



# Candy Houses

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**Candy Houses** Shiloh Walker  
Candy Houses, Book One of Grimm's Circle

*So you think you know fairy tales? Guess again*

Greta didn't get her happy ending her first time around. And now that she's a Grimm-special kind of guardian angel and official ass-kicker in the paranormal world-romance is hard to find. Besides, there's only ever been one man who made her heart race, and the fact that he did scared her right out of his arms.

Now Rip is back. And just in time too, because Greta needs his help. On a mission he knows is going to test all of his strengths and skills, the last person Rip expected to see is the one woman who broke his heart. Working together seems to be their only hope. But, when faced with a danger neither of them anticipated, the question is, how will they face the danger to their hearts-assuming they survive, of course. Warning: Dark, sexy, a little bit scary-this fairy tale is only for grownups and is best saved for bedtime...

## Candy Houses Details

Date : Published October 6th 2009 by Samhain Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Shiloh Walker

Format :

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Urban Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Candy Houses for online ebook

### Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

#### This review was posted at Under the Covers

I'm not sure what I was expecting from this series but my definite first attraction was the fact that this series is based on fairytales. There aren't enough erotic books out there that play on this, so I was super excited. I should've known that this being a Shiloh Walker book, I wasn't going to get flowery fairytales. And I couldn't be more pleased. The Grimm's Circle series is not your everyday fairytale, it's better.

CANDY HOUSES was dark and a bit gritty. Definitely not your everyday fairy tale but it incorporated those elements beautifully. I don't think I've read it done better. Because see, the Grimm brothers got it all wrong. Oh their stories have a base on the truth, but they got a few things incorrectly. This story features Greta (Hansel & Gretel), who doesn't go by Gretel anymore because of her past and her psycho brother (yep Hans). But see Greta is a grimm, sort of an angel warrior against evil demons.

Hundreds of years ago there was something between Greta and Rip (Van Winkle) and now they have to work together when a human has a demon book and has planned and attempted a summoning. Things just get more complicated when they figure out she might be a grimm as well.

I think this book did a pretty good job at explaining the world of the grimms, although I think I needed just a bit more but I understand the limits of a novella. I loved the grimms aspect of each having special powers, and their silver medallions, and that they have wings. I also enjoyed that we go back in time to see Gretel's story. But I really enjoyed the connection between Rip and Greta. This book was heavy on the romance for what it lacked on the world explanations and I appreciate that.

I am really looking forward to reading the rest of the series and to discover more about the grimms as I continue to read. I am definitely intrigued by their boss Will and can't wait to see what Ms. Walker will do with another fairytale because this one... was a job well done!

\*Review copy provided by author

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### Calisto says

A new take on fairy tales.

A friend rec'd this series to me and I'm glad they did. Grimm's Circle is more than your typical paranormal romance. There is a strong vein of Urban Fiction throughout this universe.

Greta is a Grimm. A type of guardian angel avenger (no worries, there are no feathers here) whose job is to protect humanity from demons. Her latest job involves the one Grimm that sets her heart a racing.

I really liked both main characters, the universe and the story. Ms. Walker can certainly create a terrific story with very likeable characters.

One problem, however, is that this is short. There is so much more here that could have been told. But ultimately it's more of a typical romance instead of a true UF/PNR hybrid. I wanted more action. More about

the universe and the characters. It almost felt like, "And now we interrupt this story for the requisite sex scene". It's not that the sex was gratuitous, it's just that I thought there was a lot more story to tell and instead of showing that, we get sex.

I just really liked the plot/story/universe and wanted it to be longer.

My real beef with this story (and the main reason for a 3 instead of 4) is the narration. The mix of 1st (heroine's) and 3rd POVs gave me a case of multiple personality disorder. It was jarring and oftentimes made me feel like I was reading two different versions of the same story. Although I have to admit, this way was better than alternating 1st POV. Shudders.

(Note to writers: Please, please for all that is holy! give 1st POV a break in UF. Really. Herd of zebras, people!)

Ultimately, this was very entertaining and I will definitely follow up with the series. A solid 3.5 star read.

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## **Theresa says**

This is the first book of the series "Grimm's Circle. If any of you have seen and/or like the new TV Show 'Grimm' (I do), I'll let you know right off the bat that, other than the name Grimm, there's not much similarity. The TV show is one of the reasons I started reading this, which was written before, but I'm having trouble keeping the differences sorted in my head.

