



Burdened By Desire

J.L. Sheppard

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Jocelyn Davis is stuck between two worlds but not completely a part of either. As an Elemental, her abilities over the elements of the Earth won't evolve until she meets her fated, the man destined for her. Until then, she's easy prey and coveted by Malum Inmortalis, the rogue immortals intent on conquering the world. They abducted her once before. Still, she's determined to live her life to its fullest, and risking capture isn't slowing her down.

Alpha werewolf, Landon Waden, has lived with the knowledge his fated female, the one woman created for him, is just beyond his reach. For months, he's denied her. He's had no choice. She can't give him what the pack needs—an heir. When an attempt is made on her life, he can't help himself. His instinct demands he make sure she's safe. But then, there's one problem: he can't walk away. He won't. If only she can forgive him for his greatest mistake...

Burdened By Desire Details

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From Reader Review Burdened By Desire for online ebook

Valerie Tate Williams says

Disclosure: I was provided a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This is that review.

As mentioned above, I received this book free for review, so I didn't realize it is part of a series until I got into it. While it's not strictly necessary that the first book be read before reading this one, I'd say it's probably a good idea to get full enjoyment. The storyline is not too complex to follow without that background, but it would probably be more clear who is who and what's going in the larger story arc.

I gave this book 3 stars. Although it was published professionally through Wild Rose Press, it suffers from a fair amount of editing issues - typos, grammar, and awkward sentences. However, there are not so many of those that it ruins the reader's experience, overall.

This novel falls into the "soul mate" trope - the hero and heroine are fated for each other. In fact, the heroine, only the second in a whole new species of immortals, doesn't gain her immortal powers until she has met her fated mate. She knows this because her sister has already gone through the experience (there's that first book).

The hero, on the other hand, is a 500+ year old werewolf. Despite this extreme age gap, both characters act a bit like angsty teenagers. Lots of histrionics, melodrama and overreaction on both their parts. I really think, though, that this is mostly symptomatic of a new author finding her voice. I fully expect that a few more books down the line will find this author's writing smoother and more developed.

The Soul Mate trope is not my favorite, but if it is one of yours, you will probably like this book. The hero is appropriately studly and masculine, put through his paces by a strong-willed heroine. The author has come up with a decent conflict for them, despite their love being fated to be and all. Ultimately, they get their happily ever after and all is well. There is a larger, overarching conflict in the story world involving bad guys called the Malum, which isn't really fully explained in this book. The first book may explain more, plus it's obvious more stories are forthcoming.

As with almost any new author, there is room for growth here, but if you like Soul Mate stories, give this young author a try. You just might like it!

InD'tale Magazine says

2.5/5.0

The Immortal beings and their world are fascinating in this second installment of the Elemental Sisters series.

Read full review in the 2014 March issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Paulina Woods says

This was one of those books I had to force myself to finish. Not because it wasn't well written but because the main characters reminded me of two high school, no middle school, students who like each other.

This is the story of the second sister, Jocelyn, who is 22 and a college student. With only a few more courses until she gets her degree in teaching she is unprepared for life as an elemental. Head strong and unwilling to allow anyone to tell her what to do she is always taking unnecessary risks. When she is thrown into the immortal world she does what any teenager would do, she rebels and tries to act like nothing has changed. This means she continues going to school, clubs and tries to ditch her bodyguards at every turn. She refuses to talk to her sister about anything and the only one she lets get close is a demon named Cain. When she finally finds out who her mate is she starts to act like a b@#\$ and makes him feel like half a man. Landon is happy to have found his female after so many centuries but she isn't a wolf and he is torn between his duty to his pack and his duty to his female. After trying to stay away he gives in and comes to claim her. From trying to make the demons she calls family happy to protecting her life Landon is constantly hit with obstacles and yet he keeps trying.

The fact that these two adults had such a hard time communicating unless they were yelling and screaming had me turned off just a little. Jocelyn was constantly pushing him away and getting mad at him over small things and in turn Landon starts growling and yelling and whimpering.

I refuse to say that this book is not a good read because it still made me want to read the next. The characters were believable and I really liked how the different races are working together but I really love how they still seem to have moments of slippage. Example; a demon will stand too close to a wolf female or a vampire will make a comment about a mate and/or female. I did have fun watching the characters growing and learning and cannot wait for the third installment. I have faith that it will be a great read. I am also wondering what is happening in the fight against the Malums, since there wasn't much was focused on the main conflict.

