



Bring Out Your Dead

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Battling a demon lord is all in a day's work for the Dark One named Sebastian. But now he must take on a horde of unhappy zombies and an obnoxious teen vampire if he wants to win the hand of the one woman who can make him whole.

Ysabelle is a woman with a past, and not a whole lot of future if a certain demon lord has his way. With zombies, demons, and a little thing like death standing in her way, will she find happiness in the man who's seen more darkness than she can imagine?

Bring Out Your Dead Details

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From Reader Review Bring Out Your Dead for online ebook

Demeiko says

This was a funny and short read! Finally got to understand Sebastian.

Gab says

read this story in a previous anthology - good story. Highly recommend the Dark One series, but more over I HIGHLY recommend any book by Katie MacAlister. I have not come across any book by this author I have not liked and her books range from really good to hysterically brilliant. don't miss her dragon series [Aisling Grey, Silver Dragons, Light Dragons].
ps. if you like Katie MacAlister's dragon books check out author G.A. Aiken "Dragon Kin" series - series brilliant/funny/enjoyable

Susan Stec says

Again, MacAlister made me laugh out loud and roll my eyes at the same time.

Bring Out Your Dead (Dark Ones Novels) is an oldie but a goodie. Published in 2006, republished in 2010, I don't know how I missed this one. It's loaded with lovable, laughable characters: imps, zombies, an annoying spirit guide that so totally butchers the French language. An equally annoying child vamp, and...oh yeah, a hunky vampire that keeps calling MacAlister's protagonist, Ysabelle,(yeah, I said Ysabelle. Where the hell does Katie come up with the names? The name alone makes me giggle) his Beloved. And if you have ever read MacAlister you know what that means. Silly sex, crazy situations, and someone has to help someone get his soul back, following those silly steps - and still I laugh. But...

...in Bring Out Your Dead the zombies steal the show. Action packed, the dialogue is fast-paced and laugh out loud funny. Yep, those dead guys have all the best lines.

When I need a break, just want to laugh out loud and roll my eyes a lot, I pick up a MacAlister novel. This one's a keeper.

I gave it 4 out of 5, because it is what it is: Everything I expected it to be

Skye Louise says

Another classic from Katie Macalister! As always filled with lots of laughter and humour, and hot Vamp--- i mean--- Dark Ones ;) the only problem was that it was too short-- then again it could be a never ending book

and i still couldn't get enough! :)

Melanie Page says

Bring Out Your Dead by Katie MacAlister is part of the Dark Ones series. It's an extra novella that falls between two books. Apparently, readers wanted to know more about the French vampire Sebastian, who appears in two earlier books, but is always a side character. He meets his Beloved, Belle, rather quickly, and the book clips along at a rapid pace as they attempt to keep a demon from taking one of Belle's two souls (she has two thanks to a glitch).

While I often feel like the Dark Ones novels drag on too long, Bring Out Your Dead was too short. MacAlister made an interesting heroine (a first in her Dark Ones series), but then leaves much unexplained about Belle. Readers learn she has been married five times . . . and that's because she's died before and was resurrected. Belle has a sidekick, Sally, who is unexplained. She's a spirit guide, but what does that mean? Sally doesn't know French, but she likes to throw it in awkwardly. I wouldn't even compare this to the beauty of Spanglish:

Sebastian's eyes narrowed at her for a moment. "You are aware, are you not, that you are not speaking actual French?"

"Le gasp! Sally said, following word by deed and gasping in a thoroughly shocked manner. "Je suis too!"

"No, you are not. You are mangling a perfectly nice language."

It's also unclear why another character thinks Sebastian is her Beloved. A Beloved is a woman who is "meant" for the Dark One — sort of like soul mates, if you believe that sort of thing — except the Beloved returns the Dark One's soul once they go through a series of steps that lead them to joining. Some of these steps are the vampire admitting who he is, kissing, sex, a blood exchange, and the woman risking her life to help the vampire. Typically, a Dark One very clearly has one Beloved, but in Bring Out Your Dead, another character is mad at Sebastian and Belle because she thought she was Sebastian's Beloved. Why would this misunderstanding happen? MacAlister doesn't explain.

Typically, the heroines of the Dark Ones novels are naive, stubborn for terrible reasons, and stupid despite their education. Belle is older, like the vampires, so she isn't as irritating. In fact, she has a useful job: she's a counselor helping zombies cope with existence. She encourages them to be vegan so they don't get a taste for flesh, and she helps them with daily microaggressions:

"You were telling me about the taunting you experienced recently?"

"Yes, brains. Or rather, braiiiiiiins. Spoken in a slurred, repugnant voice that was accompanied by a fine spray of spittle. That's all they said, over and over again, as if I were supposed to stagger toward them with a fork and knife, and start hacking away at their heads."

I enjoyed the presence of the zombies, articulate creatures trying to be helpful in Belle and Sebastian's quest to save her souls. They were unexpected in this culture of The Walking Dead and the huge number of cheaply made zombie movies on Netflix. We sure have come a long way from the 1st Dark Ones novel, in which the heroine didn't even acknowledge vampires were real. Now everyone is a mythical creature.

As with all the Dark Ones novels, I'm not sure that I recommend them. Except they are compulsive reads, and I'm 4.5 books into the series (yes, Bring Out Your Dead was a 0.5 book). I enjoy reviewing them because they often give me a chance to be snarky!

