



Magic Shifts

Ilona Andrews

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In the latest Kate Daniels novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Ilona Andrews, magic is coming and going in waves in post-Shift Atlanta—and each crest leaves danger in its wake...

After breaking from life with the Pack, mercenary Kate Daniels and her mate—former Beast Lord Curran Lennart—are adjusting to a very different pace. While they're thrilled to escape all the infighting, Curran misses the constant challenges of leading the shapeshifters.

So when the Pack offers him its stake in the Mercenary Guild, Curran seizes the opportunity—too bad the Guild wants nothing to do with him and Kate. Luckily, as a veteran merc, Kate can take over any of the Guild's unfinished jobs in order to bring in money and build their reputation. But what Kate and Curran don't realize is that the odd jobs they've been working are all connected.

An ancient enemy has arisen, and Kate and Curran are the only ones who can stop it—before it takes their city apart piece by piece...

Magic Shifts Details

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Author : Ilona Andrews

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From Reader Review Magic Shifts for online ebook

Carol. says

The Kate Daniels series was originally plotted to end at book seven, culminating with the classic father confrontation ("I am your father"). While *Magic Breaks* had a satisfying ending, there was material that felt like it was catering to new readers (in response to a hardcover edition) as well as providing Easter eggs for fans, such as 'guest appearances' by former characters, making it a less than stellar read. Apprehensive of the next, I delayed ordering.

Silly rabbit.

Magic Shifts hits its first fight within three or four pages and doesn't let up until the epilogue. Fast paced, it's filled with plot lines that open up the series to continued development. Kate Daniels and Curran the ex-Beast Lord have moved with their adopted daughter Julie to a new section of Atlanta, giving the Andrews a new setting to play in and new interpersonal dynamics to explore (it becomes a bit of a running joke how often Kate and Curran run into people that say, 'yeah, the Beast Lord is such a jerk'). In book seven, Kate experienced the potentially trope-ridden 'power-up' syndrome, but the Andrews compensated in very clever ways. (view spoiler) One of those obstacles involved a new area of mythology, a particularly great idea since it broadened the world-building. But the new beings didn't exist in isolation; they had implications for some local creatures as well. Just really interesting stuff.

On a personal level, I appreciated the general lack of teenage angst that played a role in earlier stories, as well as pulling back on Kate's "I don't want people I love hurt" mentality. We've also passed beyond the self-doubt phase of Kate and Curran's relationship as well, and instead start to see the push and pull of an equal--and respectful--relationship. That puts the focus back squarely where it belongs, in my opinion--on the clever world-building of shifting Atlanta, the myriad of problems it creates, and the external relationships effecting Kate and Curran's lives.

As always, the humor made me chuckle. In an era of stagy self-awareness, it is often misused, but here it is appropriate to character and situation. Kate herself is challenged by admitting emotional intimacy, but there were a couple of scenes where her attempt being funny is quite touching because she is trying so hard to minimize fear and loss.

This one kept me up far past a sensible bedtime, just so I could find a good place to stop. But I never did... until the end.

Re-read 09/16 in preparation for the release of #9. Still holds up.

✖✖ Sarah ✖✖ (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

? **The Grand IAA™ KD Buddy Rererereread Extravaganza** (GIAAKDBRE™), aka the yellow brick road to Magic Triumphs ?

Presenting Episode 8, or How Kate Daniels Learned That Managing An Exotic Zoo In Post-Shift Atlanta Is Not As Easy As It Seems.

» **And the moral of this particular reread is:** are you pregnant? Hormonal? Tired? Famished? Why not have some **freshly slaughtered, magical bull meat**, tenderized by His Fussiness Himself? ~~Some~~ **relatively unbalanced people** Desandra says it's pretty good and **tastes like grass-fed Angus**. Best recommendation ever, if you ask me.

P.S. I want to have dinner with **Daddy Dearest** at Applebee's. And I want him to call me Nefarious Shrimpy Blossom and stuff.

P.P.S. World-class scumbags who graduated to **First-Grade Asshole Status (FGAS™)** in this instalment: (view spoiler). Congratulations, go you and stuff!

P.P.S.²: When giant lizards stare at you and start chanting "**Meat! Meat! Meat!**" you might perhaps want to **run the fish away** from the scene and stuff. Maybe.

♥ **KD is the Cure to All of Life's Problems Buddy Read (KDitCtAoLPBR™)** with my dear wife Ange, and the poor souls who have fallen into our deathly **KD Surprise Reread Trap (KSRT™)** ♥

► Last reread: August, 2016.

↘ **Previous rating:** 14 stars

↘ **New rating:** I will not be rating this series anymore. If I do, Goodreads might implode. You're welcome.

Forgive me, Ilona Andrews Gods, for I have only read this book three times.

I know, I know, this is definitely NOT **proper behaviour** for the IA ~~fangirl~~ enthusiast I am **supposed to be** (don't know where that silly rumor came from, btw), but in my defense, this book was published only a year ago, so I haven't yet had the time to read it **258 times**.

Okay, okay, I'm sorry! What do I have to do to **atone for this shameful sin**, sister? Excuse me? What did you just say? I have to read Magic Steals twice more? Oh. **It's that bad, is it?** Okay. Sure. No problem. I'll get right to it (view spoiler)

» **And the moral of this reread is:** no matter how desperate the situation is, if His Fussiness **grabs your shapely-ass lovely derriere**, all will be right in the world again.

[Last update: Sept. 18, 2015] ← *I promise promise promise this will be the last one. Cross my heart, hope to die and all that crap (view spoiler)*

Be glad and rejoice, for this is as close to a review for this book as you'll ever get from me. **Ha.**

◆ **Previous rating: 12**

◆ **New rating: 14**

First reread [*hears someone coughing in the background*] Oh please don't tell me you're going to start interrupting my reviews again! [*coughing becomes more insistent*] Sigh. What is it this time? You have something to say? **A stellar comment to make maybe?** [*Barely audible, fearful, shy voice asks: "But didn't you just read this a month ago?" Owner of said voice then proceeds to duck and hide*] **BLOODY HELL, I cannot believe this.** YES, you dimwit, I DID read this for the first time only month ago, no need to remind me, I'm not suffering from Alzheimer's just yet. You know why? [*Barely audible, fearful, shy voice asks: "Why what?"*] **Please kill me somebody.** Why I've already read it twice in a month, you twit! [*Barely audible, fearful, shy voice says: "Oh."*] Yes, "oh." (I am presently shaking my head in total desperation, just so you know). Because it's never too early for a KD reread, that's WHY. **Judge all you want, I don't care what you think.**

Are we clear? May I go on now? [*Barely audible, fearful, shy voice utters no sound*] I'll take that as a yes. Very good. Moving on. **So where was I?**

First reread, second crappy non review. Because KD is, as usual, too awesome for words. And because you should be reading this book **instead of being here, reading this crap.** Nevertheless, me being the ever kind and thoughtful soul that I am [*I know you're snickering back there, no need to pretend otherwise*], I shall give you **My Magic Shifts In A Magic Nutshell:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know that this is as lame as it gets. Please just pretend it is hilariously hilarious. Thank you.