Tory Michaels says

World building was good, but it got repetitive and there was waaaay too many instances of "he screamed", "she yelled", and other shouting-type stuff. I swear, I felt like someone was screaming or yelling at someone else every other page. Really dampened my enjoyment to have characters so incapable of controlling themselves.

Paranormal Romance Junkies says

I think I enjoyed this book even better than the first in this series! I enjoyed the fact that Landon and Jocelyn didn't jump into sex first chance they had. Based on the horror that Jocelyn went through in book one you would expect that she wouldn't be all trusting and ready for a "mating" immediately. Again, I love that the women aren't the types that cower under their male. They are strong and not afraid to show it and that isn't usually the case in books like this. Even though I loved this story, I would love to see a story about Cain! To me he is just the kind of manly character I love to read about. Always there to help and a shoulder to cry on. I would recommend this again to anyone that loves to read paranormal books with ties together like the

Eva Millien says

The second book in the Elemental Sisters series keeps the readers on the edge of their seat. The author has created a very mesmerizing world that keeps reader's guessing what's coming next, interesting plot twists and surprises that add spice and bewitching characters that keep the reader wanting to know more.

See my full review at:

<http://www.theromancereviews.com/view...>

Denise says

Burdened By Desire is one of those books I found myself in a love / hate relationship with. While it is the second in the series, it was written so that it was not hard to decipher where we were in the tale and appears to take place shortly following book one. In this installment we follow the journey of Jocelyn and Landon. Jocelyn is the long lost sister who has been recently reunited with her older sister Jenna and has relocated to New York from California to live with Jenna and her husband. She is an elemental who has to meet her mate before her powers kick in and oops - her powers are kicking in folks, but she is not so sure who her mate is or if she even wants a mate. Landon is the Alpha werewolf; there is only one, which leaves him with the responsibility of procreating within his pack to prevent their extinction. Yes, there was even a mention of new puppies for the pack. This presents him with the need for some major problem solving should he decide to step outside of his traditional role and acknowledge his mate.

In the meantime there is a power struggle going on between the good guys and the bad, which is really fun reading, but I wish there were more of this in the book. The peripheral characters are very colorful and well written and scream to play a more prominent role in the storytelling, which I think would have made this a much more enjoyable read overall.

Now there are multiple schools of thought when it comes to the beginnings of a new romance in a novel; to include a few are the ever touted insta-love / lust and the I hate you but can't take my hands off you, as well as the I will ignore you even though I want to jump all over you until destiny slaps me in the face to wake me up scenarios. Well it appears that Landon and Jocelyn get face slapped and are now going back and forth with self-recriminations and apologies and back again until you want to lock them in a room and tell them both to get over it so we can get on with the story. This got to the point where I was ready to shoot Landon and hand Jocelyn over to Malums myself and unfortunately this takes up about eighty percent of the book. This is not a bad read, it is not poorly written, and for me had all the angst been cut down by about seventy percent, it would have been really good. If you are a reader that enjoys this type of struggle between characters, this is definitely for you. However, if you want more substance than angst, you will not find it here. However, I did enjoy the world of Burdened by Desire enough that I would like to read the next installment in the series and see what happens next. I received this book from NetGalley.

Claire says

Ok, second book in the series....and it didnt let me down!

We still have Lucas and (now mated) Jenna. And they have found one of Jenna's sister, Jocelyn. She hasn't come into her powers yet, as it transpires that you need to have met your mate to have them kick in.

When Jenna and Jocelyn are attacked one night, Jocelyn uses wind to aid. Shocked, and not realising that it's because she's found her mate, she confides in Jenna, who reveals she's met him.....but who is it!?

The Demons Guardian all meet, and take Jocelyn with them. Werewolf Alpha, Landon immediately finds himself drawn to Jocelyn.....he can't help it, and when he sees Cain (a demon friend) clutching her, he's almost so enraged he starts to turn.

He decides he can't have her. As the Alpha he has to have another of his kind to produce any future Alphas. He chooses his pack over his potential mate.

Three months on, he can no longer avoid her and they meet again. Jocelyn finds herself irritated by him.....but also drawn.....

This book is largely based around the Jocelyn and Landon storyline, having to overcome long standing traditions - but that doesn't mean that the Malums (the evil of the dark world determined to destroy mankind) have eased up.....Jocelyn starts to be able to harness a bit of her power and can help...

