



Love at Stake

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Abbey is the lone human working for Fated Match, a company that pairs members of the supernatural community with their eternal mates.

To snag a young vampire socialite as their next client, Abbey journeys to the home of Lucian Redgrave, the oldest vampire on the East Coast. But he's not willing to allow his vampire daughter to use the agency... unless Abbey can first find his perfect match in a month.

As Abbey coaches Lucian through his dates, she can't deny the chemistry between them. But humans are toys for vampires, and risking her heart isn't a part of the plan.

Love at Stake Details

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From Reader Review Love at Stake for online ebook

Babel says

Lo que me hizo elegir esta lectura fue la premisa de una agencia de citas que ofrece emparejamientos de por vida solamente a seres sobrenaturales. Sólo por eso tenía que leerla. ¿Vampiros, licántropos y toda suerte de seres paranormales buscando pareja por internet? Vamos, no puedo esperar más para saber qué pasa XD Abbey es una chica humana guapetona, pero para nada se puede comparar con muchas bellezas que rondan su lugar de trabajo. Su jefa, una sirena tiránica, le obliga a aceptar un trabajo de campo. Están pasando por horas flojas y el negocio se beneficiaría enormemente de conseguir un cliente muy especial, Melissa Redgrave. Es una vampira joven que busca el amor de su vida, pero su creador, Lucian, está en contra. La misión de Abbey consiste en convencerle de que la agencia merece la confianza de este gran señor de los vampiros.

Cuando Abbey, toda muy profesional, se presenta en el caserón del rey vampiro, se encuentra con Melissa, agobiada por las riendas tan cortas que mantiene su creador. Y con Lucian. Anticuado, vestido aún con la moda de un par de siglos atrás, e irresistiblemente guapo. Tras un duelo de propuestas y miradas, Lucian acepta la oferta de la agencia Fated Match (Pareja Predestinada). Aunque añade una condición: él se apuntará al programa y tendrán que encontrar su pareja eterna en un mes, o el trato se esfuma. No sólo Melissa no se apuntaría, sino que la reputación de la agencia acabaría por los suelos y, por supuesto, Abbey acabaría despedida.

Me ha parecido una lectura tremendamente amena: la pareja protagonista, aunque opuesta en todos los sentidos, funciona a las mil maravillas. Es curioso que la autora juegue con las estadísticas que ofrece la tecnología en contraste con el instinto del cara a cara. Durante toda la novela, mantiene una lucha entre las probabilidades de compatibilidad entre parejas basándose en los perfiles de personalidad y aficiones, y esa chispa ardiente que surge entre dos personas cuando se conocen por primera vez.

Tanto el enamoramiento como las escenas íntimas van incrementándose en intensidad a medida que progresa la relación entre Lucian y Abbey. Ambos se sienten irremediamente atraídos el uno por el otro, pero tienen tantas razones para denegar un vínculo más sólido que todas sus dudas ponen obstáculos sin parar. Ese "amor imposible" está bien reflejado, hay buena psicología por parte de la autora que, en mi opinión, ha construido un personaje femenino estupendo. Abbey es moralmente fuerte y se niega a conformarse con menos que el amor completo, aunque sufra de muchas inseguridades por su aspecto y su calidad de humana entre sobrenaturales.

Ése es otro punto de la novela: a pesar de la convivencia, los seres paranormales suelen considerar a los humanos como una especie inferior. Y Abbey tiene que lidiar contra esa barrera en su relación con Lucian. En un principio, el prota masculino casi no parecía un vampiro, más bien un tío rico y apuesto como otro cualquiera. No es hasta que surge el tercero en discordia, un licántropo, que la tensión en la historia alcanza cotas más paranormales y activas. Los diálogos son chispeantes, los personajes traen su equipaje emocional que hay que airear para solucionar el conflicto amoroso, y el mundo de las citas entre especies da muchísimo juego.

