



Undertow: Death's Twilight

Claudette Melanson

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Maura finally found the truth she was always seeking...or has she?

After being left in the dark for all of her life, Maura's father, Maxwell, has finally returned to reveal sinister family secrets Maura could never have dreamed possible—including his revelation that she is one of The Born. But his daughter soon discovers both he and her mother are keeping pieces of her reality hidden, still. As Maura struggles to unravel the mysteries surrounding her new existence and discover every piece of the cryptic puzzle, life appears intent on casting stumbling blocks across her path with every step forward.

Tragedy seems to stalk Maura, and those around her, as she stumbles along, altering the young changeling's family, just when they have all come back together. The changes left in its wake could be for the better, or may threaten their existence, entirely.

With the arrival of Christmas comes the opportunity for Maura to draw close to everyone she loves—and finally reunite with Ron, her long-distance boyfriend. But permanence has always eluded her, and in her current state of flux this pattern endures, as fate seems intent on snapping the threads that bind her to those she holds most dear. Maxwell's good intentions pave a road for Maura, littered with misery, while her mother, Caelyn's, desire to shield her family from pain may tear her away from them, altogether. The perfect happiness in the young vampire's grasp is so easily swept away and dragged under, out of reach. Can Maura erupt from the darkness and confusion to break the surface and find the life she's always dreamed of?

In the midst of chaos, assistance materializes in the form of another of her kind—ephemerally beautiful, yet explosively volatile, this new vampire may prove capable of unlocking the puzzle-box Maxwell seems intent on securing from her sight. Maura will discover the darkest parts of herself in her quest to understand the being she is destined to become. Her newfound friend has some shady intentions of his own—such as thwarting the love that has grown between Maura and Ron. Following in the wake of the impulsive vampire's misguided instruction may further pull a naive Maura down into the depths of ultimate despair, heartbreak...and even destruction.

Undertow: Death's Twilight is the second book in the Maura DeLuca trilogy and the sequel to Rising Tide: Dark Innocence. In this dark, urban fantasy, readers will discover a world full of uncommon vampires, troubled romance and a splash of blood—and uniquely devoid of werewolves. The rollercoaster that is Maura's life continues in this YA, paranormal novel that fans of the Twilight series, Vampire Diaries, and Vampire Academy will love. Reminiscent of the classic Fairy Tale, the characters introduced in this series are at the other end of the spectrum from the vampire found in the age of Bram Stoker and his famous Dracula. Although there are ties to the myths created by Stoker and his timeless novel, the Maura DeLuca story possesses a sprinkle of magic, coupled with 'monsters' that—in most cases—retain the majority of their humanity.

Undertow: Death's Twilight Details

Date : Published June 2015 by Amazon Digital Services (first published November 13th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Claudette Melanson

Format : Kindle Edition 474 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Young Adult, Supernatural

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From Reader Review Undertow: Death's Twilight for online ebook

Deneale Williams says

The cover art of this book is so beautiful, once I received my copy I just simply admired the artwork on the cover for a bit. There was a lot of work that went into that beautiful cover!

Personally, I have been a long time waiting for this book. Which let me add, if you haven't read the first book, you might not be able to follow along as well as the rest of us. The two books flow together as "Forrest Gump" says: like "Peas and Carrots!"

Maura, thanks to her mother Caelyn, grew up with a big family secret. She is a Vampire and didn't know it until she became a full grown adult and moved abroad, and finally met her Father, which she met only by what seemed to be by accident. However, her Mother planned on informing her and explaining everything and what not, but unfortunately Maura then, had an accident-so to speak.

But again, that is from the other book. Her Father Maxwell as you may notice was not in her life as a Child, and now they are attempting to make it as a family. They want to try to be the family they never were. But once they start working on their family unit, tragedy seems to follow. It's like something always has to ruin the good things, you know?!

While still trying to work on her family, Maura is also trying still working on her love life with Ron. So she uses Christmas to reunite with him and bring her family in closer.

Caelyn is still trying to deal with the Vampire lifestyle of her daughter. She truly hoped that this might not come to pass, you could just tell, deep down, she didn't want it to be.

