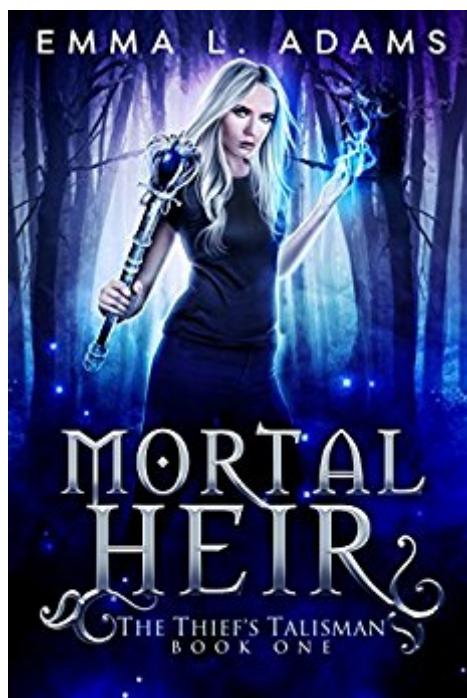


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Mortal Heir (The Thief's Talisman Book 1)



Synopsis

Changeling. Thief. Mortal heir in a world of treacherous immortals. Raine Warren, half-faerie changeling and master thief, wants nothing to do with the family who abandoned her in the human realm as a child. But when Faerie comes knocking, claiming she's descended from Sidhe nobility, she's handed an unexpected legacy. One catch: it comes in the form of a sceptre containing dark power coveted and feared by every faerie court, and no instruction manual. Now her name's on every hit list in Faerie, and the other Sidhe will do anything to take her off the playing field... permanently. Her last hope is to strike a deal with a charming thief with his own agenda and his own plans for the sceptre. On the run from assassins and hunted by the most powerful faeries in both realms, embracing the dangerous magic of Faerie might be Raine's only means of survival.

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Customer Reviews

It is a good start to the series. I thought that it needs more character development, though. Some of the characters are flat. I hope they get more development next book. I will read the next one.

Very good book. Full of action, mystery, friendships, magic, the Fae and even more magic. The

story line is great and the characters are strong. So grab your copy and enjoy reading.

I loved this book. It had everything faerie that I have ever wanted in a book. I can't wait to read the next book in this series. I love this author!

Emma L Adams has once again started her readers along an amazing reading journey. I cannot wait to read the next book.

I could not put it down, even after walking away, I kept thinking about the story. I wish the second book was out.

DETAILS: Mortal Heir is the first book in Emma L. Adams's new series called The Thiefâ€s Talisman. Released August 1st 2017, it comes in at a word count of 73,015 (or 188 pages) using details from my reading app. Moon Reader Pro+. Emma's series are considered to fit into the classifications of dark fantasy, urban fantasy, science fiction fantasy, and dystopian; however, I personally think it's fair to say that in many cases, or perhaps in all, her writing is a blend of classifications in this list. So long as we're speaking of blending, it could be a salient time for mentioning that one of the two environments of this new world also blends aspects of Faerie with the typical human landscape to make it a dystopian landscape. In the interest of providing more info. about Emma's books I've included 's Emma L. Adams page, and links to other books in her library that I've reviewed, which includes: Alight (Legacy of Flames Book 1); Arise (Legacy of Flames Book 2); Aflame (Legacy of Flames Book 3); Faerie Blood (The Changeling Chronicles Book 1); and Faerie Magic (The Changeling Chronicles Book 2). Emma L. Adams Page -

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INTRODUCTION - THE STORY: The Mortal Heir, a.k.a. half-blood scum (to some) or the Changeling known as Raine Warren (to others), hasn't had

