



# Magic Academy

*Jillian Keep*

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## **Magic Academy** Jillian Keep

Out of a young woman's ambition comes a love triangle that could destroy more than her heart.

Firia has always wanted to be a witch, but even though she's a natural in magic, there's a problem: She's human.

Considered by the elven elite to be inferior, Firia needs an edge to be accepted into the Magic Academy. Out of sheer desperation, she summons the demon Varuj, a terrifyingly gorgeous spirit who helps her win the entrance competition. But at what price?

As the commanding demon does everything he can to penetrate every aspect of her innocent life, Firia still finds herself drawn to her study partner, Mae'lin. Not only is the sweet elf completely different from the powerful Varuj, but their relationship is forbidden.

How is she supposed to choose between the demon she owes her life to and the innocent elf who makes her a better person?

This thrilling new adult romance is from fantasy author, Jillian Keep.

## **Magic Academy Details**

Date : Published December 9th 2013 by Createspace

ISBN : 9781494266745

Author : Jillian Keep

Format : Paperback 332 pages

Genre : Fantasy, New Adult, Romance, Magic, Paranormal, Demons, New Adult Romance, Fantasy Romance, Epic Fantasy

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# From Reader Review Magic Academy for online ebook

## Elaine says

ARC for honest review. I loved the book. I would have loved more of a history on how the elves became the higher society and the humans were the lower class and with no chance of having any magic in them with the exception every now and then, but maybe some other time, maybe not. Everyone had their own issues of self doubt it seems even with the history they came to the academy with. Plenty of twist and turns. A lot of emotions and unexpected wounds opened. Really enjoyed it. Will we see the second year or was this the end?

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## Betty says

What a wonderful, magical fantasy! Firia's father teaches at the Arcane Academy, a place very few humans had ever gone. She had spent her childhood poring over heavy tomes of spells and secrets in the Grand Library. One night she used her knowledge of spell to call forth a demon, Varuj. He would be the proof she, a lowly human, needed to show the elves that she could perform magic also. She wanted to become a great sorceress, to be powerful and respected. In order to do that she needed Varuj's help. The story is well written with interesting characters and plenty of action. I very much enjoyed this adult fantasy and look forward to the next book.

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## Rhian-skyblade says

It's really hard to express what to think of this story. It's such a wonderful and enjoyable read.

Usually I prefer the really darker and more brutal romance stories, but Jillian's world, her characters and also the plot itself caught me, put me on a leash and didn't let me go before I hadn't finished :D

I have a sweet spot for mages and especially demons (well what mortals call them...). So my heart beats heavily for Varuj :)

It's not really a mushy story, but neither the usual dark stuff when demons are involved.

So what else is left to say. I can't wait to see coming more from this direction! (Maybe also with somewhat older women around 30+++ ^^? \*makes huge cute puss in boots eyes\*)

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## Mary Lou Hoffman says

Category /Genre: NA, Fantasy, Romance

Received from: Jillian Keep (in exchange for an honest review)

Tour by: Read Between the Lines

Recommended for: 18+ due to sexual content

Grammar/editing: B – a few small errors

Firia has only ever wanted to be a witch. She has a natural ability, but she is human. The elves who rule do not want to recognize her rare talent. In desperation, she practices at night, and summons a demon. His name is Varuj and he promises to help her to gain admission to an academy in exchange for a promise. Once at the most elite of the academies, she is attracted to a classmate. Varuj's jealousy is all-consuming. Firia must choose between the demon who has become part of her soul and the sweet elf who has become part of her heart.

This story will appeal to so many people. You like dark? Check. You like fantasy? Check. You like intrigue? Check. And so on and so on. Because it is a magic academy, I feel I must mention this is NOT a re-telling of Harry Potter. Remember, HP was in the 7-12th grade years of school. This is university level students, and there are steamy, explicit, sexual activities, including some are of questionable consent.

I really enjoyed this story of magic and demonic mystery. I always wanted to be a witch when I grew up. It was fun to escape reality and pretend that that kind of magic was real and possible.