① **I want to move** into KD's neighbourhood and have breakfast at her place every morning, just so that I can **wave my spatula at the Beast Lord** ← *no, this is not me talking dirty, you dirty-minded people. I'll have you know we're talking actual spatulas here *eyeroll* Oh, and by the way, some you clueless Barnacles might not realize it, but there is a deadly trap in this spatula-waving sentence. Ha.*

② I have a **very fond interest** in nearly-domesticated **kitty cats** that scare the shit out of Mr Mailman.

③ **Mammoth donkeys** and deadly, mutant attack poodles are **greatly underrated.**

④ **Tactical tomahawks?** Walking, breathing m-scanner? Sense and snark? Julie is going to be a mini-Kate one day, much to her many detractors' absolute despair.

⑤ **Blood magic rocks.**

⑥ **Ghouls** and ifrits and ticks and spiders and scorpions and dragons and giants and manticores and djinns and Persian unicorns! **Oh my!**

⑦ **Saiman** is –momentarily I hope- an egotistical bastard. Well technically he always was an egotistical bastard, but in a egotistically, bastardly, endearingly enjoyable way. He's just a plain asshole now ***cries***

⑧ **Hot tubs forever**

⑨ **Reanimative metamorphosis.** Nuff said.

⑩ **Not enough plums** + not enough pork swords = more **Desandra** needed.

? **Sorry Dali**, you still suck, I still can't get over Magic Steals.

? Gotta love **family dinners** with daddy.

? **Doolittle** is definitely, absolutely, undeniably forgiven *gasps, faints, the works*

? **Where the hell is Roman**, the Riveting Russian Rake????!!!

? **Iona Andrews**, you almost –almost, I haven't completely lost it yet and still have no heart– made me cry.
The achievement of the century.

? **We want Hugh! We want Hugh!**

→ *I'm too funny, I know* ← *updated August 2016: I want Hugh? Why? Was I insane when I wrote this? More insane than I am now, I mean? Because, Hugh? Seriously? Most unvillainous villain ever. Oh, I think I know what the problem is. The Chronicles of the Black Company happened after I read this book. And believe me, my Little Barnacles, villains don't get much villainous than the ones in this glorious series.*

? **Kate Daniels.** The only one that ever was. The only one that ever will be. As a guy named Roland once said: **Your magic is beautiful my daughter.** Damn right it is.

— **And to conclude** with the words of one of today's most prominent philosophers: ? Bow down to a Goddess ?

That is all. Bye now. You shouldn't still be here. You should be reading this ~~book~~ series right now. Because your life won't be complete until you do. **No it won't.**

- **Book 1:** Magic Bites ★★★★★
- **Book 2:** Magic Burns ★★★★★
- **Book 3:** Magic Strikes ★★★★★
- **Book 4:** Magic Bleeds ★★★★★
- **Book 5:** Magic Slays ★★★★★

- **Book 6:** Magic Rises ★★★★★
- **Book 7:** Magic Breaks ★★★★★
- **Book 8:** Magic Shifts ★★★★★
- **Book 9:** Magic Binds ★★★★★
- **Book 10:** Magic Triumphs ★★★★★

?? **All Hail the Queen buddy read** with the ~~eye-candy~~ IA Addicts starting August 4, 2015.

? **Pre crappy review update #2:**

I can't be around much these days but the **most disturbing fact** has just come to my attention: some of my dear friends seem to have suffered from a **momentary lapse of reason**. What seems to be the problem, you ask? Well these self-professed Kate Daniels fans stooped so low as to give this instalment **less than 5 stars**.

Don't faint just yet, it's about to get worse. Because some of these **supposed** Kate Daniels fans actually rated this book **3 stars or less**.

WTH is going on here? Are you people out of your minds? I stay away from GR for 5 minutes and all hell breaks loose?! **You better get your act together dear friends.** The countdown has begun. I'll be back in September. And I'll be coming for you. **Things are about to get really ugly.**

? **Pre crappy review update #1:**

→ **Actual rating: 12.** *Surprise, surprise.*

?? **Dear Ilona & Gordon:** I love you to death.

?? **I might or might not** write a review for this book in the near future. **KD is too awesome** for words, so **why bother?**

PS: When is the first reread planned?

? **Pre-review nonsense:**

It's here. Breathe Sarah, breathe.

? Updated May 1, 2015: Magic Shifts excerpt!!!!!!!!!!

? Updated April 6, 2015: Kate & Curran vs Hidden Legacy debate!

→ Kate & Curran debating with Nevada & Rogan:

"Curran: You are not married. You are not even together. You just have this instalust thing going.

Kate: Yes, you are just "forced together" by "Circumstance" so you can make out in public. Your moral integrity seems to be situational. Also, last time I checked, exhibitionism isn't exactly a quality people should imitate."

Hahahaha!

? Updated April 5, 2015: Kate & Curran Twitter hahaha!

? Updated March 7, 2015: Spoiler free snippet!

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

After the pivotal 7th installment, I spent about 0.236 seconds worrying about this book and wondering whether the series would successfully find a new direction. It didn't take me long to remember who I was dealing with – Ilona and Gordon have never failed me before, and they keep proving themselves over and over again. No downturns for Kate, and certainly none for this fabulous husband-and-wife writing team.

Magic Shifts opens up a new chapter for Kate and Curran. It's a different one, but no less scary and adventure-filled. Some of the dangers they face are the same, and some are completely new and challenging. We see them in a completely different situation, removed from everything we used to take for granted, but the newness of it all isn't uncomfortable. In fact, only thirty pages in, it was time to recognize that Ilona and Gordon made the right choice for their characters and the series.

Stepping away from the Pack doesn't necessarily mean losing some of our favorite secondary characters, which was my biggest fear going in. Kate and Curran might be magnets for trouble, but they are also magnets for violent, deranged and insanely loyal shapeshifters. Most of the usual suspects are back in full force, and the humor they bring with them is stronger than ever.

