



Reluctant Partnerships

Ariel Tachna

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A spin-off of the "Partnership in Blood" series.

Thanks to the efforts of Raymond Payet and l'ANS, vampires now have the same legal rights as mortals, and research at l'Institut Marcel Chavinier is focusing on the mysterious partnership bonds between wizards and vampires. But the battle for public opinion rages on. When Detective Adele Rougier encounters Pascale Auboussu, a shy young woman turned into a vampire against her will, Raymond and Denis Langlois, chef de la Cour nearest the crime, fear a public relations nightmare.

The vampire responsible for Pascale's turning must be brought to justice, but Denis is distracted by an unlikely potential partner-Canadian researcher Martin Delacroix, who is spending a year's sabbatical at l'Institut-and Denis's lingering feelings for his deceased lover prompt him to reject the bond. There's no denying the attraction between them, though, and the allure of companionship is nearly as strong as Denis's grief.

Growing familiarity and yearning for a true mate may induce Adele and Denis to soften their stances against new partnerships, but Adele will have to accept a deeper intimacy with Pascale when she has never considered a relationship with a woman, and it will take a near-deadly attack to make Denis admit his most hidden desires. Now he has to hope Martin will be willing to stay.

Reluctant Partnerships Details

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Author : Ariel Tachna

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Love Bytes Reviews says

4 star review by Vicki

This title is perfect for this story, it follows two reluctant pairs as they determine whether they want to form partnerships or not.

Pascale is attacked one night by a mysterious vampire and left on her own. She has no idea what has happened and is ready to jump off a bridge, when Adele comes across her. She takes her to l'Institut for help. Pascale is taken on to Angelique at Sang Froid in Paris for some vampire training, and she and Angelique have a wonderful conversation about choosing a donor for her meal.... Eventually they all get Pascale calmed down and accepting of her new existence, but there is still the issue of her being Adele's potential partner. Adele has some serious trust issues after her experience with Jude, and has no plans to take a new partner, especially a female one, when she has no sexual interest in women.

Then we have Denis and Martin. Denis was the main character in the little story at the very beginning of this series, he was turned by Luc during WWI, and found his lover, Noel, his first night. Turns out he and Noel stayed together for a very long time, until his death thirty years ago. Martin is a wizard visiting from Canada, spending some time at l'Institut doing some research. He's taken the seminar, but doesn't want a partner, he's just there for a year. He and Denis accidentally determine they could potentially be partners. Reluctantly!

There is also the story line of finding the vampire that turned Pascale and another man against their will. This also leads to some political plans, how do you prosecute a vampire? Incarcerate one? So we get some planning around that.

It's a very good plot all around, again, not the most exciting of the bunch after the four surrounding the war, but still a very good book. I liked seeing Denis again, and Martin and Pascale are good additional characters. Plus we see the usual characters, Raymond, Jean, Orlando, Alain, Sebastien, and Thierry. Oh, David and Angelique as well, apparently they like to play some fun games in the bedroom! Adele is just not my favorite girl... she is just abrasive and annoying. Better in this book, but still, I'm not fond of her. I know, she has issues, I get it!

Overall this is a good addition to the series!

A copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review. Please visit www.lovebytesreviews.com to see this and many more reviews, author interviews, guestposts and giveaways!

Becca Waldrop says

This series is just amazing. I have love every book so far and am ready to see where the next one leads. Werewolves are coming in to play and that's always fun

marcolette says

This book is exactly what would happen if I were to try writing fiction. I only wish that were a compliment, but there's a reason I don't write. I tend toward the verbose, I am more focused on getting all the information out there than moving the story along, and, in case I hadn't mentioned it, I tend to write long, winding sentences and not vary my pace enough to keep a reader interested. All of that applies to this book. I adore the premise, the world she's built, the entire concept. She's thought a lot about this universe, and she's populated it with some interesting characters. This book is close to being something amazing, but it needed some massive editing by somebody who could help infuse the story with speed and momentum.