....But she can't forgive Landon. For knowing she was his mate, and for leaving her for the first 3 months. After a life time of being deserted, Jocelyn is highly sensitive to it, and doesn't know if she can forgive him....can she trust him? Does she REALLY love him?

Can he convince the Alpha Council that to accept a human as a mate is acceptable? can he convince himself? a lot of questions, but the answers are in here! I'm just not going to tell you! looking forward to the next book already!!

Read on behalf of Book Monster Tours for an honest review

Chrissy Dyer says

WOW! What a great series! This one made me laugh so hard, gotta love the love/hate relationship!

Amber Clark says

Once I finally got around to reading this book I really liked it. I liked all the different paranormal characters in the book. Jocelyn and Landon's story is sweet and action packed! I am hoping there is a second book!

Angela Cruz says

This is a paranormal romance, that can not be read as a stand alone, the first book fills in all the details and it makes more sense. This is for adults only being there is some sexual content. I would recommend this to any paranormal lover. I love that two of the sisters have reunited and that they are working on a relationship. Jocelyn is strong willed and independent, which are two great traits. But she really aggravated me with the way she was so indecisive, one minute she wanted Landon the next she was walking away. But in the end

she did what she felt was right. Landon is your typical alpha, he is sexy and headstrong, and he wants his female to be submissive, well let me say he sure has his hands full.

This is Jocelyn's story, she is an strong willed, independent woman, who does not want to rely on anyone. She can take care of herself. She wants to continue her life as normal and she will go to lengths to do just that. Her life has been turned upside down since her sister found her, but she just simply wants things as they were. She has goals, to finish college and be a teacher, but now everything has changed, and she is not happy about it. She knows she has special gifts and more powers will be discovered when she meets her mate!? But she does not really want a mate, she has had enough heartache to last a lifetime. She will soon discover that she may not have a choice, the Malums are out to get her, this time they maybe unstoppable.

Landon is the Alpha werewolf, he is sexy, dominate and unyielding.. well usually. Landon has known since the moment he laid eyes on Jocelyn whom is an Elemental, that she was his female, his mate. But there is a problem, she is not a werewolf, and he is not sure that they together would be able to conceive future heirs for his pack. It his is duty as the Alpha to carry on the wolf's lineage. He has tried for months to forget about her, not accept his fate. But it has just about drove him mad, now that her life has been threatened he may never get the chance to right his wrong choice.

favorite passages:

"You have that love-struck-me-silly look." <3

"When we get there, don't go in huffing and puffing like the big bad wolf."

"You're haunting my dreams, and the sweetest dream is never enough."

"You've seen enough, you don't need to feel it too."

"Protect. Keep. Need. Always, his wolf barked."

"He'd follow her across the oceans; search heaven and even hell if he had to." <3

"He couldn't recall ever being as content, thrilled and excited in his entire existence."

"He smirked again and she wished she could slap it off his face."

Yolanda Bacon says

I don't normally write reviews, but this book is so illogical and so full of stereotypes and flat characters, let alone being poorly written, that I could barely bring myself to finish reading it. I see other readers giving it good and great reviews, so perhaps I'm missing something that they're enjoying. I honestly really wanted to like this book. This is my first encounter with this author, so I don't know if any of her other works are better, but this book is a stinker. I love a good romance / love story / sexy time, but it just did not deliver.

Every character is flat and has only the most obvious and guessable of motivations. Jocelyn is an illogical nitwit at best, and a stereotypically confused and weak woman desperately in need of a male's guidance and protection...all the time. She can't figure out her own emotions, screams A LOT when she's upset, and is

emotionally abusive to everyone around her. Landon, on the other hand, is fueled by aggression, rage, and chauvinism, refers to Jocelyn as his "female," and I kept expecting him to fly into an abusive psychotic break at least once per scene. Sadly, the sex scenes are about what you'd expect from your grandma's romances, so there's no relief to be found.

This book is full of hyperbole, stereotypes, and cliches. It needs a great editor, and probably a reader that just wants distraction instead of decent writing and a believable story.

Booty Dancin Graphix BOOK fri-ENDS says

ARC Was Given To Blog For an Honest Review

If you like hot alpha werewolves, demons, angels, fairies, and beautiful, stubborn, fire-filled immortals... than *Burdened By Desire* is the book for you. This is the second book of the Elemental Sisters Series which can be read as a standalone. Though I have not read book one of this series, I must tell you that I was totally hooked and captivated, that I need to know how this story began.