As usual, Gordon and Ilona don't recycle their mythology. It's my very favorite thing about Kate Daniels – the opportunity to learn something new and admire the amount of research each and every time. This time,

the story is centered around lesser known Islamic myths and as usual, it is accurate, precise and done tastefully. These two always do their homework very thoroughly, and it's what makes their series the very best urban fantasy has to offer.

Surprisingly, aside from being a constant rollercoaster of action and banter, this book pushes the limits of emotionality by giving us moments of profound sadness and genuine fear, unlike anything we've seen before. The messes Kate tends to find herself in are always challenging and alarming to a point, but up until now, we've always known that things would turn out well in the end. In *Magic Shifts*, that certainty is finally removed and we're left with this heavy feeling in our chests that refuses to go away. There were parts of this book that were heartbreaking for me, more so because they were unexpected, and in the end, with some distance, I concluded that these authors keep growing and taking us in unexpected directions, and instead of going stale, they just keep getting better every single time.

By now, Ilona Andrews spoiled us for all other urban fantasy author. We've learned to expect perfection because it's pretty much what we always get from them and we won't settle for anything less. But it's all right. They write, we read, and the world keeps spinning.

A copy of this book was kindly provided by the publisher for review purposes. No considerations, monetary or otherwise, have influenced the opinions expressed in this review.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Even better on the re-read.

4.75 Let's play who can be a better killer Stars

Reading with my fellow Kate Daniels is da Bomb fan club at Ilona Andrews Addicts (IAA)

If you have read my profile then you know that my 2 favorite authors are Brandon Sanderson (BS) and Ilona Andrews (IA). **I fangirl over them any chance I get so I might not be impartial in my reviews of their books, and I probably add way too many status updates while reading them....**I can't help it.

I didn't fall into the camp of those who didn't love the last two books, I still gave them 4 stars and 3.5 stars respectively. I liked the emotional journey that Kate was starting to take I just missed Kate and Curran together. But I'm back to absolutely LOVING all things Kate.

The thing that was missing for me in the other books was really Kate with Curran and fighting the good fight together. I was a little worried that I wasn't going to like the new direction of the story with Kate and Curran leaving the pack. What about all the side characters I love...what about Curran being the Man...what about Kate having protection from Roland???? But I don't know why I worried at all because IA would not let me down and I'm loving the new direction of the story.

First, what about all the side characters I love? - They are there! IA finds a way to incorporate them into the new direction of the story and honestly it was so smooth and flawless that afterwards I asked myself how come I didn't think of that. As always IA has some of the best side characters. Whether it is a giant Donkey, a scraggly poodle, a teenage werewolf (seriously how long is Derek going to be a teenager), a fallen Angel

(or whatever Christopher is), a slightly dirty talking (I will never think of plums the same way) Alpha Werewolf Desandra, or your charismatic Father who's ultimate game I'm still trying to figure out there are so many great cast members that are all distinctive and three dimensional.

IA's biggest problem is all the great characters that I want to see more of in the book. There are so many and I want to see them all but then I'd have less Kate and Curran time, or the book would be 700 pages long and 350 of that would just be nonsense conversations between my favorite characters. I'm not saying I'd be opposed to it but still IA does such a great job of keeping all the characters in the story relevant and engaging. That has to be hard with such a great cast to choose from.

Luther was my favorite new addition to the cast. He is going to be a hoot, I knew it from his first conversation with Kate

"When I quit the Order, you told me I was besmirched."

"That's because you quit in a huff over some silliness like trying to save people's lives. I quit to maximize my earning potential. Don't you know being a hero is a losing bet? The pay is shit and people hate you for it."

He was such a great addition to the Kate Daniels family, she is building quite a unique list of family, friends and acquaintances for later when daddy comes calling.

Second, what about Curran being the Man - I was never worried about Kate, she is always a badass. But I was worried about Curran and how I would feel about him if he wasn't the Beast Lord and you know what **I love him more**. He doesn't have to put up with pack council meeting and being pulled in a thousand directions and all of the other ridiculousness that goes along with it. He has time to spend with Kate and really dedicate himself to their lives together. Which translates into more page time together and I definitely love that. The banter they have with each other is one of my favorite things.

"Why am I the expert all of a sudden?"

"Of the two of us, you have more stalking experience."

He leaned back. "Really?"

"Yes. When you let yourself into my apartment before we were dating, did you fidget while you watched me?"

"Will you let it go?" he growled.

"No"

"I didn't fidget. I checked on you to make sure you hadn't gotten yourself killed. I wanted to know that you weren't dying slowly of your wounds, because you have no sense and half of the time you couldn't afford a medmage. I didn't stand there and watch you. I came in, made sure you were okay, and left. It wasn't creepy."

"It was a little creepy."

"It worked, didn't it?"

"Worked how?"

"You're still alive."

Beastlord logic at its best. Just because you take the Alpha out of the Keep doesn't mean he isn't the Alpha anymore. **When the werelion roars everyone cowers**...except Kate cuz she would pull on death's whiskers.

Chapters 11 and 12 of this book absolutely gutted me emotionally. They happened out of left field and I wasn't expecting it, but really in life that is how those things happen so it felt too real. If there was even any

doubt about the true feelings of these two characters for each other these chapters should take care of that. If you don't absolutely know Kate and Curran are in love after these chapters I doubt anything would do it for you. **They are quite possibly the best written chapters that IA has ever done in any of their books.**

If you thought that Curran would be less without the pack well you are dead wrong. He will always be Curran and he will undoubtedly always fall into a leadership role. It will just be very interesting to see how that transitions.

*"...When I was fifteen and Mahon pushed me to reach for power, I did it because I was young and stupid. I thought it was a crown. I didn't realize it was a ball and chain instead. **I'm off my chain now. I like it.**"*

I like it too, anything could happen.

Third, what about Kate having protection from Roland - Honestly I'm not sure anything can help them he is so powerful. I thought they did a great job of showing this in a single telephone conversation. Roland is so powerful that just over the phone to see how he affected the people in the room with Kate really hit it home.

Roland is such an interesting bad guy because part of him wants to be a father and the other part is ready to destroy Kate. He is shrouded in mystery and I'm never quite sure what his true motivations are. But their conversations with each other are mesmerizing. Kate's conversations with Erra and Hugh were really good but Roland is something else. His explanation of killing Kate's mother was both terrible and heartbreaking.

"Besides, you knew Kalina best." I watched him closely and the corners of his eyes trembled when I said her name. How does your own bitter medicine taste, Father? Have another spoon on me. "Why don't you tell me about her? You were there till the end. You saw the light go out of her eyes."

