



# Fool's Oath

*Chris Quinton*

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## **Fool's Oath** Chris Quinton

A rush of over-confidence on Xavi's part and his friend dies bloodily. Xavi is forced to face the reality of his own nature and the depth of his relationship with Andreas. And then there's the gold hidden in the walled-up crypt of the church...

## **Fool's Oath Details**

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Author : Chris Quinton

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## From Reader Review Fool's Oath for online ebook

### Grammy 1 says

Chris Quinton's series is quite unique. Ms Quinton's first book, Fools Errand, explodes with a murder, syndicate style, as we meet Xavi Escudero. He is hiding under the bed as he is the eye witness to this murder. Socialite and wife of a prominent politician , Sophia Matas is the unfortunate target and Xavi is her lover.

Xavi has been living on the streets since childhood. Spain has been very good to him, living off the rich woman of Barcelona and the rich woman tourists he can wine, dine and bed for the money they give him, and the gifts and jewelry he can get. The year is 2042 important to know since this is when the vampires have come out of the closet and an area called Renaissance has been established just outside of town, for the vampires who want to live in peace and harmony.

Andreas Rousakis, a vampire, has arrived to be a liaison between the Barcelona Police Department and to be the Community Warden of Renaissance. He is partnered with Detective Ricardo Aquilar to look into Sophia's murder. What an explosive meeting Xavi and Andreas have. They begin to solve two mysteries, the murder of Sophia and their spiraling attraction, one that sizzles on every page.

Fool's Oath continues their story. The authors take on vampirism is that it is an infection of the blood. When Andreas is mortally wounded at the end of Fool's Errand, Xavi purposely infects himself with Andreas's blood and begins 'the turn'.

His desire to remain forever young was intoxicating to him and he hoped to be with Andreas longer than a human existence. But now reality sinks in; past the physical pain and suffering, and he has to learn what he has become and learn how to control feeding urges, learn his strengths, and not become a rogue that will have to be put down.

Unfortunately, Andreas has been called to America. Andreas has no wish to bring Xavi there, as the factions in the United States are more hostile to this new order. His desire is to completely sever his work there and live in peace with his lover in Spain.

Their relationship is still very young, and Xavi wants nothing more than to bury himself in Andreas. But wounded as he is emotionally, he cannot tell this man his feelings. So Xavi comes across as a petulant man-child always doing something other than what he really wants. We have found Andreas although needing to be the dominant, needing Xavi to tame his heart. What a ying/yang story with the heady sexual scenes steaming up the pages.

Andreas tells Xavi to behave, to stay home, and wait for his return. The separation should be short, but to Xavi being away from this man for an hour is unimaginable. Within hours, Xavi is dressing and wandering the streets of his old haunts picking up a pretty matron and making a date for the next day to take her sightseeing and hopefully to bed. Guillem a very old school friend finds him. Gui is the type who always has a scam going on and now is no different. Xavi has been in the papers because of the murder and has been helping the police prosecute the people involved, so he is sort of a celebrity. His friend has a 'deal' to run by him of artifacts and gold that he wants Xavi to help him excavate and sell. Can you see where this is going? Carrying bags of gold from the site, Xavi and Gui are jumped and Gui's throat is cut. All Xavi can smell is the blood...he is a vampire...Bodies are ripped apart and Xavi is covered in blood when Detective Aquilar gets to the scene. Xavis mind is bleak. A vampire who drinks human blood will be destroyed. What will

Andreas find when he returns to Barcelona.?

Chris Quinton has written two very well written books about choices and a love so strong between these two men you almost cannot breathe from the strength of it.

This story is mostly featuring Xavi, I cannot wait to read the third book in the series and learn more about Andreas.

Review by Gloria Lakritz

Sr Reviewer and Review Chairperson of the Paranormal Romance Guild

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### **Susan says**

This second book in the series sees development in the relationship between Xavi and Andreas. They are both adapting to the changes in their lives and when Andreas is recalled to America for a while, Xavi predictably acts out. He is insecure and scared and without Andreas' strength and guidance he reverts to his old ways and spectacularly screws up! There is an almost old-fashioned feel to Andreas which is interesting in a book set in the future. He refers to Xavi as his companion and he is a very honourable man. He is in charge in the relationship but as he says himself it is not of the master/slave or BDSM variety and however you define the relationship it is exactly what Xavi needs. I look forward to watching the relationship develop in the third book.

People who have strong boundaries for what they read should note that this book contains non-explicit references to mf sex and (view spoiler)

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### **The Blog of Sid Love says**

**3.5 stars**

**Please read review at The Blog of Sid Love**

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### **Deanna says**

4.5 stars

Ready for the 3rd installment!!!

