



Moonlight, Tiger, and Smoke

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Taken from their families and raised to be assassins, Moonlight and Tiger are the perfect weapons and secret lovers. Even when they are sent into service with different clans, their love remains pure and strong until a more insidious threat divides them.

When Moonlight realizes his master is manipulating people for his own ends, the discovery threatens not only Tiger, but their entire society. Betrayed by a fellow assassin, the men are tortured and broken. If their love and their people are going to survive, one of them will have to defy everything he knows and stand up for the only thing he believes is real: Love.

Moonlight, Tiger, and Smoke Details

Date : Published July 1st 2011 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN : 9781613720639

Author : Connie Bailey

Format : ebook 298 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Dark

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From Reader Review Moonlight, Tiger, and Smoke for online ebook

Moniquee says

3.5 star

I like how Connie Bailey woven up her supernatural plot into an action packed story and the way she brings out her characters caught my attention from the beginning to the end. There wasnt any boring parts that I had to skip through.

However, I couldnt give it the extra stars as there are a few minor drawbacks like how the heck Moonlight not catch any STDs with that much of sex, how did Tiger survive that gruesome pitfight and a few instances that had me stretching my head (oh well its fantasy)

Overall, this is one of those few I have no regrets buying.

Ayanna says

Tiger's a "full-fledged Iron man."

Oh, popular culture. How you invade my consciousness.

Uhh... yeah. I have no real complaints. Wow.

Hmm... a point about the names, though. They first introduce the name in Japanese, and then repeat it in English and create nicknames based on that. It's just odd because while the entire thing is in English, we as the reader ought to pretend as if the characters are speaking Japanese (or Korean, in the very beginning). I suppose it's not a big deal for others, but I have a bit of passing knowledge in Japanese, so, for example, the creation of a nickname for "Tanpopo" (Dandelion) as either "Dandy" or "Lion" doesn't quite work in Japanese unless it's being pronounced literally "Dandy" (dandi) or "Lion" (raion). This, of course, makes me wonder if all of the other names work like that - the name they're given is Japanese, but the pronunciations they use is a sort of English transliterated one.

There was also a mention of an accent. Weird, unless they're referring to English? What would a Parisian accent in Japanese sound like?

Ending seemed a bit too idealistic to me, but w/e.

The cover's gorgeous.

It brings up some really good points, but I didn't quite agree with the reasoning behind the way things played out towards the end.

Ah, well.

It kind of reminded me of ICoS a few times.

Alex Hahn says

I don't know what it is about Connie Bailey's books but I love them. This is one of my new favorites. I love how no matter what Moonlight and Tiger never give up on one another.

S says

The male/male version of Kill Bill? Perhaps. Regardless, I enjoyed *Moonlight, Tiger, and Smoke* because:

1. The premise is unique. It is a story of loss, family, coming of age, formative years, revenge, skill, sex, manipulation, and ultimately, love - all set in modern day Japan within a secret society of guardians.
2. It's a true good vs. evil tale. I have a soft spot for those.
3. I love conspiracies, and this one had that in spades.
4. It's well plotted and written.

3.5 stars (trending to 4) out of 5.

Jenn says

Blah

Anna C says

5++ stars

-edited-

Amazing book. Planned to buy the paperback, but didn't know if I could reread this in future.

Heavy angst warning for you before you read this book. Oh, and there's magic involved too. And this is a contemporary, not historical, if you expect that. I was disappointed at first because I was expecting some Hanbok (traditional outfit of Korean) with long spears and swords etc etc, but when I drown in it, wow...never mind the time or place, because the plot and world-building is awesome. The writing too, it's kinda poetic sometimes and I'm usually not that fond of poetic writing style, but it's really beautifully written and I loved this one. Don't ask me why, because I've no idea, lol.

I was eyeing this book for months, knew this one gonna be fantastic especially after I read **Nikyta's wonderful review** so I waited and waited the right mood, the right moment to read it. Note : you should read her review if you want a better idea about the plot and main MCs, I strongly urge you to do so. She will make you want to read this book, so be sure to check it out. :)

I was prepared for any dark angst from this book, but still... FUCK. This book is such a torture for my heart.