Roland took a swallow of his wine. "If you wish to know how your mother died, I will tell you, Blossom. Ask me."

Walk away. Walk away, because that way lie dragons.

IA has a way of making me empathize with Roland and at the same time I'm so worried about what his plans are for Kate. He seems like he is there to cause a lot of trouble like a few other bad guys we know and love.

The Story

Ilona Andrews always finds a way to put a new spin on old lore. This book is no different I love the way they tied in the Ghoul's to the other Arabic mythologies and Genies. It was different and unique, I've never read one of their books and thought that I've heard that mythos before. They keep raising the bar on both the weirdness of the creatures they fight and the peril.

Edwardo has disappeared and Mahon doesn't seem that upset that he is gone. Seems very un-alpha like right. But he has his reasons...they suck but they are reasons and they fit him. George is determined to find someone to help find Edwardo. Kate and Curran are on it, but they keep running into the weirdest creatures that are doing things they aren't supposed to. Like regenerating when they die into something else. If things can't get any strangers there are ghouls traveling in packs trying to get into the city and a Giant that decided to roam about. Just another day for Kate and company. On top of that Kate's dad wants to meet for dinner

and bond. Once we hit our stride there in never a dull moment.

That's all I'm going to give you on the story because I really enjoyed the plot of it and seeing how Kate and Curran juggle all of this and try to be parents to Julie. Curran has some really interesting ideas of how to parent. Most parents try to keep you out of danger but Curran is more hands on and if Kate is your adoptive mom well you will need some practice.

"Just so I get it right, Jim calls you and says, 'Hey, we found a horde of ghouls in the MARTA tunnels,' and your first thought was, 'Great, I'll take the kids?'"

"They had fun." A careful note crept into his voice. Curran saw the shark fin in the water but wasn't sure where the bite would be coming from.

"You even took the dog."

Grendel chose that moment to try to shove past me. I shoved him back into the Guild and he began running back and forth behind us, growling.

"He had fun, too. Look at him. He's still excited."

Really it sounds like a great time. I'd love to read about Curran, Julie, Ascandio and Grendel taking on a pack of Ghouls. **Kate is the strict parent who knew....lol**

I had a great time with this book and loved discussing it with some fellow Ilona Andrews Addicts while we were reading it.

If you were holding off because books #6 and #7 weren't it for you I think you might like the new direction of the series.

Currently my love breakdown of the series is :

3 > 4 > 8 > 5 > 6 > 2 > 7 > 1

Short Pre Review:

♥ - The new direction of the story. Pack I don't need no stinking pack.

? - The new characters added into the story *cough* Luther *cough*

♥ - The Ilona Andrews special twist to the lore they used. Never look at a Genie or Ghouls the same again.

? - The absolutely heart wrenching moments of chapters 11 and 12. Best written chapters in the entire series to date (in my humble opinion). My heart still hurts.

♣ - Roland's fatherly moments. I KNOW he is a sociopath...but he is a charming sociopath and I'd totally meet him for dinner. Most of the time I'm torn as if I like him or hate him.

⊙ - Kate/Curran page time. Thank you thank you thank you they are finally together on page more often and I freaking love it.

♣ - Sherrim's smack down of Saimon and Curran's smack down to Mahon.

♥ - The inner circle...you know who they are. I loved seeing all their new roles in this book and I can't wait to see where they all end up next.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

3.66 stars (better than 3.5 but not quite a 4). Final review, first published on Fantasy Literature:

In *Magic Shifts*, the eighth book in Ilona Andrews' KATE DANIELS urban fantasy series, Kate and Curran struggle with both old, ongoing problems ? in the form of Pack politics and Kate's father Roland ? and new ones. *obligatory spoiler alert here for earlier books in the series*

Kate and her werelion mate Curran, who has resigned as Beast Lord of Atlanta's huge pack of shapeshifters, are now trying to live a more ordinary, circumspect suburban life among humans, with mixed results. Some of the neighbors are alarmed at Curran's walking around the neighborhood in his immense lion form ("He is patrolling," Kate informs her nosiest neighbor, protecting the area), and Kate finds out that several of their shapeshifter friends, who have also separated from the Pack to follow Kate and Curran, have also moved into homes on their street. It kind of defeats the purpose of fitting into the neighborhood in a low-key way.

But more pressing problems soon arise, distracting Kate from their neighborhood and lifestyle issues. Gangs of ghouls, normally shy and fairly solitary creatures, are on the move in Atlanta and are attacking people ? an unheard-of development. Kate and Curran's werebuffalo friend Eduardo has disappeared without a trace, alarming his fiancée George, daughter of the werebear Mahon who is the Pack's executioner. Mahon, who wants George to marry another werebear rather than a buffalo, is shirking his duty as Clan Heavy's Alpha to investigate Eduardo's disappearance, so it's left to Kate. And murderous, oddly magical giants and other creatures, whose bodies belch forth equally vicious monsters (like a ten-foot long spider-scorpion) when killed, have begun terrorizing Atlanta's neighborhoods and businesses. At first these problems seem random and disconnected, but in the course of their investigation ? punctuated by numerous battles with swordfighting and hand-to-hand combat ? Kate and Curran soon find some surprising connections.

Magic Shifts, though an enjoyable installment in the KATE DANIELS series, wasn't as strong for me as most of the other books in this series have been. Partly this is because the overarching plotlines of the series, especially Kate's relationships with her immortal and dangerous father Roland and with Curran, inch forward in more subtle ways in this book. That leaves the burden of the novel to be borne by the action scenes and the mystery that are specific to *Magic Shifts*, and those just weren't quite as compelling as most of Kate's other recent adventures. The slightly disjointed plot, which lags just slightly in some chapters, reminded me of *Magic Bites*, the very first book in this series.

Still, some of the subplots in *Magic Shifts* were definitely worth the price of admission. Curran doesn't miss Pack politics, but he does miss the challenge of making an organization successful. He gets the chance to exercise an ownership interest in Atlanta's Mercenary Guild, and when Curran finds out that the guild is in horrendous disarray, that actually increases Curran's interest in taking on the challenge. Mahon, the werebear Alpha who has made life difficult for Kate in the past, gets called on his current and prior antics by several other characters. And Roland becomes a more well-developed character for the first time, as he makes a play for more involvement in Atlanta and in Kate's life. He can be tremendously charming, though Kate deeply distrusts his motives.