The book Grimm's are 'guardian angels' chosen to fight demons (instead of Wesen). They are extremely hard to kill and each has a special power/ability. They are called Grimm's based on the book which was written to throw humans off the chase, the same as the TV show. They also have all the normal human needs and emotions: food, shelter, air, love and sex.

This book has two strange versions of two well-known tales: 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Rip Van Winkle'. Without going into details let's just say that H&G is reversed and Rip has been exaggerated. Both Gretel and Rip have become Grimm's and not only do they partner up professionally but also physically. They have a previous history which was told in a prequel S.S. 'All the Time in the World'. One thing that kept me from getting fully involved with the story was that while we get the details of Gretel's story right away, we don't hear anything about Rip's until almost the end of the book. I kept waiting and watching for his story.

There seems to be too much talk about what might/going to happen and the balance between the action and 'romance' is about 40/60. Of course since it's a first book of the series there's a lot of background story but it's kept interesting and pertinent to the ongoing story. I like the demon fight scenes but wish they'd been longer and harder, but we didn't need to hear so much about how fast they heal.

The spark between Gretel and Rip is not quite there, I like them, but he's too patient with her relationship reluctance. The only scene where he's giving her a choice, he gives in too easily. There should have been more intensity.

Quick Thoughts: 1) There seems to be a lot of series out that show a different version of the well-known fairy tales. Which can be good or bad since parts of the original versions are not really nice stories for young children to read. But some of the changed versions aren't great either.

Fave Scenes: Rip asking for help after the Bocan fight, Gretel trying to comb her wet hair, Mandy healing

Rip and Gretel's fight with Fae.

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### **J.A. Kenney says**

I liked but did not love this story. The mythos was interesting...and the love story was fulfilling.

My main discontent was a factor of this being a novella. A lack of character and world development leaving a lot of gray areas. That and the fairy tales.

A lot could have been done with the Grimm tales, but the references were more a list of what was not right, which was pretty much everything other than the names.

And there was a minor consistency issue with whether vampires exist...

So, worth reading but not sure if I am ready to dig into more.

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### **Cassie May says**

Reviewed on behalf of 2 Girls Who Love Books Blog

I really like books that give the old and traditional fairytales a twist to make them more modern or sometimes even interesting.

I never liked the tale of Hänsel and Gretel. It was too dark, too scary for me as a child and now when I am trying to be all grown up I like to stick with my loved tales instead of discovering something new.

Nevertheless I was curious to see what can be done with this tale. I mean, what can you do with two kids that get lost in the woods?

Well, this one gave it a murderous twist. Not literally, but it was really interesting to see how you can turn two kids into something completely different.

I really liked the writing style of the author. It led me fast through the story and I never stumbled upon mistakes or unfitting words. Even though I got an ARC it was really well edited, which was a relief compared to the last one I read that didn't seem edited at all.

However, the plot sucked me in and made me stick to the story till the end. It was a fast read and I was actually glad that I had the time to finish in one sitting. I really wanted, no needed, to know how the story ended. And it ended good. Not great, but good.

For me the problem was a little bit that (more in the beginning than in the end) I had the impression to be stuck in the TV show "Grimm" where the descendants of the Brothers Grimm can see the beasts from the fairytales. This was a bit strange for me. Also there were so many questions not really answered in the end. It ended, yes, but no one ever thought about questioning the antihero about why she did all that? That was not really plausible for me and I would have loved to get to know her more, what made her change her ways so much? Maybe the author intended for the reader to find out in further books, but there was no hint that this would be the case, so I'll just stick with my questions and mull them over and over.

Also the characters handled themselves completely different than they were portrayed in the beginning. As soon as the hero and the heroine met each other their "jobs" were only a nagging voice in their head that kept them from getting together. I really didn't like the intercourse scenes. They were rushed and – for me – completely unnecessary. Sometimes less is better and I could have gone completely without the love aspect of the story.

