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Michele Bardsley

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Tormented by nightmares of a woman's death, Sheriff Taylor Mooreland is shocked to find the woman from his visions chained to an altar in the woods. He barely knows her, but something compels Taylor to protect the mysterious Lenore Whyte no matter what. Even if it means dealing with magic.

And when an investigation into a series of suicides leads Taylor deep into the town's past, he discovers that the key to saving Lenore and the town of Nevermore may have a surprising connection...

Now or Never Details

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From Reader Review Now or Never for online ebook

Dianne says

Now or Never by Michele Bardsley

MAY CONTAIN SLIGHT SPOILERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!----->

I love mysteries. Usually the more complicated they are, the happier I am. But have you ever read a mystery that had so many different mysteries going on at one time that you couldn't keep a line on all of them?

Unfortunately, that is what seems to be happening to this series. It is only two books in and I'm wondering just how Ms. Bardsley is going to be able to keep up this nearly manic pace she has set for her readers.

We have the mystery that started in the first novel – who is trying to get the demon Kahl to the earthly plane and what may be the outcome be. Then in this novel we have that AND the mystery of Lenore and her powers which starts in the prologue, suicides and a mysterious gun, then Lenore and Taylor. This is supposed to be their love story. We do not get to read anything about them until about a third or more into the novel. This is less a romance with mystery and speculative undertones and more a paranormal novel that just happens to have a tiny bit of romance in it.

Then there is the mystery surrounding a magical named Cullen, the type which becomes obvious quite soon. Unfortunately, although the synopsis states that the sheriff will uncover the mystery surrounding the gun and the suicides, ¾ of the book is finished and you have yet to find him doing any investigative work. And you won't in the last quarter either

Mundane or non magical people gaining magical abilities left and right -----the Goddess bestowing prophecies and gifts left and right.

As I mentioned with the last novel, the author seems to be using *deus ex machine* a little too much and too easily and I am getting a bit uncomfortable with this. Not that we can really expect logical reasons for what is happening, since it IS speculative fiction; but still. One should not have to stretch their credulity so much when reading a novel.

-----?RANTISH< -----

Unfortunately to add to the novel's problems, is a habit some authors get into of having characters repeatedly explain things to other characters in the book. It is usually something germane to the story; however, the reader does not need to re-read it multiple times in the same chapter.

-----?RANT OVER<-----

This is in no way a horrible book, but it is not of the quality of the first novel in this series, and that will make me pause before picking up the next book in this series. The ending is less than satisfying, sometimes downright confusing and the romance is not there like it is in the other books by this author.

Amber says

So much potential and so little payoff ugh

Al says

Very, very good read. However, even though this 2nd book in the series can be read as a stand alone novel, had I read the 1st book before this one it would have allowed me to appreciate characters better. That being said, great book. Michele Bardsley leaves you waiting for the next book in the series.

Kari Chapman says

I just couldn't get into this book. I re-read book 1 before reading this book, since it had been so long since I read book 1. I enjoyed my re-read of book 1 and was really looking forward to reading this book. However, while we spent a lot of time with the male leads POV, we didn't get much time with the female lead. And most of her POV time was before the two characters met. And that's the big problem for me. By the time I stopped reading, the two lead characters had only just actually interacted with each other - for three minutes over a glass of juice before being interrupted by the bad guys. And she couldn't actually talk.

But for all the lack of interaction, our male lead was infatuated with her thanks to some dreams he'd been having. I don't mind something causing someone to be infatuated with someone more quickly than normal, but only if the story then gives the characters time to interact with each other.

There were a few other things in the book that felt inconsistent from the first book, or that were just thrown in with little to no explanation. However, my biggest complaint was the last of time the two lead characters spent with each other.

Molly Smith says

Taken from my review posted at That's What I'm Talking About Blog by myself and my review partner, Gikany.

Wow. Just wow. Gikany and Una are in love with this new series. Luckily for us we have discovered it early – Now or Never, the second book in the Wizards of Nevermore series is fantastic. This is how world-building should be done.

Ms. Bardsley has perfectly woven romance, mystery, detective drama, the paranormal, urban fantasy and world-building fluidly into this fantastic series. Gikany and Una are so grateful we were able to read the first book in this series, Never Again. You do not need to read the first book, however, the characters will mean more and the mention of events in the previous book will hold more weight for the reader if you do.

Now or Never was incredibly hard for Gikany and Una to put down. It flowed fluidly and was paced very well. There were quite a few surprises in this book that even had Una a bit teary-eyed. The characters and the world are rich and vibrant. The premise is urban fantasy; that is to say, our world with magic and magic users. The prologue nicely gives the readers an introduction into this world. The story centers itself in a small

wizard-protected town called Nevermore, Texas. But this small town is built in a vital location for the Goddess. The world is balanced between the Goddess who created/allowed magic in the world, and the Dark One, the essence of evil.

Gikany and Una have been in love with Taylor, our hero in Now or Never, since the first book. However, there are many other characters that Ms. Bardsley has expertly connected the reader to. We cannot wait until the next book in this series. The last chapter is a one-page cliffhanger that is absolutely HUGE! It is something that Gikany and Una discussed feverishly.

