



## Chosen by Fate

*Virna DePaul*

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Although he keeps company with a vampire and a were, human Shaman Caleb O'Flare can definitely hold his own. But neither his psychic ability nor his healing powers can help his sexy-as-hell teammate, Wraith-a ghost with no memory of her human existence, who cannot experience touch without pain. No wraith has managed to exist past its tenth year, so her time is about to run out. She wants only two things before accepting her fate: to learn her human identity, and experience one night with Caleb...

## Chosen by Fate Details

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Author : Virna DePaul

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## From Reader Review Chosen by Fate for online ebook

### Christi Snow says

My Review:

This book was much more romance based than the first book. While I loved that in the aspect that this is a gorgeous romance, I really missed the full team aspect of the first book. In fact, Knox & Felicia hardly even make an appearance in this book and the overall feel of the book suffered because of that, in my opinion.

What did work for this book, though, was the incredible romance between Wraith & Caleb...wow, it was sizzling!!

As a wraith, Wraith cannot be touched without pain, which makes a relationship really difficult, if not impossible. Add to that, Caleb is a healer. His whole goal in life is to help, NOT hurt. He mentally cannot handle the anguish of knowing that any touch he shares with Wraith hurts her, even if there is some pleasure too. Oh, and yes, there is the added difficulty that wraiths never live to see their 11th year, which means that Wraith is really dying. She is seeing all the signs that this is happening sooner rather than later so she is looking at her last chance to enjoy some time with Caleb.

Wraith is not an easy person. She has built up these walls around her over the last 10 years of her life that are incredibly hard to penetrate, but Caleb is just the guy for the job. He is so persistent and caring with her. It's really gorgeous the way that he handles her, both physically and mentally. He is such an amazing guy. I definitely fell in love with his character!! It's a beautiful, emotional love story and I really truly enjoyed it!

In this book, the team is dealing with a threat towards the felines where the females are being drugged and raped. Because Knox & Felicia just got married, they are not participating in this mission. That leaves the other four: Wraith, Caleb, Dex, & Lucy to carry out the mission. The nature of the mission means that they aren't really working as a group much. As a reader, what you see instead is a lot of alone time between Wraith & Caleb and then to a lesser degree, Dex & Lucy. I enjoyed those moments, but missed the team dynamic in this book. There is a really interesting side story between Dex & Lucy and it will be interesting to see how much that story comes into play in the next book which is about Dex.

While I missed some of the aspects that were so good about the first novel, this is still an amazing read. I thoroughly enjoyed it!! It absolutely would have scored a solid "A" for me (instead of the A- that I gave it) until the final 10 pages of the book, when the conclusion just seemed a little lacking or too easy and there was a clue that this team is dissolving even further...such a disappointment to me.

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### Bobbie Bosley says

Like this series. Good book. Fast read. Did not want to put it down.

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### Stephanie G says

The Para Ops team has been assigned to infiltrate the feline shifter community to find the person or persons responsible for the sudden surge of rapes of female felines.

With her history with felines Wraith didn't like this assignment as it is, but the fact that she can no longer

deny the feelings she has for Caleb is what sent her fleeing the team.

Caleb has his own bad history with the felines he has to deal with but first he must retrieve Wraith and convince her he loves her and doesn't not want to cause her any more pain even if that means he can't touch her.

As with all wraiths, if they try and kill themselves to end their immortality then they come back wrong and they come back sensitive to touch, all types of touch from another causes them pain. This pain is something that Wraith use to thrive on. She allowed this type of treatment to happen to herself because she didn't care about herself must less anyone else, but that changed with Caleb O' Flare. She couldn't let herself take him down too, she knew her turning was happening and that her death was emanate. Like all wraiths, she is predetermined to die after her tenth year. So somehow she'd have to leave this sexy man alone so she didn't hurt him too. But that may be easier said than done.

