



Omens and Artifacts

Elizabeth Hunter

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In the elemental world, reputation is everything, but gaining it can get you killed.

Setting up shop as an antiquities hunter means nothing if you don't have clients. Benjamin Vecchio, nephew of a famed vampire assassin, is the subject of widespread speculation, but so far that speculation hasn't translated into work.

What Ben needs is a job. A big job. A profitable job.

A *legendary* job.

Finding the lost sword of Brennus the Celt, the mythical Raven King of the British Isles, would make Ben's reputation in the immortal world, but it could also draw dangerous attention. The Raven King's gold hoard isn't famous for being easy to find. Luckily, Ben has his own legend at his side.

Tenzin is a wind vampire who doesn't like digging, but she's more than happy to let Ben do the dirty work while she provides the muscle he needs to make other immortals pay attention. They're partners. Or so Ben thinks.

But when finding this treasure puts Tenzin's future plans at risk, will their partnership survive? Tenzin isn't used to taking orders from anyone, particularly from a young human who used to be her student. Digging into ancient Scottish history can get you dirty. It can also get you killed.

Omens and Artifacts Details

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From Reader Review Omens and Artifacts for online ebook

Amy says

You guys. I love Benzin. It's been so much fun to watch Ben grow up and the way his relationship with Tenzin has developed just makes me so happy. He's gone from a streetwise kid and ward of one of the scariest fire vamps out there to a badass in his own right. He's obviously cool, right? I mean he's besties with Tenzin!

Ben's been caught up in some shady shit, due to Tenzin. ('Shady Shit' is probably her middle name.) But now he's ready to step forward and own what he's doing. He knows his target audience and needs to make a name for himself - something that's probably easier if you're virtually immortal and have a couple of centuries to build a reputation. But, since Ben is [still] mortal, he needs to go big or go home. Obviously, going home would result in a boring book, so that's not the direction he chooses.

I really like how well Elizabeth transports her readers to the various settings. It's almost as good as having the travel budget to go there myself. I've never been to Scotland (booo!), but it's on my shortlist (top three after Romania and Sweden), but I feel like I have the lay of the land - at least a bit.

As always, the world building was fantastic. The consistency that Ms. Hunter shows throughout the various Elemental series is rather remarkable. Really, my only complaint is that she won't let me dictate who shows up where. (All my books would have Carwyn, Tenzin, Cathy, Baojia, and Caspar. Oh, and Patrick.) (And Ioan. *hard stare* And Stephen.)

The combination of humor, mystery, and intrigue equals a delightfully paced book that I was unable to put down once I started. Tenzin's relationship with Cara, the virtual assistant, made me so happy (as did her insistence on teasing Ben about putting holes in the walls of his NY loft to hang her weapons).

I cannot recommend this book more and am excited for the next Benzin adventure - which I'm assuming will continue to be filled with high jinks, gold, and witty banter (I'm a huge fan of witty banter).

Douglas Meeks says

This was another quick little story about Ben and Tenzin which was entertaining but seemed to spend a significant page count doing nothing much unless you just like to read about Ben and Tenzin arguing, talking, etc.

Obviously, we do want to see where this relationship goes and some of the banter was good but some just burned pages.

Since I assume we will get a story about them with some meat on the bone soon, there are a couple of things that it seems might pop up again in the future so what might not look like much now might become something in a later story.

The real push behind this story is that Ben and Tenzin have set themselves up as antiquities hunters but they have no clients, so the obvious solution, find something legendary that people have searched for centuries

but never found to build a reputation for their new business. Enter the legendary sword of Brennus The Celt, King of Scotland, the Raven King and the actual search for lost sword of The Vampire King was highly entertaining and had a few twists that you were not expecting that were enjoyable.

Bottom Line: A good story, likable characters as always and you keep wondering about the future of this "partnership". 4 Stars and after reading A Stone-Kissed Sea which looked like it may be closing the "Elixir" themed stories I wonder if we may see more of Ben and Tenzin in full length novels soon.

Kara-karina says

I love that couple so much, ladies and gents! Maybe the mostest *grins* after Gio and Bi.

Tenzin and Ben have this rapport, this camaraderie & banter which are very hard to find in UF. It comes from long-term relationships. Kate Daniels and Curran have it with such a fun way of communicating with each other. I can't help but feel that Benzin is destined for great things.

This time, to my delight, Ben & Tenzin travel to Scotland to retrieve a legendary sword of The Raven King. Finding it is a gamble but Ben needs a boost for his professional reputation as a treasure hunter in order to start getting paying clients.

Only nothing is simple. Another treasure hunter is following in their footsteps, and The Raven King might not actually be as dead as the legend claims.

It's short, peeps, which is my only complaint. I know it's irrational, considering the format, but I wanted to hear more about Ben's research or Tenzin's day TV binging sessions. I wanted them to have more fun interactions with local vamps and visit old friends.

Alas, this was just one delicious appetiser, and now I'm really hungry for the main course. By the way, the hints were driving me crazy, Elizabeth!

Highly recommended.

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This Literary Life says

I was given an ARC of Omens and Artifacts in an exchange for an honest review.

