



The Guardians

Lisa Barry

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Sloane Jacobs has been on the edge of crazy for a long time now. That happens when you can read everyone's aura, not what they show on the outside but what they're really like. Knowing that sharing her curse would get her a one-way ticket to the loony bin, Sloane lives alone and trusts no one.

That changes when she meets Liam McDougall, a Gray One; the only kind that she can't read. She doesn't know what he is exactly but members of his team are disappearing and they need her skills to help them.

Sloane jumps headlong into their hidden world. With their help, her skills develop and she discovers that sentient animals, the fae, gargoyles and other creatures of imagination might not be the entertaining bedtime stories she thought. And the bedtime story she wants is always dancing a step ahead.

The Guardians Details

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Author : Lisa Barry

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From Reader Review The Guardians for online ebook

Amy says

I really enjoyed this book. Gargoyles that are part human how awesome is that! Sloane is a human that thinks she is crazy, she can see auras of people. With the help of Liam a Guardian/human/gargoyle she is realizing there is a whole different world that what she knows and she just might not be crazy at all. I found the plot intriguing and it kept me flipping my Kindle pages. I really hope there is another book in the series as it did end with a cliff hanger.

Belter says

Exciting

Loved the premise also the drugs warnings monsters are not always the ones who look scary hope their is more to come

Nicole DragonBeck says

I really liked this story! It really pulled you along, with fantastic twists and turns - I can't wait to find out what happens to Sloane and Liam!

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Sloane Jacobs has always been able to see everyone's auras and speak with animals. She thinks of herself as freak and has constantly wondered how she managed to sane all of these years. She has always felt calm around "Gray Ones" and safe too. Sloane doesn't like her stepfather Reagan Johnson because something about him is just plain off. Liam McDougall has been a Guardian for many years now taking dangerous assignments along the way. Liam is called to Tampa Bay because three Guardians have gone missing without a trace. Verity, a nurse, knows something is wrong with the patients in Doctor Johnson's facility and wants to help but doesn't know how. Will Sloane learn how she's different? Can Liam find the missing Guardians? Will Verity find the means to help? Your answers await you in The Guardians~Gargoyle's Den Book One.

I really loved the concept of this book. The author new to me executed it beautifully. The characters are real, honest, compelling, and down to earth. The story is fascinating, interesting, different, and honest. I look forward to more from this author in the future.

Cynthia says

I received an e-ARC of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted on Let's Say It's A Blog

Wow!

This book was definitely **beyond** my expectation! I read the blurb feeling intrigued by the character's ability to see color and read mood of everyone. What I didn't expect was this book would contain such **complex story** with a lot of strange creatures involved. *The Guardians* filled with so many mysteries and secrets that were slowly unraveled along the way. I enjoyed discovering each of these revelations so much! I loved the feeling of had to 'think' while reading and pulled on the red threads among certain scenes to get the answer of questions I had in my mind.

Contrary to people's wish to be able to read everyone's true intentions, Sloane Jacobs thought it was the most stupid wish she'd ever heard of. Not because she thought those people were being ridiculous for wishing that. It was more because she knew exactly what it felt like. Sloane read aura like some ads on billboard: clear and real. Not aura like what witch did, but she could actually see hue of color surrounding them that reflected all their true intentions and just what mood they were on. It was not at all cool or awesome. If any, it totally drove her crazy for years. She felt like she knew too much, especially when one's intention was a bad one. Sloane wished she was born just normal but she wasn't and the only way she knew to deal with it was to be a loner and introvert all her life.

Liam McDougall was a Guardian. No, not the one who stood protecting a palace. The Guardian protected particular family line and worked together with another special creature including Aspies. When Sloane met Liam, she felt something on him pulling her close. One of them was him being one of the Grays. The type she couldn't read the color meaning and the mood but strangely gave her the feeling of comfort and being safe. The better part was he was able to put something on the blank space Sloane couldn't fill in ever since she was a kid. She was not crazy. She was someone. Someone special who's apparently was not the only one in the world. Sloane was an Aspie.

After the revelation, everything moved so fast. Sloane soon found herself to be the one who could help Liam and the guardianship to find the suddenly-missing guardians. Along the way, she discovered a lot of surprising facts including revelations from her childhood life, secrets from her present life, that world of fantasy did exist around her, and also that Sloane might not have to be without company all her life after all.

I had to say that I was a bit disappointed when I found the story was told in third person's perspective. Well, I was not really a fan of this kind of POV. But the more I read the more I realized the reason Ms. Barry wrote it this way. The story had a wide scope and contained different setting which hold the same level of importance. Third person POV made it possible to cover it all without losing the connection between each chapter.