This was an excellent addition to this series. I loved the first one with Knox and Felicia but I think this one was equally good. Wraith was a little rough around the edges but she kind of grows on you and Caleb's love for her is amazing. You can't help but feel all he feels for her, the love, heat and even his frustration.

It's entertaining from start to finish, you still have the underlining adjective of saving world and proving its worth saving to a god who thinks it's a waste and they should wipe the slate and start over. Then the new conflict arises with the felines. I love the twist at end it was great..

I cannot wait for the next book. There was a little cliff hanger at the end with a small enuendo, so I can't wait to see how it all plays out.

\*\*Athena\*\*

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## Catherine says

This had been coming for a long time now, but especially since they'd returned from North Korea. Their mission had affected all of them, of course, but Wraith had come back different. Still prickly, but less mouthy. Less willing to react or to interact. Less....well, less Wraith. It was as if part of her died on that mission. As if the regeneration of her body looked complete but really wasn't.

Lately, everyone has noticed a change in Wraith. She's always been moody and withdrawn, but now she's spending a lot of time in her room alone and won't tell anyone what's wrong. Caleb knows that something changed for her in their last mission, but he can't figure out what. He tries to get close to her, but all it does is drive her further away.

Wraith is faced with the horrible fact that she's over ten years old. It's a well kept secret that sometime between their tenth and eleventh birthday, wraiths die. This time permanently. Wraith doesn't want to let anyone know what's happening and has to deal with her feelings alone. She's resigned to the end of her life, but is determined to spend a night or two with Caleb before she dies. But nothing is ever simple with those two, so the road to happiness doesn't come easily.

After seeing Caleb and Wraith together in the first book, Chosen by Blood, I was really excited to get a book about them. They had sizzling tension between them and the beginnings of a very nice relationship conflict. As I began reading this book, I really enjoyed it. Wraith, with her bitterness and bitchiness, was always a little hard to warm up to, but it was easier to sink into her character once I got into her head. I still thought she was occasionally hard to take, but I enjoyed her for the most part.

Caleb and Wraith finally start to connect at Knox and Felicia's wedding. Caleb has always been interested in Wraith, but he is not turned on by the thought of hurting his partner and struggles to push past that hurdle

when he realizes that pain will be a major factor in any relationship they have. Wraith doesn't care about that, she just wants to steal whatever time she has left. Of course, something pops up—a death mark on Caleb that only Wraith can see, to be exact—and Wraith changes her mind in an abrupt about face (to protect him, of course) and leaves Caleb. This is the start of a back and forth relationship between them that eventually drove me nuts.

I have no problem with setbacks and hurdles to overcome in a relationship, but I got really tired of Caleb and Wraith and the back and forth game they played with each other. What was the most surprising about it was that it was *Caleb* who was the worst offender. I had my money on Wraith and her moodiness. After a while I got tired of the repetitive nature of their conflict. They'd start to get together, but then someone or something would cause them to step back. Then they would circle around each other and start again. Rinse and repeat that and you have their relationship in a nutshell.

I liked getting to spend some time with Knox again and enjoyed seeing more information on some of the plot lines that were left open in *Chosen by Blood*. His POV sections did seem a little out of place, though. They didn't flow smoothly with the present story and were just kind of plopped in to showcase developments that will probably be important to a future story. I was also intrigued by what we saw of Dex. He's always been an interesting character, and I think we finally met his lady. Her self professed man issues seem like they'll provide a nice conflict between them.

I won't discuss the resolution of the feline rape plot so as not to spoil anything, but I do have to mention a few things about the felines as a whole. I feel rather horrified by what I learned about the feline race and their cultural views. The pressure and the expectations placed on their females made me sad. I can't say much more than that, but I'm really not surprised by what was revealed.

I had a couple huge frustrations that dropped the book's grade significantly. One will be in spoilers and one will not. The first thing is the death mark on Caleb. What was up with that? It was a big deal in the beginning, but that plotline never went anywhere. It was just there and then later it wasn't. But it made NO sense. I have to conclude that it was included solely as a way to keep Wraith and Caleb from hooking up in the beginning like they planned to.