The Andrews team, as usual, does a fine job of weaving together various plotlines and elements. Most of the books in this series focus on mythology from a particular part of the world, and the Arabic mythology developed in *Magic Shifts* has some unexpected and intriguing elements. These are combined with some interesting developments in the lives of characters who fans of the series have come to care for. *Magic Shifts* is a solid entry in the overall series.

Anne says

I'm not sure I'm even capable of giving a Kate Daniels book less than 5 stars anymore, so take my opinion of this book with a grain of salt. Some of my friends were disappointed with this one because it was maybe a *transition* sort of book. You know, what with Kate & Curran having left the Pack in the last book. So, yeah, this book is sorta setting up how they're going to live, what they're going to do, etc.. Didn't matter. I could Kate Daniels' grocery list, and probably fangirl over it.

To me, this was gold, and I loved every minute of it!

sigh

Also, and some of you may think I'm a total traitor for this, but Roland is quickly becoming my favorite character in the series. I can't get enough of him! Anyone else kinda loving him a little bit?

This time around we're learning about genies & ghouls, which (I thought) was a pretty cool change of pace from the shifters & vampires. And, no, I'm not going to spoil any of the details...so don't worry. Just know that team Andrews manages to put their special spin on these characters, and makes it all very unique to the KD world. I thought end bit about the ghouls was pretty cool!

Ok, there are already way too many awesome reviews for this one out there, so I'm not going to go into depth with this one.

However, I feel the need to mention one more thing...

Bottom line, if you're a Kate Daniels fanatic, you definitely don't want to miss this one!

Also reviewed for:

Brigid says

Here Kitty Kitty

I shall lure you into a trap my dear.

HEHEHEHE.

Katie Michaels says

Nothing compares to the charm, wit, action, and emotion of the Kate Daniels series. Nothing. Simply put, if you aren't reading these books, you are missing the very best that Urban Fantasy has to offer. I think I say this every time I sit down to review a new installment, but it bears repeating.

The last story was epic and left us in a very different place. Kate and Curran have left the Pack. She has claimed Atlanta and her father has gone from a distant idea of Something Scary to a flesh and blood reality intruding on Kate's life. The evolution into these new circumstances feels as smooth as silk. Despite the fact that everything is different, everything I love about Kate Daniels remains the same. Her loyalty; her fire; her determination, doggedness, resourcefulness. All topped off with a wry sense of humor and deep appreciation for the family she has created over the course of the series.

As the book begins, Kate and Curran are living in their new home with Julie, and they have just one month left until their separation from the Pack is complete. But life is never boring. Between fighting off ghouls and searching for a missing shifter, they have their hands full. I love how, with each book, Ilona Andrews really goes out of the way to give Kate an adversary that is markedly different from the one before. It's cool because it continues to add layers to the already vast worldbuilding; it gives the reader new puzzles that don't have obvious solutions; and it gives realism to Kate's struggles. I mean, let's face it. She is crazy-powerful. She needs a real challenge to give us emotional investment. In this case, we delve into the realm of Arabic mythology and a powerful djinn.

The plot is great. I love how Andrews artfully ties the ghouls to the Big Bad and back around to Kate's missing friend. The pacing is spot on. The laughs are pitch perfect. (I laughed out loud as Ghastek tried to draw an apple.) But, as always, what really takes the book to the next level is the emotional component. Kate's best battles are ones that are directly connected to her. Saving a friend. Keeping a promise. Protecting her family. That's here and that's great. Andrews takes it a step beyond though... showing Kate's fragility... putting her in real peril. You can really see what her mortality means to the people who love her. It brings home just how loved she really is. It carves out more depth for Curran and Julie. It gives great feels.

And did I mention I cried at the end? In the big battle, when Kate must face her innermost fears? I'm not going to spoil it, but there was a person there with grey eyes and the stage is set with potential for so much heartache -- it totally got me. The bottom line is that Andrews successfully combines the otherworldness of Kate's environment with emotions that any of us can relate to. We could never *be* Kate, but we can all relate to the things she feels. We feel them with her.

I could go on and on, but how much gushing can I do before it gets a little embarrassing? I will say that I beta-read for this book, but almost all of the magic in the final product was already there in its earlier incarnation. Fans of the series shouldn't miss this one. And if you're new to Kate's world, what are you waiting for? Start from the beginning with *Magic Bites* and get ready for a great ride.

Rating: A

**ARC provided by author for review*

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

Review also found at: <https://theparanormalpaladin.wordpress...>

Ok, **unpopular opinion time**. I know it's blasphemy and all, but this book was just okay to me. I found it a struggle to get through.

A couple months have passed since the last book. Kate and Curran are going through the final process of full separation from the Pack. They now live in a suburban neighborhood with Julie and we see a lot of domesticity in the beginning. I don't know why, but this is a trope in urban fantasy that really annoys me. However, it's not like I didn't know it was coming.

The main plot in this one was a werebison goes missing, Eduardo. To further complicate matters, we find out his girlfriend is the Alpha Bear, Mahon's, daughter, and he is a long-standing bigot we all know and are aware of. So we get lots of family and romance angst, mixed in with the domesticity at the beginning.

The good thing to me was in the beginning (around 20%), we see that Kate seems to have hit her stride. She knows how to use her powers more, she's in her prime. Then, she (view spoiler) I'm not sure what that was all about, but it felt like it was just a plot device.

I felt like a lot of characters just made a token appearance. The side story of Curran (view spoiler) was okay, I guess. He had to have significance established for the future books.

None of my favorite characters really had a significant role and maybe that was part of it. Saiman has one scene you'd miss if you blinked. The conversation with Roland was nothing more than a huge info-dump, really. I felt like a lot of this book was transitional or info-dumping or just...filler.

There's a lot of things that are repeated, like how many times have we heard Roland described something like..."if the sun had risen" or something to do with what just looking on him when we has happy with you was like the sun rising or whatnot.

I just didn't care about Mahon or Eduardo or George or the big bad in this one. The writing is fine and for people who really get into seeing all the appearances of the various characters in the world, it is great. I hope the next one is a little darker and maybe I just like the "bad guys" in this world too much. They are much more intriguing to me.

I will re-read this in the future and probably will like it more. At least, that happened with the previous book, so I'm thinking it could just be my current mood. I just couldn't get into this one.

Initial post:

OMG OMG OMG OMG August 4th is coming up soon.

Buddy read with Ilona Andrews Addicts group.

mich says

Can I still call myself a hard-core Kate Daniels fan if I give this book 3.5 stars? (Please say yes.)

