

Witches, Demons, and Romance in "That Time I Got Drunk and Saved a Demon" | Book Chat

Tamara: Welcome back to the podcast, everyone. I'm your host, Tamara. This is Black History Month, and it's also Valentine's Day, so there is nothing more appropriate than a romance written by a black author with a little bit of fantasy romance. So yeah, this is going to be a fun one. Witches and demons and a lot more. And plus, this is a book talk book. So get ready, buckle up. If you would like to see this in video format, head on over to Patreon. You can see our lovely faces and no ad breaks. Plus, there's a lot of other content there for you to watch. If you are listening to this on the Spreaker app, you too have access to the after show and other exclusive content. Audio only. If you prefer video, head on over to Patreon because that's the only place you can see video. You can also join me and my two co hosts over on the book clubs app for even more book chats. Please subscribe and like the podcast, wherever you're listening. If you'd like to reach out to me, you can find me pretty much everywhere at shelf addiction. Joining me today is feature co host Casey from Heartful of Ink. Welcome back, Casey.

Casey: Hello. Hello. I'm so excited to be here.

Tamara: Yes, a special.

Tamara: Think.

Tamara: When was the last time we posted on Valentine's Day? I don't know.

Casey: It's been a while.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: And we are appropriate today. So I'm ready.

Casey: I'm ready too.

Tamara: We got this.

Tamara: Tell everyone where they can find you online.

Casey: You can find me on Facebook at [heartfulofinc](#), on Instagram, at, Casey, [heartfulofinc](#), or on my website, [heartfulofinc.com](#).

Spice Trader Cinnamon goes on quest with fiery demon in quirky romcom fantasy

Tamara: Okay. And of course, before we begin, just want to remind you that as always with book chats, we talk full spoilers here. So, spoiler alert. You have been warned.

Today we are discussing that time I got drunk and saved a demon. Written by Kimberly Lemming, published by Orbit. The audiobook is narrated by Hazel Addison. The Kindle version is 278 pages, and the audiobook is 7 hours and 25 minutes. Casey, would you please read the synopsis?

Casey: Spice Trader Cinnamon's quiet life is turned upside down when she ends up on a quest with the fiery demon in this irreverently quirky romcom fantasy that is sweet, steamy, and funny as hell. Perfect for fans of legends and lates and the dragon's bride.

All she wanted to do was live her life in peace, maybe get a cat, expand the family's spice farm. Really anything that didn't involve going on an adventure where an orc might rip her face off. But they say the goddess has a favorite, and if so, sin is clearly not one of them. After saving the demon Fallon in a wine drunk stupor, all Fallon wants to do is kill an evil witch, enslaving his people. And who can blame him? But he's dragging cinnamon along for the ride. On the bright side, at least he keeps burning off his shirt.

Tamara: Yes, that is the bright side. I guess I didn't even read the synopsis. That's why I'm laughing. I'm like, what?

Tamara: Okay. Yeah, I get it. Okay.

Tamara: As we do high level. When you finished this book, what did you think?

Casey: I thought it was adorable, and I want to read the next one.

Tamara: Okay.

Tamara: Yeah, I kind of agree.

Tamara: I'm like, that's cute.

Casey: It's quirky and fun and similar, but different at the same time.

Tamara: Yeah. And I actually thought it was just enough spice for me. It wasn't too outrageous. it was balanced for me.

Tamara: Yes.

Tamara: so, yeah, I think I will read the next one. But obviously I waited because there's no way I wanted to use anything.

Casey: Yes.

Tamara: And I think the next one has to do with characters we've already been introduced to.

Casey: I think Felix the werewolf. Is the werewolf in the next one? Because that title says it's,

Tamara: Hold on.

Casey: The next title is that time I got drunk and yeeted a love potion at a werewolf. So I'm pretty sure that's Felix.

Tamara: Yeah. I mean, Felix is like, they all just want cinnamon. They're like, wait, you rescued us. Let's be best friends. I couldn't like the scene. she's, like, still in the bed, and Felix is like, hello. Morning.

Tamara: Good morning.

Tamara: You're naked.

Casey: But let's go.

Tamara: We've got stuff to do. Come on.

Tamara: She like, what is funny? He funny. Yeah.

Tamara: Okay.

Tamara: Yay. So this is one step better than we were this time last month. Yes. Even though I finished this book a week ago, again, I don't feel like I found a bunch of things.

Casey: You didn't hate it? It's saturated.

Tamara: No, I didn't. I still like it. I still like it. This is a win.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: So book talk actually presented something fun that liked.

Tamara: Yes.

The diversity in all of these characters was wonderful. I loved it so much

Tamara: And, Casey, before we jump in even more, did you tell us already why.

Tamara: You picked this book?