This review was originally published at Grab the Lapels

Gretchen says

I love this story, which surprises me somewhat because MacCalister tends to have a lighter, more comedic tone to her writing than what I normally enjoy. This story just worked for me, though. I am not familiar with her Dark Ones series (wasn't even aware of it until after completing this story), and yet I was able to follow the characters, events, and overall rules of her mythical world without issue.

While I like both the hero and heroine, the supporting characters really made this a "can't-put-it-down" story for me. The somewhat-vegetarian zombie protest group is one of the funniest things I've read in a while, especially when members start falling off the wagon. I love the flaky spirit guide who speaks only in her own butchered version of Frenglish. Even the bratty child vampire is the perfect amount of smart-bratty to be completely endearing instead of off-putting. Like I said, I like both the hero and heroine, but I think I like them all the more because they're forced to find each other and make a romance plausible while both playing the straight-man to an uncontrollable cast of comedic secondary characters.

MacAlister really knocked it out of the park with this tale. I loved it so much, I plan to try the rest of her Dark Ones series.

Corie says

Cute story. 3.5 Stars. Some of the characters stories were a bit hazy to me as they were so rushed. The downside of reading a novella I guess. And too rushed on the whole "We bumped in the street, oops my lips happened to land on yours, I know it must be life-altering true love!" Ha!

Hanna says

What a fine little read. It has been too long since my last Dark One fix. MacAlister's writing is something else - it is hilarious, smart, sexy and exciting all at the same time.

Sebastian wasn't my favourite dark one but an interesting character all the same. I also enjoy how in every story the heroine is different and they all are great.

Peggy says

I loved this book . The Dark Ones are One of the most amazing set of books I have read. The dark ones will make you laugh and want to smack them all at the same time depending on who you are reading about

anyway then this set of books is for you and you never know what will end up at your door be it Demon Lords, Zombie, Ghost or dadgum IMP's haha . Well all I can say is go and get your copy find out for yourself what you been missing.

Amy says

Gag. Me. This was one long eye roll, from beginning to end. For one thing, there are way too many new ideas and characters introduced for a short story. The whole zombie/revenant issue could have easily been left out and addressed in a longer story later. I never fully understood why she threw herself in the fire, either. I mean, she has two souls, and she gives one to Sebastian. That leaves her with one. The last time she was burned at the stake, she only had one, and it took centuries for them to bring her back. How is it that she now just throws herself in the fire and returns immediately? And what happened in between her "sacrifice" and them ending up back at the hotel? Did Sebastian and Asmodeus just stand around and shoot the shit for a while and then decide to part amicably? Maybe they're BFFs now. It just makes no sense at all. Wouldn't Asmodeus try to harm Sebastian to punish him for his Beloved's throwing away of her second soul? And which soul did she give Sebastian? Was it the used up one, or was it the pure one that Asmodeus was after? And why in the world would you wait until your man undresses for the very first time to say, "Well, my other husbands..."? Horrible, just horrible. Too much time spent on adding new characters, and too little time spent on developing the ones who were necessary to the plot.

Melisa says

Not her best.

Katie MacAlister is one of my favorite authors. Her books are almost always funny easy reads. The beginning of this book was a bit confusing and the characters were less appealing than the other characters that she has created. It was not a bad story but definitely not as good as what I'm use to reading from Ms. MacAlister.

Redgirlsmama says

This book was good but I felt like it didn't want to be a short story, either that or I was missing something.... I feel like I need to go back and reread part of the series.

Lyndi W. says

I had a really hard time with this little story.

Partially because I'm somewhat familiar with Dark Ones, but I didn't really know there were zombies and demons and such. That threw me at first.

And partially due to Sally. I love the witty, outspoken, has-no-concept-of-personal-space sidekick that Katie

MacAlister writes. Cora in "Unleashed" was a perfect example of one of these characters (though I know she later got her own book, I think she was a better sidekick). But Sally was impossible to understand with her butchered French and I had no fucking clue what she was trying to say. And I've taken French, been to France! So she was more of an annoying character than a funny sidekick.

Belle was TSTL. She's warned by a Guardian to stay inside because it's dangerous, but noooo. She goes out anyway and gets attacked. Instead of going home where she knows she's protected, she continues on. Then things get weird and she doesn't pick up on it at all. Again, she's told to stay inside where she's protected and she's all "Oh, I'm just going to go to work, it's not like there's any danger." Just imagine I've used a gif of somebody pretending to shoot themselves in the face with a finger-gun here.

Also, the blurb mentions a "teen vampire"... in what world is a **ten year old** considered a teen? I kept waiting for somebody else to show up until I realized there wasn't time in a novella to introduce another character and they were obviously referring to the ten year old.

The double soul concept is awesome. I don't think I've read anything like that before and it's probably what saved this from being a one star read for me. I still love me some Katie MacAlister, though.

Jennifer Layne says

Battling a demon lord is all in a day's work for the Dark One named Sebastian. But now he must take on a horde of unhappy zombies and an obnoxious teen vampire if he wants to win the hand of the one woman who can make him whole.

I LOVE these books & the Dark Ones. Who doesn't love a sexy, brooding alpha male that NEEDS you to save them!

sign me up! Looking forward to others!

JW says

I like MacAlister's stories but this one really didn't work for me. Sebastian really pissed me off. I still don't understand how he can be so glib about Noelle. The whole thing left a bad taste in my mouth.
