



Linked

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Evil is watching and time is running out. Lana Summers wants an ordinary life--and nothing to do with anything paranormal. She shuns her own paranormal abilities. When her home is broken into, Cole Thomas comes to the rescue--and he's much more than he seems. Will they be able to stop the evil or is their joining going to be the cause of evil taking control?

Linked Details

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Lburt says

I'm going back and forth in my mind debating between 2 and 3 stars, maybe 2.5 stars is more accurate. I thought this book had a lot of potential, I liked Lana and Cole's characters. I thought the plot was interesting and I'm all about a were "insta-love" soul mate type relationship. The Evil One was creepy and I could almost hear that classic creepy/stocker/evil villain voice in my mind. Mostly the low stars is I felt the book wasn't long enough. It seemed rushed. I would have liked to get to know the characters better and have more time to really lose myself in the plot.

I was given a free copy of this book for an honest review.

Heather Busby says

I received this book for free in return of an honest review

I immediately fell in love with this book, and was hooked from the first sentence. The main characters were easily related to, and their relationship was the things fairytales are made of. In this story we meet a girl who has yet to embrace her psychic abilities and who lost her mother to a "suicide". Then meeting a shape shifter after the "evil one" comes into the picture trying to find the pieces of two. A whirlwind of a romance, with evil trying to kill humans splashed in. I recommend this book to everyone, and I can't wait to read more.

Lady says

Fated For Each Other?

This series must her read in order. This is the first book. I can't wait to read Holding The Link!

I was disappointed when this book was finished. I wanted more... The characters were real and totally likable. The action was fast paced and had good flow. The sex scenes were so well integrated into the plot the story could not have done without them. I can't see this book as erotica but that is not a bad thing. I guess if you wanted to it could be classed as tame erotica but personally I don't see it. Overall I would class this book as exceptional paranormal romance or maybe urban fantasy. Every true writer has their own voice and i truly enjoy Hopes! This book is for adults and as an adult I highly recommend it :)

***This series is suitable for adult readers who enjoy paranormal romance with a dash of Fate and a bit of horror :)

Shanon says

My reviews can also be found at: <http://escapingwithfiction.blogspot.com/>

Linked proved to be a short, but entertaining, read. This story has a great deal of romance, suspense and supernatural elements that hold your attention the whole way through! One thing I really appreciated about this book was that the story and characters flowed well, and nothing felt too forced--although things did progress rather quickly between the characters romantically, but there is a valid reason for it.

Lana and Cole are the main characters in this story who start off as strangers but become so much more. They both have secrets and special abilities, and when they cross paths they find themselves up against an ancient evil that can only be stopped by them. Lana and Cole have really great chemistry, and I enjoyed reading about them as they fell in love and discovered more about one another. Plus, they have some very steamy moments in this book that prove just how hot they are together, so prepare to fan yourself while reading this! I also really like Cole's personality, his confidence and sureness really helped balance Lana's cautious demeanor.

The villain in this novel is easy to hate, just as Lana and Cole are so easy to like. At times I found myself laughing at this malevolent being, who is referred to as "The Evil One". For me, he was a mixture of creepy, evil and a little amusing. He's the kind of guy you'd picture in a dark, dank cave somewhere, rubbing his hands together and laughing his evil laugh in an almost comical way. Overall, the paranormal aspects surrounding him and the other characters were pretty interesting.

There's closure at the end of the book, but it's the kind where you have just enough to picture in your mind how the future of the characters could play out. I was definitely happy with the path that Lana and Cole ended up on!

Ariella says

Lana Summers wants an ordinary life. She doesn't want to do anything with paranormal. Lana's house gets broken into she jumps out of a window. Cole Thomas sees her running in her pajamas and helps Lana. Overall a great book I highly recommend this book!

Sara says

I was given a free copy in exchange of an honest review.

I don't know how to put into words my thoughts and feelings about this book.

It could have been a much better reading if the story were longer and the author had given us more time and many more details about everything. The characters, the evil lurking out there, anything useful to make us understand better the evil one's intentions and motivations. It wasn't very clear why he went after Lana in the first place. It was like I started reading the book by the middle of the story and not from the beginning.

