



## Maelstrom

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In *Changelings*, bestselling authors Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough returned to the sentient planet Petaybee with a story of growth and transformation in the face of deadly new threats. The telepathic, shapeshifting twins Murel and Ronan found that Petaybee had plans for them as well. Now those plans begin to bear fruit with fresh possibilities... and dangers.

## MAELSTROM

Now that Petaybee is forming a new equatorial island, the planet has agreed to harbor a group of new refugees, workers indentured to the powerful InterGal Corporation. But the mission to collect the immigrants becomes a rescue operation when it is revealed that InterGal is doing nothing to help these survivors of a world devastated by a meteor shower. Murel and Ronan set out to persuade the frightened refugees to come out of hiding, leave their world, and bring along their sacred totem animals, the gifted sea turtles called the Honus. But the twins discover that they've taken on more than they expected: the Honus are not the only animals sacred to the refugees. There are also the Manos, intelligent sharks who have lost none of their predatory habits-and who cannot be left behind to die.

When the Manos are released into Petaybee's waters, a tragic misunderstanding endangers the whole resettlement operation. At the same time, the mysterious sea otters who once rescued the twins' father are suddenly revealed to be much more than they appear to be.

Now it is up to Ronan and Murel, with the intrepid assistance of their river otter friend Sky, to smooth the waters before a maelstrom of revenge destroys Petaybee's harmonious way of life.

But even as the twins uncover startling new facts about Petaybee's past that will change everything they thought they knew about the planet, the forces of InterGal are gathering, preparing to strike...

## Maelstrom Details

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## From Reader Review Maelstrom for online ebook

### Joanne says

I didn't enjoy this book nearly as much as the first in the series. It was quite repetitive. Certain parts of it really dragged on and did not keep my interest. I skipped around a lot until I got to the end. When I finally did get to the end, I decided not to continue reading this series.

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### Al says

#### SUMMARY:

The Shongili twins, Ronan and Murel, accompany their friend Marmie on her luxury space craft Piaf to rescue their friend Ke-ola's family from an uninhabitable planet. They arrive to find the planet in the midst of a terrible meteor storm and when they go down to the surface find that the survivors have taken refuge under ground. Ronan and Murel change into seal form and find the survivors and their totem animals or aumakua, the giant turtles, or Honu, and the sharks. Back on Petaybee the twins, in their seal form, escort the Honus to their new home in the middle of the ocean. They also want to warn the otters and seals about the sharks. It is a long journey and Murel falls asleep and gets separated from the rest. She is surrounded by a pod of Orcas who, thinking she is a normal seal, try to eat her. Before they can do so she is caught up in a whirlpool caused by the volcanic activity in the area, as is Ronan, who had swum back to try to rescue her. They are rescued from the whirlpool by the mysterious deep sea otters and taken into their shielded city on the ocean floor. While their leader, Kushtaka, is talking to them her son Jeel sees the sharks and goes to inspect them, Murel races after him but is too late and Jeel is killed. Meanwhile Marmie and her crew are arrested on trumped up charges of kidnapping Ke-ola's family and taken to Gwinnett Incarceration Colony, along with most of the survivors they rescued. When Murel and Ronan return to their family and discover that Marmie has been arrested and the Piaf impounded they realize they need to get off the planet and go to her rescue. While staying with Kushtaka they were told that the deep sea otters were not just otters but beings from outer space who had hidden in the depths of Petaybee's oceans for years. Now that they have been discovered they plan to leave, the twins persuade Kushtaka to take them with her and to help them rescue Marmie.

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### Brian Schiebout says

Maelstrom by Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough is the second book of the Twins of Petaybee series set in the Petaybee universe. After I finished this book the first thing that it made me think of is how much darker it is than the first one. Not dark as in heroes are dying but dark as in everything seems to be going wrong for the protagonists. Once again the main characters are the selkie children Mural and Ronan Shongili. The two of them decide to go with Marmie on a rescue mission for Ke-ola's people who have been left to die on a hell planet. The mission has many difficulties which occur to people who leap before they look. The first is of course the fact that the company which has profit above all else didn't care at all for the people and is willing to let the displaced people die rather than rescuing them and risk damaging their equipment. I found the book very correct on the way that human nature can at times continue to allow others to suffer just because of pettiness. Once they get down many of the people are fatalists who decide they

would prefer to die rather than move again. In history this has often happened when people are taught that forced movement is what caused their problems they become tied to an area that they would be better off leaving because they feel like any movement will be to a worse place. The next problem is that certain of the people who they try rescue have a connection with certain vicious predators who they won't leave behind. This could be a reminder of what happens when people are rescued from bad situations. The people may be mostly innocent but at times they harbor evil within who they will not leave behind. This is one of the major reasons why most of the world likes to say about refugees we care but keep them out of my neighborhood. Often living in a violent nasty area creates certain disillusioned people who become the same as those who torment them. In many ways this book was much better than the previous book even though elements of it seem a bit forced but that probably has to do with the overall plot of this series and not necessarily this book in particular.

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### **Kate Millin says**

I always find the Anne McCaffrey books very difficult to put down, and this was no exception. It is the second in the series.

The selkie twins help to rescue people and their bonded animals from a planet damaged by meteors, resettlement on Petaybee does not go smoothly and the actions annoys the planetary police.

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### **? BookAddict ↗ La Crimson Femme says**

Then entire time I'm reading this story I'm thinking of the Hawaiians and Polynesians. I don't know how much research Ms. McCaffrey put into those cultures, but now this is what I'm thinking. I liked the sacred tortoise. The shark is pretty amazing too. I like it. Then again, I do like sharks. I've scuba dived with them around, not on purpose, they just show up. This was another fun read abet a bit heavy handed with it's environmental and social commentary.

