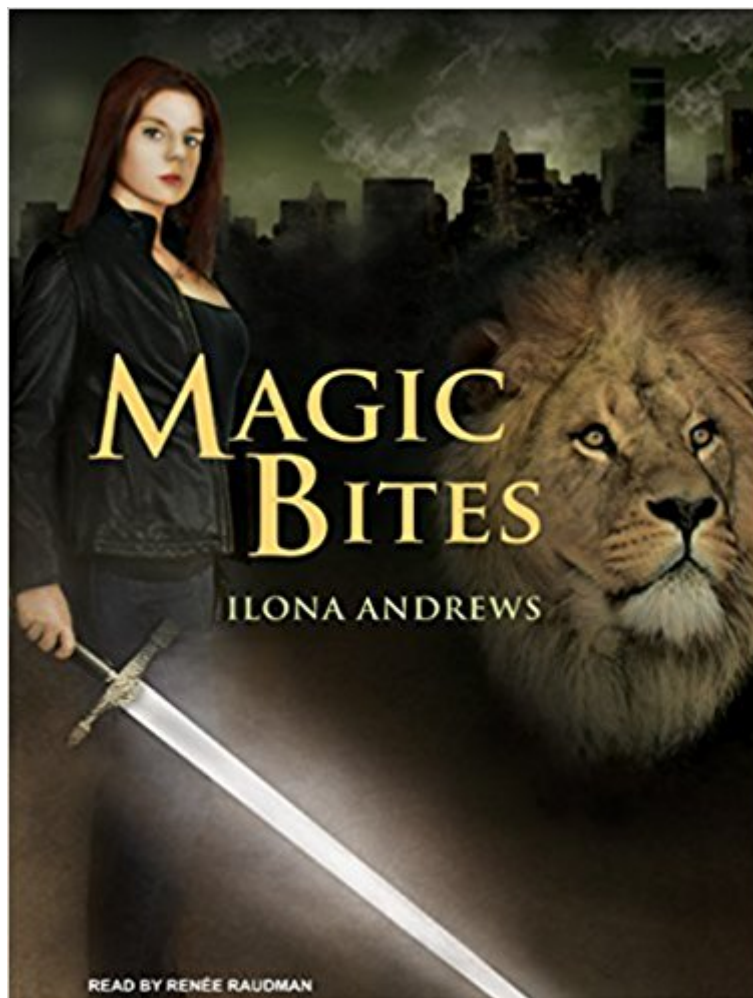


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Magic Bites (Kate Daniels, Book 1)



Synopsis

Atlanta would be a nice place to live, if it weren't for the magic. When the magic is up, rogue mages cast their spells and monsters appear, while guns refuse to fire and cars fail to start. But then technology returns, and the magic recedes as unpredictably as it arose, leaving all kinds of paranormal problems in its wake. Kate Daniels is a down-on-her-luck mercenary who makes her living cleaning up these magical problems. But when Kate's guardian is murdered, her quest for justice draws her into a power struggle between two strong factions within Atlanta's magic circles. The Masters of the Dead, necromancers who can control vampires, and the Pack, a paramilitary clan of shapechangers, blame each other for a series of bizarre killings-and the death of Kate's guardian may be part of the same mystery. Pressured by both sides to find the killer, Kate realizes she's way out of her league-but she wouldn't have it any other way.

Book Information

Series: Kate Daniels (Book 1)

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Customer Reviews

"Treat yourself to a splendid new urban fantasy.... I am looking forward to the next book in the series, or anything else Ilona Andrews writes." ---Patricia Briggs, New York Times bestselling author of *Iron Kissed*

Ilona Andrews is the pseudonym for a husband-and-wife writing team who live in Georgia, where they are currently working on Kate Daniels's next adventure. Actor and voice-over artist Renee Raudman has performed on film, television, radio, and stage. A multiple Audie Award nominee, she

has garnered several AudioFile Earphones Awards, a Publishers Weekly Listen-Up Award, and numerous starred reviews.

This is not a book you can just easily scan through-- it's very rough to follow and there is little to no exposition. It reminds me a lot of William Gibson's style in *Neuromancer*, in the sense that certain things are just taken for granted. But on the other hand, it's a very interesting read and I'm intrigued enough to give the sequels a chance. Kate's a treasure of a character, Curran is hilarious, and I'm very glad that Crest is a non-issue.

