



Etched in Bone

Adrian Phoenix

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SON OF A FALLEN ANGEL. FORGED IN VAMPIRE'S BLOOD. SWORN TO A MORTAL WOMAN. IF DANTE FALLS, THE WORLD FALLS WITH HIM. . . . THREE LEGACIES ETCHED IN BONE

More beautiful and powerful than any creature the world has ever seen, Dante Baptiste has become the supreme target of the three worlds that spawned him. The mortal agents of the Shadow Branch have tried to control his mind through psychological torture. The vampire elders who guide nightkind society have plotted to use him in their bloodthirsty bid for power. And the Fallen have waited for millennia for Dante to claim his birthright as their Maker. But Dante belongs to no one—except the woman he loves. . . .

ONE PASSION SWORN IN BLOOD

Determined to face the Fallen and the world on his own terms, Dante hopes to piece together his shattered past and claim his future, with FBI agent Heather Wallace at his side. But in Heather's human family awaits an unexpected enemy. One who could rip Heather from Dante's heart and fill the holes with bullets. One who could force Dante to choose his darkest destiny—as the Great Destroyer. . . .

Etched in Bone Details

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Author : Adrian Phoenix

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From Reader Review Etched in Bone for online ebook

Cathy says

I have to rush out and return this to the library, so I'm just going to quickly jot down my notes from this book. Sorry it's not a full review.

Basically, if you're a fan, you'll love it. In some ways, not much happens here. The book covers a 3 day span of time, but is highly concentrated in the first day and a half. But emotionally, it's fully packed. There is something so lovely about these books, very raw, regal, human, aching, loving, fearful, longing... Beautiful. It has great atmosphere, the visuals jump off the page, and all senses are engaged, including sound, scent and touch. It's just saturated, nothing is bland or basic, it's all rich and complex.

As for the story, I was a bit confused and overwhelmed in the last book with all of the deeply intertwining plots, but I had no problem this time. Although I didn't remember anything going in, each character came immediately to mind as they were introduced, and I loved that the reminders were built into the story and not just info dumped. Well, there were a few flashbacks, but they felt appropriate and meaningful.

If you like TV shows that are drawn out over the course of a season and understand that it's worth the wait to get answers to enjoy fully-realized and detailed episodes, then you'll love this series. If you need lots of movement forward on the plots then you might be frustrated.

Stephanie G says

Three completely different worlds but all with the same goal, find, capture, dominate and control Dante. The government's secret branch wants him back to control him and turn him in to the socio path that they tried to create when he was growing up. The vampire council thinks he is the way for the vampire population to rise up and obtain total power. Last but not least the fallen want to capture him bind him and force him to do their bidding, with each fallen having their own selfish reasons for wanting him. Dante's only solid ground is Heather, the quietness in a storm of pain. But even Heather is having a hard time keeping Dante's mind in the here and now. If they can't find a way to for Dante to take control of his past on his terms and deal with the vampires and fallen before they claim him there may not be anything left to claim.

Well this book started out with a bang! I had a hard time with the first ten pages I literally had to stop and force myself to breathe then read some more then pause. The whole book was intense from start to finish. Dante is sexy and powerful as always but you hurt so badly for him the whole book, it makes you want to take him in your arms (bed, which ever) and make it all better.

I'm not fond of the scenes of all the branch officials; I could care less what they are doing. I get why they are important, but I'd like to read less about them. I would get very impatient for it to go back to Dante and crew. Etched in Bone is just not a feel good book. Actually the whole series is very intense but extremely good. It makes your heart hurt, pulse race and make you lust all at the same time. I officially think that Adrian is trying to kill me with the ending of this book. I don't think I can wait till the next one comes out. The whole book was like wow, but the ending was so wow, that I just need more now! I think it was the perfect way to end the book but now I'm just etching for more, but I think that is the point. This is a must read series if you have not checked it out I suggest you do, but we warned you will fall in love with Dante, Von, Lucien and Heather.

Athena

Katrina Sinclair says

If I ever finish reading this book I will be highly surprised. I am so tempted to just stop reading it right now. It seems to me that Phoenix has thought through the characters and plot too much. I understand that as a writer what other characters are doing at that time to keep time consistency is important, but writing from every single characters point of view does not add to the story. Reading all of these points of views feels unnecessary and like I'm trying to shove past a steel wall to get to anywhere interesting. While this type of writing would be good for planning a screenplay it is not good for an audience wanting to read an action fantasy - which it is from Dante's, Heathers, Lucien's, and Von's points of views, ya know the MAIN characters. Hearing every detail from everyone makes the story very boring and leaves almost no surprises from the reader.

