



# The Dream Sifter

*Candice Bundy*

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Librarian note: An older cover for this edition can be found [here](#).

Glimpses. Images of the past...or future? Delusions, powers, or maybe she's just going crazy? Rai Durmah can't be sure of anything.

With no recollection of her prior life, she's placed with an adoptive family who doubts her words and motives.

Her curiosity and nightmares catapult her into a world, of danger, mystery, and horror.

But when she realizes who and what she really is, the real fight begins.  
As long as she can sift through the lies...

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The Depths of Memory Trilogy is a set in a future where humans have fled Earth and struggle to colonize new worlds and prove their worth to the alien consortium known as the Hegemony. Beyond the colonist's day-to-day struggles, they face a devastating plague which requires extreme and constant vigilance. Faced with internal and external threats, how far will the colonists be willing to go to save not just their colony, but humanity itself?

The Depths of Memory Trilogy is a sci-fi/fantasy series. Book one ends with a cliffhanger which is resolved in book two (which does not have a cliffhanger).

## The Dream Sifter Details

Date : Published February 19th 2018 by Lusios Publishing (first published August 15th 2013)

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Author : Candice Bundy

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# From Reader Review The Dream Sifter for online ebook

## Dee says

What did I like? This was a very fascinating storyline that kept me going and had so many twists and turns that I almost had whiplash. The storyline was so intricate that you could visualize just what was going on. What will you like? Unbelievable characters with unique descriptions, complex twists, convoluted turns, complex history, very complicated storyline but fascinating, and a complex romance. The uniquely developed storyline that was sophisticated and yet simplistic. Beautifully written and captivating. Looking forward to reading more from this author. I received this from the author for an honest review with no other compensation.

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## Steven Montano says

4.5 out of 5 stars. Wow.

Allow me to elaborate.

Candice has crafted a well-thought out, very detailed sci-fi dystopia in "The Dream Sifter". Society has been ravaged by disease, and in many ways has fallen back to older ways. Family "Septs" operate business in the wild, aided and protected by the enigmatic Guardians.

Rai awakens to this world with amnesia, not recalling anything about her past, but terrible nightmares and unique abilities have her rightfully thinking she's more than she seems, and before long she's searching for clues to her identity while trying to fit in with her new Sept.

Candice does a wonderful job unfolding both the story and the setting in a slow and deliberate pace. Nothing is rushed, and while some readers may grow restless in the early goings I found the steady and even rhythm of the novel quite refreshing. Rai is a wonderfully well-rounded character (especially considering how little she knows about herself), and I loved how Candice allowed slow pieces of the puzzle to her identity to fall into place. Other characters (Ponar, Jesse, Bauleel, Graeber) are similarly well developed.

But what really blew me away was the obvious care and detail placed into the world of Az'unda. This place lives and breathes, and Candice wraps elements of post-apocalyptic dystopian sci-fi and high fantasy together in a world C.S. Friedman would be proud of.

And while stories of this type traditionally build up to an explosive climax, I very much enjoyed the fact that Candice shows you can have a satisfying conclusion without having to resort to fist-fights and explosions. (Though, rest assured, there's plenty of action peppered throughout the story. Watch out for those Iron Wolves.)

This is refreshing, thought-provoking and engaging sci-fi. And while Candice was nice enough to provide me with an advanced copy (because she's awesome), I can say with 100% honesty that I'm very much looking forward to the sequel in what promises to be a terrific series.

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## **Julie Powell says**

I was given a free copy of this book and thought it to be an excellent read.

A young girl has lost her memory, there is a plague, females must bear children or be thought barren and discarded. There are Septs (clans) which each have a particular job /talent to serve the world. There are temples and guardians, Anemoi and Terrors...plenty for a great story.

The characters are well developed, the plot is clever and mysterious, the world-building is excellent.

It is well-written in the tone and style, however, it does need a thorough edit and proofread, mainly due to the numerous misuse of apostrophes.

Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed this engaging, long story and would certainly consider finding out what happens next.

Highly recommended.