Do you have any idea how much I love this series? Do you?! Wanna know how many times I've re-read these books over the last 7 years? A-FUCKING-LOT. (Yes, that's a real number.) I know entire sections of the first five books by heart. Much like the way my husband can say the lines of the entire Billy Madison movie along with the characters (which is irritating as hell btw, I don't recommend you ever watching that movie with him), if you started reading a line from any one of those books, I'd probably be able to start saying the words along w/you. I'm not exaggerating.

I LOVE this series. I devour each book that comes out, even the last couple ones that I had some problems with, I still was totally into it and *devoured* 'em.

But this one? I did not devour it.

You know what, though? I don't think it's the book's fault. The book is fine. No, fuck that -- the book is GOOD. It's not the book's fault.

It's the series' fault. This series has just been so freakin spectacular, that *good* feels like a let down. That makes no sense, I know. A good book is a good fucking book. Right?! Right. So what the hell is my problem? *shrugs* I dunno. Expectations I guess. They can be a bitch.

The Case of the Missing Shapeshifter was not gripping at all to me. You know, I love *so many* of the side characters in this series, good guy, bad guy, doesn't matter, I love SO MANY of them! There's really only a teeny tiny handful of characters that I don't have any feelings one way or another about. And they chose to have the plot of this book revolve around one of those few. Whyyyyyyyyyy. I tried to care about him. I did. But it just never happened. The whole investigation was a little. . .boring. (ugh, I feel like such a bitch for saying that!) But it's true, I was kinda bored. I just didn't care enough.

As for the other side characters, I gotta say, I was a tiny bit disappointed in some of them as well. I mean, is it just me or has Derek seemed to have lost all traces of a personality? And Mahon! I have issues with how his character has 'developed', it felt a little lazy. And so many of the others felt just thrown in here, like Raphael and Andrea, just a quickie to show us that they're still alive but no real substance to them. IA always managed to make me care about so many of them no matter how little page time he/she may get, but this time, a lot of the supporting character appearances felt...empty.

Btw, just curious -- am I the only one who cringed at the sex scene? It felt so awkward to me. Was it just me?

And anyway, I think my biggest problem with this book is this -- it just feels like a huge letdown after what has been building up for so long throughout the series. A delayed reaction from the last book? Maybe. I dunno. Most of the earlier books had this same case-of-the-week type plot, some of them good, some not so much, but what made me love them all was that there was so much *more* going on. Stuff that's not in this book, cuz we've moved past it now. There was the mysteriousness of Kate's heritage. There was the push/pull slow burn romance between Kate and Curran (possibly the best one EVER). There was getting to know the awesome supporting cast. And shadowing over all of that was that slow, steady build-up of the Roland arc; that build-up that increased in intensity with each book, that made my anticipation grow and

grow and grow until it turned into this...thing...this thing that says, I want to see something *BIG* happen, and I WANT IT SOON!!

And here we are at book 8, and I'm left still waiting. I'm getting tired of waiting.

EDIT to add:

I see a lot of people now calling this a "transition" or "bridge" book, and yeah, it makes sense. I just wish there had been a bit more forward movement going on here in the whole overall story.

We're getting near the end of the series, and I'm getting tired of just treading water, even if it is in a different area of the pool. Let's start swimming to the finish line, man! :)

Shit, listen to me! I sound like I hated this book! I DIDN'T HATE IT. There were lots to love in this book, LOTS. The humor was really great, as usual. I found myself smiling often, and some of the funny parts were really, REALLY funny. The fight scenes are written well, as is expected from this seasoned duo who are no strangers to thrilling action. And yep, my heart strings got tugged in this book too, there was a part that I got a little emotional over. (view spoiler)

And that little something we saw at the end has me very excited for the next book. Very, very, VERY excited. (view spoiler)

ooooohhh.....

(hide spoiler)]

Oh yeah, very excited.

Oh, and one more thing. (view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

Sophia Triad says

Roland has arrived in Atlanta

So, all the major characters are repositioning in this book.

The king is here and he has just adjusted all his subjects to his liking:

1. He made his daughter claim the city. Now there are invisible borders around Atlanta and Kate feels responsible for every living soul inside these borders. Not that she did not feel responsible before...but now the pressure is really on.

...But pretending that the claiming hadn't happened had done me no favors.

2. He blackmailed his future son in law. He made Curran abandon the Pack, he made him deny his kingship and his lordship. He made him move to the suburbs for crying out loud and to become one of the common humans. Not that he can really mingle.

"Did you see the mailman while doing your rounds yesterday?" I asked.

Curran's face turned carefully blank. "Yes, I did."

"Did you do anything to scare him?"

"I was perfectly friendly."

"Mhm." Please continue with your nice story. Nonjudgmental.

"He was putting things into the mailbox. I was passing by and I said, 'Hello, nice night.' And then I smiled. He jumped into his truck and slammed the door."

"Rude!" Julie volunteered.

"I let it pass," Curran said. "We're new to the neighborhood."

The former Beast Lord, a kind and magnanimous neighbor. "So you sneaked up behind him, startled him by speaking, and when he turned around and saw a six-hundred-pound talking lion, you showed him your teeth?"

"I don't think that's what happened", Curran said.

"That's exactly what happened, Your Furriness." I laughed, pulling off my boots.

I can only imagine the horrified face of the mailman. Hahaha....

3. Jim is forced to become the new Beast Lord. And he has to prove that he is the Alpha beast for everybody who does not believe it including all the Alphas of the clans, Mahon (Curran's adopted father) and Dali the Beast Lady.

"You're a paranoid control freak."

"My paranoia is keeping us safe. Dali, I just spent eight hours arguing with the Pack Council. Do you think you could postpone yelling at me until later?"

4. The other shifters have to choose sides. Derek, George, Christopher, Barabas, Ascanio, Louis, Andrea and Raphael.

The Pack lives its weakest moments. The strongest members of the Pack are split into two teams.

5. Everyone is now looking Kate with different perspective. And not in a very nice way.

--Saiman opened his mouth, then closed it. "I won't be part of this insanity."

--Rowena smiled at me. "Sharrim. Our deepest apologies for the misunderstanding."

--"Why don't you like me?" I asked.

Nick leaned back.

"I could fill the room with it, starting with who you are and what you did."

6. Hugh (Roland's favorite soldier) is forced to disappear in order to think, to find himself and to stay away

from Kate.

This is also the book that

●Kate realizes how it feels to be humanly weak and vulnerable – even if it just for a few hours. I believe that her stroke must be the less favorite part for most readers.

●Julie slowly realizes her powers after the purification of her blood and as a result she has Roland discreet attention.