It also felt too rushed. How the story unfolded, how Cole and Lana's relationship developed. I didn't even have time to really connect to the characters. And I was annoyed by how easily they both got angry when things didn't go how they wanted. Like spoiled children.

I started to like them toward the end. Actually, I kind of already liked Cole from the beginning, but he still

annoyed me a little at times. I started to like Lana toward the end mostly.

The story would have been very good if better developed. The plot was interesting and intriguing. I also admit that I enjoyed some parts, and especially some HOT parts of the book. And I kind of liked how passionate and "hungry" Cole was with Lana. But it lacked some things that would make me rate a book 3 or more stars.

It only reached 2.5 stars in my opinion. And I'm not even sure I'd read the next books in this series. I'll have to think of it.

Hope Welsh says

I wrote it, so of course I love it, right? :)

Ursula says

I LOVED this book. It was a classic "written in the stars" romance with a little paranormal shape shifting thrown in. The book started off with a bang and kept my interest though out! Though my mind kept telling me it was too soon for the couple to fall in love, I couldn't maintain the skepticism because the story just felt right. I have always been a huge fan of romantic mystery. Its only recently that I have become interested in paranormal and urban fantasy. This book managed to have it all for me. All in all for my first read by this author, I was very pleased and plan on reading more.

Emily Wheeler says

I am always a little cautious about paranormal romances, probably because of the Twilight effect – namely, that after the success of Twilight the market was flooded with teen paranormal romance titles, often of dubious quality. As a result, anything with vampires, especially, usually has me running for the hills. On that note, Linked was a pleasant surprise, with not a vampire to be seen. Evil spirits and shapeshifters, yes, but not vampires.

The book is short, and this is both a curse and a blessing. A blessing because it's refreshing to have a well thought-out story expressed with so few superfluous words and scenes; a curse because I felt that some aspects of it should have been fleshed out more. The romance aspect, without giving too much away, felt a little rushed – while a connection like that in the short space of time in which the story takes place doesn't bother me in itself, I didn't really feel the relationship. Perhaps if more space was allocated to the feelings of the characters, their yearnings, confusion, maybe even fighting against the surprising strength of their attachment, it would have felt more convincing.

In addition, I would have liked more exposition about the evil spirit that is stalking the heroine, because that also felt underdone. Perhaps more elaboration on the spirit's history and why it took the prophecy so seriously might have helped. I quite liked the lack of information at the start because it felt more mysterious and made me want to read more, but by the end I still felt that spelling it out more would have been useful. As this is the first book in a series, though, it's likely that I just need to read more books to find out what I thought was missing. :)

That said, though, it was an entertaining read – easy, engrossing and well written. The story was well thought

out and had enough suspense for me to keep turning the pages (or hitting the “next page” button on my kindle – but you know what I mean) to find out what happened next. The characters were solid and believable and the premise well thought out. If you are looking for a decent, quick read with a bit of suspense and paranormal themes, I can recommend this book wholeheartedly.

Hope Welsh says

Evil is watching and time is running out. Lana Summers wants an ordinary life--and nothing to do with anything paranormal. She shuns her own paranormal abilities. When her home is broken into, Cole Williams comes to the rescue--and he's much more than he seems. Will they be able to stop the evil or is their joining going to be the cause of the ultimate destruction of humanity?

Of course, I wrote the book--so I must give it five stars. Let me know what YOU think of it, too!

Mona says

[why Cole (shapeshifter) was walking around having conversations naked after he shifted, like it was a natural thing to do.

I originally had jumped to this conclusion because earlier in the book Cole 'stripped' his clothes to shift and during ano

Belinda Boring says

I have this little quirk when it comes to reading ... I love evil. Evil bad boys, evil masterminds and in the case of LINKED, the all seeing evil presence. When I was approached to read Hope Welsh's recent release, I took one look at the blurb and smiled and when I then saw the cover with the evil eyes staring back at me, I almost cackled with delight. I'm new to the author's writing so I wondered if she'd provided me a story to appease my quirk and boy did she ever. Evil comes in all forms and as I began reading, I loved the characters I met, the unique storyline and I was especially happy to find one of my favorite kinds of evil – the indignant.