I nearly DNF this book at 71%, not because this book is such an awful read or boring trash or what. Far from it. This is a wonderful book. Everyone that love dark angst theme should read it. And maybe a masochist and sadist too, will enjoy this book. ;p

If I could describe what I felt when I reached around 71%-80% of this book, instead of using meme pics, let just say that I almost threw my desktop off my table. O___O I don't have bad habit like throw stuff or slam door to relieve my pent-up emotions...so yeah, you got the idea how much angry I was... I never thought that I went into berserk mode like that again after **Zankoku na Kami ga Shihaisuru/A Cruel God Reigns** . I raged, screamed, swore really loud that I kinda thanked that I happened to read this book in my own room, alone.

I read so many dark angst story in my life, one can be more cruel and barbaric and twisted than the other, and this one was lighter and more fluffy compared to them, but it was the the writing that struck my emotions hard. I hated Autumn, that rotten cruel sick bastard. He's an epitome of evil. I hated him so much that I wanted to strangle him to death, that's what I felt too when I read **Zankoku na Kami ga Shihaisuru**.

"He reminds me of the onnagata, the actors who take female roles. While watching, you're aware that they aren't women, but you don't feel as if you're watching men dressed up as women. You're watching... something else. A sort of blend, I suppose." -- Lord Raven

I can really imagine Kim Jae Joong from JYJ as Jaehan/Moonlight. A smexy guy that can bewitch both men and women. And he's Korean too, just like Moonlight. Black jet hair, black eyes, fair skin, gorgeous. Beautiful and handsome at the same time. It's like he has so many faces, so many sides. Just like Moonlight, you never knew his real self, only Tiger knew that. You should google JJ's pic when he wore a wig and dressed as a girl. More beautiful than real women.

But now I finished this book, I don't really want to see JJ acts as Moonlight if this book ever gets made into a movie. Moonlight's destiny was too cruel. Really. Too sad. Human shouldn't be treated like trash. I'm always shivering whenever I think that there's a possibility that JJ will meet this kind of sick treatment when he's going to military service. I hope Junsu, Yoochun and Yunho (who all enlisted at the same time with him) will always beside him, to protect him from any beast. We know what will happen when a beauty step into

the wolf's den...*cringe at the thought*

Okay, back to the topic. I was thinking that maybe Yunho from TVXQ can posed as Cheolsu/Tiger, lol. Now, who's gonna be Smoke? I've no idea. ;) or maybe Junsu from JYJ? ;) Anyway, I noticed that the author wrote some fanfic about JJ x Yunho too in her Livejournal, so maybe she was thinking about JJ and Yunho when she created Moonlight and Tiger. ;)

I loved the ending. However, Moonlight and his mother's brief reunion was kinda too coincidence, but it didn't bother me much. I believe there is a fine line between coincidence and fate. ;)

Nik says

Holy shit. Fucking BRUTAL. I feel like I was put through the fucking wringer, I loved and hated this book. Mostly hated it- I was sweating fucking bullets through this thing.

I'm gonna sit with this for a bit before I give it a review.

Damn.

Sherry says

I'm sorry, but this wasn't for me... the writing style felt messy and the POV was all over the place so it was hard to built a connection with the characters. Also maybe this is just because of my educational background but why did the author use the English translations for the names instead of the 'original' Japanese ones? The story, as far as I read it, played in Japan, the boys are forced to speak Japanese... every one does, so why the English names? I get why the author introduced the characters with both the Japanese name and it's English translation, which went something like this: "You are called Tora, but your people will rever to you as Tiger". This makes no sense in a Japanese-speaking environment... Again, maybe I'm too picky in this case but the writing style in general wasn't for me, so it's a DNF at around 40%.

L-D says

Okay wow. As I said in some of my friend's threads, this book made me feel like I was rode hard and put away wet. It was an angst-filled, edge of your seat, ride and I was pretty much STRESSED OUT nearly the whole time. I typically don't enjoy crazy amounts of angst in a book, but in this case, none of the characters rated a TSTL designation, and the angst was circumstance triggered and not decision triggered so I was able to deal.

