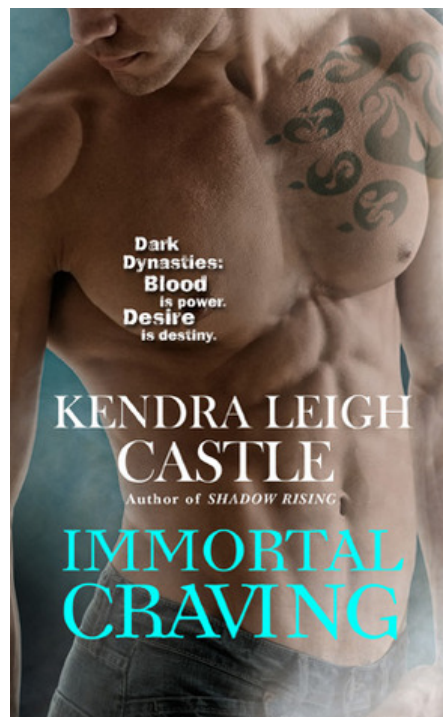




Immortal Craving

Kendra Leigh Castle

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Immortal Craving Kendra Leigh Castle
The last-and most lethal-of his kind . . .

Wild, uncontrollable, and powerful, the lion-shifting Rakshasa were hunted down by vicious rival vampires who feared their dark, magical abilities. Somehow one survived, and now, after centuries of hiding, Tasmin Singh reemerges as fierce and fearless as ever at the door of the Lilim queen, seeking answers . . . and sanctuary.

The human best friend to a vampire queen, Bay Harper traded her quiet, comfortable life for a world filled with immortal assassins, warring werewolves . . . and this hauntingly sexy shifter. Only Bay's gentle touch can subdue Tasmin's inner demons, even as he brings out a passion and sensuality she never imagined she could feel. But when a bloody struggle threatens to tear them apart, can Bay risk everything on her faith in him-or will his dark side be stronger than even their all-consuming desire?

Immortal Craving Details

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Author : Kendra Leigh Castle

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From Reader Review Immortal Craving for online ebook

Lisarenee says

My Synopsis:

In a cave in India a vampire from an ancient line thought to be extinct rises...

'When the first rays of dim light touched his skin, Tasmin, drew his hand back with a startled hiss. Bright pain sent a shock up his arm, and he clutched his hand to his chest, confused.

He had built up his tolerance well over the century he had lived, able to withstand even the brightest rays of the sun for extended periods of time if he wished. It was a gift of his line, one of many. He hadn't been burned since he was a fledgling, young and untried. Even if he had slept for a year, it should not feel like this.

Suspicion, rife with horror bloomed slowly as he held his hand before him in the darkness, saw skin so ashen it was as though he had been drained of blood and covered in dust. A corpse. Smoke coiled lazily from the place where the light had touched.

And he knew. To sleep so long, to become this dead and wraith like thing...

It had not been a year.

It had been centuries.'

After awakening and adjusting to a strange new world, he sought out the enemy of his enemy...

"I came here because I seek answers. The queen of the Lilim will know those who can find them. Of this I am certain."

Bay's eyebrows rose at the cryptic response There was something off about about him, something she couldn't even put her finger on that went beyond the obvious weirdness. Sadly, it didn't make him any less fascinating to her.

"Well, Tasmin, you, um, would have done better just waiting until nightfall and knocking on Lily's door. Whoever told you where to find me could have told you where to find her." She tilted her head at him.
"Why didn't you just go there?"...

"The sun is still high. I had some time. And I wondered what sort of mortal would be considered such a friend to a powerful queen. I'm still not sure whether your relationship means I should expect to find her wise, or a reckless fool."

Things are about to be shaken up and get interesting.

My Thoughts:

This is the fourth book of the Dark Dynasties series. If you haven't read the previous books, I highly recommend you do. Everything seems to build upon what happens in the previous books and you'll not want to miss a moment. Political alliances are formed and broken. There is a never ending struggle for power where one Dynasty, lead by a ruthless leader, is willing to do anything to be in control. Amongst the political

back drop, a new 'reborn' dynasty with ancient roots is beginning to enter the political arena--The Lilim. For some they offer hope for change while for others they pose a threat.

In *Immortal Craving*, we are introduced to a new character, Tasmin Singh, a vampire with the ability to shape shift into a lion. *sigh* I confess to having a soft spot for shape shifting lions. I think it all stems from watching The Chronicles of Narnia movies and wishing I could take a ride on the back of Aslan like the kids did. Asleep for hundreds of years, Tasmin awakens to find himself, the last of his proud and powerful line, the Rakshasa. He's looking for answers as to what happened to him and his people, hoping against hope that others of his line were saved as he was, and coming to terms with all the changes in the world.

