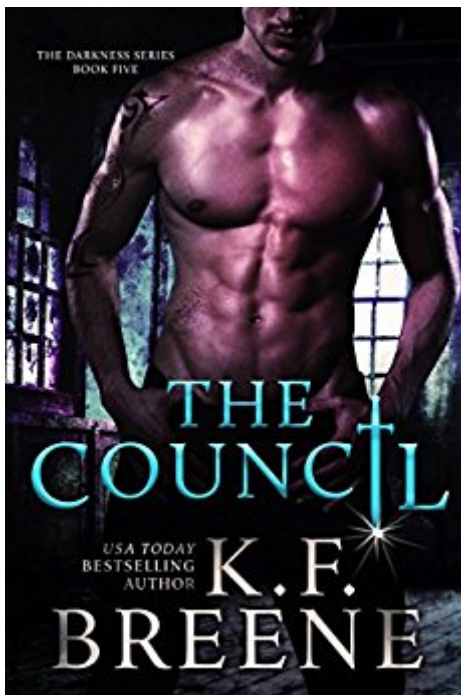


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The Council (Darkness #5)



Synopsis

With Sasha as the proclaimed Mage of high ranking power, she can't just slip under the carpet to a peaceful existence. Instead, she must present herself to the Council, a group of white mages who reside over the magical community, governing Stefan's people. There she must prove she has what it takes to be the mage of Stefan's clan, not something easily done. And Stefan, too, has been noticed by the large faction of rulers. An alpha leader with a firm hold over his people, he has outgrown in his position, and it shows. Ties to a human mage with a vast well of power, though, has made him a target. Sasha is sought after, and those who want to harness her power will take her by force if necessary. With Dominicus' and Toa's help, Sasha and Stefan must face the trials coming up. Proving themselves is the easy part. Getting out with their lives becomes the challenge.

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Customer Reviews

Alright, this one was also good, but had a huge issue with it. When they were at the mansion, it was not explained in a believable way why Stephen and Sasha had to constantly leave the room

separately to face challengers. That made no sense. They didn't even do meals together. Just seemed to wander the halls facing challenges. Since the challenges themselves weren't on the up and up, then why did they have to always be separate? I just wasn't buying it. Her dad was never far from his mate. If she was in danger of being kidnapped, why let her wander without him? They could have been together and still faced their challengers according to the rules of combat without any issue and it would have been more believable. There was no real good reason from them to be apart. Even if one had a meeting with councillors, the other could wait outside the door. And why she followed some guy from the pack she didn't know was pretty stupid. If she was needed someone would have called her. They did have phones, although you couldn't really tell. They are never utilized. Anyway, despite these things, I loved everything else about this story.

So, as expected, this sequel was good as previous ones. Unfortunately, I had some drag time throughout the book. I had trouble following Sashas growth in magic and personal one as I've read the last sequel at least a half a year ago (or 200 books or so). When I finally got some traction, life gets in my way. So, keeping that in mind, this book was probably more of 4.5 stars than 3.5. Beside a lot of action, intrigue, political power games and some romance, all characters are growing in some way and relationships between characters are developing in accordance. I don't agree with one of reviewers that it's weird for Sasha and Stefan to be mostly separated during their stay in Council mansion. As I see it, it was necessary for Sasha to reach her true potential as a Mage and as Stefan's co-leader. Also, last but not least, Charles, Jonas and Ann are sooooo hilarious and I can't wait for more of their banter. Hopefully, life will not intrude again in next day or two....

I really love these characters and the way they are growing in themselves and as a team/family. I am growing more in love with Jonas as well. I see he will get his own story as well. I love that I have the publication date of the next book as well. I know it's sappy but I would love Sacha to get pregnant. While it may not enhance the story forward i would love Stefan to have his dream come true.Charles is a dream and I love Tim & Ann for their support.Bring on number 4 I say!!!

Now that Stefan has chosen Sasha to be clan Mage, she must present herself to the Council, a group of white mages (as in power level, not as in good vs. evil) who reside over the magical community governing Stefan's people in order to prove that she has what it takes - and be given "the green light" so to speak. Stefan must also present himself as he has been noticed as quite the Alpha leader and as having outgrown

his position and striving for more *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ so he too must be vetted and prove himself as well. Generally this is a dicey experience at best, involving several weeks of challenges *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ both magical and physical (like duels sort of) *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ but of course there are rules. Or there were rules. Unfortunately, the Council has gone to @#\$. The leader is having a self-induced *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä Ä“lÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„çve lived forever fit of ennui *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä Ä• and can *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çt be bothered with *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä Ä|well anything. Everyone is jockeying for power in a back stabbing cut throat sort of way; which is complicated by the dissention between the North American and European branches; and then there *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çs the fact that Sasha is an elusive and much sort after black mage *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ and everyone and his brother who *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çs crooked wants to kill Stefan in order to kidnap Sasha and force her into a magical alliance. Despite having Charles and Jonas and the Mata at her side; Sasha has a fairly rough go of it (and in all fairness Stefan isn't having a walk in the park either); but she does gain even greater control over her magic and she kicks butt. Not as much as lÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„çd hoped from reading other reviews *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ but lÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„çve concluded that lÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„çm fairly bloodthirsty in my fictional life *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ because my idea of kicking butt was Sasha leaving a wasteland of bodies piled up. So when all was said and done, pretty much - there was a wasteland of dead bodies piled up *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ Sasha just couldn't *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çt take credit for all of them. (actually her personal killing spree was pretty limited *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ but she still did kick butt). The Council was heavy on action and adventure; with less focus on the romance *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ although Sasha and Stefan and their fated, soulmate, one of a kind connection- is always at the heart of the story *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ and Sasha does save her man and the day as well. The story actually could have ended here *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ but I think lÄfÄçÄ â ¬Ä â„çm glad that it doesn't *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çt and that there are 3 more books *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â œ because they *ÄfÄçÄ* â ¬Ä â„çre fun.

Even having read the series multiple times, The Council still brings tears to my eyes. Sasha, Stefan, Jonas and Charles, along with Tim and the other Mata, run a gamut of challenges at the Council. As Sasha and Stefan are challenged separately to test their strengths, and find any weaknesses, they continue to rise and beat their opponents. When they are finally given the OK to go back home, they are both kidnapped. You have to read this book to join in in the magic and mayhem that ensues. Old enemies are still a thorn in their side, and the demons get worse. A must read series for anyone who loves the supernatural world.

I was lucky enough to receive an advanced copy of this book. And yes, I do mean lucky. K.F. Breene nailed it again with another riveting book in the Darkness series. I often found myself devouring the content so fast I would go back and read the page again just to make sure I didn't miss a single, tiny detail. I found this book predictable, yet surprising. Predictable in the sense that I felt myself rooting for something to happen every time the intensity was kicked up a notch, and my hopes for what would transpire were not only met, but exceeded. This was a really exciting book to read, and without giving too much away- I'm SO happy to see how Sasha is developing. Jonas and Charles still have their wit about them, and Jonas is quickly becoming my favorite, in his own way!

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