Torre de Babel <http://torretadebabel.blogspot.com/20...>

Barbara? says

DNF@ 23%

First of all (and I knew this going in) the h is trying to find the H's perfect mate even though clearly they are attracted to each other. He keeps thinking he just wants a fling with her and get her out of his system...not exactly what I like in a hero. And she hates vampires and doesn't want to be attracted to him even though it's

killing her to set him up with dates.

Second, he had a date with a succubus and sits there looking at her thinking how beautiful she is and how she is totally his type and if he had written out everything he wanted in a mate she would be it while the heroine would score a resounding zero...WTF? I hate that. I want the hero to think the heroine is perfect in every way even if she is not his usual type!

I'm out of here.

Danielle (Danniegurl) says

This for being 200+ pages was super easy and quick for me to read. I really dove into it and really enjoyed it. I definitely liked the dynamic between Abbey and Lucian and I was irritated with Abbey's boss. Once again in a story I found myself wanting to know what her boss thought once they finally got together and how wrong said boss was. I hated how she was treated by her boss and look down upon just because she was human. I really wish we could have seen something relating to that.

There is a bit of a love triangle. For my friends who have issues with OW/OM please read on to see if this is for you, be warned I may spoil it a bit for you.

(view spoiler)

Candy says

3.5 Stars

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

This was the perfect antidote, or make that the perfect reading change of pace, after a series of very big books with earth shattering themes.

Not that I didn't enjoy those, but it's a different kind of enjoy.

Love at Stake was frothy, refreshing and just plain fun. And I really needed a fun book, so it was fantastic.

Also fangtastic, since the hero is a vampire.

Love at Stake is a contemporary/paranormal romance about two people who move in totally different worlds, discovering that they are just right for each other, even though "conventional" wisdom would say they have nothing in common.

So it's a kind of opposites attract romance. Not just opposite because Lucien Redgrave is a vampire, but also that he is a major player in vampire politics and big business. Without the fangs, Lucien could easily be the hero of a "billionaire" love story.

Abbey is a human who got into the supernatural world by accident. Her mother got bit by a were-badger. (Badger!?) And it's not just that Abbey is human, but that she works for a living in a supernatural matchmaking business.

Of course, the matchmaking business brings them together, but not as a match. Lucien's daughter wants to use Fated Match to find herself a true mate. Lucien is certain that no computer program can find anyone their mate. He won't let his daughter sign up until he vets the service first.

Lucien challenges (or let's call it a bet) that Fated Match can't find his mate within 30 days. If the company wins, his daughter can sign up. If the company loses...there will be a lot of disappointment all around.

Except that Lucien can't make himself concentrate on any of the women that might be his match. He's become fascinated with Abbey. Even though vampire-human matches are not supposed to be possible.

From the beginning, Abbey's job is at stake. She has to find Lucien's mate or she'll lose her job. But long before the time is up, Abbey realizes that what is really on the line is her heart.

Because Lucien claims that he doesn't have one.

Escape Rating A-: Love at Stake is a paranormal romance where the paranormal elements take a back seat to the romance. But it's a very plush, leather upholstered back seat in the back of an expensive limo.

The story is about two people who shouldn't find each other, but do. And because they both know that a relationship between them is not supposed to work, they resist their attraction as long as possible, and with enough suppressed steam to heat my iPad's circuits.

Abbey is certain that Lucien is out of her league, not just species-wise, but also socially, economically, and she's certain he's way too gorgeous for her average self.

Lucien sees a woman who brings life to everything she touches. Her humanity makes every experience fresh and new, something he hasn't felt for over 900 years. She makes him feel alive.

But they both believe it can't work. So they pretend it isn't. The number of times they hurt each other, and themselves, is a little heartbreaking. And it completely sucked me in.

Discovering that Love at Stake is the first book in the Fated Match series is excellent news! I want more!

And if Love at Stake turns out to be your cup of tea, (or glass of red wine), take a look at Jessica Sims' Beauty Dates the Beast for more supernatural matchmaking fun.

Bridgette South says

Okay, so this book is AWESOME!!! I read it in one night! lol (I was supposed to be sleeping but I couldn't lol!!)