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### **Ashley says**

Magic Academy by Jillian Keep blew me away. This book took my expectations of what I thought a hero/main love interest should be and throw it out the window. I didn't want to root for a perverse demon, but I found myself more drawn to Varuj instead of the shy, innocent elf, Mae'lin. The main character Firia often frustrated me to the point of wanting throw my kindle to rolling my eyes. This book was an amazing read that pulled me in from the beginning and at end left me wanting more. Jillian Keep crafted an amazing fast paced read that is magical, erotic, and filled with mystery. I can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Eva Millien says**

This is a wonderful new adult erotic fantasy romance that has lots of intriguing elements and surprises.

In a world where humans are considered inferior to elves, Firia needs an edge to get into the magic academy. She summons the demon Varuj who helps her win the entrance competition. At the academy, she meets a sweet elf, Mae'lin, who is completely opposite from the powerful demon. She must choose between the demon she owes her life to and the innocent elf who makes her a better person before this love triangle destroys more than just her heart.

While the plot has a couple of slow parts, it is mostly fast paced and smooth flowing with an intriguing

concept and strong bewitching characters. The author brings the story to life with lots of intense details and vivid descriptions that make the reader feel as if they are part of the story.

The chemistry between Varuj and Firia explodes off the pages singing the reader, while the attraction between Mae'lin and her is soft and sweet but no less passionate and the sex scenes are scorching hot. The author conveys the motivations and emotions of each of the characters with clear, concise detail that makes it easy for the reader to relate.

I love that the heroine is willing to go after what she wants in a world where she otherwise would be left behind. The setting of a magic academy has some intriguing and unique elements that set it apart from others and the world has some intriguing twists. The author has brought together all the right ingredients to capture the reader's attention and keep it to the very end; suspense, drama, romance, and wonderful paranormal characters and including sizzling sex scenes.

The only problem I had with the story was the authors repeated a couple of phrases a little too often, but not enough to take away from the overall story. I can't wait to read the next one.

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### **Nucking Futs the Fire Fairy Book-a-holic says**

I got this book as an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

This book destroyed my idea of a dream hero. How can I root for a sinister demon over a kind and gentle elf? But I did! I like Varuj and I think he's hot! Anyways, this book has lots of surprises stored. For the first 60% of this book, I got a Harry Potterish feel in the story. Firia's first year in the Academy reminded me of Harry's first in Hogwarts. And on the last 40% of the book it turned into erotica. I'm not complaining, I enjoyed reading it. As I've said before, Varuj is hot!

Seriously, this book is exciting, magical, and romantically erotic. If this book won't have a sequel I'm gonna hound the author for a long time.

Nevermind if Firia is a fickle-minded, two-timing witch. She can't help herself that she's softhearted. I gave this 5 stars just for Varuj alone coz he's hot and sexy! I really, really, recommend this to Paranormal Romance fans who love to read about sex with demons. Nah! This is a great read. Probably one of my favorites this year.

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### **texxie-PRUFreads.blogspot.com says**

Originally reviewed at <http://prufreads.blogspot.com/>

My rating: **3.25 out of 5 stars**

**"I would see the world burn for you, Firi, and judge it worthy."**

**~Varuj**

\*\*\*Please note, the book was gifted to me by the author(s) in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

Firia is a human sorceress aspiring to be admitted into an academy to nurture her craft. Unfortunately, with the exception of her father, no one believes she is worthy of such an honor. She is, after all a mere human and a humans life span isn't long enough to learn all that is needed to be considered truly powerful, worthy. Determined to prove them all wrong, Firia, aka Firi, tests her powers that results in a bit more than expected and he, a demon, goes by the name of Varuj.

Varuj is the ultimate, love to hate/lust type of male lead. In many ways, I felt this should have been more his story than Firi's. He exploded onto the scene immediately and held my attention to the point where his absence, although brief, was hard felt and stunted the pace of the book. I almost didn't know what to do with myself as the story continued. The feel of it changed, although it was necessary given our other male lead who is the polar opposite of Varuj. Mae'lin is sweet and unassuming, he's innocent and shy. Our heroine has a tough choice to make and the author does a great job "selling" each of them. It's a pick your flavor sort of thing but with dire consequences. With a little dose of jealousy and all hell breaks loose!

