



Stolen Magic

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Lexi Jardine may be a thief, but she's not stupid. When a crooked fireshaper wants her to steal a ring from the boss of his order, she knows it's a one-way ticket to sleeping with the fishes. Her answer is to drop off the face of the earth.

Safely hidden in a quiet seaside town, she just needs to keep her head down and pretend to be a regular human. Since her only magical ability is the power to control animals, that should be easy, right?

Then a new fireshaper shows up in town. He's hot as hell but oddly hostile. With his suspicious eyes watching her every move, her safe haven starts feeling more like a trap. When her best friend disappears, Lexi knows the time for hiding is over. The fireshapers might be more powerful, but Lexi's not one to abandon a friend. It will take everything she's got to save them both from the flames.

Stolen Magic Details

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Author : Marina Finlayson

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From Reader Review Stolen Magic for online ebook

Kate Sherwood says

I enjoyed this. 4 stars is probably a BIT generous, but... not by much.

I wish the MC had been a bit less Mary Sue-ish (she's beautiful, has unique gifts, everybody loves her and she's formed a tight circle of friends even though she's only been in town for a little while and should be laying low, she does stupid, reckless things but never suffers serious consequences, etc.) but I guess that's par for the course in this genre.

I liked that there were at least SOME new elements to the magic system.

anjuli says

Interesting mix of Greek mythology and magic interwoven together. This is the first book to the series. I'm curious to see where it leads.

The story is about Lexi who is on the run and in hiding from her enemy Anders. Lexi has some unique abilities which have saved her in the past. Her ability to connect to all animals and make them bend them to her will. As far as she knows she's the only one with that ability. We don't know much about her past. The world building is quite simple and not in-depth. The world is divided between - shifters, shapers (who can wield elemental powers) and humans. There is a romance interest, Jake Steele, who is a powerful shaper. However, the romance interest could have used a bit more spark. It seemed bit more clichéd to me. This book was not action packed except for the last 5 minutes or so.

Overall, this book/series piqued me just enough to see where it leads to in book two.

Anna says

This series stater is such a treat! I loved the world, familiar enough to urban-fantasy readers so the book isn't a slog but tantalizingly unique with an Australian flavor that really hit the spot. Our heroine was equally delightful --- a thief on the run from an impossible decision. Add in a light introduction to a perfect love interest and you have a major winner. Where's book two?

Esmerelda Weatherwax says

This book is part of Fantasy Factions grouping and doesn't have any feedback yet.

Plot:

The book starts out with a robbery taking place at the Mayor's manor, Lexi, the main character, is breaking into his house to steal something from him. He just fired one of her friends who's pregnant and really needed the job – so as revenge she's taking stuff from his house. She decides on an altarpiece of Posieden since he's a “water shaper” and tosses it into the bay – her friend Syl thinks this is a really bad decision but Lexi does it anyway.

Later on, when Lexi helps find two kids who got lost in the woods using her ability to link with animals, Jake Steele, (a high ranking person in society) figures out that she's not simply a “human” and has some sort of powers. Jake is convinced that Lexi is up to something and is keeping a close eye on Lexi, making her life difficult.

Syl eventually gets herself into trouble and Lexi has to figure out a way to help her – vampires, lion shifters and fireshapers ensue.

Characters:

Lexi – the main character, and a little different from the standard magical categorization – neither a shaper or a shifter, she still has command over animals and can absorb some of their attributes. For example, when she uses cats during her robberies she gains better night vision.

Jake Steele – a fire shaper and one that the main character is very interested in despite the gap in social status. He sits on the Ruby Council and is considered a Lord of sorts.

Syl – Lexi's best friend and a shifter. She's become so paranoid that someone will recognize her in her human form that she spends the majority of the book in her cat form. Lexi is concerned that she won't ever change back, and will stay as a cat permanently. She's much more cautious than Lexi, often times telling her to be more careful and not to do stupid crap that will get them into trouble.

Alberto – a benevolent vampire that owns a few shops in town, including the bookstore where Lexi works

World Building:

Shapers are the “upper class” of this world and can get away with crimes against humans without much fear of consequences. They believe that they are the children of a race of divine beings. Shapers can use different elements and command them – Fire shapers can burn you to death, Water shapers can command tidal waves to wash away villages

Shifters are able to take the forms of animals, Syl, the main characters best friend, is able to shift into a cat.

Humans are lower on the social order of this world. Without being able to perform any kind of magic, they are usually at the mercy of those that can.

There was something called The Great War between the shapers and the rest of humanity. A shaky truce was drawn because both humans and shapers wanted something the other side had. Shapers want the technology that humans produce, and made a pact that they'd stop wiping out towns of humans if they were given access to tech.

One Worlders are a sect that neither the Shapers or most humans like, they are extremists and they've been around since The Great War. They want to rid the world of both Shapers and Shifters

Pacing/Prose/Tone:

This isn't exactly an action filled book, but the pacing was okay. It read pretty quickly since there were no info dumps or long exposition of stuff, the world building was slowly revealed through the book.

It had a much lighter tone than the stuff I've read recently, so that was a nice change.

The writing was simpler with the prose getting out of the way of the story. This is sort of an urban fantasy set in an alternate world, so modern terminology was used frequently.

Audience:

For people who like female pov

For people who prefer straightforward storytelling

For people who like shapeshifters

For people who like a lot of magic

For people who like thieves as POVs

For people who like "female gaze"

For people who like hierarchical social structure

For people who prefer books without a lot of fight scenes/action scenes

Kitvaria Sarene says

This was a really good and entertaining urban fantasy! I love the mix of different ideas in this one, setting it apart a bit from many other UFs which feel very similar to each other.

