



Mind Games

Susan Kaye Quinn

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When everyone can read your thoughts... except the girl you love.

Raf, a regular mindreader, is in love with Kira, the only girl in school who can't read minds. Raf struggles to keep his thoughts about her private, but secrets are something that only zeros like Kira can keep. As he works up the nerve to ask Kira to the mindware Games, his friends have other games in mind for him.

***Mind Games* is Raf's origin story.**

MINDJACK: KIRA

Open Minds (Mindjack: Kira Book One)

Closed Hearts (Mindjack: Kira Book Two)

Free Souls (Mindjack: Kira Book Three)

MINDJACK: ZEPH

Locked Tight (Mindjack: Zeph Book One)

Cracked Open (Mindjack: Zeph Book Two)

Broken Wide (Mindjack: Zeph Book Three)

Mind Games Details

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From Reader Review Mind Games for online ebook

Shash says

This is a short prequel to Open Minds. It gives a peak into Raf's point of view. If you haven't read the Mindjack Trilogy, this will wet your appetite. If you have read it, you'll enjoy looking back for a moment.

Sandy says

So how do you review a prequel novella to a series you haven't read yet? Hmm... Well first let me give you a little bit of backstory. I won Open Minds in an Armchair BEA giveaway back in 2012? I think. Maybe 2013. Either way, I've had it for a while and just haven't gotten around to reading it. Browsing NetGalley one day, I zoned in on this novella by Susan Kaye Quinn thinking that it was the same book as the one I'd won. I really wasn't paying attention at all. And since I already owned this book (or so I thought), I figured scoring it for review would be like killing two birds with one stone. It would push me to read and review it sooner if it was a "review" book, but it would also improve my NetGalley ratio since this is a book I knew I was going to read one way or the other. Well when I finally started Mind Games I noticed that I was flying through the book even though Goodreads showed it was 300+ pages. That's when things started to feel fishy. I went to Goodreads and searched "mindjack" and saw two different entries. One for Mind Games and one for Open Minds. This just goes to show you how little attention I was paying. I knew they had different covers, but I figured this was just a re-release. Publishers do that all the time, right? Oh silly me. And that's the backstory for my relationship with this novella.

All of that being said, I feel like Mind Games was a good, but extremely brief introduction to this Mindjack world that Susan Kaye Quinn has created. Everyone can read everyone's mind. CREEPY. And annoying. Can you imagine someone being inside your head all the time? All day long? And not just one someone. Every someone. A witness to every thought you ever have. The good and the bad. Except well...the one person you'd actually like to know what you're thinking.

In Mind Games Raf is our narrator. He's got this huge crush on his best friend Kira. And well Kira happens to be the only one in their school who can't read minds. Not only is that extremely rare, but it singles Kira out as a target for ridicule. She's different. And we all know that everyone else fears the different. Of course, everyone is going to fear the one girl who can keep her thoughts to herself. What kind of crazy thoughts is she thinking? This takes the idea of "what does so-and-so think about me" to a whole new level. Having a huge crush on Kira like Raf does, he wants to protect her. But his "protection" comes in a way that Kira just might not appreciate.

All in all, I'm intrigued by this world and these characters. And I'm ready for more. I predict that it won't take me another two years before I dive into Open Minds (ha!). Without knowing much more, and with Mind Games only being 20 pages long, I just don't feel like I have a lot to base my rate on, so I'm going with 3.5 Stars. I liked it. I want to know more, but it'd be pretty hard to blow me away in 20 pages I think. Have you read Mind Games? What did you think? Let me know!

Somewhere Only We Know

Peter DeHaan says

Part of the Mindjack Trilogy Box Set

Montzalee Wittmann says

Mind Games by Susan Kaye Quinn is a short intro to a series by Ms Quinn (MindJack) in which these characters and themes carry forth. This is a very unique and intriguing intro to be sure. The teens at the high school all can read each others thoughts and one girl can't. They can't read her mind and they assume she can't either since they 'mind talk' about her badly. One of the guys likes her and the other teens give him trouble for it because she is a bit of a freak for being abnormal. But she says something near the end that makes you think hard about things to come in the upcoming book, can't say more. I liked the intro and it made me want to read the next book for sure. Dialogue was great, characters seem real, and looks like surprises are on their way!