For that and some other things that didn't quite play out really logical I give 3.5 stars

## Tracy says

### A Gem More Grim than Grimm

The Grimm brothers have nothing on Shiloh Walker, who tells a mean tale. Literally. This grim twist on Grimm is original, unique, and interesting, and Walker has penned another dark, rich novella to start an exciting new series. So much urban fantasy and paranormal romance is based around the idea that there's always a kernel of truth in all folk lore and fairy tales, and Walker not only embraces that ideology, she slams into it, tackles it to the ground, and hog ties it until it does her bidding!

In Candy Houses, Greta and Rip are known to children everywhere as Gretel of Hansel and Gretel fame, and Rip as in Van Winkle, but neither one of the fairy tales and folk lore that surround them do more than glimmer at the truth. Greta, as she prefers to be called now, and Rip, didn't get anything resembling a happily ever after like the stories say. They got an immortal upgrade and were given wings, becoming a member of the Grimm, a group of guardian angels that are here to help humanity and save them from the myriad of dangers from other realms, demons, and other assorted nasties. Their wings are more metaphorical than actual, of course, but their skill is unmatched, and they're very hard to kill. They have to be. It's a dark, often lonely, deadly life that takes its toll on its warriors.

Greta and Rip worked together about a hundred years ago and after a night of passion that rocked both their worlds, Greta fled, and hasn't been able to stop thinking of Rip ever since. And Rip knows that he may not survive another encounter with Greta, the woman he loved and lost after far too brief a time all those years ago. Could the fact that they've ended up in the same city at the same time, fighting what turns out to be the same fight be a good omen for them both? Perhaps Happily Ever After isn't out of the question after all?

Candy Houses manages to develop both Greta's and Rip's characters with a surprising level of depth and complexity as well as provide a truly taut and tense plot that moves quickly even as it offers a lot of world building and mythos creation to start this series. I'm impressed again at Walker's ability to use what length allowed in her novellas to provide such a full reading experience, and I think the twist on the fairy tale idea is brilliant.

The only caveat (IMO) was the final conflict at the end. With all the development and mythos explanation, Candy Houses is still limited to a novella length story, and there seems to have been a sacrifice made. There were motivations and explanations that didn't get explained, and the conflict with Big Bad ended up being a lot of hype with little hazard. It was a little of a letdown. Still, points for everything Walker manages to accomplish in this nifty little novella and I've already downloaded No Prince Charming so I can continue with these dark and delicious fairy tales.

~\*~\*~\*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

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## Jennifer Estep says

Gretel from the old fairy tale Hansel and Gretel gets a makeover in this fairy tale retelling by Shiloh Walker. She calls herself Greta now, and she's a Grimm -- a warrior who protects humans from demons. Greta is feeling rather bored, but that quickly changes when she comes across a girl in trouble -- and Rip, another Grimm warrior. Greta has been trying to forget Rip for years now, but she can't deny her attraction to him

any longer -- especially when the two of them are being hunted by a dangerous enemy.

I'm a sucker for fairy tales, and this e-book had a little bit of everything -- a twist on the old fairy tale, action, magic, and some romance. If you're looking for a quick, sexy read, you might want to check this one out.

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### **~Shaz~ says**

This book was ok. I couldn't get past the grammatical errors in it to rank it higher than 2 stars.

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### **Fire Raven says**

It was ok.

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### **Wicked Lil Pixie (Natasha) says**

Greta is a Grimm, a guardian angel of sorts that fights demon takeovers. Greta is better known as Gretel (uh huh, that Gretel) and the stories about her couldn't be further from the truth. Then there is Rip (yep, Van Winkle) and he sets Greta's heart a pitter patter but it scared her so bad she took off.

Now both of them are on a mission that brings them together and puts them both in danger, but the attraction between them might be a tad more dangerous.

Greta no longer wants to be called Gretel because of things that happened in the past with Hansel (Hans) her step-brother. Rip, never really slept that long but had a spell cast on him, which did make him sleep but the fairy tale behind it was exaggerated.

I loved Shiloh Walkers integration with fairy tale and turning those legends of Fairy Tale into a supernatural crime fighting force. The world is nitty and gritty, full of face paced action that you can read in a single sitting or savor it slowly. It's even a bit scary; some of the demons are straight out of a child's worst nightmare

Shiloh just tells good story! This has to be my favorite of all her stories I've read (yeah not many, but still). I loved it!