**\*\*\*\*DON'T READ THIS SPOILER UNLESS YOU WANT THE END SPOILED FOR YOU!\*\*\*\***

(view spoiler)

I'm pissed off all over again just thinking about this.

#### **Favorite Quote:**

What did he want from her? Because she knew what she wanted. Yes, she wanted his body. There was no doubt about that. But secretly, she wanted everything that he'd been unconsciously offering her, too. She wanted him to ride up on his white horse and slay every dragon from her past and every one that was coming for her in her future.

\*Review originally posted on Fiction Vixen\*

## Nawnee says

I picked up this book not realizing it was the second in this series, I was planning on getting the first book and reading them in order but I ran out of books to read and this one sounded interesting. I'm not quite sure how much of the first book got ruined by not reading them in order but I'm not sure I care. I loved the characters and the story line, this isn't the most original plot but the characters are. The story and what involves Wraith I think is pretty original but the rest of the supernatural that are involved in this book are pretty run of the mill for there species. But Wraith's story and her affliction are unique at least for me. I find this best summed up as a tale of forgiveness, redemption, and the ability to let go of past transgressions. This is one of the first paranormal romances that I've read that could be said to have a moral to the story, that being said it doesn't distract from the book at all.

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## Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Wraith is a ghost. She's been "alive" for 10 years, and by the time she reaches year 11, she'll be dead. At the start of the book she has no reason to really care about anything anymore, she has nothing to stay in existence for, she pushes people away who try to get close and she's tried to kill herself many times – but deep down I think she's scared. No wraith before her has made it past their 11th year, and while she's scared of being in her last year, she doesn't let herself expect to make it past that point. Having no memory of her human life, she's driven to find out who she was before she became a wraith, and that was her reason for joining the Para-Ops team. She was promised help in trying to find information about her past so she can put the pieces together before her existence is over for good.

Caleb, another member of the Para-Ops team, is a healer and he uses his power and that of his ancestors to help heal people through his touch. He and Wraith have a hate/like/hate relationship. Caleb is drawn to her, but Wraith is just full of hate, mostly of herself and angst. I love angst as much as the next reader, but Wraith almost had too much of it. For every small moment of happiness she'd let herself have, she'd follow it up by saying something bitchy or snarky to people who were trying to be her friends. Of course it was her way of coping with knowing that she would be gone in a short amount of time, and by keeping this information to herself, none of her friends knew what she was going through.

Wraith can't experience any touch without pain, so actually being with someone, or accepting something as simple as a hug from a friend causes her so much pain, she's at the point where she thinks that all she deserves. Caleb sets out to prove her wrong, to show her that she is worthy of pleasure and ultimately worthy of so much more. As Wraith's time gets closer to running out, her appearance is changing as well. As a wraith, she has white hair, blue tinted skin and can't see colors. She slowly becomes more human, but this is a blessing and a curse. It just means she's that much closer to being gone forever. But as she becomes more human, being touched doesn't cause her much, if any, pain and for the first time in her existence as a wraith, she's able to be with Caleb and know what true pleasure feels like.

**“...You're not crazy. You've dealt with more than anyone should have to, and you've done the best you can. And if you can't catch it yourself, that's admiration you hear in my voice, Wraith, not pity. I'm sorry you were betrayed, but you have the team now. You have me. I know that doesn't mean much to you, but-“**

**Before he could finish his thought, she reached out and pulled him down on top of her again. “It means more than you can know,” she said.**

As part of the Para-Ops team, they’re on an assignment to figure out who is drugging and raping female felines. Threads from Caleb’s past become a part of this mission and people he thought he could trust, at least initially, turn out to be right in the middle of the case. While the mission takes place throughout the entire book, it feels like it wraps up rather quickly and very neat at the end. I’m more interested in finding out who the Quorum members are (a very Anti-Otherborn, Pro-Human group). By books end, we know the supposed identity of a couple members, and seeing how this storyline plays out over the course of the series, will be interesting especially learning how different people within and connected to the Para-Ops team are also connected to others within the Quorum; it’ll make for great reveals once that happens.

