



Mercy Burns

Keri Arthur

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For readers of Keri Arthur's bestselling Riley Jenson Guardian series comes a new sexy and exciting paranormal romance—the second novel in her acclaimed Myth and Magic series.

Mercy Reynolds is a reporter in the San Francisco Bay area, but she's also more—and less—than human. Half woman, half air dragon, she's a "draman"—unable to shift shape but still able to unleash fiery energy. Now something will put her powers to the test.

Mercy's friend Rainey has enlisted her help to solve her sister's murder. Then a horrible accident claims Rainey's life, leaving Mercy only five days to find the killer: If Mercy fails, according to dragon law, Rainey's soul will be doomed to roam the earth for eternity. But how can Mercy help when she herself is a target? With nowhere else to turn, she must join forces with a sexy stranger—the mysterious man they call "Muerte," or death itself, who's as irresistible as he is treacherous. But can even Death keep Mercy alive for long enough to find her answers?

Mercy Burns Details

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Author : Keri Arthur

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From Reader Review Mercy Burns for online ebook

Gamatst says

My first Keri Arthur and I was expecting a lot because of the popularity of her Riley Jensen series. I must have started with the wrong book to be able to appreciate Keri Arthur.

I was bored silly with the amount of time I had to spend rattling around in the heroines head, listening to the same issues go around and around multiple times. To top it off I haven't encountered a TSTL heroine this bad in a long time, if ever. The qualities we are told she has, such as very good instincts about people and the ability to tell if a person is lying never come into play after being mentioned. She bounces from one disaster to another like a ping pong ball.

The hero was Ok, there was a lot of room to flesh him out more if we could have stayed out of Mercy's thought processes long enough. But for a big bad assassin he didn't come across nearly competent enough, then again if wasn't having to snatch Mercy from imminent danger so often maybe he could have accomplished things more effectively.

Overall some good scenes mixed in with the rest but it was very inconsistent.

Sara says

4 stars. Review to follow on Boundless Book Reviews

Laura says

Perhaps I read too many Keri Arthur books to really appreciate this one, but I actually kept forgetting who the character was and expected her to go into Vampire Mode (a la Riley Jenson).

Mercy is a draman, a half dragon (as if that doesn't paint some twisted image involving an oversized reptile and a case of lubricant) being that grew up in a clique with other dragons and draman. Looked down upon by the dragons and seen as pests that threaten to reveal their existence to humans, Mercy and her fellow draman are subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse from dragons; as a result many abandon their homes to start "rogue villages". Mercy's best bud, Rainey (obviously word-of-the-days in this village), realises that her sister as been killed after one such rogue village was wiped out in secret. We start the book with Rainey's unfortunate death.

Even though Mercy is supposed to be a journalist, she must be the quietest and most unfriendliest journalist around. With two friends and a brother listed as her buddies, Mercy expects to unravel the mystery behind Rainey's death before Rainey's dragon soul is cursed to walk the earth for eternity. Well, the journalists I know have at least 20 people they can pool information from - maybe Mercy should re-examine her life's calling to something more suitable.

Anyway, Mercy eventually gets kidnapped and meets Damon, a Meurte - a dragon assassin also researching into the village's systematic genocide. Damon doesn't really like dramans either.

Doesn't take a preschooler to realise that Mercy is going to lust after this assassin as his eyes appear to convey complete dialogues and her emotions do "happy dances" every fifth paragraph.

Despite the threat of a painful death and condemning her best bud's soul to damnation, eventually Mercy and Damon spend HOURS doing the horizontal tango.

Note: how is it that these women have libidos that can be awoken by sparrow farts? Heavens if they ever take a bumpy car ride home.

Gifted with the ability to suck out a dragon's fire and super-concentrate a flame to a pin-prick, Mercy has a really bad ability to get seen in public by the bad guys. Luckily Damon and his strong nose come to the rescue each and every time.

Murdering the bad guys and realising Rainey's soul, Mercy and Damon part ways after a tiff over class structure.

