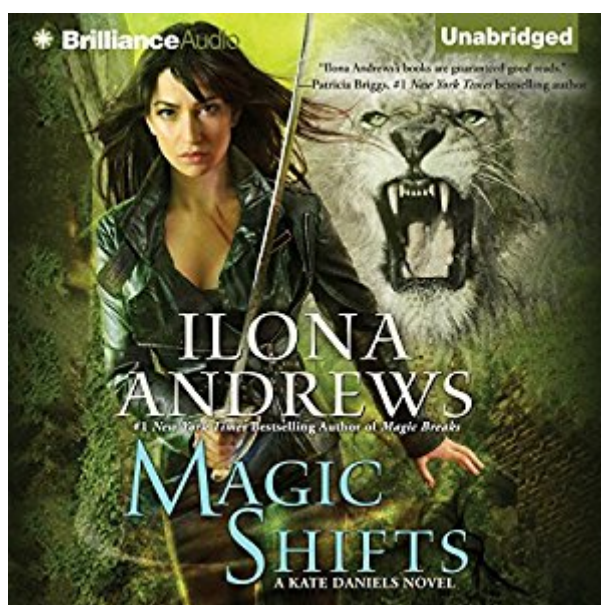


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Magic Shifts: Kate Daniels, Book 8



Synopsis

In the latest Kate Daniels novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Ilona Andrews, magic is coming and going in waves in post-Shift Atlanta - and each crest leaves danger in its wake.... After breaking from life with the Pack, mercenary Kate Daniels and her mate - former Beast Lord Curran Lennart - are adjusting to a very different pace. While they're thrilled to escape all the infighting, Curran misses the constant challenges of leading the shapeshifters. So when the Pack offers him its stake in the Mercenary Guild, Curran seizes the opportunity - too bad the Guild wants nothing to do with him and Kate. Luckily, as a veteran merc, Kate can take over any of the Guild's unfinished jobs in order to bring in money and build their reputation. But what Kate and Curran don't realize is that the odd jobs they've been working are all connected. An ancient enemy has arisen, and Kate and Curran are the only ones who can stop it - before it takes their city apart piece by piece....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Where to start, I have written a review on most if not all of the books in this series and I find myself running out of superlatives. The plots are multilayered, interesting and unpredictable. The characters (all of them not just the main couple) are fully developed, no cardboard cutouts and you actually grow to care about all of them. The thing though that makes this such a huge success is that Kate and Curran are deeply in love at all times, add in the best "graveyard" humor ever and you have a mix that can't lose. This time you have to wonder, after last book (shame on you if you have not read that epic) what could even give them any problems? It seems there are a ton of

things in this world that Ilona Andrews has crafted that can do that and one of them has come to town (no I won't tell you, it is part of the plot to find out). In addition to occasionally saving the world (or at least Atlanta), they seem to now need some kind of a job to go with their new lifestyle in suburbia and so they are getting involved with the Merc Guild which is something that makes me happy since I can see all kinds of fun things coming from that arrangement, providing everybody survives long enough to make something happen. The fact that they have some minor problems with the self-appointed neighborhood HOA (Home Owners Association) in the midst of everything else is just another level of humor here, in spite of end-of-the-world plots I laughed more at this book than many romantic comedies I have read over the last year.

One of the things I love most about this series are the countless one liners littered throughout any given book. Whenever I'm done I always find myself going back to collect my favorites so that I can include them in my review. This book is certainly no exception. In fact, I think it was better than the last book in that department. Here are my faves: "This would make sense," Curran said, "if I had no eyes to read it or no brain to understand it. Did Raphael write this?" "Your horse is a donkey, your poodle is a giant wolf breed, and your boyfriend is whatever the hell he is. You have problems." "Curran and horses didn't get along. He thought they were unpredictable and untrustworthy, and they thought he was a werelion. Quite a few of those are courtesy of Curran and it didn't really occur to me until I started going over them. There is definitely no shortage of screen time with everybody's favorite beast lord and he's one of the strongest characters of the book (not just physically of course). He's well-written, his relationship with Kate is well-written. I don't see any fan of this pair finishing this book unsatisfied with their dynamic. One aspect I did enjoy was that they got to be out for themselves this time. Normally it's all about the pack. And even in this book they don't completely cut ties. You don't go from being the alpha of alphas to nothing overnight. They are feeling the effects of this transition and some things will never change. But I did like at least getting a taste of what it's like for them to do their own thing for a little while. The action overall was good though I must admit I am becoming less interested in the monsters.

MAGIC SHIFTS is a transition book, there had to be one eventually, right? But, there's one very important difference between this installment, and the vast majority of other Urban Fantasy bridge novels, it's NOT FILLER. The story swerves from one plot thread to the next while Kate & Curran adjust to their new lifestyle with their usual sarcastic flair, and on trend, win another battle for team Atlanta. So, more of the same yet also scads of never-before-seen just about sums it up in a

nutshell. Ghouls and djinn are two supes that haven't played a significant part in this series to date, and I really enjoyed Ilona Andrews' approach to these two paranormals. The authors accentuated their basic traits while also working in some Arabic mythology. But, the world-building didn't end there; reanimative metamorphosis makes its grand entrance in all its messed up glory. Yes, it's exactly what it sounds like; things die and come back as something completely other. Kate & Curran are basically fighting matryoshka dolls full of beasties! I loved Kate in this book; well, to be fair, I ALWAYS love Kate, however this time I felt as though I connected with her on a fundamental level. She's gotten to be pretty powerful over the course of eight volumes, and as much as I enjoy reading about her washing the floor with her opponents, I also like that she still gets her butt handed to her on occasion, and in this installment she even takes a time-out. I was a bit of an emotional wreck after that one because it was a wake-up call that Daniels isn't invincible. Her family circles the wagons as a result and oh the feels!

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