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A Hidden Fire: Elemental Mysteries, Book 1



Synopsis

Semi-finalist - The Kindle Book Review, Best Indie Books of 2012 "The first book in the best-selling Elemental Mysteries series by Elizabeth Hunter, Elemental Mysteries has turned into one of the best paranormal series I've read this year. It's sharp, elegant, clever, evenly paced without dragging its feet, and at the same time emotionally intense." #0151;Nocturnal Book Reviews No secret stays hidden forever. A phone call from an old friend sets mysterious book researcher Giovanni Vecchio back on the path of a mystery that has eluded him for centuries. Little does he suspect a young librarian holds the key to an ancient secret, nor could he expect the danger Beatrice De Novo would attract. Now both will follow a twisted maze leading from the archives of a university library, through the fires of Renaissance Florence, and toward a passion that could destroy them both.

Book Information

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Fantasy > Romantic

Customer Reviews

This book was a revelation to me. For decades, writers have been warned against the perils of self-publishing; told that no one would take a self-published book seriously, that it would destroy a career before it began. There's also been a long-standing prejudice based on the belief that a book not picked up by a traditional publisher is simply not good enough to bother with. But Hunter's A Hidden Fire is a shining example of how online publishing has changed the industry. It is well edited, clearly written, and is missing absolutely nothing for having been self-published. More importantly, it's a great story. Hunter has created memorable, compelling characters and a rich, well-conceived world in A Hidden Fire. Unlike so many series popular at the moment, this book does not rely on

placing the main characters in some life-threatening situation in the first chapter to gain the reader's attention. Instead, Hunter takes time to introduce us to Gio and B, showing us what these characters are like, discovering personality traits and weaknesses. It's such a refreshing change to simply watch the characters demonstrate their more interesting qualities instead of simply being told 'she's really independent and clever' or 'he's dark and brooding.' Hunter gives the reader the rare opportunity to find these details on his/her own, creating a bond between characters and reader that has been sorely lacking in recent literature. Be forewarned, the story does not move from action scene to action scene, doesn't contain melodramatic, overwrought love scenes, or mustache twirling villains. Hunter is a strong writer who has created a series that speaks for itself and doesn't depend on stale genre stereotypes to grab the reader's attention.

****Originally reviewed at my blog, That Artsy Reader Girl. The copy I received was complimentary, in exchange for an honest review.**** I loved the idea of the main character being a librarian, and there being such a focus on extremely old literature. And Giovanni is totally an Italian name, and combining that with the mention of Renaissance Florence, I was sold! Books and Italy. What more could I ask for? A Hidden Fire had its moments, but overall I was a little disappointed. It fell short of its potential, and I feel like it could have been so much better than it was.¹ The whole beginning is pretty mysterious. Beatrice is a librarian at the Houston University in the Special Collections reading room, picking up a new shift where she ends up spending time with Dr. Giovanni Vecchio, who is translating a very old document. He's a unique person with a hidden past, and we go a while in the book before we find out who he is and why he's connected to bunch of old literature. Beatrice is more to him than a librarian. Danger surrounds her, plus he's developing feelings for her.² I liked the main characters. Beatrice is smart, shy, and bookish. She's extremely level-headed, all things considered. I love her sarcasm and quick wit. I think we'd be friends. Giovanni is a sexy bad boy. He's also very scholarly and is always reading or researching something. He's also reclusive, with a very rich past that is coming back to haunt him. I loved the banter between the two of them. The sexual tension was definitely there. I just wish they had done more with it.³ The romance is kind of silly and unbelievable. You can tell Gio and Beatrice care about each other, but it's weird. He treats her like a child he needs to protect, and she treats him like a knight in shining armor.

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