



A Furious Muse

A.J. Nuest

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Since the day of her birth, Princess Faedrah Austiere has been defined by her place within the kingdom. As the single heir to the half-blood gypsy king and his prophesied white queen, she is fiercely protected, shuttered inside an ivory castle and well-trained in the art of war. Yet neither her obligations as future queen nor the black infestation threatening her kingdom fail to hinder the mysterious pull of the antique armoire hidden in her parents' bedchamber. And stealing the golden key for a leap through time is the only way to confront the dark lord haunting her dreams.

One face. The image of one defiant, relentless woman has been stuck in Rhys McEleod's head ever since he was old enough paint her luscious curves on the canvas. But the day she walks into his life off the street—sexier than hell and itching for a fight—he's not convinced she's the same women he's envisioned since childhood. That is, not until he spots the golden key around her neck—an object he'd never fully shown in any of his paintings.

Now if he could just persuade his lovely muse he's not the enemy. Unless the elusive Faedrah Austiere learns to trust him, he'll never have her in his bed—the one place he's convinced she belongs.

A Furious Muse Details

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From Reader Review A Furious Muse for online ebook

Dianne says

So, I see a spin-off series from AJ Nuest and I say, this is the author that could write a grocery list and it would leave me in a puddle of goo, and yet...was I ready for the next generation of Golden Key heroes and heroines? I take the plunge and once again, Ms. Nuest has me wanting more, NOW. **A Furious Muse** is another magical treat from the pen of AJ Nuest, who's only problem as an author is that she cannot write fast enough for my taste!

Princess Faedrah is the heir to the throne, the protected pearl of the kingdom, the shining apple in her parents' eyes and one well-trained warrior in her own right. So why do her dreams of a mysterious man haunt her? Is it part of the evil threatening her kingdom? Is she pulled to the magical armoire in her parents' bedchamber because it is off limits or is there something else sucking her in? What made her grab the golden key and open those doors to "the mirror" and take a leap through time?

Ladies' man, Rhys McLeod is a talented, twenty-first century Earth, artist and his creations of a fierce and beautiful warrior woman become his life focus, his muse, as he brings her to life on canvas. She mesmerizes him, she makes him rich, and then, she storms through his shop door, in the flesh, angry as a pit bull, demanding he tell her how he painted her likeness. Like moths to the flame their futures become bound and they don't even know it yet.

Get ready for AJ Nuest's signature clash of the romantic titans as these two scorch each tension-filled scene with their passions. From one time to the next, Ms. Nuest manages to make the switch seamlessly, from the world she has created for each era with dialogue that feels real and she does it in so few pages! I have to say, it felt like old home week when Ollie appeared, as "Ollie" as ever! Loved every single page, even the ones almost too hot to handle!

I received this copy from A.J. Nuest in exchange for my honest review!

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Jonel Boyko says

For me, this novella can easily be summed up in two words 'abso-positive-lutely fan-frickin-tastic'. I couldn't put it down from the first page. Nuest's fast paced, exciting writing keeps you hooked. The exciting and captivating storyline let my imagination soar. It's completely original yet still easily recognizable as a fantasy tale. Her descriptions are ones that bring this world to life before your eyes. Nuest gives you the

smallest details of the scene so you can get the full picture of the setting, the characters, of everything.

Nuest fills this novel with approachable yet larger than life characters. Faedra is fantastic. She's the type of character that you want to jump into the story and help along. Nuest develops her in such a manner that you get to know her as an individual while at the same time there's so much more about her to learn in the future novellas. Paired with her biker boy counterpart you have a winning team. Emotions run high in these characters as their wants and needs collide in an unimaginable way. I love the sharp contrast between the characters from the past and those from the future. Cultures clash and dialects stand out in a fantastic battle of wills and wants. The dialogue has a brilliant and natural flow to it while having its own tone and timbre to suit the land.