LINKED begins with the mutterings of the Evil One, a menacing presence who'd be cursed by Druids and trapped in a prison for over two millennia. While there, he'd learned of a prophecy speaking of two pieces that held the ultimate power of his destruction and with nothing but time, he plotted and schemed. Enter into the story Lana, the daughter of a psychic mother who was murdered months earlier and a woman who desperately wants nothing to do with anything paranormal. Whether through her own emerging gifts or a message from beyond, she's awoken one night to the sound of someone in her home and as she escapes with the intruder close behind, she crosses paths with Cole, a private detective who is more than just an incredibly sexy man. As Cole's protective instincts kick in and an instant connection is forged, Cole teams with Tara to get to the bottom of who her mysterious stalker is, only to find more questions than answers. How was Tara's mother involved? What is this legend/prophecy that people are talking about? And what do Cole and Tara have to do with the two pieces mention? Despite the danger that is constantly present as the time from

the ultimate confrontation approaches, Tara and Cole find solace and passion with one another as their rapidly developing attraction grows and blossoms. In each other they find love but will it be enough to overcome the Evil One's threat and will they lose it, even as they begin to explore it? A great storyline with just the right amount of suspenseful flavor to keep me hooked until the end.

I really liked the characters of the story – Lana and Cole and loved the chemistry they had almost instantly. I loved that there was a real sense of humor between them, a sassy playfulness and that Lana was willing to put herself out there just a little so Cole could do his “manly duty” and help her. That said though, I had no doubt that Lana could care for herself and they made a great team as they tried to figure out exactly what was happening. They really had nothing to go on but they had faith and tried anyway, finding necessary clues along the way. I will say that I love a woman who can have a hunky man completely shift in front of her and it not even faze her. I understood the feeling of being lied to but me, I'm feeling all lusty towards a man and he busts out into a tiger? I'd be shocked stupid and unable to move but not Lana she was able to do what she needed. I really admired the way that Lana looked at the situation – she sweated over what she could and accepted what she couldn't. She's being stalked by the ultimate evil, the man she's attracted to is a shape shifter, she has “powers” she doesn't like surfacing while dealing with the fact that Cole very much is the one. She took a lot in her stride and I would have loved to know more of her thought processes because you just know there HAD to be a lot going on inside. Great character!

I loved the protectiveness of Cole. I loved that he was the kind of man who when he sees a woman in the middle of the night being chased by a stranger, doesn't turn the other way but rushes to save her. That speaks of chivalry and honor and his willingness to get involved with something that he doesn't think involve him because he feels he needs to was amazing. I loved how he interacted with Lana, talked with her, soothed and comforted her and of course, got down and loving with her. He's the type of man you want in your life, the man you know you can count on to be bigger than the problem and if he isn't, he shows no fear, oozes confidence and walks at the situation head on like he owns it. He was the first to acknowledge that the feelings he had for Lana were love, that they were different from what he'd experienced before and I loved that he wasn't ashamed to say it. Most of all I loved that he acknowledged they were too soon and vowed to give Lana more time. He was sensible, not embarrassed to state the obvious but to me still incredibly sexy to be open with how he felt and not hide from it. I definitely enjoyed getting to know what I could about him.

I have to say I loved the Evil One in the story and it was this character that had me laughing and smiling the most. In my mind I had this image of this big bad power that everyone is afraid of and had to be cursed into a prison by Druids because he was dangerous. He warrants his own prophecy, which in my mind makes him a force to be reckoned with and those opening scenes as I met him, I could feel his malice for everything. The man reeked of revenge and gloated about how he was going to destroy all in his path because ultimately, he's the big bad!! As the story went on though, my image of him started to change. Oh he was still the big bad. Coming in the shape of a wolf with evil filled eyes, giving messages capable of curdling blood, he definitely had the goods but as he began to notice he wasn't so infamous... that his foes didn't see him as he saw himself, I began to get the image of a dark figure in robes stomping his feet and pouting. “It's not fair.. I'm the Evil One. You all must cower before me” LOL The way Lana and Cole reacted to him through ignorance infuriated him and undermined his grand schemes for domination which must have truly sucked for his oversized meglamantic ego. I can't stress enough how much I LOVED this and of being able to see his reactions and the way he dealt with the blow.