Casey: I think I did in the after show in January, but I don't remember. I know it was short. It was Valentine's day. We want diversity in our book talk. I saw it on book talk once, and I was like, hey, let's go for it.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: I watched a couple of TikTok videos, and I love the way these characters look. Like, honestly, cinnamon has brown skin with pink hair, which she complains about.

Tamara: She complains about this pink hair.

Tamara: So she's super cute. And her dress that has infinite pockets.

Casey: That carries just, like, bottles of mead and a dozen apples at a time.

Tamara: All kinds of spices, all kind of things in there. and of course, what's his face? What's his name again?

Casey: Fallon the dragon.

Tamara: Fallon. He definitely looks. Know how you would think a dragon looks? And I did not tell, like, okay. So when I looked at the photo, I thought that was his hair braided at the top. I didn't think it was horns.

Casey: Horns.

Tamara: Until the book.

Tamara: He's like, grab my horns.

Tamara: I'm like, what the. Oh, those are horns.

Casey: They're horns.

Tamara: Yeah. So he's got, like, this long, luscious black hair. He's got, like, a body on him. He could be singing that body out. and he's got a little asian flair to him.

Tamara: Oh, yeah.

Tamara: Which I also enjoy.

Casey: The diversity in all of these characters was wonderful. I loved it so much. It was so refreshing. Everybody was different skin tone, but it didn't mean anything. Like, yes, cinnamon and her family are.

Casey: Spice traders, and I love that ongoing joke of, like, here's how you spice your food.

Tamara: Spice. Your food has spice names like cinnamon and cardamom or whatever.

Casey: One of the brothers was Chili, and the other, I think, was cumin.

Tamara: Yes, cumin. That's it.

Casey: Her sister was named Cherry.

Tamara: I was like, Cherry's a spice. That's a fruit that doesn't really fit. Wasn't she the youngest of them?

Casey: She was the youngest, yeah.

Tamara: Maybe they got tired of the spices. They needed another c name, and that's what they got. Cherry, I guess.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: I don't know. It was cute, though. I'm like, okay, I'm digging the characters, the new characters, because this felt like the theme was, we have to take down this witch that's holding people as slaves, basically. and the demons aren't as bad as you think, and your savior goddess is the bad one. So it's very true to that theme, but it was also kind of, it had these wizard of Oz vibes. And what I mean by that is.

Tamara: We're off to see and we're going.

Tamara: To, like, as we go, we're going to meet people and add to our team, and we're going to just keep defeating. We'll have each little thing to do as we go along.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: So it kind of had that vibe to it, which I did not mind. I thought it was kind of cute. Oh, yeah, it was really cute.

Casey: It was very questy.

I think the simplicity of this story is what made it enjoyable

Yeah. They were going on a quest and each time they gained more friends and more people to follow them. I agree.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: And also, I think actually it's like the simplicity of it is also what made it enjoyable. The story wasn't complicated, the goal was clear, the themes were clear. But I think what made it special were the characters and how they interacted with each other.

Tamara: Even valid. Oh my God, he gets so enraged at anybody who looks at Cinnamon, sideways. I will kill them all. She's like, calm down, calm down.

Tamara: You don't have to do that.

Tamara: He's like, I'll take everybody. I'm like, whoa, okay, m alpha man. But you know, he makes the friends. They all make the friends. But he also, when she tells her.

Casey: No, he stops killing people.

Tamara: Yeah. Like the quintessential, I guess, thug rapists that come along the road. And she just got finished telling him not to kill people, but he kills one of them or both of them. No, one of them.

Casey: One accidentally and throws the other into the river.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: And he's like, oh, shit.

Tamara: And she's like, I'm sorry I killed someone. And she's like, that's okay.

Casey: You can kill all rapists. Yeah, kill them all.

Tamara: You can kill the rapists. That's okay, I'm not mad. I'm like, oh, Lord.

Casey: It was cute. It was really, cute.

Tamara: It was cute. There was a lot of things I liked about it and not much I didn't like, so that was really nice.

Tamara: Yay.

Tamara: Yeah, you had a good pick.

Tamara: Yay.

There were trigger warnings on this book. Which was important because it does seem light hearted

Tamara: Oh my gosh. Should we try to break this down a little bit?

Casey: I mean, honestly, I did enjoy it as it was, but part of me wishes there was another 100 pages just giving more to the story, more detail about the world, more development of the world and the characters. because it is a little insta love, even though they're together for a few weeks before know, finally hops on his dick as she.

Casey: I wish there was. But like, as a short story, it works.

Tamara: Yeah, I think it works. And I think if we had gotten a little bit more, it would have been nice. And also there were trigger warnings.

Tamara: For this.

Tamara: Which was important because even though it does seem light hearted on the surface, there were a couple of things and I kind of knew that the consent thing was in there.