This first novella in Nuest's new serial is absolutely unforgettable. It is a vividly colourful tale that launches Nuest's new series up and beyond the others.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Love Reading Romance says

First things first, I need to say that, while it is possible to read *The Furious Muse* without having read *The Golden Key Chronicles* first, you would be doing yourself a disservice to skip ahead in the Golden Key universe. Start from the start to really make the most of this incredible world. The second series is set a full generation after the first, but the world of Faedrah and Rhys is so built on the world of Rowena and Caedmon's story that I think readers would lose a lot of the magic and character intricacies if they were to jump in at this point. With that in mind, if you haven't already, read *The Golden Key Chronicles* right now (starting with Rowena's Key), and then come back here tomorrow to keep reading.

Since reading *The Golden Key Chronicles*, I became a pretty serious Nuest fan-girl. Her books are magical crack to me. So you can imagine how excited I was to be sent an early version of *A Furious Muse*, the first in her follow-up series *The Golden Key Legacy*. There was much squealing. Then when I sat down to read *A Furious Muse*, I was freaking blown away. And there was even more squealing.

This series is better than the first.

I REPEAT.

IT IS BETTER THAN THE FIRST.

I know, I didn't think that was possible either, but there you have it.

I have to admit I was a little trepidatious about the concept of a second generation series from *The Golden Key Chronicles*. Rowena and Caedmon's story is so wonderful and holds a special place on the bookshelf of my heart, so I wasn't sure I wanted to see what had happened to them 20 years on. More importantly, I wasn't sure how a new generation hero and heroine could ever really compare. I needn't have worried though.

Before we jump into meet our new hero and heroine, I want to talk a little about our old loves. Rowena and Caedmon are 20 odd years older, have well and truly settled into running their kingdom, and, most importantly, are now parents. Nuest's insight into their new lives is spot on. I was worried they would fade

away in this series, or develop radically unconvincing new personalities, but instead it was just so nice to see my old friends again. They still have the same attitudes I loved before, but, of course, things do change and there's no avoiding the change of becoming a parent. Yet, how they are as parents is exactly as I would have imagined - Rowena is the loving, slightly rebellious mother, and Caedmon is the ridiculously over protective father. And they still love each other more than anything.

Of course, a wild mother and protective father might be what I would expect from Rowena and Caedmon, but they don't necessarily make for the easiest of parents for young Faedrah. And so we meet our new heroine. She's a lot more innocent than the heroines I'm usually drawn to. Particularly having been so over protected by her father, in many ways, she's quite the fair maiden. But she's also Rowena's daughter, which means that, despite her apparent innocence, she's strong, a fighter, and desperately determined to save the day and the people she loves. Which is why she's not afraid to step through the armoire to Rowena's homeland (the modern, non-magical day) in the hopes of finding a way to stop the evil wizard haunting her dreams.

This is where our tale reverses. Unlike in The Golden Key Chronicles, in A Furious Muse we begin in the fairy tale land of Austiere and traverse through to the modern world. The fairy tale qualities remain, but we gain a new magical journey - the adventurous princess leaving her faraway kingdom to find her prince and take on an evil wizard.

The majority of the world building happens at the beginning of the story in Austiere, and the fantasy detail is lovely. I missed the Austiere realm! Once we're through the armoire, we get Faedrah's confusion about the modern world, which I just loved. It's really believable and fun to read. Plus we get to see Oliver and Jon again, and they get even more of a role this time round. Oh, I love them.

And then there's Rhys, Faedrah's prince who we find in the most unlikely of places: an art gallery.

For this time, our hero is a painter. His muse? A princess who he thought was a figment of his imagination until Faedrah walks through the door.

Gosh, where do I begin with Rhys? His characterization IS SO FREAKING GOOD. Rhys' character is one of the main reasons I think this series blows its predecessor out of the water. He's a very complex character, a most unexpected prince and nothing like Caedmon. In many ways, he has quite a dark story, and a lot of issues. He is fanatical about his paintings and relies heavily on his friend Nate to keep him functional. He's a completely unlikely hero, and yet he's totally perfect. Despite the magic that infuses this story, Rhys is quite a real character, making his, quite literally, earth shaking love for Faedrah seem all the more intense.

Their relationship is...well... phwoar. Rhys is all alpha sex god, and even though Faedrah seems fragile and innocent at times, Rhys has certainly met his match in his muse. We still get the lighter elements I expect from Nuest, with laugh out loud moments in this delicious romance, but with Faedrah and Rhys we also have a more primal grungy romance that's just scrumptious.