Thankfully, while everything is going up and down, and up and down, all these changes, Susie is here to listen and offer a listening ear.

I found this story so ... heart wrenching, I screamed in my twitter at Claudette. I have always been in love with Maura and Ron, no offense I have insider secrets, and Maura and Ron remind me of Claudette and her husband. And they just can't fall apart. So I'm reading this, and I scream. My dogs look at me. I grab my cell and scream at the writer. No, this is not happening. THAT is all I am saying because I get in trouble for being a spoiler blower.

As for my review, I personally have a problem with Maura calling Maxwell "Dad." The Dude wasn't in her life, I mean, maybe it wasn't all her fault, maybe it was also Caelyn's but still. He wasn't there. To call him Dad from the beginning bothered me. But that's just me.

I also had a problem with her Mother keeping a secret like that from her. Yeah we keeps secrets from our Children like Santa and the tooth fairy, and where the presents are hid. But what about when she became a teen and you gave her the safe sex talk? Why not tell her then?

I dearly loved both of the books, and how close they are. They are wonderful and you need to read them both. The first one was called: "Rising Tide: Dark Innocence" and it can also be found in this blog as well.

This book, just like the last one, is five stars. I truly enjoyed it. It pulled me in, making me feel everything. I

cried, I screamed, and I wanted more, and I became involved. I could see and imagine the characters and their feelings. They are a wonderful family, and they deserve to work things out, all families do. And you want what is best for everyone, trust me.

And you will want to read this, all the way through. And you will not be able to put it down. But make sure you read both books! They belong together! They are amazing! And you will be glad that you have read them, and you will be a fan of Claudette just like I am, trust me! I give this book five stars! Now go buy your copy!

Runningrabbit says

I didn't find this book quite as good as the first, so I'm giving it a 3.5.

There were some issues in here which I found seemed to take a step back, when the feeling was that these issues should have been more connected and continued to stay in place. This was what resulted in anomalies in the tale, and left parts of the novel sagging and somewhat disjointed. Further into the second half of the novel, I felt like it seemed to gather some much needed momentum and the story leaped back into action leaving it at a good place to stop before it continues on to the next novel without leaving a bad cliffhanger.

I'm definitely looking forward to the next book.

Wendy says

In "Undertow: Death's Twilight" the second intriguing book in the "Maura DeLuca trilogy" Claudette Melanson sets the stage with the return of Maura's father Maxwell Aidea and a dark legacy that has her slowly changing into a vampire. Threads of the plot follow her mother Caelyn's struggle with lupus; her friend Susie's tragic loss; her boyfriend Ron's disappearance; and a doomed transformation.

In this dark urban fantasy Maxwell fills the reader in on the evolution of the vampire race; Maura's history as one of "the Born", a child born of the love between a human and vampire; and the rules of his coven who want to keep the truth of their existence a secret. Yet the more secrets Maxwell and her mother reveal the more they keep hidden, frustrating Maura's life as she clings to a sense of normalcy amid all the unreality. The backdrop for this story breaks from the norm in dark paranormal fantasies as elves, faeries and pixies exist with a link to an angelic bloodline while werewolves don't.

The innovative and imaginative plot is filled with twists that have Maura's romance with Ron complicated by her father's interference and the introduction of a new vampire intent on usurping their love and weakening the blood bond they sealed with a kiss. Emotionally-charged Maura grapples with bodily changes, a missing boyfriend and the desertion of her parents to save her mother's life. The plot progresses slowly at first, heating up after she meets Valdimar Demirci and embarks on a course of action that prompts a bumbled transformation and an unexpected death.

As Maura Deluca's body changes enhancing her beauty and heightening her cravings for blood she clings to

the love and devotion of her parents, Ron and Susie only to have fate intervene and turn her life upside down. She's selfish at times but tenacious, naive, and impulsive even though she struggles to do what's right. Her boyfriend Ron continues to be agreeable, patient and accepting, but is slowly awakening to Maura's dark power. Valdimar Demirci is charismatic, crass and egotistical; a vampire who will do anything to gain Maura's affection, but who ends up bringing her nothing but heartache. The personalities of all the characters fuel the passion, energy and drama in a story you can't put down until the explosive climax that leaves more questions than answers.

