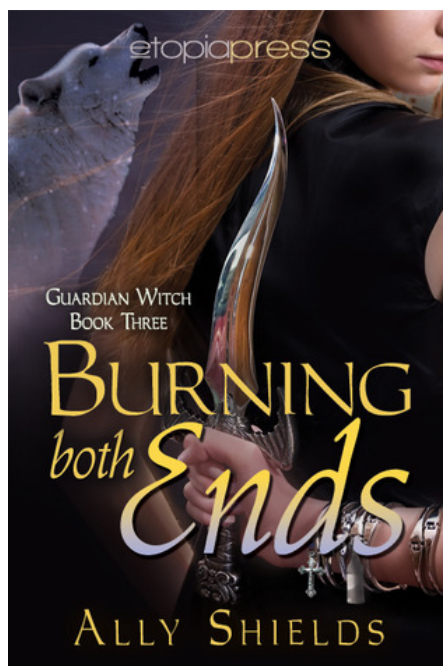




Burning Both Ends

Ally Shields

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Friend or lover. Life or death...

Supernatural cop Ari Calin arrives at the hostile Toronto vampire court with an ultimatum from the Riverdale vampires: Sebastian, Toronto's vampire prince, must stop his unprovoked attacks--or else. Ari wasn't expecting a fight--the "or else" was typical vampire grandstanding. But even with vampire Andreas De Luca by her side for a show of strength, things get ugly fast. Toronto's vampire world is in crisis, and surrounded by enemies, Ari and Andreas find themselves under attack.

That's when Ari gets the call from the Magic Council ordering her home. Steffan, a good friend and leader of Riverdale's werewolves, has gone missing during top secret negotiations with the US government, and is believed to have been kidnapped--or killed.

Andreas can't abandon the Toronto vampires, and Ari can't leave him to face impossible odds alone. But neither can she disobey her orders from the Council, or leave her friend Steffan to be tortured and killed. Ari's loyalties pull her in two directions--the closest thing to love she's ever known on one side, and friendship and duty on the other. If she can stay alive long enough for the choice to matter...

Burning Both Ends Details

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Author : Ally Shields

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From Reader Review Burning Both Ends for online ebook

L.T. Getty says

It's hard to judge a book when it's got several volumes that come before it – generally though, I had no problem jumping right into book 3 of the Guardian Witch series. There's enough familiarity about the world that centers around a young Fire Witch Arianna (Ari) that I wasn't lost or confused about the creatures we came across. I had a few questions – but in general they didn't detract from my enjoyment of this novel.

Named due to her conflicting loyalties – and literally burning the candle at both ends because of her relationship with a nocturnal boyfriend and the subsequent effect on her sleeping habits – Ari has to keep both humans and the magical denizens safe in a changing world, where the Canadian government not only has to acknowledge the world of supernatural beings, but their integrating in society. Ari is a cop/guardian that works with humans (one of which rightly points out she's dating a predator) though she herself is witch-born, more closely aligned to humans than the supernatural. Old traditions die hard when you have species who are generally used to a historical predatory role.

The plot effectively kicks off when Ari and Andreas go to see Vampire Prince of Toronto – Sebastian denies having anything to do with the disappearances in Toronto, but he doesn't respect the laws of humans – he draws Ari into the world of Vampire politics, and – minor spoiler – when he battles and is defeated by Andreas, the succession of who will rule the City of Toronto is called into question.

I liked the use of supernatural powers in this novel – though it has numerous stock urban fantasy types, such as vampires, witches, and lycanthropes of wolf, lion, and other variety, Shields both makes them her own and follows the audience's expectations. Ari is a white witch, specifically a Calin (fire) witch, and she (and every other fire-witch) has to adhere to rules set by the government to only use her power as self defense – she carries weapons for her preemptive strikes. I would have liked to see more on the use of her Salamander Fire – it was introduced and I thought it would play a role towards the end, but for the most part, it was made a big deal and it didn't play any part of the story afterwards.

I think this is definitely a good book for those who enjoy their urban fantasy with strong characters, mysteries, and the audience never being quite sure who the main antagonist is, because everyone's got their reasons.

Jennifer Hines says

I received this book free from Red Moon Book Tours in exchange for an honest review

Things just cannot be simple for Ari, if it's not one thing it's something else. She lost her mentor in Fire Within, but she got back her family's Book of Shadows, and it couldn't have come at a more perfect time. She'll need everything she can get when Andreas is threatened, Steffan is kidnapped, and there's a missing kitty to add into the mix.

