



Unleash the Storm

Annette Marie

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Piper thought she could handle the Sahar, the most powerful magical weapon in existence. She thought she could protect her loved ones and stop a war. She thought she could make a difference.

She was wrong, and her mistakes were paid for in blood.

Leaving her world—and her failures—behind, she retreats to the Underworld with Ash and the other draconians. They forge deep into long abandoned mountains, the first draconians to fly the valleys and passes in centuries—or so they thought. Until now, Ash's mysterious heritage has been nothing but a name, but his presence does not go unnoticed. A new danger stalks him, one that may be even greater than what they escaped.

Cut off from the power she'd come to rely on and lost in a world where she doesn't belong, Piper has never felt so hopeless. But she must find her strength, and find it quickly, before she loses Ash to an ancient power he can't fight, before her home is devastated by the daemon war, and before her mind, body, and soul are consumed by the Sahar's insidious magic.

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Steel & Stone Universe Books:

STEEL & STONE

Chase the Dark (#1)

Bind the Soul (#2)

Yield the Night (#3)

Feed the Flames (#3.5)

Reap the Shadows (#4)

Unleash the Storm (#5)

Steel & Stone (#6)

SPELL WEAVER

The Night Realm (#1)

The Shadow Weave (#2)

The Blood Curse (#3)

Unleash the Storm Details

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From Reader Review Unleash the Storm for online ebook

mith says

So my actual review is down there but that's probably a lot of reading.

GOD, this series has come so far. The entire reread of this series just made me feel more and more (though I wasn't blind to the issues either lol). I just. I love these characters so much. I'm so excited (and impatient) for the sequel series!!

4.5

I found it to be a very strong and clear ending to the series. I'm going to miss the adventures these three have had so much!

Despite my liking this finale, this wasn't my favourite of the series. But fret not, Steel & Stone lovers, Piper's last journey is an exciting one.

Warning: there be spoilers for books 1-4 ahead & mild spoilers for this one!

In *Unleash the Storm*, we're introduced to a whole new cast of characters.

After the conclusion of *Reap the Shadows*, Piper has taken to the Underworld with draconians that were under Samael's power. Rescued by Raum, the caste now looks for a settling area where they could be free and safe from the Hades Lord. Of course, it's exhausting work and there's a chance they'll never truly be safe, but with war between the Ras and Hades on earth, now is the best chance they have.

This is around three weeks after the last book. Piper is growing into her powers, learning to fight as a daemon, as well as trying her best to control the bloodlust the Sahar and her shading seem take over her each time. She's learning to live with what she's done, but it's not that easy.

For the most part, I really loved the addition of more draconian characters! They were a jumbled bunch, all strong and capable, but also scarred and afraid more multiple reasons. With more draconians, it means more questions Piper gets to ask--which, in turn, means more *history* about draconians. There's a rich history behind the caste and finding out more about it--along with the Taroth line--was really unique and interesting. In addition to draconian lessons 101, Piper learns a bit more about her own history too! I don't want to spoil TOO much, but certain circumstances lead to her to the Overworld, and while the history itself isn't as in depth as the draconian legend, it's still something more about the ryujin!

We see a change in all characters here. From Piper to Ash, Seiya to Lyre--*especially* Lyre! Despite the growth, Piper still holds that innocence to her, I feel. It isn't just her asking the wrong or the obvious questions, but it's her knowing she did something wrong, regretting it and jumping to way to fix it, but never really apologising for it. It really irked me in this book, especially since I've seen it more in my reread. However, there is no denying that she isn't the girl who always looks to Ash to help--another thing I noticed with my reread. She's more capable, more confident, a little less risky, all while still remaining to her true Piper-y sense. I've learned to admire her strength and character. With Ash, we finally see more of him being a leader. It was never his intention--which was to protect the people he loves--but now, he no longer feels lost about his future. He knows what he has to do and owns it. I'm sad to say that Seiya didn't have as much page time--again--but she and Piper get along now, even as far as to trusting each other. While she seems more sullen after her capture and her injury to her wing, the whole experience changed her view on not only Piper, but also her loyalty to those she loves. Despite the tension between these two, I always liked that it was a legitimate reason behind it--not petty female cattiness. And as for Lyre... Oh my heart. You definitely find out more about his past here--not as much as I would like, but he learn about his old connections, his tendency to create powerful spells, even a little bit about his family. He's no longer that simple flirty incubus--he's that and MORE.