Sparkling with romance and magic, and with a touch of humanity in its monsters "Undertow: Death's Twilight" continues a trilogy that fires the imagination and leaves you begging for a third book to see if Maura can overcome the despair, heartache and destruction that's dogged her footsteps and regain the love and family she thought lost.

Patricia Walker says

Picking up where Rising Tide ended this book continues the story of Maura the changeling. It is superbly written, taking the reader along as the characters continue their journey in a world that turns upside down and inside out around them. Maura finally learns just what loss truly means and learns the hard way that selfish obsession leads to disaster and true loneliness.

We continue the story with the characters from the first book who become even more alive to the reader as we get to know them better and we meet new friends who aren't all that they seem. We're taken on a roller coaster ride of emotions alongside them all as they process all the normal teenage angst as well as the growing needs of a fledgling vampire and her wannabe friend.

A word of warning - make sure you have undisturbed reading time as you won't willingly put this one down until you turn the very last page

Sharon Lopez says

I will admit wholeheartedly that I am hopelessly addicted to this series! This series offers so much: the heartwarming family moments, the comedic back and forth banter between characters, life lessons tragically instilled. All of this and much more swept me up into a sea of emotions and left me yearning for the next line, page, chapter, and book.

Ingrid Foster says

Honestly, if you love YA and dark vampire tales, you'll love this book!

Ms. Melanson's main character, Maura, is adventurous, resourceful, and far too determined for her own vampire-changeling good.

Suddenly left to her own devices, her good heart coupled with her belief that she knows what's best for

everyone around her continues to get Maura into serious trouble. I won't give the story away by going into the twists and turns of the book, but suffice it to say, the exciting and unique adventure that started in book one gets even more exciting...and DEADLY in book two!

Victoria B says

First I must say I received a free copy of this book and I promised to give an honest review. This is the second book in the Maura DeLuca series and picks up right where book one stops, with the addition of a few new characters Max (Maura's father being one of them). Maura quickly goes from being an innocent teenage girl to a curious soon to be vampire. Wanting to know everything and not taking time to think about her actions and the consequences that they could have. Again this book is told in the first person putting you in the shoes of Maura and seeing and feeling everything from her point of view. This is an amazing follow up to book one and again would recommend it for anyone who wants a fresh take on vampires. Can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Lisa Easterday says

I Absolutely love this book, With every book that I can't put down, I am already wishing that the next book is ready! I am amazed that Claudette took this book in a direction I've NEVER seen in vampire books! Her imagination astounds me, I've read a lot of books on vampires and never thought of the things she points out. Her characters are well rounded and you really care for them. I can't wait to read what happens to them! I highly recommend this series, and hope that Claudette writes fast! I'll keep my eyes open for the next book! Now I have to find a book that will keep me reading far into the night as this one did.....

Dianne says

It has always been Maura and her mother, but after seventeen years, her father has returned and Maura will slowly be fed the realities of her existence and her future. Maura is special, she is one of The Born, thanks to Maxwell, who is to reality what Vlad the Impaler is to fiction and myths. While their family reunion should be one of discovery and joy, another revelation from her mother will break Maura's heart and leave her alone, just when she needed her father the most. The rollercoaster ride continues for Maura as her life becomes one filled with blood and an unknown future that looms large on the dark horizon.

Maura is changing, she becoming like her father and there is no one to help her, no one to guide her and clearly the myths and commercial knowledge of vampires is useless. Even the first Christmas she has ever experienced as a family is marred when her young love, Ron comes to visit and she finds herself facing the fact that she may never be able to see him again.

Only the chance meeting of a 200 year-old vampire with a cocky attitude and the face of angel gives Maura the information her father didn't have time to impart, but that very information could mean the death of her dearest friend. Two teens, blind to the seriousness of their actions, caught up in the glamor of vampires and fangs will make one bad decision that could haunt them forever.

