



# Submerging Inferno

*Brandon Witt*

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## **Submerging Inferno** Brandon Witt

Brett Wright and Finn de Morisco come from vastly different worlds. Disowned by his family for being gay, Brett builds both a life on his own terms and walls around his heart. But nothing can prepare him for the evil that stalks him in the night or from discovering the dark secrets of his heritage.

The youngest of a doting family, Finn lives a sheltered life that allows him to trust easily and makes him quick to jump to the rescue. While using his knowledge of the supernatural world to help Brett uncover the truth of his ancestry, Finn learns neither his magical life nor falling in love is as simple and risk-free as he believed.

New knowledge comes with a price—one that may prove too high for them to pay.

## **Submerging Inferno Details**

Date : Published August 19th 2013 by Dreamspinner Press (first published January 1st 2011)

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Author : Brandon Witt

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## From Reader Review Submerging Inferno for online ebook

### Eugenia says

#### 1.5 Stars.

What could have turned into a very interesting tale left me cursing and gnashing my teeth at the incredulous behavior and dialogue of all the characters in this book.

The action in this book takes place over a week. Within that time, our MCs, a witch and a partial demon fall in forever insta-love. And they tell each other constantly how much they love each other. And they talk about their "us" and future while trying to find and kill a vampire. The demon MC keeps changing his mind over and over again. It's just silly and not believable, fire demon or no.

The plot and mystery is easy to figure out. Ya, so the big reveals are no reveals at all. How exciting.

I couldn't wait to be done with this book. I read it for a challenge or I would have DNFd this puppy early on. There's no way I'm reading the next one. I don't care what happens.

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### Blake Fraina says

A young man grows up without his parents, unaware of the extraordinary truth about his origins. Might he be headed off to Hogwarts?

A warm, loving [and supernatural] family takes in their son's true love, an attractive and headstrong outsider, who brings a murderous vampire to their door. Must we choose between "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob?"

A world in which faeries, werewolves, vampires, witches, nymphs and demons live side-by-side with humans? Should we get Sookie Stackhouse on the speed dial?

Nope, nope and afraid not.

However, if you fancy a harmonious menage of Rowling's heroics, Meyer's star-crossed romance and Harris's array of creepy creatures, you'll find a lot to love in Brandon Witt's phenomenal *Submerging Inferno*. I'd even go as far as to say, but for its gay protagonist, this one might have literary agents and publishers clamoring. But the fact that Witt has managed to pack so much best-seller bait into the first of his *Men of Myth* books is hardly his most impressive achievement.

In brief, *Submerging Inferno* tells the story of Brett Wright, a young Southern Californian brought up by his evangelical Christian grandparents who rejected him after he came out to them as a teenager. Now a young man, he leads a somewhat solitary and uneventful life; his only real joy coming from his daily ocean swims. But one evening his whole world is turned upside down after he has a chance encounter with a homicidal bloodsucker and is subsequently rescued by a friendly family of witches who help him hunt the vampire while introducing him to the diverse supernatural world hiding in plain sight.

But Wright's greatest challenge has less to do with defeating a killer vampire and more to do with understanding who he is and, ultimately, what it means for his future. Through Wright, the author explores the most fundamental under-pinning of Judeo-Christian belief - the concept of choice. Much like Harry

Potter, Wright learns that we are defined solely by the choices we make and not by other's narrow perceptions of who we are. I suspect Witt himself comes from an evangelical background and, as such, has grappled with the stigma attached to homosexuality. So it seems a clever choice to have the main character be an *actual* demon, making literal the fundamentalist's "demonization" of the LGBT community. After dealing with his grandparents turning their back on him for being gay, Wright also has to overcome the prejudice of the witches and warlocks whose responses to his demonic origins run the gamut from vague suspicion to outright hostility. The character is forced to question himself at every turn. It's a bit painful in that it seems to hint at the author's own personal journey as much as his character's. For an ostensibly popular piece of fiction, this is pretty heavy stuff.

