thing. Acheron needed that more than anything. So that particular character quality DID need to be present in whoever he ended up with, but Tory never shone bright as anything beyond having a basic gift for compassion. So, technically, Acheron could have ended up with most any female character in the series prior to now, if that was the only requirement.

And Tory did a complete personality turn-around which gave me whiplash. She went from mousy and bitchy to caring and fearless? Well, which is she? And why did Acheron have such an attraction for her when she was still in mousy and bitchy mode? Shouldn't he have not been attracted until her 'true' personality of caring and fearless came forth and enticed him to see that she was the 'one' that he needed? I mean, if this chick on her worst day attracted Acheron, why didn't he find attraction with someone who was halfway decent to him over the years, like a random waitress or something?

Oh wait. It was all because of (view spoiler)

But, whatever. Acheron got what he needed - some much deserved rest and comfort. Not that he gets to bask in his happiness for long when the world always needs saving...but at the very least, he now has a port in the storm. And for that, I'm happy.

Twas a good read. :)

Argona says

I am giving up on this book. I rarely do this but after years of trying to finish this, I am finally giving up. I left it in my currently-reading shelf for months to force myself into picking it up again but I don't even feel like skimming through it anymore. I simply don't want to waste my time when there are so many good books around. This book was a big disappointment and I am sorry to say that I found the writing very poor and the whole story read like a very poorly written fanfiction, repetitive, predictable and stupid, with cartoonish characters that lacked any depth or humanity. I don't even consider this a tragedy since I didn't feel a damn thing and this book contains pages after pages of torture and abuse. I can cry over the death of a cartoon character but not over the characters of this book. I have many friends who have enjoyed this book and yet I also have many friends who haven't. I am sorry to say I have to join the negative reviews.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Caution - this book is not for the faint of heart!

I'm going to keep this short because there are no words to adequately describe this book. It's one of the most emotional, gut wrenching, heartbreaking books I've ever read, but at the same time it was inspiring, uplifting and completely amazing. And I just can't find the words to do this book justice.

If you're a fan of Sherrilyn Kenyon's *Dark Hunter* series, (and who isn't?) *Acheron* is a dream come true. We finally get the answers to so many questions and get into the heart of the true hero of the series. Acheron's story is so dark, so tragic and so gruesome, but our hero of heroes gets his *happily ever after* as well.

In general, the books in this series have fairly intense, explicit sexual scenes, but those parts of the book can be skipped over without losing the story if you're more comfortable doing so. I only mention this because in varying degrees, sex plays a big part in Acheron's story and some of it is emotionally, very dark.

The bottom line - This is one of my absolute favorite books ever, and I can't tell you how many tissues I went through by the time I was done reading it. I came away loving Ash even more than I had before, and with a deeper respect for him.

Aestas Book Blog says

One of my favorite books EVER written. 'nuff said. It will break your heart into more pieces than possible and then put it back together better than it ever was to begin with.

THIS IS NOT A STAND-ALONE!!!!

I can't say much about the book because literally everything that happens in it from start to finish is basically one giant spoiler... but it tells the story of Acheron, a deeply tortured, powerful, heart-stoppingly gorgeous and yet utterly mysterious character who we have seen over the past 14 books.

The first half of the book tells his back story. From birth to adulthood, what happened to him is heart wrenching. Unspeakably horrific. Incomparably violent. Sickeningly abusive. Both physically and emotionally shattering. Acheron is without a doubt, THE most tortured character in the history of paranormal romance... or maybe just, ever.

The second half of the book tell his present day story... and what leads to his beautiful happily-ever-after. To have a character go from a place of the ultimate suffering, the ultimate humiliation, and the ultimate torment to a place of ultimate peace, happiness, healing, love and acceptance was heart-warming to an extreme. So beautiful. Having seen all the horrors that happened to him, it makes you appreciate every moment of joy as beyond precious. If ever there was a character that deserved a happy ending, its Ash. Love you Ash <3

6 stars

****Edit:** I just a re-read of ACHERON. If you haven't already tried this series out, they are, hands down, my **absolute favorite paranormal romance series** out there – the perfect blend of very tortured heroes (literally and figuratively), strong heroines, engaging plot, intricate mythology, heart touching moment, steamy love scenes, some of the funniest moments you will ever read in a book, and the absolute sweetest HEAs.

