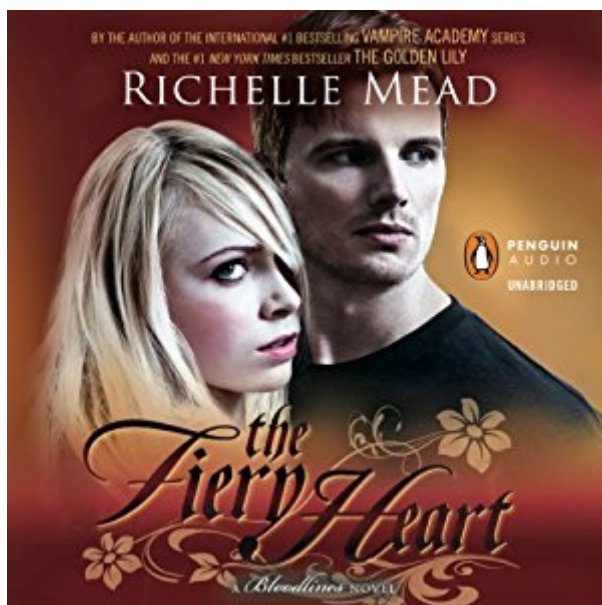


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The Fiery Heart: Bloodlines, Book 4



Synopsis

Sydney Sage is an alchemist, one of a group of humans who dabble in magic and serve to bridge the worlds of humans and vampires. They protect vampire secrets - and human lives. In the Indigo Spell, Sydney was torn between the alchemist way of life and what her heart and gut were telling her to do. And in one breathtaking moment that Richelle Mead fans will never forget, she made a decision that shocked even her.... But the struggle isn't over for Sydney. As she navigates the aftermath of her life-changing decision, she still finds herself pulled in too many directions at once. Her sister Zoe has arrived, and while Sydney longs to grow closer to her, there's still so much she must keep secret. Working with Marcus has changed the way she views the Alchemists, and Sydney must tread a careful path as she harnesses her profound magical ability to undermine the way of life she was raised to defend. Consumed by passion and vengeance, Sydney struggles to keep her secret life under wraps as the threat of exposure - and re-education - looms larger than ever. Pulses will race throughout this thrilling fourth installment in the New York Times best-selling Bloodlines series, where no secret is safe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally posted on my blog: Tangled Up In Books
The Fiery Heart was both my favorite book in the series thus far and the hardest to read. When I opened the book and saw the first chapter was in Adrian's POV I had an initial burst of excitement and then my stomach dropped because if you're at

all familiar with this series and Adrian Ivashkov than you're familiar with his bouts of depression and the vices he uses for coping mechanisms. It's one thing to witness his self-destruction secondhand as you're reading either from Rose or Sydney's POV as we've done up to this point. And it is an entirely new experience to be inside his head when he hits those really low spots and watch his mind spin out of control when in the grips and aftermath of spirit. I was brought to tears and it really hit home just how fragile his mind is.--"I'm not your concierge. Neither is Sydney. I don't know why she always takes care of that stuff for you. She should be dealing with things that are essential for your survival. Ordering pizza isn't one of them." I knew there was going to be a lot of frustration while reading this book, due to the arrival of a certain character at the end of Indigo Spell. The level of that frustration, though, really took me by surprise. The temptation to throw my book across the room hit me hard on more than one occasion. I knew before I even started reading exactly where things would eventually lead just from seeing her name appear on the page. Yet even that predictability and frustration didn't take anything away from how insanely good this book was.--"And don't think for an instant that I wouldn't do terrible, unspeakable things if it could save someone I love." The more I get into this series the deeper my feelings go for these characters. Whether it's ones I never thought I'd feel anything for really like Ms. T, Wolfe, Angeline and Trey, who I now find myself excited to get to the next scene they'll appear in. Or characters that I've loved since I first met them like Adrian, Sydney, Jill and Eddy. I can't get enough. They've all made changes since the start of the series. Some in very small ways and others so drastically that if you went back and started at the beginning again you'd hardly recognize them.--Whereas Angeline's antics made me want to pull out my hair sometimes, he found them endearing. I swear sometimes Angeline didn't even have to be in a scene for you to be laughing at her antics. One character would relate to another what zany thing she'd recently done and I would burst with laughter. Because it was all just so sweet and endearing and they're things that are basically common knowledge to you and me but she comes from a different world and doesn't know any better, like when she went on about how the meerkat wasn't really a cat...I went from being so leery of having her added to the storyline to wondering, like Adrian had at one point, what their lives would have been like without her. She was definitely a bright spot of comic relief to lighten up things when they were either frustrating or sad. Just about everyone had their moments of humor but I adored Angeline's the most.--Everyone said I concealed my feelings, but he always seemed to know how I felt. Oh my word and things have really heated up between Adrian and Sydney. If this were any other series and any other set of characters I probably would blame my love for all things Sydrian on the fact that we're dealing with a forbidden romance because, let's face it, I'm all about the taboo when it comes to reading romance. While I do love that

extra little something it adds to the story, I really do just love both of these characters so much. Just a discreet shared look across a room full of people is enough to set me into a swoon frenzy when it comes to these two. I'm not sure I've ever shipped anything so hard before.--"Things have fallen apart," I said, finally taking the dragon. "The center didn't hold." There's only two books left for me at this point. I'm feeling a mixture of excitement, nerves and sadness. I'm so excited to see what will come of these characters, all of them, and this world that they live in. I'm nervous for many reasons. One of them of course being that crazy cliffhanger, once again something to reinforce how glad I am I waited until all the books were out before I started! Another just the worry of seeing everything come together and the, hopefully, closure of everything going on with all these people from both Vampire Academy and Bloodlines both since the storyline affects everyone. Plus my track record with being happy with series endings is a bit shaky. And I'm sad because that's just it, it's going to be an ending. But until then I just need to make it through Silver Shadows...