Claudette Melanson, talented author of many genres, a true vampire aficionado brings book two of the

Maura DeLuca Trilogy, **Undertow: Death's Twilight** to life in all of its dark and angst-filled glory. Feel the loss and confusion of one teen, left alone through no fault of her own, her eagerness to please her best friend and her mental immaturity that causes her to make bad choices. Maura feels like a normal teen, adventuresome, unstoppable and unaware of the choices she makes. From the start, I felt for her, her family and just knew something earth-shattering was going to have. Trust me, it does and Ms. Melanson fills each page with some raw realities that raise the tension and suspense to a nerve wrenching pitch!

I absolutely loved Ms. Melanson's words, put together with breathtaking brilliance and a love for her craft. THIS is great reading for all ages!

I received this copy from Claudette Melanson in exchange for my honest review.

Series: Maura DeLuca Trilogy - Book 2

Publication Date: November 13, 2014

Publisher: Claudette Melanson

ISBN-13: 9781503256309

Genre: Paranormal Suspense

Print Length: 360 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Namrata Ganti says

This is a wonderful sequel to the first book *Rising Tide: Dark Innocence*. After reading the first book in the series I could not wait to read the second book. This book delivers as much as the first did. In fact I must admit that this book is even better than the first. The author doesn't hesitate to take the story to greater depths and she flawlessly weaves a story that will keep the reader enthralled.

I read this book at a stretch without putting it down. We are introduced to some major characters in this story. Maura's father finally makes an appearance and for a little time it feels as if the family is back together. However, it is not the typical all is well that ends well kind of story. At this point, Maura comes to the realization that her parents are still keeping a lot of secrets from her even though they did reveal some things as though trying to appease her and keep her curiosity at bay. They may have good intentions in trying to protect her, but we all know that curiosity killed the cat. There are many twists that arise especially in the form of a new friend/vampire who claims that his only interest is in helping Maura.

The story is well written and gripping until the very end. The story ends in such a way that the reader will be left wanting more! As I mentioned in my review of the first book, this is a must read for all fans of vampire stories, Young Adult fiction, some romance and some mystery.

Miss says

This was a great sequel to the first book in the Maura DeLuca trilogy. Maura is still continuously learning about herself and her newfound vampire abilities. She finally meets her father in this book and I really thought I would not like him. But I liked Maura's father. He was polite, reasonable, and patient. There were some great twists to the book that I enjoyed and didn't expect to happen which is usually a good thing because that's what I want a book to do to me. We didn't get to see much of Ron in this book and that made me sad for Maura. We are introduced to a new character Val and I like him, but I also hate him. As a character for the story I like him. I feel that it gives it a love triangle, but one that's enjoyable because it's not really that. Maura is always clear with Val that she only sees him as a friend and brother and she sticks by that. I love how Maura is so set in her ways and her stubbornness. We need more characters like her. We get to know Susie as a more set character after a terrible tragedy and I love Susie. Susie is a great friend to Maura and Susie is just as stubborn and is always sticking by Maura's side. They portray a sister relationship really well so I feel that was a great use in the story as well between these two beautiful characters. Everyone in the story is likeable for who they are to me. Melanson wrote their roles that they play very well and sticks with it. I just really hope we get to see Ron again because I know how much he meant to Maura and my heart broke for her. It's been so long since she's seen him and I was hoping we would see him at least at the end. Val is just too annoying for Maura. They would always fight and bicker if a relationship happened between them. Ron has been there for Maura before her turning even began and he was still there after all the weird and crazy stuff happened. He doesn't know what's going on just yet, but he said from the beginning he just knows Maura is the one for him. And Maura feels it as well. And it sucks that he can't see Maura because it's out of his control now and it's not fair. This book should have been our Twilight. It's that great of a book. The cover is also so gorgeous and it captured my attention immediately. I could not wait to read this book when I received it. I can not wait for the final book to this epic story!

Louisa says

A Vampire coming of age tale

A thoroughly good read. Having lived in Vancouver for three years I loved all the references to places I have been. Maura is coming to terms with the factor she's becoming a vampire and the consequences of the choices she and the people in her life make. I can't wait to read the next book in the trilogy.