As he searches for answers, he realizes more may have changed than he first suspected. He fears whatever happened to him all those years ago may have done more than make him pull a Rip Van Winkle. He tends to have blackouts, "coming to" with large periods of time missing from his memory. As people and animals start turning up dead, with clues suggesting a lion is involved, Tasmin has to come to terms with the frightening possibility that he may very well be the culprit, and something may have been done to him when he was put to sleep. What he discovers is something truly to be feared.

Bay has a good heart and likes to help people. She may be a little too trusting, but that just adds to her charm. Not one to pass by someone in need (even if that someone is a vampire), she finds herself wanting to help Tasmin. What disturbs her the most is how attracted she finds herself to him. He's not the first vampire she's been around, and she's been asked out by several vampires in Lily's dynasty, but she's never been tempted by any of them before.

Feeling a little lost and alone, Tasmin is drawn to, Bay, the woman who showed him kindness and wasn't afraid of him when she should have been. Her being the best friend of the Queen of the Lilim and a mortal should warn him off from her. But something about Bay draws him in and is irresistible. But a relationship between the two might just lead to both their downfalls.

Why is the book called Immortal Craving? Well, I'll try not to give anything away, but Tasmin who is 'immortal' has a 'craving' or hunger that can't be easily satisfied. I know that's a little vague, but if I said any more I'd be spoiling you (as in letting loose a huge spoiler).

Overall, I gave this one **4 1/2 out of 5 roses**. I enjoyed the action and drama, the internal struggle Tasmin experienced, and the romance that sprouted between Bay and Tasmin. I loved both Bay and Tasmin and the way the ending played out. If you've followed the series so far you'll want to get your hands on this one fast because after this book, everything changes. On the Lisarenee Romance Rating Scale, this one scores a **STEAM** rating--too hot for a fan, but you still have a handle on things. You should use extreme caution when reading a book with this rating in public. People may inquire as to why you looked flustered and flushed. If you haven't started the series, mark my words, you'll be asking yourself why you didn't listen to me sooner and read it. This is one of my favorite new series and I've been thoroughly and utterly seduced by it. :)

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales.

Quick & Dirty: Tasmin is the last of a breed of strong magic wielding vampires and just woke up from a 400 year old nap. He wants answers and revenge against the person responsible for wiping out his kin.

Opening Sentence: He awakened to darkness.

The Review:

Books that can be read as stand alone when part of a bigger picture are unusual. The fact that I was thrust into reading book 4 of this series with no prior knowledge of the story, races, or even the author's style and enjoyed it was a true joy. I'm sure however that if you are a fan of this series you will stumble upon old friends that you want to catch up with and a villain or two that makes you long for sunlight or a wooden stake.

Thanks goes out to Ms. Castle for ensuring we, the readers, had a list of the "Known Bloodlines of the United States". This came in quite handy when I was trying to figure out which bloodline had which capability and where the line's origin began. Especially when there were battles and one line was using lightning speed, psychic power or illusions to gain the upper hand.

But what you really want to know is what do I think about Tasmin Singh, a lion shape shifting vampire? I'm in. Anytime an alpha male or predator can be seen as vulnerable my heart melts. Call me a softy. When we first meet Tasmin, he has literally just woken up from a 400 year nap and has no idea where he is or how he got there. Give me a mystery to solve through out a book and I'm hooked and this book definitely had that in spades.

Our heroine, Bay Harper, is a typical American woman running a grooming business that happens to be best friends with a Vampire Queen when Tasmin passes out in her shop. Not a very graceful introduction but definitely a memorable one. Not many times will an alpha male be literally at the feet of a woman, but it definitely works here. I also enjoyed the description that Ms. Castle give us of Bay's home and even her socks. They are true reflections of Bay's personality.

Bay's dog, Grimm, plays a larger part then I first anticipated. Usually dogs or cats are just seen as tools for comfort or plot low points but Grimm plays a significant part in protecting his mistress. Being a dog lover, I applaud Ms. Castle's use of man's best friend.

We learn very early on in this book that all is not right with Tasmin. Not only did he sleep for a very long time but he keeps having blackouts and then can't remember what occurred during his lost time. This portion of the book was a good plot prompter because as a reader you never quite knew when Tasmin might black out and what might have occurred during that time.

Finally, if you are looking for a new type of vampire with amazing magic abilities and a heroine that I found charming and believable then you should pick this book up. Don't be afraid to jump right to this book. I was captivated and have added Ms. Castle to the list of authors I wish to continue to read in the future.