I'd love to say that this book had a rich plot. It was also built very well structurally. It followed particular progression and had a smooth transition between from one scene to the next ones. *The Guardians* also presented a lot of twists which made its readers wanted to rush to turn the pages to find out what'd happen next. Also this book contained so many mysteries on it. Some was answered along the way or near the end. But some was left unanswered making me a bit of frustrated (*ranging from about what actually started Doctor J's obsessive intention to make people 'normal', continuation of the missing Guardians, what 'rogue' exactly meant, to Sloane's childhood experience...I could make a longer list but it would just make me more frustrated in the end*). Hell, I wish I could find the missing puzzles on the sequel.

I loved every protagonist character on the book. The Guardians were described very capable. Liam might be a bit like 'player' but I loved it whenever he was near Sloane. He might just deny his own feeling as much as he liked but he couldn't lie to his instinctive move to always protect Sloane. I liked Sloane. She was one confused girl with an insecure feeling covering her soul but she was also strong and dealt her issue very well

in her own way. I really really wish to see them having a really good end. The cliffhanger seriously got me pulling on my hair in frustration...

I almost had no complaints regarding the story except that I wish all my left-hanging questions would be answered on the next book. I loved the message that Ms. Barry slipped about the negative side of psychiatry on the story. I read a lot of book that involved psychiatric scene, how the main character despised the pill usually given to them when they came to the shrink in hope to get someone to talk to instead. But this might be the first time I read a book that actually pay more attention at the negative act of easily giving away drug instead of actually doing personal approach to fix the client's issue. The message in the end of the book made me see this issue in a whole different angle.

My only problem of the book laid on the editing part, though. I found so many sentences lacked of punctuation marks making it sometimes difficult to absorb the information in one reading. I had to reread the said sentences to finally get it. It might be a small issue but it was seriously annoying when happened repeatedly.

I'll settle with 4 stars for now. Hopefully the next book would be free of punctuation error and also we could see the HEA soon!

Patti P says

I read this quickly. I have been looking for something new and now I find out it's the only one so far. Feeling very abandoned right now. I wanna know what happens next!!!!

Alison says

An interesting young-adult novel about a young woman who finds out that she's not crazy when she sees peoples' auras, but that she has rare powers. These powers are useful to a group called Guardians who help protect the world from human and non-human threats. This book has a thread of romance, but is easily appropriate for teenagers and up.

I received this book from a Goodreads Giveaway (thanks!).

Floryie says

I received a free copy from the author for an unbiased review

This one was a fast read on so many levels. I only wish that the book cover was better than this one. It's too bland to fit the story. I have read very few books about Gargoyles and this prompted me to take a look at this story. And I am kind of glad for it. Though it has recognisable elements, the outcome is a bit different, in a good way.

Seeing people based on their auras and knowing their intentions keeps the female protagonist, Sloane paranoid and hesitant to trust people. Sloane is one character who went through a variety of changes in the story, from the timid mouse to developing a backbone. The male protagonist, Liam is so stoic and is the perfect guy for Sloane with his unshakeable dependability. He seems to be on shaky ground only when in the

company of Sloane. That was predictable! Each and every supporting character added a variant to the tale with their roles. I believe Nia especially has a tale to tell. I hope the author clears up that mystery in the next book. My favourite was Andy with his resolve to escape and his thirst to know more about himself.

The narration of the story was easy to follow and the descriptions were easy to imagine so as to get a picture of each scene as it played out. The pace was steady throughout the book with spikes in certain scenes with more violence and action. I loved the fact that the author didn't show only Sloane's side of things but also included Liam's and Andy's too. That made the book varied and kept me interested in their lives. And also the paranormal creatures encountered in the tale like Gargoyles and especially Aspies (that's a new one to me!) engrossed me with their traits and personalities. The world building was done in a gradual way and left me with a much clearer view at the climax.

The starting of the book was a bit slow in my opinion but it picked up as soon as Sloane fell in with Liam's group. The ending surprised and confused me. It surprised me with Liam's decision which I didn't see coming while it confused me because of the same decision. I still don't understand why he felt he had to do that. But that adds a tinge of mystery which will follow into the sequel. I am so looking forward to reading the next book now!

Overall, I can recommend this book to paranormal book lovers who like a good story, steady pace and reading more about lesser known paranormal elements.

My one line review : A fast read of Gargoyles and Aspies for the adventurous paranormal readers!

My rating : 3.5/5

My reread factor : 4/5

Floryie @ <http://thebookdrealms.blogspot.com>

Mike Billington says

When Sloane Jacobs looks at people she not only sees eyes, noses, mouths and bodies; she sees their "colors" as well.

Some are bright, happy colors. Others are ugly.