Burdened by Desire is the story of Jocelyn, the heroine of the book and a new breed of immortal and Landon the hot, alpha, hero werewolf. Jocelyn has been told that in order for her true powers to come to life she has to meet her mate. This is where Landon comes into play. His pack believes in the "old ways" where you do not mate outside your own kind. However, Fate and destiny have other plans for these two hot-headed, stubborn beings.

This is the first book I have read by J.L. and I must say it will not be my last. This story was filled with, action, danger, hot, steamy, sexy moments and tense ones as well. *Burdened By Desire* kept my attention throughout and I can't wait to read the next in the series. If you are a paranormal lover and want an escape, this is the book and series for you!!

Dianne says

Do you like your immortals filled with fire and brimstone, lots of attitude and posturing? Do you like destiny messing with their hearts and souls, and probably laughing about it? How about danger lurking around every corner from fierce enemies with a design on taking over the world? Welcome to ***Burdened by Desire*** by J. L. Sheppard! Three sisters, each a new breed of immortal, one has found her mate and come into her powers, and now the second, Jocelyn is on the block, still without powers, although her attitude and snark are pretty good weapons in themselves. She has been told that her powers will come to her when she finds her mate. Enter super alpha, super-hot, Landon, a werewolf whose pack believes in the "old" ways, you do NOT mate outside your own kind. Apparently fate and destiny think otherwise? With external forces threatening to wage war, does he have time to deal with the emotional fallout with Jocelyn? Can he deny his fate as much as she denies hers? Does Teenaged angst look good on adult immortals? Let the games begin!

J. L. Sheppard knows how to create smoldering steam, sensual characters and brilliantly tense moments. With a fiery heroine just coming to know her powers and an over 500 hundred-year-old alpha werewolf who is the target of most of her fury, I have to say, they are well-matched and the fireworks are always spectacular! Each scene is detailed and the flow is always running hot, either from the action, the arguing,

that battles or those intimate moments when I swear I saw smoke rising from my Kindle. If you're a little sensitive the sexual nature of demons and weres and their lack of inhibitions, you may want to keep some smelling salts handy. If reading fascinating combinations of, ahem, foul language bothers you, cover one eye, you'll still get the effect of each word and the attitude tossed around by Jocelyn, who, I believe could make a trucker blush.

I received a review copy from the author as part of the Burdened by Desire blog tour.

Series: Elemental Sisters- Book 2

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Genre: Adult Paranormal Romance

Number of Pages: 292

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Jazmin says

★★★★ 3.5 stars!

It was hard for me to rate this book because I found myself having a love-hate relationship with it. It started out really great, then around 20% I found myself having a bit of a hard time continuing. I was so afraid that I wouldn't be able to finish it because I've been loving J.L. Sheppard's paranormal romance books so I pushed myself through until it picked up again for me.

Landon is a big sexy stubborn alpha werewolf who won't take no for an answer and wants everything to go his way. Sometimes it annoyed me how controlling he was but then meeting Jocelyn made me realize how minor his actions were. Jocelyn is the queen of stubborn! Most of the time I didn't know if I wanted to do more, sock her in the face or throttle her.

When Landon first finds his fated female is an elemental and not a werewolf he has doubts about being able to mate with Jocelyn and be able to produce heirs. His race is a dying breed and because he's the alpha of his pack he doesn't want to take the risk. And because of that I fully understood the reasons why Landon tried to resist his being mated to Jocelyn. I get it. What I don't get was why Jocelyn was so bipolar towards him. I also understand why she felt abandoned when Landon took three months to tell her she was his mate, but I felt that she was being so hurtful to him as well. She gave him hopes, then she crushed him soon after. I found myself screaming on multiple occasions "make up your mind!" There was a scene where I broke down for Landon. Jocelyn hurt him so much that I couldn't forgive her after that, I just couldn't. Because of this is why I decided to give the book 3.5 stars.

What I mostly loved about this book was the action. I just wish we would have gotten more of that. I would love to see more of the elemental's powers as well as the wolves and demons shift. I love the action and romance mixture. I'm really looking forward to reading the other two sisters' books.

*Book copy kindly provided by author for honest review

