



Shadow Allegiance

Lacy Yager

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A vampire hunter-turned-vampire seeks to destroy her enemies. Until she falls for one of them.

A Chaser born to kill vampires, sixteen-year-old Rachel Campton has grown up in her older brother's shadow. Until she wakes up a vampire, her own mortal foe. She's stronger, faster than her human self, but haunted by bloodlust and the loss of her beloved younger sister. Friendless and lost in enemy territory, Rachel must rely on Alex Wellington, a former nemesis and centuries old vampire who looks like a college football player.

As Rachel goes deep into vamp territory, she learns there is more to the vampire life than killing humans. She also discovers another side to Alex. He is more than a murderer, he is someone that she starts to fall for. Rachel faces the ultimate choice--her new life and unexpected love or the family she left behind, the family that may now want her dead.

Shadow Allegiance Details

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From Reader Review Shadow Allegiance for online ebook

Kaitlin says

Source: I received an e-arc of this book through Netgalley in return for an honest review. Thank you Aspendawn Books for letting me review it!

Sometime in early 2012, I read an ebook I got for free on Amazon. I'm not sure really what pushed me to read it--I think I just chose a random one that sounded interesting. I had no idea I would like the book as much as I did, but I liked it so much that I immediately went online to find out when the next one would come out, but . . . there was no news of it. There was no news of it for a long time, and until I randomly came across it on Netgalley, I had no idea my wish for a sequel was granted. I was really excited to *Shadow Allegiance*, and although it didn't live up to the greatness that was *Unholy Alliance*, it was still a good sequel and I'm still hoping to read more in the series. (I really, really hope the author will continue it!)

PACED WELL

One of my biggest problems I've come across with some other smaller published books have been the pacing. In other words, I've read many smaller published (and indie) books that felt too rushed--rushed to the point where development fell short and depth that could've been there wasn't reached. This book, though, didn't have that problem (except for in one area, which I'll explain soon). Despite being a pretty short novel, it wasn't the kind of short that felt too lacking. I usually avoid shorter books because they feel really unfulfilling for me, but in this case, there was only one part that I felt should've been longer and less rushed.

RUSHED ENDING

I felt like the ending came too soon. There were many things I felt could've been tied up or at least visited once more before the end of the book, like Genevieve (a biochemist). It was she was forgotten. There were a few chapters told from her POV, but then she sort of disappeared from the story before her role was clear (I believe the last mention of her was at the 70 percent mark of the book). Maybe if the author visited Genevieve's part of the story once more, the ending would've felt less rushed.

CHARACTERS

There were a lot of characters with their own POV's featured in the book: Rachel, Alex, Maggie, Lily, Genevieve, and Shane. I had mixed feelings over Rachel and Alex (whose part of the book took place in the UK). I wasn't a huge fan of Alex, who is basically the "bad boy," but I sort of liked him around Rachel, who was a Chaser (AKA vampire hunter) that turned into a vampire. He seemed like a better guy around her.

Maggie and Shane . . . I just love them. I wish they showed up more in the book as a couple. They were one of the biggest reasons why I wanted a sequel so much--they're both really good characters and they are really good together. Hopefully they'll show up more in a sequel. They're my favorite characters from the series!

PLOT

This hadn't initially stood out as a review topic before, but now that I've been thinking more of the book and recalling what happened, I had to include it. This book didn't seem to have a well defined plot to it. Rachel and Alex's feeling for one another kind of . . . dominated it. I know a lot of other stuff happened and the book wasn't *just* about how that couple worked out their feelings, but . . . I can't remember there being another big part of the plot other than that.

OVERALL

Shadow Allegiance was no where as good as the first book in this series. I still liked it because of the good pacing and the familiar characters, but many things were lacking. I still hope that there will be a third book because I really liked the first one and I would love to see a sequel as good, or even better, than it.

That said, even if you aren't very interested in this series after reading this series, try *Unholy Alliance* out! I highly recommend it. It's a really good book and I don't recall it lacking the things that its sequel had.

Gaele says

I had not read the first in the series, and while there were some moments that took a bit of backstory filling-in for me to grasp who knows who, the story flowed fairly simply with several clever twists and unique voices to give characters depth and feel.