I picked this up in a batch of books lent to me by a friend, and it was the first I'd read of the series. The premise was appealing enough that I decided to jump in here before committing to buying the earlier books, and I'm really torn on whether I'll read the rest. On the one hand: fabulous premise, great setting, appealing characters, F/F romantic subplot, all things I enjoy. On the other hand, this is the talkiest story I have ever finished. It is packed from start to finish with expository dialogue. Characters talk for full paragraphs at a time, page after page after page, and they really share their thoughts and feelings. Always. There is never any question what a character is thinking or feeling at any point in the novel. That is fabulous and healthy in real life, but overly-functional people are not always the most fun to read about. Not that none of the characters were dysfunctional. I knew all along why Adele and Denis were hesitant to start each of their respective partnerships, but having all the information didn't make their reasons more compelling.

It's hard to articulate why I found this book so frustrating. It's just that all the building blocks are there for a fabulous book, and my desire for a strong editor is, for once, not due to poor sentence construction or plot holes. I wanted some movement. I wanted to feel engaged. The romances both feel fairly secondary to establishing the status of this group of vampires and wizards since the last book -- The M/M couple doesn't even meet until literally halfway through the book, and neither couple has much screentime as a pairing.

I'm harder on books with potential that disappoint me, and this one is definitely in that category. But ultimately, when I'm reading romance, I'm looking for an escape into feeling somebody else's feelings for a couple of hours. To that end, I prefer a story with plot contrivances and flawed characterization but that masterfully manipulates my emotions over one that is well thought out but mostly consists of exposition and doesn't make me feel anything for the characters. I am genuinely sad that this book falls into the latter category. I'll keep trying, though, because this book's flaws could be ameliorated with the right writing/editing partnership!

Pam says

Review to follow

FYI-There are really two romances going on in the midst of hunting the rogue vampire. One M/M between Denis and Martin, and the other not as prominent, and F/F, between Adele and Pascale.

It's another well written and plotted addition to the family of books. The world building I've come to expect from this talented author continues, there are good descriptions, a smooth flow within the complicated plot, nicely developed personalities and relationships, and believable problems. I enjoyed getting to see many of the characters I become familiar with in the previous releases, but I also got to meet some new ones in Denis, Martin and Pascale. Adding in a rogue vampire allowed some interesting and creative twists and turns that I really enjoyed. It also gave the story plenty of conflict and danger.

I've thoroughly enjoyed this series since the first release and I look forward to the next one.

Andrea says

2nd read

Chancey Knowles says

Plenty of other reviews. Very solid, consistent series with some unique twists. Great characters and interesting world building. For fans of the genre this series is a must, but I would recommend it for nearly anyone except those with an aversion to M/M or vampires. Read the spinoff series before reading the last 2 books in the main series for chronological order.

Katy says

Please note: I originally read this series in November 2011. I'm updating the formatting and adding the disclosure that NetGalley provided me a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

My Synopsis: After her disastrous first partnership, Adele wanted nothing to do with another one. However, returning home after Sunday dinner at l'Institut, she finds a woman preparing to jump off a bridge (Pascale), and learns that Pascale has been forcibly turned by a rogue vampire. While trying to learn more about the new rogue, another person – a homeless man who is mentally ill – is turned as well. Can they find out who is turning people against their wills? Will Adele be able to let go of her memories of Jude and allow herself to embrace a new partnership?

My Thoughts: The 2nd in the set of spin-off books based on the Partnership in Blood series, *Reluctant Partnerships* is more mystery/thriller than romance, but the romance elements are definitely still there. I quite enjoyed being able to experience these characters in a slightly different light as they tried to discover which vampire was responsible for the attacks and forced turnings. If you enjoy a bit of mystery and excitement with your romance, this is definitely a book you will enjoy a lot. According to Tachna, she plans at least two more books in this spin-off set, the next of which she hopes to have published by 2012. Watch for it!