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## **Ramona Plant says**

The Dream Sifter is a very well written book by Candice Bundy. This book has a very interesting and unique science fiction plot. I wasn't sure initially what to think of it, but was quickly drawn into the story. The author build an entire society of a human colony on a distant planet that tried to survive while fighting a virus. The main character Rai, is quite the mystery and absolutely adorable. She is strong even though she has no idea who she is and where she comes from, knows no one really but yet has a strong character. She quickly befriends people because of the strong person she truly is and realizes she is special! There are a few other interesting characters, especially Graeber, Bauleel and Terem Zebio.

This book is a huge mystery and leaves on a cliff hanger, and I am happy that I have the next onto so I can find out what happens next!

I have received this book from the author for an honest review. (LoP, Lovers of Paranormal)

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## **Jolie says**

I am not going to bore everyone with a long intro about how I love science fiction. If you have followed my blog long enough, you all know that. What made me agree to review The Dream Sifter is that I thought the blurb was interesting. Interesting because the world wasn't newly settled. Instead, the colony had 600 years to settle on the planet. So the colony wasn't a young one. Also the glimpse into what the society was like fascinated me. I am glad that I did review The Dream Sifter because it turned out to be a fascinating book.

What I liked is that this a matriarchal society. Women ruled the world here, not men. Women were the heads of their Septs (think clans) and they made the decisions. I was excited to read that because I have read few

science fiction books where a matriarchal society was portrayed in a good light. Don't get me wrong, there was plenty wrong with this society and the women who run them. Plenty wrong.

I liked Rai but I shared in her confusion over what her past was. The author shared very little information about Rai. Only that she had a tragic miscarriage and became barren because of it. I did think that the author did a great job at slowly revealing Rai's strange abilities. Little was revealed in her nightmares also. Now that I have read the book, I can see the key elements revealed in those elements but still. They were very creepy.

The plague was very creepy. You never knew when it was going to crop up or who it was going to affect. The plague was making the women sterile. Also, if it wasn't caught, the people who had the plague turned into being called the Terrors. I thought of the Terrors like wraiths and they were bloodthirsty.

The whole sending girls when they became fertile into the Temple for "service" was creepy. These were 14, 15-year-old girls and they were expected to pop out babies for the next 3-4 years. Then their Temple service was over. If the girls had issues conceiving, the Temple used fertility drugs to help them along. But those fertility drugs came with a price. The men also had Temple service. In my mind, they were more like studs. Plus, they didn't live at the temple. They got called in. I can understand why the Matriarchs did that. With the population declining, they needed to make sure that the colony survived. Still, that didn't sit right with me.

I wasn't sure about the Guardians either. Well, mainly Graeber. The way he was following Rai around bordered was almost stalkerish. He also seemed to know a lot more about Rai than he let on. Which drove me nuts because I needed to know what his connection was to her.

Ponar was the only one who I actually liked. He made mistakes, sleeping with Rai was a huge one since having sex between Septmates was forbidden. He cared about Rai and wanted to help her find out who she was.

I can't forget Matriarch Bauleel. I didn't know what to make of her at first. She did seem to have Rai's best interest at heart. But, as the book went on, it seemed like she knew Rai. It also seemed that she and Graeber were protecting Rai from something or someone. The author did a fantastic job keeping that under wraps too. I was very surprised at who Rai was to Bauleel when it was revealed.

The end of the book was a cliffhanger. I hate cliffhangers and I was pretty upset that the book ended when it did. I kinda wanted to tear my hair out of my head because I had so many questions!!

The Dream Sifter is an engrossing science fiction/fantasy novel that had me reading it until the wee hours in the morning. The plotline was fantastic. The characters were very fleshed out. Other than the cliffhanger ending, I loved this book!!

Will I reread: Yes

Will I recommend to family and friends: Yes

Age range: Adult

Why: Sex, violence, and language

I would like to thank Candice Bundy and Lusios Publishing for allowing me to read and review *The Dream Sifter*

All opinions expressed in this review of *The Dream Sifter* are mine and mine alone

**\*\*I received a free copy of this book and volunteered to review it\*\***

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### **Susan says**

Usually I don't read SciFi type books, I'm more into fantasy and mystery/thriller books, but I read this book because the author gave me a copy in exchange for an honest review. It took serious dedication to read the first few chapters, as I stated SciFi isn't my favorite, anyway after I got a few chapters in, and understood the terms (somewhat) and the planetary differences, it became interesting to me. My biggest struggle with this book is the depth of some discussions seem a little too detailed, I guess because I don't grasp the sci-fi part very well. I was impressed by the plot and the ending though!!