While the suspense and build-up of the Quorum storyline is ongoing, the relationships make this story for me. I loved Caleb and Wraith together. There were times I wanted to strangle Wraith, but when she would finally let herself be a little vulnerable and open up not only with Caleb but with other members of the team, Dex and Lucy, the second the “moment” was over, she’d say or do something really hurtful trying to keep that shell around herself. Caleb eventually broke through it, but it took Wraith putting the pieces of her past together herself and dealing with that before she finally realized that she can and does feel love. It’s a long journey for her, but Caleb stays by her side and doesn’t let go.

There are few other supporting storylines going on throughout the book. I can’t wait to learn more about Dex and Lucy and who their HEAs will be, since it appears they won’t be that for each other. I’m also really interested in Zeph, Knox’s brother – who’s story we got in book 1, Chosen by Blood. Zeph is a double agent, and I really hope he gets his own book at some point. He straddles the line between good and bad, and he’s putting himself in a pretty dangerous situation, playing both sides.

I really enjoyed the latest edition to the Para-Ops series. It reads pretty light with the paranormal aspect, we have ghosts, healers, mages, weres, vamps...you name it in this story, but they really act as human as they possibly can. Their abilities come out and into play when they need them to, but this is really a series about people with “extra” powers trying to live their lives the best they can. I’m looking forward to Dex’s story next, the were who initially came off as a standoffish guy, but we get to see him soften a bit towards Lucy in this story and I want to know what secrets he’s keeping, and who ends up stealing his heart!

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### **Jill James says**

Paranormal romance at its best. Caleb and Wraith rock!!

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### **Melindeeloo says**

I like this one alot but for some reason am having a really hard time reviewing it...

Great tension building between the leads and it is lucky for Wraith that Caleb is persistent and perceptive both, I thought that DePaul pulled the promising world building together and that the romance worked much better than the one in the first book, also her ensemble is really 'gel'ing.

The next book? Chosen by Sin will be Dex's book, yay!

There's a free Wraith prequel eshort which can be downloaded from DePaul's site or Smashwords, "Wraith's Awakening"

And her next book is Dex's story Chosen by Sin (out jan 2012)

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### **Vanessa theJeepDiva says**

I loved the tension that Wraith and Caleb brought to Chosen by Blood. Readers could easily see the chemistry and connection between these two characters. I was very eager to see how their book would flesh out. Needless to say I was not disappointed. Wraith's character is heartbreaking on so many levels. She's dead, she has no memory of who she was when she was living, touch pains her, but all of her other sensations are severely lacking. Then the icing on that cake ALL wraiths die again between their tenth and eleventh year. So of course the moment Wraith finds herself with a job she feels passionately about, team members that she cares about and a team that cares about her in return, her days are now numbered. I think anyone can understand her general negativity with all of that piled up on her. To top it all off she wants something that she knows she can't have, Caleb O'Flare her sexy Shaman healer teammate.

Caleb wants Wraith. He knows that to give into those wants is to cause her excruciating pain through touch. How can you cause harm to someone you care about? Caleb can't. He is on the other hand willing to do almost anything to give her pleasure. I loved this double edged sword that was their relationship. Touch her and cause her pain, don't touch her and cause pain to ones self. Just when Caleb gives in to his desires for Wraith someone from his past reenters his life claiming to need his and the Para-Ops teams help. Wraith does not want another mission, she wants to find out all the details of her pre-wraith past. It was part of her agreement to join the Para-Ops team.

