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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.

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.

The book had a decent premise and the reviews led me to give it a try but I literally found the last half of this painful to get through. There was just not enough character development to tie me to the characters...at all. Other negative reviews talk of the raunchy scenes. Honestly I wouldn't mind. If I'm interested a good sex scene is fine but I skimmed past those bits as I wasn't connected enough to the characters to really care. The other negative reviews are correct. Most of this read seems to be going on ad nauseam with how hot they are for each other. But with no character development, the reader really doesn't care. A couple of action scenes are tossed in between that really fall flat and

otherwise the plot sits still as well. I could detail other weak areas, such as how the main character jumps from loving and trusting family members to wondering if they were responsible for key deaths...or how the descriptions were so weak that I never really visualized anything or connected with the story ...but why bother. Was hoping to find a good series to jump into but I will NOT be reading more from this author!!!

If I could only give a one word review of this book, the word I would choose was "bored". I had just read not too long ago the first of her Guardians novel, and while the cliched and trite ending clinched it at two stars for me, at best, the majority of that book was well written and somewhat interesting. This one... just blah blah blah sex blah blah sex blah blah paramedics blah blah blah. I was bored stupid during it, and I can't say it's the writing style. It's not. This world is just... boring. It was broken up a bit by the whole Ferryman thing... but then that dulled into grey too (haha, pun for those who read the book). The other bad part is that I just didn't give a damn about any of the characters. I felt no emotion attachment to them whatsoever... they may as well been wet paper bags. Usually, in most books, I feel SOMETHING, even if it's disgust for Evil McEvilson or something. When a book doesn't give me even a basic attachment to even one character, then it's just not any good for me.

After reading the Guardians of the Shadowlands series, I was really happy to find another book by Sarah Fine. However, upon reading this, I found myself both disappointed and disturbed by the content. She seems to have started out with a decent concept. The world, situation and conflict that she created could have made for a really enjoyable read, but then she decided to make the focus multiple explicit sex scenes with constant internal sexual fantasies before and in between. Her previous books were clearly YA and everything about this book suggests that it was meant to be geared to the same audience, but there is absolutely nothing about the content that is appropriate for a YA reader. I would be furious if I found out that my daughter had read something like this. If you're looking for something that's closer to porn, then this book is for you. I really think that it needs to be made clear, for anyone considering picking this up, that this book is extremely sexually explicit and not appropriate for younger readers. Really disgusted to think about how many may have already stumbled upon this.

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