an easy life; not with the memories of her first six years of life being stolen by her Sidhe mother (Lady Whitefall of the Borderlands) who also abandoned her and her abducted father; presumably once they'd outlived their usefulness. Following their return to the mortal human realm things were made more difficult too. Her DNA and youth permitted her to withstand the pressure of the hole in her memories and the abandonment, but her father's human DNA cracked considerably. The influence on his sanity and everyday well-being thereafter put them in the lowest of socio-economic brackets, any luxuries only ever coming later in Raine's life, her school of hard knocks upbringing making her a skilled thief in order to survive. A life of becoming a battler too skills that fate would see as serving her well. Add into the mix a haphazard collection of friends and associates, some coming from before and after the latest event that rocked and shattered her world, and you have the somewhat miserable recipe for developing self reliance and an absolute loyalty to those bridging the gap from the latter to the former. Not to mention an appreciation for her father that ruled over any other consideration. There's the Ex- she fell in love with until three years into their relationship he buckled to external influence, a changeling from not only the wrong Court but also the wrong family despite living separate to those influences and hence a perceived betrayal. There's the not so average half-satyr friend with klepto issues even more hazardous than her own, and a score of other self-destructive habits. The two-hooved friend who might protect you if it didn't clash with his interests too much. He's also likely to go for a five fingered discount even in her rented flat. A relationship that culminates in sacrifices where she's forever bailing him out of shit. In the Fae realm, there's a new friend who's the daughter born with the wrong gender, meaning she was once stuck being the 'male' child serving a soldier's vow dreamed up by her parents. The girl once lumbered into the same fate that was meant to be for the son they didn't have. After falling in love with the wrong girl, she necessarily followed a path to get out of the soldier's vow, only to have naively been roped into a lifetime vow arguably better than that which she tried to escape. Plus, there's the charming and handsome new acquaintance who's also a thief with commensurate skills to, or better than, her own. Yet another bastard child who made a promise or vow binding them to a path that conflicts with her own, as in the new female friend. The latter two are drawn to her in different ways, but may also ultimately betray her as did one of the first two. The greatest development coincidentally kicks-off part way through the day of her twenty-fourth birthday, when a spelled message is found outside her front door, moments before a hellhound blasts its way in to kill her and her father. The note requests she do the unthinkable to her, to pass over into Faerie to see if her now deceased mother's legacy can be claimed by her; that is, to determine if she's capable of being the mortal heir. Attempts on her life before even reaching the undisclosed test bolster her

resolve instead of preventing her from doing so, which might've been a certainty before they took place; an outcome her enemies might regret. To combat her and her father's poverty and hardship she sees a chance to make their lives better, a chance for her mother to finally offer them some salvation even if only in death. All things considered, her life is a rather good example of "with friends like this, who needs enemies?" Her contempt for all things Faerie was well earned before being faced with the new baptism of fire. Her relationship to Sidhe nobility might earn her a coveted and powerful sceptre she has barely any ideas on how to unlock its secrets; an inherited legacy that instead of bringing riches she made the journey for, it brings complications to add to those she already had in spades. Inducted vicariously through this new unknown legacy into a culture she'd rather pluck out her eyes than have to deal with, she climbs to the top of a stream of Fae hit lists. The interests of Faerie were in her lifespan visited upon the human world when rogue Sidhe took it upon themselves to attack the mortal realm, and now it seeks to have a more direct influence. Her hopes of survival in part mean relying on two new half-fae friends bound by vows and promises they cannot openly speak of unless she manages to guess or rationalise their meaning close enough for them to admit. Perhaps she could do the unexpected by embracing the dark magic; if only the blasted thing had come with an instruction manual.

OPINION: With her trademark snappy pace jumping from one sequence to the next, Emma's style is not that unlike watching the scenes of a movie shift seamlessly without many of the sometimes incidental bits that cover the stages in between, but aren't necessarily required in the scheme of things. In other words, there's minimal superfluous stages that are unnecessary elements of the plot. For example, minus the particulars of the sceptre and how it influences the storyline, the expanse of details laid out in the intro above come from just chapter one - or roughly five percent of the book. The world is made all the more interesting by the separate landscapes, and the human or mortal realm is made all the more interesting by certain assimilations from Faerie that began twenty-two years ago. The general areas of Faerie take place in a minimal amount of detail outside of thoroughfares and Raine's palace, and a little of another. The Seelie and Unseelie Courts per se, where political espionage and ambitions often define most of the nobility aren't covered much more than in namesake, but like the mention of an established hierarchy of supernaturals in the mortal realm, they might yet all make their way into the series. In this regard the series has the beginnings of a thoroughly inclusive range of all things paranormal. Inspiring and perhaps sage, the often succinct wisdom and insight found throughout key figures' in Emma's whole library make for an interesting game of looking out for them in each new

