



# Spirit Seeker

*Jamie-Leigh Haden*

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Life is strange and difficult for the granddaughter of a shaman. Sixteen-year-old Talisa Santiago was born in the desert underneath the full moon in January-the wolf moon. However, she left the desert with her mother when she was a young girl. She remembers bits and pieces of her past but it isn't until she and her mom move to a remote barrier island off the coast of North Carolina that she feels fate has finally called-secretive and mysterious he stands alone on the edge of the bank. Her friends tell her to stay away; she hears rumors that he is dangerous. Still, she can't resist. Whether Talisa realizes it or not, she knows a thing or two about boys like Jag Chavez. Fate is funny that way. For the first time in her life, Talisa meets kids just like her-Native Americans who know the ways of the spirit. The closer she gets to Jag, the more she realizes he is hiding a dark secret. He may have the markings of the Thunderbird, but he is named for the powerful Jaguar. Together they embark on a journey that will haunt her forever.

## Spirit Seeker Details

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Author : Jamie-Leigh Haden

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## From Reader Review Spirit Seeker for online ebook

### Remy Benoit says

Spirit Seeker is an enchanted, beautiful book.

It has been several weeks since I finished it and I have been walking around with it in my head, thinking of Talisa and the world she is beginning to walk her path in. It has been half a century since I was Talisa's age, but I do recall searching at sixteen for the place that I fit in, could say it was a place that I belonged. I did find that, but not at sixteen.

Perhaps that is why I have been, well, holding Talisa in my heart because I find that I rejoice in her beginning her journey in finding her roots, in finding her love, at the same time that I react to her as a mother and find myself mentally saying to her: "Tread softly, tread slowly, there is joy to be found; there is experience to be found; there are undreamed of depths to begin to excavate, but, well, I hold a sense of trepidation for you. Again, tread softly, tread slowly. There is light here, but also there is darkness for which you have not yet been prepared."

Talisa is walking on a path, being exposed to a path of the old ways; ways tied to nature, to nature's forces, her secrets, and her mysteries. As the daughter of a daughter of a shaman of the desert, Talisa's path is water. She begins to walk the path of the spirits, one that takes great training which she has not had. She is mesmerized, hypnotized, and yes, in love with Jag who can only partially be there for her; mysteriously not able to, well, be at one with her and he is already at one with others whose fur is coarse, whose jaws possess a seven hundred psi bite.

Yes, Talisa is attracted to Jag, quite literally at blood level, but blood has deserted her before and she holds back trust as do daughters of fathers who walk away and don't look back. But blood attracts, Native American blood with its beautiful ties to ancestors, to the land, to the spirits. Native American ways to which we should be open.

Paranormal, supernatural, or a depth of the world that so sadly most never have any exposure to, any experience with, or any instruction about. Jag plunges her head first into this world before she has had time to learn to swim. And so, because Jamie Haden's words immerse you in such depth, I have walked around as a mother worried for Talisa, wanting her to follow her path, wanting her to, yes, tread softly, tread slowly.

I am ready now to continue this journey with Talisa in *Illuminate-Alive, She Cried*. Somehow I feel I should be there for her which is a sign of truly wonderful story telling.

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### Denise says

Spirit Seeker (Book One of The Talisa Santiago Series)  
by Jamie Haden (Goodreads Author)

Synopsis from Goodreads:

"Life is strange and difficult for the granddaughter of a shaman. Sixteen-year-old Talisa Santiago was born in the desert underneath the full moon in January-the wolf moon. However, she left the desert with her

mother when she was a young girl. She remembers bits and pieces of her past but it isn't until she and her mom move to a remote barrier island off the coast of North Carolina that she feels fate has finally called- secretive and mysterious he stands alone on the edge of the bank. Her friends tell her to stay away; she hears rumors that he is dangerous. Still, she can't resist. Whether Talisa realizes it or not, she knows a thing or two about boys like Jag Chavez. Fate is funny that way. For the first time in her life, Talisa meets kids just like her- Native Americans who know the ways of the spirit. The closer she gets to Jag, the more she realizes he is hiding a dark secret. He may have the markings of the Thunderbird, but he is named for the powerful Jaguar. Together they embark on a journey that will haunt her forever"

I am almost embarrassed to say that I was sold on this book from the time I first saw the cover, which in my opinion is absolutely beautiful. Next the premise grabbed me and I had to read it and I found Spirit Seeker a wonderful read. I enjoyed the fact that while the primary character is a teenage girl she is not at all typical. Talisa has a history rich in Native American lore and has grown up moving around the country with her mother who wanted her daughter to have a normal life. However, what is a normal life for a spirit seeker. This story is somewhat a coming of age read with significant world and character building, as well as maturing of the protagonist. I specifically enjoyed the lore and the legends of the islands where this book takes place. This is a great beginning of a new series.