Just when you thought it was safe for Mercy to go back to spinsterhood, Damon reappears 1 month later to declare his undying love with a dowry of chocolate cake.

Not the best, but fun nevertheless.

Catsalive says

<http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1...>

Paranormal romantic suspense. Fast-paced, easy reading, with likeable characters & extremely bad baddies.

I did find Mercy's constant need to change Damon's point of view quite irritating. After all, she'd barely known him 5 seconds & wasn't willing to give any ground herself. Hardly the basis of a great romance - find your soul mate & instantly set out to re-shape him. The man, or dragon, is a Council-paid assassin, it's what he does, just let him get on with it & stop with the moralising.

Apart from that, I enjoyed this & the previous book in this Myth & Magic series, Destiny Kills. It doesn't look like it's going to be more than a duology, but there are plenty more Keri Arthurs to read.

Read for the 2016 Australian Women Writers Challenge.

Natasha says

I can't stress my love for Keri Arthurs work enough. I haven't read a novel by her that I didn't like. Most I loved. This was no different. I instantly knew I would enjoy this read. It starts off with a push and stays airborne the whole time.

I only wish Mercy's past was brought into the picture more. We get the jest of it, but I would have liked a bit more. Damon(a.k.a Death/Muerte) was a cool character. Besides his steamy good looks, he's a lethal, stealthy, full blooded Dragon you don't want to mess with. Even though he had an attitude towards Mercy most of the time, I knew it was just a front. I loved their banter with each other. I could read it for days.

I love the Dragon's history and how their souls are set free at sunrise. Mercy's determination and dedication to save her friend's soul was heart warming. I loved that behind all that was happening, she didn't forget about her friend.

I also loved that towards the end we get a peek from the last book, although I won't give too much away. I did enjoy that though.

Over all, I really enjoyed this read. Since this series so far were both stand alone novels, it's easy to assume that the next one will be one as well. I can't wait to hear the synopsis for the next instalment.

I highly recommend this series to all Paranormal Romance/Fantasy lovers. All of Keri's work is worth reading.

Star says

While dragons and their half-human offspring, dramans, are the main characters of this novel, Mercy Burns felt more like a romance novel. There were some great paranormal/supernatural aspects to the story and its focus is the repression of the dramans and their society. I think that while Mercy had a lot of great points, she was quick to anger without waiting for an explanation. I liked the character of Muerte very much! I felt like the ending was a bit rushed and tried to tie up loose ends, as well as make the romance work in the last two pages. I wish there had been a little more to it and that Mercy could have stepped outside herself to see others' perspectives a little more. A quick read and I think this is another good beach book.

Myth and Magic Series: Destiny Kills (1), Mercy Burns (2)

Amber I. (AwesomeSauce Book Club) says

This is the 13th book I have read from Keri Arthur and I swear every book she writes is pure awesomesauce!! I love her! She is one of my most favorite authors ever!! So yes totally check out her books if you have not!

Mercy is the sister of Trae (from book one)she is half dragon and half human, she has some of the dragons abilities but not all. Unfortunately Draman are looked down upon and she has the scars to prove it. When her friend is murdered she has only one week to find the killers and seek revenge or her friend's soul will never move on. This sets her on a deadly quest where she meets Damon AKA "Death" Now any normal girl would know when you meet a man named Death you should probably walk away, but thank goodness she doesn't. Because lets be honest there is something so sweet about breaking down the walls of the bad boy and discovering his soft side!!

Things I loved about this book

Mercy and Damon's chemistry just fills the pages
The action and suspense keep this story going

Watching the relationship grow
Seeing Damons nicer side
Seeing how Mercy isn't just acceptable to killing and deals with it pretty realistically
DRAGONS!

So yes I LOVED this book. I really need to find out if there is going to more in this series. Any paranormal romance/urban fantasy lover should check this out! I love how unique Mercy is and her world. If you are looking for something new then go grab this book!!