"Good to know. Nevertheless, we need to stop the bleeding. The bite is deep." Still holding her hand, his voice held a question. "My saliva will stop the bleeding by coagulating the blood."

"You want to lick it?" Ari made an effort to keep her voice neutral, as if this was a perfectly normal development. But, ew! Wake up call. Boyfriend was a vampire.

After all the chaos Prince Sebastian has caused Andreas will go to petition his court to cease all malice behavior toward them, and he'll do it with his power little witch beside him. Of course nothing will go as planned. But in the end he'll end up right where he wants to be.

Burning Both Ends is just WOW! Each page is filled with action and suspense. There's so much going on that it's almost impossible to put down. Can't forget about the romance either. It may not be steamy, but it's certainly entwined within the story enough to keep Andreas and Ari's relationship known. But to be completely honest with all the kind of "fade to black" intimate moments I'm not entirely sure if they've actually slept together or not.

I'd also like to note that there are several new characters added in this book, but Gabriel is by far my favorite. The things that come out of his mouth add a little humor and lightheartedness to the story.

My Favorite Moment: I really enjoy Andreas and Ari's relationship. If it wasn't for the bond they share I'm not sure if she'd ever actually go out with him. She doesn't know much about vampires, just what she needs to know for her job, and that doesn't exactly scream boyfriend material. But he's known to charm her every time.

".... The smell of your blood is pleasant, but it does not tempt me to feed from you. Of course," he added, with a devilish gleam, "there are certain times when even an experienced vampire is tempted to bite. It is very pleasurable for my kind. Enhances other enjoyments. The state of our unbroken skin should be testimony enough of my control."

"You could have stopped with 'it does not tempt me,'" Ari said. "The rest isn't very reassuring."

Chelsea says

This review is from: Burning Both Ends (Guardian Witch) (Kindle Edition)

This was my 1st book by Miss Ally Shields and I can assure you that it won't be my last. Just a note to other reviewers this is the 3rd book in the Guardian Witch series so if you want to read in order you need to start with Book 1 Awakening the Fire (Guardian Witch) and Book 2 Fire Within (Guardian Witch)

Even though there were a few times I was a tiny bit lost, considering I hadn't read any of the previous books Miss Ally still kept me glued to my Kindle till the wee hours of the morning. She gives you enough info so that even if you haven't read the entire series you are still able to follow along quite well.

We've got Miss Arianna aka Ari who is a cop and helps keep the streets safe from Otherworld creatures in Riverdale. She is a Guardian and a very powerful white witch. I really enjoyed her character. I love strong, sassy, smart females who will do anything and everything for the ones they love. She's truly a keeper and I'm glad our main hero Andreas agrees!

Andreas is our main hero, who also happens to be a vampire. Ari and Andreas are together and they are definitely both made stronger for that connection.

There have been some weird happenings in Riverdale and Ari and Andreas are determined to get to the bottom of it. There was a lot of mystery solving and I always love when an author can surprise me with where the story is going and where it ends up. Near the end you are sitting there going Woah? it was THAT person?!

I don't want to spoil too much since I'm the first reviewer but I will tell you that if you like Paranormal Romance that involve Sassy Witches and Sexy Alpha Vampires you will find this book as a must to add to your permanent book shelf.

Excuse me, while I go find book 1 and book 2 now and possibly cyber stalk Miss Ally on Facebook ;)

Tiki says

3.25... Just didn't connect with this one like the first two books. I really liked Ari in the previous books but not so much in this one. Just a little too bossy and b*tchy, job first, never really showing a softer more relatable side. I missed the emotional connection. I actually felt sorry for Andreas a couple of times...he would just overlook her behavior and be sweet and loving to her anyway. Although she said or thought about her feelings for him, she didn't show it much. I just didn't feel them connecting like I wanted to, even with the prophecy they share.

The book had two stories going on....the Toronto takeover with Andreas which I was interested in, as I continue to like Andreas. Then there was the other story that took up half the book, the Steffan disappearance and government negotiations that didn't really interest me. I like Steffan as a secondary character, but this just seemed to serve as a reason to bring Ari back to Riverdale and create angst in the Toronto situation for Andreas. The slight twist at the end for Andreas was interesting, and I'll probably read the next to see how he handles this newest development, with the hope that Ari is more likable in the next installment. This was just OK for me, but I have hope for the next.

we-are-the-dead says

Why'd she have to go and get so power-trippy and bitchy? And for no good reason!!!

