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Burned By Magic: The Baine Chronicles, Book 1



Synopsis

In the city of Solantha, mages rule absolute, with shifters considered second-class citizens and humans something in between. No one outside the mage families are allowed to have magic, and anyone born with it must agree to have it stripped from them to avoid execution. Sunaya Baine, a shifter-mage hybrid, has managed to keep her unruly magic under wraps for the last 24 years. But while chasing down a shifter-hunting serial killer, she loses control of her magic in front of witnesses, drawing the attention of the dangerous and enigmatic Chief Mage. Locked up in the Chief Mage's castle and reduced to little more than a lab rat, Sunaya resists his attempts to analyze and control her at every turn. But she soon realizes that to regain her freedom and catch the killer, she must overcome her hatred of mages and win the most powerful mage in the city to her side.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I discovered this author by accident and decided to try it, I was actually expecting to be disappointed by this book. But I really liked it, it's a bit slow to pick up in the beginning and there are a few slow spots in the story, but overall the novel is fast-paced. The heroine is 24 according to the book but she seemed younger to me. A few overused plots: heroine with a big mouth, clueless leader who put his trust in the wrong people... The worldbuilding is OK although there's still a lot missing (where's the magic coming from, how does this city-state country work...) I liked that the heroine was flawed and owed up to her mistakes, that she fought with her friends and felt bad about it... that there isn't the old and tried love triangle. It's a fresh view on shifters, mages, witches. I do understand the

reviewer who says the storyline is unfinished. The bookplot (the silver murders) are solved but the series plot (the big bad guy, the drugs, Fenris...) are left unfinished and I'd really would like to read the next book now.

I understand this is Jasmine Waltâ€™s first book and I would applaud her for her efforts. Burned by Magic is set in the city of Solantha, inhabited by Humans and Shifters and governed by Mages. The Shape Shifters are at the bottom of the social order, with humans only slightly higher, then Mages who rule from the top. Sunaya Baine, Enforcer and shape-shifter, is down on her luck, working behind a bar in a multi-species nightclub, to make ends meet, when she gets an emergency call from her Mentor that changes her life forever. At his request, she takes his Enforcer case file and leaves his home. The case heâ€™s been working on proves to have ramifications that run all the way from the offices of the Chief Mage, to affect every shifter clan in the city. Solantha's teetering on the edge of a Civil war, and only Sunaya has all the pieces needed to avert disaster. Provided, of course, she can get out of prison long enough to put them together. What a fun read! I thought Burned by Magic was a great start to the series. It was well written and set in a fascinating culture of magic, intrigue, and action. I certainly was drawn into the story from Sunayaâ€™s confrontations and deeply-buried secrets, to her shy hedge witch friend Comenius, to the enigmatic Chief Mage (with whom Sunaya has a growing attraction) . Their interactions and motivations are the framework upon which the story is built. The action in the book is fast-paced and convincing, and the world-building's detailed and exciting. I certainly recommend it for any Fantasy lovers reading list and look forward to the next book in the series. Jack Murphy

I loved this book! It was exciting and interesting! It put a new spin on the shifters and mages genre and for the better! I recommend this book to anyone looking for a new series in the urban fantasy genre. I can not wait for the next book. I give this a five stars because I would read this book again!

A very enjoyable read. The heroine is full of many admirable traits but her impulsiveness is a near fatal flaw. Fortunately, there's a cast of surrounding characters to help her out when the going gets tough. Intriguing conflict exists in this universe between the mages, shifters and humans, with our heroine stuck in the middle trying to obtain justice for the dead while coming to grips with her budding powers.

genre: fantasy setting: alternate world format: standalone (expect sequels with the same

lead)Fantasy is my favorite genre but very few are published. Most of what is labeled "fantasy" is actually "paranormal romance" (i.e., boy meets girl, HEA), which is a very different genre indeed. Many of the low star reviews seem to be genre mismatches (reader expected a Romance novel).The leading lady is (basically) a cop in a fantasy world of mages and shape changers. While pursuing a murder investigation, she is swept up into larger events and important people. The main plot centers on the murder mystery. The three minor themes are exploring the fantasy universe, the leading lady's personal growth, and a romantic subplot. The closest analogy for style that I can come up with is the Patricia Briggs's Mercy Thompson series. There is plenty of action, change of setting, new vistas, and interesting events. One reviewer complained that the fight scenes indicated the author doesn't know martial arts. That doesn't bother me in particular, as the book is strong in other areas that matter to me more: character development, world building, plot, description, and dialog. The leading lady is imperfect enough to be interesting and confident enough to be interesting. I actively disagree with the reviewers who call her "weak". Re-read potential is strong. I would be willing to buy this book outright, not just borrow it from KU. No triggers. No erotica. Minimal violence. The book lays background for subsequent books without resorting to a lame cliffhanger.

This is an excellent start for the series, fresh twist on shifters and magic and enjoyed the setting very much. Had to purchase second book right away to keep the story going and see what happens next. Highly recommend.

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