Somewhat predictably, this book ends in the WORST cliffhanger. At least this time I was fully prepared to have my heart torn out at the hands of a book, only to be left hanging. Less than a month til Book 2 comes out though! Thank god. (But obviously, I know, that will end in a cliffhanger too, because AJ Nuest is a wicked, cruel genius of a woman).

So our Golden Key fairy tale is reversed, and our new characters are quite different from the old, but the magic remains and the journey only becomes more incredible with this new series. There are emotional

layers to this story, to these new characters, that are surprising and beautiful. AJ Nuest rocks the strong heroines, but this time she's added to that a more fragile element. She's also given us a hero as real as he is swoon worthy, and yet another romance-adventure with new layers to have fans of the Golden Key Chronicles falling in love all over again. A Furious Muse is a sexy, grungy, awesome start to a beautifully evocative new series.

As you can tell, I'm pretty excited about this one. ...I'll try to be more concise in my review of Book 2.

More reviews at: <http://www.readingromance.com>

Terri Rochenski says

And I thought the Golden Key Chronicles series was just...WOW!

Sheesh. This first installment of The Golden Key Legacy blew my mind. Didn't think Ms. Nuest could top Rowena and Price Caedmon's story, but I was OHHHHH so wrong. My thoughts are scattered, but here's the jist...

Ms. Nuest's ability to delve into a character's mind and bring them to life in a believable, unique fashion is phenomenal. The most impressive aspect of her story-telling is the switching of the old world language and mannerisms of our fantasy MC, Princess Faedrah, and her contemporary, bad-ass 21st century counterpart, Rhys. Each voice is clear, expressive, and memorable in a refreshing way.

This isn't your run of the mill time travel romance. I've seen it compared to Outlander, and while Ms. Gabaldon's series is enjoyable - an easy 4-4.5 star series IMO - Ms. Nuest has managed to bring something more. Something tangible to her novellas because of these characters. There's palatable tension. Descriptive settings without the fluff. I could go ON and ON.

As for the cliff hanger ending...you're going to growl. Scream. Holler & cuss when you click your E-reader to find the acknowledgements.

Addictive. Sizzling.

Definitely a must read. You can thank me later.

Lynn Smith says

Faedrah has been having nightmares. The same one night after night. the wizard asking for the key. Defying her parents Faedrah defies her parents and goes through the portal into the mirror to the future. After arriving in the future in the home of Oliver and Jon where she sees a portrait of herself she needs to know who painted her. Rhys has been painting Faedrah since he was 10 years old. She haunts him but he never thought he would get to meet the actual women of his dreams. Much less that she can kick his butt.

I love the character of Faedrah, she is a strong women and has no problem kicking butt then asking

questions. She is unsure of her attraction to Rhys but soon realizes he isn't the evil one and she finds it hard to fight the attraction between them. Rhys is definitely an alpha male. He wants Faedrah more than he has wanted anything. But after finding out she is innocent she keeps himself from jumping in bed with her. As the secrets come to light, Rhys and Faedrah soon realize they are meant to be together.

Calisa says

A Furious Muse by AJ Nuest

First off I want to say The style of writing by Ms. Nuest never fails to please and amaze me. I've read her work before so it doesn't surprise me that I'll get a solid, well plotted and entertaining read when I crack her books open (or turn on my Kindle). I'm always left wanting more.

That said, and having read most of The Golden Key Chronicles serial before this, the depth of her characters, the obvious research that goes into her writing is what brings me back book after book. She's an auto-buy author for me. I love the light humor. I love the voice. I love the style with which Ms. Nuest writes each and every book. The thought put into her characters can only be described as near perfection!

A Furious Muse, book one in The Golden Key Legacy introduces us to Faedrah and Rhys. She's a kick-a\$\$-now—ask-questions→-later kind of gal, and a princess from the past to boot. Rhys is a modern day artist, a tortured hero with a bad, worse than bad, relationship with his real estate mogul father and a dream girl obsession. She determines it her duty to reunite father and son while searching out the bad guy in order to save her father's kingdom. Though I admit I had my suspicions about the villain before the end, this book will leave you stunned and anxious for book two. The Sacrifice is due out later this month. I can't wait!

