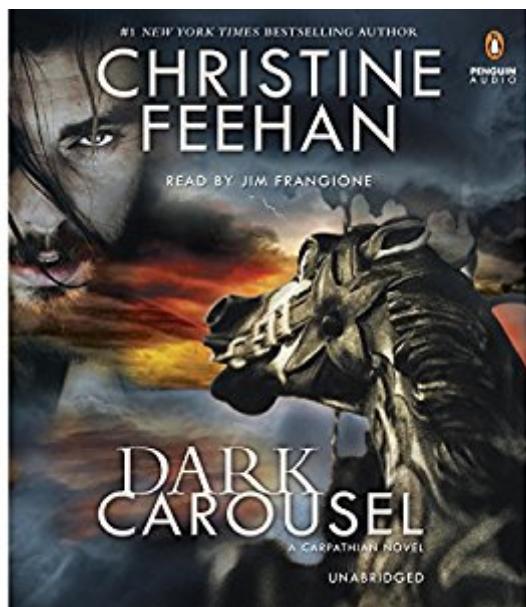


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# Dark Carousel: A Carpathian Novel, Book 30



## **Synopsis**

In the new Carpathian novel from number-one New York Times best-selling author Christine Feehan, a woman falls prey to the seductive allure of the past - and a vampire warrior's intoxicating embrace.... The moment Charlotte Vintage walks into his club, Tariq Asenguard's blood is set on fire. The ancient Carpathian had given up hope of finding his lifemate, but now he will do anything to make Charlotte his own. What Tariq doesn't know is that Charlotte is using herself and her best friend as bait - to try to draw out the bloodthirsty killers who have already murdered Charlotte's brother and mentor. Charlotte is familiar with Tariq. Not only is he one of the richest and most eligible bachelors in the city, but he's also a renowned collector of old carousel horses, which Charlotte restores. Their shared passion opens Charlotte up to trusting him with her life and with the desire she can no longer control. But it also makes her vulnerable to a centuries-old curse that will unite her and Tariq in a war against the enemies of humans and Carpathians alike....

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I continue to buy each book in the Dark series and yet I think the series changed for the worse after Dark Possession. The stories went from being character driven love stories with lots of sex, fantastic adventures and vampires to primarily involving different protagonists fighting vampires and having sex. The characters are wooden and largely interchangeable and the love story is too forced to be either believable or a decent fantasy. Still I buy each one. The difference is I read and re-read the earlier books and the others are read once and forgotten, (though I might reread Dark Promise.)

DARK CAROUSEL is the thirtieth installment in Christine Feehan's contemporary, adult DARK CARPATHIAN paranormal, romance series. This is ancient warrior Tariq Asenguard, and carousel restorer Charlotte Vintage's story line. DARK CAROUSEL can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Several of the characters including Maxim and Blaze introduced in DARK CRIME found in the anthology EDGE OF DARKNESS (July 2015) play secondary and supporting roles throughout the story. NOTE: DARK CAROUSEL is a story with brutally, graphic violence and issues of rape and abuse against women and children. SOME BACKGROUND: All Carpathian males must find their lifemates before they turn vampire or greet the dawn. Without a lifemate, the males no longer see in color, feel pain or experience emotions. A lifemate is the light to their dark. She is the keeper of his heart and the keeper of his soul. As the unmated Carpathian male ages, the darkness begins to envelope his soul. Told from several third person points of view DARK CAROUSEL follows Charlotte Vintage as she endeavors to come to terms with the deaths of several family members and friends seemingly linked back to her visit to a psychic center in Paris, France. As Charlotte and her friend Genevieve return to America, they are being stalked by an unknown source, and find themselves at a nightclub run by Tariq Asenguard-an ancient Carpathian male who has yet to find the woman who holds the other half to his soul. What ensues is the awareness for Tariq when Charlotte's voice returns his emotions and color, and the quick building romance/insta love between two people connected by the past. While Charlotte struggles with her attraction and need for Tariq, there is something more sinister working behind the scenes. A master vampire is on the hunt, and Charlotte is one of his intended victims. Like all of Christine Feehan's male leads, Tariq is over protective and alpha, but in saying this, he is not abusive, not arrogant, not controlling or verging on total domination like many of Christine's recent male heroes-a term I use lightly. For an ancient Carpathian, Tariq is quite modern, and willing to accept that his mate is his partner in many aspects of their relationship but fighting vampires is not in her repertoire. DARK CAROUSEL, like so many of the recent DARK stories, is a graphically violent tale of murder, rape, blood shed, and gore with disturbing scenes and brutal imagery. Christine Feehan's vampires are evolving into a darker, more sinister species with the ability to think and act independently, where no one is off limits, and children and women are the latest targets as the vampires struggle for power and control. The large ensemble cast of characters is numerous including the introduction of several new ancients we first met in Dark Promises, who are struggling to retain their honor, as well as the triplets Tomas, Lojos, and Matais. All of the psychic children introduced in Dark Crime are now wards of Tariq Asenquard, and like Sara and Falcon from Dark Dream, Tariq and Charlotte are now the foster parents for several