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## Book Utopia says

3.5 stars

The second book in the Fool's Odyssey Trilogy picks up two months after the end of the first. After ex-gigolo Xavi took it upon himself to infect himself with vampirism, he's had to suffer through the transformation with the constant aid and presence of his lover Andreas. The story starts as he is starting to feel better, though he has yet to venture back into the outside world. At the same time, Andreas is summoned back to the US, but he assures Xavi he will return as soon as possible. He has pledged himself to Xavi and has no intention of leaving him behind. He extracts a promise from Xavi that he'll stay out of trouble by not going out alone, but almost as soon as he is gone, Xavi realizes he can't stay in the house without being reminded of Andreas at every turn. His promise doesn't last.

Where the first book focused primarily on the action and world-building, this one is all about Xavi's adjustment to being a vampire and the relationship between the two men. It wasn't a shift I was necessarily pleased to see. The romance was my least favorite part about the first book. But I was curious about how it would be handled and where it would go. Ultimately, while I found much of it fascinating, the emotion it engaged most was frustration with Xavi.

It's very realistic that he wouldn't just turn from his old ways. He's used to being self-reliant, and for as much as he's devoted to Andreas, this is the first real relationship with a man he's ever had. He's very emotionally stunted, as well as immature, and that comes through loud and clear with his blatant disregard to adhering to his promise. I understood why he did it. Xavi measures his self-worth by other people. He needs to feel wanted in order to be happy, and a lot of his actions when he ventures out after Andreas's departure stem from this basic definition. The problem is, it highlights his egocentrism to alarming proportions and increasingly infuriated me as the story progressed. Andreas might still be this enigmatic benefactor, more guarded emotionally, but his devotion to Xavi bleeds off the page. I was angry at Xavi for betraying Andreas's trust that way.

Some of this is mitigated halfway through the story when Xavi's actions end up having dire consequences. All of a sudden, he's forced to fully face what he's become, and his grasp on his humanity is tenuous at best. Only fear of Andreas keeps him in check, and he clings to what he can until Andreas returns to Barcelona. Andreas's reaction was my favorite part of the whole book, though that doesn't surprise me. I liked him the most in the first one, too. He has strong emotional reactions to what transpired in his absence, but he's able to manage them for the better of Xavi, the world, and their relationship. His strength and nobility help compensate for Xavi's shallower nature. Much like other characters in the book, I do question what exactly he sees in Xavi, however. In spite of the delicious attention they're paid at the end, it wasn't enough for me to be able to get over my reservations regarding their compatibility.

There's more sex in this than the first, bookending the action and emotions of the middle. It's explicit and scorchingly sensual, but the promise of what is to come in book three is probably what made it seem even hotter. While I might not have enjoyed this as much as I enjoyed the first, I will definitely be tuning into the conclusion. I need to see how this all plays out, and hopefully, get some of my questions about whether Xavi and Andreas can truly last answered.

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## **Loves To Dive says**

We first met Xavi and Andreas in Fool's Errand, Xavi was a witness to a murder and Andreas the vampire cop assigned to protect him. While in hiding, they developed an attraction to each other, which came as a surprise to both of them. Knowing that Xavi would always be hard to handle, Andreas, none the less, tells him that they are bound together forever. Soon after, Andreas is wounded in the sting to take down the murderer, scared and afraid of being alone, Xavi does the only thing he can think of to keep them forever, he infects himself with Andreas blood in order to become a vampire himself. Two months later and Xavi has finally recovered from the pain of the conversion, he is finally feeling 100% himself and is ready to get back to his relationship with Andreas.

Andreas has been by Xavi's side through the whole ordeal and knows that at some point he is going to have to go back to the US and deal with his responsibilities to the authorities there. Unfortunately for Andreas and Xavi, that time comes right when Xavi has recovered physically but before Andreas has had time to acclimate him to what being a vampire really entails. Not able to put off his trip, Andreas warns Xavi that he isn't ready to go out in public and mingle yet, and tells him to stay at home while he is gone. Xavi swears he will, but Xavi being Xavi, his good intentions don't always pan out as expected. Xavi will find himself in the middle of a nasty situation that will call for all his resolve to not let Andreas down, and Andreas will have to rely on all his own training to get them both through the problems that will ensue.

Ms. Quinton introduced us to Xavi and Andreas in the first book of the Fool's Odyssey trilogy, and we fell immediately into their world. Set in 2042 Barcelona, she takes us into the gritty underworld of Xavi's lifestyle this time, and also brings us back to the US where life is not the same as we know it. She is so good at spinning her tale that it is impossible not to get involved with the characters and soon become so lost in their world that it's hard to walk away.