The plot in this final book definitely thickened. And for the most part, I enjoyed the resolution. Nothing came easy, everything was fought well and hard for, so don't worry about a lack of action here. There's

plenty. And also quite a bit of romance! There's no more back and forth or any uncertainty between Ash and Piper. They know who they are together, *what* they are and I LOVE them.

And finally, the Sahar. The soul inside, Natania, is still devious, of course. Her presence is less too, but you get a resolution with her story arc as well. It was an ally emotional one, something I didn't expect at all. My one complaint is that Micah never died. But, hey, remember that pendant problem with Lillith? That bothered me and I was afraid it would never be fixed! Glad that was dealt with so I'll overlook Micah--for now.

I'm sure readers will really enjoy this final book--and be equally excited (if not more!)--at the surprise she has in the end. Annette Marie closes all the important story lines beautifully. There has been so much development, so much word & world building, and it had definitely been a wild ride. I can't wait to see more from her!

(ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review!)

WAAAANT. NEEEEEDD.

(I can't stop staring at the cover)

(It's my favourite in the series)

(God, it's so pretty)

Btw, for those not part of her newsletter, it's coming out **March 4, 2016!**

Patricia Huynh says

[

I could nearly cry this series just ended. How is that possible? How is that conceivably OKAY? Because let me tell you, it's not! *cries*

The ending was a little bittersweet, but full of hope and plenty of room for more spin offs in the series. It really means I don't have to like it though. I want my Ash and Piper together. I was totally okay with Lyre traipsing off on his own adventure because I want to know more about Mahala, but

★Rachelle★ says

5 stars

His body is mortal, but his soul is of the dragons

As I sit here with tears running down my face, I can't help but be in complete awe over the world and the story that Annette Marie has created. The Steel and Stone series is her debut, and her talent just shines through every page. The action and romance and friendship and everything about this series just amazes me, and I feel so lucky that I was able to go on this adventure with Piper, Ash, and Lyre.

Overall, this series gets all the stars. Annette Marie has become an automatic buy for me from here on out, and I know I can trust anything she writes. I have no idea how I'm going to move on from this world to other books....but thankfully I won't have to be away for long because The Night Realm comes out in less than 2 months!

Frankie Lovely says

5 stars for this beautiful action packed series!

Annette Marie is an auto-buy author for life now

Kendall Berg says

CONFLICTED FEELINGS

Let me sum up my feelings at the end of this book for you:

Overarching storyline:

Super pleased with how this story line ended up summarized and resolved.

Romantic storyline:

What. The. Heck. Was. That. Ending.

How dare you do that to my heart Annette. I stayed with you through all five books and this is how you repay me?

SIGH

Plot Summary:

Ash & Piper are together again (THANK GOD) and are in hiding with the escaped Draconians. But the relative safety doesn't last long. Samael is on the hunt for his missing prisoners while trying to conquer earth. The Ra are holding him at bay but how long will it last?

Then a myth comes to life and captures Ash in it's clutches. Piper will do anything to save him and his people but will they still be on the same path by the end?

Sounds great right? Read my above opinions. Basically I thought this was a great conclusion to the Underworld/Overworld War but how things ended between Ash/Piper...

Felt a little bit like a cop out.

All in all this series was one of my favorites but books 4 & 5 weren't as good as the first three in my opinion.

Book type: YA Paranormal Romance

Book rating: 3/5

Read time: 3 hours

For more reviews check out my blog: www.booksandchai.com

With love, parchment, and freshly mowed grass,

Kendall

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

This book would have gotten four stars, however, that ending ruined that. I mean, what kind of ending is that? I didn't feel like I got any conclusion, nor a closure for Piper and Ash's story. I had expected way more for their ending... So three stars it is.

Marley says

This is a definitely a WTF moment!! The series omg but the ending, I mean really WTF!!

Never have I found a heroine so strong and well round, I love every part of Piper. A love so epic in its own amazing right. Lyre, a supporting character that keeps you laughing and your curiosity peaked. The story is absolutely wonderful! I've read it repeatedly and the emotions I get never waver. I think it will always give me goosebumps, make me laugh, and cry. Ash, there are no words to describe how much I fell in love with him for Piper. He has so much heart and depth even though you don't hear him say it, his actions speak so much.

I'm really heartbroken to see it end and I am disappointed in how it all ended. This was and is my favorite series, their love story shouldn't have ended this way!!