Kelly Willcoxbrackeen says

Ugh! Cliffhanger leaves me dreading the wait!

I have lots of books I need to read and review so I started doing this thing where I read the very beginning of books to see if they seem interesting...you get the picture. I love this author for her friendliness and how she answers Twitter and Facebook posts from readers which prompted me to put Rising Tide at the top of my list to try. It sounded a bit juvenile so I wasn't expecting much. Imagine how surprised I was when I became totally addicted to this series. It's clean of everything but violence. The first book was fun to read with Maura making me yell at the Kindle about how she could miss the truth staring her right in the face. (Kind of like the car keys you think you misplaced but are actually in your pocket.) The tone of the second book was a complete 180, as it should. Maura is growing up to learn that ignorance is NOT bliss. The book loses the

funny, want to roll your eyes naivety and takes a darker, more serious, suspenseful tone. I started experiencing empathy for characters pushed into very heavy problems. I actually cried during a few parts of the story.

I'm a 44 year old woman hooked on a story about teens.

Pick up *Rising Tide* today and become immersed. The story is worth the money spent. The only thing I regret is the wait for the third book.

Happy reading my fellow bookworms!

Jenn Sut says

I listened to the audio book. I loved the second book in this series. It is deliberately paced so the reader learns more about Maura's condition as she learns. It places the reader in a perfect spot to empathize with her and her journey. I am looking forward to the next book in the series. It has been a fantastic story so far.

Shannon Benjamin-Boote says

Maura has come a long way since *Rising Tide: Dark Innocence* book 1 in the Maura DeLuca Trilogy where she found love and acceptance, but also experienced some new confounding side effects of her "condition". In book 2 *Undertow: Death's Twilight*, Maura is in a new city, finds her father, gains a sister, and learns the truth about who and more to the point what she is, a Born vampire. Maura is guided by her heart wanting her family to all be together forever but forever is a long time especially when the people you love are still keeping secrets. With the arrival of Christmas, Maura feels happy and hopeful. Her family is back together, her best friend and now sister is healing from tragedy, and Ron, her heart's desire, is visiting...what could go wrong?

Well Maura, it seems, should always be waiting for the other shoe to drop. Her parents are gone, Ron is missing, she has no idea how to be a vampire or deal with what is happening to her, and to top it off her friend/sister proposes a very scary prospect. Maura and Susie decide the best course of action is to find another vampire to help them, but knowing next to nothing about her kind Maura follows Susie in what she thinks is a futile attempt to locate someone like her. Valdamir was young, good looking, and dangerously sarcastic and he knew Maura was a vampire and to her surprise she instinctively knew he was too.

Valdamir's knowledge is what she needs to unlock those secrets her father has kept from her and the ticket to putting her and Susie's plan into action. Valdamir isn't helping out of the kindness of his own heart either, he is intent on making Ron's absence permanent and having Maura all to himself. Maura being well aware of his attempts builds a friendship that only serves to make him want her even more. Maura, Susie, and Valdamir delve deep into plans that should have been left to only seasoned vampires. That mistake will have Maura left alone to reflect on the horrific consequences of her actions, stripped of her friends at the command of her own father and sentenced to loneliness, heartbreak, and despair like she has never known.

Claudette Melanson has created a vampire story that sparkles rather than vampires that do and that has made all the difference. A story I would be proud to share with my daughter; this is a great series to read with your teens or just for yourself. I loved the story line and the new fresh take on a popular theme. I enjoyed that Claudette creates characters that are easy to connect to. The main character reminds me of my own teenage daughter. Claudette's storytelling is endearing to me as a mother and lover of this genre because she creates

internal conflicts, that while supernatural, parallel how I know teens feel in the adolescent push and pull of their everyday lives, feeling lost, different, and volatile. Claudette cultivates friendships on the page that I can only wish follow my daughter through her own life. Refreshing and fun, I recommend you get to know Maura for yourself in this Indie award winner.