Rachel has disappeared to London to hunt the vampire responsible for threatening the safety of her youngest sister. Caught in her mission, she is attacked by a mob of vampires and turned: with her family comprised of chasers she doesn't feel that she can return home.

Alex is tasked with watching Rachel for the General, a vampire that is building a curious sort of army of vampires with a purpose yet unknown. A vampire for many years, he is instantly attracted to and challenged by Rachel.

Told in contrasting points of view, the story manages to imbue the character's own concerns and thoughts, as well as their fears about their natures and their own self-esteem issues from before they were turned. Both characters are ostensibly teens, although Alex was turned a century before: yet emotionally they are both speaking and relating with that late teen angst so common to their age.

Although this is action packed, this story also has a sweetly developing romance that allows the characters to fight their darker natures and decide on the path they will take: this means that both characters need to explore their own strengths and weaknesses, and make amends for the wrongs they have lived with ever since.

This was a fun read, a bit different from the normal teen vamp trope and all the more welcome for it. The issues that both Rachel and Alex need to deal with for their own growth, and to make room for a relationship that will help them continue to grow toward the positive are well documented and realistic, and both have come to find a level of acceptance in their new situation that is fitting.

While I didn't read the first in the series (*Unholy Alliance*) I would recommend that readers start there, and then read this and the companion, *Rival*, to get a fuller sense of the characters and the back story that will enhance the experience.

I received an eBook copy from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Kinga Hosszu says

I was instantly attracted to this book because of its subject matter (vampires) and the unusual way it handles said subject (vampire chaser turned vampire. Talk about being your own worst enemy).

I liked the story. It's well thought out, and the author did a great job constructing the plot so the story was always moving forward. This is the second book in the series, and while I didn't read the first book, it wasn't hard to keep up with the story or the characters. I think this could have even been a stand alone book, because the main characters were a different set of people than in the first book. Probably I would have understood more of the background if I did read the first book, but it never became a big issue.

The characters in the story left me lukewarm. They felt a little two dimensional, because I didn't get enough of their internal struggle to get emotionally invested. Rachel, the main character, was very impulsive, and made some stupid decisions, which got her into trouble (like being turned into a vampire because she wandered off alone). Her impulsiveness didn't bother me as much as the fact that I was never sure why she made impulsive decisions. In real life, impulsive people usually have strong emotional reasons for their actions, and Rachel's emotional dilemmas didn't shine through the story. On the plus side, I really liked that she stood up for herself and wasn't dependent on others to protect her.

The story kept jumping between the point of view of different characters. It's a good thing their names were listed before each chapter, because I wouldn't have been able to figure out otherwise. There wasn't a distinctive voice for each character, so the multiple POV fell flat.

Because I wasn't emotionally invested in the characters, I couldn't fully relate to the story either, so I don't think I would read the next book in the series. However, I'm a tough critic, and the story kept me interested enough to read until the end. I would recommend this book for fans of YA vampire love stories.

This book was given to me by the author for an honest review. Thank you, Lacy, for letting me read your book.

Mike says

Wow! That is all that I can say. I just devoured this in one sitting and after a day or two I think that I am going to have to devour it again. Yager has created this totally believable, intriguing, and unique world. It is a world full of danger, action, romance, and heart. I love the connections between the Chaser families - both the living Camptons and the vampire Wellingtons (although I miss getting to know more about Maggie's brother Daniel in this installment - I hope that we see more of him in the future). Rachel is a wonderful and complicated character who you want to cheer and shake at the same time and I am happy we get to see so much more of her than we did in Unholy Alliance. I love being introduced to the supernaturals (or witches since that is what they all seem to be so far) and I hope that we begin to see more of them and their abilities in the future. Even the humans that are joining in this battle, Lily and Genevieve, are such strong characters and such unique and talented individuals - even if they don't see it all the time. This reminds me of the Discovery of Witches trilogy by Deborah Harkness or even more the Night world series by J. L. Smith where the supernatural world is slowly starting to come together. There is this wonderful sense of the creatures of the supernatural choosing sides between good and evil and of this epic battle that is on the horizon - and that is just thrilling to see. At the same time there is a strong grounding in the individual characters stories and connections. I loved the interactions between Alex and Rachel - there is a beauty to the ebb and flow of their relationship that brings a smile to your face and makes your heart beat a little faster. I love that we get to see things that are happening from the viewpoint of multiple characters - something that again reminds me of the Night World but whereas that series picks a different character to focus on each book this one manages to have multiple storylines happening within the same story and does it flawlessly. I wish that the books were a