Apart from just the obsessive amounts of detail from every character who has a name the start of the book was pretty lame. "Hey Pumpkin" is not a line that gets my attention or interest. The entire first chapter was ridiculous. I understand making a chapter that throws the reader for a loop and isn't fully explained in order to create interest but it was just so badly done. If it had started at the second chapter the same effect could have been made with a lot more mystery going on. Some writing changes would have had to be made to give the reader a little more detail but it would have been a much stronger start off. That's the problem with most of this book - the plots so thought out and detailed that the writing is made out to be very dry in a lot of places, including the main characters at times, and all chance at true surprise or a plot twist is ruined.

This is the first book I've ever skimmed chapters of and perhaps the first book I won't finish reading due to the book itself.

Jaime (Two Chicks on Books) says

Just when I thought I had a story line figured out Adrian throws us another curve ball. I knew that since there are more books to come in this series that everything wasn't going to be all happy hearts and teddy bears but, OMG I never saw what was coming in this book!

Etched in Bone picks up pretty much right after Beneath the Skin ends with Heather and Dante going to find Lucien in Gehenna. The story is so fast paced and told by so many different perspectives that sometimes it's hard to keep up but, if you've read the other books you'll remember character names and their places in the story line. Basically all hell breaks loose in this story and no one is safe including our two leads Dante and Heather. There were some parts of the book where I really wanted to throw it against the wall and just yell at these people "Leave poor Heather and Dante alone!"

What I love about these books and characters is the bond between Heather and Dante it's not one sided where she's all googly eyed and needs him he very much needs her too they balance each other completely. The other characters as well hold a significant place in my heart I especially love Von and Silver their comments always make me smile. There's so many bad guys in these books sometimes it's hard to keep track of who's truly bad; some of these people have flipped sides so many times you get whiplash.

Adrian has written another hit! I cannot wait for book five in the Maker's Song series because this one left us with a total cliffhanger. So if you're a fan of Adrian's books or looking for a great new series to read I suggest picking up the Maker's Song series and book 4 Etched in Bone comes out in stores tomorrow 2/22/11. Happy reading!

LadyTechie says

Despite my hating the way this ends, it left me ready for the next book now! Etched in Bone does not disappoint. Dante and Heather do not disappoint. It is great to see them growing as they learn more about each other and their relationship in the middle of chaos. Adrian Phoenix really surpassed the previous books in this series with vivid descriptions of everything without spending too much time on things that tend to drive us crazy. She gets the point across when someone is dressed extremely well or is wearing something humorous. For a while I had trouble keeping up with the many points of view as they all seemed to have the same goal in mind but from all over the world. I thought maybe I should get out a piece of paper and draw a chart of all the people converging on NOLA. Part of that may be because it has been so long since I read the first 3 books. The pace of the book was fast and exciting. The story was interesting as were all the beloved characters. Possibly my favorite character in the book has switched from Von to Lucien though. He was amazing in this story and it was great getting to see more of his story and point of view. I'm hoping that the publishers will release the next one at the end of the year.

Bronwyn Rykiert says

This is an absolutely great series, I could not recommend it highly enough. For me each book in this series sizzles - I don't know what is actually is about the story but they are just great. I absolutley love Dante, damaged and all and Heather's pretty good too. There has to be another book after this one, surely this can't be the end.

This story starts very soon after the last one ended - Dante's home has been burnt down and along with it went one of his family members, Simone. Dante and Simone's brother Trey want revenge for Simone's death but as they go after Guy Manauvis they find they have been lured into a trap.

In the beginning of the story Dante goes to Gehenna to rescue his father Lucian De Noir a fallen angel. Along the way Dante finds himself with wings. Dante is many things a True Blood born vampire, the first maker is centuries and The Fallen want him to lead their world and the vampires have a reason for wanting him too. Dante wants to be ruled by no-one he wants to be himself but he has a lot of work to do to get there.

The biggest thing Dante has to do is find his past, so that he may take control of his life rather than have the chance to be controlled by the people who tried to shape him into being a psycopathic killer. They think they have succeeded but Dante's true nature is trying to break through his pain and with Heather's help they will win I am sure.