psychic children who are featured throughout the story. One young child will be the saving grace for an ancient Carpathian (reminiscent of Skylar and Dimitri). Vadim Malinov is the Master vampire and, for newcomers to the series, and as a reminder, Tariq reveals some history about the Malinov's and their battle with the Carpathian people. Christine Feehan's DARK CAROUSEL is a welcome return to her earlier writing style and story line presentation including the ongoing battle with the Malinov family, which has been missing for awhile, but the original characters we grew to love are absent and without representation. The Daratrazanoffs are mentioned for their healing abilities but have yet to make an appearance. The up-kick in graphic and brutal violence against women and children is still an issue-one that I don't see coming to an end with the current direction of the series, and the ever-evolving vampires. The premise has plenty of action, fight scenes and sexual situations; the characters are an eclectic mix of humans, vampires, children and Carpathians; the romance is a quick build to lifemates and love. For diehard fans of the series, many are aware that the characters from DARK CAROUSEL are part of a "lost" manuscript previously started by the author-the premise has somewhat changed from the recovered text.

I love the dark series, but the last few ones have been boring....or repeat ...they haven't kept my attention...I thought I would give this one a try...but didn't make it past four chapters....I returned the book.....I guess I expect better.

Good golly is this really book 30? That's an awfully long time to keep a series going so clearly there are a plethora of readers out there who adore this authors work. Always imaginative and her sex scenes are certainly meant to set the pages on fire and yet I'm increasingly seeing reviews that are less than enamoured. I admit there has sometimes been rhetoric that felt repetitive and situations that seemed to follow a pre set template but I'm really enjoying this newer direction that the author is exploring. If you read Dark Crime then you will be delighted to catch up with Tariq and the damaged females he helped rescue. It's a story arc that I'd almost forgotten but I'm so pleased the author has returned to it. There's definitely a more contemporary feel to this story which brings a fresh approach. Tariq is a hunter but he has perfected his civilised veneer and actually finds himself caring for the humans around him and his extended family . Charlotte is brave and determined to stop hiding and take on whoever is murdering those she cares for but she is entering a world she had no idea existed. The Carpathians search amongst humans with psychic gifts for their Lifemates but the Vampires have a completely different reason and it's not pleasant at all!There's a huge

difference between a male who dominates his woman and one who abuses her and I think the author seemed to get the balance right here. Whilst I didn't buy the instant attraction/lust if honest (first night? Really? No build up?) I cannot fault that Tariq was only domineering when it came to Charlottes safety oh and bedroom antics of course ! Finally a Carpathian who realises he needs a partner and that a modern woman would settle for nothing less . Now add in quite a large supporting cast and I'm sorry my head was reeling as apart from one or two I constantly had to remember which Carpathian was which ! Luckily not all were new and the human children really tugged at me heartstrings but it was the big bad that made this story. I couldn't understand the title initially and how it would connect to the storyline but bam , it really was very pertinent indeed. As for their enemies well nasty just doesn't seem to cover it and in the midst of all this is a puppet master like no other ! Yes stand by for a Vampire who thinks way outside the box, looks ahead and sets the most insidious traps.I was gifted a copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest reviewFour and a half from me

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