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Kiss Of Steel (London Steampunk Book 1)



Synopsis

"darkly atmospheric and delectably sexy." –Booklist, starred review Honoria Todd has more secrets than most people and she's hiding them in Whitechapel. Blade is the master of the rookeries and agrees to protect her, but at what price? Most people avoid the dreaded Whitechapel district. For Honoria Todd, it's the last safe haven as she hides from the Blue Blood aristocracy that rules London through power and fear. Blade rules the rookeries-no one dares cross him. It's been said he faced down the Echelon's army single–handedly, that ever since being infected by the blood–craving he's been quicker, stronger, and almost immortal. When Honoria shows up at his door, his tenuous control comes close to snapping. She's so...innocent. He doesn't see her backbone of steel-or that she could be the very salvation he's been seeking. A unique, sexy paranormal romance, Bec McMaster's London Steampunk novels will appeal to fans of Gail Carriger, Kristen Callihan's Darkest London series, and the Blud series by Delilah Dawson. RITA finalist Bec McMaster's London Steampunk series: Kiss of Steel, Book 1 – Honoria's last hope is the most dangerous man in London's underworld, and she may be his last hope as well. Heart of Iron, Book 2 – Will would do anything to protect Lina, including fighting his love for her, but but seducing her may be the only way to save her. My Lady Quicksilver, Book 3 – Rosalind risks her life, and her heart, to get close to the one man who could find and free her brother. But will he? Forged by Desire, Book 4 – RITA finalist, When Perry fled her thrall contract and joined the Nighthawks, she thought she would be safe, but danger is stalking her again. Of Silk and Steam, Book 5 – Mina has sworn revenge for her father's death, but the man she plans to destroy could be her own undoing, or the salvation of all London. What readers are saying about Kiss of Steel: "a scrumptious blend of steampunk, vampires, sex, and danger" "excellent paranormal romance with a touch of steampunk" "Loved this book, the noir of steam, vampires, werewolves, and lust find a perfect stew." "A must read for paranormal fans." What reviewers are saying about Kiss of Steel: "An enthralling debut... A leading man as wicked as he is irresistible... Heart-wrenching, redemptive and stirringly passionate... A series opener to be read and savored. 4 1/2 Stars" - RT Book Reviews "Dark, intense, and sexy... A stunning new series with an intriguing twist on the vampire theme." - Library Journal "Compulsively readable... The mythology surrounding the vampires and the not-quite-vampiric blue bloods felt fresh and original..." - Mindful Musings What everyone is saying about Bec McMaster: "a must read for paranormal fans and steampunk fans alike. 5/5 Stars, Reviewer Top Pick" - Night Owl Reviews "richly imagined, gritty and dark, and full of hot heroes and hot sex... utterly delicious." - Smart Bitches, Trashy Books "Action, adventure, steampunk, and blazing hot seduction... Bec McMaster offers it all." - Eve Silver, author of Sins of the

Flesh

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Customer Reviews

The people you see on the cover are not in the book. The woman in the book is dirt poor, exhausted, rail thin, due to starvation and has dark circles under her eyes, not to mention her very proper and modest way of dressing and behaving. He seems older and rougher. So don't judge this book by its cover. Started slow...got better...started getting dragged out a bit...sex and use of the word "abraded" over and over again...the ending. I liked the characters and I liked the story line but too much teasing and talking about not frightening the lead female character with his rough ways. She couldn't sort out her feelings for the hunk, due to her past, but once she figured things out her skirts went up and, if it was up to her, they would have stayed there. There's no sex, then there is a solid block of sex, and then there is the ending. She is tough and loyal. He is dangerous and kind. They both have trust issues...which are resolved. Her siblings are nice and interesting. His men, and those who work for him, are dedicated and willing to die for him. I liked parts of it but don't think I will be buying the sequel. I hope all of their abraded skin heals quickly.

When I bought this I wasn't expecting much. I thought this would just be another one of those trashy novels that are fun to read every once in a while. But I was pleasantly surprised to find a well written story with well written characters. I really liked Honoria and Blade and thought their romance was well paced and it didn't feel rushed. Honoria didn't just fall head over heels, but had real reservations about getting with Blade and gradually fell in love with him. Both Honoria and Blade were well rounded characters and while side characters weren't as developed, they still had enough distinctive personalities to make them stand out as individual people. Honoria's independence and strong will made her a wonderful female lead and I was so happy that she had a lot of fight in her just as much as the male characters did. Her naivete when it came to sex was realistic for a woman of her social class and the time period and it made her character all the more real. Blade was a real fun and sweet character and he and Honoria were a good match. While it's a bit cliché, I did like his "good man tortured by his past" and "thief with honor" characterization. I think Honoria was by far the more interesting of the two, but Blade didn't fall short as a character and he has one of those personalities that makes it hard to dislike him. The end was all tied up a bit too neatly for my liking, but I liked that everyone got their happy ending and it was nice that there weren't any loose ends or unanswered questions. So, if you like a good romance, action and vampires then I would highly recommend this book. I'm excited to visit this world again and plan on buying the other books in the series.

Two of my favorite genres are historical romance and paranormal romance so when I find a book that combines them my anticipation went through the roof. Thank goodness Bec McMaster's debut met every expectation that I had and beyond. Almost everything about this book worked for me from the setting to the supernatural worldbuilding to the characters to the romance. The London Steampunk series takes place in an alternate version of England which is an intriguing mix of the supernatural and steampunk. The upper levels of British society are made up of people who are afflicted with a disease that causes them to age slower and crave blood. This has shaped the entire culture and economy of the country which causes quite a few issues that the characters face. The heroine of Kiss of Steel is Honoria who is a young lady trying to keep her small family together after her father's mysterious death. Unfortunately, she is trying to do this while hiding from a malicious English lord who has put a bounty on her head and things are further complicated by the fact that her brother is showing signs of the virus that afflicts the lords and ladies. Overall, I really enjoyed this character. Her strength and the determination she had to keeping her brother and sister safe

was very admirable and easy to relate to. She did have some frustrating moments where I felt like her pride was a bit too much, but, thankfully, those incidents were balanced out with some really admirable moments. And then we come to Blade who is one of my favorite heroes in recent memory. I loved everything about this guy from his name to his look to his backstory, etc. Blade is the self-proclaimed leader of the Rookery, the most dangerous slum in London, and has developed his own little gang to protect his interests throughout the city. He also has a mysterious past that explains why he has the same disease that all the aristocracy have and why he has such a vendetta against them. Another aspect of Blade that I adored was the vulnerability that he showed whenever he interacted with Honoria which is very refreshing in romance. The romance between Honoria and Blade was almost perfect. The physical attraction was immediate, and unwanted on Honoria's part, but things quickly escalated to a more emotional level. It was very obvious to me as a reader how perfect these two were for each other. Their circumstances were different yet their ultimate goals were the same and it was really great to see that especially with all the darker aspects of this paranormal world. There were quite a few plots to follow in this book. Since it is the first in a series, there is the obligatory introduction to the world and the main players in it, but I never felt like I was being provided too much information at a time. In addition to the romance, there was the business of keeping Honoria and her family away from the malicious lord who has been searching for them for years. McMaster also sets up, what I believe to be, a continual storyline for the series with the creation of a possible cure for the blood-craving virus which is introduced through a murder mystery involving a vampire on the loose in the Rookery. Overall, I found this debut to be well-written and highly entertaining. I became fully engrossed in the world and eagerly anticipate returning to it in the future. There are many roads that Ms. McMaster can follow with this series and I am excited to see what she does with some of these great characters especially Will the werewolf and Honoria's younger sister Lena.

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