Mouthing off to super strong vamps - hence getting every one around her in trouble!

I so Hate it when this crap happens :(

sad to say I won't be finishing the series... didn't even get a 1/4 through this book.

Gah!!! such a pet peeve when the once humble heroine becomes an uncompromising narcissist.

In saying that I still think this ally is a talented writer.

Chanzie says

Ally knows how to keep you glued to a book. This sequel is fast paced and full of action. The romance never overshadows the story line but does keep it interesting.

Characters: 4/5

There is some great character development in Burning Both Ends. I can definitely say Ari & Andreas are one of my favourite couples.

Ari - Ari is forced to deal with so many burning issues from life and death situations, to her best friend needing her. This is a tough journey for Ari emotionally. She is torn between friendship, love and duty. I just loved her more and more in this book as the story progressed. She really grew and developed as a character.

Andreas - Andreas is an admirable character. His affection, love and respect for Ari are beautiful. His journey and challenges in this book are just as tough. Sometimes his pride & protective instincts over Ari get a little in the way of his decisions and his asking for help when he needs it. Andreas also handles the legend a little bit better than Ari, and I am intrigued to see where the story line goes.

Lilith - I loved Lilith's role and support. She is a great character and I really enjoyed getting to know her in this book.

Gabriel - Hmmm, I am not sure if I trust him or how I feel about him at this point.

We get to know some secondary characters in this book, which keeps everything interesting.

Plot, Pace, Writing style: 4/5

The plot is excited and the pace is fast. Ally has a catchy writing style and continues to grow and develop as a writer. The story is gripping from the beginning and there are so many twists, elements and developments to keep you intrigued. The ending is very subtle - you receive closure for this book but you know there are many things that could develop in the next one.

Cover talk: 3/5: the cover is OK -I loved the knife/dagger on the cover.

Final Thoughts: I am excited to continue this series!

Lyndi W. says

Phew, this is an aptly titled book. Glad to see Ari and Andreas are finally getting their shit together. But we were all over the place with this one and I felt just as harried as Ari while reading. But with the way things ended, I'm very interested in starting the next book ASAP.

S.E. Felida says

I read this book without having read book one and two in the Guardian Witch Series. but I enjoyed every minute of it and I am looking forward to reading part 1 and 2. Burning Both Ends is a Paranormal Romance read that intrigues you as a reader from the get go, I'll have to admit that I was at lost at some points during the book. Which is quite understandable because of the fact that I haven't read the previous two books, but the way she describes the story will have you turning the pages in a hurry to try and figure out what is happening in Riverdale. Ari and Andreas are the main characters and they are an unique couple, Ari is a Witch and Andreas is a Vampire.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves to read exiting books with a love story in it...so if you're looking for a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat the entire time, than you have come to the right address...

Barb Taub says

Ever have to pick between two competing roller coasters at an amusement park? Reading *Burning Both Ends*, Book 3 of Ally Shield's *Guardian Witch* series, is like being on both rides. At the same time.

Like most women, when she's at work Ari Calin feels guilty for ignoring her relationships, especially with her sexy boyfriend Andreas. Of course, when she's with him, she worries about her work. But she doesn't have just any job. Ari Calin is a cop. Along with her gun, she carries a few other weapons including her stiletto, the odd spell, and her powers as a fire witch. Useful, because her beat is the supernatural otherworld of her Mississippi town, Riverdale. On one roller coaster, Ari races to rescue a kidnapped friend before an execution deadline, protect the delegates working on a coalition that could save untold lives, and find a missing cat. But her attention and emotions are split with the other roller coaster as she helps Andreas, her vampire lover, face the enemy from their past and the threat from across the ocean.

One of the critical elements of a successful series is not just a continuing backstory, but developing characters, and Ally Shields doesn't just deliver, she excels. Like any good relationship, Ari and Andreas face everything from hiccups to meltdowns. Ms. Shields' readers watch the compromises, growth, and change as Ari faces each development.

