



Mind of the Phoenix

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Moira is a powerful empath, a psychic graced with the ability to read emotions and memories. Her skill is as much a curse as a gift, for in the harshly stratified city of Braxton empaths are slaves. Clever and beautiful, Moira has learned to rely on no one but herself. Determined to escape life as a concubine, she kills her master, and is imprisoned for the crime.

This could be the end for Moira, but the government has need of her skills. A mysterious serial killer known as the Phoenix has been planting suggestions in his victims' minds that drive them to murder and suicide. To gain her freedom, Moira partners with Keenan Edwards, a handsome young detective, to stop the killer.

Hunting the Phoenix will bring Moira on a more dangerous road than she imagined, forcing her to confront dark minds, twisted moralities, and her growing feelings for the detective.

Mind of the Phoenix Details

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From Reader Review Mind of the Phoenix for online ebook

Karen says

I'm really disappointed in this book. It started out fantastic, mysterious deaths, an empath with nothing to lose, and a detective who despises her. But the best part was the idea of the Phoenix, placing thoughts in people's heads to kill and they don't even get it. Unfortunately the book crashed and burned, suddenly halfway through it stopped being about this fascinating plot and was just pages and pages of Moira and Keenan (the detective) staring into each other's eyes. Oh and another murder is introduced so most of the book has nothing to do with the original plot. Shame, it could have been great.

Netgalley gave me a free copy of this book for my honest opinion.

Shea says

Moira is an empath, guilty of murder but given a second chance so long as she helps the police solve a string of bizarre and confounding murders. This story follows Moira as she discovers that some people may be worth trusting while others are not. This novel sucked me right in and I am disappointed that I don't have a sequel to immediately satiate my curiosity. Well written, and engaging, McLachlan weaves a story illustrating the abuses of power in a fictional Gilded Age society of Elite and empaths that is possibly giving rise to a mysterious entity known as the Phoenix. Moira and detective Edwards have to overcome their animosity and chemistry to work together before even more people suffer.

Bianca Schwarz says

Some books you have to read yourself into, warm up to and eventually you may grow to love them. This book had me at hello. The writing is crisp and wonderfully descriptive, the story engaging and imaginative and the characters well drawn and believable.

From the very first scene in Moira's prison cell we are transported into a world where the elite rules, empaths are slaves and the Phoenix kills at regular intervals and in mysterious ways. Moira is an empath who has killed her master. But even Keenan, the detective she is tasked to help find out who the Phoenix is, quickly learns not to judge her for it.

Moira, having no talent for blocking or dream weaving, was placed in the pleasure house. There her life was spent being used and abused by men, elite and other empaths alike. Things had apparently gotten even worse after she was sold to another empath.

All this is revealed through glimpses into her past during the investigation into the murders.

What is near miraculous is the fact that Moira still has a moral compass and a yearning for love even if she does not understand or recognize the emotion.

What I liked most about Moira was that she lacked the arrogance that may very well have come with the ability to read minds. Instead, she thinks of going into someone's mind as a rather intimate thing.

It is a credit to the author that she resisted the temptation to make the empaths all knowing like the elite seems to fear that they are.

Another thing I truly love about this book is the sexual tension that builds and builds between Moira and Keenan and still nothing more than a kiss happens in this book. But apparently there are two more in the

series and I for one can't wait for the next installment.

Sara says

This is probably one of the best books I have read lately. Moira, a complicated character with an even more complicated mind and past, has decided her life is more important than revenge and is partnered with quiet Detective Keenan Edwards to solve the crime of the Phoenix. The complex layers of character and relationships are real and make the characters seem alive. There is no ista-love between the characters, but their relationship grows and evolves into something special. The use of word choice and language is amazing. The only thing that jarred at me at all was the occasion for Moira to use slang that I'm sure was prevalent during the time the novel is set. With the cliff hanger on an ending, I sincerely hope that this novel will be a part of a series and I will eagerly await the next book in the series. I cannot wait to read this book again.

Barbara says

Look, it wasn't perfect. Some bits that got my attention in the writing, distracted me for a few seconds, but... I still love it and I need more. Preferably NOW.

Rose says

Wow. This book was something else, I was not expecting that.

The city of Braxton is gripped by a series of suicides, that appear to be murders committed under a powerful persona called the Phoenix. When the victims appear to be under compulsion of a certain phrase during their deaths, help is sought in the form of an empath. Empaths are born with the power of reading memories and emotions, which results in them being branded for servitude and placed in either the Memory House, the Dream House or the Pleasure House.

Moira del Mar, is a concubine who was forced into the pleasure house and then bought by a master at the age of 19. After enduring psychological and physical torture under her master, she murders him and is thrown in jail awaiting execution.

However, her unusually powerful psychic abilities lead to her being recruited by the Elite; with the ultimatum of solving the serial suicides or facing execution. Moira joins the young and accomplished detective Keenan Edwards and together they must investigate from the high echelons of society to the bowels of Braxton's streets in order to find the Phoenix.