Kristina Deluise says

mercy reynolds is a reporter in the san francisco bay area, but she's also more and less than human. half woman and half dragon. she's a draman unable to shift shape but still able to unleash fiery energy. now something will put her powers to the test.

i first picked this up because when i saw the title mercy burns, i automatically thought of patricia briggs mercy thompson series, werewolf and others, but this was keri arthur.

this is actually part two , of the destiny, book and it's only a two part series.

it was a fast read, both main characters fight the romance for a longer time then i wanted, and the main character was so stubborn, she made me frustrated.

and she was always getting captured..... felt like an intervention, the bad guy wanting to cause her to face her greatest fear- freezers.... enclosed spaces.

and the hero, always insulting the heroine, whether he meant to or not, it was annoying.....

it's a good book, well written, pace is good, although i have a tendency to get tired when the main characters are on the run.....

Cindyg says

Wow...how does Keri do it? I love everything she puts to paper. Her stories come to life and her style sucks me in and holds on tight.

This was a wonderful story with two wonderful characters; Mercy and Damon. I loved them both. The suspense, the action and the passion were right on target for me.

Mercy's strength and courage and passion and Damon's strength, and courage and passion matched perfectly. Wonderful story with wonderful and powerful people.

You're going to really love this book; hell you're going to love the series.

Highly recommend.

Thomas Tymstone says

I wish I liked Mercy as much as I liked her brother. She was a two dimensional woman; hot or cold, angry or happy, wanting or off putting. I knew this was a romantic/fantasy book, but I wished for her to be more independent and strong in the face of a fight and her history... also she's half dragon, so....

Boundless Book Reviews says

I didn't realize this was book 2 in a series when I purchased it; yet it had no bearing on the story, it is fine as a standalone novel.

The story and mythos created was interesting but had me confused. They are dragon shifters, or half dragon/half human. Yet they use fire against each other as a weapon. That didn't make sense to me. One minute a dragon is revealing in the heat and the next it's injuring him, that just didn't jive. There were some other inconsistencies in my mind; however I am only comparing them to other dragon shifter stories so really, what does it matter? But I really enjoyed the overall story and was able to immerse myself in the audiobook, Campbell is a fantastic narrator.

The chemistry between Mercy and Damon was hot. I was a bit disappointed when I realized that this was going to be a single novel, not an Urban Fantasy with Mercy and Damon being the continuing characters. I am used to an Author writing Urban Fantasy so this was something new. Since I haven't read/listened to book one. I am not sure if there is a bigger underlying theme to this series, other than dragon shifters, but Mercy Burns was a great paranormal romance and extremely enjoyable....Sara

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Amy says

In terms of paranormal romance, Keri Arthur scores pretty high on the sexymeter. When I read her Riley Jenson Guardian series (set in Australia! I love Australia!), after reading the first in paperback, I had to buy the rest electronically, because I was waaaaay too embarrassed to be caught reading them in public. In fact, there were times I would have to look around just to make sure no one was reading over my shoulder.

The graphic sex aside, the books were fairly well written, and on one sleepless night, I accidentally bought another Keri Arthur book (oh, Nook! you are so good for instant gratification, and so bad for my pocketbook!) - the first in Keri's Myth & Magic series (called "Destiny Kills"). So, a couple of weeks ago on yet another sleepless night, I thought I'd check out the second book in the series.

I was actually hoping for a little more of the protagonists in the first book, as they were really interesting characters, but this really is a stand-alone, and although those characters are mentioned, they are barely even peripheral.

The story

Mercy is a draman. That's half human/half dragon for the uninitiated (Ms. Arthur sure does love her halfsy main characters - in Destiny kills the main character is half air dragon/half sea dragon, and Riley Jenson [who got her own 9-book series] is half werewolf/half vampire). She wakes up all disoriented after a terrible car wreck and finds out that her bestie is dead. Now, ordinarily that would be sad enough, but for dragons, unless someone is hanging with your dead body at sunrise, you just burn up & your soul is doomed to...something...maybe wander the earth endlessly? ANYWAYS - it is bad.