little bit longer, once you are in this world you don't want to leave it and there is so much happening that each book could easily be twice as long. However that does make me all the more anxious to read the next installment which I hope will come out soon :).

Stacy Sabala says

Book Review- Shadow Allegiance by Lacy Yager

Rachel Campton is a chaser and she is on a mission. She has snuck out of the chaser compound and has made her way to London. She is going to hunt down the vampire named Stephen and kill him. He tried to kidnap her little sister Chloe. Unfortunately when she gets there nothing goes as she plans and she is attacked before she even has a chance to get close to him. The vampires that attack her don't kill her but instead turn her into one of the monsters that she hunts. She is devastated knowing that she can never go home. However her goal remains the same. She is going to take Stephen out before she takes herself out.

Alex Wellington is a vampire and he watches from the roof of the vampire compound as Rachel is turned. The General instructs him to keep an eye on her. Alex and Rachel have a history. He fought against her when her sister was almost kidnapped from Wellington Castle. He has a lot of respect for her as a fighter even though she is a chaser. In fact he has thought a lot about her since.

Rachel is unsure of Alex. He is her enemy but he is helping her. She doesn't trust him but maybe he and his friends can help her get to Stephen.

Of course all her well made plans fall apart when she meets the person who the General has been holding captive. She also doesn't know what to think when she and Alex grow closer. They are enemies, aren't they?

I really liked this book. It continues the story where the previous one left off. I like how the author jumps from each character's perspective. It shows the story from many different angles which intrigues me. The characters have a lot of depth and history which gives the reader something to invest in.

The storyline was full of action, angst and uncertainty. The fight scenes were well written for a younger audience. The characters also were unsure of themselves and where they fit in, but continued to do their best to continue protecting themselves and the ones they love. It was an excellent read and I highly recommend this book to everyone. I give it a 4 out of 5.

Candace says

I received a copy of this book from the author in return for an honest review.

A vampire book... With a twist! Would highly recommend this series for fans of YA vampire novels that are looking for a bit more depth.

When I found out that Rachel was the focal point of part 2 in the series, I was a bit concerned. Not only did I feel she was a little one-dimensional in book 1, I also wasn't a fan of her attitude. However, she grew on me. This book felt like there was a lot more depth to the characters than the previous one; they had emotion, personality, feelings. It also wasn't all about love, which tends to happen with YA vampire books as of late. In fact, I appreciated that it was deeper and more soul-searching than most books in the genre. However, Maggie's character seems to be a bit of an afterthought and her personality doesn't shine nearly as much as it did in book 1, so beware if you are a Maggie's fan!! I'm hoping this is just Rachel character building and that we will get to see all the characters richly written in following books in the series.

Lori Palle says

“I hate what I’ve become. I hate myself. But that’s nothing new.”—Rachel

Rachel kills vampires; she wasn’t supposed to become one! But, here she is, vamped out and being helped by a vamp who should be an enemy. Instead, Alex is showing her that being a Chaser—a vampire hunter—isn’t who she was meant to be. Meanwhile, Rachel is trying to convince Alex that they’re more than killers. With enemies gathering power to destroy all that Rachel loves, the two of them need to learn that both of them might be right...

“Have I really been living pre-Rachel? Or just existing?”—Alex

This was an entertaining read that is clearly written by someone who likes fight/action scenes! We’ve got plenty of sparring and battle scenes throughout as the action doesn’t seem to tire for long. When we do have a break from the action, we have sweet PG romance, tender moments between friends, and great characterization. The characters are very easy to like.