6 boys are taken from their families at the age of 6 and taken to a remote island where they begin their training to become initiates of the Shadow. The Shadow is an underground group that attempts to right the wrongs of the world by assassinating people who have overstepped society's moral code. Tiger and Moonlight are teamed up as senpai (protector) and kohai (takes care of the senpai). From the outset, they are extremely close and help each other through the first 6 years of training. As a team, the 6 boys work well

together with Smoke and Seven pairing off, and Kite and Key pairing off. All the boys have strengths and weaknesses but they balance each other out. After the first 6 years, the boys become young men and are assigned to their respective tribes based on their skills. Iron (weapons), Monkey (clever), Feather (persuasive), Rose (delights), Dragon (guides/leaders), Lightning (instructors).

This part of the book was very exciting to me because it reminded me of a lot of the martial arts films I watched when I was younger where young novitiates were trained in the deadly skills of assassination or martial arts by their masters.

From the age of 12 until they become full members, the boys train in their respective callings. Though they are separated, Moonlight and Tiger never forget their deep feelings for each other that have grown deeper than simple friendship.

There were a lot of situations in this book that really stressed me out. The lives of the boys were not easy and they were often forced to do things they would not otherwise choose to do. The life that they have been relegated to becomes even more dire when they realize that there is deep corruption within the Shadow hierarchy.

I really liked the characters in this book. While the circumstances that brought the boys together were dark, their training really shaped the men that they became. And even though there was corruption within the Shadow, the boys grew into honorable and skilled men who had tremendous strength of character and an even stronger will to survive.

The action in this book is the action that I love to watch in movies. Yes, if there isn't an explosion, a bloody mauling, a shoot-out, or a high speed chase, I will probably fall asleep. This book hit all the right notes for me. I liked the plot, the characters, the action, and the cultural themes. If you like these things, I would recommend this book to you. But be forewarned, your blood pressure will be elevated to uncomfortable levels until you turn the last page. This is no fluffy happy romance - if you can't stand the heat...stay outta this kitchen.

Mimi says

DNF, I should have started a different first book from this author. I love the Japanese theme of assassins but I'm not ready to read it just yet.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

This is one book that made me feel just about every emotion I could. It's been hard trying to write a justifiable review for it because I'm just not sure how to put into words how much I enjoyed it.

Moonlight and Tiger have not had the best of lives. Taken from their homes at such a young age and then brought up in a society where they're expected to do illegal and horrible things, killing high profiled individuals who are bad for their organization or seducing them to get information that will be their demise is what their lives have become. Bleak is the most accurate word. The only thing that keeps Moonlight and

Tiger sane is each other. Their interactions every few months when they've done good is all they see of each other and the only times they can express their love without it being tainted by others. Unfortunately, they have to do some unmentionable acts to earn the privilege to see each other. Tiger, an Iron, is the best of the best when it comes to assassination and Moonlight, a Rose, is the best and most beautiful seducer. Unfortunately, the things Moonlight is doing and the lies he's been told about Tiger almost break him, causing him to become a shell of a man and almost useless. It's up to Tiger and Smoke to free Moonlight from the nonstop misery his life has become and almost at the price of their own.

These characters are something else. While you pity the things they have to do to stay alive and may even be disgusted at what they do, you can't help not being in love with them. The trials and tribulations they go through just to be able to see each other for a few days is heartbreaking to say the least. Moonlight is seductive, deceitful and can easily be defined as perfection. He's beyond beautiful and trained to be the perfect courtesan, spy and manipulator. He is the jewel of the Rose Tribe. He's both hated and loved by his organization and probably the most feared man for his abilities. He's vibrant and alive but only when it comes to being with Tiger. Tiger is fearless, ruthless and relentless. He's the pride of the Iron Tribe. He's a cold, cutthroat killer; the perfect assassin because he holds no emotions. Except for Moonlight. He's become the best because he knows when he pleases his superiors he gets to see Moonlight and all he and Moonlight want is to be free of their kidnappers and run away together somewhere quiet.

I, in all honesty, loved this book. I couldn't put it down once I started it. It's emotionally gut wrenching at times and sweet at others, suspenseful and left me hanging on the edge of my seat wanting to know what happens next. There's just something about Moonlight and Tiger that buried themselves in my heart and wouldn't let go. Everything they go through just to be together is insane but more than that their love for one another is impenetrable. It withstands so much and even after it all their love never lessens. It's intense.