Chosen by Fate is a page turner. There is a ton of action between the current mission, the tension between Caleb and Wraith and the ultimatums that the Goddess Essenia keeps issuing. The team is so new that they are still having some trust issues. Everyone has their secrets. I would not attempt to read the Para-Ops series out of order. The reader would miss so much of the tension that makes up Caleb and Wraith's story. I was also pleased with the fact that Knox and Felicia got page time in Chosen by Fate. I was left with some questions about them and I'm glad that some light was shed on those. The readers also learn more about exactly what is going on with Zeph, Knnox's brother. The problems that the Quorum is causing Otherborn's is still causing major amounts of trouble for the Para-Ops team and the world in general.

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### **Amber Hughes says**

Great read! I really enjoyed this one. Looking forward to Dex's book!

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### **Wendy \*Sebella Blue\* Mitchell says**

Review to follow shortly

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## Fangs for the Fantasy says

After returning from Korea with the para-ops team, Wraith isolates herself from everyone else. Though she has always been moody and standoffish this increases. Wraith knows that her undead life is running short. Finally, she decides to be proactive and demands to know who she was but with three felines being raped, Wraith's needs are put on the back burner. Though Wraith agrees to work on the rapes, she cannot ignore the changes to her body. Suddenly, she is becoming more human and it's no longer painful to be touched. Still the pain of who she was haunts her and though she manages to hide it all from the team, she cannot hide it from Caleb.

For a paranormal romance, DePaul crams Chosen by Fate with a lot of world building, mystery and spirituality. The Goddess Essenia is still very much considering the annihilation of every single living creature and as Mahone works to stop it, the weight of the responsibility is beginning to wear on him. There is a secret organization that is attempting to end the peace between the humans and the Otherborn. Even the Para-Ops team who is trying desperately to bring about a balance is struggling with their own issues. For all of the things happening in the book, it never feels confused.

Chosen by Fate's largest problem is that DePaul piles fail upon fail into the story and absolutely none of it is necessary. It's so bad that I almost don't know where to begin.

Caleb is the main love interest in this story and he is half Indian and Half Irish. This makes the relationship between Caleb and Wraith subversive because inter-racial relationships aren't often portrayed in this genre. What ever gains DePaul made in this regard were lost when she made Caleb a drunk. He even snarks when Mahone finds him in a bar, "Didn't you do your intel? I'm half-Indian and half-Irish. You had to know the chances of finding me shit-faced was esp ... est ... extremely high." Of course he's an alcoholic, everyone knows that if you're Irish or Native you cannot control your drinking. Yes, I'm rolling my eyes.

Then we have the problems with GLBT portrayal. The problem begins with the felines who are bisexual, which is explained by their high sex drive. Felines are also promiscuous because if they don't have sex, they experience pain. Yes, promiscuous bisexual beings which is justified by story reasons. Further problematic is that one apparently needs "training in the art of feminine love." Feel free to dish out the side eye.

[Read More](#)

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## WildAboutBones says

This second in DePaul's *Para-Ops* series features Otherborns - weres, vamps, dharmires, felines, shapeshifters, mages and wraiths; a shaman; a special FBI mixed species team; a prophecy; a Quorum of humans who want to "*strip [the Otherborn] of their civil rights*"; a goddess who wants to wipe all species from the earth to start over again and a very unlikely romance. She adds some inventive differences to the mythos for several of her paranormal characters.

This was a new author and new series for me but DePaul did a good job of writing a story that can stand alone. I didn't feel lost not having read the first in the series. This story takes place several weeks after Caleb is recruited by the FBI for the first team of its kind, humans and Otherborn working together.

Caleb, half-Indian and half-Irish, is a shaman, former army medic, human lie detector and healer. He is also able "*to communicate with his ancestors, hear the Great Song, and occasionally walk the Otherworld*". He

thinks Wraith is *"a heinous bitch, yes, but one whose attitude and mouth was designed to hide something textured and complex"* and he loved it when she returned his kiss. When he first met her he'd *felt a sizzling arc of connection that had only intensified with time*. She seems to have no use for him and pushes him away all the time.