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### **Donald says**

This is such a bad book, and coming from Mdme. McCaffrey, one of the greats of sci-fi/fantasy, it's incredibly disappointing. I'm hoping it was maybe just her idea and Ms. Scarborough picked it up, dropped it, brushed it off, dropped it again, kicked it around for a bit, then stumbled off with it. The idea is an okay one, but the execution is just horrendous, with most of the book taken up by the characters talking about what they're going to do, what they did do, and what they might have done if they had known what they know now. It's almost as if this were a junior-senior high book, but even if it were (and there is no indication it is), that would not excuse the pathetic writing and overwhelming boringness of the book. Avoid.

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### **Sharon says**

The train of this story is starting to get away from me after so many volumes, but I am a McCaffrey addict and will pick up and enjoy anything with her name on it. This time through, I thought there were too many

story threads, and several of the plot points were reminiscent of the Acorna series (child heroes, shape-shifting aliens, mind-talking animals).

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### **Lisa says**

Great follow up to Changelings - even better I think. Continued good development of twins, interesting follow up with friend Keola on his planet, and cliffhanger ending back on Petaybee signalling a good sequel to come- soon I hope!

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### **Alysha DeShaé says**

**My full review is here on my personal website. I'll post a few excerpts here, though:**

3.0 out of 5.0 stars

The very worst thing about this book is that the storytelling is getting worse with each book.

The very best thing about this book is that, assuming you liked the previous books, it's still readable enough to enjoy the new characters, even if they are a little unusual.

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### **Kris says**

The second book in the Twins of Petaybee trilogy. I enjoyed this one also. The twins are aboard a spaceship headed for the planet where Ke-ola's people are suffering. They discover that the planet is being bombarded with meteors and that the settlements are in danger. Against the wishes of Intergal (the evil company that has a lot of power in this universe), their ship rescues the survivors and their totem animals, the Honu (sea turtles) and the Mano (sharks). As might be expected, when released on Petaybee, the Mano cause problems in the oceans. An unexpected ally, the "deep sea otters", show up and reluctantly help the twins and their friends. The story ends with Intergal threatening Petaybee's way of life and sets the reader up for book three.

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### **Cara Noyes says**

Book 2 of 3 in the Twins of Petaybee series was good. The deep water seals are aliens? And shape shifters! So cool!

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### **Meels says**

I'm guessing this is YA. I didn't realize it was book two of a trilogy. I probably would have liked it more if I'd have read book one...

It stops rather abruptly and before any resolution to the largest conflict in the book, which was my clue that it was not a single novel.

I think this is probably a two and a half star book and I'm not sure if I'll order the other two or not. It was just okay.

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### **Fredrick Danysh says**

Growing up on the sentient planet Petabyee, half selkie twins Murel and Ronan embark on a mission to rescue the lifeforms of a dying planet that is under Intergalactic Company control setting off charges of smuggling against the pro-Petabyee faction.

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### **Lynnette Millar says**

Better than the previous one now that the twins are a little older. The Federation needs to suck an egg.

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### **Maurice Jr. says**

Book Two of the Twins of Petaybee series was another winner! The shapeshifting Shongili twins and their otter friend Sky discover a mysterious alien race beneath the waves. They want to be kept secret, even after rescuing the twins' dad from certain death in the previous book.

Unfortunately, the twins just returned from a rescue mission. They found colonists of Hawaiian descent abandoned on a dying world and brought them and their totem animals to Petaybee for sanctuary. They settle in Petaybee's newly formed temperate zone, but some of the newcomers are People Of The Shark. Now three deadly new creatures inhabit the depths, and the consequences of their appetites could spell disaster for the twins' chances of remaining friendly with the reclusive aliens.

A great read with something of a cliffhanger ending. Looking forward to the series finale.

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### **Kendra says**

I get the feeling the took this trilogy and broke one book into 3 books. Literally picks up right at the end of the other. Enjoyed the adding of the aliens and sacred telepathic critters to Petaybe, and another quickie fun read.

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### **Marie says**

I enjoyed the first series, but this series about the wonder twins just didn't do anything for me. I made it through the series, it was interesting enough - but I am a completist, even when it hurts a little.

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### **Luisa says**

It got a little bit less fun, compared to the first trilogy. Well, I still adore Anne McCaffrey and I believe that her books are a fun read, this one was too, just not in my top books.

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### **Lychee says**

I like what they're doing with this series. Easy to read, even a little hard to put down when I'm reading right before bed. Each book expands the diversity of human cultures and animal lifeforms whose competing needs have to be addressed in order for there to be success. Not the best prose but definitely successful storytelling and the concepts grab my heart and leave an imprint on me after having read these books and that's a pretty high compliment. Maybe I'm having a very idiosyncratic response, but I think this series should be getting more attention. Totally fluffy and yet also significant. I would definitely recommend this series as gifts for young adults. There's even some increasingly bold (considering the context of McCaffrey's novels) feminist statements in each novel. I'm an embarrassed but increasingly ardent fan (as if you couldn't tell).

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### **Pepper Thorn says**

Maelstrom is where this series really hits its stride. I love the concept of a sentient planet that the human residents can "speak" to and Ms. McCaffrey and Ms. Scharborough do it justice. They bring together a truly diverse cast of characters that are fun and interesting. What the story lacks in focus and tightness of plot it makes up for in sheer creativity and exuberance.

My main problem with the book was its voice. Yes, this is Ann McCaffrey and it has her characteristic tone and timber to the prose. But, while the first Petaybe series was about and for adults, this one was about children. It seemed to me, that the authors knew it should be a middle grade or YA book but didn't want to alienate the adult fans of the original series. So they straddled the line between, not specifically writing for either audience and missing them both.

Overall it was a fun and entertaining read but not as good as it could have and really should have been.

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