I was provided an ARC of this book to give an honest review.

Kristin Bowker says

I love Faedrah's character...so much like her mother but still her own person. Great book and I can't wait for the next one!!

Kelly says

As a huge AJ Nuest fan, I was thrilled to learn that this second Golden Key series was on its way. Plus, I received a review copy from the author, so much thanks for that.

‘A Furious Muse’ introduces Faedrah, daughter of Caedmon and Rowena (from the first series). Faedrah is a fierce warrior plagued with a mysterious, recurring nightmare. This terror leads her on a journey to Earth, where teamed with Oliver and John (from the previous series) she faces her own legacy.

I really like Faedrah, she is the perfect imagined child of Caedmon and Rowena, with a warrior's heart, her mother's determination, and a sweet innocence from being raised a princess. With another three installments

in the series, there is certainly room to see her face many challenges and grow both as a warrior and a woman.

Being a romance series, there is of course a hunky new hero. An artist too! *swoon*. Rhys is very interesting because he has been dreaming of, and painting Faedrah's image for many years, and seeing him meet in her real life is a lot of fun. I'm curious about his dreams of Faedrah too. What does it all mean?

Rhys and Faedrah have instant chemistry, and their relationship heats up quickly, but I'm glad it isn't too rushed. Being novella-length, this book has a lot packed in, and there is still plenty of time in the series to see a real romance develop here.

I'm soooo happy to see Oliver and John in this book too! They're always witty and fun, and bring a lot of heart to the tale as well. Oh, and yes they have the fashion (for Faedrah). :D

I haven't had time to read Book 2 just yet, but it is next on my reading list. I can't wait to see what happens with the whole new storyline, and to see all the characters reunite again.

~*~

Gina Roberts says

If you're expecting a re-telling of Rowena and Caedmon, you will be sorely disappointed. While those beloved characters appear, this is a fresh story starring their daughter and her own time-crossed love affair.

A Furious Muse is a continuation of The Golden Key Chronicles, NOT a rewrite as so many sequels are. But with a twist that is sure to hook you...and keep you hooked.

Ms. Nuest has reversed the roles of her hero and heroine, future and past, while bringing back favorite characters who endeared themselves in the first series in both times. Just as in the first series, the phrasing and speech of each of her characters remains true to their history and the words between the dialogue maintains the spell of whichever time/realm they happen to inhabit at the moment.

Magic may not be as rampant in this tale, but the magic of destined love is still prevalent and the characters caught up in its maelstrom will have you rooting for their success.

If you are a reader who gets caught up in an engrossing tale, you'll find yourself impatient for the next installment.

Maeve Greyson says

With the world-building of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and the heart-thumping sexual tension of Jamie and Claire right before that famous wedding night in Outlander, A FURIOUS MUSE pulls you into Rhys and Faedrah's world and makes you never want to leave. I finished the story in one day. I had to—there was no other option. And when you hit the page with the option to pre-order the next installment, you'll do it.

Immediately.

Old world romance and charm of an ethereal realm lying just beyond the mirror of an armoire, a mysterious adversary bent on revenge, the return of some of the beloved characters of The Golden Key Chronicles, this follow up series bridging the magical realm and the “real” world, The Golden Key Legacy is a must read—especially if you love dark, sexy, drool-worthy heroes that aren’t going anywhere ‘til they get the girl.

I received this book as an ARC in exchange for an honest review and I intend to reread it until I wear it out. Loved it and highly recommend it!

Hopelessly Hooked on Books says

I can't even begin to tell you how much I loved this book! I totally fell in love with the Golden Key Chronicles and to read about my dear Caedmon and Rowena's adult daughter in these series is beyond amazing! I love everything that AJ Nuest writes and this is no exception! From the moment I "opened" this book, I couldn't put it down, literally I think I finished this book in 6 hours.

When Faedrah crosses over to the "present" world, she is hoping to find the evil that is plaguing her kingdom. She doesn't plan on finding her soul mate from another realm. But when she meets Rhys, (oh my Rhys!) she is in for a battle-an inner battle-of trust, love.

