



Stone Lover

A.C. Warneke

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Romance, a little drama, a lot of passion and gargoyles

Melanie Jacobs has always been a little out of step with the rest of the world. She sees things that aren't there, from the magnificent stone birds that fly overhead to the enchanted castle in the middle of the city. It's when she gets an apartment in the castle that she discovers that she isn't the one seeing things; it's the rest of the world that is asleep.

Vaughn Nosuntres explodes into her life New Year's Eve and he is unlike any man she has ever known. The attraction is magnetic, overwhelming and irresistible. Powerless to resist, they embark on a passionate affair under the cover of night.

But what Melanie doesn't know is that when the sun comes up Vaughn becomes a stone beast, a guardian of the worlds and a protector of Melanie.

A modern day fairy tale romance, spicy and sweet.

warning: contains graphic language and frank depictions of sex (M/F)

Stone Lover Details

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Author : A.C. Warneke

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From Reader Review Stone Lover for online ebook

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

Why did I wait so long to read this book? I loved it! Of course, anything with gargoyles is going to capture my attention. This story is a romantic fantasy with imps, sprites and magic!

I really liked the characters in this book. Three brothers together who protect "something" and are gargoyles is interesting. Throw in a human who can see the "under" the veil, I'm intrigued. There does need to be more world building as far as what it is that the brothers protect. It would also be interesting to learn more about why Melanie is so different a human. I'm hoping it is explained in the next book. I'm ready to read that one.

What I really liked is how romantic this one is between Melanie and Vaughn. It's sweet and erotic. The quirky sense of humour injected in with references to pop culture also made it amusing for me. The writing is smooth for me. There were some issues as far as jumping point of views but because I found the story so captivating, it bothered me not. It isn't tightest written story, but it still is very good. I can't wait to read the next one about Jenna and Rhys. Recommended for gargoyle lovers who also demand a happily ever after.

Katrina says

1.5*, just barely rounded to 2 because I love gargoyles

Please be advised that this review contains spoilers.

OK, where do I start? Obviously, at the beginning.

When you start reading a new book, there is a certain sense of anticipation, of hope that you have found something that will satisfy you at least on some levels and as you progress in to the book, this hope either solidifies in to enjoyment or dissipates. Well, with Stone Lover my hope of the decent read not just dissipated but pretty much plummeted within first chapter, and the main reason for it is called Melanie. The author tried to paint her as a nice, sweet, slightly off-beat girl (after all, she is sensitive to magic and after few drinks can see magical creatures) but in all honesty, it has been a while since I have read a book with such insipid, amorphous, inane heroine. Our introduction to her has laid the foundation for that opinion and also set the context for the entire book. I mean, there is insta-love, there is insta-lust, there is sex before even saying "Hello" and I do understand that our heroine is obsessed with a gargoyle, but you have to admit that even in this genre it is too bizarre for our h to be giving a handjob to a stone statue? Really? She was wanking a building ornament? That was my first cringe, but by no means the last. Here are few more:

Mandatory sex scene in bar's toilet 5 minutes after meeting our H

Every male wants to have sex with our h

Our H talks about h to his brothers and admits that she is a "decent f..k"

A doozy with an ex : the ex showed up , proposed, does not take no for an answer, admits to having sex with h's slut of a best friend while our h and he were together and informs her that he will continue having sex with mentioned best friend after he and h get married. And then he gets a bit forceful and physical. Does or h gets angry, does she brains him with a frying pan? No, she converses with him while watching for the sun to go down so our H would show up and intervene. And then she falls of the balcony to be saved in a nick of time by our stud-muffin of a hero.

And the crowning glory of the cringe factors – our h completing the "ritual" while the H is in his "beast" form, meaning she was humping the stone statue with an erection described as "the size of a baseball bat"!

I am not going to go in to characters - to describe them as one-dimensional would be over generous. You can easily skip LOOOOONG, tedious sections of internal musing / emoting as well as frequent, dull, over-long and monotonous sex scenes and not miss a thing. There is also a significant amount of work for an editor (by the way as an insect, cockroach is one word; it is definitely not cock roach). So, overall, colour me totally unimpressed and, you guessed it, I will not be reading next book.