Is this a perfect book? Well, I admit that I'm not a fan of having Ari share every little relationship doubt but not her clues and whodunnit theories. If this was a cozy mystery where the reader is racing to put clues together before the Great Detective reveals all, I would be royally pissed. But this is a paranormal thriller, and Ally Shields delivers the thrills. No, my only complaint is that I came late to the party, and now I need to go back and read the earlier books, while waiting for the next one.

Cazy says

I hope this series gets better. I just started this book, and Ari, the heroine, is starting to get on my last nerve. She had to be saved during a werewolf attack. It wouldn't be that bad except she's made it a habit to get saved by her vampire boyfriend, Andreas. And she keeps acting like a pre-teen when the sex topic comes up. She's even acting funny about letting her vampire boyfriend lick her arm. She thinks that she's better than him, and she's clearly not since he's doing all the saving. I wish I could slap her and take her man. Lol. I just finished an Anita Blake novel, and the high octane sex and violence along with Anita's John Wayne attitude with the muscle/skill to back it up, puts this little girl to shame.

Thank goodness it ended with her getting a backbone and slowly becoming more comfortable with Andreas being her man. The action as the book progressed raised it from a three star to a four star.

Margaret says

Guardian Witch Book Three

Friend or lover. Life or death...

Supernatural cop Ari Calin arrives at the hostile Toronto vampire court with an ultimatum from the Riverdale vampires: Sebastian, Toronto's vampire prince, must stop his unprovoked attacks—or else. Ari wasn't expecting a fight—the “or else” was typical vampire grandstanding. But even with vampire Andreas

De Luca by her side for a show of strength, things get ugly fast. Toronto's vampire world is in crisis, and surrounded by enemies, Ari and Andreas find themselves under attack.

That's when Ari gets the call from the Magic Council ordering her home. Steffan, a good friend and leader of Riverdale's werewolves, has gone missing during top secret negotiations with the US government, and is believed to have been kidnapped—or killed.

Andreas can't abandon the Toronto vampires, and Ari can't leave him to face impossible odds alone. But neither can she disobey her orders from the Council, or leave her friend Steffan to be tortured and killed. Ari's loyalties pull her in two directions—the closest thing to love she's ever known on one side, and friendship and duty on the other. If she can stay alive long enough for the choice to matter...

Shannon Heck says

Okay

Overall the book was fine but it's not progressing the way I would like and that has me frustrated. Time to give up on this series.

Jacklyn says

I am a fan of this series, and even though I only gave 3 stars, I will still definitely read the next one. What kept me from giving this book a higher rating is the fact that, like someone has already said, I didn't feel that emotional connection to this book. Ari's behaviour actually irked me a few times - I thought in a couple instances she actually came across as a bit of a petulant child. I feel like her relationship with Andreas is one of those ones where the guy is much more mature than the girl, and is patient and ever-loving of her quirks.

But seriously? If I was a dude and a chick acted like Ari does sometimes, I'd lose interest in her real fast. I mean, it's one thing to be wary of vampires but fall for one anyway; I mean, there are other authors that have done it (ahem. Jeaniene Frost, anyone?), but the difference is that they've done it better.

However, I can understand the angle Ally Shields is trying to attack this from, which is why I didn't let this irk me too much and give this book a lower rating.

I took a couple of days before reviewing this book because I wanted to see if I could figure out what it is, exactly, that continues to nag at the back of my brain about this book.

And then it came to me.

I'm used to more romance in the paranormal books I read, and there is next to none in here. To me, it almost feels like the author decided there needed to be a relationship in the book, so she half-heartedly threw one in. It feels like an immature mess of a relationship. I don't connect with their relationship on any level. In fact, I wouldn't know they were in a relationship if at the beginning of the book, Andreas wasn't referred to as her "boyfriend", and on a couple of occasions someone mentions their "relationship".

I'm sorry, but romantic interest is not a prerequisite for a novel. If you don't want to do it, or are not good at it, don't put it in. I feel like it just takes away from the main story line.

I'm going to end on a positive note because I don't want this review to sound like I'm just ragging on the author. I do, genuinely, like Andreas as a character.

Kath says

While I loved the first two Guardian Witch books, I really loved the whole new level Air (and Ally) move to in this one. The reality of anyone caught in a quandary as to loyalties and responsibilities makes this so relatable.

I love that Ari is not a wimpy doe-eyed heroine. She has total strength. While she obviously loves Andreas, who wouldn't, there's more to this witch than being spell-bound by any male.

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

Only one question.. Have Andreas and Arianna done the deed? A bit confused..
