



Circle of Desire

Keri Arthur

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In ten years of working for the Damask Circle, shapeshifter Katherine Tanner has never come across anything that goes after kids the way this monster does, and she has never met anything that does to them what this thing does. And it's not something she wants to confront. But with the Circle's resources stretched to the limits, she's given very little choice. The last thing she needs is interference from a cop who has no idea what he's up against.

Ethan Morgan's niece is one of the missing children and he has every intention of not only defying the odds and bringing her back alive, but of catching the monster behind these kidnappings and bringing her to justice. Even if he has to break every law in the country to do it. And he's willing to use anyone and everyone to achieve those aims--even a crazy woman who claims to be a witch.

Forced to join forces, Ethan and Kat are drawn to each other, but fight their feelings as they struggle to uncover clues that will lead them to the monster's lair and battle a seemingly endless supply of zombies and other dead things determined to stop them. But time is ticking away and both know the monster behind these kidnappings rarely keeps her victims alive for more than seven days. And four of those have already gone.

But the greatest threat to Kat might not come from the forces of darkness gathering around them, but from the man she is beginning to love.

Because Ethan is a werewolf...and the full moon is rising...

Circle of Desire Details

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From Reader Review Circle of Desire for online ebook

Mel says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Glenna Kachtik says

Fast paced - easy read. Good book. Like the werewolves!

Isis says

I would like to thank NetGalley and Dell for the opportunity to read this story. Although I received the ebook for free, that in no way impacts my review.

A TEMPTING FATE

Two children have been found dead, their souls torn from their bodies. Two more are missing, and Ethan Morgan's niece is one of them. A dedicated cop, Ethan has every intention not only of bringing her back alive but of catching the monster behind these kidnappings. And he will use anyone and everyone to achieve those aims—even a crazy woman who claims to be a witch. But time is ticking. The victims rarely stay alive for more than seven days. Four of those days have already passed.

In ten years of working for the Damask Circle, shapeshifter Katherine Tanner has never come across anything that goes after kids the way this monster does. The last thing Kat needs is interference from a cop who has no idea what he's up against. But the greatest threat to Kat may come not from the forces of darkness, but from the man she is beginning to love. Because Ethan is a werewolf... and the full moon is rising.

Book three in the Damask Circle series stays pretty true to form, with the feisty female, the dominant male, someone(s) in need of rescue, and a supernatural evil on the loose. Thankfully this book felt much more cohesive and entertaining than the second one in the series.

Katherine, generally known as Kat, is a witch who, along with her grandmother Gwen, works for the Damask Circle. The case they've been called in to assist with is most certainly right up their alley. Yet at the same time there are elements that are new to even them, new to the entire Damask Circle who are working feverishly behind the scenes to uncover the answers Kat and crew need to complete their job and get out alive,

The biggest obstacle is also the biggest attraction - Ethan Morgan. Ethan's niece is one of the missing

children. Combine that with his love for her, his feelings of debt to his older brother Luke, his repressed werewolf nature, and a full moon coming and you've got on hell of a mess on your hands.

This book follows one of the tried and true formulas, love given freely on one side and utterly resisted on the receiving end. Luckily it is handled well and doesn't feel too formulaic or trite. The whole thing is well set up and executed. Kat and Ethan share an instantaneous attraction, which they both attribute to Ethan's nature and the call of the moon. But both Kat and her gran Gwen quickly think there is more going on here than raging hormones. Too bad Ethan is too stubborn, and too stuck in the past, to recognize what is right in front of him.

Kat is a great protagonist. She's strong, honest, caring, and has a deep sense of who she is, not too mention what she'll settle for at the end of the day. She faces terrifying creatures and the unknown because someone has to rescue the innocents. She acknowledges her fear but refuses to let it stop her, both physically and emotionally. Though she struggles a bit more with the latter of the two eventually she works through her issues and finds her center again.

While this book clearly follows a well known formula, it's done well enough that the story is still enjoyable. The arc of the story and growth of the characters are well matched, so things come off pretty smoothly, though the ending felt a tad bit rushed to me.