Celestine says

In the way of paranormal romance, the featured couple, candy maker Melanie and independently wealthy Vaughn, don't have much of a rocky start -- it is insta-attraction and insta-love. However, it is the insta-lust Melanie has for Vaughn's monolithic proportions that grabs your attention just a few pages into the book. Melanie is on the rooftop of a Gothic St. Paul building, getting touchingly well acquainted with the physical charms of a winged lion gargoyle.

"As Melanie watched, his stone eyelids slid down and his expression of torture morphed into one of ecstasy as the marble shuddered.....She tilted her head back and looked closer at his face, sighing over the slight smile and slumberous eyes."

That's all it takes. Vaughn is hooked. Melanie is his girl. He seeks her out on New Year's Eve at a bar. They dance, she sighs, they screw. However, Vaughn's oldest brother isn't about to let him give up his wonderful gargoyle life for a girl. Magical interventions ensue, but Vaughn and Melanie are truly in love. Honestly, these two are a pretty magical couple. They are the overwhelming center of the book, and their romance, the strenuous bedroom times and meeting their respective (and completely wonderful) families absorb most of the novella. I hardly noticed that I didn't really understand the magical world of the gargoyles or know their mythology or how the all-seeing wizard knew everything.

But eventually the lust-fog wears off, you are 60% of the way into the book, and you realize almost nothing has been revealed about Vaughn's paranormal world. Taking a bedroom break once in a while would have been helpful to push the magical story line along a little. Warneke further makes the mistake of not really building up to the intrusion of the paranormal. It's more like getting hit by a car. Bam! The romantic tension and suspenseful mythology would have been much better if Melanie (and the reader) would have understood the risks associated with Vaughn's gargoyle beast.

Though this book can be considered a stand alone, there are two books to follow. Vaughn's brothers Rhys and Armand are so well scripted in book one, that I know I will be picking up books two and three to find out how their monumental passions develop.

Shana (ReadingVixen) says

Talk about a whirlwind romance! Wow...A.C. Warneke, you have a fan for LIFE!!! I LOVE your work! I really hope you have a 2nd and 3rd book for Rhys and Armand; I REALLY do.

Melanie has always been a little "different" from her friends and family; her head stays in the clouds, and she believes in magic, when everyone else is like, "Yeah, sure, whatever." She rents an apartment in this nifty,

castle-like building, where 3 gargoyles stand sentry over the roof of the building. Melanie can't seem to stay away from the gargoyles, especially one in particular.

That gargoyle just happens to be Vaughn, who becomes as attracted to Melanie as she is to him. However, she doesn't realize Vaughn is the gargoyle she swoons over until later in the book. They meet in person at a club she frequents with her friends, and would you believe it? -- Melanie and Vaughn get busy right there in the bathroom! The attraction they both feel for each other is too difficult to resist.

(Today class, we will learn about one night stands...LOL) That was the only part that I hesitated on. I understand the attraction, but geez...they couldn't go to a hotel room, or something? LOL

Anyway, long story short, Melanie learns more about Vaughn, Rhys, and Armand, and how they actually become gargoyles by day and men by night. She also learns a few more things about them, as well as discovering there really is magic in the world, as well as other beings that are not human. Of course, some of those beings don't want her with Vaughn, and they do things to try and prevent their relationship from happening.

But, love conquers all and prevails. This was a great book! The sacrifice Vaughn gives to Melanie was so sweet; there is some drama to that, however. I really don't want to give away what happens after that, because that is what kept me up past 1 am reading it on a weekday, waaaay past my bedtime. Suffice it to say that Melanie's "sacrifice" is...um...quite interesting! :-)

The romance in this book is mouth-watering; it just makes me want a gargoyle for myself. I won't look at those stone statues the same way ever again! Please do a trilogy, and write Rhys and Armand's books! (Especially Armand; I would love to see that taciturn bloke get his comeuppance!)

Christina says

la la la loved this book! Who would have guessed gargoyles were hot and sexy...I want one!!!!

Carolyn F. says

Fantastic story!

Melanie has moved from her parents' home to a tiny apartment in a building that has wonderful architecture including gargoyles. In fact Melanie is so enamored with the gargoyles that she finds a secret passage through someone else's apartment so she can go and check them out. She's all over the lion gargoyle. The next night is New Years and she meets a great looking guy at the bar she and her friends go to. Vaughn and his brother are there try to get her to move out but when Vaughn meets Melanie, he can't stay away. Now Melanie has to figure out whether she can change everything about her life to be with Vaughn.