Abbey works for a supernatural matchmaking company called Fated Match. When a vampire's daughter decides she wants to give it a try, Lucian(her father) decides that since he wants to protect his daughter, that he would give it a trial first... in efforts to dissuade her from wanting to try out this company... Oh how wrong he was!! Lucian is stubborn and a vampire... and Abbey is twice as stubborn...and a human...

She has a strict NO VAMPIRE(or anything that eats people, or drinks blood) dating policy... This book was really a great chase for me! I loved getting to know Lucian a little at a time, and watch the "Thirty Minutes" get shorter and shorter... lol Then after their little hiccup there was my FAVORITE scene in the entire book!!!

Now, I'll save the scene for you to actually read because me telling it is going to give it NO justice!! lol!!

Here are the details I will give you however... there's this intense sexual scene, everything is going as planned.... I'm reading along and my breathing has hitched in my throat... and all of a sudden.... I STARTED LAUGHING SO HARD I FELL OUT OF BED!! lol

I so recommend this book if you like romantic comedies with a dash of paranormal to it! :)

I give this book 5 out of 5 shields!!

Shelly says

I loved it so much!!! The story was so sweet and the ending was just so cute!! So many emotions!

Astha says

A TOTAL LOVE TRIANGLE

Nice idea, a very rare idea of putting the elder first who has a anti-relationship personality.

This story begins with a total sorry story of a broken relationship of an client crying over a broken relationship and Abbey the matchmaker who works for a company know as Fated Match is trying to solve her problem. The start is not very interesting it made me feel like i should just leave the story in between and just start with a new book .But the boss is quiet a peace of work in the story .She forces Abbey to go and meet the famous vampires daughter who is a social lite so that the company can again get some potential client .

Abbey she has a strict policy NO VAMPIRE.But she is forced to take up this job because she is no good for any other job.She is forced to meet Lucian Redgrave and his daughter the oldest vampire on the eastern coast .

Lucian Redgrave was the oldest vampire and had a very anti social personality and the man who ran the whole east coast.But was against his daughter signing up for match making company.

He was dressed up in a very old fashioned manner when abbey first show him .

This story was not quiet as good as the middle portion of the book.But the story is quiet nice for a short read.

Lucien wanted to have sex with Abbey and then forget about her but her nature always made her resist all the charms Lucien would throw at her.Lucien quiet did not like his attraction towards Abbey but they could not deny the chemistry between them but abbey was anti vampire and Lucian was anti relationship.Before allowing his daughter to sign up he made a deal that they had to find him his perfect match.They have a very contrasting nature Abbey was cheerful and full of bright colours in her life but Lucian was all black and all time serious.

Abbey was forced to babysit Lucien until he found his match.

All thought the story is quite good but Lucien pov is only their for 2 times in the whole story.Which made it a little disappoiting because Lucien pov made the story more interesting.

With all the chemistry they have they all the time try to diney the fact they could live together.Which bring count less numbers of dates for Lucien and a werewolf for Abbey. The whole focus of this book was on separating the supernatural and the human world.The ending was lefty in the middle of the air they did not tell if Abbey chose to be turned into a vampire or not.

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

Nice idea, but never fully caught my attention = I dozed off a few times reading it. And I got tired of the back and forth relationship Abbey and Lucien had. That sort of dating drama does not interest me, it's just absurd. Pet peeve - there's a love triangle.

angelblue says

Abbey Sinclair is a matchmaker at Fated Match which is a dating service for the paranormal. They use scientific methods to help couples find their fated mates faster than traditional dating methods. Business has been slow so Abbey's boss has decided that they need to land a high profile client to help bring in more people to widen their dating pool. And it just so happens that the popular vampire socialite Melissa Redgrave is interested in using Fated Match's service.

However there is just one tiny problem.....her adopted father Lucien Redgrave. An ancient, he is basically considered the king of all the East Coast Vampires and he doesn't believe that science can make up for instinct and fate. To prove that the service is a waste of time he agrees to let Melissa to join on one condition... that Abbey sign him up first and personally find his mate in one month.

