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The Concealed (The Lakewood Series Book 1)



Synopsis

After her parents died in a car accident when she was just a child, Evelyn Lakewood was left alone in the world. Now grown up, she enrolls at Oxford University, where she begins to create a new, stable life. But when she encounters Jared Calmburry, who she later discovers is an orphan with his own tragic history, the equilibrium she was striving for is thrown off. Instantly drawn to this mysterious stranger with the incredible blue eyes, and confounded by the unusual events that occur whenever they meet, Evelyn resolves to investigate further. What she finds will startle her beyond measure: an ancient legacy of magic, a centuries-old secret society, and a foreboding legend with her and Jared at its center. As she follows a cryptic trail, Evelyn will discover clues to her own painful past, answers she hadn't even been looking for, and a passionate love she cannot resist despite the dangers it brings.

Book Information

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Fantasy > Arthurian

Customer Reviews

Horrible, clunky writing with stilted dialogue. I'm not sure if it's due to the book being a translation, but surely two translators could craft something better? Usually I love young adult fantasy books, especially with romance, but this one had me rolling my eyes and hating my reading experience.

The premise is somewhat interesting, but the characters are two-dimensional and lots of things happen with no resolution (she really should have called the police on Felix, wtf). Evelyn cries all the time, Jared has blue eyes (like, omg), and all their families died. All these details are gone into ad nauseum with a lack of focus on good storytelling. I selected this book as my choice for Kindle First this month and do not plan on reading any subsequent books in this series.

I had to push myself to finish this book. The pace was very slow and nothing much happens, plot wise, until the very end. The Merlin / Lady of the Lake / Morgana / King Arthur premise of the story was interesting, but sadly the writing didn't capture my interest. The first three quarters of the book read like Evelyn's daily journal. It got really monotonous reading about every psychology class she had every day, what she was having for lunch, her study group, and all of her mooning over Jared. And I really don't understand Felix, her ex-friend, motivations. I thought they would ultimately link to the plot, but it was just kind of faded away. About half-way through the book I started skimming. When the real villain appeared near the end, the story got more engaging, but sadly the book ended right in the middle of the action. You are left with a huge cliff-hanger where nothing is resolved. To find out what happens to Evelyn and Jared you need to read the next book.

For the life of me, I can't understand why this book has so many five star reviews. The story wasn't realistic at all. The lead character, Evelyn, is a first year at Oxford who seems to be taking about 18 separate courses, 17 of them psychology courses. I was half expecting the next course mentioned to be psychology of toe nails. And with all these courses at one of the best colleges in the world, she has very little to no coursework. The characters are supposed to be British, but the dialogue is more reminiscent of a 1950s I Love Lucy episode. The main character is just dumb. She discovers "secrets" but somehow seems to forget them just to discover it again two paragraphs later. And the worst part of the book, it follows the exact plot of Twilight. It's like the author took her outline and transposed it against Twilight. New girl moves to new town. She sees a boy in class and falls instantly in love. She avoids her for six weeks but comes back because he can't stay away. He saves her from a near rape, and they decide they love each other deeply on their first dinner date after the tragedy. His adoptive family, some dislike her because they believe she's not good for him, but some love her for no reason. If Meyers wants to file a lawsuit, I'll testify. And that's the real sin of this book: Forcing me to not only relive Twilight, but forcing me to defend Meyers!

This could have been an outstanding book except for two things, one of them is on the author and

the other is on the editor/translator. Let me explain. Every story should have a distinct beginning, middle and ending, even if the narrative is constructed as a trilogy or other series. It shouldn't just *stop* because the writer has reached a certain word count or decided they need to end on a cliff hanger or just run out of words. The Concealed, which started off slowly and built momentum until it reached the last chapter and then it ... stopped, as if there should have been an additional chapter to conclude this story and begin the next. In this instance, the series had been picked up and there is a second book. But what if there hadn't been? The audience is left hanging, and a decent story is left incomplete. The second complaint is about language. The original book was written in German. It was translated into American English. The only trouble is the narrator is British. A British teen would not put her things in the trunk of her car, she would put them in the boot. She would not wear pants, (well she would more likely than not, but not as an outer garment,) She would wear trousers or joggers or jogging bottoms, if she was being casual. She wouldn't carry a cell phone, she would carry a mobile, and she would put it in her handbag rather than her purse, which in most cases is only large enough for coins. Language is evocative. It helps set the scene. The use of Americanisms was stark enough I had to go back and re-read to make sure the main character wasn't an American student living abroad. Editors: Americans really aren't completely thick. We can work out what a boot is. Or a mobile. Or trousers. And if we can't from the context, we still have access to dictionaries and the Internet to help us work strange words out.

I just finished this book & immediately came to write my review. While this book wasn't perfect (few books ever are), it was a great story & a new twist on an old legend that I completely enjoyed. Let's get the critiques out of the way first. When I began reading this book, I was under the impression that this story was not set in modern times. Then it became clear that it was supposed to be modern times & I was a bit put off by the seeming inconsistency. It wasn't so bad that it was difficult to read nor do I feel it detracted from the story (the worst of it is in the beginning). It was after reading & seeing the cover of the second book that I came back and saw that these stories are being translated into English from another language. That explains the phrases in the story & dialogue that seem out of place to us here in the States. For me, the story line was interesting enough & the oddities were mild enough that I was still happy to read on. What I really enjoyed was the way the reinvented an old legend & made it something new & interesting. I can't give any details without spoiling the book. I like that many of the questions that arose while reading the story were answered in this book. This way, I feel this part of the story & mystery is closed and the next book will move on to the new dilemma facing our beloved characters. Speaking of the next book, this book does end off

on a cliffhanger. This is not a new device used in novels. This writing tool is something even television shows & the rare movie will employ. So why do so many people have an issue with it in novels? I know that I am eagerly awaiting the Nov 22 release date so that I can devour the next stage in this series. I can't wait to see how the characters resolve the dilemma they're facing at the end of this book.

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