I can't say that I'm in love with the cover. That may very well be due to my obsession with Varuj. I almost NEED to see him on the cover! lol The cover also has a bit of a YA (Young Adult) feel to it, which is a bit misleading. This is New Adult Paranormal Romance Erotica (phew, that's a mouthful!) There is cursing, blazing sex scenes and some dark elements that hovers over that line.

There is also a great supporting cast that I hope we get to know more about as this series continues. I'm especially curious about her father. He's a simple man, of whom wants much more for his only child and offered an astounding sacrifice for her to live a better life than he had provided for her. They aren't high in society and there is often not much to eat in their home but he is a great father and I teared up during a very touching father/daughter moment. Firi's constant talk of "being along" and "unwanted" drove me up the wall. Someone please this girl, quality verses quantity! Also, everything and everyone (ahem) felt "right" and "natural" which for me made Firi a bit flighty.

I can't say I'm sold on the heroine, and some repetitive terms were a bit off putting. I did, however, enjoy the world that was created and those, both the good and the evil, that will surely make the rest of the series a bumpy ride!

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## Avery St says

Magic Academy is fun with good depth. Well drawn characters, interesting plot, and good pacing make for a book that's hard to put down. I don't want to include any spoilers in this review so all I'll say is the end, which I could not figure out as I read, leaves some unanswered questions. Will betrayals come to light? Will Varuj, who by the way is a very complicated Demon, not your usual one-dimensional guy from hell, be able to pursue his goals?

And just so you know, Jillian Keep may be the "softer, longer, more romantic side" of this erotic writing duo but there is plenty of heat in this book. We get some excellent "bad boy" sex as well as a sweeter but no less hot scene or two. The pacing of the erotic activity is just as spot on as the rest of the book too. There had better be a sequel!

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## Meka says

Review originally posted at <http://thebookpushers.com/2013/12/17/...>

Jillian Keep is the pen name of the two people that make up the duo of J. M. Keep. I was first introduced to J. M. Keep's works and really enjoyed them. They are pretty dark, twisted, and edgy with HEA's that are not at all typical for the romance genre. Jillian Keep is the name that they are using for this book and for more longer, softer works. If this is what is considered soft, then yikes. This book gave me all kinds of complicated feelings. I hate love triangles, don't really care for what is considered new adult, and do not really enjoy morally gray characters. And yet, I read this book knowing that all of this was going to happen.

Firia is a human in a world where elves are more superior. While they all go to classes together at least in the beginning, elves are automatically at the upper echelon. Humans often do not have much sway and will most likely be accused of a crime before an elf will. The class lines are pretty clear. Even the lowliest of elves would more than likely be considered to be better than the richest of humans. Firia wants to be better than them and make her own way in the world. Hungry to learn but with little actual magical experience, she needs help making it in to the magic academy.

Enter the thing that we know she should not do—summoning a demon to ask for help. Varuj promises her that he will take her all the way to the top and assist her in meeting those goals. He'll assist her with her powers, be there for her, and always remain by her side.

Enter Mae'lin—the sweetest elf ever. He doesn't treat Firia like other elves do and shows her a considerable kindness toward the beginning that made me adore him. All three of their lives intersect in the academy, for better or worse.

Firia was difficult for me to like. She was portrayed as being incredibly lonely due to her status as both a human and being poor. Her emotions were all over the place as she tried to figure out how to deal with Varuj, the trials to get in to the academy, and academy life itself. I didn't think she was particularly thankful enough for the help that she received from the demon. She was always both wanting to pull him away and pull him closer, which I could understand, but after a while it did seem to be a little much. I didn't really get to see her in her element, but it was really fascinating to see the changes within her. She went from a weepy hot mess to becoming more confident in at least her studies. She found herself both drawn to the demon and to Mae'lin, two men who were completely different but totally committed to Firia. I loved her ambition and desire to win at any cost, even as it made me cringe. It's hard to put my finger on why I didn't feel as though she had enough depth. Perhaps it is because there were so many other things that were happening in the book as well.

Mae'lin was one of my favorite characters. It was difficult to watch him constantly get the short end of the stick. He and Firia made a pact that they'd both study together and be partners in this new world that they found themselves in. I look forward (and please tell me book 2 is coming soon) to seeing him grow from his experiences even more.