Ellen Hardin says

AT LAST - the magical mirror that opens a portal between 2 different worlds and times is back,

for me this is good news- the golden key chronicles world has returned --- and if you have never read the books you can read the furious muse and be able to follow the tale- that said -- 20 years have passed and rowena's and caedmon daughter princess faedrah who lives in the realm known as austiere is having trouble sleeping through the night without having vastly disturbing dreams about a evil man trying to hurt her and steal her key--- this is interfering with her training as a warrior- -- in our world rhys is a painter who has spent most of his life drawing pictures of this beautiful fierce sword welding bewitching lady who he thought was a figment of his imagination --- the worlds collide when faedrah finds out about the magical mirror that brought her parents from different worlds together in the first place--- she goes through it and mets uncle jon and ollie- and learns they were friends of her mom when she lived on earth- she also finds out that this world is in the future- and tries to adjust to the 21 century - ---

when she sees a portrait of herself in ollies home and discovers there are more she goes off to the gallery where she meets rhys- and it is a meeting neither will soon forget- she is angry at the way he seems to know so much about her and he seems to think she has been put up to this by the gallery owner-- however from the start both sense they somehow belong together --

so let me say - i love AJ has the ability to weave 2 worlds and 2 different times together- in a way that makes sense- but also has humor - irony and suspense- i like it that our hero who is used to having females fall into his bed- knows in his very being that faedrah is special - i like it that faedrah although raised with a sheltered upbringing is more then ready to open her heart once she realizes that she loves him- this is a fun - rollicking - steamy - romantic adventure that i am happy to say met my expectations- i was a little nervous that legacy books would not be as well written as the key - buy happily that was not the case--- one piece of bad news-

this book has a cliffhanger- that will probably having you scream NO- good news the next installment will be out in a couple of months--- so all in all if you love time travel steamy romance with a kick ass heroine and a hero that will go to his limits and beyond--- buy this book- -- warning you will be hooked on this tale and be purchasing the story of faedrah parents love as well

Johanne Poirier says

This kind of read was a new experience for me. I was anxious to see where AJ would lead me.

This story is the discovery of Old world and their way to rule with magic involved in it. It is the life of Princess Feadrah who decide to move away from her life to discover what lay behind the mirror that has been fascinating her for many years but couldn't get close enough to it, because her parents were guarding it. They know that they have to prepare her for what lays behind, but she doesn't wait and cross over.

She has a key that will guide her through her journey of new discovery and a life that she never expected.

AJ Nues's know how to guide you in this story and want you to find out more. I'm looking forward to read what comes next.

Michelle says

Have you ever read books so well written you actually thought you learned something? Take Ms. Nuest's book, her descriptions of the heroin, Faedrah's, fighting skills, made me think I could take on the world. Okay - maybe just a gauntlet.

This book is awesome, a great escape that plunges you back into the Austiere kingdom after the Golden Key Chronicles. I can't get enough of Ms. Nuest's heros. Rhys is no exception. A little damaged, okay maybe a lot more then a little, he is the man you want to love and be loved by. He longing for Faedrah makes your heart swell and break at each turn.

Faedrah is a strong heroine balking at the traditions of her era and not quite embracing those of the future. I love that she isn't helpless, but that Rhys can hold his own. I had a hunch of where the story might end up, but I did not see the cliff hanger ending. UGH! I can't wait for the new book. The writing is so well done and the characters are written so believable that you will be longing for the next part of the story.

A must read for romance and fantasy fanatics.

Beth says

This is my first experience with A. J. Nuest's writing and I have to tell you that I loved it. Yes, Dii my co-blogger was been telling me I needed to check it out for some time and boy was she right.

A Furious Muse was a blending of historical fiction with the twist of science fiction time travel. This story

was completely magical. Everything about *A Furious Muse* pulled me in but the characters are especially superb.

If I had to make a complaint, I wished it was longer. At novella length, it left me wanting more...lucky for me I already grab my copy of *The Sacrifice* and I'm heading there next.

Now I have to go add all the rest of A. J. Nuest's books to my "want to read" "wish list" shelf.

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