



The Brightest Fell

Seanan McGuire

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Contains an original bonus novella, Of Things Unknown!

Things are slow, and October “Toby” Daye couldn’t be happier about that. The elf-shot cure has been approved, Arden Windermere is settling into her position as Queen in the Mists, and Toby doesn’t have anything demanding her attention except for wedding planning and spending time with her family.

Maybe she should have realized that it was too good to last.

When Toby’s mother, Amandine, appears on her doorstep with a demand for help, refusing her seems like the right thing to do...until Amandine starts taking hostages, and everything changes. Now Toby doesn’t have a choice about whether or not she does as her mother asks. Not with Jazz and Tybalt’s lives hanging in the balance. But who could possibly help her find a pureblood she’s never met, one who’s been missing for over a hundred years?

Enter Simon Torquill, elf-shot enemy turned awakened, uneasy ally. Together, the two of them must try to solve one of the greatest mysteries in the Mists: what happened to Amandine’s oldest daughter, August, who disappeared in 1906.

This is one missing person case Toby can’t afford to get wrong.

The Brightest Fell Details

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From Reader Review The Brightest Fell for online ebook

Lindsay says

Pureblooded faerie are assholes. That's the premise of this one, with Amandine paying October a visit and charging her with an impossible task and taking a terrible collateral in the process.

After that though Seanan spends the rest of the book in dialogue with that as October is forced to take on Simon Torquill as her ally, a pureblooded faerie that has been an asshole to her in the past, but is a walking knot of contradictions. This book also ties on bow on several loose ends from previous books with visits to Blind Michael's realm and Annwn on the agenda.

This is a good book for long-time fans of the series. If you don't have an encyclopedic memory of previous books you might want to quickly skim them though as this one is steeped in material from them.

It's also the second book in a row I've read with long-running series that leaves the main characters victorious but deeply traumatized. I suspect it's a sign of the times.

Steven says

The Brightest Fell

First and foremost, thank you to Netgalley and Berkley/DAW for approving me for an ARC in one of my absolute favorite series. I was given a copy of this book to read in exchange for nothing more than an honest review.

Seanan McGuire is one of the best writers I've had the pleasure of reading. She knows how to set up the action, to build the plot to the explosive scenes you know are coming, but somehow seem to still usually subvert expectations and provide an even better result than you had predicted. She excels at character development -- making us feel and care and relate and share hopes and fears with these characters. She's set up a beautiful, dark, lovely, dangerous, amazing world and an extremely diverse and developed cast. Most importantly, she knows just where the next piece of the story needs to take us to push the overall series narrative forward, every single time.

This novel is no exception. In fact, it's one of the brightest (see what I did there?) examples of her talents as a writer.

She finds a believable way to force October onto another hero's quest, with limited access to her true allies, plenty of complications along the way, and massive amounts of development in Toby's emotional growth AND in some of the secondary characters as well. It left the book feeling reminiscent of some of the earlier books of the series where the cast hadn't grown as large, but with the more mature and confident and loved Toby that has come from the series as time passes and her "family" grows. And this one referenced the events of so many of the other books, and revealed that so many of the little things were bread crumbs to a bigger story... I'm beyond excited for the next few books. I have a feeling that the search for Oberon is a big part of endgame, and I'm ready for Toby to show the world of Faerie just how amazing her and her family is.

I'm thoroughly impressed with Seanan McGuire every time I pick up one of her novels. Even the worst of her novels is still near to masterpiece. If you haven't started the October Daye series, it's time to jump in

(with Rosemary and Rue, book 1). Seriously, you should have started years ago. Go, get on that. NOW.

(PS- Chapter one of this book is absolutely one of my favorite opening scenes from any book ever. It features one of the best characters to ever grace the pages of a book... and I can't say more, because spoilers.)

Of Things Unknown

Also included in this book is a brand new shorty, starring the creepy but cool digital Dryad, April O'Leary, and provides some resolution to some stories from way back in the beginnings of the series.

It's well known that most of McGuire's shorties can be extremely heartwrenching. This one was an interesting surprise -- not only because it's got some happy moments in it, but because we got to see October from someone else's perspective, we got to see the inner workings of a very intriguing character, and we got more of Seanan's ability to put fresh spins on myths and the fae, etc. Five stars for the shorty as well.