While hardly perfect - there's an overabundance of unnecessary dialogue that could stand a visit with the red pencil (particularly between the two romantic leads who redundantly debate the future of their relationship almost to the exclusion of all else) - this is nonetheless a truly gripping start to what promises to be an epic series. Plus, even though this is only one piece of a larger story, it does pass a critical test in that it can certainly be enjoyed as a stand alone. Even the ambiguous ending struck me as deeply satisfying and yet, at the same time, left me eager for more. Witt has certainly created a world worth exploring.

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### **Lisa The Novel Approach says**

Where to begin?? Let me start off with saying that I loved this book!!! I am very picky when it comes to fantasy books. I do enjoy a story set in different worlds but I think my favorite would be a contemporary world set on its axis. A world where the supernatural lives along with the ordinary. Where witches are bakers and a demon is a life guard. Since it's the first book in the Men of Myth series, I'm excited to see what happens next in the two books.

*You can read the rest of Lana's review at [The Novel Approach](#)*

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### **Adrianamae, Marco's fan says**

2.5

For a good review read plainbrownwrapper's review.

This is the second book that I've read today that has left me p\*ssed off. How about finishing a chapter of the story? How about a story that doesn't feel unfinished--and one that left us without answers. I feel as if I wasted my time, and that doesn't give me the warm fuzzies to buy the next book. I'm done with this serial.

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### **Mike Walker says**

I took a chance on this book. I say that because I knew going into it, that its not the kind of book that I usually go for. In spite of that, I'm open minded and I really enjoyed "The Shattered Door" by the same author, so decided to give it a try.

As expected, is it different from my usual reads in terms of being "otherworldly", but (surprisingly?) I enjoyed it and found myself slip easily into that world without much question. While the world is different here, the underlying themes remain the same, and I think that's why I was able to immerse myself in the book. Love, loss, (SO MUCH LOSS), identity, family, want of acceptance are all explored here and hooked me deeply.

Something that I really enjoy is that because it's set in fantasy, anything can happen at anytime, and predictability (at least for me, is minimal. You just really never know what to expect, (at the same time, that isn't taken advantage of so that things reach ridiculous levels), and that makes for a great read.

In the end I find it a refreshing change from my usual reads, and with what is revealed in the closing pages of the book, (being shocked, is an understatement) I will be moving on to the other books in the series soon for the continuation of this adventure, and of course to (hopefully) see my boys reunited. (Damn you Brett!)

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### **Rob Andresen says**

I came across Brandon Witt through connections in Denver and did not know him as a writer until the release of Submerging Inferno. Always one to support local authors, I figured I'd give his story a try. I was pleasantly surprised when the story grabbed me and pulled me right in.

The story was pretty standard for the first chapters and then surprised me with the magical twist that kept me wanting more. I love the characters and connected with them immediately. The worst part about this story is that it is part of a trilogy and I can't wait for the next book to come out! Brandon is a great writer and I am looking forward to his next work!

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### **F. says**

A different take on the paranormal world. I enjoyed it but can't understand why Brett didn't fully explain his affinity to the sea to either Finn or Finn's family. Surely when they were all together looking for answers it would have been the perfect time to bring it up. On the same note why is Finn quiet about the voices? A few puzzling things but I am intrigued and will read more.

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### **John Inman says**

SUBMERGING INFERNO by Brandon Witt, has everything. Demons, vampires, werewolves, mermen, great characters, beautiful writing, a touching love story, chilling monsters, San Diego -- the city I call my hometown -- and the promise of two more great books to round out the Men of Myth trilogy after this one. I can't wait to read them. Anne Cain's cover art is perfect for the story too. Sometimes when I read a novel, I struggle with the way words have been laid out in front of me. Sometimes they don't flow. Sometimes they are awkwardly spliced together. Sometimes they make me uneasy, because I know something isn't quite right with the construction. Brandon Witt's words do no such thing. His writing is flawless, a pleasure to read. Anybody who can pull demons, vampires, werewolves, and mermen together into one exciting tale has to have something going for him, right? Now off to Book Two, RISING FRENZY. Yippee. (And dammit Brett,

it's time to reclaim Finn. He loves you so.)

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### **Absynthe says**

I think it takes balls for an author to stay true to where the plot leads rather than cater to the masses and give them the saccharine HEA they expect out of every book they read.