Another taroth should have popped out of the woodwork, or Piper and Ash met in the middle and had so much time in each world. He didn't have to be a leader he could have made a circle of trust or something. I do feel disappointed, cheated, and heartbroken. I loved it all till the ending! I really wish that Annette Marie would do an alternate ending to fix it. I mean she's a hybrid, theirs nothing really known of them. Maybe because of her underworld blood she could have draconian in her and her ryujin blood was stronger, because they both are almost the same in a lot of aspects just opposite versions of themselves, maybe there's a possibility they can still reproduce. She's a hybrid the possibilities are endless!

Annika says

After the terrifying encounter with the Sahar Stone she almost didn't survive, Piper and her friends, along with a couple of Draconian refugees, find themselves on the run from at least two daemon warlords yet again. Despite not knowing what is happening on Earth and having troubles finding her place in a group of Underworld daemons in a world she doesn't belong, Piper's finally able to find some peace of mind. That is, until Ash's own heritage threatens to tear them apart, and there is nothing she can do about it. Little does she know that Ash is probably the least of her problems, and that her biggest battle is yet to come.

Now that's what I'm talking about. What a fantastic conclusion to a great series. Finally, finally, Piper returns to her old, independent self. Even without the Sahar Stone to boost her magic, she's a total bad-ass, kicking daemon butt left and right, and taking charge when needed. I loved hers and the other characters' depth and development, the intelligent plot, the mysteries, and the romance, not only in this installment but throughout the entire series.

Piper's steps slowed, her eyes flashing over them. How different they seemed from the pair she'd first met at the Consulate: Ash, the powerful, decisive draconian with all his dark secrets, and Lyre, the playful, almost superficial incubus with his over-the-top flirtatious and heart-on-sleeve simplicity. They hadn't changed - not much, anyway - but she'd since come to see so much more. Ash, beneath his cloak of secrets, was motivated by desires that were simple yet profound - passionate fearlessness, enduring loyalty, a fierce love for those he cared about. Lyre, beneath his easy-going, mild-mannered exterior, was a creature of mystery, far more complex than she's ever imagined an incubus could be.

While I found the previous installment terribly lacking, plot-wise and action-wise, there's almost an overabundance in this one. Almost. There's so much going on, the book kept me on the edge of my seat throughout, and though I never wanted it to end, I couldn't wait to see how it would all play out. Unlike so many other readers, I really, really liked the ending, too. It felt realistic. Healthy. (view spoiler) I feel completely satisfied. Kudos to Annette Marie.

My favorite characters: Zwi, Miysis, and most of all, Lyre! Definitely one of my most favorite sidekicks **ever**.

Bottom line: captivating story, fantastic world-building, intriguing creatures, wonderful heroes, enigmatic villains and cryptic mysteries.

Recommended to: anyone who enjoys Paranormal YA with smart and strong female leads.

Marianne says

Well... That was a very unsatisfactory ending to a series I really enjoyed up until the final book.

Annette Marie, please repeat after me: I will never end a YA novel with a HFN again. Let's repeat it one more time: I will never end a YA novel with a HFN again. It's just not done, you know. Those young, impressionable minds want a resolution, right here, right now. I get that you're writing other books in the Steel and Stone universe, but I suppose our H/h won't be the key players in that series. Giving them a HEA in a series where they make cameo appearances is just as bad. No, I'm not a happy camper.

To make matters worse, I just didn't feel the delicious tension between Ash and Piper in this book. And where did Lyre's sexy banter go? It was nearly completely gone:-)

Yes, I'll read the next series if Lyre is the main protagonist (Just like any member of the female sex, I'm in his thrall) but if you end that series without a HEA, you will forever be on my shit list... Just sayin'

But before I end this review on a musical note, let me just say how tired I am of all the "born to rule" storylines out there in the fantasy world. Seriously, there is a reason why most people today prefer democracy, and here's why. You do not want to miss this clip, it's the best part of my review - I promise!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AoLIHgU...>

~2016 A-Z reading challenge, letter U~

Umaiya ?Insignificant September? says

So this seems like a general consensus when I say I'm deducting a star for that ending.

WTH man!

I don't do HFN. HEAs ONLY!

This does not fly **BUT** I'll admit this was still a whole lot better a stunt than what this other "author" pulled.

The end to a truly enjoyable series. I'm gonna miss these guys. I might have visited but THAT. ENDING. 'nuf said.

Jess says

[a half-assed "maybe we'll stay together" relationship? Seriously? We don't get a definit

Brittney says

This book was everything I could have hoped for and more!