Not many writers can get world-building to be a seamless part of a novel. We just can't say enough about how wonderfully Ms. Bardsley has woven all the different elements of this novel and series and put it together. It is amazing how easily the reader can slip into the world of Nevermore. If you want to read a book that has world-building done right, characters that leap off the page and into your heart, nail-biting action, and mystery, pick up Never Again so you can immerse yourself in the Wizards of Nevermore. Then run out and pick up Now or Never and know how awesome this series is!

Betty Lambert says

This book was truly an amazing read. Kept my attention riveted right from the beginning. Lots of characters, new and old, and the drama unfolding in Nevermore is gripping. Highly recommend though that you read the first book..this one is the 2nd book. The first book, Never Again, introduces a lot of the characters and background that you need. You could read this book as a stand alone, but I think you miss too much.

Catherine says

I have one simple question to ask after finishing the book: Where was the romance? Oh, there was a hero and heroine who hooked up at the end of the book, but there was no relationship that would require, you know, actual *interaction* between them.

Although I had issues with the first book in the series, Never Again, I liked it. I found the story's 'voice' very readable and really liked the cast of characters the author assembled. The paranormal aspects of it were interesting, and I liked the small town vibe. This book had a lot of the same positives, which is what's keeping it from being an **F**, but the bad outweighed the good in this case.

First off, was it necessary to have so many POV's running around? The romance needed all the help it could get, so taking time to pay attention to every Tom, Dick, and Harry in the story was a mistake. But that wasn't the only factor causing me to dislike the POV's. They were, in a word, *boring*. I liked Gray and I liked Ant, just as I did in the first book, but did we have to spend so much time with them, especially in *addition* to all the other POV's we were treated to? I'm all for getting a well rounded look at the story, but maybe we could hold off on reading about some of those characters until, I don't know, their *own* book? Oh, wait, Gray already had his book, didn't he? (/sarcasm) Maybe (although I doubt it) this wouldn't have bothered me so much if the author had actually devoted time to the main relationship. That's a pretty important factor in a Romance and the lack of it was glaring and left me a touch resentful of all the time spent on other people.

Speaking of the relationship... It is not a good sign when the hero and heroine do not interact--barring the extremely brief rescue of the heroine, where they barely spoke since she was in such bad shape--until page 129 in a 296 page book. And even then they weren't exactly making up for lost time since the heroine was

temporarily unable to speak. Norie and Taylor were attracted to each other for some reason that I'm still not sure of. They never actually had any insightful or deep conversations, or even an emotional connection of any kind. They just had some random, magical dreams which somehow replaced actual relationship (and personality) development. Apparently magical dreams are now shorthand for true love. Good to know.

But never fear that the relationship was pushed aside and replaced with meaningless sex scenes. (<--sarcasm) Nope, none of that. In fact, they don't even kiss until page 249. I thought that there was an obligatory, awkward sex scene shoehorned in there, too, but a review of the book tells me I was wrong. I must have mixed that up with one of the magical dreams. Yes, once again actual development was brushed aside by being told everything in a dream.

And in addition to too many POV's and a lackluster romance, the plot was confusing. *tears hair out* Events seemed to jump around and take us from one situation to the next with no real flow to it. The plot felt jumbled and randomly cobbled together. All in all, it was just not a good read for me.

Review originally posted on Fiction Vixen

Sarah says

Cute

An easy and fast paced read with a hopeless romantic touch. Can't wait to read the next book in the series.

melissa says

Probably should have read this directly after book 1 as they talk A LOT about what happened in that one and well, I don't remember much several years later. This felt a little convoluted with the 2 story arcs and then only one of them being tied up. It was a bit annoying to have a cliffhanger and no new book, but it looks like one should be coming out later this year (2017).

Lora says

I loved this book and literally couldn't put it down once I had picked it up. I'm not sure if it was a combination of already knowing most of the characters from the last book or the further development of them in this book but I loved this book and all of the characters stories instantly gripped me. The romance wasn't as straightforward or integral to the plot as Bardsley's usual books but I didn't really miss anything there wasn't any personal problems between the love interests that needed to be addressed besides the plot and mystery and everyone wanting to kill Norie. This book was fantastic and kept me interested and spell bound from the moment I picked it up to the moment I finally set it down.

Syntha Green says

Little too rushed with the falling in love parts, otherwise enjoyable

Mandi Schreiner says

As with the first book, I like this world. It interests me. However, in this book - the romance is SO underdeveloped. As in - THERE ISN'T ONE. I mean, there is one..but wow. Not much is really done with it.

But I like the small town feel for a pnr. I'm conflicted.

Review to come.

Loucy says

L'histoire est sympa et les personnages aussi mais... où est la romance ? A part un rêve érotique de la part du héros, puis de l'héroïne (ou inversement) et un baiser, tout le reste de l'histoire est basé sur l'intrigue magique. Et j'ai trouvé la fin un peu rapide/bâclée. Dommage car l'univers magique développé par l'auteur est vraiment chouette et l'histoire et les personnages avaient du potentiel...