Notable Scene:

Bay turned her head sharply to look at him, and when his eyes locked with hers, she finally understood.

The guy who'd just wrecked her shampoo display wasn't human. Not even close.

His eyes were a bright, burning gold, more akin to molten metal than the more muted shades she'd seen among the werewolves who stayed among Lily's dynasty. They were intense, mesmerizing. He stared at her for an instant that felt much longer than it truly was, and in her head she heard his voice as clearly as if he'd been speaking in her ear. It was far too intimate, and still it made her shiver.

Be still. I would speak to you.

His gaze returned to Shelby, who was fumbling now with the phone. Bay heard Shelby's terrified, sobbing breaths even out instantly, heard the phone being clicked off, and then the gentle creak of the stool behind the counter as the girl settled herself on it. She said nothing.

"So you're a vampire," Bay said quietly, adrenaline still pumping hard and fast through her veins.

FTC Advisory: Forever/Grand Central Publishing/Hachette Book Group provided me with a copy of Immortal Craving. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

D.G. says

****2.5 stars****

What a letdown. It's clear the author wanted to wrap the series quickly but why did it have to be in such a boring way? The final showdown at the end with Arsinoe was such a disappointment, after this woman had been the horrible villain throughout the series!

Anyhow, neither Bay nor Tasmin were anything to write about. She had hoped to have her cake and eat it, still be the human friend of a Vampire Queen without having to deal with anything of that world (you can imagine how that turned out.) Tasmin was all emo, walking with an air of martyrdom because he was *doomed, doomed!* Half the time I wanted to slap them both.

If you are thinking of starting this series, don't even bother. The way it ended, it's not worth it.

Jen Davis says

I'll be honest. I was disappointed when I found out that the hero in this book wasn't a Cait-Sith. I mean, I love those poor, tortured little kitty-cats. But I should have had some faith. Tasmin is, indeed, and entirely different breed of vampire. Instead, he is a poor, tortured, BIG kitty-cat. And I loved him just the same.

Tasmin is Rakshasa, a lion-vampire shifter, whose kind was thought to be extinct. But he has been asleep for centuries, cursed to carry the spirit of a demon by the evil Arsinoe. When he wakes, he is half crazed. He hears the evil, oily voice inside him, and he wants it out. He travels from India to the US, looking for Lily, hoping the queen of the Liliun can help him and explain what happened to his people.

When he arrives, it's not actually Lily he seeks out first, but her human best friend, Bailey. He thinks she will give him insight into Lily that will help his cause. But his fractured psyche leads him to pass out in her shop, and Bay steps up to help him. Despite his power and abrupt nature, Bay sees the vulnerability in Tasmin and is drawn to him. The attraction is mutual, but he knows that the demon makes him a danger to her, so Tas tries to fight it. It's so sweet and noble.

There is a lot going on outside of the building relationship. The Ptolemy vamps are targeting Lily and her people, and Arsinoe wants Tasmin, so she can get her hands on that demon. Bay and Lily are struggling with their friendship and questioning how they can maintain it with the differences between them. There's great action... and familiar faces.. and all the threads of previous books are acknowledged and incorporated in.

But at the heart of the book is the romance, and it was a good one. Tasmin comes from such a powerful race. Being strong is all he's ever known, but his circumstances throw all of that on its ear. Bay is this physically weak, fragile human, yet she takes care of him. She protects him. She saves him. I loved watching how it humbles him; how he needs her; how is willing to sacrifice himself for her as a result. He sees beneath the surface of her and knows her worth. He's awesome. And they are fantastic together. There is so much longing and crushing fear that they're doomed. Delicious angst, folks, just like I like it.

The book wraps up a lot in the overall storyline, and it feels like it could serve as a series finale. But I hope this isn't the end. There is definitely more story out there to be told... the demons... Vlad... and I want to read them. I hope to get the chance.

Rating: B+

**ARC Provided by Forever via NetGalley*

Izy says

Rating~ 4.5 stars

Short review:

I really enjoyed this whole series and I'm really sad that there aren't going to be anymore books in it. I really loved the main couple Tasmin and Bailey together. I really wish there were more books in this series *sigh*

Literati Literature Lovers says

Title: Immortal Craving Dark Dynasties #4

Author: Kendra Leigh Castle

Rating: 4.25/5 Stars

Genre: Paranormal Romance

Publisher: Forever

ASIN:B007ZFIU0K

SYNOPSIS

The last-and most lethal-of his kind . . .

