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Marked: Servants Of Fate, Book 1



Synopsis

In a broken landscape carved by environmental collapse, Boston paramedic Cacia Ferry risks life and limb on the front lines of a fragile and dangerous city. What most don't know - including her sexy new partner, Eli Margolis - is that while Cacy works to save lives, she has another job ferrying the dead to the Afterlife. Once humans are "Marked" by Fate, the powerful Ferrys are called to escort the vulnerable souls to either eternal bliss or unending fire and pain. Unaware of Cacy's other life, Eli finds himself as mesmerized by his fierce and beautiful partner as he is mistrustful of the influential Ferry clan led by the Charon - who happens to be Cacy's father. Cacy, in turn, can no longer deny her intense attraction to the mysterious ex-Ranger with a haunted past. But just as their relationship heats up, an apparent hit takes the Charon before his time. Shaken to the core, Cacy pursues the rogue element who has seized the reins of fate, only to discover that Eli has a devastating secret of his own. Not knowing whom to trust, what will Cacy have to sacrifice to protect Eli - and to make sure humanity's future is secure?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The flooded post-apocalyptic world and idea of ferrying souls to the afterlife caught my interest, but ultimately this book wasn't for me. The predominant storyline is a romance, and really, romance is the wrong word because it mostly consists of juvenile exclamations in the vein of he's so hot/she's so hot/wow, look at her bend over! And why is the heroine conversing with work colleagues while topless? Just weird, and not enough focus on building the characters and relationship beyond superficial attraction to make me care about whether the leads get together (not that there's much

question about that). I would have preferred a story centered directly on the more interesting Charon plot. The author's Guards of the Shadowlands series had the same trouble (great concept overshadowed by a shallow and uninteresting love story), so perhaps this writer is just not for me. For readers who like the Shadowlands series, this book is more of the same and will probably be a good choice. On the positive side, the writing is skillful enough, the world-building is really well done, and the secondary characters are fairly rounded.

This book was so disappointing for me. It had such a cool premise to it, with some characters in charge of ferrying dead souls to their afterlives, and others in charge of marking those souls for death in the first place. But I feel like the author became far too distracted by the unrealistic, fan-fiction-esque romance between two of her main characters. The first time I ran into two whole chapters devoted to the same sex scene, I was surprised and somewhat annoyed. The second time, I was just fed up. It's like she completely abandoned her story line to just write a bad romance novel (and I mean bad. I actually skipped through the sex scenes altogether). She took most of the book to actually advance her story line at all, and her main character switched from strong, confident female lead, to inept romance ditz so fast and so many times, she must have had vertigo. I haven't bothered to read the second one in the series yet, and I don't know if I will. I would love to find the actual plot again, but I don't know if I can stomach more sappy, unrealistic romance.

Pros: The quality of the writing (and proofreading) meant that I wasn't distracted from the story by bad grammar, spelling, or other irritants like so many digital reads. The story deftly created a world based on ours, but with interesting differences and let you learn those differences as you read (i.e. didn't just announce them in definition) - very nicely done. Cons: The mystery was well developed and tangled, but you knew early on that this was Book 1 of a series and that the story would be incomplete; this was simply the first installment. I don't mind series, but prefer that each episode stand alone. I hate being sold a novel only to be "forced" to buy the next one to get the full story. Sex. Now I enjoy sex, and sex scenes in my novels, but I don't need 5 pages of detailed descriptions for every encounter between the lovers - I found these unnecessary to the story and wished I could get more about the actual relationships and politics of the characters instead. The sex felt like wasted words used to match some artificial outline (1.Intro, 2.Protagonists Meet, 3.Set-up Tension, 4.Insert Sex Scene, 5..)Bottom Line: Much as I enjoyed the use of mythical archetypes and the world concepts created here, and wish I could stay immersed in them, I categorically refuse to be "forced" into buying the next installment. Give me the whole story in one

novel. If there are spin-offs and tangential story lines, make them available in follow up novels, but make each one stand alone! Marked ended at a point where I was surprised to find myself reading the first chapter of the next installment - I'd "turned the page" expecting to finish THIS story.

I just couldn't get passed the sex... It would have been nice to know prior to starting the book, that it was going to be raunchy. The premise was interesting and promising, but I didn't get much farther than a few chapters in. Just not for me.

Loved how this book started out. Great concept of mixing a future society with mythology. I was really enjoying the book, and read 50% of it within two days -- luckily I put off suggesting the book to my 14 year old cousin, because all of a sudden there was a GRAPHIC sex scene that took up a whole chapter. I was blushing and quickly skimmed the chapter, hoping that my fiancé wouldn't look over my shoulder to see what I was reading. Then there was a SECOND full chapter, immediately following. It was literally the most graphic sexual encounter that I've ever had the displeasure of seeing. If these two chapters, and the third one later on were removed, I would have given it a 4, maybe 5 star review. There were a few small potholes and the relationships didn't have much care given to their progress (Boy meets girl, boy falls madly in love with girl, they can't live without each other -- within one day).

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