This is a rich, original world with interesting characters and unexpected plot twists. I enjoyed the whole series for that reason.

If you want to read a book that's got a plot a three year old can guess on page 5, the same old whiny characters and everything wrapped up with a pretty bow that doesn't tax your mental capacity more than chewing gum would, go read a book published by one of those authors who produce 4 books a month.

If you want an original story that stays true to the characters, embroils you in turmoil and tension, and actually manages to surprise you once in a while keep reading this series.

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### **Kazza says**

#### **Brandon Witt webcam interview and giveaway January 10-12th**

<http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

This was an interesting read and a good first book for a series. It got bogged down in some parts but in others it flowed really well.

The world building was good and I can see where it will build on the beginnings here. Of the two MC's, I have to say I have much Finn de Morisco love. He absolutely spoke to me as a character.

I read a fair bit of paranormal and I liked this book for the greater part. Full review at <http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

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### **Emma Sea says**

Perhaps this is actually a young-adult book, and I missed that, in which case my 2-stars is uncalled for; this is a good YA paranormal novel with a hint of romance. However as an m/m romance or a romance fantasy novel I was very let down. The MCs are 23 and 25, but act like 15-year olds who can drive. The depictions of this hidden side of our reality, with Royal vampires and a Vampire Cathedral, water nymphs and werewolves, are written as so juvenile that it just sets my teeth on edge (actually I just realised it's \*exactly\* like a series I bought my daughter when she was eight, except the MC here is an adult gay male, not a 13-year old mer-girl). There is no sense of how this world would work; no internal consistency, no character development, plus, sorry to say it, definite instalove, with no depiction of how these characters might actually fit into each other's lives (tiny example: Finn is a baker, but never gets up early once in the entire novel because of all the comforting-hurts going on). Nothing is resolved in this book and I'm not inspired to buy the sequel.

One redeeming feature is the descriptions of Brett swimming: these are good, and the contrast between the

ocean and the day-to-day world is palpable. This hints that the author has some talent tucked away, which just needs time, better plots, and a lot more writing to emerge.

Again, my apologies if the target audience is 16: they might love this book: except for one problem; inconsistency in depictions of sex. The relationship between the MCs is sweet and involves hurt-comfort, lots of kissing and snuggling together in bed, and when they finally have sex (at 78%) it's completely non-graphic: "his eyes never left mine for more than a moment to watch our bodies become one". Cute and sweet, right? I'd happily let my 16 year old read that. However, at the beginning of the book, one MC is raped by a vampire, and this is described in slightly more graphic terms, "I felt him throbbing on my ass . . .with one swift movement he thrust into me . . . I could feel him slam back into me again, I could feel the pain . . . I heard my voice, hoarse and pleading. "More" . . . my breath caught as he filled me." (locations 614-624). (He's begging for more, btw, because he's enthralled to the vampire).

So why is the non-consensual sex described in more detail than the loving, caring relationship? It's just weird. As a fantasy novel it's simply dreadful; there's not enough sex to make this erotica; the "romance" just isn't, because the instalove negates any genuine meeting of personalities; yet that rape scene tips this over the edge enough that it's not a no-sex-just-sweet book.

I'm bamboozled by all the excellent reviews this book is receiving: I'm clearly missing the appeal.

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## Scott says

This one is going to be full of spoilers, so stop now if you haven't read it.

I just finished this last night and needed to take the night to process what was going on in my head about the story. Let me preface it by saying that I don't typically read the paranormal stories. I used to when I was a teen, however, in the process of growing up (too fast), I found that there were some things that were strange enough in the real world without having to add the horrors of fiction to it. That said, this book was awesome.

I loved the interactions and the imagination of this new world within the real world. It was tough for me, at first, to make that break with reality, but I soon got over it. I found myself growing through the story just as Brett did (with anger, denial, anxiety, and the gamut of emotions that went along with the journey.)

I loved the simplicity/complexity duality of Brett. He seems so simple in his nature in the beginning, it's as if his whole life he has stuck to the shallow view of the world out of instinct that what lies deeper is far too disturbing to handle (until now).