The main character is a woman who knows her job Andreas is very good at being a thief! But circumstances force her onto a path she didn't really choose...

This is full of action, good characters, an interesting plot, some mysteries and a good dash of humour, is well and smoothly written and has some banter I much enjoy in UF.

The one star missing is for the stereotypical "brooding hot guy" -> who thankfully only player a minor part in the book. It's definitely UF with just a dash of romance, not full on paranormal romance! But as I hate romance in my fantasy, especially if it's the overused and predictable kind, it still annoyed me.

Cindy says

Amusing

So gods exist. This world is similar to ours but shapers and shifters are common and Lexi lives in a shaper controlled territory. No one knows what Lexi is and I doubt Lexi even knows. She thinks she's human. I doubt that.

I was amused how Jake Steele practically had tantrums trying to figure out Alexis. He threatens and gets upset but he doesn't get any farther with her. I also enjoy how she fights her attraction for him.

The car scene at the end was very exciting and I like how Alberto always saves the day.

My only problem really is the ending. What they heck? You don't just announce something like that at the end! Good thing I can get the next book soon.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Stolen Magic

Shadows of the Immortals Series, Book 1

By: Marina Finlayson

Narrated by: Hollie Jackson

Great fantasy with shifters and more. Great world building and very cool characters. Interesting plot that ends well but teases with a great info that made me want the next book now!

Lots of suspense, action, touch of romance, and great fantasy.

The narration was great too!

Jeanny says

Shallow world building, cardboard characters, & a boring plot makes for an uninspiring story. Boring 1 star

Laura Hughes says

Read as part of SPFBO3 on behalf of Fantasy-Faction. Rating/review to come!

Mara says

A fun romp. A bit shallow in both characterization and world building, it was nonetheless fresh in its ideas. The story ends abruptly. Not exactly a cliffhanger, as it has a resolution of sort, but clearly unfinished for me.

Intriguing.

Rachael Chua says

Intriguing

Okay so this book turned out to be quite intriguing. I was really unsure based on the opening scene. I mean, how great of a heroine could she be if she's running around with a band of cats? But the author wove the tale beautifully, giving us the bits and pieces of the life of a woman on the run in a world filled with magic and the paranormal. It's a nicely crafted world I definitely want to learn more about and characters I'm invested in, whether it be love, hate, or disdain. The author also hit my must-haves with well written, good grammar, interesting plot, and character depth. Worth reading and I'll certainly be following the series.

Meredith says

Wish #2 was ready

I got this on a whim and boy am I happy I did! The plot opens smoothly and never loses pace, the characters feel real, the world building was fleshed out just enough to leave me satisfied but wanting more...loved it. My only complaint is I feel like it could've gone another 50-100 pages...but I will happily buy #2 when it's ready. Looking into the authors other books now.

Pauline Ross says

The first of a new series, and once again Finlayson offers a book that's everything I don't normally read (urban fantasy? Me? Um...), and has me utterly absorbed, hanging on every word. Right from the start, as heroine Lexi breaks into a house with the aid of nine cats, I loved everything about it.

The world Finlayson lays out is (to me) a little different. There are shifters - were-wolves and a whole array of other were-species. There are vampires. There are shapers — people with a power over one or more elements. And the result is a very different-looking political spectrum. There's no pretence here that the 'other' species are somehow hidden from the human population, nor that they peacefully coexist. No, the shapers are immensely powerful, and as a result, they call all the shots. There are shaper-controlled areas, where shifters and other non-humans live in cautious subjection. There are separate human-controlled areas. The differences are underscored by place-names — Britain is Britannia here, and Australia assumes its 17th century name of New Holland.

So where does our heroine, Lexi, fit in? She's neither shifter nor shaper — her peculiar talent is to connect to the minds of animals. I've used this ability to a limited extent in my own books, but Finlayson uses animals in some wonderfully creative ways — even cockroaches! I'd never thought of the little blighters as anything but an irritating nuisance, but here Lexi manages to make them delightfully useful.

Plot: OK, there's a plot. Lexi is hiding out in the small seaside town of Berkley's Bay after a powerful shaper asked her to use her unusual talents to steal a ring from an even more powerful shaper. Not a game she can

win, whatever she does, so she's lying low, running a second-hand bookstore for the vampire who runs the pub, living above the shop with her cat. But then another shaper turns up, and life starts getting difficult...

The author's always brilliant at drawing her characters, so it goes without saying that Lexi and all the other shifters and shapers in her world feel beautifully real. However, I have to make special mention of Lexi's cat, Syl, who is quite awesome from start to finish, and utterly catlike in every way. I adored her. There's also a blossoming romance for Lexi, and I'm looking forward to seeing how that plays out in the rest of the series.

Another terrific book from the author. Great world-building, loads of action that kept me turning the pages when I really should have been doing other things, a wonderful main character, a hot but difficult-to-trust love interest, an awesome cat and a mysterious ring. What's not to like? Five stars.

Al *the semi serial series skipper* says

3.5 stars

This wasn't bad at all. I liked the story, it is pretty fast paced and engaging. I am curious to see what Lexi is and more of the gods as well.

Phrynne says

To say this book is action packed is an understatement. Without giving spoilers I cannot say just how much goes on in one car chase towards the end but it is mind boggling! I enjoyed the characters especially Syl and a certain "vampire". It was all great fun and very easy to sit and read all in one go!

I was reading this on Kindle and the ending happened before I expected it and rather took me by surprise but it was good and left me wanting more. Looking forward to the next book.
