



# Damon Snow and the Nocturnal Lessons

*Olivia Helling*

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## **Damon Snow and the Nocturnal Lessons** Olivia Helling

Damon Snow thinks he has the world figured out. As an incubus and male prostitute, it's a cruel, dark, lonely place where men only want one thing. But when his long-time patron Byrne discovers he's dying, Byrne offers to leave his entire fortune to him. There's just one catch. Damon has to write about the reason why another patron procures his services. Caught up in his patron's impossible love life, Damon suddenly isn't so sure he knows the answer.

## **Damon Snow and the Nocturnal Lessons Details**

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Author : Olivia Helling

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## From Reader Review Damon Snow and the Nocturnal Lessons for online ebook

**Erica Chilson says**

\*I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads\*

4 stars overall

3 stars for the beginning

5 stars for the ending.

I want to preface this review by stating I had a very, very difficult time starting this novella and keeping engaged. It wasn't the genre, as I'm an avid Regency and M/M reader. There was something about the writing style or the execution of the introduction. Why am I stating this? Because if I hadn't had to read this title for reviewing purposes, I would have stopped and went to another book, and that would have been a travesty. So, for those struggling, please keep reading.

Around the 45% mark, I couldn't put the book down. But at the same time, I didn't want it to end. I enjoyed Damon, being inside his head, and I found the rest of the cast of characters very engaging. Byrne was a fantastic character.

One word kept coming to mind as I read the novella: **Darling**. It was hot and sweet yet realistic, giving you the darker emotional side of being a Molly. I cannot wait for Damon's next lesson.

Above was my review, below is the writer in me wanting to start a dialogue with either the author or other readers, because I love to "Book Club" a book. Meaning I love to discuss it.

### **Incubus**

I have two thoughts rattling in my head about the 'Incubus' part of the storyline. For it to be paranormal in nature, then I need more paranormal content. The Incubus part of the storyline was completely glossed over, with little worldbuilding or explanation besides a sentence here or there.

Personally, I was glad. I didn't think it was necessary. I would have liked the story just fine without it. What I believe, if I were writing this title, is Damon isn't an incubus at all. He was born into a world where that was a great excuse to explain away the mother's indiscretions, and then he suffered the consequences. It's also the only way he could deal with the emotional fallout of having a father who never claimed him, a mother who blamed him, and a way to deal with being a Molly. Just blame all that emotion on being an Incubus. It's a childhood delusion that manifested into a very real belief for our hero. (I could be wrong. Probably am. But as I said, this was my 'book club' portion)

Would I recommend this title: Yes, but soldier through the beginning.

Will I continue this series: Yes, can't wait to see what adventures Byrne thrusts Damon into for the sake of 'journaling'

Would I read more by this author: most definitely.

## Minerva says

interesting premise; an incubus prostitute. I have to say Damon gets on my nerves a little. He's so negative. But interesting enough to continue

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## Carly says

Damon Snow is an incubus who feeds off of the sexual release of others. That's about all we know about Damon going into this story, and without the synopsis you wouldn't even know that at first. The mystery of who and what Damon actually is was not fully revealed in this book, although readers do get a glimpse into his rather jaded mind.

Byrne is a former inamorato of Damon's who issues a challenge on his death bed to discover and write about the intimate details of his other lover's lives.

There is an odd dynamic to their relationship that pulses throughout the story and drives it in unexpected directions. In fact, the entire book presents more questions than answers.

I understand that this is the first in a series, that the story is not intended to end in a neat little box, and I'm fine with that. What frustrated me was the lack of a foundation for the rest of the series to be built upon. The sense that something important was missing left me feeling generally underwhelmed. I will say that the characters are unique and some of the emotional exploration was surprising, especially when contrasted with the harsh and gritty underbelly of prostitution during the Regency era. I'm intrigued enough by the puzzle to give this series a second chance, but with the understanding that the next installment will have to draw everything together in-order to effectively drive the series forward from that point on.

My OFFICIAL REVIEW written for Carly's Book Reviews

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## Bianca Dean says

Damon Snow isn't your typical protagonist. He is an incubus and a male prostitute. He knows what patrons want from him, and he knows how to give it to them. He has lived a pretty predictable existence – for an incubus and prostitute, until he finds out that his wealthy long-time patron, Byrne, is dying. Byrne, worried about Damon, asks him to do one thing, complete one task, and all of Byrne's fortune will be his. His task isn't outlandish, it almost seems too simple to Damon. All he has to do is write about another patron; find out more about him. But, the task doesn't prove to be as pointless as Damon believes.