Shauni says

Now or Never is the second book in Michele Bardsley's Wizards of Nevermore series and boy is Nevermore heating up.

Nevermore is a town in Texas under Dragon Rule.. it also happens to host a goddess fountain and we learn a nemetin. The Ravens have joined forces with the Demons and have decided to withdraw from the grand council an unheard of concept. Never in the two thousand years since the council was created has a house withdrawn.

In order to do so they must find a way to free Kahl.. they have come across a prophecy and are determined to make sure it leans in their favor.. to destroy the world as it now stands. Leaving chaos behind where they will gather what is left and rule. Of course they have to control the prophecy first.. and fight those that guard the fountain in Nevermore.

Taylor Mooreland is a Mundane and perfectly happy with it. He has no desire to be of magic kind.. He is sheriff of Nevermore and works well with the guardian and those who serve the goddess as well as the mundanes. He is loyal to his town, his friends and his family. It was hard for him but he has accepted that he does have an ancestor with some magic in him, from the house of the Wolf.. so his brother Ant will soon be tested as magic kind. But Taylor, nope perfectly mundane. Unless you count those dreams he has been having.. about a mysterious woman, in trouble that only he can save. *grins* and that's not all he's dreaming about her..

Lenore Whyte, at five was considered disposable and tossed aside by her power hungry father. She was condemned to death but with a little help from the undead.. she survived. From then on she was on the run with her mother. Never staying for long in any given place and slowly watching her mother go insane. Unaware that a spell has been cast upon her.. one that binds her powers and made her forget all that has come before. Once her mother dies she is captured and used as a virgin sacrifice.. Fortunately, those that want power want it now and tried too soon.. and Lenore's familiar (a white raven) finds Taylor and brings him to her.

Taylor and Lenore.. or Norie as she prefers discover a powerful connection one written by the gods themselves. They just need to figure out what it is.. Together they must find out who wants her dead and why.. They must figure out what her powers are and if they can be unbound and all this when the guardian's mother is coming for a visit. People are committing suicide and Ant is supposed to be tested by the wolf clan. Oh yeah and somehow the Ravens have tracked the death of a powerful Raven to Nevermore and want justice. It's a busy time in Nevermore these days.

I am looking forward to Ms Bardsley's next installment of her Nevermore series.. I can't wait to find out what happens next.. I hope the rest of you take the time to enjoy this wonderful series.. Discover Nevermore..and enjoy

Shauni

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Ellie says

Now or Never, Wizards of Nevermore #2, by Michele Bardsley
Grade: B-

“They had, maybe, a couple of days to figure out everything, save Norie, save Nevermore, and of yeah, save the world. And if it could all be done without telling his mother, that would be even better.”

Taylor Mooreland is the Sheriff of Nevermore, Texas and although he himself has no magic he is used to being around those who do. For the last month Taylor has been dreaming of an unknown woman, who he desperately tries to save and fails every night. One night Taylor wakes from one of these dreams and is more upset then usual and decides to go for a run to clear his mind where he stumbles upon a nemeton, a secret grove that holds the key to the Goddess everyone worships. Following a white raven into the nemeton Taylor makes a startling discovery and feels his fate align as he looks down at Lenore Whyte, the woman from his dreams, chained to an alter.

Lenore, Norie, Whyte has no idea how she got to Nevermore, Texas, to Taylor's nemeton and in his dreams. Norie feels an instant connection with the Sheriff and trusts him to help her figure out who or what is after her. They more time the two spend together the stronger their bond becomes and they soon realize that there is way more going on in Nevermore then they originally thought and everything seems to be leading right back to Norie.

Now or Never is the second book in Michele Bardsley's Wizards of Nevermore series and can be read as a

stand alone. Mrs. Bardsley does a wonderful job of explaining the magical world she has created in Nevermore and explaining all the characters and how they tie together. I never felt lost or confused and I actually fell in love with Nevermore and I didn't want to leave.

This book is very short, less than 300 pages, and I really wish it would have been longer. I found that there was so much going on and so many story lines that there wasn't enough time devoted to Taylor and Norie. I never really got a good feel for either character or their relationship. It was just expected that the two would be together and they never really got to know each other but both just accepted one another with no question. I like to see my hero and heroine fall in love and work for it, not just have them see each other and that be it. I feel that if there had been fifty more pages just devoted to getting to know these two I would have enjoyed this book much more.

As I mentioned before there is a lot going on in this book and a lot of leads to new story lines. I really liked a lot of the side character, way more than Taylor and Norie, and am very excited to see what happens with Cullen and Trent who are my favorites. I loved the ending of this book which was a total shocker and it guaranteed that I will be reading the next book when it comes out.

Nevermore, Texas is a fascinating little town with a lot of crazy characters and a lot of magical energy. I loved the town and I hope to get to know it and it's people a lot better as the series continues. My only wish is the next book is a lot longer so I can really get a feel for everything and not feel like something is missing when I finish the book.