Bradley says

Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC!

Unfortunately for me, I have so much I want to talk about for this novel, and yet almost ALL of it becomes spoiler territory!

Ugghh.

But! I think this is one of the strongest Daye novels since the battle with Blind Michael and even more interesting in a way or two than Toby's eventual falling in love with the King of Cats.

I'm sure I can get away with saying that her mother features very strongly and the consequences are very dire and the feels are very deep. I can honestly say that the buildup from all these previous novels and the eventual payoff in total entertainment value for this one is very, very, very high.

In fact, I'm kinda squeeing over here. I loved this novel. Not only was I super excited to have gotten the ARC because I'm a big fan of the series in general, but my own expectations were met and exceeded by the actual experience. The carryover storylines were some of the very, very best in the series and this direction....

Well, suffice to say, I'm very impressed and more than satisfied. :) :)

Robin (Bridge Four) says

I love that this is one of those series that gets better almost every book. I really had no idea that when I read Rosemary and Rue all those books ago that I was eventually going to fall in love with this series. Part of that is because Rosemary and Rue was a little bleak and depressing for about the first quarter of the book but since book three I've been completely hooked.

Our story starts off a little on the happy side with one of the funniest into chapters in a series I've read for

awhile as Toby and all of her quirky friends are at a karaoke bar for her bachelorette party. **All I have to say is Sea Witch singing Poor Unfortunate Souls**, seriously it paints a picture.

“I didn’t even know you invited her.”

“Uh, duh, I had to? It’s the Sleeping Beauty principle. You always invite the biggest badass on the block, or they show up later and curse everybody just to make a point. Besides, she’s having fun.”

It’s a good thing that we get this fun reprieve before family shows up and ruins everything. If you think you have mommy issues I’m going to go out on a limb and say that Toby has it so much worse than you ever thought of having it.

I’ve waited forever to get some insight into her mother Amandine and WOW she was not what I was expecting at all. That fae creature is horrible and so many bricks short of a full load her logic is baffling and brooks no argument lest you be turned into a toad. Amandine it seems would like to find August her child who has been missing for over a hundred years. October isn’t really excited to take on this quest as she is busy planning a wedding, being a hero of the realm and trying not to die. But Amandine isn’t one to take no for an answer and so she kidnaps Tibalt and Jazz just to make sure that October will be motivated to find her missing sister. Did I mention that Amandine is a little bit bat shit crazy???

And so we are off on a quest and need to wake up Simon, August’s father and the man that turned October into a fish for 14 years. Simon who has been one of the main antagonists for quite a while went up so many notches in my esteem after this book. Sure he made some horrible choices in the past but when he started down the slippery slope that became his undoing his first and foremost goal was to find his little girl who was lost. He started with the best of intentions but every choice he made was just one step closer to being the bad guy. But at least he is trying to make some reparations and start on the road back to being a better person.

Because sometimes the best intentions could lead to some very dark places, and once you were there, it could be almost impossible to find your way home again, unless there was someone willing to help you. Unless you could get there and back by the light of a candle.

But the best part of this series besides October because I love her, is the Sea Witch the Luidaeg. She is so cantankerous and acts so put out by everyone. It is so sad that in a way that is her coping mechanism so that people don’t get too close. So they don’t forget that do ask her for help is a binding deal that will cost them, she can’t refuse and the cost can be devastating.

“I have to give people what they ask me for. If you say you want a pony, I have to give you a pony. But I can ask you to pay whatever I want, and the more I don’t want to give you a pony, the steeper that cost becomes.” Her mouth twisted in an unhappy line. “If you’re an asshole about it, I can even fuck with you after I give you what you asked for. Asked to have a pony, not be a pony, but hey, one’s essentially the same as the other, right? Looked at from the right angle.”

I actually feel so sad for the Sea Witch. She genuinely wants to help the people she cares about but at the same time she can’t because of the rules she is bound by. She tries to give people outs and they don’t listen and still make their bargain even knowing that the cost will be high none of them seem to care in the moment. Plus The Sea Witch knows what is to come in the future and that someone from Amandine’s line is going to have to pay the price for that future. I very much worry for Toby since I think it is pretty clear after

this book that both August and Amandine are not cut out for heroism.