Varuj is hands-down my favorite in this book. We spent a great deal of time not seeing him in parts of the book, and like Firia, I wondered if he were ever going to come back. He pulled something in the middle of the book that makes me wonder how Firia is going to react if she ever finds out. To me, it was absolutely unforgivable. I don't know what game he is playing, how committed he truly is, and toward the end of the book, he went in a different direction than what I was expecting.

The love triangle is both awesome and awful. Who is she going to decide on? What will happen next? How can she love two very different men in different ways? Can't they just get along and make a nice little ménage? I want someone to make a decision and I can't even tell you which team I am on.

I would consider this book to be darkly erotic. The sex scenes were smoking hot. There is a lot of dubious consent so be aware of that going in. While I enjoyed those scenes and felt as though they were definitely great in keeping the plot going, some of the word choice usage threw me out of the story. One such term is really archaic and it interrupted the flow for me.

While I get the feeling that this universe is a fantasy setting, there was phrasing in dialogue that made it seem more like urban fantasy. That also threw me out of the story at times as well.

My favorite aspect of the book was the world building. Jillian Keep has built a world full of humans and elves, magic and intrigue. They went in to great detail describing the types of magic being used, magical classes, how the university worked, and all kinds of other little things that made this a very cohesive realm. I always love reading descriptions and details of how things work in an alternate universe, and they did it without bogging the story down.

This story does not end with everything wrapped up in a neat and tidy bow. I have more questions than answers. With one character left to an uncertain fate and the upcoming year of even more classes, I need to know what will happen. Who will Firia choose? What game is Varuj playing? Can everyone find their version of a happily-ever-after? I certainly hope so!

So while love triangles, moral ambiguity, and new adult may not be my thing, somehow Jillian Keep has made me want more of this story, even if I am fearful and uncertain of how it is all going to turn out. With so much world building happening in this book, it's my hope that next time we'll have an opportunity to see Firia grow even more. I hope to see her show some real self-reliance and self-confidence that is not born from either Varuj or Mae'lin. With its dark, edgy, and sexy backdrop, I give Magic Academy a B.

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### **Amber says**

I was given this from the author for my honest review.

I really enjoyed this. It was a very fast read with vivid imagery. I liked each other the characters for different things even though they all had flaws. I was torn between the two love interests for Firia. They were definitely night and day. Each had something about them that drew me. The ending definitely left me wanting. It was very open ended. I'm interested to read more of this world.

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### **Tnt Reviews says**

Tasha's Review

This story is about a young girl named Firia, who wants to attend a magic school, the Arcane Academy. Unfortunately, she is unlike the other students. Although Firia has natural magical abilities, she's a human.



Like anyone in her situation, Firia tries to earn her way into the school by proving her magical skills. In an attempt to gain entrance, she summons up a devilish demon named Varuj.

The demon is handsome, strong, and mysterious. He takes the form of a man and can deliver her unspeakable pleasure. There is just one thing stopping her from releasing herself completely to Varuj, an elf named Mae'lin.

How will Firia be able to choose between the two? There's passion and a strong attraction that pulls Firia to both men. Will she choose the kind elf Mae'lin, or fall into Varuj's thick demon arms?

So glad I decided to review Magic Academy. This book is a mixture of forbidden love with a supernatural twist and is an all-around good read. This was the first book I've read by this author, but plan to look into more of her work. I enjoyed this story and the magical love triangle.

I would give this book 5 Stars.

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## **Zosia says**

I will not summarize the book here, as this is a review, and really how could I give a synopsis better than the authors themselves?

This story has a the feel of Jonathan Stroud's Bartimaeus Sequence meets Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter series. It is more mature than Stroud's work of similar subject matter. A society mixed with magic users and non-magic users and the power struggles inherent with such a world. A world where the summoning of a being, marks a powerful wizard/witch.

The romantic interests are written in such a way as to keep one from making a decisive choice, as to which "mate" would be best all around. Just as Hamilton makes one fall in love with multiple love interests, as have the Keep's with their multiple endearing, potential suitors. To be ambiguous about which male, ends up with the heroine is the very tease that hooked me initially to Hamilton's, Anita Blake. I feel I could follow Firia's life as I have Anita's.

As much as I love this suspenseful desirous tale, I have to hope there will be a sequel to answer my many curiosities. Here are a few of them:

What happens with Mae'lin, and subsequently Firia and Varuj?