Casey: Yes.

Tamara: There was one scene when they get together and it seems like it's a little gray at first, but then she gets on board pretty quickly and you can see, okay, well, she's into this, but very at the beginning, she's kind of like saying, man. And he's like, you know you want this. Why do you think you don't want this? Stop acting like you don't. I'm like, oh, no, it's only hot.

Casey: When fictional men do that. When men in real life do that, I just know it doesn't work. Fictional men? Yes. When they're dragons, yes, it works. If you're not a dragon, don't do it.

Tamara: Yeah, definitely. So I was like, I did take note, but again, it warned me, okay, it's there. So I kind of was like, okay, I appreciate that.

Tamara: Hm.

Tamara: So when I came across it, I wasn't like, oh, my God.

Casey: And that's what trigger warnings are for. Honestly, I almost think that the content wasn't as triggering as I thought it was going to be. When I read that trigger warning, I was like, oh, no, Dubcon can be pretty bad in some books when they put that trigger warning on there. And then as I was reading this, I was like, she's not saying yes instantly, but she's not saying no. And she's been attracted to him this whole time. So I appreciate the warning, but I've seen it much worse in other books. And I was like, gearing up for that. And so when I got to this, I was like, oh, this is fine. This is good.

Dubious consent is when someone asks a woman if she wants something

Tamara: So for our listeners that may not know what Dubcon is, can you tell us what it is?

Casey: Dubious consent.

Tamara: Yes.

Casey: So that's when somebody, in this instance, our dragon hero is teasing our

heroine and he's like, you want me? And she's like, I'm not sure I do.

Tamara: I don't think so.

Casey: And he's like, I'm going to tie you up to this bed and start kissing on you and make you say yes.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: And we're in her point of view. We see from her head that she is turned on. She is internally debating, and she ultimately decides, yes, I do want this, and says yes.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: So I think the sentence actually says, you've convinced yourself you have to say no to this.

Casey: Yes. Which is kind of true because he's a demon. And for the first half of the book, she's like, oh, my God, how can I be this attracted to a demon? Demons are supposed to be these evil, brainless, God awful things. That kill anything in their past.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: And now she's, like, eyeballing him, shirt.

Casey: Is burning off, and he's really pretty, and we're both naked in the river together.

Tamara: Really pretty.

Tamara: Yeah, she's definitely down. But I think that's why. I think it gets a pass, because we were in her head. We were in her head and we could see that it wasn't really. I don't want to do this.

Casey: Yeah, it was never a. No, it was, maybe not, but I am interested.

Tamara: she was definitely, I think, kind of exploring. And the thing about her is you all know how much I hate a virgin. And she wasn't. She had a boyfriend, but I think that she really didn't know what she liked because it seemed like the more he was kind of being dominant in the bedroom, the more she would respond to it. And it seemed like it was kind of foreign to her a little bit.

Casey: So she's, like, 1920. She, talked about having the one boyfriend, and then after they broke up, she never really hooked up with anybody since. And then, yeah. As our fallon guy is, like, being more dominant and aggressive, she's like, ooh, I've never tried this before and I like it.

Tamara: I watch this.

Casey: This is really turning me on.

Tamara: Yeah. He does almost cross the line, though. So at the end of the book, but she works him. Have you heard that phrase where, like, if the man is the head, quote unquote, the woman is the neck?

Casey: Yes, I learned that in my big fat greek wedding.

Tamara: Yeah. So that's where I must have heard it from. But it's true. That's how cinnamon played. Did him. She played him? No, she treated him at the end, after she is, hurt, and he brings her to the island and knocks her out. She's unconscious for days. And he's like, using magic to make them. This, the most spectacular house.

Tamara: She wakes up.

Tamara: Is she like, hold on, what is happening? What happened? And he is, like, really beating around the bush. And she's like, wait a minute. You don't want me to leave this island, do you? He actually admits it, and she's like, okay, well, you know, can't we just use some magic and do something else? And he's like, oh, I didn't think of that. I just thought I had to keep you isolated away from.

Casey: He's a man, and men are like, oh, my God, I have to protect you. Keep you hidden away in the tower, not like, oh, yeah, I can give you, like, a protective shield.

Tamara: I mean, you can make all of this stuff. Can't you just make me something?

Casey: Make me a shield, dude. Make me a shield.

Tamara: He's like, oh, I guess I could, but see, that's cinnamon thinking because most of them have been like, you're.

Tamara: Not going to kick me on this island.

Tamara: But instead she's like, let me just work with him. Yes.

Casey: She's like, hold on, honey, we need to have a conversation here. I'm not going to stay in a very pretty cage. I don't care how pretty it is. I don't care how pretty you are. I'm not staying in a cage. And I love that about her.

Tamara: She's like, let's work something out because it's not it. And he's like, okay. I think he knew he was never going to get his way. Oh, definitely.

Casey: That's why he kept her asleep for like four days.

Tamara: Yeah. I'm like, who does that? She's just sleeping. Yeah. Oh my God. No, that was very rude.

Casey: That was rude. That was, probably the worst thing he did in the book. For me, at least.

Casey: I don't care when he killed people.

This was a fast read overall because it was just over 200 pages

I don't care when he ate people, keeping her asleep for four days. No, sir, I do not like.

Tamara: Yeah, do not like. yeah, I think that was the worst. But he seemed to be better after that. And of course skipping to the end, she had no problem spending several months there with him so he could figure out the spell and they could have a good time

together.

Casey: I wouldn't mind spending a few months on a honeymoon island, having lots of hot sex, like. Yeah, sounds great. As long as I know I can leave eventually. Yeah, if you're telling me that's forever. No, I don't want to stay here forever.

Tamara: But two, three months?

Tamara: She had to go back to her family like they were wondering what happened to her. You can't just never come back.

Casey: She loves her family so much. Her family is everything to her.

Tamara: And I think he knows that. Yeah, he comes back with her and family just kind of he's like, oh, and yeah, we killed them and we defeated them and yeah, we got married.

Tamara: What? You're married? What happened now?

Tamara: Yeah, no big deal. We got married.

Casey: I will say I love how at the very beginning, of the story, the night she meets him, she saves him, he chases her a bit, she ends up at home and then he leaves, but she doesn't realize he's gone. So she like barricades the door, tells her parents there's a demon out there chasing her and everybody just kind of brushed her off as crazy. Her brothers show up the next day, they're like, yeah, we heard you had a crazy dream, you crazy little girl. And they're teasing her until he shows up in the fucking window. He's like, hello, it's me.

Tamara: I'm demon.

Tamara: I'm here.

Tamara: Hi, I'm back. And it was just such a casual.

Casey: Like, hello, I'm here. And her whole family's like, oh, what?

Tamara: And then she leaves with him.

Tamara: Okay. And so there it is with the comedy. Right? I think that part, that stuff is the comedy.

Tamara: Oh, yeah.

Tamara: And I am not the biggest fan of comedy, but it worked here. And again, I didn't mind it, but I think the author did a good job of balancing the comedy because it wasn't like nonstop, which was good. We had some important stuff in there. Like when Cinnamon thinks she sees her sister in the water in the swamp.

Tamara: Or whatever, and she goes out there.

Casey: And, oh my God, that was really dark and emotional.

Tamara: And.

Tamara: Yeah, Fallon's like, that's not your sister. Come this way. Come on.

Casey: Come on, we got to save you. And she's like, but my sister. But sherry.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: You're like, look again.

Casey: The dog.

Tamara: Yeah, that was crazy. So yeah, there was funny stuff, there was more serious stuff, there was sexy stuff. And it was pretty balanced, which made it be a fast read for me.

Casey: Oh, yeah, no, it was a fast read overall because it was just over 200 pages.

Tamara: A little more than that.

Casey: I don't remember what you said, but it was fast, it was funny, it was sexy. It had pretty much everything.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: And actually this wasn't, I think I said 279 on Kindle. Yes, 279.

Casey: It felt shorter than that to me.

Tamara: It did feel short, but it definitely was that long because I know I did pick up the Kindle version.

Tamara: Hm.

Tamara: And then I have Spotify premium, so you get like so many hours of audiobook time. So m. I was like, let me see if this is on Spotify because I'm not paying for this audiobook. It's so short.

Casey: Yeah.

Tamara: And it was on there. Okay, I'll listen at a fast speed. And the narrator was good, but I did like reading it. But yeah, I mean, it's available and the audiobook was good. So if you're a strictly audiobook listener, then I definitely recommend it there too.

Tamara: Yeah, it was fun. It was fun. Just be careful with listening to audiobooks when the sexy time comes. Shit gets loud.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: Don't be in public, or if you're.

Tamara: In public, use headphones, make sure those bluetooth stay connected because nothing like something dropping and you're hearing her making all that noise. Oh, God.

Tamara: What?

Tamara: a mess. You'd be like, oh, my God, what is that? I don't know. I don't know what happened on my phone. That's what you'd be doing. That's what I'd be doing.

Good advice for all romance books: Just switch to the book

I'd be like, I don't know what that is. But yeah, I was safe not to do that. I'm like, oh, here we go. Let me just press pause my mess. Just switch to the book.

Casey: Switch to the book. Read the sex scenes.

Tamara: I don't want any mess ups. No screw ups. So that's my advice.

Casey: Good advice. Good advice for all romance books. All steamy, smutty, all of those audiobooks.

Tamara: Yeah. Okay. I think now is a great time to take a quick break, you guys. By listening to these commercials, you are supporting the podcast. And also, don't forget to check out the book review journal available right now on Amazon.

Casey: We will be right back.

Tamara: Today's episode is brought to you by the shelf addiction merch store. Check out all the bookish t shirts, notebooks, mugs and more. Don't miss out on these original designs. Perfect for any book nerd. Support the podcast and visit forward slash merch and pick up your next favorite bookish item.

How did the sex scenes do for you? They were pretty hot

Okay, welcome back, everybody. So Casey, I have a question for you.

Casey: Okay, hit me.

Tamara: I know that you like very spicy books. You like it very spicy. How did the sex scenes do for you?

Casey: They were hot. It wasn't the hottest I've ever read, but they were pretty hot.

Casey: I was actually a little surprised because one of the original covers was very cartoony.

Casey: And I thought it was going to be sweeter. But then reading the trigger warnings, I was like, oh, maybe it's going to be darker.

Tamara: And then it ended up in the.

Casey: Middle of that for me. No, these were good, spicy scenes. They were interesting. There was different dynamics going on. Yes, he was, dominating her, but she wasn't like just straight up submitting. She was telling him what the fuck she wanted and he was like, okay.

Tamara: I'm going to do what you're telling me to do.

Casey: She's like, good, you better. I want this.

Tamara: That's why I think I like them so much. Because like I said earlier, it was just

enough. It was like, okay, it was great. But it wasn't like, oh, this is too far.

Tamara: This is too much.

Tamara: It's too much.

Tamara: Okay.

Tamara: Because Lord knows I like some spice. But not as much as you, Casey. Not as much as. Yes, I know that I'd be like, wait a minute, pump the brakes. This is way too far. But this was actually just really, it was like the perfect middle ground for me. So I liked it a lot.

Casey: I loved all of her friends teasing her about the sex, too.

Tamara: Oh, my gosh. Like the time they're, out there doing it and their friends are trying to find them on the island. They come and they're like, oh, no.

Tamara: They're getting it on. They're busy. We should come back later.

Tamara: it's hilarious, the hilarity. I could actually visualize that in my mind.

Casey: Yes, I was laughing at that point. Like, laughing out loud. Just like, yes, of course. Your friend is going to show up right at that exact moment and then turn around and yell to your entire ship full of demons.

Tamara: They're getting it on. Yeah, they're getting it on.

Tamara: Woohoo.

Tamara: Take your time, guys. Finish up.

Tamara: She's like, wow, that was a huge, what do you call it? Bucket of cold water. And he's like, oh, we can continue. She's like, nah, no, bro, no.

Casey: We're not doing anything.

Tamara: We're done hearing demons in the background, which is fair.

Tamara: But you know what? Going back to you mentioned the COVID art.

Tamara: Uh-huh.

Tamara: And I did just look at the older cover art. Uh-huh and I see what you mean. So the original cover art, he's like, holding her in a field of flowers. Uh-huh with mountains in the background in a blue sky with clouds and a pink title.

Tamara: Yes.

Casey: The very first cover was so cutesy.

Tamara: Yeah. And I was like, the sound of music or something, like, what is happening? Yeah, very not a good representation.

Casey: Kind, of cutesy, funny vibes. I like the current cover better because it gives me

more of that spicy. But the humor that we just talked about, I can see that with that first cover.

Tamara: I don't even see the humor in the first cover. I see it in the second cover because she's holding, like, a jug of ale that's, like, kind of tipping over. I love the colors more. It's so much more gripping. And, yes, he's kind of got the Fabio thing a little bit.

Casey: He's got her chin. He's holding her chin.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: No, the new one is sexy.

Tamara: Yeah, definitely. And I feel like that gives you a better idea of what you're in for. The other one, honestly, if I saw this first cover, I'd have been like, I don't know if I want to read this?

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: Honestly, that's why I put it off.

Casey: That's exactly why I put it off. I was hearing good things about it, but with that cover I was like, yeah, no, but I'm really glad it got the COVID update. And I'm really glad we read this because yeah, this is a great book. Probably my favorite book in 2024 so far. I know we're only one month in, well, one month and a few days, but I think it's my favorite book of 2024 so far.

You can really mess up your sales if you have bad cover art

Oh wow.

Tamara: That says a lot.

Tamara: Wow. But yeah, this speaks to me about how important the COVID art is. I think about that before. You can really just mess up your sales if you have bad cover art.

Casey: Oh, absolutely.

Tamara: You know what somebody said, now I don't know much about cinnamon as a spice. It's a bark, right?

Tamara: Uh-huh.

Tamara: So wouldn't they have in their forest, a forest instead of like a field?

Casey: So the way I imagined it, and I think we should probably try googling this. But I imagined like trees in a field, not very tall trees.

Tamara: Okay, I'm going to try to google it right now, cinnamon field and see what happens. So it looks like cinnamon fields. This is not very good. They look like a bunch of different things. So some of them look more like a bunch of trees, like a forest. Some of them look like rows of trees, like in an apple orchard. But it's just, you know, no apples. definitely. I don't know. I don't want to nitpick the field, but when I hear their farm or.

Casey: Whatever, go search cinnamon tree farm. Well, now I have trees, but there's a few pictures on Google here with cinnamon tree farms.

Casey: And that looks a bit like how.

Tamara: I was imagining it.

Casey: And then Google is weird because now half of this is just like, that's not.

Tamara: Okay. So for those of you not on Patreon, sorry, you can't see what I'm showing. yeah, but it looks like, see that one looks like a bunch of trees. That looks like, see, I guess I just imagined something else. The way the author described kind of had the farm.

Tamara: I just thought it was something else. But yeah, whatever, it's fine, but I don't want to nitpick it to death. But I was like, is that right? Is it a farm farm? Or is it like a forest? What is it? What does it look like? but yeah, it's acceptable. I'll let it go.

Tamara: Oh, okay.

Someone did not like the modern language with the fantasy setting

Tamara: So just to highlight someone else's issue. So I was looking at reviews.

Casey: Yes.

Tamara: And someone did not like the modern language with the fantasy setting. What did you think about the modern, style of talking?

Casey: I loved it. I think fantasy has gotten more modern progressively since Tolkien. Like in the fantasy back then, they were using 80s slang. It wasn't all high british hoity toity. I have to be like Tolkien. same in the decade. It gets more and more modern and less like everybody has to sound like the british monarchy. And I like that. I love that.

Tamara: I didn't mind it at all. She did have, huh? A couple of times she used slang like suss and other things that definitely you have to be around today. Know what that means?

Casey: Oh, yes.

Tamara: And I didn't mind it. Although then, after reading that comment, it did make me wonder, well, when is this? When is this?

Casey: I don't think they gave a specific year and I don't mind. I think it was just more of like, it felt old.

Tamara: Right?

Casey: It felt like her Farham family town out in the middle of the boondocks was definitely supposed to be like old school. We don't have bathtubs or running water. She was so shocked by the bathtub working and giving hot water immediately.

Casey: And so again, I appreciated that just for the sake of showing how the different

towns have different technology.

Casey: Like the boondocks. Yes. We're going to be living out here on our farms and carrying our water up from the river. But the rich people in the big bustling city, they definitely have working toilets and bathtubs and showers.

Tamara: I know, but I still didn't imagine our standard of a bathroom.

Casey: Oh no, it was definitely more fantasy.

Tamara: Yeah. But I didn't mind the language either. Especially because Simmons black, her people are black and ah, yeah, they would use some slang and it seemed totally normal to me to read it. It didn't pull me out of it. I kind of guess if you're kind of snobby about your romance, it.

Tamara: Might bother you, I think.

Tamara: Snobby about fantasy? Yeah.

Casey: If you're snobby about fantasy, yeah, that'll probably bother you. But honestly, in today's day and age, what fantasy books are you reading that doesn't use slang?

Tamara: Like even fourth wing.

Casey: Fourth wing uses slang. Serpent and dove uses slang.

Tamara: They do.

Casey: I don't read Jennifer Armin and Trout, but I'm sure she uses slang.

Tamara: She definitely does.

Casey: any other ya fantasy, romantic fantasy, like all of that is going to use slang. Maybe if you read high fantasy, it doesn't. But I'm not sure because I don't really read that genre. everybody does it.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: If you're that nit picky, you're probably not happy.

Tamara: You're not reading any of this.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: You're not reading this anyway because you're not going to want to read because those people that are diehards like that, they don't like romance in their.

Tamara: Not at all. Not at all.

Casey: Yeah, they would like title and get so upset. Like, the next one has the word yeeted in it.

Casey: That's going to tell you all you need to know.

Tamara: I have to say, I'm surprised you didn't bring up one huge oh. When I started

reading this book, I'm like, Casey would love to love her because this woman just wants cheese.

Casey: I read the first page and I was like, this is my soulmate. She is me. I am this woman. This is my story.

Tamara: I love it. Yeah.

Tamara: I'm like, she just loves her some cheese. And her best friend makes cheese.

Tamara: Brie makes cheese.

Tamara: I love mother.

This has moments of dark and serious tone. But that's not the overall tone

Okay, so I guess that's a thing around there. Brie makes cheese. Cinnamon has cinnamon farm. And of course cinnamon is the cure to bringing the demons out of the. So, yeah, I just thought that was funny. I'm like, oh, my God, all the cheese.

Casey: All the cheese. And in the middle of the story when she gets blackout drunk on her ship and makes everybody call her the queen cheese and just like, wakes up in bed with mounds of cheese around her, I was like, yes, that's me.

Tamara: When I get that drunk, she's like, what happened? No, that didn't happen.

Casey: He's like, yes, it did.

Tamara: Absolutely did. And I guess I have to say, like, if I were to tell someone or recommend this to someone, I would totally give it with the caveat that this is fun and light hearted and if you're looking for a couple of chuckles with a little bit of spice, then yes. If you're looking for something more serious, then just skip it. This isn't it. This is not it.

Casey: If you want dark and serious, don't do it. This has moments of dark and serious. But that's not the overall tone.

Tamara: No, it's fleeting. It doesn't really like that experience. Know Cinnamon and her sister, it lingered a little. It wasn't like this big thing hanging over her for the whole rest of the book. So it kind of is like, yeah, these things happen, but we move forward, we move on.

Casey: Yeah, like trauma, but we get past it, which is good.

She burned the whole place to the ground. Was only the slavers that died

Tamara: Yeah, so I did get some targaryen vibes in here as well with Fallon. Do you know Game of Thrones?

Casey: I never read it.

Tamara: Okay, so the Targaryens ride the dragons, and the end of Game of Thrones. what was her name? Oh, my God, I can't remember her name right now. Anyway, she burned the whole place to the ground. She burned the thing. They like, this woman is fucking crazy. So I'm like, okay, here go, felon. Just burning shit up.

Casey: Burning it up.

Tamara: Just let it. And, you know, that isn't really hero behavior. Exactly. Because there are other people there that you are killing.

Casey: He's villain adjacent. She described him.

Tamara: yeah, villain adjacent. And everyone is running, and she's going towards a dragon.

Casey: Well, okay, right before that, Felix, the werewolf she saved, was like, you should go bat your eyelashes at him to make him stop.

Tamara: Yeah, she does. And he does stop. after she burned nearly the whole ding on town to the ground.

Casey: Yeah, but they were slavers, and they kind of deserved it.

Tamara: But the children in the public, were there children? I don't know. We don't know. I mean, I got to just assume it's a town, right?

Casey: I guess we can just pretend it.

Tamara: Was only the slavers.

Casey: It was only the slavers that died.

Tamara: But when a huge dragon comes through blowing fire on everything, everything is toast.

Casey: Yes.

Tamara: And everybody.

Casey: And everybody. Everything and everyone.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: So I'm like, oh, this is feeling Targaryen right now.

Tamara: Take it all.

Tamara: He don't care. He'll give a fuck. He like, whatever.

One of the things I really appreciated about this book was social themes

Casey: That was one of the other things I really appreciated about this book was that, there were social themes and people changing their entire outlook on the world just

because it was the right thing to do and they hadn't thought.

Tamara: About it in that way.

Tamara: Yeah.

Casey: So, yes, in this busy town, everybody thinks that demons are basically pets. They're human looking, but they don't have any sort of intelligence. They can't speak. And when Fallon comes in and starts talking and has intelligence and says, yeah, all demons are really smart, the woman, usha, goes, oh, shit. Okay, well, you're talking. Yeah, you're talking. Why are you talking? He's like, everybody can talk. And she's like, well, I didn't realize we were slavers, but now let's go kick some ass and save all of these people.

Tamara: I mean, she changed her mind pretty quickly, and I think almost in a way, that was kind of unbelievable. But I guess, fine, right? We want people on the team. And she seemed like a good person, and when she realized that the stuff was wrong, she did an about face very quickly. But I guess if we wanted to put that in a different setting, I don't think people just change like that quickly.

Casey: They don't change that quickly. And again, that's why I wanted this book to be like another 100 pages, possibly. but for the short story to be like, yes, they're falling in love instantly. He took one look at her and fell in love with her. This woman looked at demons and said, oh, you're not pets. Let's save you. Let me burn down my entire city to save demons now. Yeah, things have to be sped up for a short story, but I appreciated that, and I really like that. Maybe somebody who read this will now take that thought and be like, oh, what am I walking past every single day and not thinking

twice about? That's actually really problematic.

Tamara: Oh, that's so kind. Look at you with those rose colored.

Casey: To hope for the best. M. I try.

Tamara: The bigots will read this book and think it's fun and just carry on.

Casey: Yes. Or give it a one star or skip over it entirely. I know. I'm trying to have hope for this world.

Tamara: Give me a break. Okay, I'll take that. I will take that. You can have hope.

Casey: I'm trying. There's not a lot of hope in this world.

Tamara: No.