When it comes to Elizabeth's books, I will always be unashamedly greedy. *gimme gimme gimme!!*
And I am a HUGE fan of the Ben and Tenzin stories (I'm super excited about the coming first full length
Elemental Legacy Novel this year!! *squeee*)

I feel that with each of these novellas, I am being pushed somewhere, driven towards a path that I can not yet see. (But I know it will be brilliant!) With each story, I can see Ben growing older. He has changed so much from the spunky 10 year old riding a bike that we met so long ago. Ben is no longer a child. He is a man looking to make his own way. I respect that he doesn't want to ride on his uncle Gio's coattails, that he is working to stand on his own two feet...And he has picked the most peculiar partner in crime to do it with. We get to see and learn more of Tenzin with each book, peeling back her many layers, but still she is riddled with oddities and mystery. The future type of relationship they have is unclear, but for now it remains a perfectly flawed, humorous friendship. They have a solid foundation and the tie between them, though unlabeled, continues to grow stronger. They are strong where the other is weak. I just know that Tenzin must be drawn to/intrigued by someone who challenges her so much, where not many people in her long life have dared.

As with each adventure before, Ben and Tenzin are after an extremely hard to come by object. But Ben is more determined than ever to find it, even if Tenzin thinks it's a very bad idea. To him this is a defining moment, either he makes his mark or I think he will feel lost, afloat aimlessly drifting in life. If this isn't the job he is supposed to be doing, what is the right move for him? He is banking a lot on this treasure hunt. He won't take no for an answer no matter how many people warn him off, even if it means he could be killed. He has faced so many dangerous immortals in his life. I'm not sure if that makes him more bold, or if he is

just so sick of being pushed around as a puny human that he is starting to push back. Ben has a little bit of darkness building up in him, something BIG is coming I just know it. I am so glad that Tenzin always has his back.

Imagey says

Love, love the Elemental series. My only complaint is that the books for the Legacy series are too short. Ms. Hunter should have made them full novels instead of novellas. Can't wait for the next one.

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

Did I detest a hint of flirting, from Tenzin? Not towards Ben, and Ben being extremely jealous and possessive. FFS, Hunter please put me out of my misery with these two. Let Tenzin take Ben down! We all see it coming, and it better not lead to any fade to black sex scenes either.

Not that I have that out of my system, let's move on. Another brilliant story with these two. Ben is out in the world making his own name. He's convinced that he needs to stand on his own two feet. He is partnering up with Tenzin and living together. This job that Ben has taken could prove to be to much. Tenzin tries to warn him, but they get into it, and as usual they work together well.

While these novellas are not much in the grand scheme of things, I'd like to think of them as complete warmups to their full length novels. E.Hunter, if you are reading this then I think 6 or 8 books for them seems adequate enough for me. I enjoyed the mystery/treasure hunting in this one. As usual her places end up on my travel list some day. I love visiting places through her characters eyes. Another great read.

G.M. says

Oh, boy! If you are not an Elizabeth Hunter fan, then I don't know why you're reading this. Please go and start at the beginning and read A Hidden Fire. You WILL read them all, and I promise you will come back to read this review of Omens and Artifacts. This second teaser in the Elemental Legacy series is a gem. The first book was the beginning of an adult mortal Ben, and his interaction and relationship with Tenzin, the "Wind Walker." This second teaser leaves so much unknown, but the possibilities are epic! I think that this book is about the "beginning" for Ben. He is a brash, impatient human adult who is trying to find his way in the vampire world that he is surrounded by. He wants to make his OWN name and reputation, and not just be the nephew of Gio and Beatrice. He wants to build a resume that is all him. In order to do this, Tenzin must help. And of course she will. This second book hints at the relationship that will be, and builds toward the first full length book in the series. Will Ben 'turn?' Will he be faced with deciding to turn, or be forced to turn? Willfully or not? Ben could be extremely powerful. More powerful than previously expected. Will he grab that opportunity? Will the relationship with Tenzin stay as it is, or change into something else? O&A shows that Tenzin has made Ben a little more "vampire", and Ben has made Tenzin a little more "human." This novella does not answer any questions, but it does make the perfect ending for Ben's beginning. I love these two characters, and cannot wait to see what other shenanigans they get themselves into!

Sheryl Dawson Smith says

OMG!! So Funny! Max & Cathy are Back Too!

This has to be the FUNNIEST Novella by Elizabeth Hunter!! I laughed so much while reading this!! A few times till I cried! Max and Cathy are Back to visit us. I never realized how hilarious she could be!! If their story hasn't been told yet, I WOULD LOVE TO READ IT!!

I wish Me. Hunter had written out Ben and Tenzin's whole visit to Max and Tavish's castle instead of summarizing it!! That's my ONLY gripe about this Novella.

We see Ben and Tenzin growing closer, but still you see he's little more than a bigger teenager at age 24. There are some teasers, which are very nice to see, then you witness the teenager impatience, impulsivity and general sulkiness of the kid on the edge of manhood. And Tenzin in more of a motherly role. It makes you hope for some more seasoning on Ben before his life changes drastically and/or their relationship becomes what we all hope to read about.