SPOILER:

(view spoiler)

TinaMarie says

He hates that he's a werewolf and has fought it for years. She's a raven shifter with telekinetic power working for the Damask Circle to hunt down the creature kidnapping and murdering children.

Maureen ~Bitch Can Write A Book says

Boom ?

This was AWESOME! I so enjoyed this series. And this book was my favorite! Again she wrote an amazingly strong fierce female lead, Katherine Turner. AND talk about an alpha male...Ethan was equally fierce as well as a rock head, lol.

This story had it all...action, pnr, and I couldn't put it down. It was one that I didn't want it to end but I needed to know the end.

Another fabulous series by Keri Arthur.

AH says

Initial Thoughts: This book reminded me a little of the first book in the series, **Circle of Fire**. I liked the hero

and heroine in this book. Kat was a member of the Damask Circle and well versed in all things supernatural. On the other hand, Ethan is at odds with his werewolf side, not even knowing how to shift. Ethan also has some serious commitment issues. No problem - these two are hot together. Full review to come...

The Review:

Circle of Desire is a little reminiscent of the first book in the series, **Circle of Fire**. In this third book in the *Damask Circle* series, children are once again going missing, kidnapped by an ancient creature known as a mara.

Ethan Morgan is quite close to the case. His niece was one of the missing children and he's going out of his mind trying to find her. Not a good thing to do as the moon is getting full and his werewolf side is going crazy.

Katherine Tanner and her grandmother Gwen have been sent by the Damask Circle to investigate the kidnapping. Katherine is a raven shifter and an empath. Gwen is a powerful witch with psychic abilities.

The investigation forces Ethan and Katherine to work together. When they discover that the creature that kidnapped the children was a mara, they realized that this was a formidable opponent, able to summon zombies and other werewolves to do her dirty work. The mara needs to feed on dark emotions such as fear in order to breed.

The relationship between Ethan and Katherine was a little frustrating. Ethan's behavior was ruled by the phases of the moon. In the days prior to a full moon, his werewolf became very lusty and required sexual release. Katherine was a willing partner, but she wanted more of a relationship, something that Ethan could not commit to. The sex was hot and heavy and these two are meant for each other.

I did enjoy this book however I did have a few reservations. I felt that Katherine was entirely too willing to give into Ethan, even in the middle of an investigation. Nothing's like sex on the run, right? I also found that Katherine put herself in danger's way a little too easily. I also found Ethan a little wishy-washy with regards to committing himself in a relationship.

Overall, **Circle of Desire** was an entertaining read and I am now ready to tackle more of this author's books.

Thank you to NetGalley and Dell for a review copy of this book.

Review posted on Badass Book Reviews. Check it out!

Shauna Gordon says

Always enjoyable

I always enjoy Ms. Arthur's books. They grab you and keep reeling you in. I started this book early (REALLY early) this am and finished it before the sun set. Looking forward to the next in the series.

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Children kidnapped, tortured and killed is abhorrent. Immediately, this plot is going to generate more emotion in me. I'm actively engaged and wanting to know more. I want the evil responsible to be completely exterminated. This is a job for Katherine aka Kat. She and her grandmother are part of the investigative team from Damask Circle. They are psychics and shifters prepared to do what they must to hunt down the kidnapers and rescue the children. They are hindered by a "muggle" cop, Ethan.

Ethan is a werewolf shifter yet he doesn't believe in the paranormal world. His eyes are forced wide open as Kat exposes him to zombies, vampires and witches - oh my! Ethan struggles with his need to bring the perpetrators to a court of law and putting them down. Is it wrong to not have issues with killing monsters? Yes, I have no issues being judge, jury and executioner. It seems Kat doesn't have this issue either.

This tale is my favourite in the series. Kat is a strong female who is a survivor. The emotional stabbing from Ethan makes me crazy. Ethan is one baggage laden boy. His hang ups are understandable even if a bit immature. There are many times a reader may want to slap Ethan out of his self-pity party. Ms. Arthur creates interesting characters with layers to explain their motives. She also paints the monsters in this book with some pretty evil acts. Ms. Arthur doesn't sugarcoat or avoid the nasty parts of humanity. This extreme delineation between good and evil is balanced with the character flaws in her hero. He's not perfect. In addition, Kat isn't pure either. She does some questionable things to justify her end goal.

