



Changer

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Wild, strange, and unpredictable, he is known as the Changer: the ultimate vagabond who slips in and out of myths and cultures, refusing to be pinned down to any one origin just as he refuses to be locked into any one shape--or name. Yet when a quest for vengeance forces him to shed animal form and seek out King Arthur, the Changer discovers that the darkest of dangers threaten the timeless realm. For Arthur's sworn enemies have risen once more to topple the king and spread chaos among humankind. The Changer himself will be the enemy's unwitting accomplice, unless he somehow stops the dreaded forces and diabolical powers threatening to destroy Arthur's kingdom--and all humanity.

Changer Details

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Author : Jane Lindskold

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From Reader Review Changer for online ebook

Jang, Min-gyu says

Enjoyable premise, but seemed to drag toward the end.

I liked the premise, which was interesting if perhaps a bit pat, but I found myself drifting away from the story toward the end. The story began with a brooding protagonist who has been wronged and then lost its focus and wound down into an exchange of windy hypotheticals and finally a somewhat unsatisfying conclusion. All in all, though, I thought the characters were interesting and could make for a wealth of enjoyable stories.

Susan Baratta says

There was a foreword from the author, she wrote this book in the late 90's. So it's early urban fantasy and yet I found it unique regardless that I've read lots of urban fantasy in the past 7 years. I also found this book deceptively good. It's an incredibly smooth read, rich in characterization and effortless to read. I do think it got a smidge weaker toward the end but it in no way diminished the total impact. Wonderful reading experience.

Mary Good says

I liked this. Characters were entertaining. Almost too many of them. Several plots that came together satisfactorily.

Jagrid says

Feels like a debut novel. Potential not entirely lived up to.

Eva Kristin says

This book started with a really good and interesting idea: The characters from myths and legends are real, and some of them still live among us. I'm sorry a story with so much potential didn't occur to a better writer.

Jane Lindskold does a lot of things right, but she also does a lot of things wrong. To me, the worst fault was that she is awfully long winded. Sentences like "The King comes down to the kitchen, dressed casually in khaki trousers and a cotton button-down shirt, and finds Eddie seated at the counter watching the news and eating a bowl of cold presweetened cereal.", makes it take forever to get to the point. How about "The King comes down to the kitchen, and finds Eddie eating breakfast."? I suppose she is trying to make it more believable that her mythological characters live in our modern world by adding details like this, but to me it

just got tiring to read.

I think this story could be told, and told better, with half the amount of words. With this never ending up building, the ending was a resounding anti-climax that left me feeling like “That’s it? Ok. Whatever.”

Bri says

Very interesting read. Present-tense narration is difficult for me to follow, but that's a personal preference. Jane Linskold gathered her impressive knowledge of world mythology and overlaps it in her story, creating mythical archetypes and setting them in the recent past (the present when the book was written). I'll add the sequel, *Changer's Daughter*, also titled *Legends Walking*, to my reading list.

Tabatha says

I really enjoyed this book, it was fun and well written. It's a neat idea that there are immortals among us and everything mythological is real, but I couldn't help thinking that as a plot device it was a cheap ploy. Really you could put any cool character from any history in your book easily. That's not a bad thing, it just seemed to cool a device to be so easily achieved with an explanation of immortals. I would like to know more about the Changer and the Sea King and their early life in primordial ooze. Although I'm sure that book wouldn't be as exciting as this with it's kidnappings, revenge killings and rampant conspiracies.

Janelle says

I got this book at a book exchange and I thought it was an interesting idea. This book was rather confusing in the beginning with trying to keep all of the characters/what characters they had been in the past. The idea of the book is a good one, but the execution was a little off for me. I felt like the story dragged on for a while and then it wrapped up very quickly in the end. While it was a good read, I don't know if I would recommend the book.

Terry says

I read this on the recommendation of Charles de Lint, a favorite author. I didn't enjoy every page but overall a fun book blending today with far far yesterday. Changer is an awe inspiring character. The gods of yesteryear are as powerful and all over the place as one expects them to be. I am was especially happy to be in New Mexico, one of my heart homes.

Dayna says

This novel accomplishes in plot what American Gods accomplished in spirit but missed the mark on in terms of action: the events of Changer (and its sequel), the adventure itself and the fascinating cast keep me re-

reading this book each year. I find Lindskold to be a little lacking in terms of a strongly present voice-- which, to continue the comparison, Gaiman has in spades-- but she knows where she's going, and she's got great people along for the ride. I can't get over her feeling for the paradigmatic fairy tale, mythopoetic structure, but as applied to present-day (yet ancient), passionate people. Her erstwhile "gods" are often fatally flawed, but that makes them charismatic people. I try to avoid open-ended series, but I would read as many of the Athanor's stories as she's willing to write.

Amy says

I love Jane M. Lindskold, and Arthurian tales, and fantasy, but can tell that I am not in the right frame of mind to read this one now, nor will I be able to get through it in a timely fashion.

Someday, when the time is right, a copy of the book will fall in my path and I shall eagerly snatch it up and read it. Until then, I bid farewell to this copy, and say thank you to midwinter for including me on the ring. I look forward to hearing when others read the book.

Moe Shinola says

This book is about immortals who walk among us. Wait - don't run yet! It's nothing like books of this type that you've read. The story and characters are very original. They have motivations, relationships, rivalries, etc., that are not mere rehashes from characters in other books. The story is living proof that it has not, in fact all been done before. Highly recommended.

Lynxie says

I just can't handle the long-winded style of writing. It's driving me nuts. It's taking me so long to read a page because I keep editing it.

The idea sounds intriguing, but the writing style just can't keep my interest.

Not a good book for those who are sensitive to long-winded writers or books in need of an edit.

Gilbert Stack says

This is my favorite Jane Lindskold novel. In it she depicts a world of magical extremely-long-lived beings who have greatly influenced earth's history. Not all of these beings are human, but they are all interconnected to some level. Changer is the oldest such creature, having been born before creatures first left the oceans to walk upon the land. He's an extraordinary shapeshifter, as his name implies.

It is hard to speak too highly of this book. Myths and Legends walk the pages in very credible modern versions with many of these beings having been known as multiple legendary figures. For example Arthur

Pendragon was Gilgamesh, the Norse God Frey, the Egyptian Pharoah who tried to introduce monotheism and more. Lindskold handles these figures with skill and respect, giving them credible personalities that clash with each other in both petty and epic fashions.

Part of my delight in the story is seeing the world of the nearly immortal Athanor unfold. But the mystery at the heart of the story and the slowly developing political crisis that surrounds it is powerful in its own right. Then there are the endlessly rich characters that will take root in your imagination.

A great novel all around.

Kerry says

I'm going to sadly call this one a DNF. I'm unhappy to do this as I remember loving this when it originally came out and I was so delighted to find it (and its sequel) in ebook form.

But, to be honest, I'm finding myself kind of bored. I like it when I read some, but once I put it down I find I have no urge to pick it up again. I think it's largely a case of "it's not you, it's me" as I'm struggling reading anything right now (damn ME/CFS) and I'm just not coping with the present tense.

It's a kindle ebook, so even if I stop reading it and take it off my device, Amazon will remember where I was up to. So I'm hoping that when I'm feeling better (please, let it get better) I will be able to pick it up again and find the magic. Right now, it's eluding me.
