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Dark Carousel (Carpathian Novel, A)



Synopsis

In the new Carpathian novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Christine Feehan, a woman falls prey to the seductive allure of the past—and a vampire warrior's intoxicating embrace... The moment Charlotte Vintage walks into his club, Tariq Asenguard's blood is set on fire. The ancient Carpathian had given up hope of finding his lifemate, but now he will do anything to make Charlotte his own. What Tariq doesn't know is that Charlotte is using herself and her best friend as bait to try to draw out the bloodthirsty killers who have already murdered Charlotte's brother and mentor. Charlotte is familiar with Tariq. Not only is he one of the richest and most eligible bachelors in the city, but he's also a renowned collector of old carousel horses, which Charlotte restores. Their shared passion opens Charlotte up to trusting him with her life and with the desire she can no longer control. But it also makes her vulnerable to a centuries-old curse that will unite her and Tariq in a war against the enemies of humans and Carpathians alike...

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Customer Reviews

DARK CAROUSEL is the thirtieth installment in Christine Feehan's contemporary, adult DARK CARPATHIAN paranormal, romance series. This is ancient warrior Tariq Asenguard, and carousel

restorer Charlotte Vintage's story line. DARK CAROUSEL can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Several of the characters including Maxim and Blaze introduced in DARK CRIME found in the anthology EDGE OF DARKNESS (July 2015) play secondary and supporting roles throughout the story. NOTE: DARK CAROUSEL is a story with brutally, graphic violence and issues of rape and abuse against women and children. SOME BACKGROUND: All Carpathian males must find their lifemates before they turn vampire or greet the dawn. Without a lifemate, the males no longer see in color, feel pain or experience emotions. A lifemate is the light to their dark. She is the keeper of his heart and the keeper of his soul. As the unmated Carpathian male ages, the darkness begins to envelope his soul. Told from several third person points of view DARK CAROUSEL follows Charlotte Vintage as she endeavors to come to terms with the deaths of several family members and friends seemingly linked back to her visit to a psychic center in Paris, France. As Charlotte and her friend Genevieve return to America, they are being stalked by an unknown source, and find themselves at a nightclub run by Tariq Asenguard-an ancient Carpathian male who has yet to find the woman who holds the other half to his soul. What ensues is the awareness for Tariq when Charlotte's voice returns his emotions and color, and the quick building romance/insta love between two people connected by the past. While Charlotte struggles with her attraction and need for Tariq, there is something more sinister working behind the scenes.

Good golly is this really book 30? That's an awfully long time to keep a series going so clearly there are a plethora of readers out there who adore this authors work. Always imaginative and her sex scenes are certainly meant to set the pages on fire and yet I'm increasingly seeing reviews that are less than enamoured. I admit there has sometimes been rhetoric that felt repetitive and situations that seemed to follow a pre set template but I'm really enjoying this newer direction that the author is exploring. If you read Dark Crime then you will be delighted to catch up with Tariq and the damaged females he helped rescue. It's a story arc that I'd almost forgotten but I'm so pleased the author has returned to it. There's definitely a more contemporary feel to this story which brings a fresh approach. Tariq is a hunter but he has perfected his civilised veneer and actually finds himself caring for the humans around him and his extended family . Charlotte is brave and determined to stop hiding and take on whoever is murdering those she cares for but she is entering a world she had no idea existed. The Carpathians search amongst humans with psychic gifts for their Lifemates but the Vampires have a completely different reason and it's not pleasant at all! There's a huge difference between a male who dominates his woman and one who abuses her and I think the author seemed to get the balance right here. Whilst I didn't buy the instant attraction/lust if honest

(first night? Really? No build up?) I cannot fault that Tariq was only domineering when it came to Charlottes safety oh and bedroom antics of course ! Finally a Carpathian who realises he needs a partner and that a modern woman would settle for nothing less .

I like Christine Feehan's Dark books, mostly. This one was just totally not up to par but could have been a GREAT story. She needed to take time to write a more likely plot than this. **WARNING:** specific story discussion - don't read if you don't want this type of info:1) They find out the old carousel is cursed; yet, heroine doesn't bother to tell anyone about the sliver the carousel gives her. Might be acceptable as she is new to vampires; however, once hero finds out about the sliver, he doesn't get rid of the cursed carousel (first stupid mistake for someone who has dealt with vampires for many, many years). Instead he supposedly goes into her body, encapsulates the sliver so it (supposedly) can't hurt heroine.2) Hero lets heroine go BACK to touch the cursed carousel; she is frozen, he has to convert her to Carpathian AND his friends have to destroy the sliver in order to save her life (something that COULD have been done when they found out about it instead of waiting).3) Then undestroyed cursed carousel pulls child to it during the day while she sleeps, carousel "comes alive", blows up, and somehow lets the bad guy's people into the compound. Of course, hero is stuck underground with heroine, has to direct things from there and is apparently not well prepared for a direct attack (really????). Predictably and stupidly, a child and woman are taken by the bad guys because the supposedly smart hero had NO ONE around to help except for the 5 "dragons" which didn't seem all that effective and Hero's human support gets there late in the fight. Then the Hero has the NERVE to think "Well, bad guy's always over prepared". REALLY??? He knows this but totally is not well prepared for it???

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