Your mother never wanted to be a hero. She hated what her mother's actions and our father's blood had lain upon her, hated the expectation that she would sacrifice herself for the sake of others. She wanted to be a rose in a walled garden, and not one growing wild by the side of some crumbling, half-forgotten well. So she refused. She could have ended this centuries ago, and she refused."

The plot in this book was great and I loved getting to see more of the deep faery lands and meet up with a few characters from the past. Simon gets most improved character (not sure that will hold for later books but I'm crossing my fingers for him). August gets voted worst sister ever....I have no idea how October turned out semi-normal and nice looking at her other family members. And Amandine, oh Amandine I hope Oberon comes back and throws you over his knee to spank your spoiled, self-indulgent, selfish ass.

Good thing that October is working on building her new family. I think she is going to need them in the books to come.

Choko says

*** 4.44 ***

A buddy read with the Wednesday UF group @ BB&B, because we LOOOOOVEEEEE the Sea Witch!!!

Holy Karaoke Evil Amandine!!! WTH is wrong with this woman??? I can't believe any parent can ever be so clueless about her children's well being... I think all of those pure-bloods Fae and most of the First Born need a spanking and to be given a mandatory 2 years of life among humans as regular humans themselves, in order to hopefully learn some decency and generosity of spirit. Not that all of us are great human beings, but at least we know vulnerability and are well aware of our mortality, so as a majority we tend to respect the right of well being of our neighbors even when we don't particularly like or respect them. Obviously, the Fae, as beings of unbelievable power, are spoiled and arrogant, full of innate bigotry and sense of superiority, often justified, but never earned or deserved, so they often abuse this power with little to no thought about those who are effected by it. And for creatures with unlimited lifespan they sure know how to hold a grudge, which in my opinion is just a waste of time and energy, spending hundreds of years playing games in order to hurt each-other. I almost want to feel sorry for them, but I just can't find it in myself...

"... "I'm not going anywhere with you," she snapped. "You're changeling filth and I don't have to do as you say."

"Does she heal like you normally do?" asked Quentin. "Because we could break her arms to distract her, and I bet I could carry her." "..."

The book started with a William Shakespeare quote from Macbeth, after which the book is named and I love it!

"... "Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell." "..."

It sure seems that this is the rule under which Fairy exists... With every new book in the series we are shown more and more how much the Fae and Humans can learn from each-other, if only they let themselves do so.

Unfortunately, we also get examples of Fae with power and beauty close to perfection, creatures who should represent all the most pure and beautiful qualities of Creation, but they show themselves to be "fallen" on the inside... The theory of having to have pain in order to have joy is proven over and over, since those overwhelmingly "perfect" creatures think of all the rest of us as insects, as mosquitoes at which they can swipe and not think anything more about, even be pleased with our destruction, since we will not buzz around and bother them. This was wonderfully shown by the marvelously written Pixies and their colony. They have accepted that since they are small and have no big powers, they are considered a pest, despite them being sentient and having life and love and families just like the rest of the "big" humans and wingless. I fell in love with the little sparkly creatures and would love some more action of that scale in the future.

"...“Being your friend is like trying to get up close and personal with a natural disaster,” she’d said. “Sure, we have some good times, but we spend half of them covered in blood. We just want to spend an evening making you as uncomfortable as you keep making the rest of us.” Not to be outdone, her eldest daughter, Cassandra, had blithely added, “Besides, we don’t think even you can turn a karaoke party into a bloodbath.” All of my friends are evil”... ”

In a day when everyone was in a celebratory mood and singing Karaoke, torturing Toby with bad singing and useless attempts to get drunk, one of those bright and beautiful creatures stormed back into Toby's life and as expected, there were consequences which will stick with the affected for a while... Amandine, Toby's long missing mother, showed up on her doorsteps and demanded she find her firstborn daughter, October's older sister who has been missing for over 100 years. Just to make things more painful, the Mommy Dearest took hostages in order to keep Toby in line... Needles to say, this was not pretty and many feelings were reawakened in her and in her sister-fetch May, all of them very hurtful. Thus Toby found herself teaming up with one of her biggest enemies, who also happens to be her step-father and her sister's dad, and together with her fateful Squire, once again she travels through different Faerie Realms, heads into danger and as always, almost dies, just to save the people she loves and considers her true family, blood connections be damned!!! Nothing comes easily, nothing works quite the way it should - after all this is the realm of the Fae and all of them twist reality in ways that it suits them.