Loved the story! Gargoyle stories are some of my favorites. Parts had me crying, others were so sweet. It seems there's going to be an ongoing story about Melanie's and Vaughn's sister and brother. Can't wait! I would totally recommend this book.

Natalie says

Wow what an amazing book that made me smile, laugh out loud, gave me butterflies, got me hot under the collar and made me cry.

At first i was unsure of the beginning of the book as it jumped straight into an erotic scene that i felt was lacking in a connection and seemed far fetched in the circumstances. We had only just been introduced to Melanie and the foundations of the connection or the relationship seemed very weak at this point.

Though in true A.C. style the book hooks you in and you won't be disappointed! The chemistry between Vaughn and Melanie is incredibly hot, spicy and strong. And A.C's amazing writing style pulls the readers into the story as if you are the character feeling the emotions being felt.

The story see's Melanie, a young woman who has a great imagination when it comes to mythical creatures, fearies and the like, who works for her parants candy store making chocolate, move out of her parents home. She moves into an apartment (in a castle in the city, that others don't seem to see)and is drawn to the roof and the three Gargoyles that over look the city and gravitate to one in particular.

The Gargoyle brothers are guardians of the city, by day they are stone beasts and by night they are strong sexy men.

The eldest brother Armand doesn't like the fact that Melanie visits the roof and why/how the heck is a human living in the castle?

He also see's that his brother Vaughn is enjoying the attention Melanie is giving him and that a strong bond is forming between them.

Protective Armand sets out to get Melanies out of their lives and erase her memories and send her back to where she came from before things between Vaughn and her gets serious.

And to save Vaughn from the crippling heartache a human can inflict on them, (which Armand has first hand experience in)and to save Melanie from the dangers that their world represents.

So on New Years eve, Armand sets out to get Melanie out of their lives. But Melanie seems to be harder to compel than he first thought, after Rhys and Armand try their charm on her.

The fates seem to have other ideas for Melanie and Vaughn and the story takes you on this steamy adventure of these two that are destine to be together. But in order to have their 'Forever' the cost will be a sacrifice, that maybe too much of a price to pay. Can Vaughn and Melanie have a Happily ever after?

The story is very addictive and you will not want to put it down. Their is also a second book in the series 'Stone Romance' that sees the relationship of Rhys (Vaughn's brohter) and Jenna (Melanie's sister) from this book and seems just as promising!

Tracey Murphy says

I got this from the author as a R2R and Thank you AC.

I love paranormal romance as long as it's not vampires. I was intrigued by the story line, but did not feel that the world building was fleshed out enough. What is the gargoyles history, what are they the guardians of? Why could Melanie see all the things that she could and shouldn't as a human? We get some bombshells at the end. I found Melanie was a bit dull especially for a woman that loves magic and just found out there is magic all around us. I expected her to try and find out more about all of it especially when Vaughn talks about giving up his nights and Armand is so upset about it.

The romance was sweet and plenty of hot sex, but I wished there was more development of the one true love feelings. I wished Melanie would have given sanctuary and what he meant by it, to Omari for payment on the necklace especially when we learn who Omari is. More of his involvement would have added some more depth to the story.

A little more gargoyle daily life business would have been helpful. Why were the imps so dangerous to her?

I liked Siren Song better but will read the next one in this series to see what happens with Rhys and Jenna. I like when secondary characters get their own story and we get to see the previous main character still involved and interacting in the new stories.

Denna says

I received this novel free for the purpose of an honest review. Though it is a typical paranormal romance (gargoyles instead of vampires or werewolves) I enjoyed it. It was fast and fun. I read pretty much straight through from start to finish. If you are searching for depth of plot in other areas, Stone Lover probably won't be your cup of tea. The focus of this story is centered strictly around the romance between Melanie and the gargoyle Vaughn.

