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Gifted: A Donovan Circus Novel (Donovan Circus Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Run away to the Donovan Circus for only 99 cents! Continue the adventure with *Burned*, Book 2. PLUS *Hunted*, Book 3, is out now! Even in a world of freaks, being a Firestarter is considered a dangerous Gift. Lucy was born with the ability to create and control fire. She longs to leave the human world for one filled with Earthshakers, Transporters, and Chameleons, to name a few. When she rejoins the circus, it's everything she hoped it could be - new friends, a potential love interest or two, and a place where she can be herself. When troupe members begin turning up dead, however, Lucy is suspected of foul play. She must not only prove her innocence but also realize the full extent of her power. To find the real murderer, she must uncover the truth behind her father's fiery legacy while figuring out whom to trust within her new circle. Little does she know the history of the Donovan Circus and its enemies might actually destroy the entire gifted world. Scroll up and grab a copy today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I grabbed a paperback copy of *Gifted* on after watching copies fly off a table at a book signing

conference. There was this innate need inside me to find out what secrets were hidden on the pages. Full disclosure: I'm a total geek over X-Men. Total. Geek. I used to play the video game at the arcade (Storm was my favorite character to play as), I own all the movies, and I love supernatural ability stories--I'm also a huge Heroes fan. Why did I bother telling you all that? Because if you love those kinds of things, you're going to adore this book. Now, let's move on to the review so I can regale you with all the awesome.

From a Reader's Perspective: I both loved and hated the main character, Lucy. She was spunky, smart, a bit weak at first, and someone I'd love to hang out with in real life. A couple of her tendencies irritated me at the beginning of the book, but once I realized where her actions were stemming from, they were a little more acceptable. Best of all, despite her being gifted, I could identify with her on a human level. Huge points to the author for that. Pacing was awesome, and I was able to finish this read in two sittings. Yeah, I was left wanting more, but not because there was a cliffhanger. It all stemmed from the awesome on the pages. Totally geeked out. Long's descriptions are rich and vivid, but they don't go on and on about each detail. She allows you to paint the scene in your mind by giving you nuggets to build on. My favorite kind of writing is when I don't have to skip pages to avoid getting bogged down. Needless to say, world-building was amazing. But let's talk about the plot! Up until the villain revealed themselves, I had no clue who it was. What fun I had trying to figure it out, though. My favorite character was certainly Lucy, but I also loved Brooklyn (she's so passive-aggressive awesome), Delia, and Bianca. I won't ruin the awesome by sharing what they can all do, but it's super cool. Their dialogue felt so natural, too. Oh, and the action! Yes, there's plenty of that. You get to see all the abilities at work constantly. I loved it.

From an Editor's Perspective: There were no plot holes, and the flow and pacing were amazing, but the commas were kind of everywhere they shouldn't be and not where they should. So, I'll give half a star for editing.

Rating: 1 Star for creating a complex main character with layers I had to peel back
1 Star for description and world-building
1 Star for keeping the answer to the mystery elusive
1 Star for all the action.
5 Star for editing
.5 Star for fairy-like commas that flitted hither and yon

Overall, 4.5 out of 5 stars. Everyone who's ever read one of my reviews knows I round up, not down, so this book gets a five click. Recommended for those who love books about paranormal abilities.

I find that I really love circus stories, and Long's the third author to give me that guilty pleasure. I liked the plot and the way nothing was too predictable. A few curve balls, a bit of right assumptions, but nothing too obvious. I liked the characters and their closeness, though they came off a lot younger than the early twenties they were. Cigarettes and alcohol hinted at how old they all were

before it was confirmed in the lines, and although I would have liked to see a bit of maturity in their characters, it was still nice to see them so young. Not young in terms of naivete, but young in the sense that they weren't too jaded or serious. Lucy was an interesting character but not one I could get into at first. I liked her feisty attitude but her constant hold on her emotions made things more than frustrating at more than one point. It's not a problem so much as an irate thing as a reader because I have to watch her suffer with a problem before she finally gets a release. I guess that means the author actually did a good job at putting me through what she did. The bad guys were just horrible (in a good way) and I really wish she'd burned them longer. Grr. The writing was pretty good, though the dialogue was a bit long at times, especially when something crazy happened. I'd find myself skimming to keep the quick flow of the story. Slowing down to take in all the talking would sometimes slow down the climax for me, so it's more of a personal thing on my part. I'd recommend this book because it's exciting and I love the way the circus life was made in this. It's a new type of urban fantasy, it kept me entertained, and though I hate love-triangles, I didn't mind it too much because she wasn't really committed to either one.

What a great concept a circus where all of the people involved were "Gifted" with some type of special ability. I love this stuff so I was excited to read it. While I like that there was action and plenty of mayhem and stuff going on, I didn't really connect with it. Good read though so I am sure the series gets better with each book as she learns more about her father and exactly what he was supposed to be saving her from.

This was a fun read. Lucy is a fire starter and has returned to the circus after her parents pass away. We follow Lucy and get the behind the scenes look of circus life. Well, if circus performers were gifted that is. Who's to say they aren't? After all the circus is a magical place. This book was well written and had just the right amount of action and intrigue. Definitely a page turner. I kept my eyes peeled for the villain and found myself going back and forth about who the real villain was. There was a little romance. A love triangle, but that wasn't the focus of the story and the triangle didn't play out so there may be another book in the making. There was one thing that bothered me with this book. There were many references to gifted vs. human. Which led me to question.....aren't the gifted human....just with more? Are they another species entirely? The subject was actually never touched. Overall it was a very enjoyable read.

First thoughts after...Wow, I'm diving right into Burned tonight! How distracted did I get? From page

one I was wrapped up in Lucy's world at the Donovan Circus. Lucy gets thrown back in a world her parents wanted her to escape. With new friends and potential enemies the book flies by. Gabriel, he has me so confused! I love him one minute then I want to ring his neck the next. He's definitely the most intriguing character next to Lucy. Keegan her second love interest you don't get to know as well, but I was torn between the two hottie mctotties. Her band of friends each with their own gift are supportive and fascinating and I can't wait to get to know them better. Gifted is a story packed with fun, action and intrigue. This is a definite must read if you enjoy the paranormal genre.

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