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### **Augustine of Elsinore says**

Check out my blog for more: <https://inkandpapercuts.wordpress.com/>

Having missed reading feminist science-fiction from authors who have clearly done their research on the particular genre Bundy's fiction struck a chord with me. *The Dream Sifter* falls into this category since from early on the reader is overwhelmed by female and not male characters. At the same time, the institution of matriarchy evidently recalls fiction written by quintessential authors such as Atwood—Bundy's work reverberates those female authors whose work on gender and speculative fiction has been significantly praised and recognized worldwide.

Since the plot is extremely intricate and it should be appealing to any reader of science-fiction, I will spoil nothing by focusing on the plot line and its twists and thrills. Rather, I would like to emphasize the fact that Bundy's diction is exceptional—her optimal linguistic exploitation of English grammar and vocabulary have greatly contributed to the production of a well-written novel which you are bound to enjoy from the first page. The copy which I received was flawless, and given the fact that many ARCs lack correct grammar or syntax, Bundy's work is exceptional in this domain as well.

*The Dream Sifter* is exquisite in its plot development and characters, it is of original content and much of it resembles the classic sf with which I have fallen in love. Perhaps, the only drawback is the fact that the plot was being unraveled a little late. I remember reading almost one hundred pages and nothing of major significance ever happened.

The writer's formula is to place Rai in a dangerous path weaved by her superiors. To maintain balance between what is known, implied and unknown the reader needs to be patient in order to decipher what truly goes on in Rai's world. The novel is cleverly written and it consists a contemporary ode to classic dystopian and speculative fiction—a must-read for anyone enthralled by the mysteries of alternative and distant future worlds.

## VERDICT:

Well-thought and greatly planned, *The Dream Sifter* by Candice Bundy deserves to be featured among classic gems of science-fiction. The author's linguistic richness and her ingenious world created from scratch compile a novel which promises intense suspense and plot twists.

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## Charles Ray says

When she's assessed as infertile, a young woman is ejected from her clan (sept) and adopted by a merchant sept. A Guardian, whose job is to locate and eliminate anyone carrying a deadly plague which threatens the very survival of humanity, is assigned to keep watch over her because she holds a secret within her mind, and if she remembers what it is—and who she is—it can also threaten humanity's existence.

*The Dream Sifter* by Candice Bundy is an interesting story with an almost-believable universe, and the author does a good job of helping a reader suspend disbelief. Characters evoke empathy, and in some cases sympathy or antipathy. She also built a compelling mystery with lots of subtle hints and revealed it at a crucial point in the story. Unfortunately, she ended the story on a cliffhanger that is only resolved in the sequel to this book, which is unfair to readers who had invested so much of themselves in the characters and their situations.

Well crafted—except for the cliffhanger. I'll give it three and a half stars. I received a complimentary review copy of this book.

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## Lora Shouse says

I loved this book. The world is quite beautiful, if a little scary at times. I have already purchased the sequel so I can find out what happens next.

The planet Az'Unda suffers from several persistent problems. They have been beset for many years with a persistent plague for which they have been unable to find a cure. Despite strict measures designed to increase their human population, it keeps decreasing to the point where they are in danger of suffering a complete population collapse in a few generations. And they are part of an interplanetary system run by another race that does not want to accord humans the status of 'sentient beings.'

In this book, we are primarily following the experiences of one young woman who is called Rai. She has been in Temple Service, or so she is told, but has failed to bear any live children and so is being discharged and declared barren. This means she has failed her Sept, or clan, and must find a new home. The Temple has arranged for her to be adopted by another Sept for whom her barren status is not an issue.

Rai's time in the Temple has left her with a severe case of amnesia. She can't remember anything about the Sept she has supposedly let down, or about her previous life. But she does suffer from bad nightmares. When she stops taking some of the medicines the Temple has given her that are supposed to help with this problem, the nightmares become worse and more frequent. But as time passes, she discovers new abilities – sharper hearing and smell, and the ability to read other people's emotions.

