



# The Locksmith

*Susan Kaye Quinn*

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**The Locksmith** Susan Kaye Quinn

## **Companion Novella to the Mindjack Series**

In a world filled with mindreaders, Zeph is a mindjacker who wants to stay hidden—even if it means the cute mindreader in his Latin class is forever out of his reach. He locks and unlocks minds for a ruthless mindjacker Clan in exchange for protection and the chance to have a normal life with his parents and little sister. But when a girl he doesn't know reveals the existence of mindjackers to the world, Zeph is forced to make a choice: unlock—and ultimately destroy—the mind of a young jacker changeling... or turn his back on everyone he loves.

***The Locksmith* is a SHORT NOVELLA (STANDALONE) (11000 words or 44 pages), a companion story to the Mindjack: Zeph Series.**

*MINDJACK: KIRA*

Open Minds (Book 1)

Closed Hearts (Book 2)

Free Souls (Book 3)

Mindjack Short Story Collection (Book 4)

*MINDJACK: ZEPH*

Locked Tight (Book 1)

Cracked Open (Book 2)

Broken Wide (Book 3)

The Locksmith (Book 4)

The Locksmith is a standalone novella that can be read independently.

## **The Locksmith Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Susan Kaye Quinn

Format :

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Paranormal, Young Adult

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# From Reader Review The Locksmith for online ebook

## Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

When Susan offered the opportunity to read and review this book I jumped on the chance, I love the Mindjack series and it's fun to be back in this world even if for a little while. And after the story there was an announcement that Susan will be writing more books about this character, yay!

It is a short story, but it tells the story it has to tell without it feeling rushed. The pace was well done, we meet Zeph and get a feel for the world he lives in. I finished it in one sitting, because after starting it, I just had to know what happened. And afterwards I can only say I want more, because this small story back into the Mindjack world isn't enough I want to know the rest of his story.

Zeph is a great character and in the short story we still get a feel for his character. Like I've come to expect from Susan she places him in a situation where he has a difficult choice to make, ruin the mind of a young changeling or leave everything he knows behind. It is scenes like these where you really get a feel for his character. There are some side characters, but they don't get as much attention. I did like Tessa and I hope he will get to know her better, although I understand why he believes it isn't possible. I felt a bit sad for Zeph, because of what he is a mindjacker, he feels like he can never have a normal life or fall in love with a mindreader.

As this is a novella there isn't too much world building, but I am still impressed how much world building Susan manages to pack into this small story. Even if you're new to this series, you quickly pick up the concept of mind readers and jackers and I like the scene where they mentioned how the teacher was teaching due to imagining things in her head. There is also some additional world building about Zeph his powers, it sounded a bit confusing at first, but after finishing it I feel like I sort of understand what he can do. It was interesting and I am looking forward to hear more about him.

The fun thing is that this novella can be read out of order with the other books, you can read it whenever you want and not miss anything. This story stands apart from the main trilogy, although there is a mention of Kira, you don't have to know her story to understand what happened. On the other hand if you have read the rest of the books that little mention of her is fun as you know first-hand what happened. And I liked seeing how her decision impacted Zeph.

To conclude: This is a fun little novella set in the Mindjack world where we get to know Zeph, what he can do and the situation he's in. I read this in one sitting and after finishing it I can only say I am looking forward to more Zeph and am excited Susan is writing more books about him. There is a mention of Kira, but this novella can be read as a standalone or anywhere in between the other novels and novella's in this world.

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## Su says

I think that not having read the other books in the series put me at a disadvantage.

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

This short story is well down a series and I had not read the earlier ones. I'm calling it set in America from text clues, and urban fantasy because I don't see any scientific explanation of mind reading so maybe it's a paranormal ability. A youth has the ability to do more than just communicate by telepathy as others do; he can do some damage to others' minds as well. He is being used by some gangsters. For no reason he's sure about, telepaths are taught Latin in school. All does not go well and we don't get a real conclusion.

The author is obviously clear about what is happening, but not having read the earlier books put me at a disadvantage. If you have read them you will probably enjoy this more than I did. This was a free download. This is an unbiased review.

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### **Carolina says**

I was still curious about the whole "Open Minds" world so I decided to pick up this novella. It was good! Loved the main character and loved his disturbing ability. The ending made me give one more star to my rating, because wow. Not expecting it. And I can't help but want more.

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### **Fawn says**

#### **The Locksmith**

I've read Open Minds so it was interesting to see this side of things. Zeph is another strong minded yet still innocent character that this little teaser makes you want to learn more about.

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### **Rita says**

Nothing wrong with the plot or the writing - but just a tad too short to worth the effort.

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### **Cathy says**

Scary what the mind can do! There are so many things that the mind can do that we don't even know. We only use such a little part of it. Susan has given us a look into what it would be like if people could manipulate others. Yes, mindjackers could be dangerous to others, but they can be just as dangerous to themselves. I can't wait till she writes the rest of his story. Please don't wait too long!

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### **McKenzie Richardson says**

I really enjoy this series.

This is a great short story that can be read as a standalone or as part of the series. It's been awhile since I read the first two novels, but I read it aloud to my boyfriend (who is not familiar with the series) today and we were both able to follow the story (and both really enjoyed it).

Well-written and face-paced, this is a great read.

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## **Elena Linville says**

Find this review and more on my blog.

The Locksmith is a short novella is set in the Mindjack world (I have reviewed the first book of the series Open Minds if you are interested), and I must admit that it felt good revising it.