This truly was a great book to read. I loved the unique take Hope used in explaining the origins of shape shifters and I had never heard it before. It was believable and I wish I could have learned a little more. I guess that's the one thing I would add. This is a great book in and of itself but I honestly feel, with extra character insight and detail, this book could be so much better. I was able to see everything the author was trying to describe and with the little extras added, the scenes could literally jump off the page. Having said that, I would definitely recommend this to people to read. I loved it and was able to relate to the characters. It left me with a good feeling in my heart and for me, that's why I read. Happy reading!!

Natalie Gibson says

This book started out very strong. I was hooked from the first scene where the heroine jumps out of the second story window to escape an intruder and runs straight into the arms of the hero. The mystery of it all was good. What was after them? What did it want? Why were they so linked? But, I thought the last half was a little rushed. The questions were answered a little too simply (I came away feeling that it would have been better suited for youth, except it had a couple sex scenes). It wasn't complex enough for my tastes. I would have liked for them to have to ferret out the answers themselves over time. I also wanted the Evil One to be a little more scary and, well, evil. There were scenes showing its thoughts to keep it in the storyline but its motivations weren't clear, its need for action wasn't immediate. I am hoping the second book has more of what I want. I think it will. I look forward to it.

Kirsten Weiss says

What would it be like to discover you're being hunted, your love interest is a shifter... And your unwanted psychic powers are growing?

An apartment break-in turns into something much darker for Lana Summers. Fortunately, she's got help - a good Samaritan who's also a shifter. Whether that will be enough to defeat the evil that pursues her... Well, heck, this is a romance so you can probably guess the ending.

Nicely handled sensuality - erotic but not a blow-by-blow account. The author found a good middle ground with her sex scenes.

This is a quick read, and people who enjoy paranormal romance (heavy on the romance) will enjoy this book.

Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair review (LOP).

Misty Baker says

Books like "Linked" are difficult for me to review. It's not a matter of length or even quality, it's more a matter of genre. Paranormal erotica (and I use the term "erotica" loosely with Linked - it only skirted the edge) is a big seller these days. Where women used to bury their heads in Harlequins; they now turn to books like "Blood Lust" by Zoe Winters or the "Riley Jensen" series by Keri Arthur. Ladies like "juicy bits" and there are more than enough authors willing to provide it for them.

I'm not saying I dislike this genre. Hell, I like the "Oh, God...Take me NOW!" just as much as the next girl, I just have a problem talking about it. Give me sword fights or even decapitated heads and I'm golden. Hand me a plate of yummy and ask me to break it down? I panic. So, instead of focusing on the obvious (sex) I've decided to venture into the "unknown"...aka "the rest of the story."

Tara has had a bad couple of months, and while yes... the "suicide" of her mother was sad, and unexpected, nothing could prepare her for what was about to happen. Awoken (quite frightfully) from a dream she

quickly discovers she's not alone. Gathering her wits (and forcing herself to keep it together) Tara does the only thing she can think of; she jumps out the window. Hauling ass with her intruder only steps behind she finally sees her out... another man. Can Cole help keep her safe when it's so damn obvious someone is after her? Why does all of this seem so eerily familiar, and will the real Cole scare or excite Tara?

All "lust-fest" qualities aside, "Linked" was...well... surprisingly action packed. The handful of fights, and glimpses into both of the main characters background added depth to a read that under normal circumstances could have been pawned off as fluff, and Welsh (although quick to throw her characters into bed) managed to form a pretty decent plot.

Is this read for everyone? Well no, of course not. Even though it was executed well for its genre; the fact remains that it was a quick read, with little character development, and a whole bunch of snuggly time. 50 more pages and a little more push/pull could have done this little ditty a world of good, but if you like books that (uh hum) get to the point, with a dash of suspended reality then knock your lights out. It IS only \$.99.

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: Furry friends need love too.