BUT - there is hope! If Mercy can figure out who caused the accident that killed her bff, and then kill the person(s) responsible, her friend can go to the forever lands, which I'm assuming is Dragon Heaven. Unfortunately, she only has a week to do so!

In her quest to find out, not only who killed her friend, but is also killing a bunch of other dramans, she is kidnapped and meets Mr. Muerte. (That's actually not his name, but instead his job description.) Muerte (or Damon, if you want to know his name) is a full-blooded air dragon who was also investigating the disappearance/murder of the dramans. Not because he (or the dragon council) particularly cares about these half-breeds, but more because some dragon king's son accidentally got himself killed. (I think - I'm a little hazy on a couple plot points.)

Obvs Damon & Mercy have the hots for each other (sometimes literally, as she can control the air dragon fire gift even better than full-blooded air dragons, even if she missed out on getting wings), but will his prejudices and his commitment to his job as dragon council enforcer (of death!) get in the way? Will they find out who killed her friend and free the friend's soul?

And the score!

Romance/Sexytimes: A- Not nearly as graphic as the Riley Jenson series, for which my flaming cheeks thank the author, but still plenty of tension & the sex scenes didn't make me laugh! (Always good.)

Writing: B+ I think the story is well-crafted and fairly well written. I've recently tried to read what is possibly the worst-written paranormal romance of all time, and am tempted to give everyone who writes actual literate sentences an A+ from here on out. BUT - Keri Arthur is a great author, although I did prefer the Riley Jenson series, just for the authentic Australian slang! This series is set in the US, and although a few phrases made it through the editor, it wasn't as much fun for me.

Paranormality: B I don't find the settings to be as realistic (so-to-speak) as other series. Not to say there was anything particular I could point a finger at, but the whole "it's okay if someone sees a dragon, no one will believe them" method of maintaining secrecy is a bit laughable. Especially when, if you've read the first in the series, you know that there are already a bunch of scientists capturing & studying the dragons.

Book Overall: B+ Not a bad job, really. Paranormal romances can get so out-of-control with trying to fit in all the mythology that they forget the story. This was a great story that would've been a straight-out dirty romance book if the protagonists weren't dragons. The fact that they were is what makes me feel okay reading it!

Series Overall: B+/A- I'm not sure how I feel about grading the series, since both books in the series have really been stand-alones that don't build on the previous stories.

So! I liked it! But, in all honesty, not quite as much as I liked the Riley Jenson series. Which is much, much dirtier (and, which I refer to as "werewolf p0rn").

It's Me - Yvette says

Ever read a book where you just couldn't get into the characters? Ever read a book where the main female character got on your very last nerve with her incessant wining about "dragons are better than draymen." Ever read a book where the main plotline didn't interest you really at all? Ever read a book that when the plotline was revealed, you still didn't care?

Well, I'm not sure what happened with me and this book, but I just totally didn't like it. I was totally bored the entire time. I almost quit listening to this audio version several times, but since I paid for it, I just keep listening, sadly. Urg! Well, like I've said before, "I can't like everything."

Adrian says

It took me a week just to get through the first 10 pages. I kept falling asleep after reading a paragraph or two. It was really hard to get into this book. I had the same problem with the first book of this series, *Destiny Kills*.

I think part of my problem was that I kept thinking that this book followed the same main character as the first book of the series. So I was quite confused at first. I actually thought about giving up on this book and not finishing it. However, I hate not finishing a book once I start it. I will say I'm glad I stuck with this book. I did enjoy it. I love the way Keri Arthur doesn't immediately have the main characters jump in bed together or immediately fall in love. I love the playfulness between Mercy and Damon.

Shawna Mitchell says

I actually think this book was better than the first. There was more background and the storyline seemed to mesh well together. I do wish there had been a bit more dynamics with their relationship but was pleasantly surprised that it came together more naturally.