If the first two left you wishing for less action and more sweetness, READ THIS ONE!!!

Elizabeth Hunter says

Hey, guess what? I wrote another Ben and Tenzin caper!

Also, I'm bringing back the word "caper." Because it's swell. *Omens & Artifacts* is coming out in just four days! That's right. January 31st. I'm doing a very short preorder. The book is available right now at

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2kBtXoI>

Smashwords: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view...>

And all the other retailers should be coming on line in the next few days.

Have you been missing Benzin? You know you have.

(And now you're thinking evil thoughts about Ben. You're welcome.)

Lani says

3.5

While I usually love Ben and Tenzin's chemistry, this one was a little lacking. What was supposed to be funny banter seemed a little contrived. I know I overthought a few parts but they just didn't seem to fit what an elemental vampire would encounter. An example would be an Earth vampire (meaning they gain power and control the soil, rock or anything to do with the earth element) getting stuck in a hole IN THE DIRT and calling for help.

I am however, looking forward to the full length book.

Vanessa Michele says

That's what friends are for

I really enjoyed the adventure of Ben and Tenzin. They work very well together. They lift each other up. And got each other back. I laugh through most of the story, because they are serious about what they expect from one another. Yet the humor of how they provoke one another is hilarious. Thank you Miss Hunter for this heartfelt drama of these two characters. Watching Ben grow up, and Tenzin grow as well have been a really enjoyable read from all your element series. I'm looking forward to the next adventure of BenTin.

Kate's Corner says

3.5 Stars

“Vampires have lots of legends, Ben. We get bored. We enjoy lying. We enjoy conning others of our kind when we can. It makes us feel superior.”

Ben and Tenzin are building their business of searching for antiquities for the immortal world. Business has been slow so Ben has decided to follow a legend. A legend all the way to England to find The Sanguine Raptor, a powerful sword from The Raven King.

Ben manages to convince Tenzin to go along with this treasure hunt. Okay he blackmails her. I hate to say this Ben but you are a vampire, you just have to take the final step and we all know what will happen only you seem to be oblivious to the fact.

Tenzin caves and goes to London to help Ben. So, the hunt for the legend begins but with complications to accompany them Someone else is after the sword.

Tenzin and Ben are a dynamic duo. I love Tiny she is vicious, ruthless and has an odd yet intriguing sense of humour and together with Ben? Hilarious. After being so old she has learnt to set her priorities.

But she couldn't decide how to organize her swords. Should she line them up in neat rows? Organize them by size? Arrange them in order of usefulness, historical era, or just make it random? Such a large blank wall.

So many choices.

Ben was very reckless in this book and was playing with fire. That he nearly lost his life. All for improving his reputation. You can tell that things between Tenzin and Ben are changing. There is more coming between them. Ms. Hunter did a fantastic job with this to position them to start with their five-book series. She creates a magical world that leads you all over the place and makes you want to read more. From New York to London and from London to Scotland.

We get to see character from previous books. Gemma and Tywyll. As well as Cathy and Max from Scotland. Now one day. I hope we get a book with Max and Cathy.

Cathy and Tenzin in a room. Oh, my so much fun.

“It’s very nice to meet you, Ben. Tenzin, you too.” “I don’t feel like we’ve actually met yet,” Tenzin said. “Though I feel that I’m well acquainted with your mate’s breasts.” Max lifted his head and looked at the hand resting under Cathy’s sweater. “Oh. Sorry about that.” “I’m not,” Cathy said. Luckily, she straightened her sweater anyway and faced them. “Oh,” Tenzin said. “You both have faces. Imagine that.” “Is she always this way?” Cathy said. “Yes.” Ben took a drink.

I’m sure I’ve mentioned this before but I will mention it again. I love Ms. Hunter, I love her writing style, the balance of banter and suspense mixed in with a story that always blows my mind. She is one of the very few who knows how to write vampire books. With this series, I am a fan of the fang!

Douglas Meeks says

This was another quick little story about Ben and Tenzin which was entertaining but seemed to spend a significant page count doing nothing much unless you just like to read about Ben and Tenzin arguing, talking, etc.

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Carmel Behan says

I'm a major Ben and Tenzin fan so this book can be nothing but great for me.. a little boost while I await their full story... wishing my days away here for a book

Karen says

While I love these characters they fell a little flat for me here. There was no real action, which I have come to associate with Ben and Tenzin as they look for a way to get their business off the ground. The new characters were less than thrilling though that can change at any time if they show up again.

Reputation is everything in the Elemental world, but gaining it can get you killed. Benjamin Vecchio is setting up shop as an antiquities hunter but he needs clients. His uncle is a famed fire vampire assassin and it has brought a lot of speculation about him, but it has not gotten him any work. What he needs is a big job that can bring him the attention and prestige he needs. He figures if he can locate the lost sword of Brennus the Celt then he can write his own ticket. He just has to get a relative of Brennus to hire him to locate it.

While it might make his reputation it could also get him killed. But what else is new in this cut throat world of ancient vampires.

Still perfect for anyone who loves this series.