Abbey reluctantly agrees and attempts to bring him into the 21st century by updating his wardrobe and hairstyle. Lucian goes along with her requests but he has an ulterior motive, he wants Abbey and has no plans of giving any of his dates a chance. Abbey is attracted to Lucian as well but refuses to give her heart to someone who considers humans as playthings.

Lucian pursued Abbey relentlessly, and like a true alpha male he refuses to see what she truly is to him until it's almost to late. Abbey is stubborn, almost too much so. She believes that Lucien considers her inferior because she's human. She's feisty and doesn't take crap from him. She brings color and life to Lucien's rigid

and ordered world which he doesn't know how to handle at times. The chemistry between these two is explosive! And to spice things up even further there is an intriguing love triangle going on with a yummy werewolf.

I really hope we are going to see more books set in this world, I love the whole dating agency for supernaturals. I loved Abbey's friend Chloe and I would like to find out if Christian and Melissa ever find their fated mates as well. If you are looking for a sweet love story about a stubborn, hot as hell vampire and a feisty, too stubborn at times human with a funny witch friend and a hunky werewolf looking for his forever mate thrown in, then this is the book for you!

* I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Amy says

4.5 for a short, fast read I really enjoyed this. I enjoyed the characters and the writing. I think my only problem was that I wanted more of an ending. It wasn't a cliffhanger but, it did leave me wanting. I have questions about what will happen in the future and where their lives will go so I feel a bit unfulfilled. So that's why I'm not giving this a full five stars

Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

I received a copy of Love at Stake in exchange for my review.

Abbey works at Fated Match, the most prestigious dating agency for supernaturals. Human herself, Abbey has no intention of dating any supernaturals herself, but all that changes when she meets Lucien. A vampire for centuries, he's never found his mate, and yet as soon as he meets Abbey he is captivated by the bubbly and colourful human. But Abbey's boss isn't impressed with how distracted her star client is by her employee, and that's not to mention the other problems their fledgling relationship faces.

Wow! This book was sexy, fun and engaging. I really wanted to keep turning the pages to find out what happened next for Abbey and Lucien. Though there was also some page turning to find the next witty comment!

What attracted me to this book was the concept, I haven't read anything about a dating agency for supernaturals and it intrigued me. And its safe to say I wasn't disappointed! I thought that the concept, along with the execution and story line worked perfectly together.

Oh and the chemistry between Abbey and Lucien was amazing, almost jump off the page good. Though I often forgot that he was a vampire. Saying that, it was the pretty standard Abbey refuses to date vampires line, and Lucien had to convince her otherwise. The thing that wasn't standard about it though was the fact that he did it in such a fun and sometimes amusing way.

The other good thing this book had to offer was Chloe. Though all she really talked about with Abbey was men, it was still a believable relationship, and it seems quite rare for there to actually be a relationship

between two female friends in some books.

Oh and the final thing, I was so relieved to read a heroine who wasn't skinny and petite. Abbey had body hang ups and was basically a real person. It really did make her much more likable as a character, as well as making her much more relatable to most of the readers, which is something a lot of the stick thin and stunning women in don't actually have.

Amy says

Fun read. Laughed and enjoyed.

Deanna from Deanna's World says

I chased the ending of this book. It has been a long time since I've chased an ending but with this book, I did. Kudos to you, Ms Davies for getting me so deeply engrossed in the book that I read at the stop lights while I was driving and I read in the car while my husband was driving and I ignored him entirely until I got to the end.

When I started this book, I thought it was going to be a cute read, you know paranormal dating agency, matching you with your fated mate and all that. Instead I got a lovely story of attraction, prejudice, heartbreak and reconciliation. I mean, Lucian and Abbey broke up twice. TWICE! Sheesh! It's the first time I've read a story where the couple break up with each other twice. And I was totally okay with it both times, and my heart broke for them both times. I'm such a sap.