On the other hand, there are a lot of characters having their own first-person POV chapters. While I wouldn’t mind this in a long novel, this novel seemed on the shorter side so with so many characters and story lines going on, it felt jarring at times, switching back and forth. Since the character voices are all similar, it seemed like it would have been better suited for longer third-person chapters.

This is the second novel in the series—I haven’t read the first novel—so that could be why I found it jarring. We have to play catch-up although there is enough recap to figure out what’s going on. In fact, there’s enough recap that the first book is pretty much totally spoiled so if this seems like the kind of series for you, start with the first book! However, I did read a novella that happens concurrently, so it was fun seeing how the two linked (very brief mention of a novella scene, so no cameos, unfortunately).

Since it seemed like there are several larger story arcs, I was bummed there wasn’t more to the novel although there is a fantastic resolution for the Rachel/Alex story line that I loved. I especially loved how Rachel was able to come to grips with her situation, and how Alex had such interesting an unexpected depth to him. When it comes to vamps, you can think of Buffy/The Vampire Diaries where vampires can turn off their ‘vamp side’ and feel all sad and remorseful or turn on their ‘vamp side’ and get stronger, scarier, and guilt-free. Aside from an aversion to sun with the vamp on option, I’m sure you can guess which option most (aka pretty much all) vampires choose.

Overall, it’s an entertaining novel that’s clearly a middle of the series book. This is a 4.5 out of 5 for me!

(Originally posted on my blog; I received a Netgalley copy in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.)

Nelia Madeira says

This may be my favorite of the series so far, it's about Shane's sister Rachel. She HATES vampires, cannot stand them as she grew up as a vampire Chaser, born to kill vampires and she loves that. Been in her older brother's shadow her whole life, there is nothing that she wishes more that to prove to him that she can be like him. That is until she wakes a vampire, her own mortal foe. At first Rachel doesn't know what to do, she

can't think straight, then she decides that she will just kill herself, but she is haunted by bloodlust. And then she notices that as a vampire; she is stronger, faster than her human self and she feels lost and confused.

The worst is when she realizes that she has to rely on Alex Wellington, a former nemesis and centuries old vampire who also looks hot, very, very hot. Once they fought each other and now she has to depend on him? Talk about been confused...

As Rachel relies on Alex and meets other vampires, she also learns that there is more to the vampire life than killing humans. And she discovers a side of Alex that she didn't think possible; he is more than a murderer and she is afraid, very afraid, afraid that she is falling for him.

Rachel ends up to have to make a choice: her new life with Alex who she is falling in love with or her family; the one that may want her dead now.

There are a lot more that happens in this book; you get to see older characters back, YEAH. And Rachel finds out really important things in this book, things that makes SO much sense.

But I really enjoyed Rachel and Alex love story, it was so well written, Rachel was someone with a hard head and someone that you thought would end up alone at the end, but Lacy Yager did a fantastic job with this book. Loved it.

4 out of 5 stars, pick it up because I'm sure you will love it too.

Katherine Paschal says

Rachel leaves her family and friends to fly to London to kill Stephen, wanting revenge for his previous attack. The General, the head of the vampire military, has Rachel turned against her will. Alex, Maggie's ambivalent cousin is tasked with keeping an eye on Rachel, making it hard for him to fight his attraction. Rachel has to come to term with her new status as well as her feeling for Alex, as well as facing the coming war.

Book 2 in the series picks right up where book 1 ends. I would not recommend this book for anyone who has not read the first book, even though you can technically read it as a stand alone, you would miss out on the character's history.

I really enjoyed book 2, even more than book 1. I think it is mainly because there was so much action that the book was an incredibly quick read, I just flew through it. My biggest complaint that it ended too soon, I wanted more story and there are no other books out for me to read. I think I also liked this book better than the first because the relationship between Alex and Rachel seems like it would work out better than Maggie and Shane from the first book. They are not the same species, one immortal and the other not, and the relationship just seems doomed. Alex and Rachel on the other hand have so much potential, and lifetimes together.