●we learn everything about the life of djinns, and ghouls.

●we are taught that nothing really worth the price of asking for favors by a djinn (“*You have nothing I want!*”)

●we discover that true love always wins any obstacle.

Hurray for the story of George and Eduardo!

Finally

After the last two books, I like Curran again.

I had missed the playful Curran, always in tune with Kate:

A hand rested on the small of my back and slid down.

“Did you just grab my butt?” I whispered.

“What?”

“Curran!”

“Yes?” I could hear controlled laughter in his voice.

Unbelievable. I sped up. “We’re tracking ghouls and you’re grabbing my butt.”

“I always make sure to pay attention to important things.”

“Sure you do.”

And

Roland is trying to clear things with Kate - not very successfully:

“Now that I’ve conceded that point, the wedding. When are you going to stop living in sin?”

“This is rich, coming from you. I’m sorry, how many wives did you have?”

“Recently, only one.”

“Yes, and you murdered her.”

“Let’s not talk about that again.”

“She was my mother.”

“Yes, and I loved her deeply.”

I can only imagine the horrified face of the waiter. Hahaha...

I have included many dialogues from the book in this review, because I honestly believe that my favorite characters’ interactions in this book were just brilliant. Strong and funny.

So Roland is here. Everyone stands by. Let the games begin!

Evgeny says

The image above shows now extinct North American gray lion. According to Wikipedia, the guy was about 25% bigger than the modern African King of the Jungle. This was the largest species of cats ever.

People familiar with the series already know how the lion above relates to it. One of the main characters - Curran - happens to be a shapeshifter whose beast form is that guy. I hope I made a convincing case explaining why another main character - Kate Daniels - called Curran a one-man army at one point.

So Kate and Curran were having quality fun time together destroying a horde of ghouls threatening Atlanta when Curran's stepsister came in asking for help. Her fiance Eduardo was missing and because of the complications of the Pack's politics nobody bothered looking for him. Eduardo happens to be a werebison which in Kate's world means equivalent of a tank. One needs some serious power to stop such a guy and messing with Big Powers (with capital letters) is Kate's favorite pastime, so she jumps at the opportunity to investigate the disappearance. Epic fights where both sides are not shy about using very powerful magic ensue.

After the events in the end of the previous books I was not sure whether this one would work at all. It also had all signs of being a filler. My expectations were quite low and this is probably why I actually like this one more than the previous installment I mentioned. It also answered the biggest question I had - some other people had at as well (a very minor spoiler follows): (view spoiler).

There were some nice character developments. Julie was the only exception, but even she showed some human sides - for the first time, but briefly. She is still her regular useless self though. I felt there were not enough Desandra and Ascanio: they really shined before. Sadly Derek is back to his usual gloomy brooding self.

The overall series plot while moved very little and practically at the end, still moved so I would not call this book complete filler material.

As to the rating I give this novel **4 stars**; these are weak 4 stars, but 4 stars nonetheless. The next book of the series promptly goes to my to-read shelf.

Jessica ✿ ⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ✿ Rabid Reads-no-more says

4.5 stars

My love for Ilona Andrews is not something I attempt to keep hidden. I can in fact be rather obnoxious about it. #sorrynotsorry

Their books are typically so far ahead of their peers, so much better in all the major areas--character development, world-building, interesting and original plot lines--AND they're hilarious to boot.

I feel like this warrants a certain level of fangirling.

That being said, I was disappointed by one of their books for the first time when Kate #7 came out last year. Don't get me wrong, it was still a decent book . . . but I've been conditioned to expect more of the Andrews.

By itself, it wouldn't have been a huge deal, but before that, while still really enjoying Kate #6, I had a handful of issues . . . weredolphins, various Kate/Curran situations that I ultimately understood but did not like . . .

And while being a minority, I know that I am not alone in my feelings in either of those cases . . . which makes me happier than I could ever adequately communicate to inform you:

THEY'RE BACK.

One of my favorite things about the Andrews is that in every installment they take a myth, a creature of legend, a campfire story specific to one location or with roots across the globe, and while remaining true to the base elements, they somehow manage to make it wholly their own:

Vampires? Check.

Necromancers? Double check.

Shifters? Check x100.

To name a few.

In MAGIC SHIFTS, we meet their version of the ghoul. *shudders*

Ghouls usually fall on the low end of my Interesting Supernatural Creatures list, b/c 1. I don't like dead things, and 2. They eat dead people.

Kind of a double whammy.

BUT.

These ghouls are sentient . . . *ish*. Also, they're not dead.

I've encountered ghouls that were cowards and mindless scavengers, and I've encountered ghouls that were basically humans with unfortunate dietary requirements, but never ghouls that fell somewhere in between . . . Ghouls too driven by their hunger for dead flesh to qualify as human, but wily and just capable enough of rational thought not to be disregarded as animals. There are levels, some ghouls retaining more of their humanity than others, but the majority of those we meet . . . o.O

It may not sound like much of a distinction, but I found this version . . . significantly more sinister than either of its counterparts: a smart monster who would like nothing more than to violently end your life for the express purpose of letting your carcass decay before eating it.

convulses with shudders

SO. The Andrews put their own unique spin on even the most tired supernatural creatures.

But that's merely the tip of the Andrews' iceberg of awesome.

One of the easiest pitfalls for an UF series to fall into is the Post Get Together Doldrums. Even if you think you have no idea what I'm talking about, I promise, *you do*. It's when the heroine and her main love interest *finally* get their shit together and begin their HEA . . . and you're suddenly bored.

Oh, if they hadn't *finally* gotten together, you'd be furious, maybe even furious enough to rage quit the series (we readers are terribly hard on authors, aren't we?), but now . . . Turns out there's a reason all the fairytales *end* with, "and they lived happily ever after."

Happily ever after is boring. It's enough to know that's what they're doing, we don't need to know the specifics.

Not so, KATE DANIELS.

In part, this is due to a slight modification of "HEA."

What Kate and Curran have is more TEA (*together* ever after) b/c KATE DANIELS is the most action-packed series I've ever had the pleasure of reading.

With the focus on the what is happening to the characters b/c plot vs. what is happening to the characters b/c character development (we no longer need the *focus* to be on development--they're awesome and we love them already), the Andrews don't have to come up with asinine scenarios in which their love is repeatedly tested, blah-friggin'-blah.

Instead Kate and Curran work *together*, not only letting each other exist simply as they are, but loving each other for it, and knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses so well that they help each other be their most deadly and efficient selves . . .

It's equal parts refreshing, gripping, and hilarious.