This book is a fast read. The characters do have steamy chemistry with some lovely rough sex. The erotic piece to this book is greater than the other two in this series. It's a pleasant surprise and quite arousing. This tale is recommended to paranormal lovers who love a kick ass heroine.

**provided by Edelweiss*

Anne says

I enjoyed this third entry in the Damask Circle series. I would label it a Paranormal Romantic Suspense. As I recall Keri Arthur's other early work, this one seemed to be heavier on the sex between Kat and Ethan. Not only is Ethan a werewolf, but Kat and her grandmother (the only secondary character with a decent size role) are special as well. I liked all the characters and the bad guys from the mara (a new supe for me), rogue weres and zombies were suitably bad.

This story definitely stands alone and this is a quibble I have with the series. The Damask Circle is mentioned, particularly Seline, but they don't actively play a role in the books...so far. When you're dealing with a child and man killing mara, I would think there'd be more of a team approach instead of one young woman and her arthritic granny on the job.

Other issues I had with this story: Kat is supposed to be a butt kicking heroine but she runs around with no bra, really tight shirts (and occasionally skirts) with her full breasts bouncing while fighting. Can we say OUCH?!? Ethan's reasons for not getting emotionally involved with Kat was forced too. I can see him still grieving about what happened when he was 17, but he was only 17 and holding on emotionally to the individual who left his life didn't seem reasonable and for it not to occur to him until the end of the book that his attachment wasn't as solid as he thought? Bah.

Despite these negatives, I did enjoy the book. I received this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Katherine, raven shapeshifter and psychic, and her grandmother are hunting a new enemy of the Damask circle: some unknown and unseen force is kidnapping children. Their bodies turn up weeks after their disappearance – but they're not just dead, their very souls have been consumed

Obviously, this has to stop. And with Damask circle resources stretched, any help they can get is very welcomed

Ethan is a police officer, his niece has been captured and he's definitely ready to step up and join the hunt. As a werewolf he has a lot to offer – but he hates what he is and whatever fling he and Katherine has, he is determined for it not to develop into more. Here's there to save his niece, not fall in love.

Interestingly, after I complained about the formulas of the last book, this book rather subverts them. Oh, he is still the physically superior, she is still the magical, less physical person (there are limits after all), but she is the one who is informed. Katherine is the one who understands about the supernatural and their nature and she is the one who both guides Ethan into the world of the supernatural and works to get him to accept his nature as a werewolf. She is the expert, she is the guide, she is the one who knows what is going on and, with her powers, she is the one who is probably the most dangerous of the two of them

Of course, in the past books those women were scared and traumatised by their true nature, while Ethan is enraged and angsty so while we break the pattern we still have the trope of the love of a good woman saving the broody man-who-has-been-hurt-by-the-ladies before.

That hurt-by-the-ladies can sometimes manifest itself as outright misogyny – one woman hurt him in the past so now all women cannot be trusted. Women are evil and conniving, women get pregnant to entrap decent menfolk with their wicked wicked wombs... I have no idea what Katherine sees in him beyond the hawtness

He also has a moment of, to say the least, careless language towards Katherine's casual attitude to sex which comes across as slut-shamy, but she is very good at calling that out.

Unfortunately, while Katherine is, possibly, the stronger of the two she also needs rescuing at least twice and there is no real equivalent going the other way. It's like the book couldn't just let her be the stronger one, there had to be something to weaken her or put him in the role as white knight.

So there are some nicely subverted tropes – or, at least, patterns subverted – but some problems. The romance itself starts well in that both Katherine and Ethan are happy to have a casual fling and Katherine is certainly not a blushing virgin and has even had good sex before – all of which are nearly unheard of in the genre. But we have the woo-woo raising its head, with Ethan's werewolf nature forcing him to have sex and creating a special lusty sex aura that affects all women around him in a frankly consent breaking and rape-esque manner. Ok, not with Katherine – she's eager and willing, but even then, the fact the werewolf aura induces almost irresistible lust in all women around him means it's virtually impossible for him to know whether any woman he sleeps with during the full moon actually consents to sex.