So, having read "Burn For Me", by this author (which, BTW, is BRILLIANT, scintillating & a thrill ride of awesome action, TOTALLY RECOMMEND!!!), I assumed this book, the series of which had been HIGHLY recommended by the same person who recommended "Burn For Me", would be similarly awesome. However I was super ~~frustrated~~ frustrated to find that the story didn't really even really start until the book was halfway over! There were too many men's names, it was hard to follow, and it just took way too long for the story to gel, the love interest was introduced as such toward the end-- if the intent was to make a mysterious/ambiguous as to who she would end up with, it didn't really work. It was just a big mess and ill-defined. I actually like the series as a whole, but this one wasn't executed well though. However, the reason why I am giving it 4 stars is because, now that the set up has been really thoroughly established, and the ending early awesome, satisfying and well done, I assume the remainder of stories in this series will not fall to the same problems, not only because of my awesome friends recommendation, but because there's no way there needs to be more at this point. I'm excited to read the rest of the books, we'll see how it goes. At the end justified the crazy sad beginning.

Kate Daniels- ass kicking, sword wielding, magic throwing, powerful woman. She leads us deeper and deeper into a multilayered world full of complex characters and smart, well thought out situations. Did I just make it sound boring? The pace is a fast clip to full throttle and the dialogue is lousy with good stuff. And did I already say smart? Ilona Andrews gives us a smart read with every book, and one of the smartest series around. This wondrous, scary world of magic and mundane can be dark. I like the dark. It gives the sacrifices and relationships an edge that light fluff never will. Loyalties are tested, friendships are treasured, and if you find love....well, you'll do what it takes for that love. Blood & guts? Yep. Half the time it's Kate's, but there is no messing around. If it needs to be ended, Kate would be who you wanna call. There is no one tougher, or more compassionate

though. Not my girl Jane Yellowrock, or my besties Mercy Hauptman and Charley Davidson, or early demised Anita Blake and Sookie Stackhouse (RIP due to character assassination). Maxine Kiss is very close to being a sister to Kate, but when all is said and done, Kate Daniels is so far on top I'm getting a neck strain. Warning: This series is not a light read. There is no speed reading here. Responsibilities are taken. Things die. And no matter what you've heard, there is less sex in the pages than in the janitor's closet of your local high school.

Took awhile for me to get into it. But once the story's ground work was laid and the characters were introduced it became interesting. About 75% of the book I felt was laying the groundwork for the series. The last 25% I had a hard time putting the book down. It's just starting to get good, and I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of the books in the series.

I enjoyed *Magic Bites*. It was an easy read despite throwing the reader into a complex alternate reality where magic is real and in your face, and comes in waves and competes with technology. I liked the fresh take on vampire and shapeshifter mythology. I also very much liked Kate, the main character. She's a tough cookie, and when she is feeling a little unsure of herself she hides it behind false bravado and bad jokes. She wields a mean sword and is a killing machine when she needs to be. She's also hiding some sort of secret regarding the extent of her magical powers. I also liked Curran, the male lead and Lord of the Beasts - King of the sane shapeshifters - those that haven't succumbed to the Lyc-V virus and gone completely animalistic. Curran is wonderfully obnoxious and arrogant and clearly taken with Kate, seemingly much to his dismay. The story is a nice blend of action/adventure, urban fantasy/paranormal, relationship building/romance and horror. *Magic Bites* has a little bit of everything. It's a nice, fairly light, entertaining, fun read. The general premise is Kate's estranged guardian is murdered while investigating a mystical murder case. Kate feels compelled to avenge his death and annihilate the murderer and discovers that the situation is more complicated than she thought. Someone is making a power play and her guardian was a casualty meant to lure Kate into the fray - which also involves setting off a war between the People (which near as I can tell are mystical necromancers who "pilot" zombie like vampires as part of their security system in times of magic, and to do their evil bidding) and the Pack (the sane shapeshifters). The reason I didn't give a 5 star rating was because of a major plot inconsistency that really aggravated me. SPOILER: at one point in the story they are looking for the bad guy and Curran says "I think it's so and so"; then all the shapeshifters question Kate about "so and so" and she comes across like "you guys are out of your minds". So they all trot off to question "so and so"

and conclude he's not guilty and Curran then looks at Kate "disgusted with her" and says something like "next time you get one of your hunches, don't tell me" LIKE IT WAS HER IDEA?!?!?! WTH? Then the plot device is followed through the rest of the novel with Kate later saying "I want to call the shapeshifters and warn them about something but now they won't believe me after I was wrong before. And again WTH???? I read the passage in question like 10 times. My head hurt. I thought I was going crazy because I couldn't understand how something so blatantly wrong would be allowed to go unchecked in a mass market, professional publication. I got on the internet and read reviews and only relaxed after several other reviewers noted seeing the same thing and I realized I wasn't either senile or a complete idiot. In preparation for reading Magic Bites, I first read the short story pre-quel "A Questionable Client" that is free on the author's site. This tells the story of how Kate came to meet Saiman - a secondary character in Magic Bites. It was a fun short story - but again in terms of inconsistency - in Magic Bites Kate briefly recounts the details of their meeting - and it is not consistent with what unfolds in the short story. Again...WTH???? END SPOILER.

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