Let's talk about Lucian, shall we? He's delicious. Uber old vampire, rules a whole bunch of other vampires, powerful, successful, lonely. I loved the way he tangled with Abbey when he met her, challenging her profession and baiting her at the same time. You could tell the instant attraction even if he didn't let on. His single-minded pursuit of Abbey in the face of her resistance was mesmerizing. I love how he manufactured spending time with her even though he was supposed to be dating other women, women whom Abbey had set up for him to date. Then he got prejudiced, or should I say racist? because it was about Abbey being a human and how he felt about a human mate. That dropped my esteem of him somewhat but he kept rebounding and making up for it in his super sexy vampire way. You see now why I had to race to the end of the book to get to his final declaration?

As for Abbey, I love Abbey. She's spunky and colorful and fun. She's good at what she does as a professional and she cares about the people around her. She also not a pushover. I liked she knew her own worth and she would not settle for less than what she deserved. She would not allow herself to be second best or right for the time being when she wanted forever and felt she deserved it. Good for her for standing up for herself even though it hurt and it broke her heart. And when it did break her heart, my heart broke with her too. Another reason I was racing to the end of the book, I wanted to see her be more than enough and I wanted to see her get her forever.

There's a huge focus in this book about the separation between humans and the supernaturals. Ms Davies hints subtly at the supernaturals thinking of the humans as being inferior and then draws a beautiful illustration of why they are not when Lucian makes his final declaration of love to Abbey. Racism and prejudice is something we encounter every day, more and more as we see things being posted on social media of events around the world. Ms Davies handles this issue with a deftness and subtlety which makes

you almost miss it if you are not paying attention. It's worth paying attention for since it gives the divide between humans and supernaturals, and the relationship between Lucian and Abbey (and Christian) so much more depth.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story. I think I might go glom the series. :-)

See more from Deanna's World

Lexie says

On the one hand this reminded me of Jessica Sim's supernatural matchmaking books. On the other I'm a sucker for them so it didn't matter at all.

+++

For some reason romances/paranormals/urban fantasies that involve a woman being the sole human in a work/social setting of all paranormals is something I love. Maybe its a bit of wish fulfillment (but hey that's reading in general). LOVE AT STAKE, as I mention in my short review, reminded me a lot of Jessica Sims' "Midnight Liaison" books. Especially the first one - in which the human Matchmaker gets coerced into being the date for one of their high profile clients (much to the disapproval of her job, her boss, and the rules in general).

However Midnight Liaisons as a series is a light hearted romp through paranormal dating. LOVE AT STAKE had a slightly more serious edge to it as our dear Abbey is very certain that there can be only one outcome to her and Lucian's affair. One very sad, very lonely, very hurt filled outcome.

The third person POV switches back and forth with Abbey and Lucian, though we get more from Abbey's POV then his. It mostly seemed liked Davies would switch to Lucian so we could see that no he wasn't just toying around and yes he was as conflicted as Abbey. Nice to have that confirmation, but it also made a lot of what Abbey would fling at Lucian seem unnecessary or as if she didn't understand.

Melissa, Lucian's "daughter", was an interesting secondary character, but we don't get very much from her other then 'I want my father to be happy. Also maybe modern.' She's pretty instrumental into getting the two together--pushing them both to recognizing certain truths.

Something I found to be very important and ultimately made this a better then 3 Star Read for me. Abbey makes it clear, numerous times that she is happy being human. Maybe in the future she'll change that stance, but right now she's happy being the way she is thank you very much. She has nothing against the transformation in general terms, but she lays out her argument to one particularly insistent suitor quite well. It basically boils down to the fact she sees no reason to change what isn't broken.

It was also nice to see the woman taking charge of how a relationship would end. Abbey faced the problem straight on and didn't flinch. She made Lucian understand that he was offering her nothing - great sex and some form of affection, but she knew she deserved something better. She deserved to be loved--for all her faults and quirks and humanity and deserved to be told she was loved.