Angelc says

This Urban Fantasy wasn't really my style, but I thought I'd give it a try anyway. While I'm still not really a fan of the genre, I was able to see both the good and the bad in this story.

I liked the author's voice, it was much more natural than the other Urban Fantasy books that I've read. She wasn't trying so hard to say how hip, cool, and funny her main character was. Heather was much more natural, she just was cool and hip, she didn't have to use forced dialogue to prove it.

I also liked Heather and Dante's ability to speak to each other through their bond. The author was able to do a

lot with it. Also, while the emphasis was definitely on the hot, passionate side of their relationship, you could tell they really loved each other too. There were even some tender moments that surprised me.

However, I wasn't into all of the violence in the book. That's part of why this isn't the genre for me. A lot of it felt like it was done for shock value. There was a lot of cursing in the book too, many times multiple times on the same page. I'm not against cursing, but this amount was distracting to me.

This was a well written tale for fans of Urban Fantasy, the rest of us may just not get it!

sent by publisher in exchange for honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

Susan says

Etched in Bone was a great read and another excellent installment to the Maker's Song saga. I actually took my time reading this one because I wanted to savor it since it will be a while to the next installment. The book opens with an exciting action packed first two chapters that have you on the edge of your seat and then chapter three takes you back to where the third book left off. All the conspiracies and characters from the previous books are back, and its a race against time to see who will get to Dante and Heather first. The Maker's Song is one of my favorite urban fantasy series and I would highly recommend this book as well as all three of the others. I am anxiously awaiting the next book, and I am hoping to see more quality time for Dante/Heather together since they had so much going on in this book. I am also glad to see Lucien back and reunited with Dante. I'm looking forward to seeing them rebuild their relationship now that the truth is out. Etched in Bone is a great read.

Mary Abshire says

A good start, but a little slow going.

After Heather's mean ol' dad snatched Heather, we went back in time a little bit. Dante and Heather have Lucien free, but Dante had to make a blood deal with the Morningstar to return in two weeks. Yeah, I think there is more to come from that deal.

I'm dying to know what they're going to do with Heather and if Dante will heal (from the beginning), but we've went back in time. I've got to muddle through the fluff to get my answers. I'm sure they'll survive somehow.

Ok, I finished this on the plane to NYC. I'm upset with the way it ended--not a HEA or HFN ending. What is going to happen to Dante? What will happen to Heather? Way too many questions not answered. Whose baby is Heather's sister carrying? Is Heather pregnant? What about Dante returning to Gianna (or however it's spelled) as promised? I sincerely hope Adrian is working on another book that will clear everything up. The book was good, but damn, I want answers! And will someone please kill Mr. Wallace?

Steph says

Wow! Where to start? First, this series really has to be read in order. You'll definitely need to establish your "Maker's Song" decoder ring and input all the creole and names throughout so you can keep up with who's doin' what to who where. The glossary at the front is handy, when reading a DTB, but for those of us digi-readers, it's not a lot of fun. Eventually I gave up scrolling back and forth and just went for it, sometimes making up my own meanings for the words. Second, I was exhausted after reading this one. The perspective is all over the place and the story jumps back and forth. My heart breaks for Dante a bit more with each installment. That being said, I just can't seem to get enough of these characters.

The story picks up where Beneath the Skin left off. But, we're thrown into a flashforward and then work our way back from present to that point. All along the way holding our breath to see if the events will change the ending.

I viewed this installment of the series as more of a filler or "here's what you should know before moving forward" kinda book. Dante and Heather continue to be a strong pair. I love how they support each other equally, one doesn't need or take more than the other. They are hunted by ... just about everyone and thing, Dante more so. She tries to protect him from everyone and himself. I hope they will one day find the peace they deserve. The characters are definitely what keeping me coming back for more. In addition to Dante and Heather, I love Lucien and Von. There is always something terrible happening, so it's not a series to pick up if you're unprepared for the dark delights it has to offer.

The ending leaves us all hanging on a cliff. And at the bottom? Can't wait until January to find out! Book #5, On Midnight Wings is scheduled for a 31 Jan 2012 release.

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

Etched in Bone is a dark and gritty urban fantasy, full of action, suspense, danger, sarcastic humor and steamy sex.

