

FANG-TASTIC FICTION

Twenty-First-Century
Paranormal Reads

Patricia O'Brien Mathews



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After growing up as the high school principal's daughter in a small Ohio town (an adolescent's nightmare), **Patricia Mathews** inexplicably pursued a career in public education, working as a teacher, program coordinator, and curriculum and assessment designer. She currently has the best job of her life—working behind the reference desk at her local branch library. Before getting caught up in paranormal fiction, her favorite readings were narrative nonfiction and character-driven fiction. Now, however, she can't resist the heroes and heroines of urban fantasy. She lives in northeastern Ohio with her two cats, and although she watches them carefully, she has never caught them in the act of shape-shifting.

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introduction

At the heart of the vampire myth is a demon lover who is both elegant and deadly, a creature whose savagery is all the more shocking when taken with his seductive beauty and style.

from Anne Stuart's "Legends of Seductive Elegance,"
in *Dangerous Men and Adventurous Women:
Romance Writers on the Appeal of Romance*



CHAPTER 2

series descriptions





a sample entry

Kohler, Sharie

MOON CHASERS (SMR—V4, S5, H2)

Pocket Star: *Marked by Moonlight* (2007); *Kiss of a Dark Moon* (2008); *To Crave a Blood Moon* (2009)

Gideon and Kit March are brother-sister lycan (werewolf) executioners. Most of these werewolves are savage killers who are executed by agents of the National Organization for Defense against Evolving and Ancient Lycanthropes (NODEAL). Each book follows one of the siblings through the steps of a soul-mate romance (SMR) as he or she finds true love while battling both the werewolves and the NODEAL bad guys who are trying to kill them both.

Explanation: The author is Sharie Kohler. The series is entitled MOON CHASERS. The publisher is Pocket. The books, in chronological order, are *Marked by Moonlight*, *Kiss of a Dark Moon*, and *To Crave a Blood Moon*. The series has some heavy violence (V4), graphic sex scenes (S5), and very little humor (H2). Although the plot includes some paranormal battles, the focus is on the progression of the protagonists' romantic relationships with their soul mates (SMR).

Acevedo, Mario

FELIX GOMEZ (UF—V5, S3, H3)

The Nymphs of Rocky Flats (Eos, 2007); *X-Rated Bloodsuckers* (Eos, 2008); *The Undead Kama Sutra* (Eos, 2008); *Jailbait Zombie* (Eos, 2009); *Werewolf Smackdown* (Eos, 2010); *Mario Acevedo's Felix Gomez: Killing the Cobra—Chinatown Trollop* (graphic novel, IDW Publishing, 2010)

Don't judge this series by its titles, which imply X-rated content. In reality, the stories are more like noir detective yarns—multiple murders solved by knitting together strands of seemingly unconnected clues. The titles refer more to characters and situations than to the sensuality levels, and the sensuality that is included is mostly left to the imagination. The series follows the adventures of Felix Gomez, a vampire private detective in the present-day American West. The Araneum (Latin for “spiderweb”), the secret global network that vampires formed to protect themselves from human extermination, assigns many of his jobs. In Felix's world, vampires can tolerate most sunshine (except for sunrise) as long as they protect their skin with sun-block lotion. Two of the books involve extraterrestrials to some degree, but most of the scenes focus on Felix's adventures as he tries to solve the multiple murders he faces in each book.

Acosta, Marta

CASA DRACULA (CH—V3, S4, H4)

Happy Hour at Casa Dracula (Pocket, 2006); *Midnight Brunch* (Pocket, 2007); *The Bride of Casa Dracula* (Pocket, 2008); *Haunted Honeymoon at Casa Dracula* (Gallery, 2010)

Milagro de los Santos is a frustrated writer, taking advertising jobs to pay the rent while she works on her novels. When she accidentally shares blood with Oswald Grant, a handsome vampire, her life changes completely. Soon, she is running for her life—away from her ex-boyfriend Sebastian, who wants to use her body for various horrendous experiments, and toward a possible life with Oswald. Other possible love interests, however, do turn up, including the sexy and powerful vampire lord Ian. Oswald and his family see themselves not as vampires but as people with a “condition”—an enzyme deficiency that can be controlled only through ingesting excessive amounts of protein, specifically, blood and other red foods. The high sensuality rating is related to the bloodletting (with scalpels—they don't have fangs) that occurs during sexual scenes. Plots involve various attempts to kidnap Milagro for her blood.



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