I love how each chapter is told from a different character's point of view, be it Rachel or Alex, but also Maggie and Shane from the first book, and side characters that I now know have the potential to be so much more. The characters have so much personality and depth, they practically jumped off the pages, even new characters who are barely seen here. The world building became so much more complicated and interesting in this book, with new breeds of supernaturals, hierarchy as well as a ton of new characters thrown into the mix. I look forward to seeing what happens next, especially to Lily and the genius Genevieve. I also hope something good happens in Maggie and Shane's relationship, so they can have a happily ever after, like he is actually supernatural too.

I really enjoyed this second installment in this unique supernatural world, my only complaint was a little too short, and I look forward to more to come.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Cassandra says

My Thoughts - 4 out of 5 Unicorns - I really liked it!!!

I have this book in ebook in a bundled boxed set, and I won an audiobook copy through a multi-author giveaway.

The cover looks like she is ready to kick butt. I like it :)

Okay, another new narrator to get used to. After a while, I did like the new narrator, but it is odd to switch to a new narrator for every book (well at least in my opinion as the listener). I hope the next book is done by either the narrator from book 1 or this one.

Lots of action in this book, and I loved it. I wasn't sure I was going to like Rachel or Alex, but they grew on me. Rachel sort of comes into her own after the change and becomes this person I really liked. Alex started a bit rough, but in the end, I was rooting for him.

I really like Lacy Yager as an author, and I can't wait to see what happens next. Of course, you should probably know that this book ends in one heck of a cliffhanger. This doesn't bother me, but my son screamed at the car when it finished where it did, and I know a lot of readers won't read cliffhangers if the next book isn't out, but good news it is out. Lacy is great with her descriptions, and it is easy to imagine the story in your head while you read or listen.

I hope things go the way I want in the next book and that I will get all the awesome characters in one book. I bet this next book is going to be fantastic. I really wish this was out in audiobook already, but I'll have to read the last book in the bundle I bought when I get through the list I already have to read.

I recommend this series to YA vampire fans to like the strife of the good guys versus the bad like Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Charmed TV series. I also really want to add this series to my classroom library in the future to share it with my students.

Marla says

[
Maggie's cousin, Alex is not a good guy either, but it was nice to see love change his attitude. And it will be nice to have more vampires on Shane and Maggie's team. The addition of Rachel's cousin, Evan Campton, a mind-controlling warlock

Leah says

What happens when your entire life is turned upside down in a moment, when you become the very thing you use to hunt? This is what Rachel faces in Shadow Allegiance and Lacy Yager draws you into the world with ease.

Shadow Allegiance starts off with Alex watching Rachel being turned into a vampire and him being told to keep an eye on her. He isn't given any further instruction, simply that. Rachel is not happy when she awakens and realizes she is now that which she use to hunt. Given Rachel has no where else to go she chooses to accept Alex's help and hopes she can still accomplish her goal behind coming to London, track down Stephen and kill him.

Rachel instills herself within the vampire world and adjusts to her new life as a vampire. She makes friends and starts to fall for Alex, yet she refuses to admit it. Since Alex has taken her within the barracks she decides to try and explore and hopes she can track down Stephen. This puts her on the General's bad side and since Alex follows her, he ends up in trouble as well.

They run off and attempt to make plans to hunt down Stephen. They have a disagreement and Rachel ends up running off to get to Stephen on her own. Alex finally realizes his mistake and knows that they can make this work if he can just get to Rachel in time and tell her that he's in love with her and he wants to change and be a good vampire like his cousin, Maggie.

I really enjoyed Shadow Allegiance, it kept me interested from the beginning to the end and left me wanting to know what happened next. Rachel and Alex were easy to relate to and I couldn't help but root for them from the very beginning.

My only real dislike for Shadow Allegiance was the constant changing of characters in Shadow Allegiance. The chapters are short and when every chapter is a new character it makes it difficult to follow in the beginning. But once I knew who all the characters in Shadow Allegiance were it flowed much better and I was able to follow it without difficulty.

****I received a copy of this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Shay Williams says

First off since I tend to rant about books in a series not standing alone, I wanted to give kudos to Ms. Yager. I knew when I chose this book that it was the second in a series but I had totally forgotten all about it when I went to read this book. I wasn't reminded until I finished the book and there was a little blurb in the back of my e-book about the first one. Well done! SHADOW ALLEGIANCE does a wonderful job of standing all on it's own.