Veronica of V's Reads says

OMG. I wanted to cry reading this novella! It's such a heart-breaking tale.

This novella is a prequel to OPEN MINDS, the first book in the Mindjack trilogy. I have read all three books in the trilogy, but wondered about how things got started between Kira and Raf, so when I found this novella, I pounced.

In this dystopian world, everyone can read minds--well almost everyone. Kira has yet to go through the "change" a switch that happens in puberty to open her mind to every other Reader around her. Without an open mind she is considered a threat, and not a person any other Reader should associate with--she could be a liar, after all. As such, Kira is considered a Zero, and ripe for the taunts and suspicion of her peers.

Unfortunately, her childhood friend, Raf, is a popular kid--a remarkable soccer player and Gamer. He's also terrifyingly smitten with Kira. His thoughts about her transmit to heir peers, all who believe him a *praver*--a sicko who preys on zeros as they can't defend against a Reader--today's equivalent would be a pedophile...

Raf only wants to protect Kira from the nastiness of their fellow students, but it's his attention that actually causes Kira more harm than good. Having this story told in his voice gives the reader a front-row (or should I say open minded) view of Raf's anguish for the girl he totally loves. When a malicious girl, Jessica, uses Kira as a pawn, well, it's just wrecking--to Raf, and me...

I loved it!

I received a copy of this book via NetGalley for review.

Sophia says

A quick snippet prequel about Raf's struggles because he likes a girl that is different and deemed dangerous by society because unlike the majority, she can't read minds or have her mind read. Definitely does the job of whetting my appetite for what is to come in the rest of this YA Sci-Fi series.

Sara says

This is a short story that gives more insight into Raf. I really like Raf, and think he will come into play a lot in the future books. In this we get a look at his crush on Kira that is considered taboo since she is not a mind reader and is considered a zero. It was nice reading about how he has liked her for ever. But then there is eveil manipulative Jessica. I wanted to smack her with how she blackmailed Raf. Good book to read before Open Minds, which I read first and loved.

Renée says

Ok so Raf likes Kira. That was pretty prevalent in Open Minds, pretty much rendering this prequel useless. There was nothing compelling in it that would've made me want to read Open Minds, so it's actually a good thing that I read it after the fact.

Sheila says

A zero is someone who can't read minds; in a world of mind-readers that's not something your best friend wants you to be. But all the wishing in this world won't change the fact that Kira's not gone through the change, while Raf hears all the world and all the corridors of school ring to the sound of his love for the girl who can't tell what he's thinking.

Susan Kaye Quinn's Mind Games introduces the teens of this curious world and nicely fills in how it might feel to hear, to know... to be cruel and to be wounded. Raf's voice is convincing, torn between the lure of his future and the love of his past, trying to protect without letting himself seem too far out of place. He's popular. He's successful. He doesn't quite know why students still study the fiction of a mind-blind past. And I want to know more.

I want to know who Raf will take to dance. I want to know if Kira can tell what lies behind Jennifer's smile. And I want there to be hope. By the end of this short story I'm mourning loss and eager to read more novels of the series. The story's not complete, but the setup is after this enjoyably quick intriguing read. Mind Games introduces a young adult series with a fascinating premise, great characters and justifiably confident writing; it's highly recommended.

Disclosure: I was lucky enough to get a free ecopy of this short story.

Sandy S says

3.75 stars

MIND GAMES (found in the anthology In His Eyes) is the prequel short story to indie author Susan Kaye Quinn's new Mindjack Trilogy .

Background: Sixteen-year-old Kira Moore is a zero, someone who can't read thoughts or be read by others. Zeros are outcasts who can't be trusted, leaving her no chance with Raf, a regular mindreader and the best friend she secretly loves.