Tamara: And I mean, actually, at the end of the book, we kind of get example of someone who's really hard headed. Her ex boyfriend. she keeps trying to tell him, like, look, this is not it.

Tamara: This is not it.

Tamara: Dude, you could change sides now. We won't have to hurt you. He's like, what? I know what I'm doing. I'm smarter than everybody.

Casey: So smart. You're my sweetheart. Yes, we broke up years ago, but you're still my

woman. Even though you just said you're married.

Tamara: Yeah.

Tamara: What a creep. No, you don't want her husband to hear you say that, sir.

Casey: Even though he's right there breathing fire on you. So stupid.

Tamara: Like, you trying to die today. He wants to die.

Casey: He just lost an arm and didn't die, but he was trying to die.

Tamara: yeah, he was trying wholeheartedly. He was going for the gusto with the.

Casey: Oh, yes.

Tamara: He went to meet his maker that day. He was out there acting wild, like even the other girl was like, wait a minute. What are you doing?

Casey: Why are you doing this?

Tamara: Yeah, what a mess.

Tamara: Yeah, there's actually a lot of stuff packed in the 279 pages.

Casey: Yeah, but it's so worth it. And so good. And I would definitely recommend this book to my friends.

Tamara: Yeah, I mean, I kind of felt this book that I did about that book that we read last year for Halloween, what was it called?

Casey: The,

Tamara: Right now it was.

Casey: Called Stabby Boys, but that's not the real title. But that's what it.

Tamara: No, not that one. the one where I kept reading the series. It was, the guy who was a demon or.

Casey: Oh, Kat Blackthorne.

Tamara: Hold on 1 second. I'll tell you, in 2 seconds. Give me 2 seconds to look at my goodreads. That's all I need. One, two. Okay, time's up.

Tamara: No, I don't have.

Ghost, ghost, Ghost by Kat Black Thorn contains extraordinarily more sex

Tamara: Okay, here it is. Ghost, ghost, Ghost by Kat Black Thorn.

Tamara: Yeah, right. Yeah.

Tamara: So I thought, now that was extraordinarily more sex. Oh, that was hot. And I still liked it. I don't have the limits that I may have thought I had because even though some of that shit was wild, I was still like, okay.

Casey: They fucked in a graveyard.

Tamara: That was wild. Yeah, but I like that so much that I'm like, oh, let me just keep reading. And that's the same situation I find myself in here. I'm like, I want to see what happens. I want to see what happens with all the gang who ends up with who. What's the werewolf sex like versus the dragon sex like, what's going on? I want to know all the things. I'm going to keep reading.

Tamara: Same.

Casey: yeah, no, I want to keep reading. I want to keep laughing and enjoying this series. I'm here for it.

You want to go ahead and rate it? Why not? Let's do it

Tamara: You want to go ahead and rate it?

Casey: Why not? Let's do it.

Tamara: Okay. I'll let you go first if you want.

Casey: I'm giving it five stars. I enjoyed it. It was cute, it was funny, it was sexy. It hit all

the right notes. yes. I wish it was longer to develop more stuff, but I think it was meant to be a short story, so I'm just going to accept it as a short story. And, yeah, as of February, this is my favorite book in 2024. So come back in December and we'll see if it still is.

Tamara: That's fair. I rated it four and four out of five. I liked it a lot. I'm going to keep reading and I just really think it's just fun. And actually, I think it's a really good palette cleanser. If you've been reading a lot of heavy, like, I've been reading a lot of heavy thrillers like serial killers and murders and horrible things so I felt like this was something nut popcorn and bubblicious and just a good time, and it really just kind of broke up the monotony before I jumped back into the dark stuff. So definitely, if you're into palette cleansers and you read a lot of dark stuff, this would be something fun.

Casey: Absolutely.

Tamara: Yes.

Okay, I think we are done for today. We turned it around for February

Okay, I think we are done for today.

Casey: We're done.

Tamara: Yay.

Tamara: I'm so glad you liked it. Me too.

Tamara: Me too.

Tamara: I'm like, oh, my God, please, God, let me like a book that Casey recommends. Oh, no. I swear it was a rough start.

Casey: It was a rough start this year. I am so sorry. But I am glad. I'm glad we turned it around for February.

Tamara: We turned it around. So, yeah, you guys pick up this title for, Valentine's Day or February book of whatever you feel like if you're a mood reader, this is it for February.

Casey: Absolutely.

The Shelf Addiction podcast is hosted by Nerdy Maven

Tamara: All right, we are going to end things there. It has been a really fun conversation. Hope you guys enjoyed it. Don't forget to like and subscribe wherever you're listening, and we'll catch you in the next one. Take care of yourselves. Bye, guys.

Casey: Bye, everybody.

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