But be sure to READ THEM IN ORDER!!! (lol, yes, shouty caps were necessary) This book is not book 1... I would strongly recommend AGAINST starting with it... it will ruin a lot of the rest of the series for you.

For the complete reading order, click [HERE](#).

Really guys, if you haven't read this series, and you are are looking for an amazing PNR series, run out and get yourselves book 1. Its WAY worth it!!

Here's how I see Ash and Tory:

For more of my reviews, visit [Aestas Book Blog](#)

And come join the [Aestas Book Blog Facebook Page](#)

Justine says

This review is a little more involved for me, than most. I am a long time fan of the Dark-Hunter and Dream-Hunter series, by Sherrilyn Kenyon. Some might think this would dispose me to be lenient in my evaluation, fawning with my opinions. However, the opposite would prove to be true; I find that I have such high expectations for Ms. Kenyon's books, at this point, that there was a better certainty that I would be disappointed. Truly, how could an author possibly deliver on all the anticipation that she has been building for readers such as me, since the introduction of this saga back in 2002, with *Fantasy Lover*? Serendipity strikes, though, and Ms. Kenyon not only delivers, she surpasses expectations, leaving them in the dust. Devotees of this series know that Ms. Kenyon can create heroes, villains and anti-heroes that readers cannot help but fall for, cheer for, even when the man of the hour may be the villain of the piece. She is also skilled at taking characters, such as Nick Gautier, and carving out places in our hearts for him, then turning him, so we are not sure if we should cheer him on, or wish him ill, but we just can't; he is too deeply entrenched in our hearts at this point. Her characters have heart; they have souls; they have dark, cutting edge humor that carries them through some of the darkest places a soul would ever have to travel. The roll call of characters is impressive at this point; the readers of *Acheron* need to know their Dark-Hunter history, and reviewing a play list before picking up the book might not be a bad idea (unless, of course, you're a geek gyrl like me, in which case these people are like fictional family members, already.)

Acheron, son of Atlantean gods, born into a human body and cursed by the Fates, attracts readers like no other member of Ms. Kenyon's cast of players. He struts upon her stage with a feral grace; he is Gothic, grim, and forbidding. Hades, he is downright scary; scarier than most of the villains by a margin so great a new form of measurement might need to be invented. But Ash is also the most heart wrenchingly vulnerable person in this world of damaged souls. This is hinted at in prior books in the series; his loneliness while surrounded by other cursed hunters is legendary. The secrets surrounding Ash are more tightly held than the whereabouts of Jimmy Hoffa's final resting place or the real special blend of eleven secret herbs and spices. Until now. In this book that bears his name and his emblem, we learn so much about his history, and what forged the God we know in the current timeline of the series.

Ms Kenyon addresses the pressing questions surrounding the relationship between Ash and Artemis, or as Simi calls her, the Heifer Goddess. We learn how and why Ash is such an irresistible, sexy beast. And the learning is not easy; it is a dark, twisted tale of abuse, degradation and despair. The first half of this book is darker than any previous Dark-Hunter or Dream-Hunter novel. The series is known for its blending of tension, sensuality, sharp dialog and humor. This is not absent from *Acheron*; but the first portion of this story is harsh, so readers must be prepared. Ms. Kenyon deals with issues of mental, emotional, verbal and physical abuse skillfully, but openly and honestly. This honest, but respectful handling of such a terrible subject helps raise this story from the realm of everyday fantasy to literature. Brain candy books are enjoyable, and can certainly get high marks, and are necessary parts of the fictional world. But "literature" asks difficult questions; does not flinch from ugly truths, and reflects our own truths back to us. Ms. Kenyon has achieved literary standing with *Acheron*. She offers a light and a lesson to those who have suffered from abuses of their own, in their real lives. You can endure; you can triumph; you are worthy of love, no matter what someone else has forced upon you in your past. In the words of *Acheron*, she also brings home a crucial lesson about power, manipulation and relationships: "just because you can doesn't mean you should, and

sometimes some things have to go wrong in order to go right." A powerful lesson brought to you by a paranormal fantasy romance.

