



Blaize and the Maven

Ellen M. Bard

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Blaize is a powerful but inexperienced energetic. Having only just passed her first Chakra Trial, Manipura, fire, she is sent to Canada to an expert Maven to be trained in her second energy: Ajna, or the mind.

Her Maven is the mysterious and reluctant Cuinn, who has problems of his own - disturbing dreams that appear to show him standing against the destruction of the energetics race. When he discovers that Blaize is part of the prophecy, he knows her training needs accelerating - but he's not prepared for the heat she brings to his normally calm and ordered world.

But both Cuinn and Blaize have secrets of their own, secrets that could destroy their partnership before it's begun - a partnership that has a far greater importance than they realize.

Will they trust each other before it's too late?

The first in a captivating new series of romance and magic, family and loyalty, love and power.

Blaize and the Maven Details

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Author : Ellen M. Bard

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From Reader Review Blaize and the Maven for online ebook

Susan says

This book had me hooked into it from the very beginning as it naturally led me on into the story of energetics and chakra development.

It fits into the genres I enjoy and was an easy and pleasant read and I am now looking forward to the next in the series which will ensue.

Karissa Bryant says

In Blaize and the Maven, Ellen Bard creates a world full of surprises and twists, held together by a concrete logic which pushes the characters into realistic situations in their fantasy world. Not usually a fictional romance reader, I was surprisingly captivated by the characters' believable energies and powers and couldn't stop turning the pages of this first novel in the Energetics series. Bard constructs compelling tension between characters which grips readers and forces us to feel every emotion alongside them. The glimpses of history and foreshadowing we see in the prologue and epilogue freezes the beginning of this series as a cliffhanger, so you'll be on the edge of your seat waiting for the next novel. I only wish they were all written so I didn't have to wait! This review is based on an ARC provided by the publisher.

Anna Charbonneau says

This book is awesome! The author has created an interesting sense of place and mythology, while keeping the story grounded and intelligent. I could not put this book down until it was done! Captivating story. Highly recommend!!!

PS I found out you can also take a quiz on the author's website to find out what your element is :) Super fun!

T. says

I downloaded Blaize and the Maven as a free book from Amazon. The writing and the characters were great, but the story line was weak, only because the element of conflict was missing. This book teased me with a host of possibilities, but the reader already knew who the villain was (we don't get enough exposure to the second villain to be concerned). The seers foresee what will happen to Blaize, so we know what's coming. The suspense therefore feels contrived to get to where we already know we're headed.

Lee says

Interesting book. I enjoyed learning about the different Chakras and how they're used.

Cuinn and Blaize were great even if Blaize was annoying at times. I hope there's a second book to play out the prophecy as that was very interesting and also learn who Indigo's maven is...sooo want to know.

Good book and glad I came across it.

Mei says

This review is based on a ARC provided by the publisher.

Having received the ARC (ooh! exciting!) I sat down to read this, and I actually finished it in one sitting.

The beginning I found a little slow, but sometimes that's unavoidable as you go through world building and introducing the rules of magic and the main characters. The characters are very much what you would expect in the world of fantasy, but they are likeable and it does pick up pace, and then I was through it and out the other side before I knew it. It's not epic fantasy, but then again, most fantasy isn't, and that's not what this is trying to be. But there is lots of space in the fantasy multiverse for books like this - and you could do a whole lot worse than pick this up to give a new author a shot on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

The telling thing is that after I finished it, I had that feeling you get when you've been on a little journey, coming down with a little bump to readjust back to the real world. And that is sometimes all you really need from a book. I will look out for the next one, and wish her all the best!

Anette Pollner says

If you think that paranormal romance is all about vampires, think again!

The supernaturals in 'Blaize and the Maven' (and the future novels in Ellen Bard's series) come from a very different tradition and have a very different energy.

The supernaturals (and main characters) are all descendants of the survivors of long lost Atlantis, and their power is both immense and immensely positive. Benign and spiritual, it stems from the activation of specific Chakras – based, in the novel, on the seven Chakras from the Upanishads and from current Yogic practice.

In the present world where most of volume 1 is set, those powerful beings live among the 'humans' who seem to be largely unaware of their true nature. The Atlantians also have their own secret institutions and their own training programs for the two Chakras that is the power source of each of them.

Blaize, the heroine, is a young, powerful and very fit 'Fire Warrior' (her first Chakra) who now has to learn her way around the Astral Plane (her second Chakra). And what a training program!

Her teacher (the 'Maven') is a very attractive, brooding older man with a dark past, and at first they seem to be fighting a lot. Or are they?

The story moves from Atlantis to Thailand to Canada to the Astral Plane where fantastic landscapes and even more fantastic events are created.

'Blaize and the Maven' also has its villains, mortal danger and, of course, a lot of delicious romantic tension as well as exciting (and very beautiful) romantic action.

Who needs vampires, when you have Blaize?

Alyssa Stockwell says

I received this book free for an honest review.

I would give this book 3.5 stars. The beginning was a little slow. I didn't really see a relationship developing so it took me by surprise when Quinn and Blaize were sleeping together and Quinn was professing his love.