Wild, uncontrollable, and powerful, the lion-shifting Rakshasa were hunted down by vicious rival vampires who feared their dark, magical abilities. Somehow one survived, and now, after centuries of hiding, Tasmin Singh reemerges as fierce and fearless as ever at the door of the Lilim queen, seeking answers . . . and sanctuary.

The human best friend to a vampire queen, Bay Harper traded her quiet, comfortable life for a world filled with immortal assassins, warring werewolves . . . and this hauntingly sexy shifter. Only Bay's gentle touch can subdue Tasmin's inner demons, even as he brings out a passion and sensuality she never imagined she could feel. But when a bloody struggle threatens to tear them apart, can Bay risk everything on her faith in

him-or will his dark side be stronger than even their all-consuming desire?

REVIEW

Immortal Craving is the fourth book in the Kendra Leigh Castle Series A Tale of the Dark Dynasties. For those unfamiliar with the Dark Dynasty Series, it is a paranormal world comprised of vampires and werewolves. The vampires that Leigh creates come from a social structure of a caste system. There are the high bloods, aka the ruling class, and the low bloods. The ruling class vampires prey on others, both socially and morally. The vampire maker's bloodline is passed down to those he sires; the newly turned lot is caste with his maker's bite.

The Highbloods are ruled by dynasties. The Ptolmey Dynasty ruled by Queen Arsinöe, Cath Sith & Lilim Dynasty is ruled by Lilly Quinn MacGillivray, Dracul Dynasty ruled by Vald Dracul, Grigori Dynasty ruled by Sammael, Empusa Dynasty ruled by Mormo and the extinct Raskshasa Dynasty ruled by no one. The Cath Sith had been considered low bloods until Lilly Quinn MacGillivray decided to co-op them into her new dynasty.

Each dynasty member is marked by a tattoo that appears upon conversion. This tattoo declares to everyone who you belong to and what you are. There is no hiding your nature amongst the vampires of the Dark Dynasty. A tattoo that has been muddled by another's via blood exchange during mating, marks them forever as low bloods. Only those of pure blood, untainted by another's, are considered high blood vampires. As fans of the series will know, each dynasties members have unique abilities. Ptolemy lighting speed, Cath Sith, Dracul and Raskshasa can take animal form, Lilim have powerful psychic energy, Empusa can take smoke form and the mysterious Grigori have the power of flight.

It should be noted that these are not the sparkly vampires of young adult books. These vampires have a complex political structure made up of alliances and warring factions. All the vampire dynasties have unique abilities, and some can even take animal form. The ability to take animal form is seen as disgusting to some such as the Ptolmey dynasty vampires.

In Immortal Craving, the only known Raskshasa Dynasty survivor, Tasmin, awakens after a unnaturally long sleep to discover that his dynasty of powerful illusionist lion vampires no longer exist. The Raskshasa has the ability to make anyone believe anything they choose. They were not seen as loyal and they had no central power or ruler; they lived in lion pride structure, not banding together. They were hunted to extinction by the Egyptian Ptolmey Queen Arisnöe. Arisnöe is such a warm and lovely vampire ruler, NOT. Arisnöe had a deep abiding hatred for any animal ability vampire.

Tasmin makes his way to the United States from India, in search of answers to what happened to his dynasty. He has heard about Queen Lily and her resurrected Lilim dynasty. Being recently turned, and a 21st century gal, Lilly doesn't believe in the caste dynastic system. Tasmin contacts Bailey, Lily's human best friend in order to get an introduction to the Lilim queen. It is soon revealed that Tasmin is not well, but of course this doesn't stop the attraction that builds between Bailey and Tasmin.

Castle does a marvelous job of world building and the history that she builds for her characters and past is vivid and rich. She writes a very enjoyable story, and her books keep building her complex world in stunning detail. Castle does a great job in pulling the reader into the political machinations of the vampire dynasties. The world that the low bloods inhabit is dark and they live on the fringe of society trying to live their lives and not be noticed by high bloods. High bloods see the low bloods as fair game in taunting and even killing. The high bloods reminds me of the peerage of historic English society, those that are above all laws even those that they may enforce.

The character of Tasmin is a powerful, alpha lion, that is tormented by the loss of his pride and dynasty. He is tormented by his illness, an illness that he fears revealing and yet knows that hiding it will have

devastating repercussions. Tasmin is a strong, yet tender, fierce and loyal character. These attributes shine as the tale unfolds.

With Lilly's friendship, Bailey is introduced to this new paranormal world. Bailey is a feisty character, but she is also conflicted with Lilly's strange life. She knows that this immortal world is not for her, no matter how much she loves Lilly. She loves her mortal life, and doesn't want to give it up for anyone or anything. Being a mortal best friend to an immortal power player has put Bailey in the crosshairs of the political machinations of Lilly's enemies, aka Queen Arisn e. This queen is willing to use anyone and anything to weaken Lilly.

The conflict that Bailey faces is a powerful storyline. Most characters in paranormal books would jump at a chance to be an immortal. Instead, Bailey is happy with her life and mortal existence. Her character is a breath of fresh air in a genre that sometimes throws away mortality a little too easily.

All of the series characters are included in this tale, along with a new character, Grimm, Bailey's big black Newfoundland dog. How could I not fall in love with such a noble and loyal character? Being neither immortal or magical, I worried about Grimm the most.

I would highly recommend this book and the entire series as a whole. Castle's Dark Dynasty characters and books are rich in adventure, love and imagination.

ARC PROVIDED BY NETGALLEY

FV Angela says

*ARC provided by Netgalley

Review originally posted at <http://fictionvixen.com/review-immort...>

Tasmin is the last of his kind. The Rakshasa were once wild, beautiful, lion shape-shifting vampires feared by their rivals across the world. Their unique powers have made them both a powerhouse and a threat to people who want that power for themselves. Tasmin wakes alone, deep in a cave and realizes he has been asleep for hundreds of years and that he is the only Rakshasa left. This once powerful vampire goes seeking answers about a past he can't remember. These questions lead him to America, and take him to seeking out the queen to the newest vampire dynasty.

Bailey Harper is holding on to her life as best she can. It's gotten weirder, that's for sure. Her best friend is now a vampire queen, she is surrounded constantly by werewolves and vampires, but she can't imagine not being human and living in the light. What she misses the most is the closeness she and her best friend Lily used to share. There just never seems to be any time for them to spend together anymore. One day a man stumbles into her dog grooming business asking for help. Even though she knows what he is and how badly he could hurt her, she feels sympathy for him and takes him home. Tasmin confuses her, he can be gentle with her one minute, and in the next he's rude and abrasive. There is a pull between them, intense and passionate, but neither want to let it get any deeper. Bay doesn't want to get drawn into the vampire world any further and Tasmin has realized he woke up with an evilness inside him that he doesn't want to spread to this sweet girl who's been taking care of him.

Immortal Craving is the fourth book in a series that just keeps getting better and better. This world is made up of vampire dynasties, each kingdom with their own talents and gifts. Some are shape shifters, some create illusions, some practice magic, each group is unique and through the last three books alliances have shifted,

but the battle for the new and lower class dynasties to rule beside the more established rages on. I think one of the things I find most interesting in this series is the caste system the dynasties inhabit. It reminds me of the old school aristocrats who feel they must crush the peasants beneath their boot heels and the lower classes rising up to overthrow them and be equal.

I'm still not sure how I feel about Tasmin. He confused me just as much as he did Bay. One minute I liked him, the next I wanted him to not be an ass, and a short time later I was back to liking him again. This evil demon living inside him gives him a terrible time, causing him to black out and do horrible things to those around him. I felt his torment over the loss of control over his free will and the quest to find answers about what happened to his pride. Through most of the book he is a wild, untamed thing trying to get control of his life. The chemistry between him and Bay keeps bringing them back together again and neither can control how they feel. He wants to protect her from himself, but at the same time can't stay away from her:

"You care about me then," she said. It was amazing, that this deadly creature could turn so charmingly awkward at the mention of emotion.

He didn't answer her, instead watching her with eyes that seemed to give off a searing heat all their own. "You didn't answer my question, Bailey. Did you ever want something you couldn't have? Not a small thing, but something that could break you if you let it?"

"Only you," she whispered.

Bay was so human. She isn't portrayed as the badass who morphs into superwoman when thrown into this war between vampires, which I very much appreciated. She feels fear, she is indecisive and regardless of her love for Tasmin and Lily, really only wants to remain mortal. She goes into her relationship with Tasmin very tentatively, knowing she has no desire to change her life. When this choice is taken away from her, Bay handles her new role with dignity and patience. I related to Bailey, I understood her hesitancy and fear. I think she is what Tasmin needed, a person to humanize him and give him compassion. Even after Tasmin saves the day, she saves him.

I've looked forward to each book in the series and now find myself hoping we'll get to see Vlad's story next. Ms. Castle gives her readers the most unusual pairings, always throwing something new into the mix with each new story. I can't wait to see what she'll do next. Final Grade: B

Favorite Quote:

"I'm beginning to understand why Lily has kept you close," Tasmin said. She tilted her head at him, bemused.

"Because I'm strange?"

"Because those who have only the night treasure the sunlight where they can find it."

