



Perilous Partnership

Ariel Tachna

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A year after the end of the war that brought them together, Raymond Payet and Jean Bellaiche have found a balance in their relationship: Jean drinks only Raymond's blood; Raymond sleeps only in Jean's bed. The demands of their public roles as president of l'Association Nationale de Sorcellerie and chef de la Cour of the Parisian vampires keep them busy dealing with fallout from the war and the alliance, particularly the not-always-successful partnerships between vampires and wizards.

The foundation of an institute to research and educate wizards and vampires about the implications of the partnership bonds only adds to those responsibilities. When political factions, both vampire and mortal, oppose their leaders' decisions, the stress begins to affect Raymond and Jean's deepening relationship. And when political opposition turns to vandalism and then to violence, they'll have to find a way to reconcile their personal and professional lives before external and internal forces pull them apart.

Perilous Partnership Details

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Author : Ariel Tachna

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Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

5 stars

I love these guys, I love this world, and I really loved this book. I suppose, in theory, you could read this as a standalone (though I have no idea why you wouldn't want to read them all) as Tachna gives good explanations of everything you need to know, but I can honestly say the impact is much greater having read the first four and already knowing and loving the characters and the world.

Raymond and Jean are the heart of this book. Raymond is a particular favorite character of mine, from almost the very beginning of the series. I love his analytical mind, his quest for answers, and how he's so humble about his intellect and his abilities. This man truly doesn't know his worth but he wants to do the best he possibly can for the world and for the magical community. I love his heart. I love seeing underneath all his layers. And I love the way he loves Jean, quietly and without pressure. Their love is a beautiful thing, and it was so satisfying to me to see it expanding and growing as the two men get to know each other even better and share themselves with each other.

[Read Kris' review in its entirety here.](#)

Td says

This is a spin-off from the Partnership In Blood series, which was really one long story split into four books. After the first book I got hooked and immediately read the rest. This story focuses on the developing partnership and relationship between Jean and Raymond and the events a year after the war. There was enough background information from the previous stories interwoven into the new story that a person not familiar with the series will not be lost and might find it enjoyable.

For me, this one was a bit of a let down. I think in the back of my mind, and maybe unfairly, I kept comparing it to the previous books. In the series the main focus was on Alain and Orlardo, but there was still plenty of time devoted on the other partnerships and their development that I found myself caring about them just as much. They are in the new story as well, but I didn't feel as connected to them and I already forgot about the new characters that were introduced. I also didn't get that sense of urgency, anxiety and on-the-edge feeling until almost the end.

It was nice to revisit and get an update on old friends and on what happened after the war. But that's all that it was, just nice.

Gwendolyn says

I read this a awhile ago. No idea why I never marked it.

Love Bytes Reviews says

4.5 star review by Vicki

Sigh.... Raymond and Jean! Love them!

This series is interesting, it was originally a four book series, ending with the end of the war, especially with the epilogue at the end of the last book. It was pretty clear it was over. But there was more story to tell in this world, and apparently Jean and Raymond needed to have their own story! This first book is really a spin-off from the last four. It takes place a year later, and focuses on two things: The development of a research facility for the further study of the bond between wizards and vampires, and the growing bond between Raymond and Jean. It is not the most exciting of the books, but it is so good.

Raymond and Jean find and purchase an old monastery not too far outside Paris, and with the help of the other characters renovate it and set up l'Institut, the research facility. The goal of this place is to research the bond the already exists between the partners, and determine a better way to form new bonds. As we saw during the war over the course of the last four books, not all partnerships were successful, so Raymond and Jean want to come up with a way for a potential pair to determine if they want to bond before they do, so no more mistakes like Jude and Adele happen. So they create a series of workshops for vampires and wizards to learn the history of the bonds, and potentially meet a partner without the exchange of blood that will form the bond immediately. This seems like a brilliant plan to me, and seems to work well at least on the first round. A lot of the story is involved in setting up the space, and we see most of the first workshop. On one had it was not a very dramatic storyline, there is a bit of drama with someone trying to sabotage them, but it wasn't overly exciting like the books focusing on the war were. But on the other hand it was a great idea and I loved seeing the development of l'Institut from the start.

Then there is the story line that focuses on Raymond and Jean. That was amazing. They are a secondary pair in the first four books, taking a backseat to Orlando and Alain, but in this book they are the stars. I had mixed feelings about the time spent on other couples in the other books, I liked seeing the different pairings, but it detracted from the main pairs. In this book it is just Raymond and Jean and I loved that. They are a very strong pair and deserved their own story. So we see them happy, we see them angry, we see them naughty (Mile high club!), we see them hurting, and we see them strong.

Oh.... Then there is the sex. Holy crap! Hot and beautiful, sometimes naughty, and sometimes sweet, but always good. Sooooo good. Damn.

I didn't remember much about these books, I remembered the first four from my reading of them years ago, but these middle ones didn't stand out. I don't know why now, this one was fantastic. I love these men and this world dearly, Ariel has created an amazing place, and I want to go there! But I can't speak French. I've had to ask my daughter to use her high school French to pronounce some words for me. I'd still get on a plane in a minute to go!

A copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review. Please visit www.lovebytesreviews.com to see this and many more reviews, author interviews, guestposts and giveaways!