In a world of mindreaders, Kira is an anomaly. She has yet to enter the change and is unable to read the minds of her fellow students. But at the same time, her mind is a blank to anyone who dares to enter. To be forever branded as a zero is not the title Kira wants. As the end of the school year approaches, Kira is hoping that summer vacation will usher in some new changes in her life.

Raf Santos is one of the most popular guys in school. With the upcoming year end Gamesdance, Raf has only one girl in mind for his date, but the others have different plans that do not include Kira. When Raf's so called friends threaten to harm Kira, Raf will make a decision that could hurt Kira and destroy their fragile relationship that appears to be unraveling day by day. Once best friends with Kira, Raf will have to face the consequences of his actions, when Kira may no longer be a part of his life.

Mind Games in the introductory short story in Quinn's Mindjack Trilogy. An interesting concept that includes the ability to read minds, hear thoughts and the isolation of those who have yet to attain status in a world governed by the reality of truths. Without the ability to be read, the zeroes cannot be trusted-for fear they hold secrets. A concept based in prejudices and stereotypes, I look forward to reading Open Minds-Book 1 in the Mindjack Trilogy.

copy supplied by the author

www.thereadingcafe.com

Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Mind Games was a great short story. It takes place a bit of time before the first book and shows the point of view of Raf. Raf is in love with Kira, but Kira is a zero. In this short story we see how the zero's are treated and how the other mindreaders think of them and about Raf for having feelings for her. I felt so bad for Kira and how the other mindreaders thought about her.

You can read this novella before the first book or later. I thought it gave a nice extra perspective and I enjoyed hearing Raf his point of view and the point of view of mindreaders. And it has been a while since I read this series, so it was nice to be back in this world for a bit.

To summarize: I really enjoyed this novella. We get to see Raf his point of view and how mindreaders think and treat Zero's, it's really appalling to see how they think of zero's and also a bit about Raf as he's having feelings for them. It really shows how the society things about zero's. It's a nice addition to the series.

Riley says

The writing is good, and the world is well-developed, with a nice touch of made-up slang that's believable and easy to understand. I also enjoyed the thought-provoking bits about how society would be different if we could all know each other's thoughts. (Theme: trust.) Bonus points for being an indie that's as good as most traditionally published YA, and better than some.

However, there were a few elements that kept pulling me out of the story. Mainly:

- The opening sounds a lot like Twilight. The difference is quickly made clear -- our hero is not a brooding mystery man with paranormal powers like Edward, but rather a "normal" teen in a world of mind-readers -- but still, the heroine is "other," a rarity, someone he can't read.
- The hero's name is Lobos (aka "wolves" in Spanish) which I have a really hard time taking seriously. And where'd he get the nickname "Raf" from anyway? (I'm guessing middle name is Rafael, but we never find out.)
- Everyone in the story seems to be both hot and "horny." Why? (To me this seems like an adult's view of the teenage world.)

Even with those factors in mind, this story makes me want to check out Book 1 of the Mindjack trilogy.

Vlad Vaslyn says

Quinn's short story Mind Games is the springboard for her full-length novel, Mindjack Origins, Book I, and I have high expectations after reading it. The story was so good that I went back to Starbucks as soon as I finished it and downloaded Mindjack Origins because I wanted more. The story was excellent and unique. In a world where nearly everyone can read minds, the "zeros" are the outcasts, and secrets are hard to keep.

~Vlad Vaslyn~

Author of Brachman's Underworld

Becca Campbell says

Great short story. The world Quinn has developed is very intriguing. I can already tell she's a great writer.

Reading this short from Raf's mind makes me want to find out more. I can't wait to read Open Minds and find out what's up with Kira, discover whether she'll become a "reader" or not, and see what happens between she and Raf.

My appetite is properly whetted. Bring on the next book!

booknerd_dork says

The story is told from Raf's POV. Finally, I was excited. It happens before Open Minds when Kira is a zero. Loved being in his head, getting to know more about him and his feelings for Kira. He is sweet wish Molloy had left him be.