"...“For years, I’d blocked out how she had hurt me, refusing to think about it, refusing to even remember that it had happened, because if she was Daoine Sidhe, as everyone told me, over and over, there was no way her hands could have been enough to cause that sort of pain. When my own daughter had been born, I’d been afraid to touch her, because what if that sort of feedback loop was just how things worked among the Fae, and no one had ever wanted to say anything in front of a flawed, mixed, mortal changeling?”... ”

There were moments of laughter, as in the beginning, there were moments of hurt and pain throughout, but there were several moments of despair, which broke my heart... Thank goodness there were also moments of hope! I know that Seanan McGuire left us with many things to be resolved in the future, and I am grateful for the little moments of respite, as temporary as it might be. I also want to say that once again, my heart belongs to the Sea Witch, whose gift and curse make her one of the more complex characters and you never know if she is going to make you cry tears of joy or desolation... I want to know what happens to Peach and the policeman, I want to see the path Simon takes, and of course, I am intrigued and expecting some more sibling MMA Fighting:):):) Can't wait for the next book to be out - I will read it just as this and the previous ones, as soon as it comes out:) You guys should too!

"...““Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage.” The wards flared more violently before dissolving into the smell of cut-grass and copper. May wrinkled her nose as she pushed past me, snatched the keys out of my hand, and unlocked the door. “Most people don’t use Macbeth to seal their wards, you know.” “Most people are boring,” I said. ”... ”

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and many more wonderful books to come!

Susana says

Well this one started out with a bang, but towards the end I was fervently wishing for it to end asap. I've read all the previous books, probably all the shorts as well, so I'm familiar with this world. This means that having the same old things, the same old stories, the same old - character _ quirks thrown at me at infinitum became tiresome. And depressing...

Why is it that when a series starts going downhill, the publisher decides to publish it in hardback?

Full review to come...

Pippa DaCosta says

So, so good.

UPDATE: a kind book fairy reached out and offered me a copy on behalf of the author. Thank you!

Ugh. I'm in the Uk. The only available format is hardcover at £17 /\$20 and a two month delivery time? No kindle option and no paperback option.

sigh

Bea Charmed says

"For once, everything in October "Toby" Daye's life seems to be going right." - I knew that wasn't going to last. Poor Toby rarely catches a break. Besides, it would be a short book if there wasn't a conflict or catastrophe. :D The book opens with Toby's bachelorette party which was a hoot to read. But, In no time, Amandine shows up on Toby's doorstep and makes a request/demand. And oh boy, Amandine plays dirty. She is not nice. I didn't remember her being quite so cold or vicious in her earlier appearances. In "The Brightest Fell", she is queen bee bi*** and delights in rubbing Toby's face in it.

One again, McGuire pulls threads from earlier stories and weaves them into a new design, making you question what you believed and what you thought you knew. She even did something I thought was nearly impossible: she made me like, and feel sorry for, Simon Torquill. She started on that in the prior book but brought it to fruition in this book. Mind you, I still disagree with his choices but I understand them better now. Much of the book revolves around family, the family we're born with and the family we make for ourselves. McGuire examines these ties and shows us just how binding they can be, even when we want to turn our back and walk away.

Certain characters were missing and others had reduced roles and were missed, but McGuire worked magic with the remaining ones. The story was tight, the characterizations excellent and I was veering between

crying and cheering with the occasional urge to pith my Kindle across the room. Toby goes right to her breaking point and I was seriously worried about her future. McGuire is evil; she needs to stop beating up and Toby and the gang! I know I'm being vague but so much happens and I really don't want to accidentally spoil anything. "The Brightest Fell" is a strong wrenching story, with twists and turns, pathos, humor, love, anger, and moments that made me gasp, curse, and read furiously. If you're new to the series, skip this book and get the first book, "Rosemary and Rue". This series simply must be read in order. You won't regret it.