We spend more time with Xavi than we previously did, he struggles to get by without Andreas and despite his promises he can't help but venture back into his old lifestyle. I have to admit Xavi is not my favorite person. He is such a contradiction, one moment he is borderline egomaniacal and the next he only wants to please Andreas. It is a testament to Ms. Quinton's ability to tell a story, that even though he isn't my favorite person I still could not step away from this book. I watched him willfully defy Andreas and begged him not to do so. I did warm up to him by the end; I know Andreas will never have a dull moment with Xavi around.

Speaking of Andreas, I fell in love with him in Fool's Errand, and those feelings have not changed. This vampire is one cool customer, he shows the world a calm, quiet, dangerous side and he shows Xavi his softer side. If his looks and overall personality weren't enough to pull me to him, the fact that he knows Xavi for exactly what he is and still cares for him would have me in his pocket.

This novella was a little darker than the first, while we had a murder to solve in Fool's Errand and there were moments of violence, this one shows us the side of the vampire that we didn't see before. We see Xavi fight with his darker nature and even Andreas has moments of almost succumbing and it's not always pretty. Once again, I was totally engrossed in Xavi and Andreas' lives and even though at times I just wanted to slap Xavi, I found myself sad to see them go when I finished reading. Since this is a trilogy, I know we haven't seen the last of these two and I can't wait to see if or how they finally grow their relationship.

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### **Antonella says**

3.5

See review by BookUtopia

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### **Elisa Rolle says**

The second in the Fool's Odyssey trilogy if for me the better for now; I liked the previous book, but if I remember well the romance was not as much developed as it's in this one. Andreas and Xavi are now a couple, Xavi went under the transition that made him a vampire, but he has not yet learned the boundaries of this new situation, and of course, as soon as Andreas has to leave him for a few days, he got himself into trouble.

I liked that the author, even if she could have played the drama card, preferred instead to remain more on a love story level. Xavi is like a kid with a dangerous new toy, he wants to try it, despite the warnings; but he is not a bad kid, and when he breaks it, he fears the consequences of his actions.

Xavi and Andreas's relationship is a mix of Dominant and submissive and top from the bottom; of course Andreas is stronger and more experienced than Xavi, and Xavi likes to play the submissive lover, but Xavi is also a primadonna, he doesn't like to be left in a corner. He really needs a chaperon, and more than once he has proved to Andreas that he is not ready to be independent, not before he was turned into a vampire and not now. But Xavi has also a generous heart, and I like that he knows that Andreas is good for him.

Andreas is an odd man, apparently not moved by human emotions, but actually he is very good in judging them, and above all he is a good "tutor"; Andreas knows that he has to let Xavi make his own mistakes, only in that way Xavi will grow stronger and come back to him by his own choice and not since Andreas is his only option.

Xavi and Andreas's relationship is not yet fully matured, the author chose to let it grow during the three books and at this point, we know the completion will be in the last and third book, that at this point, I'm pretty curious to read, above all to see if Xavi will mature, or if he will remain the bratty pretty boy I ended to like.

<http://elisa-rolle.livejournal.com/15...>

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### **Joanne says**

So much more intense than the first book. I loved it.

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## **Suze says**

A second, grand installment of Xavi and Andreas! I would not recommend reading as a standalone as it is very much a follow on from Fool's Errand and I can imagine you'd spend a lot of time wondering who was who and why etc - I skim read the first book again before starting this.

Xavi is great - the quintessential brat, doing his own thing, getting into serious shit - this is mostly about him dealing with his new vampire talents after his impetuousness in the previous story exposed him to infection. Andreas is still all brooding hero - and I love that he is in ill fitting suits and slicks back his hair to hide how hot he is (opposite of most romance heroes!).

Unlike the first book, the non romance element of the story is very second string - this is all about Xavi and Andreas solidifying their relationship and how it will work going forward. And very hot together they are too!

I also love that it is set in Barcelona, great to see other places get used for settings.

Definitely recommended, read pretty much in one sitting - off to read Fool's Rush now

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## **Jenre says**

I really enjoyed the previous book in this series, *Fool's Errand*, and was looking forward to reading this book. *Fool's Errand* had left me with a lot of questions about the futuristic world created by the author and also the complex 'still waters run deep' character of Andreas who I felt was overshadowed rather in the previous book. It was a little unfortunate then that the story kept its focus on Xavi and that the questions I'd hoped would be answered were not.