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Paranormal Romance says

As members of an ancient and powerful coven, the heroine and her grandmother have been enlisted by the police for their help to track and stop the person responsible for the kidnapping and murder of several children. Though they know the heroine is a witch, the human cops have no idea what sort of entity they are after nor how helpless they are to stop it before it kills again. Only the heroine has the knowledge and ability to put an end to the killer but she's received some help from an unexpected source. The hero is a werewolf but that doesn't mean he accepts the declarations of other mythical creatures so easily. He himself fights his inner wolf, changing only when the moon forces him to and overall denying his true nature. When he meets the heroine he is in the middle of the moon fever which basically turns him into a sex crazed maniac. As is his general practice, the hero is look for a lover that will ease the cravings he has for the time of the full moon. After that, he makes it clear he wants nothing further from the woman and goes on his way. And this time he wants the heroine. She herself is craving a lover so when the sexual desire between them is apparent, she is more than willing to accept his offer of a few days of sex while they track down the soul sucking spirit. The hero's own niece is one of the missing children so they have even more urgency than ever but that doesn't stop them from succumbing to their passion ever chance they get. Despite her willingness at first to accept the short term affair the hero is wanting, she finds herself questioning why they can't take this further, especially when it becomes apparent that whatever is between them is far deeper than sex. But the hero is firm in his refusal to accept commitment despite his behavior which actually says otherwise. A woman he loved turned him away when he showed her his wolf and killed their baby to prevent giving birth to a monster. This is the soul reason he dislikes his other form and it's also the reason he refuses to put himself in the spot to be broken like that again. The moon fever comes and in a spark of honesty when he is lost to the animal within him, he bonds them together, the wolf inside knowing the importance of the heroine even if the man doesn't want to admit it. But the heroine doesn't want false promises or promises she thinks he's made to another woman so the hero must prove that what he feels for her is real. I enjoyed this book even though the hero annoyed me to no end. Unusually in these books I find myself disliking an annoying heroine who is stubborn and ignorant and completely blind to what's right in front of her face but in this case, it was actually the guy who inspired these feelings. It was his stupid refusal to believe that there were other magical beings and forces at work in this case even though he himself is a goddamn werewolf. He refuses to accept he loves the heroine because when he was seventeen he fell in love with a girl and she thought him a monster. First of all, he's seventeen! No seventeen year old dude is falling in love, marrying a girl and then spending his entire adult life in a series of one night stands because he can no longer believe in love. It was ridiculous. The heroine wasn't so bad. She was open to the sexual affair and she didn't make too much of a fuss when it became apparent they were meant for so much more but rather questioned the hero's motives and tried to make him see sense. She was the strong character in their story and the dominant one of their relationship even though the hero tried to act all macho at times. I liked this book but felt a bit of a loop at times when they would track the Mara, attack it then the building would end up blowing up. It became predictable and where the hell did all these bombs come from??? Overall I enjoyed the book but it was spectacular. Nether the less I'm interested in the other books of the series.

Sarah says

For full review please visit - <http://thelast2know.wordpress.com/>

Let me start off by saying that, at first, I was dragging my heels with this book. I wasn't won over by the way both characters were willing to jump in the sack with questionable motives and reasoning. But, by the end, I

warmed up to their relationship as it progressed.

What worked for me in this book?

Kat - She was a great character to read. Not too whiny, but not too 'in control', if that makes sense? She had a real balance of both confidence and doubt that I appreciated.

Plot - Definitely the better of the three in this series (is there more? I don't think so.. I'll check and get back to you on that. Heh.) It was much more logical and the emotional responses and involvement of the main characters made sense this time too.

Lovage - Got yerself some hawt sexy time in this book, mmm hmm. I think this was handled better in this book too (despite my minor gumbles below, but that is more directed at the 'why' than the mechanics).