Sarah says

*** Note: it's impossible to review this book without including spoilers for previous stories so please don't read this review unless you're up to date with the series and have read at least as far as Once Broken Faith ***

Just when everything seems to be going right in Toby's world something, or in this case someone, has to come along and ruin it. Toby should be focusing on planning her wedding but an unexpected, and not particularly pleasant, visit from Amandine turns her life upside down and leaves her with an impossible task on her hands - track down Amandine's oldest daughter, August, who has only been missing without a trace for about 100 years, or both Tybalt and Jazz will pay the price. Failure isn't an option but Toby is going to have to pull out all the stops, including working alongside her sworn enemies, if she wants to have a chance at succeeding.

Amandine has been pretty much a minor character in the series so far, we know she's a firstborn and we know she's Toby's mother (and a pretty crappy mother at that!) but apart from the occasional brief appearance we've not really seen much of her so I was quite excited at the prospect of getting to know her. Well you know that saying "be careful what you wish for"? That definitely applies here because Amandine is so much worse than I could ever have imagined and I felt so badly for poor Toby for everything that Amandine puts her through. The Luidaeg may be Toby's aunt but she's been more of a mother to her than Amandine ever has or will.

So Toby's family reunion doesn't go well and now she's been set with the impossible challenge of finding her half sister or being responsible for the death of her fiancé. Toby is nothing if she's not determined but I have to admit the lengths she was willing to go to surprised me here, she has to go to the one person I didn't think she'd ever trust for assistance and it makes for really interesting dynamics in this story. It's hard because there are so many things I want to discuss in this review but all of them would be spoilers so I can't talk about them. What I will say is that the stakes are higher than ever, the risks are greater, Toby's life is in danger and things will never be the same again.

The Brightest Fell was everything I could have hoped for and then some, **Seanan McGuire** somehow manages to ramp up the level with every new book in this series and it has quickly become one of my favourite UF series of all time. I can't recommend these books highly enough and I'm desperately waiting for the next book to release.

Of Things Unknown Review:

Of Things Unknown is an April O'Leary point of view novella that can be found in **The Brightest Fell**, it follows on from events that happened at Tamed Lightning way back in **A Local Habitation** but timeline wise it's about three years on so should be read after **The Brightest Fell**.

April is a fascinating character, as a dryad who lost her tree and was somehow magically connected to a

computer hard drive she's totally different from anyone else in the series. She thinks differently and doesn't understand emotions the same way most people do so it can be quite hard to relate to her, she comes across as fairly cold and logical but she does care about the people around her and she tries hard to do the right thing. She's just fairly childlike sometimes and has been easily manipulated by people who she should have been able to trust.

Anyway, April has spent three years as the Countess of Tamed Lightning since the death of her mother January. It's not a position she ever wanted and she finds it difficult at times but she's done her best to keep things running how her mother would want them and she's done a pretty good job of it. One thing she hasn't been able to do is get over events from **A Local Habitation** though, she is desperate to make amends for the mistakes she made and she thinks she's figured out a way to do it.

This was a brilliant novella that is going to have huge consequences in the rest of the series, I can't wait to see how certain things play out in the future and I was excited by the direction things went. It was nice to Toby from someone else's point of view and I enjoyed getting to know April a little better.

Beth says

When I hear that Seanan McGuire wrote it, I know that I'm in for another perfect literary escape.

Toby finds herself in a precarious situation and the people that she has learned to depend on the most have been taken. She must depend on her own wits while leaning on the one person she should never trust.

And it all comes down to family...Amandine, Toby's mother finally shows herself and for Toby this is not a good thing.

To put it frankly, I can't say much more about the plot of this book without giving away a spoiler. Yes, it is that pack full of life altering changes. I can say that *The Brightest Fell* was one heck of an adventure and should not be missed.

October Daye is one of my all-time favorite urban fantasy series. To say, I was hyped about reading the 11th installment would be an understatement. So many times, the anticipation doesn't live up to actuality...*The Brightest Fell* exceed my wildest imaginations.

I received this ARC copy of *The Brightest Fell* from Berkley Publishing Group - DAW. This is my honest and voluntary review. *The Brightest Fell* is set for publication Sept. 5, 2017.