This book is mainly about Rachel and Alex but it does also touch base with a few other characters. Since each chapter is being told from different person's perspective, I did really appreciate the fact that along with chapter numbers there is also the character's name. Otherwise I know that I would have been lost. As it was, I got to know intimately a few different characters, all with different strengths, backgrounds and voices.

I found that the plot moved along at quite a clip and was easily able to keep my interest. I would have appreciated just a tad more background on the villain but I can't really complain since the main encounter with him occurred in the first book (yeah the one I didn't realize I had missed). There was a lot of violence but what does one expect from a book contain vampires and the ones that kill them. I will admit that it slightly bothered me to watch a vampire that has over two centuries falling in love with a sixteen year old

girl but I can see it as each was willing to accept the other as they and their past regardless of how long it was.

Since I plan on going back and reading the first book along with watching out for further releases, I am sure that it comes as no surprise that I do recommend this book to my readers. I do recommend this book to any of my readers who enjoy the paranormal and vampires. It has romance, danger, friendship and love so what else could a person want?

***** I received this book at no charge from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions expressed within are my own.

Kim says

I have really enjoyed these books! They are vampire books with the most important of vampire tropes included, but with a fresh new premise. There is a lot of depth in these books through some interesting subplots that add a lot to the story.

This installment focuses on Rachel, a Chaser from the first book, and Alex, Maggie's vampire cousin. In *Unholy Alliance*, Rachel was my least favorite character, even over the "bad guys." So I went into this book with a bit of trepidation... which I totally didn't need! We got to learn so much more about her, things that completely explain why she has been the way she has. We also learn a lot about Alex and discover that there is a lot more to him than what we saw in the last. I love seeing the "bad boys" fall for the girl!

One of the things I like most about this series is that the love and romance, while a part of the story, isn't the sole focus. There is so much more to this book. There are a lot of other themes going on that make the book relatable, despite the supernatural aspects.

Things to love...

--Rachel. Even more than Rachel herself, I loved what she stood for. She was a strong and independent girl who was more than capable.

--The focus. Love and romance is great, but I was glad that the focus was not on that alone.

Things I wanted more/less of...

--More Maggie. She was in this book, but her character was really not used very much.

Some Quotastic Goodness

--I hate what I've become. I hate myself. But that's nothing new (Loc. 3521).

--But she fought like a lunatic, as though she had nothing to lose, as though she didn't care if she lived or died. Like me (Loc. 3554).

--It's not a promise that he still loves me, even though I've made this awful mistake (Loc. 3675).

My Recommendation: I love these books! There is enough of traditional vampire lore to satisfy lovers of vamp fiction, but there are some new twists that make it so interesting. If you love good YA vamp fiction with some bite to it (LOL!), this is a good series to read!

This review originally appeared on my blog, <http://thecaffeinateddivareads.multif...>

Faye says

Ever since I've read about Rachel from Unholy Alliance I had a instant disliked to her. She's too much of a trouble maker and when I learned that Shadow Allegiance would be her story I thought she would be better. Her becoming a vampire in the first place was her fault. Although I've learned about why she acted that way I still felt she was stubborn and hard headed. But if not for that, I doubt Alex would be in the good side and I think that's the only positive thing that came out of it. Every time I read characters who are like Rachel who needed to prove something to themselves and be independent but in the end would create more problems just makes steam come out of my ears.

Although what I like about Rachel is that she made Alex realized that he's a coward and because of that Alex was able to make a stand and his true feelings about her. They really complement each other and that Rachel is Alex's Warrior Queen. I like the action scenes and the part where Alex helped Rachel to improve her fighting skills especially her weakness.

It's ironic that it took Rachel to become a vampire in accepting Maggie. Despite turning to a vampire, they are still themselves unless they choose a different path. I'm glad that Alex has his loyal friends got his back.

I find this story fast paced like the previous books but for some reason I felt the ending to be abrupt and unsatisfying despite it not being a cliffhanger.

I received a copy from Never Too Old For Y.A. & N.A. Books/ author in exchange for an honest review
