



Hidden Talents

Claire Cray

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DEAR READER: "Hidden Talents" is no longer available. "Hidden Talents: A deliciously twisted m/m trilogy" is the recently published, full series in one volume. See it on Goodreads here.

Talents: Born with physical and psychic abilities beyond human understanding, these flawed forces of nature burn desperate paths through their own shadowy world ruled by sex, power, and madness. In this first novella of the Hidden Talents series, meet Ken, Jin, Sky, Mark, Lip, and Dylan. Driven by powers and desires beyond their control, these strange and beautiful men live by their own definitions of survival...

Sent on the run by his leader after a disastrous change of leadership at KGA, bad boy telepath Jin heads to Paris to seek asylum with a group of rogue Talents living under the radar. Thrown into tumult after a recent suicide by one of their own, the Talents are not what Jin expected, but there's one in particular who captures his attention: Ken, a mysterious, sullen boy with mismatched green eyes and a scarred, lovely face.

When Jin finds an old acquaintance has also been taken in by the Talents, he doesn't think things can get any weirder -- Sky, the beautiful blonde empath and former yakuza concubine Jin loved to torment in and out of bed, is hilariously furious to see him. But it's not just their history putting Sky on edge: Ken is his younger brother!

Hidden Talents Details

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From Reader Review Hidden Talents for online ebook

Laura Warby says

This is a review for all the books of the series that I have read so far; books 1-5.

I'll start with the good points:-

These books have loads of potential.

The premise is interesting and fairly unique.

The characters - most of them, anyway - are engaging and I felt sympathy for some of them; especially Sky, who I think is given a fairly hard time by the others!

The Talents are consistent - rules about their use, what the Talents can and can't do, and how the Talents can be used, are formed fairly early on in the first book, and are followed through in the subsequent books.

I also like that the author has six of seven characters in the books, and she actually writes about all of them in all of the books, rather than going for entire books without mentioning some of the characters.

Now, for the bad points:-

These books are rather short! With re-writing and editing, these books could be bumped from 60-70 pages to +150, which would allow more time for the development of the characters, the explanation of the Talents within the first book rather than as an author's note section at the end, the development of relationships between the characters, and the expansion of the plot.

Particularly, plot expansion would allow for more explanation into the back-story - we are told that the Talents are preparing to fight against a large organisation that research, moulds and exploits Talents, but we aren't really told how this entire conflict came about.

Overall, I did enjoy these books while I was reading them, but afterwards I felt a little disappointed by the short length and the 'short-cut' writing that it feels the author used, just to get to the point of publication.

As free reads, I would recommend them, but I doubt I'd pay money for them, unless they are much improved.

Tamela says

Can't decide if I'm going to like this series or not. There was SOOO much thrown at us that I got a little confused, especially when they started talking about the multiple times some of the talents had died.

I think I would have liked some of their stories a little clearer. Like who Jen was earlier in the mix.

Sara says

Very confusing.

Definitely in agreement with a lot of the other reviewers... it was hard to tell what was going on a lot of the time.

I think with better editing a lot of the story and information could have been presented in a different order to pull you into the story a bit more. The character backgrounds that you got near the end of the book would have been far better served at the beginning. Having some emotional attachments to the characters earlier on

would have made the laborious journey through some of the long winded descriptions of the Talents organisations far less painful.

Moaning aside, you can't help but be niggled wanting to see how the Jin and Ken relationship develops. So for that reason I know I will be probably having a gander at the next book in the series at some point in the future... Not quite yet though!

Nicole says

Same review for all 4...

I am reviewing this AFTER having read through all the available series, #1-4. Initially the first one, honestly, gave me a headache. There was just *so much* information all at once. I felt like -- and still do-- I should make a character map with the people, their connections, and their Talents. There is a lot to capture your interest. There is just A LOT going on. Each of the characters has a Talent- they are empaths, pre-cognitive, telekinetic, etc. Then they can feel each other or block each other, they have old relationships and new interactions, there is a big agency trying to control them all, a main bad guy, and then we meet them individually along the way. I could tell after the first one there was a lot of potential, and I am glad I kept reading. By the fourth piece the writing is clearer, engaging, I am invested in the characters, and its funny at the same time.

I wouldn't recommend reading JUST the first piece. It will leave you wanting. But, if you want to get all four-- and hopefully there are more on the way, which it seems like according to the authors blog-- you will enjoy the adventure.

Look out for Sky-- the high class Rent Kid (basically), who can empathically give you what he is feeling, on top of what you are feeling-- if you get my drift. Genius! And Jin, the cocky mind-reader who partakes with Sky, but has a thing for Ken. And poor Ken, who I can not wait to see fulfilled (and I'll admit it-- naked with Jin). The evil-bitch female character is a little alarming, but written so well that you can't hold the fact that the only female character is totally crazy against the author. Overall, I was pissed when the fourth piece ended and I was left wanting... always a good sign.

Sue says

I gave this 5 stars because I think this is going to be a very interesting series for people who can follow along with all the characters. I am not going to be one of those people. This novella was very confusing to me. I didn't understand the concept. I understand that these extraordinary men have hidden talents but I really just couldn't understand exactly what they were, who they were hiding from or even where they were from. The more I read the more questions I had. Maybe I'm just too lazy to follow along. I do believe it will be a great series for the right readers. The characters as they develop are going to have you hook, line & sinker.