This is a series where you have to read the entire series in order to understand the story-arc and not be confused. Every book starts off where the previous ended, so it is one continuous story. Etched in Bone picks right up where Beneath the Skin ended...

Heather has gone AWOL from the FBI and is a wanted woman. The government has spread a lie to the media that she is mentally unstable and she is being hunted so that the government can examine her to see what changes Dante made when saving her life. The whole government side of the plot really makes you think, could this be happening in real life? It's very realistic and sucks you right in.

Dante, half True Blood vampire and half Fallen Angel, I love and you immediately become emotionally attached to him. Being a rare true blood and the only Maker, he is being pulled from all directions, everyone wanting a piece of him. He also has a tortured past, part of a joint FBI and SB project, that he can't remember to contend with that causes immense pain, seizures and puts everyone around him in danger. He struggles with the then and now, the past and present and sometimes get's lost.

Heather and Dante together is amazing; their characters are dynamic, relationship believable and their bond beautiful. Heather is very patient and understanding with Dante, she looks at everything from his perspective and is his anchor. She is what brings him back to the present when he experiences his episodes and you can

tell that the deeply love and care for one another.

I enjoyed all the side characters as well; Lucien, Von and more. Each are all detailed and well developed.

There was a lot of recounting, however. Most of it was internal dialogue but I felt there was more than necessary and I skimmed over these parts while reading. There were a lot of POV changes as well and I loved the core circle of characters but when it came to outside characters I found myself skimming again. Phoenix has a great writing style, there was just too much going on for one book that only spans a handful of days, for me at least. Though my skimming didn't take away from the plots entertainment. This is one of those series that will keep you up all night reading.

Good dialogue and relationships between characters though and it was fast paced with very complex world building. There is also a handy glossary at the front.

Etched in Bone starts out with Heather's father paying her a surprise visit with nefarious plans and the rest of the book back tracks to the few days leading up to that and then the book ends in the present. The cliffhangers at the end of each book in this series kill me, (evil, evil author) but this is a great read from an awesome series and I can't wait to see what happens next. Will Dante and Heather make it out alive? Will Dante be able to keep his sanity? Will he end up the great Destroyer? I must know! The 5th book, On Midnight Wings, will be released in December 2011.

Crissa says

3.5 stars... This book totally frustrated me. It took place over the course of only 2 days and I wish I could say lots of things happened in that amount of time but sadly there just wasn't much. After the first chapter, I was like YES! This is going to be awesome. Then, slowly, I just became more and more disappointed. This seemed to be a filler book...take 1 step forward and 2 steps back. I'm tired of rereading the same phrases, rereading the same scenes, and the utter lack of any real dialogue (It's all Fuck you's and Blow me's). The MOST annoying part of the whole book is that there are all these cajun/french phrases and words. There is a handy dandy glossary at the beginning of the book but since I read from a nook...I can't just easily flip back to it whenever I need to look something up. Grrr! I did give the book 3.5 stars only because the concept of the book is so good. Rock stars, fallen angels, true blood vampires, government conspiracies...sounds totally great right? I just wish the characters would take a step up, show some grit and emotion. This could be a really great piece of work.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Guest Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

Just when I thought I had a story line figured out Adrian throws us another curve ball. I knew that since there are more books to come in this series that everything wasn't going to be all happy hearts and teddy bears but, OMG I never saw what was coming in this book!

ETCHED IN BONE picks up pretty much right after BENEATH THE SKIN ends with Heather and Dante going to find Lucien in Gehenna. The story is so fast paced and told by so many different perspectives that sometimes it's hard to keep up but, if you've read the other books you'll remember character names and their places in the story line. Basically all hell breaks loose in this story and no one is safe including our two leads

Dante and Heather. There were some parts of the book where I really wanted to throw it against the wall and just yell at these people "Leave poor Heather and Dante alone!"

What I love about these books and characters is the bond between Heather and Dante. It's not one sided where she's all googly eyed and needs him. He very much needs her too, and they balance each other completely. The other characters hold a significant place in my heart as well I especially love Von and Silver. Their comments always make me smile. And there's so many bad guys in these books sometimes it's hard to keep track of who's truly bad; some of these people have flipped sides so many times you get whiplash.