The story begins a few weeks after the previous book. Xavi has spent the time recovering from the vampire virus after he deliberately infected himself by mingling his blood with that of Andreas at the end of the last book. It's been a tough few weeks for him, as the transition was made more painful because of the silver that had been mixed with Andreas' blood at the time. Xavi is now back to his previous cocky self, much to Andreas' relief but there's a shadow in the horizon. Andreas is called back to the USA for a week or so during which time he hopes to extricate himself from the oppressive regime there. He doesn't take Xavi with him and so leaves him behind after extricating a promise from Xavi that he will keep a low profile and stay out of trouble. A promise that Xavi readily makes but has no intention of keeping.

I'd liked Xavi in the previous story. His swagger, self confidence and optimism were a good foil for Andreas and his stony like exterior and carefully managed emotions. They worked well as a pair and in fact still worked well in this book, because the scenes where the two men were together were by far the best parts of the book. The push and pull of their relationship and the way their feelings are starting to develop after the commitment they made at the end of the last book, were realistically done. I had worried about the insta-love aspect of the story but in this book that element is explored through the various conversations that Andreas has with his friends. The sex between the men was well written, and highlighted the theme of submission and dominance that threads its way through the relationship between the two heroes.

Having said that, my feelings for Xavi were not quite so positive in this book. He changes from an intelligent man, used to trading on his charm, good looks and quick wit, to a petulant child who acts like he's had his favourite toy taken from him and so sets out to destroy the other toys in the toy box. Andreas explains why he needs to keep a low profile, that he doesn't know his own strength and powers, and this is only confirmed by Xavi's doctor, but that doesn't seem to stop Xavi from doing the entire opposite of all advice given, just

because he's had his nose put out of joint by Andreas having to go the USA. The real killer for me was when Xavi was deliberately unfaithful to Andreas, just to show that he could be and that he could get some poor woman to give up her body to him on the strength of his charm. When things go horribly wrong for Xavi, he is made to see the error of his ways and to also try to atone for his mistakes but that wasn't enough for him to have been redeemed in my eyes, and I felt that Andreas' way of dealing with Xavi didn't go far enough to restore my previous feelings of sympathy for Xavi. As you can imagine this rather clouded my views on the book, especially as I felt there was too much focus on the selfish and immature Xavi and not enough on Andreas who still remains an enigma in many ways.

The futuristic worldbuilding is slowly being fleshed out but I was still left with questions about Andreas' role in the USA regime. New characters were brought into play and I am interested in seeing how they will influence the events of the third and final book in this trilogy.

Overall, this was still a good read: The writing is clean and descriptive, with the setting of Barcelona a definite positive for the book; the paranormal aspects of the worldbuilding are interesting and continue to be developed; and the character of Andreas is intriguing. However, Xavi's character took a negative turn for me and it remains to be seen whether he can redeem himself in the next book.

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### **Simsala says**

4,5 stars

I can't help it - I have a soft spot for dangerous men...in fiction!

And Andreas and Xavi ARE dangerous - even for each other. Needless to say that the Fool's Odyssey is not a gentle romance.:-)

Can't wait for the next and last book in the series.

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### **Sid says**

Read the entire series Review on The Blog of Sid Love!

Series Review: Fool's Odyssey by Chris Quinton

Book #2: Fool's Oath

3.5 Stars

Let me tell you, Xavi is a fool... seriously! And never to believe a fool's oath ever, Andreas should have known that before trusting his promise of staying out of trouble. When promises something like that, he is sure to break it. Being sent for by the American authorities, Andreas is required to go leaving Xavi alone at their home (oh yes, they have started living together now!)

Also, there's another bomb-shell. At the end of the first book and during the action scene, both Xavi and Andreas are injured, but Andreas more. In trying to help him, Xavi gets infected and guess what? Well, you can guess ...

Anyways, like the summary says he is getting used to his true nature now. Though the hard part only hits him later. While Andreas is away, Xavi is lured by his friend into helping him sell out a chunk of gold he has found hidden mysteriously beneath the grounds of a church. However, as they are taking it out, they are jumped by a few men and that ends up with his friend turned in a bloody corpse. The rush for blood is extreme and it takes a lot out of Xavi not to turn into those blood rogue of vampires. Because he knows well, Andreas would cull him!

I had a very difficult time getting through this book. The series would have been finished a lot earlier had it not been for this specific book. It was more than once that I kept this book away out of boredom, because to be honest, apart from the chapters where the gold, the friend and the above mentioned scene comes into picture, everything else is just plain. Of course, we come to know more about both the characters but this book basically was a bridge between what happens between the first and the third book. Also, there's development in the two men's relationship which is worth reading about. Without this one, third book won't make much sense. So, like it or not, you would have to get through this one.

I mean, it isn't that bad, but it is not that good either. The author, I believe, could have handled it in different, some interesting ways, but she didn't and that is a disappointment.

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### **Andrea says**

I love Chris Quinton's writing and I love this book!

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