What will become of the social upheaval eluded to?

Will Kanfa Tunst be made complete and what implications would that have on Varuj, Firia, and the world as a whole.

What of Gway'lin, am I the only one that wishes he and Firia hook up at least once?

What of next year, and the year after, and most importantly the year after graduation?

Is there going to be a graduation, or even a school in years?

How strong is the rebellion and what are it's exact goals?

Can we color any of these characters as definitively good or bad? \* except for Mae'lin, of course, whose goodness could never be in question \*

As you can see I enjoyed the book and hope there is more to come regardless of which direction the authors decide to take. As long as they continue with their very titillating/provocative sex scenes.

## **Tai says**

So good!

My thoughts are such a jumble right now after finishing this book, I'm not sure what to say about it, or how to really describe what I feel without giving away the crux of the story. Did I like it? Yes! I thoroughly enjoyed it. I loved the world that the authors built, with the elves and human hierarchy, though I did find myself hungry for more details on how this world came to be. I also loved all of the characters, even though I'm not sure I should have, and would have liked more backstory on all of them as well.

But there was so much more to this book and its characters than your average adult fantasy novel. It does have some dark elements to it. And although nowhere near as dark as many other books I could name, it does tinge and taint a lot of what happens in the story. My thoughts and feelings were in such turmoil every step of the way due to this, but I found I could not put the book down. Had it not been for the fact that I was continuously torn from the book for the past few days for family revelry and shopping due to the Thanksgiving holiday, I would have finished this book much sooner. That's how much I felt myself embroiled in Firia's situation.

The ending did seem incomplete to me, however, so I am really keeping my fingers crossed in the hopes that there is a book 2 to this, as I really wish to know what happens next. It's like an obsession, I need to know what happens in the next phase of Firia's life, and how everything plays out.

**\*\*An ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

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## **Aliraluna says**

Firia's father worked nights but that didn't matter to her; it was the perfect opportunity for her to hang around the dark corridors for the Arcane Academy, a place which few humans had gone. Besides, at nights she didn't have to meet the high elves. She went around to see the buildings and learn about them but she always went back to the same place: The Grand Library. The place in which she had spent her childhood reading tomes of spells and secrets. But as she learned more, she longed for more and more and because of that besides reading she practiced spells. Until one day she finds a hidden black book which she studied in detail before casting her first ritual. This spell was going to help her achieve her grand goal: to enter to the Academy, to make the elves notice a human. She was a human. Later on, in the library's study room she finds herself in front of a monstrous being, the one she had summoned- a being called Varuj. He knows she wants to be a powerful sorceress and he will do anything to help her.

"He grinned unevenly at her. "Does it bother you, little human? He took hold of that massive length, gripped it in his hand and began to stroke it-actually stroke it!-right in front of her. He stared down at her petite form, mouth hanging open, fangs on display as he tongued his lower lip."

My thoughts:

Just WOW, I have read other stories from them but I really have to say this book is my favorite so far. I can't really wait to read the others book that will hopefully come. This story, besides having a lot of fantasy, has sweet erotica scenes and I really love the characters. I really liked Varuj since I started reading about him- there's something about him that captures you, his maneuver, how he knows everyhting and simply because he's the perfect package: hot and intelligent. But of course I didn't liked what he did with someone. Firia well she's nice and again I like that she's really intelligent but for me she's not my favorite, but if it wasn't for her we wouldn't have smexy scenes. Then there's Mae'lin; he's the first one to have ever talk to her (he's an elven) and I really have to say that even if I love Varuj he's really is competition for the hot demon. Mae'lin's not only sweet and intelligent, he is a great fighter and he's really nice and a good friend. What happened with him at the end (read the book!) was really shocking and that's the main reason of why I want to continue reading this story. Mae'lin started to grow on me and I hope to see him more... I think the authors are having little issues if to leave her with Varuj or with Mae'lin- I really want to know what happens and this is the first time I have ever wondered with whom she will stay. The school is awesome, I love that they had to learn a new language and their final examination was pretty neat. Overall such a really good, I loved it and I want more of it. This authors are really getting better if they aren't already. Thank you so much for the ARC.