Warning!! This review contains spoilers for earlier books in the Vampire Academy and Bloodlines series. Every time I think Richelle Mead can't make me fall more in love with her Bloodlines series, she completely proves me wrong. And I couldn't be happier about it! The Fiery Heart takes place shortly after the conclusion of The Indigo Spell with Sydney and Adrian's worlds continuing to get more complicated. I loved almost everything about this book from the evolution of Sydney and Adrian as characters and a couple to the side characters to the supernatural setting as a whole. I have mentioned this in almost every review of a Bloodlines book, but I feel like it needs to be repeated. I absolutely adore Sydney! I am still a huge fan of Rose from Vampire Academy, but I connected with Sydney immediately and am so happy with the way that she is being developed. This book showcases how much she has grown comfortable with the Moroi/dhampir world and that she is thinking for herself rather than relying on the Alchemists' rhetoric to run her life. But, despite all these changes, it is still nice to see the main parts of her personality remain strong from her love of structure to her intelligence to her work ethic. Adrian is just one of those characters that seems to jump from the pages in every scene he is in. Like Sydney, he has evolved in a way that I did not think was possible upon his first meeting. The Fiery Heart is very important for his character growth because he is forced to really look at his reliance on spirit and what it is doing to his mental state. He takes some pretty big steps to showing others (besides Sydney) how valuable he is to the future of his race and I loved every minute of it. Something different in The Fiery Heart is the fact that it is told from both Sydney and Adrian's points of view. The author has stated that it was important for the future of the series because of the growing scope of the plot. I think it really makes the book

stand out because, for the first time, readers are getting to see into Adrian's mind and truly understand his view of the world he lives in. One thing that did surprise me when reading this book was how well-balanced the alternating pov chapters were. Usually this writing style can make a reader feel rushed or annoyed, but that never happened to me. Another thing that makes me love the Vampire Academy/Bloodlines series is the development of the side characters. Long-time series fans have spent a lot of time with these people and it is wonderful to see them return. I loved getting to see more of Jill, Angeline, and Trey. Plus I have a huge soft spot for Eddie and my heart just broke for him at the end of the book. He is such a strong guardian, but has some vulnerabilities that are hidden deep down. It was also tons of fun to get some more interaction with Dimitri, Rose, Lissa, and Christian. There are two main new secondary characters that I enjoyed meeting and seeing how they become a part of the larger cast. First, there is Zoe Sage (Sydney's younger sister) who is sent to Palm Springs by the Alchemists to help her sister keep an eye on the Moroi. Her appearance really complicates Sydney's life because she is forced to hide how close she has become with everyone. Then, there's Neil, a new dhampir who is obsessed with his duty to the point of being an annoyance. His straight-laced first impression hides someone who truly believes in their duty and wants to do anything to help. The Fiery Heart continues to help develop two of the main plot lines in the series. The Moroi are continuing to make advances in their attempts to use spirit to fight against the Strigoi. This book brings about the possibility of immunization of Moroi and dhampirs which could be quite a change in the whole war. Readers also get to see Sydney continue her work on breaking the mind control within the Alchemist tattoos with the help of her increasing magical prowess. Both of these plot lines have taken major step forwards and I am excited to see where things go from here. In conclusion, I continue to be impressed with this series and how it manages to keep the story lines fresh and the characters ever-changing. Sydney and Adrian are amazing (together and individually) and Richelle Mead knows how to get the most of their collective personalities. The only thing I have left to say is that I cannot believe I have to wait until July of 2014 to see what happens next especially because of that killer ending. Highly recommended!!

This book has so much going for it. It was better, by far, than The Indigo Spell (which I liked). I liked having the alternating viewpoints, and seeing things from Adrian's perspective once in a while. I liked how Sydney is growing in her magic. I liked how this book moved other characters' story lines on, rather than just Sydney running around doing things on her own. I enjoyed "seeing" Rose and Dimitri and Lissa once again. I even liked that Adrian finally sought a diagnosis and treatment for his mood disorder. What was really annoying about this book was the emphasis on sex. I get that Adrian

and Sydney's relationship is moving and growing, but do we have to focus SO much on the intimacy? It wasn't graphic, by any means, but this book was just a little too full of hormones for my liking. I guess because I kept picturing my 13 year old daughter reading this last year. I had raved to her so much about Vampire Academy, which has a definite love story and some love scenes but nothing like the passion and longing described in this book. She read that series and then moved on to Bloodlines. I usually won't recommend a book to my teenage family members until I've read it, and this is why. The Fiery Heart ended on a cliffhanger and it appears that Silver Shadows will be an exciting read.

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