This story had all the ingredients I loved about the original books - the complex world, engaging characters and often serious problems they face. I also love that the author doesn't pull any punches when exploring the social problems that arise when the normal mindreading society discovers the existence of mindjackers...

But I digress, so let's concentrate on this story. We are following Zeph, who is a mindjacker with a unique ability even for his kind: he can not only jack into other people's brains, but also modify them (lock or unlock as he puts it). He tried very hard to stay hidden, to pass for normal, even though he is forced to work for the local mindjacker clan. He doesn't like what he is forced to do for Clan Marshall, but he understands that the jacker would come after his family if he disobeys. Yes, his life is difficult as it is, but at least he manages to pass for more or less normal, even if he has to lie to everybody around him, even his family.

So when Kira drops the bombshell and reveals the existence of mindjackers to the world, I understood perfectly well why Zeph was mad about it. She had just destroyed all hopes for him to live a normal life. Of is she didn't annihilate them entirely, she made it so much more difficult.

It's interesting to see the repercussions of Kira's decisions and the events of the original 3 books of the Mindjacker series on other mindjackers, to see the reaction of another other jacker kid to the fact that hiding his ability had just become 100% harder.

I liked Zeph. He is a completely different character than Kira and he is very far away from the hormone-driven teenager stereotype we encounter so often in YA fiction. He is aware of his powers and slightly afraid of them, because he doesn't understand what he does or how he does it and he is scared to hurt people. He is also a very responsible young man. Unlike some other mindjackers we encountered in this world, he doesn't think mind controlling someone to like him is right. When other jackers bask in attention and jack everyone to like them, Zeph skirts the crowds, staying in the shadows and doing just enough to get barely noticed and immediately discounted as insignificant.

His attempts at a normal conversation with Tessa were really rather cute and heartbreaking because he realizes that he can't have a normal relationship with her without having to lie to her constantly.

I also loved the fact that when Zeph was presented with a very difficult choice, he had the courage to do what's right, even if it was difficult and dangerous and presented him with potentially dire consequences... And I will not say anything else about the plot of The Locksmith because I don't want to spoil the story for

you!

All I will add is that this is a fast paced story that keeps you on the edge of your seat until the end. It's only five chapters long, so if you are looking for a quick, but still good and entertaining read this weekend, definitely buy this book. It's a wonderful new installment in the Mindjacker universe.

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### **Jackie says**

Who would of thought it possible for things to get even better, but it has. I'm totally addicted to this series. Zeph just wants to stay out of the limelight, even though it means not connecting with Kira, but things have a way of happening.

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### **Vlad says**

#### **Locking itself**

Does autistic people have a locked mind? Probably yes, maybe not. That's the story for the future Zeph to tell us.

SKQ than you for good story telling

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### **Gea says**

He's learned stuff from a guy that was into dark things. For the rest Zeph is winging it, learning while he's on the job.

At 17 and with no real backup or friends it can go in any direction...

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### **Sandy S says**

4.25 stars—

ABOUT THE BOOK: Release Date February 9, 2015

SHORT NOVELLA (STANDALONE) in the Mindjack universe

When everyone reads minds, a secret is a dangerous thing to keep.

In a world filled with mindreaders, Zeph is a mindjacker who wants to stay hidden—even if it means the cute mindreader in his Latin class is forever out of his reach. He locks and unlocks minds for a ruthless mindjacker Clan in exchange for protection and the chance to have a normal life with his parents and little sister. But when a girl he doesn't know reveals the existence of mindjackers to the world, Zeph is forced to make a choice: unlock—and ultimately destroy—the mind of a young jacker changeling... or turn his back on everyone he loves.

The Locksmith is a short novella (standalone) in the Mindjack universe. It can be read independently of the other Mindjack stories, in any order. It is 11,000 words (or 44 pages) long.

REVIEW: THE LOCKSMITH is the latest novella in Susan Kaye Quinn's young adult Mindjack urban fantasy dystopian series.

In a world where mindreading is the norm (due to decades of contaminated water) there are those with more powerful abilities than most. These are their stories of discrimination, betrayal, retribution and control. The human population developed various forms of mind-reading, mind altering and mind controlling abilities. And to complicate matters, those without any special ability declare everyone with altered minds as an enemy of the state.

The novella focuses on Zeph, a young seventeen year old mindjacker who has the ability to lock down or unlock the human mind. As a mindjacker, Zeph has become part of a Clan and has been commanded to lock down the minds of potential Clan workers. When something goes horribly wrong, and Zeph is unable to stop the carnage, he runs-he has no plans to become the next victim of society's ills.

Susan Kaye Quinn adds another dimension to her young adult Mindjack series. THE LOCKSMITH is a fast paced, quick read that will tease a new reader into wanting more. For fans of Susan's Mindjack series, we are hoping that Zeph survives the upcoming fallout of the impending war.

Copy supplied by the author

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### Veray says

Great short story!

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### Cherie says

Zeph's world of mindjackers unlocks in Susan Kaye Quinn's *The Locksmith*. This short novella grabbed my attention from page one. Having read *Open Minds* set in the same universe, I loved delving into a new aspect in the world of mindreaders and mindjackers. It's easy to relate to Zeph. He's unique and different and yet he longs to be normal... just like everyone else. The tension ramps up throughout the story, and the ending brought tears to my eyes. I was as choked up as Zeph. I recommend reading *Open Minds* before this story because of spoilers, although this one is a standalone tale. *The Locksmith* by Susan Kaye Quinn is a must read and a great addition to her Mindjack universe.

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