Rai keeps encountering a particular Guardian – sort of like the local police, who, among other things, protect the citizens from dangerous animals, particularly those that carry the plague – which she finds to be suspicious. But what is he really doing? And why does the Matriarch of the Temple worry that she will be in trouble for letting Rai live?

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### **Marsha Phillips says**

I love how descriptive the author was in rounding out characters making them realistic. The planet and society was well thought out and you could visualize how different septs were interdependent on each other. Each having specific duties to ensure all were able to survive.  
Had a good storyline loved that women were the ones in charge!  
Didn't like the lack of a complete backstory in the beginning. At least a preface to set up how they came to the planet, maybe explain the "service". For me it was a hard read felt too much like work.

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### **Tony Nesavich says**

Dream Sifter is one of those books that hooks you immediately and is able to maintain its iron grip on my attention with the pacing and character development that make any great read a pleasure. I really liked how you can tear through a chapter in very little time because I usually read before falling asleep and found more than one evening where I would say to myself "ok, just one more chapter". ... So future bed time readers, ... you have been warned!

Rai is utterly charming and the author skillfully develops our heroine and all those who surround her in a way that is completely unassuming or pretentious. Too often authors "try too hard" and unnecessarily flex their vernacular muscle at the expense of the picture they are painting in the readers mind. While Bundy has a well developed prose and artistry with words, she wields it with confidence and swagger that allows for the scenes to effortlessly unfold in the imagination of the reader.

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### **Tony Parsons says**

The Az'Un used mediation to protect their health.  
Guardian Graeber (Raza's brother) showed Chieftess Taura Zebio the scanner that displayed which Durmah Sept Temple Matriarchs were infected.  
Terem (16, Taura's youngest son) was shot with a tranquilizer dart.  
Apprentice Mala (Temple Healer, nurse) was taking care of Rai Durmah's medical needs.

The Az'Un law now stipulated she wear a mark on the left hand that showed she was a significant member of society.  
Raven's Call Temple is a large settlement close by Barrow's Grove.  
Priestess Vartrell tends to the gardens there.  
There are 36 dozen Priestesses that take care of the Birthing Quarters.  
Chieftess Durmah later adopted & introduced Mistress Rai to his eldest sons: Stoi Durmah & Meik Durmah.  
Then Chieftess Kaitlynn "Kait Durmah (32, daughter/sister, mother)."



Priestess Parthe was in charge/overseer of the Medicinal Vaults & Formulary & the Chief Pharmacist. Apprentice Divun (Journeywoman) greeted Matriarch Bauleel for her meeting with Priestess Parthe about the anti-plague treatments (Luna berries).

Headmaster John (planetary history teacher) suggested that Rai take the etiquette & eloquence training.

Mistress Jesse Durmah (Kait's eldest daughter) worked at the Waystation (Kiya's Grace).

Chieftess Therji (Stime Sept) requested Rai & Poner look at the bog Luna berries because they were poisoned.

Liren (Therji's son), Prane (Therji's son), Master Meik, & Laan would assist her.

Matriarch Bauleel was nowhere to be found.

Elder Natre was unanimously voted in as Matriarch-elect of Raven's Call Temple, Barrow's Grove, & Resounding Cliff's.

Camille (Journeywoman), for now was her asst.

Matriarch Bauleel was found barely alive & taken to the Healer's Hall.

Chieftess Raza informed everyone Terem Zebio (Zebio Sept, Raven's Call) escaped.

Who's who & description at the beginning would have been nice.

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review, only an honest one. All thoughts & opinions are entirely my own.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written YA fantasy book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a large set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great YA fantasy movie, an animated cartoon, or better yet a mini TV series. To be continued. I ended up liking it so I will rate it at 4/5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; Making Connections; Lusios Publishing, LLC, Centennial, CO. 2nd. edition; Author; PDF book

Tony Parsons (Washburn)