The beginning left me a bit lost. Melanie is in the process of moving into a new building and decides to go up to the roof. I ran into my first problem when she had to walk through an apartment separate from her own to get there. I wasn't sure how she even got inside to walk through. Description of her apartment, and the one she walked through to get to the roof, could have been better to give a clearer picture in my mind. Once on the roof she spots three gargoyles and becomes fascinated with one in particular. I found it a bit hard to suspend disbelief when Melanie decides to give a hand job to one of them. I love all types of romance, but didn't really buy this part.

Later on that night she meets the gargoyle in his human form at a club and they begin a sexual relationship almost immediately. I enjoy paranormal romance, so this part didn't bother me. The rest of the novel follows the usual pattern for this type of story—human woman falls for a gorgeous man of a different species and they have to find a way to make it work out. Most of the story is fairly predictable and I didn't hit any real surprises. There is one uncomfortable place involving a small child sitting in the lap of one of the gargoyles that I could have done without, but overall Stone Lover was an enjoyable read and I'll likely pick up the next

one in the series. I wanted to give this story four stars but there were a few too many editing issues to overlook and so I dropped it to three. Another round or two with an editor to help pick up typos and punctuation issues would have been appreciated by this reader.

R *is for Relentless* says

Mmm hot sexy gargoyles! This is the first book I've read by this author. I really enjoyed it. Admittedly I have a soft spot for gargoyles, (sat morning cartoons- Goliath anyone?e) so that might explain some of it :) There were a few mistakes missed in editing but nothing that jarred me to far out of the story. I liked the heroine and the hero. The chemistry between the two burned up the pages. I want to know more about the others too. Good solid fantasy Erotic love story. A hero that gives rock hard a whole other meaning ;) We have castles, gargoyles, magic, wizards, imps, sprites and other supernatural creatures. If you enjoy your fantasy with the heat turned up you would most likely enjoy this book . Love can conquer all- even being turned to stone- literally.

Laurie: Almost Faemous says

See this review and more on my blog [Urban Fantasy Review](#)

I received a copy of Stone Lover from the author as part of the Read to Review group on Goodreads, so thanks to the author and mods for the opportunity to review. I have to admit I was intrigued when I first saw this title and read the blurb on the back as there aren't too many PNR books about gargoyles, in fact the only gargoyle I could think of off the top of my head was Levet from the Guardians series and he was always a supporting character. Anyway back to Stone Lover, for the most part I liked this book and would like to read the second one just to see what happens.

I got some issues with this book, the first couple of chapters just didn't work for me. The story centers around Melanie who moves into a new, albeit tiny apartment where she makes her way onto the roof, through someone else's apartment (who does that?) where she spots three gargoyles. Melanie finds herself quite taken with the one that resembles a lion, Vaughn....and romance ensues. Of course Vaughn's family, the other two gargoyles don't necessarily want Vaughn to pursue the romance and try to erase Melanie's memory and get her to move out. Melanie is immune to the magic Armand tries to use against her and the romance happens anyway.

Melanie as a character came off as irritating and cheesy and honestly I read the first couple of chapters with many many eye rolls. Who gives a gargoyle a hand job...seriously, without knowing he's actually a man in his other form? That didn't work for me neither did banging Vaughn in the bathroom...the insta-love thing just isn't real enough. Yes I know it is a romance novel and all that but it was so out of character it just didn't work. The supporting characters were interesting enough, particularly Omari which is why I want to read the second book and think the series or trilogy has potential.

The plot is pretty straightforward, the usual "how can we be together and be different species" thing you find in PNR, and the story got better the further along you go. The book could have used another edit though, some spelling mistakes and such not enough to be irritating to read but enough that it was noticeable. It also

could have used more filler, like why could Melanie along with her niece see imps and gargoyles when no one else could, and what was the deal with the imps anyway why were they chasing Melanie. Overall I did enjoy the book and look forward to the second one.

Xavier Neal says

Great read if....you enjoy romance, PNR, fantasy romance, alpha males, and HEA.

Side Note: So this book was recommended by one of my friends during a group discussion in my author group. I took a chance because um...hello...GARGOYLES! I had never ever heard of a fantasy romance involving them. Since I'm writing, I wanted a book FAR opposite of I'm working on. This book was awesome. The romance and the manliness of the males were great. Truly great. While I felt the writing felt a bit unimpressive at times, it was an easy enjoyable read. There was a bit of predictability to it yet even so there were still moments of surprised I appreciated. The main female was a bit annoying at times, but overall she had a great heart and solid spirit. Together her and her mate were swoon worthy. This was book 1, with an HEA, and to say that I feel compelled to click the next book is an understatement. I enjoyed the premise, the take on the ancient creatures, and the mysteries of this fantasy world. Total recommend.