I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys Native American lore, the supernatural, and a new look at shifters. The lore was fascinating to me and I enjoyed the wonder of what was actually based on history versus what was fiction from the author's imagination. I will point out that if you are a reader who has difficulty with editing errors and allow these things to affect you enjoyment of a story, that you might want to put that on hold when reading this book. I would also recommend that the author hire an editor for the next installment, as her skill and creativity deserve a presentation that will not be detracted from by these pesky little errors.

I won this book in a blog tour giveaway and happy danced until I received it and continued to dance as I read it.

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### **Kristina says**

I received this book in exchange for a honest review.

I loved the vibe, the stories told, concept of the world they live in.

Beautifully written, kept me reading from start to finish.

Could of done with less teenage angst, but that's teenagers for you. Otherwise I loved this. Can't wait to read more

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### **Allizabeth Collins says**

Description:

Talisa Santiago has never truly fit in with the people around her, but she yearns for acceptance. She is of Native American descent and the granddaughter of a powerful shaman, but her family's history has been kept a tightly-bound secret by her overprotective mother who has been controlling their "nomadic" existence since

she left the desert. After years of moving from place to place, Talisa finally begins to feel at home on the remote island of Silence, North Carolina where she meets people like her, and through their stories and friendships, she begins to discover her birthright. It is here that she meets Jag, the school bad boy, who she begins to fall for and eventually date; against the better judgement of her friends and mother. But everything isn't as it seems, and secrets from Talisa and Jag's pasts are finally coming into the light. Will a side of her she never knew existed dictate how she lives the rest of her life? Or will she follow in her parent's footsteps and run away from it?

**Review:**

First-off, love the cover art - thumbs up to Greg Smallwood for his design. Secondly, I applaud Jamie Haden on an amazing debut novel that doesn't follow today's supernatural fiction trend. Much of the young adult fiction I read has to do with vampires, werewolves, witches, etcetera, but Jamie Haden brings the beauty and mystery of Native American mythology to light in Spirit Seeker. Not only is the reader immersed in the stories of Talisa's childhood, but they experience everything as she does: her realization and transformation into a spirit seeker, her connection to Jag as a human and a shape-shifter, and her bond with Miguel and Dakota. Her characters are unique and well-developed - I admit my favorite is Dakota - and the dialogue is very believable and enjoyable. However, I did find some small wording and grammatical errors, but they were easily overlooked and didn't distract from the flow of the storyline. I have always been interested in Native American mythology, so I very much appreciate how Jamie Haden wove the stories throughout the text. The only part that irked me was Talisa's whining, but after finishing the book, I attributed it to her past, and I cannot wait to see her mature further in future books. I hope that I have the opportunity to read and review the sequel Illuminate- Alive, she cried .

Rating: On the Run (4/5)

\*\*\* I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

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**Anita Marks says**

**Just ok**

The book did not hold my interest. I like a book that I can't lay down! Other people may like her style.

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**YABookGirl says**

I loved this book. My favorite character was Jag.

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**Joyce says**

Spirit Seeker is a young adult book. Talisa Santiago is a teenage Native American who has moved around a lot with her mom. They move to an island inhabited mostly by Native Americans where she learns more about Native American beliefs and customs. She meets Jag, who is a loner and is "bad news" according to the others. She is very attracted to him and they start a relationship. Spirit Seeker deals with Native American mythology which makes the book very interesting and the characters are well developed. I like

that this book will be a series as you will be able to read about Talisa's "gifts" and see how she grows into what she is destined to be.

This book does deal with drinking and sex so I would recommend it for over 13 years of age.

I received this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

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## **Book Chatter-Cath says**

I really enjoyed this book.

The author has interwoven her main characters story with flashbacks and traditional Native American myths/stories, resulting in a cleverly written and thoroughly entertaining read.

For the most part I really liked Talisha, she's never really fit in anywhere and wants nothing more than to be liked and accepted.

My only complaint would be her whining.

I really hate when an otherwise strong willed female lead starts to whinge and whine once she meets a boy.

I know girls tend to get self doubting and insecure when they are first in a relationship but I don't think that Talisha needed to be quite so needy.

However, its more of a pet peeve than an actual criticism of the writing.

I really liked the secondary characters and hope that they play more of a role in the next book 'ILLUMINATE-ALIVE, SHE CRIED' especially Dakota.

I have a feeling he may stir things up quite nicely.