The attraction between Greta and Rip was intense, Greta is such a strong independent person she doesn't see herself tied down for all immortality. Who could blame her? But Rip is worth it, trust me ladies.

Candy Houses is a good read, especially for those of you who want a twist on your fairy tales from childhood.

4.5 Stars

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## Alexandra Storm says

I chose this book for a reading challenge because the promise of the book sounded fun. A Grimms fairy tale...gussied up a bit for adults. It is the Grimms story of Hansel and Gretel. except Gretel goes by Greta and is a Grimm, a fighter, a warrior for all the things that go bump in the night

The story has 3 tellers; Greta POV, Rip POV and narrator. The author missed the chance to capture an audience. Instead she switches back and forth between the tellers. Quite confusing and i personally don't like books that have different narrators, pov's and story that only come together at the end.

I am reading this book as an ebook on my kindle and it is 2/3 the size of an average book (it comes in at 2983 location points) and 16% "into" the book it has not captured me but rather sparked the question "How much longer till its done? How much more do i have to read?" The story is coming along at slow pace combine that with multiple tellers and it was a reason for me to stop reading, cut my losses and venture on to something else.

I have to say, this is the first attempt at a book from this author and i will not completely dismiss the book just yet but put it into my "try again later" pile.

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## marlene says

A super quick read from Walker. The story gives a new spin on our Grimm fairy tale characters. An actual new take on them.

The story was written from two very different PoVs. we had Greta, and Rip. i loved Greta's voice. she was a refreshing read to say the least. the switch back and forth to the different PoVs was easy to follow and flowed seamlessly. sometimes i get a little twitchy about going back and forth but that wasn't a problem in this story.

in this world our fairy tales were all human at one point. they were given a choice to become a Grimm. think guardian angel. they protect the world from demons and demon possession. while Greta and Rip are trying to save a girl and bring down a baddie, they reconnect with each other.

since this story was so short i'd kind of like to see more of the world and some more familiar characters.

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## TinaMarie says

Shiloh has definitely twisted the fairy tales. Greta walked away from Rip once, he won't let her do it again. Interesting idea on the guardian angel.

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## Linda says

While on a mission to save an unsuspecting girl from a grim faith, Greta comes across the man she never could forget. While joining forces to save the girl, they'll have to make another decision...

PNR romance, action, suspense and smutty fluff in a great, quick read.

Disclaimer; I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

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## Iris says

*Greta is bored, she doesn't have anything to do lately as a Grimm. But that all changes when she's attracted by something, while walking down the street. Someone needs her! When she arrives at the place her feelings led her to, she sees a young girl, surrounded by two Orin and with a book of demons in her hands. That doesn't look good...*

*At the same time, not far from where Greta sees the girl, Rip is busy with destroying another demon when he smells Greta, with a Bocan! He runs to her aid as fast as he can and arrives at the same time Greta falls with a horrendous wound in her stomach...*

*That's the beginning of their partnership to aid the young girl and destroy the demons, while trying to keep their attraction to another at bay. They don't want a repeat of what happened a couple of centuries ago. Will they be able to do this???*

A nice book and short book to read. End. That's the most I can say about it. There is no depth in this book and it didn't make me think about the story after I finished. Such a shame since I love Fairy Tales.

I did like the idea behind the book. Old fairy tales and change it with a dark twist? To finally get to know the "real person" behind the story! I love it! And they are the ones who must protect us against evil? Marvelous ^^ Although I've never heard of Rip van Winkle, is it an American fairy tale?

Not a lot happened in the story, some demons were killed, some "action" and that's it. Also not a lot of time passes in the story, two days at the most. I know there books and movies made about less time than that, but in this book there wasn't much content. Even the ending was over before I could blink with my eyes, I didn't even get the feeling that this would be the end! Beside that, too much of the story was focused on Greta's history. Although it's interesting to get to know the real Greta of Hansel and Gretel, I was more interested in the here and now, not what happened in the past.

I also would have liked to see Rip and Greta struggle a bit more before they would be reunited as a couple. They only have one conversation and their back together after years of separation... Usually, it's not that easy isn't it? And personally I like a bit of tension and glances at each other before they succumb

Overall rating 3 hearts. Nice book for a rainy Sunday afternoon, when you've got nothing else to do. I think I'll stick with the series to find out about the other fairy tales ^^

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