Overall, Adrian has written another hit! I cannot wait for book five in the Maker's Song series because this one left us with a total cliffhanger. So if you're a fan of Adrian's books or looking for a great new series to read I suggest picking up the Maker's Song series and book 5 ON MIDNIGHT WINGS when it releases in December. Happy reading!

Sexual Content:

A couple moderately graphic sex scenes

Rachel says

Etched In Bone is the fourth book in Adrian Phoenix's Maker's Song series. Our hero, Dante Baptiste, is being hunted by the agents of the mysterious Shadow Branch, as well as Nightkind, who each want to use him for their own purposes. Being half Nightkind and half Fallen makes Dante an extremely rare individual, which means those who are looking for him will not give up easily.

The book begins with ex-FBI agent and Dante's lover, Heather Wallace, standing in Club Hell with her sister Annie, surprised and not at all pleased to see that her father, James Wallace, has shown up in the club. Things quickly go south when James brings in backup to help him capture Heather and Annie and force them to leave with him since he believes the two women have been manipulated and brainwashed by Dante.

The chapter ends, and the book goes back to three days earlier, and picks up where the end of Beneath the Skin left off, with Dante and Heather in Gehenna, the home of the Fallen, to rescue Lucien, who is Dante's father. During these chapters, we get more insight into the lives of the Fallen. They have been waiting for Dante for many years, and they expect him to immediately accept his role as their Maker. But Dante isn't ready to take on those responsibilities yet, for various reasons. Dante is fighting harder than ever to stay in the present and not get lost in the memories of his traumatic past. Heather is the only one capable of anchoring Dante, and I loved getting to see the bond between them strengthen. Heather and Dante have great chemistry together, and I love Heather's courage and determination to stay by Dante's side every step of the way to face whatever the future brings.

There are also other storylines in Etched In Bone that feature characters from previous books, such as Caterina Cortini, Merri Goodnight and Emmett Thibadaux, Monica Rutgers, Purcell, and several others. Because of the amount of secondary characters and plotlines, I would definitely recommend reading the first three books in the series, that way the reader doesn't feel lost.

Etched In Bone is full of mystery, suspense, romance, action, and betrayal. The stakes are high in this book, and Heather and Dante don't have much time left to piece together Dante's past before Nightkind, Fallen, and Shadow Branch agents show up and attempt to control him. It's an emotional read, and the ending is sure to leave readers dying to find out what happens in the next book, On Midnight Wings.

Favorite Quotes:

"Because you're worth fighting for! I'm willing to take my chances Baptiste-for you."

"Aint letting them touch you. Aint letting them take you. I promised."

Kt says

At the end of the last book Dante had rescued his father and gained a set of wings. However, in this book we found that rescue came at a price. Dante is blood sworn to return to the Fallen in two weeks time. The bond between Heather and Dante means she is potentially bound too. In their two week respite, Dante and crew sets out for vengeance for their murdered companion. Meanwhile all the other factions are continuing on in their plans to either destroy or use Dante, making him have a giant target on his back. Danger is also looming on another front, this one targeted right at Heather. It will take everything they have to just stay together and hold on long enough to face what is coming at them.

This book was a very frustrating read for me. I absolutely love the characters, and want to read more of their "stories" however with each new installment, things get more convoluted and weighed down by just too much happening. There is no clear cut line between the good guys and the bad, with some characters seeming to switch sides on a whim. It is extremely hard to really get into a book when you can't take anything at face value, and you have to question everything that is going on. After the umpteenth change in perspective, I find myself wanting to just give up on the series, as what drew me to the series in the first place, Dante and Heather, have taken such an extreme back seat.

The issues just seem to keep being repeated over and over with no real progress. Considering the length of this novel you would think some progression would have been made. But no, Dante is still having sanity issues as well as the seizures and migraines. Everyone under the sun is out to either kill or use him for their own desires. Heather of course is still right in the middle trying to protect him, and is the only thing keeping his tenuous hold on sanity.

This series has just been going downhill for me, which is a real shame as I had high hopes for this installment. I will more than likely still read the next book because of how things were left at the end of this one. There is a slight chance that things will pick up more in the next book as this one could have been the setup for the major changes. If not, then I'm not sure how much more time I'll invest. So, I'm crossing my fingers and hoping the next one will bring thing back around.

