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Styxx: Dark-Hunter, Book 22



Synopsis

Sherrilyn Kenyon's most highly anticipated novel in the Dark-Hunter series since *Acheron* is here - the unforgettable story of Styxx, Acheron's twin brother and one of the most powerful beings on Earth. Just when you thought doomsday was over... Centuries ago Acheron saved the human race by imprisoning an ancient evil bent on absolute destruction. Now that evil has been unleashed and it is out for revenge. As the twin to Acheron, Styxx hasn't always been on his brother's side. They've spent more centuries going at each other's throats than protecting their backs. Now Styxx has a chance to prove his loyalty to his brother, but only if he's willing to trade his life and future for Acheron's. The Atlantean goddess of Wrath and Misery, Bethany was born to right wrongs. But it was never a task she relished. Until now. She owes Acheron a debt that she vows to repay, no matter what it takes. He will join their fellow gods in hell and nothing is going to stop her. But things are never what they seem, and Acheron is no longer the last of his line. Styxx and Acheron must put aside their past and learn to trust each other or more will suffer. Yet it's hard to risk your own life for someone who once tried to take yours - even when it's your own twin. And when loyalties are skewed and no one can be trusted, not even yourself, how do you find a way back from the darkness that wants to consume the entire world? One that wants to start by devouring your very soul?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the 23 book in this series (not counting novella's) and since we first learned about Acheron's

royal brat brother, I have hated Styxx. I mean let's be honest, the only reason why Styxx has ever done anything for Acheron was because Artemis forced Styxx to experience Acheron's life. So, when this book popped up on for pre-order, I refused to push the button. Why do I want to read a story about a spoiled brat who realizes Ash actually had a horrible life and had a sudden epiphany and decides to be a good guy. What else could this story be about, everyone knows that Styxx has no redeeming qualities. Eventually, I decided I had to purchase this book. I love the Dark/Dream/Were Hunter series so much, I figured if nothing else I will get the opportunity to catch up with my favorite characters. After the first chapter I realized all of my preconceived notions couldn't be more wrong. I flew through the pages that told of a childhood that was so different than the one I imagine the spoiled brat had lived. This story isn't for the faint of heart. Anyone who read about Acheron's childhood knows about the horrors that are possible and we see a lot of the same tortures in this book. There is so much darkness in this book and by the half way point I was thrilled that Styxx had finally found some happiness, however, with so much left to the book you know something bad is about to happen, something, really, really, bad. This book does span 11,000 years, so there was a lot of change going on, not just in this book but in the reader as well. Once I got to the twenty first century, I had a new respect for Styxx.

Some people really loved this book. They gave it 5 star reviews. Some even called it the best thing Sherrilyn Kenyon has ever written. I am not one of those people. In fact, I was barely able to make myself finish Styxx. Not because it was 800-and something pages... but because it was one of the most miserable books I have ever read. It is filled from cover to cover with rape, incest, abuse, torture, and unrelenting suffering for our hero. Before you tell me that Kenyon is Queen of the Tortured Hero, don't waste your breath. There is no balance in this story between darkness and light. It's 95% horrible and 5% ...well, not horrible for Styxx. And in case you're wondering, "It can't be worse than Acheron, can it?" Well, yes it can. And yes, it is. Basically, this is the companion story to Acheron's book, from Styxx's point of view. It essentially throws out everything Ash thought he knew about his brother. Styxx was abused physically, emotionally, and sexually. He loses his virginity in an incestuous gang rape. On page. Then he is raped more times than the total of all rapes I have ever read in any books in my life, put together. He is raped and raped and raped. By his uncle, the guy's buddies, senators, Greek gods, Atlantean gods, the guards, the freaking guy who whips him for his dad. Everybody rapes him. And then when you think to yourself, he can't possibly be raped any more, he is taken captive and raped for a year straight. It's simply horrific. And that is not counting the torture by the monks with the hot pokers, the constant pain he feels

from every injury committed against Acheron, or the attempts on his life by every single member of his family. His mother hates him. His sister hates him. Ash hates him. So does every member of the government...

Ist: let me say I'm a huge fan of Sherrilyn Kenyon, I have all of her books, have read them over and over again and even purchased them all again in an eBook format. Some of my all-time favourite books and characters are in the Dark Hunter series and Acheron has been my number one favorite character ever! (although this book may have changed that) However, I have to say that I'm very disappointed in this one...I think Ms. Kenyon went way, way too far and over the line in this book with the bad childhood scenario. If you think Acheron had a bad childhood and life that was a cake walk compared to Styxx's. The first 600+ pages were filled with more child and adult abuse than I have ever read before. I had to skim a lot through these parts as it was turning my stomach and was very disturbing. We are talking about violent physical abuse and torture starting from a very early age that continued all through the book, but it got even worse, all his young boyhood and his adult life were filled with vicious rapes, violent gang rapes, public gang rapes and all humiliations in between, over and over and over again. Also it was strongly hinting that Acheron and Styxx when drugged might have had a sexual contact. (yuck) Almost everyone he ever came into contact from family, soldiers and gods either abused him, raped him or humiliated him in some bad way. Not to mention having to endure over 11,000 years in total isolation, who wouldn't be crazy after that! But he wasn't of course. Despite all this the writer still wanted the reader to believe that Styxx could always be so self-sacrificing to everyone including all those that betrayed him (which was almost everyone in the book) and that he even became a better person than Acheron ever was. (Acheron's words) Unlikely!

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