The plot revolves around what Moonlight and Tiger go through. The first half is about their training then moves into their growing feelings, how they become lovers and the manipulation the head master, Autumn, uses on them. The second half of the book is more suspenseful dealing with mostly Tiger's missions with spurts of Moonlight's orders and how he's handling knowing he's being manipulated while trying to put up with it without getting killed. Tie in the fact that Smoke, one of the guys they grew up training with, becomes a betrayer then an accomplice creates a rather action-packed but somewhat angsty book. The world that was created for this story is exceptional. The different terms for the different sectors of the organization are ones that give the book a depth and understanding that made reading it even more enjoyable and interesting.

I truly adored this story and I recommend it to all those who think they'd like something like this. I'd love to see more of these characters and how they are going to handle their new lives.

Jennifer says

[I felt that the world presented in "Moonlight, Tiger, and Smoke", was well thought out and well done. However, I found the character

T.A. Webb says

Six year old boys are taken from their homes and families, shipped in crates together to a mysterious island and trained to become members of the secret Shadow World. Why, how, and what they are to do will keep you turning the pages all night long.

This book takes off at a dead run when six young boys stolen from their homes and form a creche and are trained to take their places in this secret world. Two of them, renamed Moonlight and Tiger, (all the boys taken to this terrifying world are required to leave their old lives and families and names behind), form a friendship that is as inevitable as is it forbidden. Smoke, another one of the boys, becomes important to both boys as they struggle to become men, and to the greater story later.

The two boys grow to adolescence, and realize individually that they love each other, which is forbidden in this world. They are separated in their training, but the bond never fails them. As they grow and age, their lives take them into the "real" world again, but the bond that started as friendship threatens to break them as men. To give too many details would be a disservice and ruin a fascinating, twisted and all too possible world.

Ms. Bailey creates a complete universe of wonder here. The boys and their world are fully developed, believable and relatable, surprisingly. Their story will amaze you, move you, and make you believe in the power of love.

Read this amazing book. You won't regret it.

Tom

Susan says

I'm not sure what I thought of this book. When I started it didn't appeal to me much, then I started to get in to it but then I started to enjoy it less again. I think if I could define it, I would say I felt uncomfortable and apprehensive a lot of the time. I read somebody else's comments who said they felt like they were getting gut punched over and over again and I felt a lot like this, too. I don't mind angst but in this book it was pretty much unrelenting. Not really what I am looking for in a book.

Heather♥ says

This was often a frustrating and tension-filled story but I still found myself reluctant to put it down. It sucked me in from the very beginning when these sweet six year old boys were stolen from their homes and forced to accept a new way of life as they were groomed and trained for specific clans of the Kagehito. We watched them bond and protect each other as they grew into adolescence but then they had to leave one another in order to continue their training with their designated clans. For Tiger it was as an assassin and for Moonlight it was in the art of pleasure. By early adulthood, the heart-breaking angst began for them. When Moonlight and Tiger were allowed to be together intimately for the first time on the night of Tiger's manhood initiation, the innocence and love they felt for each other would then be repeatedly exploited in order for their masters to control them. Each time you thought they might be allowed a little bit of happiness together, they would be cruelly separated, often for years at a time. It was harder for Moonlight to accept his fate because of the way his master would give him to anyone deserving of a "reward" or if it would give his master a strategic advantage, but he always had faith that his love for Tiger would get him through it. When he and Tiger finally agreed to run away together, the consequences and resulting punishments when they were caught

were horrifying. Moonlight's master Autumn was a real bastard. But with the risks taken by and the help of their friend Smoke who grew up with them, they were eventually able to reunite and change the future of the Kagehito. After such a beautiful tale of a love that survived despite the manipulations of outside forces, the ending seemed a bit rushed though and didn't leave me completely satisfied. After all the detailed angst Moonlight and Tiger suffered throughout the entire story, it felt like things were resolved a little too easily and it contradicted the risks and danger they had repeatedly faced until that point. And instead of a brief epilogue about the future changes in the organization, I would rather it had focused on Moonlight and Tiger as a couple, because after all it was their enduring love which got them through such a difficult journey. This was a very good book which I won't soon forget.
