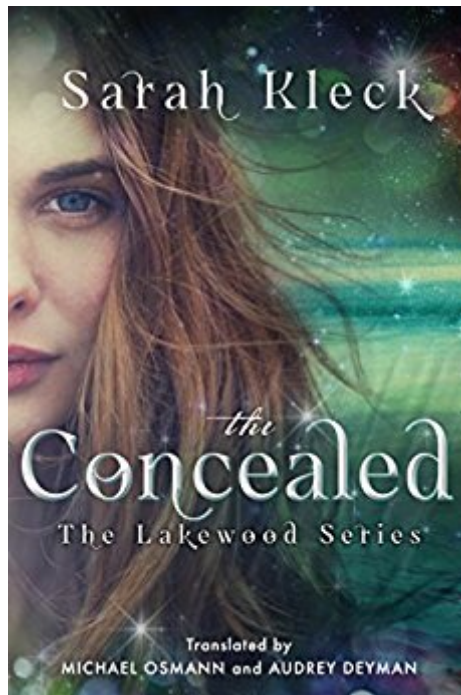




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The Concealed (The Lakewood Series Book 1)



Synopsis

After her parents died in a car accident when she was just a child, Evelyn Lakewood was left alone in the world. Now grown up, she enrolls at Oxford University, where she begins to create a new, stable life. But when she encounters Jared Calmbury, who she later discovers is an orphan with his own tragic history, the equilibrium she was striving for is thrown off. Instantly drawn to this mysterious stranger with the incredible blue eyes, and confounded by the unusual events that occur whenever they meet, Evelyn resolves to investigate further. What she finds will startle her beyond measure: an ancient legacy of magic, a centuries-old secret society, and a foreboding legend with her and Jared at its center. As she follows a cryptic trail, Evelyn will discover clues to her own painful past, answers she hadn't even been looking for, and a passionate love she cannot resist despite the dangers it brings.

Book Information

File Size: 2022 KB

Print Length: 338 pages

Publisher: Crossing (November 1, 2015)

Publication Date: November 1, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00VWVB0AU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,226 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Arthurian #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Arthurian #15 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

Customer Reviews

Horrible, clunky writing with stilted dialogue. I'm not sure if it's due to the book being a translation, but surely two translators could craft something better? Usually I love young adult fantasy books,

especially with romance, but this one had me rolling my eyes and hating my reading experience. The premise is somewhat interesting, but the characters are two-dimensional and lots of things happen with no resolution (she really should have called the police on Felix, wtf). Evelyn cries all the time, Jared has blue eyes (like, omg), and all their families died. All these details are gone into ad nauseum with a lack of focus on good storytelling. I selected this book as my choice for Kindle First this month and do not plan on reading any subsequent books in this series.

I just finished this book & immediately came to write my review. While this book wasn't perfect (few books ever are), it was a great story & a new twist on an old legend that I completely enjoyed. Let's get the critiques out of the way first. When I began reading this book, I was under the impression that this story was not set in modern times. Then it became clear that it was supposed to be modern times & I was a bit put off by the seeming inconsistency. It wasn't so bad that it was difficult to read nor do I feel it detracted from the story (the worst of it is in the beginning). It was after reading & seeing the cover of the second book that I came back and saw that these stories are being translated into English from another language. That explains the phrases in the story & dialogue that seem out of place to us here in the States. For me, the story line was interesting enough & the oddities were mild enough that I was still happy to read on. What I really enjoyed was the way the reinvented an old legend & made it something new & interesting. I can't give any details without spoiling the book. I like that many of the questions that arose while reading the story were answered in this book. This way, I feel this part of the story & mystery is closed and the next book will move on to the new dilemma facing our beloved characters. Speaking of the next book, this book does end off on a cliffhanger. This is not a new device used in novels. This writing tool is something even television shows & the rare movie will employ. So why do so many people have an issue with it in novels? I know that I am eagerly awaiting the Nov 22 release date so that I can devour the next stage in this series. I can't wait to see how the characters resolve the dilemma they're facing at the end of this book.

So... I won the second book to this in a Goodreads Giveaway, read the summary... Something about fairies, love, coincidences... Possibly cheesy, but definitely the kind of book that I enjoy reading. Figuring I'd like it, I went ahead and bought this one... But I was not able to read all of it, and therefore have no intention of touching the second one (I'm doing this review to stand in for the one the second one won't be getting from me). Why couldn't I finish it? Well... Yes, the story is still one that I'd like to read, and I do want to know what happened, but the way it's written (translated) is

just ridiculous. It doesn't seem like it was translated by someone who speaks English as a first language. At times, sentences are choppy... They're constantly awkward, and there's pretty much no enjoyable bits at all. It's just the essential stuff, so I felt like I was reading a screenplay, or a short story... But in book form. Just doesn't work for me, no matter how much I'd like to know the ending.

No spoilers: I liked it up until the end. While I was reading I was glad it was a series and looking forward to reading future books in the series, but the end just got too weird for me. And annoying. The connection between the main characters is an appealing storyline and I enjoyed the friendships and the storyline having to do with old magic origins, which was really interesting. The writing, ok the writing was annoying. It was a little juvenile at times and a little lackluster at times. The part that still gets me to this day was when the author was describing a scarf draped over a light and described it as giving the room a "really great ambiance". I mean you couldn't think of an adjective other than great?! Annoyances with the writing style forgiven, it was a compelling storyline, up until the end. Which leads me to... spoilers...SPOILER ALERT (because I have to vent): Why the heck would she really run out like that at the end. Stupid. She's in the middle of nowhere, even she doesn't know and she's just going to run away? Not likely. Then the whole thing with the evil witch? C'mon. The ending just seemed very separated from the beginning. I was enjoying the love story and the secret society was an appealing storyline, but for her to just get her life sucked out of her like that and for him to just run after her and make everyone fight/die for him over her... ugh it was just too much. Plus, she should have filed two different police reports, one for her stolen necklace (especially since it meant so much to her) and definitely another for Felix. WTH.

This is the first book I have ever hated. I am surprised that I even finished it, but there was some desire to find out how it ended. The first thing I noticed was character, Evelyn, who spoke in first person throughout the whole book, was not speaking in an English accent, although it took place in Oxford. The next problem was the author seemed to need the book to be longer, and therefore filled it with useless dribble, unimportant to the story. Did we really need to know what all the professors names were, how they looked like, and how boring they were, every day, for every class? The one reason I read the whole thing was to find out how it ended - it didn't. I will not buy the next book. I cannot read another whole book, just to find out how the hero survives. Was there something somewhere that indicated this book was for teenagers? So juvenile in the writing style. Maybe if you are a 15 year old girl ...

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