What didn't work?

Ethan - Yeah. He's hot. A great character. So what's the problem? He's the same 'generic slightly supernatural hench guy' in each book. There's no distinction; all are tall, toned and hella good in the sack. I was a little annoyed that there seemed to be no attempts to make the 'fantasy' lover a little different for each female, you know?

I really enjoyed Circle of Desire. I think it's my favourite of the three. A keen pace, great sex, and a much more plausible Happily Ever After.

Glennis says

This is a reissue of an older work and the third book in the series of the Damask Circle. Once again we get new characters with the only tie to any previous ones are occasional phone calls to the leader of the circle. New monster/villain and a slightly different take on zombies. Both the hero and heroine are shifters, one is a bird and the other is a wolf. The hero is the wolf and he has for the most part cut himself off to any permanent relationships with women due to his heart being broken when he was seventeen. I got a bit of laugh at that since most of the time it seems the heroine has the broken heart and has but be coaxed out of their relationship shell. The hunt for the baddie that has kidnapped the kids just didn't feel right for the most part. They never coordinated with the local police one the two of them hooked up even with one of them being an officer and the uncle of one of the missing kids. Set your brain aside for most of the logic of the story and enjoy how they constantly have to have sex while trying to rescue the kids.

Digital review copy provided by the publisher through Edelweiss

Sarah says

The third and final installment of the Damask Circle trilogy was as 'meh' for me as the second one. Compared to Circle of Death's lead character I enjoyed our lead here. She was a bit more open and I was able to enjoy her voice more. On reflection I actually think you can take the attitudes of the man and woman in Circle of Death and reverse them to get Kathy and Ethan. Kathy is a moderately stable one, with a tragic backstory (which seems to be a given). Ethan seems to have a similarly tragic backstory who is not so stable.

Struggling with his werewolf curse as somewhat frayed him, making him into a 'hit 'em and quit 'em' kind of guy, especially when the full moon comes around. There is Gwen, Kathy's elderly and psychic grandmother who somehow remains undetected by the villain the whole book. Mention of Selene is pretty much the real tangible link we have to the previous two books besides the name the Damask Circle. Our plot has the heroes saving another child, this one younger than the first victim in book one.

By far the best part of these three books is the handling of the strange creatures that play the villains. I like the unique feel of each, though this may be a side-effect of the fairly predictable heroes. This creature by far was my favorite of the three, mostly due to the feel of a monster more than the feel of a human. She was something I feel like I would read about in an old fairy tale anthology and the final confrontation inside the mountain was very, very cool. The magic in general in these books seems to be pretty solid, it's the characters themselves that I don't usually enjoy.

If you're a fan of romance between 'tragic, torn, and struggling' lovers this would definitely be up your alley. I wouldn't recommend picking it up for the creature alone, there isn't enough to warrant that purchase. There is quite a bit of semi-graphic sex as well, so that's something to be aware of going in.

2.5 of 5, 5 of 10

Mara says

Circle of Desire was the book I loved more in the Damask Circle spin-off. You can see the first tendrils of what will become the author's next successful series, Riley Jenson- Guardian.

Mostly, I loved the tighter plot, the stronger heroine. I loved the author's stronger stance on women, gender and sex. No, we are not yet to the Guardian's point. But there's less virgin territory here, more of women who know what they want (if not yet what they are worth :)

Kat is knowledgeable, strong, she's the one that saves the day. Ethan is a bit more clichéd, the tortured-woe-is-me-women-are-untrustworthy kind of guy. Kinda idiotic and in need of a good beating, but he did come around. Moreover, he was all bark and no bite :D

It's a pity the Damask Circle did never really appear as a character in itself. It would have been a stronger link and point among the books.

World-building is solid enough, but not strong or dense. We are still in the early PNR phase, I think ;)

On a personal note.

- Loved the night of promises. It was as sweet as in Moon Sworn. It was great seeing its origin here. :)
- Eww, I've got named as a soul-sacking vampire... :|

DRC courtesy of Random House via Netgalley.