Sonia...poor, poor Sonia. I loved the glimpse of the character that we got to see (though I have a feeling her new "life" is going to change in future books). I had a hunch of her fate based upon the detail of the descriptions afforded to her--her personality, her physical features (especially her eyes), and her strength. It was inevitable that the monster would see her as something to pull over to his dark side.

I do have some unanswered questions that I hope to have cleared up in the rest of the series:

- a) What about Brett's childhood? This story was like a new kind of growing up, but I want to know what happened before -- his friends, his life, etc.
- b) With Sonia's family, was it the red-headed vampire or Sonia that did that (btw, please don't kill the family dog...I clutched my little Corgi, Charlie, really tight when I read that part)
- c) What was going on in Brett's mind when he had the mental break? Having had panic attacks, I can only

imagine what he saw/thought/felt, but it may have helped the reader to see that from Brett's perspective instead of/in addition to Finn's. Take us with him on that journey so that we can really empathize with his character rather than being shut out just as Finn was by his breakdown.

d) I want to know more about Finn's family life. What happened? I feel like we dove deep into the now without knowing how they got there.

I can't wait to read the rest, though I may have to take a pause and read something happy for a bit before I started in on the second Men of Myth book.

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## Plainbrownwrapper says

I admire some elements of this book, but other parts seriously annoy me. I'd give it 4 stars for the good components, but the bad stuff drags it down.

### The Good:

1. Many bad things happen to the MC, Brett, and the author actually shows us how he disintegrates because of his experiences. Brett isn't heroic, he isn't all-knowing, he doesn't prevail through everything. He's human (even though he really isn't), he makes dumb mistakes, and when overwhelming things happen to him he actually gets overwhelmed. I liked the honest way in which Witt treated Brett, allowing him to fall apart.
2. The prose is always competent and occasionally evocative. This may not sound like much, but in these days of authors who often hardly seem to speak English it's a Good Thing.
3. See Blake Fraina's review for really good additional observations about issues of choice, individual identity, and literal demonization of an already demonized character.

### The Bad:

1. the plot -- Man, the plot sucked -- in many ways. As a character study (see above) I liked the book, but as a story (actually going somewhere and getting to a destination), it's a big fail. OTOH, this is the first book in a planned series. If the subsequent books deal with the same MC (I don't know yet whether they will or not), then the series plot may end up redeeming the failures of the single-book plot.
2. the pacing -- refer back to the plot. There's a lot of standing around twiddling thumbs, and then a lot of running around in circles not accomplishing anything.
3. the hanging plot threads -- refer back to plot. Yes, this is the first of a series, so some hanging threads are to be expected. I just found these particular ones especially aggravating, and IMHO they could have been handled better.
4. Even though the story is in alternating first person POV between the two MCs, Finn gets seriously short shrift here. This may be something else that can be forgiven depending on how the rest of the series goes.
5. Although I have complimented the good character work Witt does with Brett, I was very let down that the one reaction Witt does NOT explore well is (view spoiler).

Right now I'm giving this 2.5, rounding up. I may change my overall impression after the rest of the series comes out.

## **Blaze says**

I really liked this book. Finn can be with me any time at all. He's so sweet and so loyal and Brett's really lucky that Finn was looking out for him when he needed someone.

Finn is a warlock and he doesn't know why a vampire is interested in his date Brett, but it can't be for anything good. It isn't for anything good. He causes a mess. OMG Sonia. She got a bad deal and she's so nice. I feel sorry for Brett because he doesn't feel like he belongs anywhere and now Sonia. That's pretty harsh.

I have to read the next one because I don't know how this is all going to come together right.

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## **David Leger says**

This isn't quite my genre, I don't normally read supernatural tales. I know the author, and enjoyed his 1st novel, so decided to give this series a try. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. There is an ongoing love story, with well developed and colorful characters. There's a slowly building sub-plot, along with a lot of interesting short term conflicts and trials. I have gotten hooked on finding out what happens. I should mention there is some fairly graphic sexual content, much of it is not hetero, so reader be forewarned (or titillated, depending on your viewpoint).

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