The second half of this novel brings the reader to present day, in the every day, human world. For a time, anyway. Do not fear; we visit Kalosis, Katoteros, and Olympus before this world tour of torture and redemption is done.

Humor returns in the form of Xiamara, or as most know her, Ash's demon daughter, Simi. She still craves QVC shopping; ice cream with hot sauce; takes orders from Ash a little too literally; color codes her horns to her clothes; and protects her akri, as she calls Ash, with a devotion that is endearing and a little terrifying. Also, the ex-hunters who make appearances in this book enter into the same quick witted banter with Ash that all of the prior books are renowned for including. Especially rewarding for long time fans are encounters with Julian and Talon. The heroine, Tory, is a delight to get to know through, as well. She is spunky, stands 6'1", has a keen appreciation for all things Greek (the older the better); she stands up to Ash, his moods, and she swings a mean hammer. Saying anything else would be telling....

This book really is a powerhouse of a read. The only cautionary comment would have to be that if you have not read the prior books, this may not be the best place to begin. The relationships and histories between the characters are critical to a full understanding, and a finer flavoring of this story. With Acheron, Ms. Kenyon proves once again that she truly is the Author Goddess, spinning tales that sweep you up into a world of dark desires, darker passions, and the enduring strength of the heart and the soul. Truly, this book is the total package; it even tells you how everything ends.

I can't wait to see where Ms. Kenyon takes us when we read Stryker and Jaden's stories, the next two installments. One Silent Night is currently scheduled for a November 4, 2008 release. For myself, based on my experience with Acheron, when it comes out, November 4th will be a silent, but satisfying night for this Kenyon Minion.

Author website: <http://www.dailyinquisitor.com/hunter/>

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Whew. I finished "Acheron" by Sherrilyn Kenyon in the wee hours of the morning. Even though I picked up the book on Tuesday, I held off starting in on it until after work on Friday because I KNEW that once I started I wouldn't put it down until I finished it. I was right. Acheron's story was larger than life, just like Acheron himself. My emotions ran the gamut from despair to joy as I read his story. As others have commented, the first part of the book was almost painful to read. Each time I finished a chapter and thought, "Whew, now things will get better for him." But they didn't. I liked the fact that the author warned us in her note at the beginning of the book that the story would be painful. Reading that she herself has firsthand knowledge of childhood abuse made Acheron's past that much more poignant. But by providing a happy ending for him, Kenyon really made this book a paean to all those who have experienced abuse and overcome.

I won't take the time to retell any of his story. Suffice to say that until the age of 21, Acheron's suffering was horrific and endless. My emotions are still reeling, hours after I finished with the happy ending. Will I reread this book? My first instinct is to say no...but I think that time will likely change my mind. Does that make this a great book? I don't know that either. But I DO know that those are just a few things that make this a book I will never forget.

Erika says

0.5 star a.k.a did not like it at all

Frustrating and depressing.

I decided to read this because it has amazing ratings.

Warning: I used a lot of the word 'too'

This is not for me. All of the characters were too evil, except one. Yes, Acheron. Unfortunately I didn't like him either. While others were too cruel, he was too kind. I didn't care with everything else anymore because the characterization was already a major problem with this book.

Acheron was too tortured. *Way too much*. It was too sad. Every single character in this book was too weird (view spoiler) especially Acheron's mother. For goodness sake, her son has been tortured emotionally, physically, sexually, FOR YEARS!!! MORE THAN A DECADE! And she didn't do anything, ANYTHING AT ALL.

Whatever reason she had (to save her son, to protect him, blah, blah, blah) I just couldn't bear it. Too much for me.

There were also Acheron's father and his uncle. Both of them were the male version of cinderella's stepmother with the level of cruelty that beyond my imagination. I couldn't believe they were actually human being.

Then we had Artemis. What in the world was going on with her? She kissed Acheron, slapped him, hurted him, made love to him, kissed him again, slapped him again, hurted him again, made love to him more and more and so on and again.. and Acheron just accepted it all with a humble heart. Perhaps she was too damn sexy so Acheron was totally fine with some sport like beating-kicking-punching-'till-bleeding after sex. What a saint!

I tried, *really*, to hold on..

But after 300 pages I was still wondering where's the heroine?

White flag.