Maria Ray says

I received this ebook from the author as a Read-to-Review.

I was pretty excited about the premise of the book. Gargoyles turning human by night & protectors during the day. The story had a lot of promise and I was intrigued as this was a completely new storyline to me in the paranormal genre.

I had to rate the book with three stars due to the lack of proper editing and grammatical errors. Unfortunately it kind of ruined the experience for me a little bit. There was a lot of repetition and drawn out inner monologue/rambling that was just unnecessary - I found my interest drifting. Never a good sign.

The story has all of the proper elements for a good, intriguing paranormal romance. However I felt that the characters were a bit two dimensional. Just when you started to get into who the characters were we'd skip to another sex scene instead. I think the character development & story line could've been fleshed out a bit better. I truly wanted to love this book but it kept falling short.

This story was about Melanie - a girl who moves into a mysterious building that should be unable to be seen by humans. She discovers and falls in love with the beautiful gargoyles on the roof. The one in particular that draws her attention is the Lion (Vaughn).

I would've loved it if we would've learned anything about the following:

1. Why is Melanie different from other humans? I get that there's something special about her.....but what is it? No hints....nothing ever makes this clear (or even alludes to the fact that we'll find out more in coming books).

2. What do the gargoyles do? We are told they "protect". Protect what? Humans? The other world? We never actually see them DO anything except change from stone to human at sunset and watch as they overact in their particular traits - Armand = brooding, Rhys = laughing or Vaughn = pining. Several times in the story Melanie is attacked - not one of them actually DO anything about it.....I thought they're supposed to be badass protectors!?!?

This author has a lot of potential! I feel like this was a good start to a writing career and maybe this was a first book. I will definitely read the second book in the series before giving up. (The next book is called Stone Romance and is a continuation of Rhys & Jenna's story. Hoping we get to learn more about the Gargoyle world.)

Daisy Sloan says

I'm in love with gargoyles. Who knew? These are some really hot, sexy, wonderful gargoyles and I WANT ONE!

Vaughn and Melanie are a fantastic couple that make you believe anything can happen. Their romance and passion are a tale for the ages! Love can conquer all!

Melanie is drawn into Vaughn's supernatural world and falls in love with him. Pesky little imps decide they want to keep her to themselves so they create all kinds of problems for her. Beware...all those pesky little problems we have aren't gremlins, they're f*ing imps (to quote Armand and Vaughn!).

Melanie and Vaughn are willing to risk everything to be together. There's nothing they wouldn't do for each other, even if means giving up everything. Melanie is a strong heroine who finds her way in a strange new world. Vaughn is a wonderful hero who feels very deeply and wants to do anything for Melanie.

There were several twists and turns in this story and all of them wonderful. I found myself crying at times and hoping at others. I love the world that A.C. has created. I'm so excited there are more stories in this series. It's a wonderful world and I don't want to leave it behind!

A copy of this book was provided by the author/publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jacqueline says

Pretty good book. It made me choke up and cry. There were some problems but they weren't enough to dim my enjoyment of the story.

I liked the world building as far as it went. You caught glimpses of the paranormal world without an info dump. The paranormal creatures were interesting and their motivations pretty par for the course in a paranormal novel. The part of the story that didn't make much sense was the bit about how the gargoyle world works unfortunately. If they are stone gargoyles on a roof during the day and men at night, when do

they get to do any cool gargoyle flying/guarding stuff?

The romance was real good though although the hero does make a couple of stupid decisions. Near the end it was *really* angsty and I loved it. The actual ending was a bit too simplistic, quick and sexual in tone to fit well with all the angst which had just come before. There was plenty of sex in the story but there was way more paranormal plot and romance plot so that the sex scenes could be left out entirely and there would still have been a pretty hefty story left.

I hope there are stories about the other brothers as I would love to read them.

I want to thank the author for the gift of this book with no obligation for a review of any kind. So here's my totally honest one. :-)