Katy says

Please note: I originally read this series in November 2011. I'm updating the formatting and adding the disclosure that the author provided me a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

My Synopsis: In this first spin-off novel from the Partnership in Blood series, the war is over and the wizards of l'ANS and the allied vampires are working to deal with the changes that have been wrought in their respective communities through the partnership bonds. With Marcel having retired, Raymond now heads l'ANS; but being Raymond, enough isn't nearly so, and with the assistance of his friends, he sets out to create a research and education foundation to learn more about the partnership bonds, and to provide educational facilities to help wizards and vampires interested in learning more about the bonds to make an educated decision about becoming partners. But not everyone supports the new foundation – mysterious accidents start to occur, despite the layers of warding put over the buildings and area. Will tragedy strike?

My Thoughts: I think my favorite part of this book is that we got to delve more deeply into Raymond and Jean's bond, and I have one thing to say – and that is I want my own vampire!!! The devotion Jean shows to Raymond is a beautiful thing, and I really appreciated that it is portrayed in a realistic fashion. Not everything is perfect, but they care enough about one another to work together to make one another happy. I'm not usually big on romances and all that sappy stuff, but the way this is written is wonderful, and I can truly say that this is probably my favorite romance novel I have ever read. I'm quite looking forward to the next spin-off book, *Reluctant Partners*, the latest from Ariel Tachna. If you enjoy a good romance, with a bit of suspense and adrenaline thrown in for spice, you should love *A Perilous Partnership*.

Jaime says

Not that I expected any different, but I loved this book. I'm decidedly biased here. I have yet to read an Ariel Tachna book I didn't like, especially from this series. I thought I'd said goodbye to these vampires and mages with the close of the war and the end of the forth book. Imagine my surprise and delight to find out two of my favorite guys were to get a book of their own: Jean and Reymond, possibly my very favorite couple from the whole series, did not disappoint. Not often do I have a moment when a character drives me to anger and tears in the same scene. I'll let you read to find out how this happened, and to a reader who rarely gets all that emotional. I'll just tell you this: it wasn't even a life-in-the-balance scene. Not physically, anyway. But that's how deeply the emotional lives of these characters are drawn. I just cared that much.

I remember when I first started reading this series, years ago, and I had complaints about the omniscient view point. Can I just say, as good as those first books were, Ms. Tachna has grown into her abilities as a writer. No more complaints. Just a bit of a wish to see the next book finished and in my hands, and a small request. Vincent and Eric. *puppy eyes* Please?

Pam says

I give it a 4.5

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

4.5 Stars

After Orlando and Alain, Jean and Raymond are my next favourite couple in this series and this book is primarily about their growing relationship.

Jean is an immensely old vampire who has seen the very best and the very worst of people during his lifetime. He is well respected by other vampires and is the head of the Cour in Paris, a position he has held for over 400 years. He never expected to find someone like Raymond when the vampires joined the wizards in the war. He never expected to fall in love, to find just one person he would feed from and then gain all the benefits that a partnership offered. He is fierce, extremely protective and would do just about anything for his wizard.

Raymond has come from a difficult background given the fact that he initially sided with Serrier in the war and bears the mark to prove it and constantly remind him.

Although it is in the past and he played a significant part in bringing the war to an end he lacks confidence in himself and always assumes people think the worst of him and still don't fully trust him. Jean has helped him to a large extent but the doubts are still there and lingering.

Jean wants the ultimate relationship that a vampire can offer his partner by marking and making Raymond his Avoue. As with most things that have happened between them Raymond is determined to fight him believing that he can't offer this final bond without it affecting his working life badly.

There is plenty of opportunity to catch up with the rest of the characters from the previous stories as they are on hand to offer support and advice. The vampire everybody loved to hate, Jude, makes a reappearance and he has not improved at all. Ironically he meets his perfect end when an enemy from the past nearly costs Raymond his life. One thing is for sure, if he survives he will offer Jean whatever he wants as he can't even contemplate a life without him.

Andrea says

2nd read

Becca Waldrop says

Damn the war may officially be over but bad guys are still on the loose and causing problems. And Raymond and Jean have decisions to make about their relationship. Hopefully before it's too late.

Chancey Knowles says

Plenty of other reviews. Very solid, consistent series with some unique twists. Great characters and interesting world building. For fans of the genre this series is a must, but I would recommend it for nearly anyone except those with an aversion to M/M or vampires. Read the spinoff series before reading the last 2 books in the main series for chronological order.

Lee says

Perilous Partnership, the first spinoff novel from the Partnership in Blood series, is a wonderful addition to Ms. Tachna's finely crafted Parisian world of partnered Vampires and Wizards. This is very much a seamless read, picking-up shortly after the war between the Wizards, and focuses on the relationship between Raymond and Jean. While their relationship is front and center, it doesn't overwhelm the overall story. There's plenty of action and subplots that keep the story rolling right along. Ms. Tachna is a skilled world builder which makes reading this book, as well as all of the series, such a pleasure.

As much as I liked the four books in the Partnership in Blood series, I think that this book, *Perilous Partnership* is my favorite. Of course that's only possible because of all of the work that went into the previous books. I give *Perilous Partnership* four stars.

Chris Jeffreys says

Perilous partnership is significantly better than this author's prior works. It is the same cast of characters from her first three books in the blood partnership series; however, this book is a better representation of what M/M romance should be all about. Surprisingly, this is a prequel to the third book in the series. We ultimately know how this series will end with the two main characters, Alain and Orlando, dying in approximately 90 years. This book however traces the history of the wizarding/vampire partnerships approximately one year after Serrier's fall. Overall, the characters were fairly well developed, and it focuses on the key relationships to move the story forward. This rates a solid three in my book. Unfortunately, I don't think that I am concerned enough about these characters to continue reading stories about them.