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## **C. Erani Kole says**

\*voluntarily and honestly reviewed the ARC I received from the author\*

It's a 4.5 for me. I loved this book by the time I finished, and the only reason why it isn't a full five stars is because of the confusion in the beginning. If it weren't for that, this would have easily been one of my most deserved five stars. My reading experience started off a little indifferent. When it comes to new worlds, it's always a little slow starting for me. I felt like I was in a fog reading the first chapter, but a few pages into the second chapter, it suddenly clicked that this book had a really cool world! I went from struggling to find the tempo to happily going with the flow. The world is a science fiction wonder, a struggling human race fighting to survive the plague and expand their population. I liked the writing style, and it was a lengthy type that forced me to slow my mind down and actually enjoy it. I'm so used to fast paced stories that it was a near fresh breeze to find a book like this that I could find myself loving. Our MC's on a thrilling adventure, living in a world made of Septs aka families and relatives who stick together as one big unit. When hers

decides to shun her, she gets adopted into another family, and it was her story (this is a multiple POV) that I enjoyed the most. It's her POV that totally sucked me in. The others took a little longer to like but it did happen. I had to buy the second book as soon as this was over, so if you're like me and enjoy worlds and lengthy writing styles, check it out.

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## **Gigi Sedlmayer says**

A copy was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Here is my review.

But again, what can i say? The other reviewers said already a lot. So i just say: It was a good read, but different from all the books i ever have read. and i am reading a lot.

It was a bit confusing, but i got there.

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## **Fanna says**

**4.5/5**

**The Dream Sifter is an original engaging mixture of science fiction and fantasy with the characters propelling the plot.**

I loved this. I'd finished reading this a few days ago but strayed away from posting a review because if I would've attempted praising it the minute I'd turned the last page, this review would've consisted on only and only random excited words like oh my god or what just happened or wow. Yeah, you get the point.

The story revolves around Rai, a young woman with three moons on her wrist giving away her barren status, who has been banished by her previous Sept and wakes up in the Temple with no memory of her life before waking up in a creche. She is then adopted by the Durmah Sept upon request by Matriarch Bauleel, giving her a chance to start anew. But nothing goes as planned when Rai stops taking her medications that were aimed at toning down her senses. She can now smell things that don't have a scent, see clearly through a thick fog and even read minds through emotions of people around her.

Personally, I loved the beginning. It was strong, captivating and dived straight into action. There was no time and words wasted to set up a scene or the dystopian world. All those aspects were well touched upon as the story progressed. With over 600 years of colonization, this world called Az'Unda is ridden with a plague that dates back to the same number. The Guardian Sept carries an immense responsibility of protecting the population by tracking the ones infected. This point gave the story an intriguing sub plot that connects to all characters directly or indirectly. The heirarchy was yet another impressive addition to this world-building. Here, women ruled as Chieftess, Matriarchs and Priests.

This book is the first of the The Depths of Memory trilogy so commenting on the overall plot might not be the most appropriate thing to do right now. At least the plot points explored in the first installment is well woven, not leaving any place for loopholes—just those unanswered questions that I expect the next installments to have.

Moving on to the characters, I fell in love with them. Even though nothing about Rai is upfront or her

personality isn't exposed, the way she thinks, gets frustrated, tries her best to remember and how the third-person omniscient narrative explores her journey from I-don't-even-know-who-I-am to a hell-yeah-I'm-this, brought her to life for me. The best bit about the characters—Graeber, Ponar, Jesse or Bauleel—is how each of them has been given a fair motive that connects back to the main character, Rai. All have their own reasoning for the decisions they made or will make. Plus, they've attempted mistakes too that might affect them immensely later on in the series. What can make the characters more three-dimensional?

The ending disappointed me a tad bit little. No, not the revelations or the last bit that is meant to drive the story toward the second part of this series. I was disappointed by the pacing of the climax. I'd read the books for hours to reach the disclosure and when I did, everything was almost being vomited by the two characters (who I can't name in order to avoid spoilers). I wanted emotions being thrown in between or gestures that would give me some time to feel shocked. Instead, continuous dialogues with an urgent voice was all I got. I understood the circumstances that built up the climax and how this fast paced conversation can be justified, but I'm not here justify things I didn't like, I'm only here to state them.

This is a great read for those looking for a science fiction merged into fantasy with a world and characters that'll stay with your for long. I loved this and can't wait to get my hands on the newly published second installment, *Dreams Manifest*.

**Also reviewed on my blog**

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