Wraith knows she has less than a year to "live" even though she is a *"dead human"*, a wraith — *"No pulse. No blood. No body heat or need to eat... Female—and a whole lot of angry going on. Oh, and immortality"*. She has *"bluish-hued skin [and] stark white hair"*. She only sees in black and white. She's also the *"the oldest known wraith in America"*. She feels pain much more than when she was a live human. And now *"a simple touch from someone else was painful"*. She can touch animals and shifters in animal form without pain and kids without much pain. And she changing... and changing much more quickly than she thought she would when the end was coming close. She knows Caleb wants her and she wants him as well but refuses to give into the desire. She's begun to crave his touch.

There is a lot of good chemistry between Caleb and Wraith. DePaul know hows to write a steamy hot sex scene some of which are not very graphic but still have impact.

I laughed a little, I cried a little. That's when I knew DePaul had me. Up until about three quarters through the book, the story was good, but a lot was going on and the story nor the characters had drawn me in. Then when I cried in the latter part of the book, I realized the characters had pulled me in, made me care about them.

I ended up enjoying the story and now want to go back and read the first book book in the series and the sequel to this one when it comes out. I think both paranormal romance and urban fantasy fans will like this book.

A free prequel novella to the first book in the series, *Chosen By Blood: Wraith's Awakening* can be found [here](#)

Warning Spoiler Alert!!!  
This has an HEA ending.

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## Heidi says

Another good one..wraith is not altogether likable which only makes you like her more..the writers approach to romance is spot on love is raw and messy thats why i like these books her charachters are paranormal and yet you still connect with them

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## Bookaholics says

Chosen by Fate by Virna DePaul  
Paranormal Romance – Oct. 4th, 2011  
5 stars

This author has made a new fan! Not only does she create a vivid landscape of several paranormal beings to fascinate the most jaded reader, but she had developed fully fleshed characters. Normally I find secondary

characters dilute the story, but this book I enjoyed them all so much I can't wait for their stories.

Caleb is a healer that was recruited to work on the special FBI, Para-Ops teams. He and his teammates are assigned deadly paranormal missions. The latest almost killed him and one of his teammates named Wraith. Wraith and him have been playing a game of cat and mouse. He cares for Wraith but as a ghost, any human touch is painful to her. But Caleb is determined to find a way to create a relationship with her. But Caleb needs to work fast, because there is something he doesn't know.

Wraith can't remember her past, and she is approaching her tenth year. Although the rest of the paranormals and humans believe that ghosts are immortal, she and her fellow ghosts know the truth: around ten years old, they 'die' and none of them knows why. Wraith wants to discover her real past and why she died, but to do so she must strike out on her own and quit the team. However, she finds herself dragged back when a string of feline rapes needs her particular connections and when she discovers that Caleb has the mark. Wraith loves Caleb but being near him is both a joy and a pain. But when she notices he carries the mark of death that only her kind can see, she resolves to prevent his death which must be related to their latest mission. But in doing so will she ever find out her past before it is too late?

This series has serious bite and is my newest addiction. The Para-Ops team is like a group of super heroes with real feeling and troubles. Wraith is a complex heroine whose guts and sacrifices make her very noble and endearing. I felt emotionally connected to her because she is doomed to die yet still puts the hero she loves first. Their romance is very charged and I found myself teary-eyed because Caleb does not realize Wraith is dying. The tension between them as Caleb is determined to care for Wraith and make her see they can have a relationship were bitter sweet. As a result, this story carried me to various highs and lows as I wondered how the author would resolve their star crossed dilemma so they could be finally be together. Curiously, the only thing that was a bit of disappointment was the ending which felt a bit anti-climatic.

Those who love JR Ward's vampire series should give this series a try. Tense, high octane and emotional, I loved these fully developed characters and can't wait to read more!

Reviewed by Steph from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

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