We start out meeting Byrne and Damon together. The reader can also determine that while Byrne is terminally ill, he cares for Damon in a way that Damon cannot understand or fathom.

When I first started, I wasn't sure where the story was going. If the language, or the context for the time period in which the story is written confuses you, stick with it. The first several pages were a bit of a struggle for me, but as the pages rolled on, the language and the writing seemed to improve...or maybe I just became immersed in the story.

The story, while short, develops wonderfully and kept me engaged. This is the first work by Olivia Helling

that I've read, but I can say that I look forward to the next installment of Damon Snow and the Nocturnal Lessons. I do wish it were a little longer, with just a bit more detail in terms of the settings and overall feel of character emotions, but that's just my personal preference.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## Love Bytes Reviews says

2.5 star review by Vicki

I'm not sure what to say about this book, honestly. It was very strange. I was interested to read it when I saw the blurb, I love a good Regency historical romance novel, plus I love rent boy stories, so it seemed like I should read it! But it was just odd. Damon is an incubus, but other than needed to get some sexual energy from having sex, he doesn't do anything remotely paranormal. The fact that he is an incubus didn't add anything to the story. He works in a molly house, but spends a fair amount of time with one of his customers (flat as he calls them) who is dying. Byrne, the sick man, has Damon read to him, but can't do anything physical with him anymore. He tells Damon that he'll leave his fortune to him if he writes a story/journal about one of his other clients. Damon agrees, and decides to write about his next client, who happens to be a man named Price, who goes with him because the boy that Price wanted to see wouldn't see him. So Damon writes up a couple of sentences about his experience with Price, but Byrne is not impressed, and tells him he has to track down Price and ask him some questions. So he does. I'll stop there, since there isn't much more to the plot.

It's a very strange story, the only glimpse of romance we get is not between Damon, but between two other characters. There is some sex, Damon with Price, then Damon hiding behind a curtain and jacking off while another couple have sex, then Damon and the old sick guy. Not really what I like to read about personally! I didn't have an opinion of Damon one way or the other, there isn't anything to like about him, but there wasn't really a reason for me to dislike him. There is very little plot, not much action, no drama, and it gets off to a very slow start. I appreciate what Damon does for the other couple, and I guess I liked what he was doing for Byrne. I didn't dislike this book, but I didn't like it either, there wasn't enough to it for me. It was just blah, and I'm not sure I'll remember much about it tomorrow.

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## Lillian Francis says

First off I think this should be noted that this is not a romance in a traditional sense. The main character does not find love, probably because he doesn't believe it exists, but there are another three books in the series for that situation to change.

I enjoyed the writing and the story. The incubus part I found strange. It didn't really ring true, it felt more as if Damon used the excuse of being part incubus to explain his own urges and his mother's indiscretion.

This is one of those occasions when a free book reaps rewards. I fully intend to buy more of Damon Snow's adventures.

ETA I've read a couple of reviews that agree with me on the incubus situation.

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## Jenn (not Lily) says

It was ok....but not amazing. I think I'm done with this series. Just not enough here to be worth the angsty ennui to get to the HEA/HFN. Oh well...at least it was short!

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## Chris says

### 3.75 out of 5 stars

Description ~

*Damon Snow thinks he has the world figured out. As an incubus and male prostitute, it's a cruel, dark, lonely place where men only want one thing. But when his long-time patron Byrne discovers he's dying, Byrne offers to leave his entire fortune to him. There's just one catch. Damon has to write about the reason why another patron procures his services. Caught up in his patron's impossible love life, Damon suddenly isn't so sure he knows the answer.*

My Review~

This is the first novella in a series that is set in Georgian Era England. Damon Snow is a molly or rent boy but he also has a secret. Damon is an incubus, a genetic 'gift' from his father who he never knew.

We meet Damon for the first time with his long time patron, Byrne. Byrne seems to be a lovely, but lonely man, who unfortunately is dying. He offers to leave his entire fortune to Damon, but only if Damon follows the lessons set before him. His first lesson is to get into the mind of whomever wants his services next. He's to learn why that gentleman is visiting a molly house, and the emotions involved by the patron. This of course throws Damon because he does not believe that patrons or mollies can have real emotions toward the other. In fact, Damon doesn't believe in love at all.

I quite liked the lessons that Byrne has set before Damon, and both Damon's reaction and his responses to the task at first. I'll admit that the first bit of the story is slow going. By about 40 pages in I wanted to see what Damon gets out of the lesson because he is so jaded in his inner dialogue. I liked the pacing of the story, and the characters were well written. Even if it was a short novella, the characterization and storyline weren't lacking. However the shortness of the novella doesn't lead to a full story development. Ultimately a full story would have made the romance more detailed and would have allowed more backstory.