My Rating: 5 stars

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DON'T MISS TOME TENDERS BLOG TOUR STOP 8/23/2017

Jo says

4.5 Stars Buddy read with the fantastic UF Wednesday Group over at BB&B. Yay, a new October Day book!!!!!!

....monsters were made from the best of intentions....

Oh how wonderful it was being back in this fantastic world Seanan McGuire has created.

For once it seems as if things just might be going October “Toby” Daye’s way. Nobody is trying to kill her, there’s no one who needs saving and all she needs to be doing is planning her wedding to the King of Cats and enjoying her bachelorette party.

*Being a hero meant that sometimes the danger followed you home.
I was a hero now, too. I hadn’t sought the position. It had been shoved on me one stolen child
and broken promise at a time. That didn’t make it any less mine. The people around me—the
people I cared about—were always going to be in danger.*

But after ten books we know things are never easy for Toby and her friends. When her mother Amandine takes Tybalt and Jazz as collateral hostage in order to force Toby to find her first borne and Toby’s sister, August, who’s been missing for a century, Toby has no choice but to do what she does best – fight for the ones she loves and find the missing. The only problem with this plan – needing the help of the man who stole fourteen years of her life, her step-father Simon Torquill who was recently elf-shot. Getting him awake is not a problem, but trusting him is a different matter.

“What I did, I did for the best of reasons. That doesn’t forgive it. If anything, that makes it worse, that a good man might become a villain thinking himself a hero in his heart. Take care, October. Your current quest . . . this is the road that broke me.”

To say I was surprised and captivated by the events in this book is a huge understatement. I have hated Simon since the first book but as most things in this series, nothing is ever black and white. It was eye-opening learning more about Simon and finding out just how far someone could fall, even if it was because of good intentions.

Toby was fantastic as always. I love her loyalty to the people she loves, how she would risk herself to keep them safe. And once again she proved why she’s the heroine of this series.

Then there’s Amandine and what a piece of work this woman is. **I HATE HER!** It’s amazing that Toby turned out so kind hearted (she must have gotten that from her human father) because this book just showed what a coldhearted bitch her mother is and the lengths she would go to get what she wants. I’ve always wondered if maybe she cared more for Toby than she let on and after the events in this book I finally got my answer. (view spoiler)Seeing how awful Toby’s blood family is makes me appreciate so much the family she

has built for herself.

The plot was intense with Toby and Quentin, her squire, together with Simon racing against time to find August and worrying myself sick that she wouldn't be in time to save Tybalt and Jazz. It was strange not having Toby surrounded by her usual gang of wonderful friends and I must say I missed spending time with them all, but luckily we did see the Luidaeg (my favorite character) quite a lot and we also finally found out what her end game is. And after that 'o shit' ending, I really can't wait to see what will happen next and whether Toby will manage to do what the Luidaeg wants....

I can't even begin to describe how beautiful and captivating this author writes. This series is one of my favorite UF series' and I cannot recommend it enough. **READ IT.**

Kira says

4.5 stars

Finally Amandine made an appearance!!! I had been waiting so long for this. It certainly wasn't what I was expecting. Amandine is formidable woman. She makes the Luidaeg look sweet and sane, and she's known as the sea witch. I have the feeling this book only showed one side of her personality. As someone who loves psychology, I'm curious to see what makes her tick and why exactly she feels the way she does about Toby. I think there's a lot more to it than meets the eye.

Since these books are becoming increasingly character driven, I can't talk about much in regards to the characters because there would be major spoilers. One thing that made this book very different from the others was the lack of Toby's usual sidekicks. Quentin was around but not highly impactful on the plot. The other main character was someone from Toby's past who she detests. I would love to say more, but I was absolutely shocked at how that played out. It was this forced relationship that made the book great.

Amandine forced Toby's hand and made her look for her long lost sister. In the century or so that she had been missing no one could find her and some incredibly powerful people looked. I like how the whole plot unraveled. The thing I didn't like was that it was too convenient that Toby was the only person alive with the right abilities to possibly make it happen. The end game of the series has finally been laid out. Based on the few hints that were dropped, it's looking grim. After all the title of the final book is When Sorrows Come.