book. Herein, Emma defines the resilience of humans and mortals in relation to the immortal, which is one example I'd add to a list if I were collating one. She notes through Raine's narration very early in the book, that "Half-faeries are pretty resilient. It's the mortal blood inside us. When you have little time to live, you rebuild fast." This construct plus some additional reasonings permeates endless other books in fantasy when regarding the notion of immortal races being intrigued by what they'd call the human condition; in just this aspect it's a concise idea. Emma often sagely and succinctly notes wisdom about the experience of being human in her books, it's one of a good number of reasons that puts her on my TBR. It gives the impression of a wise or old soul. I'd be very surprised indeed to hear that in her personal circle of friends and family, or even for other readers, that this has never been said. Speaking of Raine, though, she is slightly snarky, and is a straight shooter down the line. Though this isn't to say that when required she is incapable of tact or sheer silence. Given over to seeing the potential for traps or misdeeds she does lean toward a half empty glass outlook, which is totally reasonable given her history. Her quick wit and sharp tongue promotes a certain cynicism or sarcasm, which does bring a smile to your face. She also, rightly or not, falls afoul of the tendency of people with very strong emotions and beliefs regarding a given issue to become shortsighted in ways that seek to maintain those things. Through some of her stronger convictions, such as in wanting to have nothing to do with aspects of the neglected half of her heritage, namely because of her mother of course, she opts to walk the road where harm can come about because of her own abandonment of thinking more deeply about those things. Thus, she initiates through her shortsighted actions certain consequences she could've seen arising from those choices in the absence of her biases. They aren't difficult to predict in the scheme of things or irredeemable, but because of how passionately she felt about her respective reasoning, the rational or objective elements were overlooked altogether. This aspect of human nature is so fundamental that it's seen in so many everyday habits that many systems seek to prevent them as best they can be. The judiciary system revolves around the usage of third parties in the belief that these agents are able to objectively handle disputes, as just one example; although this isn't to say whether the principles that a neutral third party can objectively avoid the trappings of ingrained subjective reasoning. Anywhere you can identify the notion of a neutral agent with no ties to a topic, interest, outcome or person, is where such human nature is sought to be removed or counteracted from the decision-making process. This first book deals with the blowout of Raine's mother dying and the Fae legacy that is partially handed down because of it. The title is quite functional in this regard, but not all of the fallout is resolved, which is common in series based stories. I loved the environment, or perhaps it could be said that this relates to the full potential or untapped components that might find

their way into the storyline. In which case future development may indeed heighten that appreciation. There isn't a great range of characters but enough to make it interesting, and a good number of these are well explored which is the benchmark, not how many. The potential for growth is a definite draw card. With Emma's style added into the mix I doubt there'll be any problems with the book selling or gaining her usual ratings and quality of reviews. Where Raine's life goes from here has a lot of potential, and is one reason among many as to why I'll be awaiting Iron Bound, that is, book two which is due to be released in October. As absurd as it sounds, I'm going with a 4½ rating as I feel like there's still so much more to be explored, and parts of the background that could've been more; especially the exploration of the supernatural that is mentioned before Faerie engulfs everyone's focus - including readers. I'm also looking for wiggle room to be able to show that appreciation of whatever further titles added that achieve these elements. I implore you however to not consider my four to put you off in anyway, you may not even agree with this once you've read it yourself.

Imagination and magic knows no bounds in this action packed tale, making it simply fun to read. Raine is a half-faerie living in the mortal world with her human father, and she's very fine with that. Well, if they had a little more money. Even as a talented thief, it's hard to get by. Too bad, she wasn't born with any magic like most half-faeries were. When she's invited to Faerie to take over the inheritance of her passed away mother, Raine's isn't exactly thrilled but has no choice. The inheritance is extremely impressive, but she wants nothing to do with it. The Sidhe and Faerie have other plans, ones that despite what Raine wants, will change her life. . .and not in a great way. Raine is an interesting character; spunky, a little snark, protective, determined to survive, loving and has a bit of a self-esteem problem. She has enough of a problem getting around in her 'home' realm on Earth, so to have her thrown into the Faerie world by no means creates more stability. Her love for her father is sweet, and there's even a love for her mother, but it's buried quite deep. She's warm-hearted, which she hates to show but it glows through anyway. And she can hold her own in a fight, although she's not all powerful either. All of this creates a balanced character with a couple sharp corners and dents...just like everyone has. The Faerie world in this series is borrowed from one of the author's other series, The Changeling Chronicles. Although there are direct references to this other series, the stories are completely separate and stand alone. In this series, the world takes full flight, letting the reader immerse themselves into the Faerie world, which is only hinted at in the other books. Imagination has control, unleashing a realm where nothing is sure, nobody can be trusted and everything is possible. It's fantasy pure. And a dark one, at that. The faeries are not

sweet. They are ruthless, cruel and cold even though they try to maintain a certain societal structure. It's the human part, which brings a touch of humanity and warmth. There's the slightest hint at a romance, and that's already almost saying too much. Something seems to be brewing for the rest of the series, but this book is about Raine's fight and the troubles she's up against. There is much contemplation or deep meaning in these pages. Rather, it lets the enjoyment of a fantasy world, action, magic and fights flow through on every page. Simply said, it's a book to get lost in and entertainment pure. I can't wait to see what happens next. I received a complimentary ARC and enjoyed it so much that I wanted to leave my honest thoughts.

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