That's not to say I won't read the rest of the stories that follow, as I do want to see where this takes Damon. Also, I want to see where the author takes the incubus part storyline. I really enjoyed the interaction between Damon and Byrne the most. There was a difference to their relationship by the end of this story, which makes me believe Damon actually did absorb something from his first lesson.

I look forward to the next book in the series.

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## ?? Michaele ♡?? says

4 Stars

I'm not sure why this is rated so low, except that maybe the less than HFN ending left me wanting more!  
That's a good thing...

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### **WhatAStrangeDuck says**

This was actually a lot better than I expected it to be and truth be told - I only got it because it was free at the time. After reading the "Godsbane Prince" books by this author my expectations weren't that high but I'm pleasantly surprised.

I'm way into book two by now, so I can't really be sure that all I'm going to say is true for book one. Sorry about that. Then again - it's a serial, really and as far as I can tell reading just a single "book" won't do you any good. So far it seems that the author actually went for a bigger character arc which I applaud.

So, this is a story about an incubus who works as a prostitute. I hear a lot of people going "yay" but I expected a lot of skipping sex scenes on my part. Strangely enough, I didn't because so far, it made sense to integrate them *because they actually help the characterization of the MC!* It's possible! Wonders never cease. In book one, Damon actually doesn't *like* sex very much but he needs in order to survive, which makes all the more repellent. That's... interesting.

Words of warning - so far not a Romance (tm) - because - duh - deeply disturbed rentboy.

Anyhow, I got the bundle Damon Snow Boxset: Books 1-4 which is way more affordable than getting the single installments.

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### **Ruthie Taylor says**

"I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads."

This is a short read which I would surmise is set in early Dickensian London. Poverty and perversity abound in large cities, and Damon is a Molly or rent boy. In order to benefit from a dying client's inheritance he is set some lessons. This book provides the first. That I found quite enjoyable. What I haven't yet understood is what the incubus element that is alluded to within the 'blurb' fits into the plot. The next lesson will be in the next release.

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### **MouthLeaf says**

Dark, funny and a little unconventional -  
Just finished all five books - I really hope there will be more.

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## Bitchie says

This was very well written, but it wasn't your typical romance, I'm not even sure if it qualifies as a romance. Damon is a male prostitute, and an incubus. One of his clients is dying, and tells him that if he brings him the real story of one of his johns, he will make him his heir, and leave him all his money.

So the love story really isn't about the MC at all, but about two people Damon knows, a fellow prostitute, and one of his clients, who have fallen in love.

I thought the incubus bit didn't really add anything to the story, it was really almost an afterthought. He was a hooker, who just happened to be an incubus.

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## Emily says

\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*

So, I didn't realize that this is not only a series, but more of a serial when I started reading it, so I just wanted to give fair warning. While the book does have a satisfying conclusion, it also has a bit of a cliffhanger ending that leads into the next book, so be warned.

Overall though, this was an interesting story for me. Part romance, part erotic, part mystery, and part suspense, and totally intriguing. I thought this was just going to be some erotic short story, but instead I got a lot more. I was drawn into the story, searching for answers and wanting to know the truth behind both Bryne and Damon. I enjoyed it more than I thought I would, which is saying something.

Even though this book does bring the conflict to a close, many questions still remain. Who is Bryne, and why is he doing this? What is going to happen to Damon at the end of his lessons? Are all my crazy conspiracy theories going to come true??!! Ahem. Sorry about that.

Anyways, while I have my ideas about the answers to these questions, I will definitely be keeping my eye out for the next books in this series, as I can't wait to see where the author takes these characters and storyline. I would definitely recommend giving this book a try, you might just be pleasantly surprised.

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## Shelby says

**3.5 Stars** Well rent boy stories are never my favorite and yet Damon snuck into my heart a little bit here. He's so sure that love can not exist, that being used is all there is. I did enjoy watching his head get turned around a bit. He may not believe that it can exist for everyone, or that he really has a shot, but his heart has started to open up a little bit. There's goodness down deep in his soul whether he wants to acknowledge it or not.

I'm curious to see where this story will develop in the later books. Damon doesn't want to learn to care and yet his patron Byrne is determined to make him figure it out. Faced with his own mortality the person he most cares to help out is Damon whether he likes it or not. This looks like it could become a great little battle of wills and I hold out hope there will be help for Byrne down the road. I mean the paranormal does exist and there has to be something fantastical out there. After all he is sleeping with an incubus. :)