But they aren't mother birds pushing each other out of the nest, no, they are *not*. They have each other's backs. Always.

When something threatens Kate:

The insect pointed a leg at me. "Die."

Curran's eyes went gold. His clothes tore, falling in shreds to the street, as the massive meld of human and lion spilled out. "Let's see you try that shit on me."

And in return:

Curran stood in the middle of the street, his hands still locked on the insect's front pair of legs. The spider-scorpion was lunging at him again and again, trying to grip him with its pincers. If those mandibles closed on Curran, they'd slice his arms off.

Oh no, you don't.

I charged the spider

But even greater than the Andrews' ability to take a known quantity and make it new and interesting or to keep a steady, committed relationship from becoming meh, is the way they weave threads throughout their story drawing a multitude of different factors, people, and events into a cohesive whole.

I say this a lot, b/c it's an element of one of my book peeves, but with MAGIC SHIFTS it is especially true: the sum is greater than the parts.

No one--NO ONE--does this better than Ilona and Gordon Andrews.

I'm not going to tell you what the Big Bad is. You'll find out in the book. Eventually. I will tell you that I was

utterly sick of this creature. I may have even groaned a little bit when I figured out what it was. BUT. Andrews. The end.

Read it and see what I'm talking about. HIGHLY recommended.

Final thoughts:

(view spoiler)

Pre-review:

WELP. That was freaking awesome. That was the Kate Daniels I've been missing the last two books. No awful secrets like Kate #6. No dramatic departures from accepted behaviors of MCs or inexplicable randomness like Kate #7. Just Kate and Curran (and co.) in all their EPIC hilarity and wonderfulness that *is* KATE DANIELS.

Full review closer to release date. *fist pumps*

My other reviews for this series:

A Questionable Client (Kate Daniels, #0.5)
Magic Bites (Kate Daniels, #1)
Magic Burns (Kate Daniels, #2)
Magic Strikes (Kate Daniels, #3)
Magic Mourns (Kate Daniels, #3.5)
Magic Bleeds (Kate Daniels, #4)
Magic Dreams (Kate Daniels, #4.5)
Magic Slays (Kate Daniels, #5)
Magic Tests (Kate Daniels, #5.3)
Magic Gifts (Kate Daniels, #5.4)
Gunmetal Magic (Kate Daniels, #5.5)
Retribution Clause (Kate Daniels, #5.6)
An Ill-Advised Rescue (Kate Daniels, #5.8)
Magic Rises (Kate Daniels, #6)
Magic Steals (Kate Daniels, #6.5)
Magic Breaks (Kate Daniels, #7)
Magic Stars (Kate Daniels, #8.5, Grey Wolf, #1)
Magic Binds (Kate Daniels, #9)
Iron and Magic (Kate Daniels, #9.5)
Magic Triumphs (Kate Daniels, #10)
Curran POV Collection

Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

4 I Can't Believe It's Less Than 5 Stars

But not the right kind of shock. I'm shocked I can't bring myself to give this book a 5 star rating but it just felt like a step back for me, it was on the same level as the first two books, which were good of course but they hadn't reached the series' potential yet. The last two books, relationship issues and slight inconsistencies in characters aside, were pretty epic in the revelations and bad guys department. They kept my attention 100% of the way. This book sadly lacked their allure.

What I wanted in this book before starting was 3 things. I wanted to see how Kate and Roland would handle their new frenemies status, I wanted to see more of Hugh getting his ass kicked and I wanted to see how the whole "Pack without Curran" thing would work out. I got nothing on Hugh, very little on the pack and just crumbs on the Roland-Kate thing.

Instead what I got was a new bad guy, who wasn't nearly as interesting as Roland, Hugh or even Esra had been. The first 40% of the book was less than interesting and the ending was almost completely lacking excitement. And the side characters... Were where my favorite side characters? Where was Desandra and Derek?? Why were they so unimportant in the story? Derek appears to be used as a tracking dog with no personality and wit at all...

That being said, this was Kate Daniels, from the one and only pair that is IA. The book still was better than most other authors have to offer. It still had great moments. (view spoiler) The side characters are as always awesome, even when they are not the ones I wanted(Luther was great and I always love Nick), and Curran and Kate finally got over their annoying relationship problems. And Chapter 11 was an emotional roller coaster.

I seriously hope the next book will have more Roland and Hugh in it and not some random baddie that I care not at all about or some new, uninteresting investigation plot.

Some awesome moments to remember:

*"Does everybody think I am an asshole?" Curran asked.
"Only people who know you or have met you."*

*"Why am I the expert all of a sudden?"
"Of the two of us, you have more stalking experience."
He leaned back. "Really?"*

"Yes. When you let yourself into my apartment before we were dating, did you fidget while you watched me?"

*"Will you let it go?" he growled.
"No."*

"I didn't fidget. I checked on you to make sure you hadn't gotten yourself killed. I wanted to know that you weren't dying slowly of your wounds, because you have no sense and half of the time you couldn't afford a medmage. I didn't stand there and watch you. I came in, made sure you were okay, and left. It wasn't creepy."

"It was a little creepy."

"It worked, didn't it?"

"Worked how?"

"You're still alive."

"Yes, of course, take all the credit."

"Did you think I was sitting on my hands?"

"I thought you might be injured."

He looked at me. "We've met, you and I?" I deliberately took a big step back.

"What?" he growled.

"I'm making room for your ego."

"Besides, if I'd decided to pull Carver's spine out of his body, I would've done it already."

"Can you actually do that?"

Curran frowned. "I don't know. I mean theoretically if you broke the spine above the pelvis, you could, but then there are ribs . . . I'll have to try it sometime."

"Okay," Juke said. "Your horse is a donkey, your poodle is a giant wolf breed, and your boyfriend is whatever the hell he is. You have problems."

Finally!!

Maybe not all my life but definitely the whole year!!

(view spoiler)

Lila says

Update 28/04/2015

Asdfghjkl.

I loved this book to pieces.

It's my precious.

It has that old, Kate-merc vibe from first four books and I didn't even know how much I would enjoy Kate NOT being Beast Lady. It leaves her place to be focused on more important things.

LOTS of Curran being awesome and growly; lots of Kate and Curran being awesome together. Their unwavering relationship is one of the strongest points of this book.

Andrews' trademark humor - these characters are all so sassy, I giggled more than once. :)

Plot was interesting and fast-paced as usual and I liked the mythology behind villain. I have 4 words for you:

Tactical use of vamps. :)

Roland appears and has some sly moves...:)

Oh, and:
