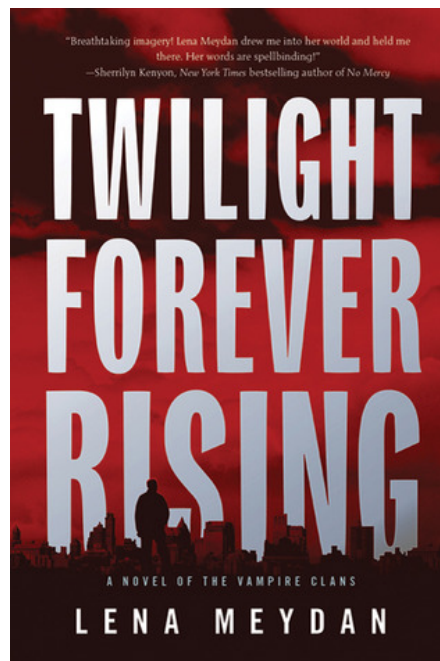




Twilight Forever Rising

Lena Meydan

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Darel Ericson of the Dahanavar clan is a rarity among his vampire brethren: he's an empath, strong enough to occasionally read thought as well as emotion. For centuries, his power has given the Dahanavar a significant advantage against the machinations of the other vampire families, an advantage which makes Darel both a powerful tool and a highly visible target.

Fortunately for Darel, it is more useful for the heads of the other clans to maintain the centuries-long peace between the houses than to remove him. But, the cunning and violent head of the House of Nachterret is tired of the truce, and of hiding his presence in the world. The Nachterret would like nothing more than have free reign over the helpless human cattle upon which they feed.

Darel, and the human woman he loves, become central to the Nachterret's scheme to plunge the Houses into all out war. Darel is ultimately forced to face the question: is one young woman's life too high a price to pay for peace?

Twilight Forever Rising Details

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From Reader Review Twilight Forever Rising for online ebook

Mandy Kava Kava says

Wie hier schon öfter erwähnt, ist dies wirklich ein Buch auf das man sich einlassen muss. Durch den Schreibstil und die Komplexität der Geschichte ist dies kein Buch das man eben so herunterlesen kann. Was einerseits anstrengend und anfangs schwer zu überblicken war habe ich später sehr geschätzt. Die ausführlich beschriebenen verschiedenen Clans konnte ich mir zu Beginn gar nicht recht merken, doch später als ich in diese Welt weiter eintauchen konnte, machte es mir die Spannungen unter den Clans interessanter und vor allem begreiflicher. So viel dazu.

Die Geschichte an sich, also das "Worum-geht's-hier-eigentlich", ging für mich teilweise verloren. Wenn ich das Buch mal zur Seite legen musste und später weiter las musste ich mich tatsächlich öfter sammeln, um mich daran zu erinnern was nun eigentlich passiert und was die Charaktere vor hatten. Das lag vermutlich eben an dieser bestimmten präzisen Schreibweise.

Dann sind da Charaktere. UND DARREL. Wow. Einfach wow. Ich kann es mir nicht recht erklären, aber ich fand ihn einfach großartig. Super sympathisch. Aber nicht auf diese gezwungene "Ich-bin-der-Protagonist-also-musst-du-mich-lieben" Weise, sondern so erfrischend anders toll :D

Ich glaube, dass gerade er der Grund war, dass ich dem Buch immer noch 4 statt 3 Sterne gegeben habe. Denn alles in allem fand ich die Geschichte dann doch sehr ... unrund. Es gab hier und da Stellen, die mich als Leser einfach nicht befriedigt haben :D Zu wenig Erklärung. Und damit meine ich nicht, dass die Erklärung extra fehlte um Interpretationsraum zu lassen, sondern dass einfach Informationen fehlten, die Sachen klar stellten.

Würde ich das Buch weiterempfehlen?

Ja, wieso nicht? Wenn man, wie ich, eine Schwäche für tolle Hauptcharaktere hat und sich mal mit einem etwas anderen Vampirroman befassen möchte, der KOMPLEXER ist und indem nicht Friede Freude Glitzerkuchen ist. Dann GO FOR IT! :)

Jade Kuhn says

I did like the book and storyline. What I didn't like were the names. It was kind of difficult to keep up with the names because they would bounce back and forth from different names, and the names were not easy. I liked the main character, but was unable to connect the amount of passion he felt for Lorraine with reason. I saw no build up to the way he felt so it was a bit confusing. Lots of confusion and unanswered questions for me on this one. Still a great read though. :)

Cedar says

Every now and then you find an Author you really enjoy. In this case I thoroughly enjoyed her style of writing and how she re-wrote the classic vampire mythology while still treating it with respect.

The story centers around Darel Ericson of the Dahanavar clan. Although the perspective switches from vampire to vampire, giving the reader an all over glimpse of the way this particular vampire world runs. Darel is an Empath. His clans interests lie in politics and as such he is a very important and influential asset. **But as is the way of love, boy meets girl, boy turns out to be vampire, girl doesn't run screaming the other way but instead throws her arms around him and gazes into his eyes adoringly...**

It seems that love is the center for every good vampire novel these days. Whether this is due to Twilight moving paranormal romance into the mainstream, and therefore every woman dreams of HER never dying, all controlling man or not is debatable. And this debate rages on in every new novel that comes out. One thing this particular Author does is create a novel that does not center around love alone. Which is fantastic. Take out Loraine, the human woman who's soul sings of spring and Darel's love interest, and the novel still stands.

The characters are well thought out. Quiet Gothic in their styling. The clans take on parts of mythology and parts of history to create something that is believable. Of all the characters, the lonesome dealer of death, Chris is probably one of my favorites. Although he shares that spot with Paula.

I do have to say that the ending is quite annoying. I know that these days most books are set up for a sequel, or a trilogy. Occasionally seven. And if we are really ~~unlucky~~ lucky fourteen or fifteen or maybe never ending (I am talking to you Ms Harris and Ms Hamilton). However the ending in this is so ambiguous. So many questions left unanswered. So many threads blowing in the wind. ho-hum.

Over all this is a very agreeable novel, and I am hoping that the next novel is to be translated soon... That is one thing I hate about series - the waiting...

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

4.5/5.0 stars.

This was a gripping read. I need to find the next book because I'm hooked now. Full review to be posted on the Bitten by Books website: <http://bittenbybooks.com>.

Aleshia says

It's a bit of a slow starter but I really enjoyed it once I got into it.

Jennifer Monzon says

When I began reading this book it was difficult to follow. It's full of translations, and all these types of different vampire families and their war against each other, which made it difficult to follow/remember who belongs to who and what their stories are in the plot. However, it's a very well written book and I enjoyed learning about a whole new world of vampires and their special powers and the story explains all of this through the plot and not any introductions, which I thought was unique. After the beginning, the story started to make more sense and I understood each character's part, however the descriptions in this book were really long and I could have gone with out that much detail. Overall, while I enjoyed reading this book, it's not a favorite.

The story begins with Darel, who is an empath and the center of a war between four powerful supernatural families. Darel falls in love with a human girl, Loraine which adds more problems to the current situation. With the families at the very brink of war and his undying love for Loraine, Darel is forced to make a very

hard decision.

Elke says

Dieses Buch hat sofort meine Neugier geweckt: ein Vampirroman aus Russland? Das verspricht (hoffentlich) Abwechslung von den ueblicherweise amerikanischen Blutsaugerstories. Bisher kannte ich aus russischer Feder nur die Waechter-Romane von Sergej Lukianenko, und die waren richtig gut und anders. Die Sprache - ok, in der Uebersetzung veraendert sich die Sprache natuerlich - fuehlt sich immer ein bisschen kalt und sachlich an, ist aber gleichzeitig komplex und faszinierend in ihrer Wortwahl und Satzbildung. Vor allem die Beschreibung von Gefuehlen wirkt immer irgendwie gezeugelt und reserviert. Das ist einerseits positiv, weil manche Autoren sich doch zu sehr mitreissen lassen was dann schnell uebertrieben dick aufgetragen wirkt. Andererseits braucht man viel laenger, um mit den Personen warm zu werden und sich mit dem Buch anzufreunden. Hat man das aber erst einmal getan, kann man auch hier richtig mitgehen.

Nun aber zum Roman selbst, und da kann ich kurz und buendig sagen: ich bin begeistert! Die Autorin schafft eine faszinierende und wohldurchdachte Vampirkultur, wie man es nicht oft sieht. Es gibt verschiedene Clans, die sich durch besondere Fähigkeiten voneinander unterscheiden. Und natürlich sind sich die Mitglieder der Clans mehr oder weniger wohlgesonnen, so dass Intrigen, Kaempfe oder Buendnisse ausgefochten werden, was mitunter an mafioeses Gehabe erinnern laesst.

Darin eingebettet wird die Geschichte von Darel vom Clan der Dachanawar, der als Telepath Gedanken lesen kann und dies als Beruf fuer seinen Clan oder auch als Dienstleistung fuer andere Kunden ausuebt. Diese besondere Gabe bringt es mit sich, dass Darel im Gegensatz zu den anderen Vampiren nach seiner langen Existenz immer noch sehr starke Gefuehle spueren kann und den Menschen stark verbunden ist. Als er sich in Lorraine, ein sterbliches Maedchen verliebt, macht ihn das allerdings sehr verletzlich und angreifbar.

Also doch wieder eine Vampir-Mensch-Liebsgeschichte? Ja, aber ohne Kitsch, Schmach und Schwulst, sondern basierend auf Freundschaft, Hingabe und Opferbereitschaft.

Obwohl das Buch fuer meinen Geschmack normalerweise zu lang ist um spannend zu sein, kommt hier absolut keine Langeweile auf und am Schluss wollte ich nur eines: die Fortsetzung lesen. Die gibt es zwar schon (Wizard from the cland of death), ist bisher aber leider noch nicht in der Uebersetzung erschienen.

Cindy says

While this book is ever so much an urban fantasy of sorts it really is a unique vampire novel. The whole focus of the book is on the several vampire houses and the politics that come with being a vampire in they year 2000 or so.

All vampires in this novel are three dimentional, have drama in their lives, love, fight and seek to be the top of the world.

However, this novel should come with an extreme warning. Here are the warnings.

1. It is very very slow to start. So painstakingly slow that I am sure many readers would toss it to the side. However, that slowness builds character so don't be too quick to leave it.

2. The book just ends. I am not sure if there is a sequel, or what but it ends. And the reader will have

10000000000 questions that will sadly not be answered. See here's the problem, this whole book is based on a pending war and politics of the family. Yes the WHOLE book. So.... the book ends right when the "war" might start.

That being said. I enjoyed this book but found the ending blunted my LOVE for the book and will have to see if there are more books in a pending series before I can judge this book.

Lannister says

This book is nothing like your typical urban fantasy story. There is no feisty heroine tackling an evil threat to the world, and the romance is extremely understated. Instead, the story revolves around several vampire clans and their rivalries and plotting against each other. The central character, Darel, is a 'scanner' or a kind of telepath or empath, who can pick up on others' thoughts and feelings. Darel is feeling somewhat jaded by all the negative emotion he constantly encounters, so when he meets Loraine, her open and honest mind is like a ray of sunshine to him. His rather taboo attraction for her sets off the events of the story.

I enjoyed learning about the different clans, each with their own magical abilities. There are 'good' clans, and there are downright evil clans. Yet every one of them believes they are superior to the human 'cattle' they live off, and quite happily meddle in human politics, business etc. in order to further their own interests. A theme of the book was how, as vampires age, they lose any spark of humanity left in them. Because Darel can look into human minds, he isn't quite as apathetic toward them as the rest of his blood brothers. This conflict drives much of the plot.

I've read some other reviews of this book, and I agree somewhat with the points they make. The book is a little slow to start, as it takes some time to establish Darel's world, but it does pick up and it's worth staying with it. I'd also agree that it's a little confusing initially to place the various clans and their members, as they are fairly numerous, but things fall into place as you read on. I can't agree with criticisms of long descriptions. Provided these don't go on for pages and pages, I actually find descriptive paragraphs helpful in creating an atmosphere and allowing me to immerse myself in the story. I can't say in all honesty that I even noticed excessive descriptions in this book. Perhaps if you picked up this book expecting a non-stop-action kind of UF, you might be disappointed, but if you want a story with characters of depth and a sense of history behind them, then I doubt you'll find the descriptive parts tiresome.

I found myself getting sucked in as the story progressed, which is always a good sign, and I was actually quite sorry when it ended (and it ends extremely abruptly!) I have no idea when or if the next book will be released, which is rather disappointing. There is a great deal of plotting and intrigue as the story progresses, and everything isn't resolved at the end, so I'm desperate to know how things play out! I'd highly recommend this story if you want something different from the usual UF fodder. It's a complex, beautifully written book.

Kay says

Overall a pretty good read. It was a bit confusing with all the names/titles. On one page the person was called by their first name, then last name and then title. This happened with a lot of the characters so it was a little confusing at first and there are a bunch of different families/clans, so a bunch of different titles/names.

The whole Loraine/Darel relationship seemed a little forced and I didn't really enjoy the Loraine character at all.

It's unfortunate that the book just ends. From what I've read this book is part of a series from a Russian author and this book was the only one translated so far. That was in 2010, so I'm not very optimistic that the other books in the series will be translated to English anytime soon.

Elizabeth says

Twilight Forever Rising takes place in a world of vampires that is dominated by family “Houses” that imbue their members with skills and magic specific to their vampire lineage. The story follows the vampire Darel, an empath of the house of Dahanavar as he navigates through the political intrigue of rival houses struggling for power and domination. Darel’s love for a human girl complicates things as he tries to stay above the fray.

As the first book of a series, Meydan does a good job of introducing us to the key players and alliances as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the various houses. As this book was translated into English, I am not sure where to best place the criticism, but the story was unnecessarily complicated by using a large number of names to address individual characters (especially the head of the Nachterret clan). I also felt that the book ended rather abruptly. I think there might have been a more natural place to end while maintaining the open ending for a sequel.

This book is solidly centered within the vampire perspective of the world. I would recommend this book to those more interested in the political wranglings of immortals with a touch of magic thrown in, but it doesn’t delve too deeply into paranormal romance.

Anju says

Disclaimer: I received a free Advance Uncorrected Proof from TOR Books.

Twilight Forever Rising, by Lena Meydan, is a really good book with a really unfortunate title. Everyone to whom I mentioned this book seemed to think it was part of the Stephanie Meyer series, and it doesn’t help that this book is also about vampires. *Twilight Forever Rising* isn’t without its faults, but it’s definitely an enjoyable and absorbing read.

Vampire stories seem to almost require having a male vampire who falls in love with a female human. In this case, that vampire is Darel Ericson. However, I was glad to find that the romance between Darel and Loraine (the human he falls in love with) played a secondary role to the intrigues in the vampire world that Darel becomes involved in.

Darel is apparently able to fall in love with a human because he’s an empath and a telepath. He can feel emotions and can sometimes read thoughts, although rarely without permission. His telepathic abilities do mean that he never needs a cell phone, as both vampires and humans can mentally call him (and vice versa).

The vampire world that Meydan sets up is complex and full of intrigue. In it, several vampire families, or houses, wrangle to set the rules they must follow and to shape the fate of humans. Each vampire family has its own special power: control over death, the ability to change shape into a wolf (like Dracula could), the ability to fly, necromancy, and so on. The Dahanavar house, to which Darel belongs, is known for its mental powers. They are intellectuals and planners, excellent at persuading and influencing others—especially humans. The full extent of their powers isn’t made clear, though, which is rather irritating. It’s clear, however, that Darel is the most powerful of his house.

The things I really liked about this book were the story, the intrigue, and the descriptions. For the most part I liked the prose style and the voice, too. I'm curious about how much of that was due to the author and how the translation affected the voice and style. (The novel was originally published in Russian.)

Most of what I didn't like had to do with the ambiguities of the book. The novel is set in an unnamed European city, and I kept wanting to know which one. It also seemed unrealistic to have the heads of all the great vampire houses together in the one city. Their origins are certainly varied: A Greek, A German, A Russian, A Frenchman....

There are also odd changes in point of view. While parts are told by Darel, in first person, other sections—including sections with Darel—are told from the perspective of other characters in third person.

One final point is that the story doesn't end in this novel. (Sorry if you consider that a spoiler.) On the one hand, I wanted it to, because I really wanted to know what would happen. Still, it feels like there are enough mysteries left that a second book would probably be well sustained. And I really want to know what happens.

Booklover says

Ok Ms. Meydan, I'm ready for the next book!

Vicky says

Winner of Russia's highest literary award for fantasy fiction, this is definitely not a quick teen read. There is none of the teen angst so prevalent in most of the current vampire novels. This is dark, almost gothic in flavor with a high level of writing not usually seen in "pulp" fiction. The world building/mythology is complex with vivid descriptions. The characters are well-developed without stereotyping. It is a beautifully written story that will appeal to lovers of higher level fantasies.

Drawbacks: At times, the descriptions of setting and scenery are too long, slowing the pace down to a near stop. If you like details, you will love it, otherwise just skim those parts because the story is worth a few slow spots. Being translated from Russian, some of the names are a little tongue tangling, but this only adds to the flavor of the book.

Overall, this was one of the better vampire novels I've read, mainly because of the more literary style as opposed to a "teen" read. I definitely recommend it for vampire fans who want a higher level of writing and a good story.

Jessica says

Originally published in Russia in 2005, *Twilight Forever Rising* tells the story of Darel Ericson of the Dahanavar clan. Darel is a "scanner" for his family—an empath, and so strong that he can also sometimes read the thoughts of those around him. The Dahanavar use his abilities while dealing with the other powerful vampire clans, both to gain the upper hand in political maneuverings and to rent him as an asset while the other clans broker agreements.

Darel finds himself quite taken with a young human woman, only eighteen and soft and vital and all things that vampires, who slowly become numb and lose their vitality as they age, are not. It isn't long that he and his human companion, Loraine, become the center of the political push and pull between the different vampire houses. The families are holding a tenuous peace, and all it will take to shatter it is just the right push.

Thankfully, the romance between Darel and Loraine isn't the focus of the narrative. The focus is the struggle of power between these ancient vampire families. Darel and his human are a part of the power politics, but not where the story dwells.

The cultural history of the vampires is rich without being overly detailed. You get hints of individual and shared history without long digressions that weigh the story down; it's exactly the right amount to give the characters some depth and make this secret society feel real. While I think that this background is doled out in perfect amounts, I found myself wondering if this isn't the first in an intended series, because there are plots we find out about that aren't resolved, and the ending...well, if it were a movie, I'd instantly expect a sequel to already be in the works, because it's wide open for a continuation, though it doesn't necessarily need to.