Joe Young says

Book has an interesting premise, Vampires aren't just cruel and evil demons. This book cast Vampires and Human Wizards as mutually beneficial partners with the ability to make a Vampire tolerant to Sunlight and strengthen them while at the same time lengthening a Wizards life and adding a portion of the Vampires abilities as well but, only through feeding. This only comes with finding the magical attraction that foretells a possible partnership. The Vampires and Wizards formed an alliance to survive a war that threatened to eliminate both species. Once they won their right to life, they were able to convince the general human

population that they were not a threat and through legislation gained equality with Humans under the law (still a tenuous right while everyone suspected Vampires of uncontrollable urges). The story was full of angst associated with Wizards and Vampires trying to find common ground without fearing the restrictions that relationships entail. Further complicating the partnership is the relative life expectancy of the partners, even Vampires hated the prospect of giving their love to such a temporary mate as a human Wizard. To complicate the story, a rogue Vampire was trying to build his power by turning random humans without their permission (an ethical and legal problem for both Vampires and Wizards and a threat to the delicate new alliance with Humans). The story explored a different view from the traditional Vampire story. The structural sources for feeding Vampires and the Institute that was formed to popularize the benefits of "Partners" as well as promoting seminars to bring both Wizards and Vampires together to answer their mutual partnership questions and provide a structured environment for both sides to meet potential partners and test their mutual attraction (a attribute of partner bonding). The cooperative search for the rogue Vampire and subsequent capture and imprisonment lent another element to the story. Interesting enough to keep me engaged in the story and focused on reading while ignoring competing alternatives. I found the very specific anatomical description of the characters sexual activities to be distracting. A less explicit description of their emotional ties would have forwarded the story line without interrupting it.

Lee says

Reluctant Partnerships, the second spinoff novel from the Partnership in Blood series, expands the family of partnered Vampire/Wizard pairs with the addition of Adele and Pascal, and Denis and Martin. The series as a whole is very good and I've truly enjoyed each of the books. However, *Reluctant Partnerships* left me a bit disappointed. So much of the story focused on the two burgeoning relationships that very little else was explored. The one consistent quality of this series has been the juxtaposition between the romances and the percolating subplots within the world around them. There was always a good balance of the two which gave the books a richer, and a fuller feel. I missed that in *Reluctant Partnerships*.

Regardless of my misgivings I did like the book and I give it three and a half stars, rounded up to four since we haven't been granted the use half stars.

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

This book veered away our favourite characters although they were always in the background of the story and remained relevant.

Raymond is now at l'Institut working full time bringing together small groups of wizards and vampires in an educational setting and laying out as truthfully as possible the gains and losses to be had from forming partnerships. At the end of each weekly seminar both groups are offered the chance to see if anyone in the room is their partner, there is no pressure either way but the partnerships that are newly formed are not between people as unsure of the facts as they were during the war that started this complicated endeavour.

Adele is in the unique position of not only having a partnership that didn't work but now her vampire is dead and Raymond wonders whether she will ever have another opportunity or whether Jude was the only partner that ever existed for her. That question is laid to rest when Adele finds a newly turned vampire, a young lady

who has been turned against her will, trying to commit suicide rather than live with the rather drastic changes that have been forced upon her. Pascale was grabbed outside her home and bitten viciously and then abandoned. She has no idea about the world of vampires let alone the partnerships formed with wizards and is in for a long bumpy ride.

If you have read the main series you may remember a young man called Denis left dying on the battlefield. When given the option he chose to become a vampire. Denis has now been a vampire for over 90 years and lives a fairly reclusive life since losing his original lover and source for feeding 30 years ago. He has recently become the leader of his small Cour when most of the vampires concerned disagreed with Renaud, the previous leader, over his thoughts about humans, other mortals and equality. He has been on the course offered by l'Institut and although he can see the benefits of having a partner he is still grieving and has no interest.

Martin Delacroix is a wizard from Canada spending a year at l'Institut to complete some research on wizards and vampires. When he offers to take Denis home one evening his displacement spell doesn't work and it looks as though another unexpected partnership has revealed itself.

Neither of these couples has it easy as they all have different reasons for not wanting lifelong binding commitments. A rogue vampire on the loose turning people without permission has everyone fraught and maybe the thing that makes them all realise that life is too short for worrying about things that are often out of their control.