This book was well-paced and beautifully written, with small clues and parts of Moira and Keenan's past unravelling as they delve further into the mystery. As much of the high-tiered suspects consisted of Moira's clientele when she was a slave at the pleasure house, we gain a perspective of their lives in and outside society, as well as the web connecting each suspect together.

Moira was such a strong survivor, despite the indignity that she suffered throughout her entire life under the Elite, she's feisty, strong-willed and determined to find the identity of the Phoenix when it starts targeting more personal victims. One of my favourite aspects of McLachlan's worldspace, was the way Moira described her the minds of different people, which could appear as a barren wintery landscape, an abandoned

town with doors that tightly lock away secretes and windows that represent memories or even a large structure of cogs and gears.

Detective Keenan was initially prejudiced towards Moira, condemning her crime and overlooking that her suffering as a slave may have justified her actions. But as Moira's past reveals itself through her clients, Keenan comes to set aside his judgement and is exposed to the degenerate treatment of the empaths. Moira and Keenan's relationship is so meaningful and I loved how acknowledging their connection meant that Keenan as a detective had to come to term with Moira being convicted as a criminal and Moira had to confront the notion that someone could care about her wellbeing, would want her company without wanting compensation and that some men actually had good principles, which were all things that went against her experiences at the pleasure house.

Quite honestly though, after the way Moira was exploited and how she was able to read the sheer depravity of some of her client's minds, can anyone honestly blame her?

McLachlan has woven an intricate web full of human vice, delicate clues, powerful characters and an enigmatic villain, which I cannot wait to delve further into in her highly anticipated sequel.

Carla says

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Moira is an empath, that means that she is gifted with sensing other people's emotions, reading their thoughts, seeing their memories and sometimes even using a little bit of persuasion to play with their minds. But she's not the usual kind of empath, since she possesses more special powers.

As amazing as this sounds, poor Moira lives in a world where **all empaths are slaves**. People without these abilities own the empaths, branding them with a mark on their face, so that they won't take over the world and control the less fortunate (and yes, that's how I'm referring to regular humans, because being an empath sounds awesome). **The least powerful ones belong in the pleasure house**, being forced to work as concubines and suffering all kinds of mistreatment.

"I am a Del Mar, property of the pleasure house owner; I am not a person"

People don't know about Moira's special powers, that's why she's a concubine. **When she's nineteen, an empath who works for the Elite buys her** (these empaths have more privileges than regular ones) and he makes poor Moira's life a living hell, even worse than what she had to go through in the pleasure house, which wasn't even that great to being with. So one day she snaps and kills her master... and gets sentenced to death, waiting in a dark and cold cell for the day when she'll finally be set free. This is where our story begins.

Detective **Keenan Edwards is following the trail of The Phoenix, a serial killer** that works in very mysterious ways. Keenan may be dealing with an empath, so the detective needs help from someone who might be able to provide more information about these deaths, and so **Moira is assigned to this case, in exchange for her freedom and her life.**

When we first meet him, Keenan is a complete jerk. He doesn't want Moira on the case and is very rude to her, because he only sees her as a concubine and a murderer... like she had a choice!

Let me just break it down for you, Keenan. Moira is an empath, that means that she's a slave. And slaves are forced to do things. They don't get a say in anything, unless they want to be severely punished. Poor Moira has been forced to be a concubine and she also has to endure people blaming her for it? Shut up, Keenan. Please, just sit down.

And yes, she *did* kill her master. But the guy was incredibly abusive and he also kept torturing her endlessly. I mean, I don't support murderers, but man, are we really going to blame Moira? I still wonder how she has lasted this long! She's freaking strong!!

But as the story progresses, Keenan gets to know her better and starts being nicer to her, seeing everything she's been through her whole life.

Moira does see this change in the detective, but she finds it really hard to trust him, since she's never had people in her life who cared about her. And she just can't trust men in general, she knows for a fact that almost all men are cheaters, married and betrothed men frequent the pleasure house and this is something she can't stand. Moira also thinks that the world is more evil than good, and plans on escaping as soon as she gets a chance, but her relationship with the detective makes her consider if this would be a wise choice.

The whole thing with the Phoenix is also amazing, we get to meet a lot of interesting characters along the journey, most of them former clients of Moira. And even new murders start taking place. **The way things connect to each other and how they have to put the pieces together is so well done**, I just wanted to keep reading to find out what the next step would be. The author really did a wonderful job with this book, there are just so many stories to be told and we find out about each of them at the right time.

There's also the way that people's minds are described and that was something I did not expect, I just thought empaths could read thoughts and that that would be it, but **they can enter other people's minds and they all resemble different things, like labyrinths, staircases, cities** and they can also have windows, doors and locks, to keep others from looking at those memories.

All that's left for me to say is that, after I read this ending, I think that there's absolutely going to be a sequel, right? **RIGHT??**

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Brandi Nyborg says

Where do I even begin? This book had me in its clutches from the very first page. I'm a big paranormal

mystery fan, so this book was right up my alley. I really like Moira's character. It's nice to read a book with a spunky, intelligent heroine who used her past to rise above, instead of wallowing in self pity. The mystery keeps you guessing. You'll be on the edge of your seat, wanting more. This book hasn't even been released, and I'm already desperate for the sequel! This was one of the best books I've read this year! I can't wait for more!