The 2nd half really drew me in, though. The author did a great job at showing how worried Quinn was and it left me wanting to read the other books in the series.

There's only one thing that I really didn't care for and is probably why I didn't give this book 4 stars. Even though the story is about a young 20-something year old girl and a 500 yr old man, it felt like it was written for the high school YA crowd. But then the author threw in a very detailed sex scene that really didn't feel like it matched the rest of the tone of the book and definitely wasn't appropriate for teens.

Overall, it is a good book and I'm interested in where the story will go.

Suzan says

Interesting, sexy and mysterious. Very hard to stop reading. I want to read more about Blaize and Cuinn!

Virginia Allen says

Not bad

I'm not into the chakras and all that so it isn't exactly my thing. The story is good and as are the characters.

Renetsu says

What a super book. I loved the concept, character development, plot line. I laughed out loud at the gentle humour. The sex was great. It was pacey, had suspense and I cried. What more could I ask for? Oh, volume two please.

El says

Not my usual genre but I found this intriguing and learned lots about a world I knew nothing about formerly.

Well-written, a gripping plot and believable and consistent characters - what more could one want from a book?! Try it and see what you think. For lovers of paranormal/romance fiction.

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Blaize has just finished her first chakra trial and is an adept for fire – Manipura – and is now moving on to train her secondar chakra, Ajna, with renowned dream walker and prophet, Cuinn

However, Cuinn has had a terrible history with his previous adherent and is definitely not ready for another one. Especially since his dreams have been hinting at a terrible future he needs to uncover. The last thing he needs is an adherent under his feet

But Blaize may be an important part of the prophecy – and their enemies seem to think so when they target her.

This book is, firstly, a paranormal romance, it was how it was marketed and labelled. And that normally makes me look at the people who sent me this book and asking them if they've made any effort to examine Fangs because, in all honestly, we're not a big fan of many of the paranormal romance we read

But I liked this book

The story works extremely well in addition to the romance. Yes, there's a romance there, but there's plot there that exists above and beyond the romance. I have found a lot of paranormal romances have a plot line in addition to the romance, but it often exists just to further the romance – and you can tell. It's generally shallow, under-developed and with plot holes you could drive a double decker bus through. Here the plot and the romance weren't co-dependent on each other (which, when we think about it, makes a lot of sense. Romance may be important to the character, but it's unlikely their love life is really going to have that much influence on the fate of the world etc. No, not even with the earth shattering orgasms).

There were some clichés to the romance I didn't care for, or I've just seen so many times that I just don't have patience for them any more. Both characters have past issues that make them reluctant to venture into a relationship (both of which are a little dubious). Both have tragic or semi-tragic pasts. Both get over said tragic pasts in such an unseemly length of time that I'm left wondering why the author felt the need to have them there at all. It's like someone looked up a trope list and decided "hey, we need to have X, Y, and Z, put them in". And, really, if you're going to give your characters a compelling developed reason why they avoid relationships... fine – but actually have them avoid relationships. If it takes them 3 days to resolve these terribad issues before getting to the humping then maybe those issues shouldn't be there

But there were also some nice subversions. While there are many exceptions, we still do see a lot of celebrating virginal or "gently used" women next to experienced, older and sexually more capable man. In this case neither party is a virgin and, if anything, Blaize is the instigator of a sexual relationship – she's confident, experienced, a happy pleasure seeker. And she is the one who wants a sexual relationship rather than a romantic one. At no point is she shamed for this or looked down on for this – she is a sexual being and that's never seen as a bad thing

She's also the more capable fighter with more direct, fighting powers. She is trained to be a soldier, her element (fire) is considered the element of the Energetics who fight, while Cuinn is more cerebral with a psychic super power which is all about dream walking and seeing the future. She is the more physical and dangerous of the pair. It's probably depressing that this is a subversion, but it generally is.

She is kidnapped – as seems to be an utter requirement for every female main character in a romance. But she does rescue herself almost entirely which does a lot to help remove the problem of this repeated trope.

I actually really like both characters – they're very well realised with their own histories and viewpoints and their own very discernible opinions and voices. They're very well realised and not just in terms of their romance. The secondary characters are only touched on so they're much less developed - but we're missing any of the usual female antagonism. There's even a considerable level of sympathy for the villain no matter how angry Blaize is with them. While they're not extremely well developed, I rather suspect that many of them will be developed in future books, if nothing else because I suspect they will be future romantic pairs in future books.

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R.A. says

Loved this book!

Wow! I am really impressed with this story. I liked it on so many levels. The romance is a slow burn that builds to a raging fire. The plot is fascinating and keeps you guessing. The characters are relatable and believable. Blaize totally rocks. And if you know anything or are interested in the chakras and energy then you will love that part, too. But you absolutely do not need to know anything about that stuff to enjoy the book - just to make that clear. It's just even more awesome if you do have that background. This book is for you if you like action, adventure, romance, people having cool powers, and being able to dream walk. If this sounds like your sort of story, then you should check it out today!