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Kendra Leigh Castle is not only making her mark in the paranormal romance genre, but she is blazing her way to the top of the list! Fans of Lara Adrian's Midnight Breed series and Nalini Singh's Psy-Changeling series will come to enjoy Castle's unique world and knack for complex and endearing characters.

For me, the best part of IMMORTAL CRAVING is the hero, Tasmin Singh. I was completely and hopelessly enamored by his presence. He has such a way of holding himself at a distance, but also showing some vulnerability whenever he thinks Bay isn't looking. I loved his arrogance, but also his fragility and he became the sole reason I enjoyed this book so much. I was so curious about his character that he became the driving force of this book for me.

IMMORTAL CRAVING surpassed my expectations, blowing them completely out of the waters. With strong characters and a unique world, it's easy to get lost in Castle's romances.

Read this review in its entirety at Fresh Fiction

Ami says

Tasmin Singh, lion-shifting Rakshasa wakes up alone and finds that he is the last of his kind. Confused and struggled with something evil that seems to live inside him, which gives him blackouts, Tasmin seeks answers by looking for Lily as the new leader of Lilim Dynasty -- only to fall in front of Bailey "Bay" Harper's house. Bay's world is significantly changed after her best friend Lily became vampire queen. But even as a mortal, who should be afraid of any vampires, Bay couldn't help to offer sanctuary for this stranger ...

I really enjoy this series. At some point, it even reminds me a bit of the romance tone I get from reading Nalini Singh's works (though Nalini is better ^^). Maybe because the heroines are not usual damsels in distress. Bay might be mortal, but she has inner strength that can help Tasmin when the demon is overtaking him. I love Bay's quiet determination. And I love her beloved dog, Grimm...

I notice though, that Ms. Castle's heroes in this series tend to be, a bit subdued. After slightly complaining about Damien (in book #3) who turns into brooding hero, I find Tasmin to be similar in this matter. But, I don't find it as a big problem -- maybe because Tasmin has a demon inside him, and when the demon is taking over, Tasmin can't really remember anything. I guess that guy deserves being subdued!!

My biggest complain, though, is the action. I also notice from book #2, then while the romance is solid, the action part of this series is VERY disappointing. Ms. Castle builds up the idea of demon living inside Tasmin and Queen Arsinöe (the Ptolemy leader) as a worthy, vicious opponent. Guess what, the climax? NOT worth it!! In fact, what climax?? There's NONE.

I would love to read when (view spoiler). Instead, the action happens behind the screen, and as a reader, I have to imagine it myself. Not to mention (view spoiler) and then (view spoiler)

But I can still give this 4-stars ... again, because I think the characters (especially the heroine) and the romance make up for the action part. I just have to keep remembering that fact (more romance less action), if there's another book coming in this series.

Cela says

This was an ok book. I didn't enjoy it as much as I did the others in the series. I just felt it was missing something. The characters were just ok, a little flat actually, especially the male lead. When one considers just how much he had going on, I expected more from the character. I kept waiting for it to happen and it never did. In addition, the end felt kinda rushed and a little anti-climactic. Overall, considering the previous books in the series, this one was a disappointment.

Helyce says

As posted: <http://smexybooks.com/2013/01/review-...>

Tasmin Singh is the last of his kind. A lion shifting Rakshasa, his dynasty was once revered until its near extinction by a rival dynasty whose queen was jealous of their unique gifts. When he awakens, it is to the realization that he's been asleep for hundreds of years and that he is cursed-his very soul being pushed out by a demon inside him. His quest for answers takes him to the small town of Tipton, MA in search of the Queen of the Lilim, who he's heard may have the answers he needs.

Bay may be human, but she is very aware of the creatures of the night now that her very best friend, Lily, is the Queen of the re-born Lilim. She's at work one day when Tasmin shows up looking for Lily. She's hesitant until she realizes that something is wrong with Tasmin and even though she knows what he is, her protective instincts take over. She decides to take him home and gets in touch with Lily. Bay is definitely wary, but her instincts tell her that he won't hurt her.

Bay has no interest in getting involved in anything vampire related. But she can't stop herself when it comes to Tasmin. They have some sort of connection and their attraction is strong. But he confuses her; his Jekyll and Hyde type personality at times kind and at others violent. They are drawn to each other and even though Tasmin knows being with him could put Bay in danger, he just can't let her go.