Elisabeth Douglass says

Wonderful read! This book was so much more than I was expecting. The author manages to weave mystery, fantasy, politics, murder; romance in a such a suspenseful way that you can't stop turning the pages. She doesn't make her main character all-powerful, which makes the book more believable and more intriguing. As a powerful Empath, Moira is naturally feared by others but the caste system paradoxically sees her as lesser. Despite their fear, the Elite need her abilities to solve a series of murders perpetrated by someone only known as The Phoenix. A page turning book that I personally hope succeeds!

Kelly Cain says

This book epitomizes the phrase "leave them wanting more." I knew I was getting to the end, but I wanted it to last so much longer. Thankfully, there will be a sequel. There are some questions answered, but the important ones still linger.

Moira has not had it easy as a slave and concubine. In the world she lives in, she hasn't had many choices and this has severely affected her outlook. Every decision she makes is colored by her past until she begins to trust and love (completely unbeknownst to even her) the detective she's paired with to solve the identity of the mysterious Phoenix.

Like her dream weavers, the author constructs a world that feels real and is somewhere I can easily visualize. I am reminded of The Infernal Devices, a series I dearly love.

Breanne Cancade says

You first experience of the world of Braxton through one women locked in a dark and hopeless place...and only one option.

As the story's reality slowly reveals itself, a caste system, people divided though fear and a power structure that favors the few; you start to feel, if Moria can find justice for others, maybe it's possible for everyone including herself.

Braxton's strange divisions, its segregation of Empaths, leaves the reader with endless questions. What kind of history created such division? Will we learn more about why the main characters came to be the way they are when we first encounter them? What the author Jamie McLachlan does is unveil her characters slowly, revealing more questions than answers as you go making it hard to put Mind of the Phoenix down as you hope to find resolutions on the next page.

There is an ongoing struggle to find, embrace and understand human nature and motivations, weather you can read minds or not. As you dive into the world of Braxton through these characters, your hope is that Empath Moria and her Detective, will find a common path that will both lead them to a killer, and to each

other. But so far nothing is certain, leaving every reader wanting more.

A page turner for any reader with an imagination for the impossible, love for a good mystery and the eternal hope for the possibility of true love.

Jack Murphy says

Moira's a feisty empath, guilty of murdering her former Master, but given a second chance so long as she helps the police solve a string of bizarre and confounding murders. Moira has not had it easy as both a slave and concubine. She hasn't had many choices, which affects her outlook, making her suspect the motives of everyone she meets. Every decision she makes is colored by her past until she begins to trust and love the detective, Edwards, who she's paired with to solve the identity of the mysterious entity they call "Phoenix". I couldn't put this book down and I only hope that there's a Sequel. This book is well written, excellently paced and engaging. McLachlan weaves a story illustrating the abuses of power in a fictional society of the Elites, and Empaths that they subjugate.

Karen Mace says

I received a copy of this via NetGalley in return for a fair and honest review.

This is definitely one of those books that is a pleasant surprise as you begin to read. Wasn't really sure what to expect with this story but the blurb did catch my interest and it didn't disappoint.

The main character, Moira is an empath and we first encounter her when she's locked up in prison awaiting her execution for a murder she committed. But her skills as an empath are required by the Elite to help solve some recent strange suicides/murders and they promise to expunge her sentence if she helps them. She reluctantly agrees to help them and she is paired with Detective Edwards in the quest to search down whoever is behind the mysterious letters that has lead to the suicides.

Really enjoyed the way the relationship evolves between Moira and the Detective in charge. She is a very feisty character but with a vulnerability too and you soon discover why she is like this when you find out what she has been through in her fairly short life so far. Fascinating spin on the normal thrillers/murder mysteries with the introduction of Empaths, Blockers and Concubines but that keeps it fresh and intriguing

and I'm really hoping there is a sequel as there is plenty more to be explored with these characters and this world of abilities.

Amanda Linsmeier says

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this book, as I generally steer clear of thrillers or murder mysteries, but I was pleasantly surprised. The crimes were detailed without being gory or over-the-top, and the world they lived in was different, yet believable. The heroine- a feisty empathy named Moira- was delightful. Despite the serious content at times I actually chuckled at her humorous comments or thoughts. The sexual tension between her and the detective was palpable, and the author wrote it in such a way that really made you wonder if they would ever cross the line of working together into something more. It was truly intriguing reading about the two together.

I won't give away any spoilers, but I will say two things I expected to happen in the book did not, so I eagerly look forward to the sequel because I simply must know what happens to the characters and the crimes they so wish to solve. And I am a sucker for period details, so I'll add I hope there's even more description of fashion and setting in the next book! Overall, a very fun (yes, fun) read, with unforgettable characters and a seemingly impossible to catch villain.

Jyll Ward says

I thought that this book was an excellent read. I loved the beginning, it really drew me into the book. As I kept reading, it kept me intrigued and I was always wanting more! I would highly recommend this to anyone that loves romance, mystery, crime, science fiction and mythology.