Diane says

I found the premise of this book to be pretty interesting. But I was disappointed in the way the story was told. I thought there were too many different characters introduced. There was too little world building. There was

little if any information about why the various talents were living together and exactly what they did. All in all, there was just too little discussion of how things worked in the world created by the author. I thought some of the characters seemed interesting. The books in this series were free, so I will be reading the rest of them and hope the author becomes better at explaining about the different talents and how they are important in the plot of the book.

If I had paid for this book, I would feel as though I had wasted my money.

I read "Merrick" before this book. "Merrick" was a five star read for me.

tammy rufo says

not what i expected, but really enjoyed! this is my first Claire Cray book, now i have to read the rest of the series! (not a complaint! lol really want more of this story)

Vfields Don't touch my happy! says

My first attempt to read this was July 19, 2013 - I was lost the entire read. I kept going back a few pages to try to keep up. This was way too much work. I might try again, someday.

More than a year later I'm going to give it another try...fingers crossed!

Okay a Book Buddy got me try this series again and I glad she did. I still think the one big drawback is it's so darn complicated and there are a lot of similar characters at first glance. To make me scratch my head is at the end is the information about what a Talent is...why not start with that???

??™ says

the first chapter pulled me in but things got confusing after that. there was so much going on and lots of details to take note of that i felt lost every now and then. still, i was impressed with the quality of the writing. i wish, though, that there were a better and simpler way of presenting the storyline and the different characters.

Trix says

[Jin was the first to be introduced and I liked his humor and bold personality. He faced threat and challenges with a funny line and humor in his eyes. However, the story led to believe there is more than meets the eye with him and I would have liked to find out more about him.

At first g

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

This isn't a series, really, it's a serial and this is episode one. It ends in a cliffhanger, although not as bad as some. I read both books 1 and 2 at the same time and they're kind of blurring together so I'm reviewing them together. See my review for Book 2: Minus Tide.

Smith Barney says

(FREE) WELL..that was unusually fragmented-peculiarly-strange-bizarrely-odd-offbeat-outlandishly-f'ing-weird.

I kind of liked it.

Sadie Forsythe says

3.5: I would have given this a 4 if it was a whole story. Can I just state up front how much I HATE serialised novellas? (I didn't know going in that this was one.)

The book started stronger than it finished. It began with one predominate POV and then, about half way through, added new POVs into the mix. This was both jarring and, I think, weakened the story, as the reader had no real connection to those characters yet.

This was exacerbated by the narrator's tendency to casually throw in information that the reader hadn't yet been given. For example, at one point Jin had twice asked another character for his name and been given a fake one in response. Then in the next paragraph that character was referred to by his true name. I was confused on two fronts, who was this new character suddenly introduced and then, once I figured out that it was the same character Jin was asking for a name, I was left wondering when Jin figured it out. This sort of thing happened more than once. I understand that Jin is a telepath and he's likely supposed to have read this information from the person's mind, but the reader isn't and it's confusing.

Late in the novella the plot also started to expand and the reader was given a lot of history that felt very baseless and confusing. I felt as if I had missed a first book somewhere. Then it just randomly ended. I can't even call it a cliffhanger as there is no single event left uncompleted. It really just felt like I had read the first few chapters of a book and then set it aside for the night.

Where it ended felt completely random. As the author has written at least seven novellas in the series, I cannot for the life of me figure out why it was broken up so and not just a novel. If it wasn't permafree I'd call it a scam to make more money and I'd be really P.O.ed if I'd paid for something that felt so halfhearted.

Having said all that, the writing is good. Jin has a pleasantly sarcastic voice and personality (even if he does

skate the edge of too irreverent to believe). Sky and Ken have an interesting history and I like that the author isn't afraid to allow trauma to have happened to children. Don't get me wrong, I don't want any child to have to suffer, but a lot of authors are afraid to go there and it's unrealistic. Children who grow up in abusive environments get abused. Pretending otherwise (even by virtue of refusing to cast an author's eye in that direction) is a weakness in my opinion.

I'm not sure what I think of the Mike/Dylan/Jen portion of the story, however. I think that's where things started falling apart for me. It felt tacked on and the reader is just told this, this and this happened in the past. Meh.

All in all, I'm looking forward to the next instalment and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. I could see the series going either way, either getting really good or spiralling into such a weakly supported tangle as to become unreadable.

peanut•m&ms says

Little confusing at first, with a whole lot of characters & their talents thrown in together in 60 pages...but still has my interest.

UnusualChild{beppy} says

synopsis:

jin is sent by his shadowy company to help other people with psychic abilities because someone is trying to take them out after a disastrous change of command at the company he works for. just after he gets there, one of the group commits suicide and everyone has to deal with the aftermath. jin meets an old acquaintance, sky, who used to be a yakuza concubine, and who is the older brother of ken. jin is **really** interested in ken, but things get in the way.

what i liked: i liked the world building, the story, the characters. i'm really interested to see what happens with the whole gang.

what i didn't like: meeting so many people and having so many stories interwoven in such a short (60 pages) period of time could be a little overwhelming at times.
