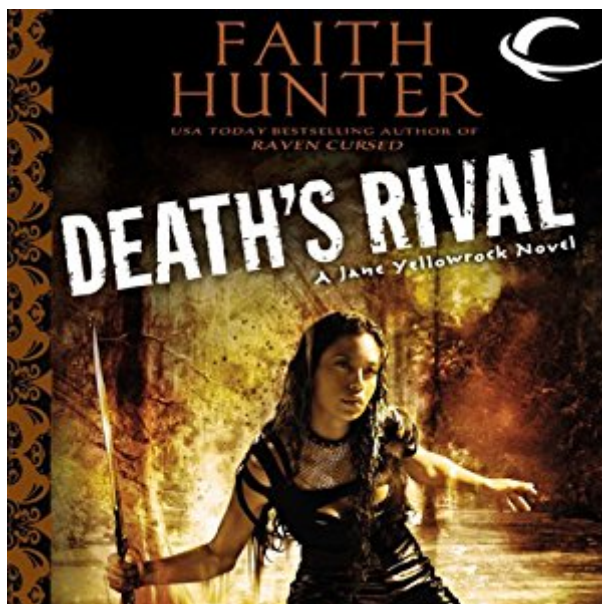


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Death's Rival: Jane Yellowrock, Book 5



Synopsis

Jane Yellowrock is a shapeshifting skinwalker you don't want to cross - especially if you're one of the undead.... For a vampire killer like Jane, having Leo Pellisier as a boss took some getting used to. But now, someone is out to take his place as Master Vampire of the city of New Orleans, and is not afraid to go through Jane to do it. After an attack that's tantamount to a war declaration, Leo knows his rival is both powerful and vicious, but Leo's not about to run scared. After all, he has Jane. But then, a plague strikes, one that takes down vampires and makes their masters easy prey. Now, to uncover the identity of the vamp who wants Leo's territory, and to find the cause of the vamp-plague, Jane will have to go to extremes...and maybe even to war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The latest installment of Jane Yellowrock's story, *Death's Rival* could also be called *Jane's Revenge*. Jane walked out of the forest as a young child, without memory of who she was and not speaking. As an adult she becomes a vampire hunter, killing rogue vampires for a living. I guess it's as good a profession as any. In *Skinwalker* we discover Jane's dark world, a universe filled with vampires and Jane, the last (?) Cherokee Skinwalker. Skinwalkers are able to shift into various animals when she has a sample of their DNA. Jane also shares her body with the soul of Beast, a cougar. Molly, an Earth Witch, is her best and pretty much her only friend. Molly and her immediate family are the only ones to know Jane's secret. Her life takes an about turn when the Vampire Master of the City of New Orleans, Leo Pellissier, hires her. Now she's working closely for vampires,

rather than just being hired to kill them. In addition to Leo, we are introduced to some interesting men, including Rick, a cop, and Bruiser, Leo's blood servant and right hand man. In *Death's Rival*, she feels very alone due to events in *Raven Cursed*. She is estranged from her best friend, and lost her boyfriend. Things are not going well and now she is drawn back into the world of vampires. *Death's Rival* is foremost a mystery. Vampires are not supposed to be able to get sick, yet they are. There is a plague taking down the MOC throughout the US and Jane has to find out the cause and who is behind it. We are there every step of the way, as Jane's support team, Derrick and his men, and Reacher, an computer expert, teases out the answers. While she works through the threads, untangling the answers, she also discovers what happened to her people so long ago.

The series keeps getting better as Jane & Beast come into their own. Already a strong heroine Jane reveals even more strengths and history. It is the best book yet in the Jane Yellowrock series and can be read alone without the background books. But, for maximum enjoyment consider reading the entire series in order to watch Jane's character grow. You will want to anyway, after reading this story. Background: Jane is a skinwalker, a shapeshifter, able to take on the shape of other animals. Beast is a mountain lion, a puma, that Jane inadvertently merged with as a child. Her long association with Jane seems to have Beast developing more cunning and a stronger independent personality. Jane was found wandering through the forest as a child years ago. After growing up under the government's foster program she sets out on her own to try and find a job working security. She becomes a vampire hunter, a good one. This brings her into the world of the vampire leaders and oddly enough she starts working for them. Vampires are neither good nor evil. They are what you would expect if you gave humans superpowers and long life. Some good, some bad, all arrogant and a law unto themselves. Jane helps enforce that law, becoming "The Enforcer" for Leo Pellissier the Vampire Master of New Orleans and by extension the most powerful vampire in the country. In the previous novel Jane's best friend breaks their relationship after Jane is forced to kill her sister and she loses her boyfriend to a were curse. She starts this novel emotionally isolated, alone and yet her independence shows her inner strength. *Death's Rival* *Death's Rival* starts with the unexpected. Vampires are getting sick. But vampires just don't get sick.

The Jane Yellowrock series has always been characterized by some great action scenes and this novel delivers in spades. But the other thing that always made this series so good was the ability to follow Jane's internal moral arguments with herself through the device of first person narration. This is hard to pull off and Ms. Hunter has so far done a fantastic job. In this novel, though, things

happen that either seem contrived to continue the series or else don't fit the moral framework that has been the centerpiece of the series to date. In the last novel, Jane and Rick seem to have found a solution to his "little problem", and Rick has decided to take a job with PsyLed. This should allow him to be productive in his current state and stay with Jane even if she moves around, yet at the beginning of this novel Jane is convinced that she and Rick are over as a romantic item and she considers herself friendless and homeless. How did this happen? Why was the conflict in the relationship off camera? Then when they finally get together in this novel, he informs Jane that they cannot be romantically involved, because the Grindylow will kill both of them. This flies in the face of what we already know about the were society: that the Grindylows are there to protect humanity by killing any weres who attempt to turn a human into a lycanthrope. In previous works we find that this occurs from biting, not sex (else all werewolves would be being hunted by Grindys by now), especially in light of the were reaction to Leo trying to pimp Jane out in the third novel. Additionally, both Rick and the grindylow know that Jane isn't human, so doesn't fall under the writ of the grindylow as we have been told to now.

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