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## Passing: A Crusade Series Story

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PASSING

*~ A Crusade Series Story ~*

By

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*New York Times* Bestselling Authors of the *Wicked* series

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Passing (Crusade)

Smashwords Edition

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*CRUSADE* SERIES:

"Passing" (short story), 2009 - first appeared in *The Eternal Kiss*, edited by Trisha Telep.

*Crusade*, 2010

*Damned*, 2011

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It was almost time--a few minutes before midnight on New Year's Eve. New Year, new vampire hunter. Would I be the one?

I sat down shakily in the ancient stone chapel of the former Universidad de Salamanca, the most ancient university in Spain. When the war broke out, most of the universities in Europe shut down. The Americans figured the vampires would never attack us on our native soil. We paid dearly for our arrogance.

For the last twelve years, Salamanca had been the home of the *Academia Sagrada Familia Contra los Vampiros*. It was the school for vampire hunters--my school. There were foreign students from all over the world, because the Academia was the best. Academia graduates took out the most Passing (Crusade) vamps, and they had the highest survival rate. There were six living Academicians; Juan Maldonado had been a hunter for nine Passing (Crusade) years. Unbelievable.

Not that the survival rate was very good--out of the original ninety-six of us Passing (Crusade) in our class, we were down to eighteen. We shuffled into the chapel in our ceremonial black robes, our hoods concealing our faces. We were about to take our final exam. Only one of us would pass.

I had dreaded this moment for two long years--the moment my foot crossed the threshold of the Academy--and feared it for two months. Diego, our Master, had warned Passing (Crusade) us that as the time grew near, we would experience high anxiety. About a dozen of my classmates woke screaming from nightmares. There was a lot of jogging in the middle of the night. Even though drugs and alcohol were forbidden, I knew that people were swigging wine and taking Xanax so they could get some rest.

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None of them carried the extra burdens--or the accompanying terror and guilt --that I did.

*I should say something, tell someone*, I thought. But I would sooner cut out my own heart than tell them what I'd done. What I might do.

At the thought, my heart skipped beats, and I clung Passing (Crusade) to the back of the carved mahogany pew.

## Passing Crusade

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