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

The Steel & Stone series has been a fun ride. I absolutely adored the first book - earning it a five star rating - but like most good things, series have to end. I heard there will be new books eventually, which I'll end out checking out, but unfortunately my interest in the series has lessened a bit the further the books continue.

The fifth and last of a series that started unique but then got a little stereotypical. Sorry to say that the series lost a lot its uniqueness and completely killed humor it had in the first book, but the scope of the world-building grew exponentially and the suspense was amped up for more people than just our small circle.

I like Piper has come into her own on what she is and her potential - gone is the overdone angst worrying she is not good enough (finally) - but even though I knew she was always a tough chick and had the fight and determination in her, here the author brings her into another typical role we see in YA and adult fantasy: a unique flower with unbelievable strength who stands above others. I liked Piper in the first book as a girl trying to find her own place in the world - it is not unlikable that she emerged as a super leader, but that's what is done with so many series now that it just feels redundant and doesn't raise too much excitement in me anymore.

A let-down was the romantic aspect. I won't ruin the end but it's not a HEA nor does it place enough strength on the romance. While it's fine for a book not to do that, to start a series and have romance be one of the very main focuses, and then change that in the last book, is just...odd.

There's a lot of action but for some reason I lost some of my interest. I was tired of Samael by two books ago. I dug the dragon addition but the circle of friends and traveling buddies has grown so large it's hard to stay focused on favorites.

Overall definitely still a story and series worth reading.

Jeanny says

This counts towards my 2016 Cliterary Genius A to Z book challenge. Letter u.

This end seemed unfinished, not just bc it was a HFN romance but other larger unanswered questions & glaringly obvious shortsighted actions. Idk like I said HFN
Conflicted 3 stars

Lonna | FLYL?F says

Original Post: *Unleash the Storm (Steel & Stone 5)* at FLYL?F (www.flylef.com)

THIS IS SUCH a bittersweet moment—it's the end of an era!

In this epic finale of the *Steel and Stone* series, Annette Marie brings us an explosive and emotional tale of love and vengeance, hope and despair, in a spectacular adrenaline-fueled conclusion with all the elements to be meteoric.

Ms. Marie's rich use of language easily conjures up vivid imageries of forgotten worlds, especially of a majestic dragon king in an ancient, war-stricken landscape. Just when I thought I understood this richly imagined world, she impressively improves upon the excellent beginning with many new details that has left me, yet again, mesmerized.

Few characters stay with me long beyond the last page, but the ones in this series are stubbornly lingering in my thoughts. They are each compelling in their own unique ways, and their dynamic captures the authentic bonds of friendship so well. Piper—half human, half Ryujin—has come so far from that girl whose only want was to become a Consul. I enjoyed seeing her shed her innocence and transformed into a truly remarkable and fierce character. Lyre—incubus—is sexy re-incarnated. But, hidden behind a constant stream of jokes to keep anyone from looking at him too closely is a man with carefully guarded secrets. Some of those secrets are finally reveled, and they will not disappoint. And then, there is Ash. Sigh...

Ashtaroth (Ash)—draconian, powerful, lethal, and attractive (in a dark and forbidden way)—with stormy, grey eyes that holds so much and reveals so little. Thought to be the last of the Tarothe lineage (the most undiluted and powerful of the draconian caste), Ash unwittingly discovers a past so shocking, it will rock his very world. The revelation is so riveting that it stirs and awakens ancient powers unrivaled, even perhaps, by the Sahar Stone.

The romance between Ash and Piper has been an exquisite slow burn of an unconditional and beautiful love

story. Their love continues to be tested in impossible ways that move the love story forward in an uncertain and worrisome manner that kept me anxious.

I've really enjoyed this entire series. Each book builds upon the last with new revelations setting the stage for more action-packed surprises. *Unleash the Storm* is no different. It is an electrifying installment that escalates the struggle between the growing rebels on Earth, the powerful Underworld and Overworld, and pits Ash and Piper against the darkness that threatens to destroy their souls. This conclusion was highly entertaining and I enjoyed it immensely.

Now that I've reached the end of the Steel and Stone series, I can't help feel a sudden onset of sadness. On the bright side, though Ash and Piper's story may have concluded, there is still much more to discover in the *Steel and Stone Universe*.

{I received this ARC in exchange for my review. Thank you, especially to the author and publisher, for giving me an opportunity to review this title.}