I adored Tasmin. He awakens after nearly 400 years to find that he's alone, the last of his kind and he's been saddled with a curse; that of an evil demon that has been merged within his body and who gets stronger and stronger as time goes by. Tasmin's goal is to find the evil woman who did this to him and make her reverse the curse but the demon is getting stronger and it's a constant fight for Tasmin to keep control of his own body. Along the way he meets Bay Harper, a very petite human woman who is much tougher than she looks. I adored Bay as well. Her spunky, quirky attitude just made me smile; but she was also a very strong confident woman who didn't back down when things got tough. Their attraction is immediate, though neither acts upon it initially. But Tasmin can't stay away from Bay, and he finds himself going to her even though he knows it's a bad idea. Their road to love is not an easy one, though, and will be met with many obstacles as Tasmin fight to stay in control.

The story arc started in book one peaks in this book and I have to say it is hugely satisfying. Tasmin's mere existence has everything to do with it and I was very excited at this outcome. Ms. Castle's writing shines here. Combining the initial story arc with the secondary one introduced in book 3, the war between the

dynasties moves forward. The build-up to the final battle is not drawn out and has a tiny twist which was very well done.

Immortal Craving is book four in this series and with each installment this series gets better and better. My son's teacher used the word luscious once to describe an essay that he'd written and I always thought it was an odd word to use, but not anymore. Ms. Castle's writing is luscious! Her world building, clear and descriptive, is so well done here; each Dynasty with its distinctive gifts and qualities is a truly fresh approach to this genre. This is what makes this series different from anything that is out there. Each Dynasty brings something unique to the world. Strong on their own but stronger when they unite their causes. Though able to stand alone, I would recommend reading in order to get the full effect!

Shari Kay says

2.75 ★

I was disappointed. This was the final book in the DD series and I expected more after how great the last book was. But Bay was whiny, Tasmin was a Debbie Downer, and the series arc finale was anti-climatic.

Seriously, they were the most depressing couple I've read in a while.

Bay felt sorry for herself and the deterioration of her friendship with Lili. She didn't want to be a part of the dark, violent world her bff was now entrenched in. I get it...who really would? But Lordy, did she whine about it. Yes, Lili doesn't really have time for Bay anymore. That would happen naturally now that Lili was married to Ty, but add on top of that ruling a new dynasty and their growing distance was inevitable. Move on, or join the party, but quit griping about it. Geesh! She became a serious liability for her friend and knew it, but did nothing to rectify the situation.

Tasmin was even more of a defeatist. Yes, his situation is shite! But for goodness sake, man the hell up. His actions, body language, thoughts...so not Alpha. Bay had more gumption, more fight and had to baby her man at every turn. He was such a martyr throughout the whole dang book my sympathy for his situation waned quickly.

Oh, and how is Bay (view spoiler)

The final 'fight' with the Ptolemy biotch was...really? That's it? (view spoiler) And (view spoiler) Okay. Whatever.

There were some sweet moments in IM. The dog stuff was fun for the most part, but Bay thinking of him first before Tasmin at a crucial moment was a little weird. Catching up with previous couples was nice, though I would have liked to have seen even more of them. Tasmin being (view spoiler) was a different scenario and I thought handled well. Tasmin saying goodbye was pretty emotional. Bay's generous heart and never giving up on Tasmin, no matter how bleak things got.

So though this was probably my least favorite book in the series I'm not sorry I read it, and will look for more of this author's work in the future.

Shauni says

Are you a Vampire lover? Do you love the traditional? Are you immersed in the legends of the Ptolemy, the Grigori, the Vlads, the Liliium? Do you sit firmly in the camp that all vampires are descended from Lilith? Then Kendra Leigh Castle's Dark Dynasty Series is going to Knock. Your. Socks. Off!!

Immortal Craving is book four in this wonderful series full of dark plots and darker desires. In a world where eliminating the opposition can be considered a good thing. Where evil plots, not only to take over the world but to do it in epic proportions. Where she actually considers how it's gonna look in the history books.. Where she fantasizes about creating a battle like the ones of Yore (yep I said it YORE). Where delusions of grandeur are as common as going to the movies on Saturday night.. shoot where the delusions can become the movie. You need heroes and heroines who stand just as epically on the side of good and I must say Kendra Leigh Castle has nailed it!

"The Dark Dynasties

Blood is power. Desire is destiny.

*Welcome to the world of night, where an entire civilization lives and breathes just out of sight of our own. For thousands of years, the great vampire dynasties have ruled the lesser bloodlines with an iron fist, taking what they want, when they want it, and feuding amongst themselves over petty intrigues and imagined slights. In the roving vampire courts of the powerful, your mark, a physical manifestation of the bloodline you were sired into, is your destiny. Lowblood or highblood, nothing can change a vampire's place in this arcane society. But change is coming to those who have dominion over the dark....and as new dynasties rise and ancient powers fall, only one thing is certain: nothing will ever be the same again." *Kendra Leigh Castle website*

He is wild, he is uncontrollable, he is Rakshasa and he awakes to find he is the last of his kind. He awakens in a new time, a new world.. to discover that not only has the world changed but his clan has been wiped from the earth. Tasmin Singh thinks finding out that his lion-shifter Vampire tribe has been decimated is the worst of his problems. That is until he finds that he has been possessed by a Demon with a plan and as far as he knows there is only one way to get rid of him. Determined to discover a way to destroy the demon Tasmin finds his way into the home of Bay Harper, hoping to find an ally before meeting with the Queen. Instead he finds what destiny has in plan for him.

