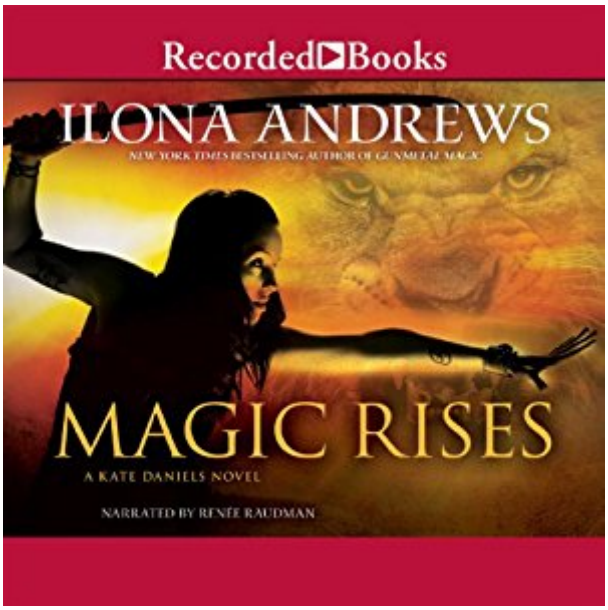
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Magic Rises



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Synopsis

Mercenary Kate Daniels and her mate, Curran, the Beast Lord, are struggling to solve a heartbreaking crisis. Unable to control their beasts, many of the Pack’s shape-shifting children fail to survive to adulthood. While there is a medicine that can help, the secret to its making is closely guarded by the European packs, and there’s little available in Atlanta. Kate can’t bear to watch innocents suffer, but the solution she and Curran have found threatens to be even more painful. The European shape-shifters who once outmaneuvered the Beast Lord have asked him to arbitrate a dispute - and they’ll pay him in medicine. With the young people’s survival and the Pack’s future at stake, Kate and Curran know they must accept the offer - but they have little doubt that they’re heading straight into a trap....

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
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Customer Reviews

First, the good: The authors moved outside their comfort zone. They decided to pick their characters up and go somewhere outside the familiar setting. That sort of risk-taking is what the story needs. This book made me laugh. The conversations were fairly well done, even if some of them are getting repetitive. Risks were taken, and the plot moved forward, rather than the plot remaining in limbo (always a risk with these long-running series).So why three stars? This book lacked the organic flow of the others. You could tell that there was a list of plot points that were going to be checked off in the course of the narrative, and you ended up nodding as they got checked. The characters became plot devices to get those boxes checked, and behaved inconsistently simply in

order to get them checked. The foreign Weres felt neither threatening nor important - they ended up coming across as whiny and impotent - something that had previously been avoided (even when an entire keep full of weres got outwitted in the previous books they never felt weak and harmless). They ended up getting sidelined in their own novel.As a result, this book lacked the dramatic tension of the other books. Even when a character dies, it's easy to see how their death will force other major characters to step up to the plate because they had been relying on that character. In contrast, when the Rakshasas dumped liquid silver all over Derek you didn't feel it was for plot development - you felt they were evil bastards, and you were cheering when they died.This book was very paint by numbers. I hope that the authors have checked all the plot boxes they want to check (this book did more to move the metaplot forward than the first three books combined) and we can go back to reading the fun Kate Daniels books that we've all come to know and love.P.S. The Curran subplot in this one was extremely subpar. I know that the authors were trying to remove some of the "Curran is perfect" mystique from the previous books (and a relationship story doesn't work if one character is nigh-perfect, so this is good), but what actually ended up happening is that he came off as a complete idiot/plot device. 10/10 for concept, but I'll give it a 2 for execution.

I abhor avoidable drama, which is so prevalent in Urban Fantasies, so I was a little iffy on the relationship hurdle Kate and Curran had to face in this novel, but I understand the reasoning behind it and, thankfully, didn't make me roll me eyes and/or snort in disgust.Kate has little to no relationship experience. She's been with Curran for a year+, but he's her first love, first serious relationship. She's tough and strong, but has a definite weakness when it comes to romantic pursuits. She could be insecure, despite the fact that she and Curran have proved themselves over and over in the time that they've been together. In five years, I can see Kate shrugging off an incident like this or the ones that Hugh has enumerated--taunted--her with, but the way she reacted here and now on this book was very believable. Julie has more experience when it comes to matters of the heart, lbr.And as much as I wanted to wring Curran's neck, I understood his reasoning, too. He's been learning to share the reins with Kate and they know how to work as a team better each day, but more than a decade of being the Beast Lord and making snap decisions on his own for the good of others is a hard conditioning to shake. He did the best he could under the circumstances and although it annoys me to no end each time I reread, I've forgiven him.The ending is a bit deus ex machina, but it didn't come from nowhere. The foreshadowing was there. I'm itching to find out more about Christopher, though.I also wonder if Mahon got Hibla. If not, I hope Kate, Raphael, or Andrea end her in the most painful way possible.Another top contender on my wish list

is a short novel about what adventures Jim, Dali, Julie, Ascanio and those who were left in Atlanta got up to while Kate and Company sailed to Europe. Losing one of my fave characters was sad, but there are at least twenty others who are interesting enough who deserve their own spinoffs. I know the series has a set number of books and we're nearing the end, but I want this 'verse to continue for a long long time.

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