That's disquieting enough but Sloane has learned that the colors she sees also allow her to know more about the people she looks at than she really wants to know.

This unwanted ability frightens her to the point that she wonders if she is slowly going insane.

She isn't, as it turns out.

She is, instead, very special; a fact she learns when she encounters the Guardians.

In the pages of her novel "The Guardians" author Lisa Barry has built an amazing fantasy world full of strange, often beautiful, creatures that can easily pass for humans but are not. These creatures are sworn to protect humanity from monsters that are both human and inhuman and under normal circumstances they live among people who might notice they are a little more handsome, a little stronger and a little faster than the average person but not so much so that they become the objects of suspicion. It is only when danger threatens that they change into their alternate forms. Some, like Liam, turn into something akin to a 21st Century version of Medieval gargoyles while others, like Sloane's friend Nia, change into other mythical creatures.

All of them are fascinating.

As the story unfolds Sloane, who has been fearful of her abilities her whole life, learns that her special powers can help the Guardians because some of them have been disappearing without a trace. Her very rare talent for being able to "read" people's emotions might just be exactly what they need to find their missing companions.

That's as much of the plot as I'm going to reveal but trust me when I say Barry's narrative contains some very nice twists and turns and some really good action sequences that will keep you turning pages long after your body tells you it's time to put this book down and get some sleep. (It kept me up until 6 o'clock one morning because I HAD know what happened next.)

"The Guardians" is a nice blend of adventure, mystery and romance with a dash of betrayal thrown in for good measure. Barry's characters are well drawn and intriguing - even the villains. Her writing is crisp but very descriptive and the dialogue rings true, especially the snarky exchanges between Sloane and almost everyone else.

This is the first book in what is meant to be a series of stories about the Guardians and I personally can't wait to see what happens next.

Highly recommended.

Danielle Urban says

The Guardians by Lisa Barry is one extraordinary novel. Her characters are will lure readers deep into this exciting new world. A world where known creatures are nothing like we thoought. Mystery, suspense and a quest to solve will keep readers hostage until the very end.

The Guardians is an exciting adventure waiting to be reead. Readers will disapear from their seats and be taken into Lisa Barry's fictional world. A world just as crazy as our own but very different. Liam and Sloane are two protagonists that will entice readers into this magnificent story. They are perfect for each other and Sloane will go through many changes by the time the story ends.

Overall, I highly recommend this brilliant masterpiece to readers world wide. There's so much, inside this novel, that will capture and captivate readers everywhere. Lisa Barry is one talented writer whose words are worth reading. I enjoyed reading The Guardians by her and look forward to reading more of her work in the future.

Jim Murdoch says

A different kind of X-Men story. Heroes emerge from ordinary life and are discovered by the Guardians to be trained and used in missions. The "heroes" may end up in institutions as they struggle with their oddities, not being the norm for normal humans. Lot's of mythical creatures come to life in The Guardians where shape-shifting is the norm. A story of self-discovery, self-acceptance, love and loyalty this book gripped me until the last page. A few questions are left unanswered which hopefully are cleared up in the next volume. Very well written and enjoyable, the characters are well thought through and the story has a good continuity. I recommend this to anyone who loves the mythical and strange yet likes to keep their feet in the real world.

Lena says

I really enjoyed this book. The gargoyle theme is well done and I can't wait to be able to read more.

Dorothy says

I really loved this book. It is a breath of fresh air in the paranormal genre. We meet a group of people with special talents and physical abilities that use them to protect the innocent. There are Gargoyles, Aspies, Nymphs, Fae and many other species that are known as guardians. They deal with creatures that many will never know exist and some have differences of their own. But there are missing guardians. This book kept me up all night because I couldn't put it down. I can't wait to read the next book because I want to hear more about each of the guardians. I guess you can say that I am hooked on this series and eagerly await more. It was well worth the sleepless night.

I received this book as a gift from the author for my honest review.

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

You just have to love a book about gargoyles! There are few of them about and I do enjoy them. This one is slightly different which makes it all the more enjoyable. Sloane sees colours around people, and also understands what those colours mean. She has learnt not to speak to anyone about this as she fears being put away in an institute.

Through happenings and occurrences, she finds a group of people who not only accept her for who she is, but also recognise and appreciate the talent she has. However, things are not all sunshine yellow as Guardians are going missing. Different aspects of this book all tie together to give a thrilling ride and satisfying conclusion.

One of the things that I really enjoyed about this book is that it is action/adventure with a hint of romance. Really, the romance is only alluded to and really does play second fiddle to the main story.

I loved the ending, complete with Liam's choice, which I thoroughly understood and approved of! Can't wait to read more in this series. Definitely recommended.

* I received this book from the author in return for a fair and honest review. *

Merissa

Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!