Bay Harper has been straddling the Vampire/Human line for well over a year but seriously what's a girl to do? Her best friend has not only been turned and mated she is also the Queen of the newly revived Liliium clan. Life has enough struggles without some insanely handsome manner wandering into her place of business and passing out. She knows better than to trust a strange vampire (Isn't that an Oxymoron?) But there is something about him that pulls at her telling her that with him she is safe.

It seems these two were destined to protect each other.. when they are together Tasmin has a better handle on the Demon and can protect Bay like no one else. Tasmin also helps Bay find a way to deal with the chasm that has been widening between herself and Lily, queen of the vamps (I know this should sound cheesy).

Ms. Castle does a delicate dance between the relationship building between Tasmin and Bay and the political intrigue that swirls around them, dragging them into the midst of war. A battle for power, supremacy and more importantly life and love. What a wonderful story. What wonderful characters with sensual and subtle,

evocative and erotic.. oh yeah this book totally rocks!!

Enjoy the night all it belongs to those who believe

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Immortal Craving provided by netgalley

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and
Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Barbara says

I really liked this story, there's nothing like a tortured hero to spice things up. When Tasmin Singh awakens in a remote cave after centuries of sleep, he discovers he's the last of the lion-shifter Rakshasa, a fierce and powerful clan of vampires that were hunted down and killed by their enemies because they couldn't be controlled. He travels to find Lily, the new Lilim queen, seeking her help in finding out what happened to the rest of the Rakshasa. Before he gets there he encounters her best friend, Bay Harper, who is trying to retain some semblance of a normal life after the world of vampires and werewolves has been revealed to her by her relationship with Lily. Once they meet, and events begin to unfold, with the enemies of the Lilim and Rakshasa causing havoc, nothing will be the same for Tasmin or Bay again. I loved this supernatural world and the wonderfully unusual characters, including Bay's huge dog, Grimm. Not having read the previous three books in the series, this story was surprisingly easy to follow. All that was missing were the full details of the secondary character's stories, which I now am eager to go back and read. I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Jessica says

Oh, where to start? I knew I was going to love this book as soon as I saw the yummy cover, and boy was I right!

Tasmin has just woken up from hundreds of years of sleep to find his world completely turned upside down; he has a demon living inside of him and he's the last living member of his Rakshasa bloodline. Trying to find the answer to why he slept so long and what state the world is in now, Tasmin stumbles into Bay's grooming shop. Bay is completely taken aback by this extremely attractive yet lethal man. She knows he wants answers from her best friend turned vampire queen Lily, but Bay can't help but be intrigued by this mysterious man. As tension builds between the bloodlines, promising a bloody battle in the near future, Bay has to remember she's merely a mortal while Tasmin has to fight his demon for control. especially when his feelings for Bay are concerned.

It's been a while since I've read a really good paranormal romance, so reading this one was such a fantastic change! From the moment we met Tasmin, I was completely gone. He is such a strong lion/vampire (which in itself is awesome. Who knew you could be a lion shape-shifter and a vampire?) and he'll do anything to keep control and stay true to who he is. And it's completely adorable how he addresses Bay by her full name, Bailey. Being basically the only mortal in this paranormal read, Bay's character was pretty awesome too. She's a really strong-willed girl who can take care of herself and she owns an adorable pet grooming shop.

Grimm, though, had to be my favorite character. He's Bay's huge, slobbery dog who has a personality all of his own.

Basically, I loved everything about this book. The chemistry between Bay and Tasmin was perfect; they're relationship developed at just the right speed and it was so sweet watching them grow closer. The paranormal conflict of the story was really intriguing as well. You didn't know who was on what side and if the demon would take control of Tasmin once and for all.

I don't know how it took me so long to read one of Kendra Leigh Castle's books! This one is the fourth in the Dark Dynasties series and I know for sure I'm going to pick the first three up as soon as I can. This one has unique paranormal characters with a steamy romance you can't help but get addicted to. If you're a fan of paranormal romances, you have to check this one out. You'll definitely be in for an awesome, addicting read.