Melissa says

This is book 4 of the Maker's Song series. As some have stated *coughMissie*cough* think I'm insane for starting series in the middle. Especially this series *coughPam/Spaz*cough*. Sometimes, I admit... I am. :) Not all series can be started anywhere but many can so I often throw caution to the wind when I get the chance to read a series I've been wanting to get into for a bit. This series should be started from the beginning. There is just an overload of information that I have no doubt would flow much easier when totally acquainted with these characters and the world they inhabit. I will say this... even though I was lost at times the writing did have me captivated and I want to know more. Oh yes... Ms. Phoenix has me interested and captivated. I will be reading the first three books in this series and then come back to this book.

I will give this book 4 stars. Even though it isn't a stand alone in my opinion, I feel that the writing, characters and the world do deserve big acknowledgement. Oh, and I do warn you... the ending is a

cliffhanger.

Kerstin Young says

And she did it again!
She exceeded my expectations once more!

This is NOT a book for your TBR pile, this is a book you need to read right away, (right after you read the first three – if you haven't done so yet)!

And if read the first three of the series, you will know that it just can't go on your TBR pile!

In book four, she pushes you right back into the action, and then allows you to take one step back, lets you catch your breath, but only for a second, just to offer you a hand to explore moments and times past! That gives you the rare chance to get to know the characters and events that led them to where they now are even better!

It was such a great surprise, that needs so much intelligence and skill to even think about that possibility.

And it covers so much more than “just” Urban Fantasy. It is Romance, Political Thriller, Science-Fiction, Mystery, Suspense, and Supernatural.

This book has everything, again!! It made me cry and then, still with tears in my eyes, laugh out loud!

I have never ever read any other author that describes things so well that it speaks to ALL your senses. There is nothing she describes that does not make you experience it for yourself, you seem to see it with you own eyes, feel it, smell it, hear it, taste it. And you want more!!

You literally go through the emotions with the characters!

The chacters turn into your friends, enemies, people you know, it is so real!

I never cared so little how the book ends, because I know there will be more to come! That being said, the book ends with a cliffhanger that will make the wait until the next book excruciating, but good things really are worth waiting for, and I'm sure “On Midnight Wings” will be well worth it.

Her stories keep you thrilled from beginning to end and beyond, so that you count the hours till you get to read more! I love her work more every day!

The beauty, suspense, and richness of her stories do not only feed your soul but capture your heart - FOREVER!!

I cannot express enough how lucky and happy I am that I stumbled across Adrian's books one day and I loved her ever since!

It is not enough but all I can say: Thank you, Adrian!!

Wenj says

Review provided by Black Lagoon Reviews:

Etched in Bone, Adrian Phoenix's fourth installment in the popular *Maker's Song* series, is a thrilling novel that once again picks up immediately following the events of the previous novel, Beneath the Skin. Edgy, fast paced and tantalizingly addictive this is without a doubt the best novel in this amazingly enjoyable series to date.

Again, the world created by Phoenix is broken open to reveal even more suspense laden action as the group find themselves back in New Orleans, forced to take refuge within the walls of Club Hell and once more denied the desperately needed rest that they deserve. Dante's richly built New Orleans once again takes center stage and it's hard not to say 'it's good to be home' in the wake of all the on-the-road turmoil. However, if you think things would finally begin to settle down for the group of weary souls, think again. Picking up in Gehenna, Dante rescues Lucien and is given an unwanted introduction to the Fallen which does not exactly what you would expect; then again, perhaps it does given Dante's usual brash manner. The atmospheres the celebratory chaos of Gehenna is aptly captured leaving the world feeling exceedingly vivid. While we don't spend much time in the Fallens' realm, it was still nice to get a feel for those who call it home, of course this isn't exactly a good thing. We come to find that they are just as treacherous and covetous as any human monster eager to get their hands on Dante for their own gain. Back in the mortal realm, the area around St. Louis No. 3 is in chaos after the shock wave of Dante's brute forced entrance into Gehenna. The scene is captured wonderfully and sets a nice tone of impending destruction for the novel.