Overall, a very intriguing and interesting read worthy of 4 Stars ;]

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## **Dylvi says**

As soon as I received this book as my giveaway prize I couldn't wait to dive in and start to read it!

This was a really enjoyable read!

The storyline was very good, and Talisa was a classic girl, who never had really fit in anywhere, until she moved. I loved the way the reader was taken to important flashbacks throughout the story. You got to learn about Talisa in so much more detail that way..! Her past, the hardships she had to face while growing up. I thought the characters that interacted with her were all memorable; there were so many different personalities. It was great to see just how each of them progressed through the story!

(With some of them taking on unexpected roles as the story progressed..!)

I did like Talisa and Jag, you could see just how much they meant to one another. Talisa was needy through a lot of the story, but I imagine anyone would be when they just want to be close to the one they love! Dakota and Miguel were definitely my favourite characters though, from the first moment we learnt about them! I loved their personalities! They had really likable qualities, which kept me wondering what they'd get up to next. I hope they'll get bigger parts in the next book ~ Needless to say; I'm really looking forward to the sequel :D!

Thank you, Jamie, for sending me your book!  
I'll keep a look out for your next :D!!

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### **ParaYourNormal says**

SJ Byrne, PYN Reviewer

'Spirit Seeker' pulled me in from the very start, urging me to read on and discover what was, in Talisa's words, "the most horrifying thing I had ever witnessed." Some of the passages were descriptive in a way that transports the reader into another realm...

Read the entire review at [ParaYourNormal](#)

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### **Adrienne Woods says**

I like the Spirit Seeker Book of of Jamie Haden's new series called The Talisa Santiago Series. It follows Talisa and her mother moving to a small town by the sea. Beautiful surroundings and I think Jamie has done a really good job with describing it. Her characters are well developed and a lot of YA will connect with Talisa. There is a sweet romance interwoven inbetween all of the plots and everything.

I really liked Spirit Seeker for what it was and I got into this novel really fast. I love the short chapters, and the premise of this story.

I can't wait to see what Jamie is going to do with book two.

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### **April says**

Though it took me a little bit to get into this book once it got going I stayed up all night reading it. This book takes a look at the older Indian beliefs of form shifting and paranormal! I have grown up around Indians all my life both young and old. This book truly gives an essence of the old tales I have heard many times before with a little more hmmmph to it! Truly loved this book and I cant wait to read the next one in this series! Would recommend for ages 12 and up !

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### **Melissa says**

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

I enjoyed this supernatural story. The characters were relatable. Although Talisa was my favorite, all characters added something to the story and you are endeared to them all. The storyline was well developed and the author did an amazing job with descriptions. You could use your imagination and easily see the world the author created. I look forward to reading more from this author.

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## **Amanda Masters says**

I love love love this series! Jamie Haden is a full on magnificent writer! and I can't thank you enough for this series. Being from a native american family the stories the culture and the art have been a big thing in my life and this series brings it all out to play. shape-shifting lore goes back many many centuries in native american cultures and has always been one of my most favourite of all native stories.

I really enjoyed all the different angles the story portrayed as well jumping around from different legends and stories and not centring on just one group or people. I loved the fact that it was a school as well where they all learned and interacted with each other and ever year they held their very own pow wow! that would be the the best!

each and every one of the characters were amazing and I couldn't put the book down for a second! I could literally go on and on about this series all day long! My fav character in this one was Jax, he is so mysterious, sexy and way complicated. You can tell that beneath his hard shell though is the heart of a wounded boy who is crying out for someone to see him as worthy and to love him.

you so don't want to miss out on this book or this series! I so can't wait for more! TBR today!

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## **Kristen Cansler says**

What an amazing beginning to this story! I found myself quickly getting lost in Spirit Seeker. The cover is so beautiful, and it fits so well. The inclusion of Native American lore is such a nice treat, and I loved how the author weaved those together with the story!

The thing that had me rolling my eyes at times was Talisa's whining and clinging once she met Jag. I felt like she was such an interesting and dynamic character and that didn't fit in with her character well for me. I did enjoy their connection, though. It was a joy to watch it develop. The other characters in the story are just as enjoyable and well thought out. Jamie Haden has a talent for writing characters that you connect to!

Spirit Seeker blends many different elements into its pages, and I found it to be refreshing. There are touches of paranormal, shifters, and historical elements. I feel as though Jamie Haden did an exceptional job at blending these for her debut novel.

Fans of Native American lore will adore these, as will fans of paranormal reads. It's a captivating beginning to a promising series.

\*\*I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. My thanks to GMTA Publishing and Jamie Haden.

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