Thank you so much to DAW and Netgalley for giving me an ARC in exchange for an honest review!!!

All Things Urban Fantasy says

THE BRIGHTEST FELL is an entertaining mix of the comfort of an adventure between well established characters with the dissonance and uncertainty of new blood thrown into the mix. This deep into the series, October Daye's group of irregulars are beloved and entertaining, it is the unexpected appearance of her biological family that throws a wrench into the mix.

The mysterious truth behind Toby's heritage has been the last minute magical save in many a previous October Daye adventure, but it was a refreshing change to see her overpowered by the source of those

abilities. I had a hard time calibrating my emotional reaction to Amandine to match Toby's. Despite Amandine's old school high handedness (and general racism), Toby clearly has an emotional attachment to the woman who raised her. As a reader that has only experienced Toby's chosen family, Amandine is very easy to hate as she threatens, abuses, and generally tortures the people Toby loves. Though Amandine's behavior isn't contextually unusual (the Luidaeg is the one who displays modern, softened behavior despite her reputation), it is very, very hard not to hate her entirely.

The contrast between the family Toby is born into and that which she has chosen is stark, but otherwise this is the usual, fantastic October Daye adventure with an extra layer of delicious danger on top. Though Toby is often overmatched, this big bad is the source of Toby's own magical ace in the hole. This time around it is Toby's humanity and friendships that win the day, making it once again that this series both delights and surprises.

Sexual Content: References to sex.

Maria Dimitrova says

Buddy read with my dear friends of the UF Group.

Amandine needs to die. And her spoiled brat of a firstborn daughter too. In fact Toby should dial herself back to a more mortal body and learn to cast iron bullets for submachine gun and go on a rampage. I hate, hate, hate Amandine and August! My hate for them overshadowed my joy of being reunited with all my favorite characters of this series!

The book started so well. In fact it started with some of the funniest, most joy inducing sentences I've ever read. I laughed my head off during chapter 1. I was filled with a fluffy feeling that I think was happiness. But just like Toby I knew it won't last. And then Amandine showed up. She is the worst possible parent Faerie has ever produced. She's a spoiled, entitled cruel brat. I kind of understand why evening disliked her. I don't think anyone other than Simon likes her. Oberon probably decided to disappear just to be rid of his youngest child. She's insufferable. And August is a carbon copy of her mother! The things that came from the mouths of those two are unbelievable. I still shake with rage hours after finishing TBF!

Despite the rage inducing female members of Toby's biological family, I enjoyed the book immensely. I even grew to like Simon, who's been one of the major antagonists of the series since the very beginning. I actually feel sorry for him. Being married to Amandine the Bitch and having that insufferable brat for a daughter is a punishment. Seeing things from his POV made me understand him better and even forgive him. Because in these few short chapters he became more of a parent to October than her mother ever was. And so when he (view spoiler) I was more than a bit heartbroken. He deserved better. He still has a lot to answer for but now I can understand how and why he did all those atrocities. I would do anything for my child as well. And this time around Simon has October on his side so his chances of being saved are exponentially higher. I just hope that his return would require the lifeblood of a certain Firstborn. Because she needs to die and what better use than saving her husband.

Unfortunately I will need to wait at least two more years to see how this whole mess is resolved. And it scares me that there's an entire book in between this one and the big finale. I just can't handle if one of Toby's little family gets hurt again!

Jessica ? says

THIS SERIES IS SERIOUSLY ADDICTIVE.

Read at your own peril.

It's difficult, if not impossible, to describe the plot without releasing major spoilers concerning the earlier books, so I'll avoid it.

A quick rundown of the series for the uninitiated: October is a half-human, half-fae woman who has lived her life awkwardly straddling the real world and the world of the fae. Her magic is related to blood, but her true strength is in her intelligence, combat training, and uncanny (yet not magical) ability to make powerful people like her. These all make her a better private investigator, both in human and fae matters.

October Daye does not waste any time. The plot is action packed with a single-minded determinedness -- you won't waste any time on side plots that don't add much to the story.

You'll get the feeling that the previous books have been leading us to something big, and this book pulls us further along on that trajectory. The only downside of this book is that readers will hate having to wait for the next one.

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