The characters are once again wonderfully developed and even more brilliantly explored. Dante's fracturing psyche becomes an even bigger point of contention within the novel, his grip on reality fleeting at best. There's a great emotionality surrounding him including superbly expressed tones of grief and pain as well as contempt of not only himself, but of those that seek to use him. He retains his usual flair of insolence and defiance and yet in this novel we see him finally lowering his shields and listening to those around him. Imagine how shocked I was to see this! However, while some characters couldn't pull off this without looking disdainful, Dante's acceptance while under grim circumstances is actually pretty graceful. It comes off as being organic expressing his growing character. Von and Heather are once again the sturdy protectors guarding not only Dante but trying to protect what little grip on his sanity that he holds. As always, their devotion towards Dante is unquestionable and I loved seeing them become more vocal on their thoughts about his actions. Finally, it seems like they are bucking his need to do things his way forcing him to accept not only their love and support, but their help and guidance. Annie, however, is still Annie making it very hard not to want to strangle her. But, with some interesting developments within this novel it makes me curious to see what her character will do in the future and how this will play out.

The plot is once again threaded with complex and lofty sub-plots, but as in the previous novels you can feel the loops tightening, but in this novel they seem to finally pull the noose taut around Dante and his friends. Sub-plots are finally getting more exposure, the agendas behind them becoming clearer as the characters behind them start enacting their nefarious plans. I enjoyed not seeing the Shadow Branch and the FBI as much, instead watching the key players who have gone rogue from the organizations. This leads to more imminent action and suspense as they circle closer and closer to their prey and Club Hell. This adds to a very claustrophobic feeling that mirrors the characters thoughts, 'We're running out of time.' Never before has this been more evident as even more unanswered questions come to light.

Overall, this novel was the most enthralling of the lot with more action, suspense, drama and romance than ever before. Amazingly written with pitch perfect characterization, this is a must read for fans of the series! Of course, the thrilling and maddening ending that we've become familiar with is present leaving us once again screaming for more! I seriously can NOT wait for the next installment, On Midnight's Wings!

Teril says

Three days after *Beneath the Skin*, *Etched in Bone* returns us to the world of Dante and Heather in one smashing fourth book. Adrian Phoenix is a master in world building in her series. As the emotional roller coaster in the book continues we are given enough action to satisfy anyone as the book continues into its story hard and fast. Poor Dante just wants a quiet life with his hot FBI girlfriend Heather but it just does not go that easy for them. Phoenix builds an amazing story into her books that really grip the reader and you feel like you are experience the landmarks and the action from your own seat in detail and feeling. If you could ever burn calories while reading this author and series would be able to keep you on the edge of your seat, since your mind is spinning keeping up with the possibilities of the plot.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. May Dante kick it to the fallen time and time again on his quest for happy times with Heather. The romance was hot and heavy and it was blended well with the action in the book. *Etched in Bone*, you were great. I cannot wait now for Book Five.

Kathy Davie says

Fourth in *The Maker's Song* dark urban fantasy series based in New Orleans and revolving around Dante Prejean Baptiste, a born Vampire, a True Blood, and a Maker/Unmaker. Born with the potential to Create or Destroy. From the beginning, Dante has been tortured and brainwashed to kill by a black ops experiment sponsored by the government. The intention was to breed sociopaths, set them loose on society, and record what happened.

The Story

Phoenix did not play fair on this one! She started with the end and then left me racing through the story desperate to know what happened. After that initial chapter of total panic, we revisited Gehenna for a more in-depth look at Dante's confrontation and rescue and the next two days of setting us up for *On Midnight Wings* due in 2012. Revenge. Regroup. Betrayal.

My Take

The concept of a government-sanctioned experimental program is bad enough but what was done to Dante Prejean Baptiste, turning him into a tortured young soul with the heart of a poet and the Gothic look of a rocker is just heartbreaking. Now, it's only former FBI-agent, Heather Wallace's touch and the bond they share that recalls Dante from the nightmare of his past.

I just love the bird-flippin' interaction between Dante and his close friends. His rejection of authority makes my heart sing. And the pain Dante suffers and his friends try to help alleviate makes my soul cry.

Do not assume that this brief glimpse into Dante and Heather's life is without activity! Lord, there is so much action, I reckon the *characters* need to rest up until 2012! I hate having to wait! I want Dante's pain to stop...but only in a good way...and I'm afraid of what his future holds.

The Cover

The cover finally reflects Heather accurately even if she is in borrowed leather pants and a tank top. Simone's. I'm not sure if the gun she's pointing at us—and who can blame Heather for her lack of trust! —is her own gun or the one Lucien got for her.

The title is confusing as I can't think of what was *Etched in Bone* except for the lying and betrayals.

