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Marked In Flesh (A Novel Of The Others Book 4)



Synopsis

In the fourth novel in Anne Bishop's New York Times bestselling series, the Others will need to decide how much humanity they're willing to tolerate both within themselves and their community... Since the Others allied themselves with the cassandra sangue, the fragile yet powerful human blood prophets who were being exploited by their own kind, the dynamic between humans and Others has changed. Some, such as Simon Wolfgard, wolf shifter and leader of the Lakeside Courtyard, and blood prophet Meg Corbyn see the closer companionship as beneficial. But not everyone is convinced. A group of radical humans is seeking to usurp land through a series of violent attacks on the Others. What they don't realize is that there are older and more dangerous forces than shifters and vampires protecting the land and those forces are willing to do whatever is necessary to safeguard what is theirs...

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Customer Reviews

This is the weakest of the series so far, in my opinion. It wasn't terrible, but it felt like it lacked the heart and fun of the earlier books. It was darker overall, which wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing,

but it felt less balanced than the previous books. I didn't mind the new characters. Some book series suffer from feeling they can never stray from the main characters first introduced. I really love Hope and Jackson. But sadly very few others of these new characters got developed enough to care much about them. It felt like they were just filling up space to make the book long enough until we got back to Meg and co. Other characters that had been developed didn't get as much page time, and I missed them. The Crows, for example, barely got a mention and no dialogue. Certain things were repeated to the point that I got very frustrated with it. Characters talked or thought about the same things over and over with no new information or perspective; such as the whole 'how much human is too human to be' for Simon, and the worries about the Elders attack. Meg and Simon's relationship development felt put on hold for this entire book. It felt as if that was being saved for the last book. I like 'slow burn' relationships and it makes sense for these characters. But done to this extreme it felt forced. The entire book really felt as if they decided they wanted this series to be 5 books long, when maybe it would have been better more tightly written as 3 or 4. Bishop's Black Jewels series also suffered, imo, when there was demand for her to continue after she'd thought she was done.

I am a FAN of Bishop and this series is by far my favorite series. I have read the books many times but Book 4 was frustrating, after waiting for a year for Book 4 I would have liked a decent length book where Author spent time with main characters. At Book 4 you are expecting to make progress and not have 100 new characters introduced and story jumping from one set of character to other. It felt more like Bishop was busy setting new characters to write about rather than pay attention to what needs to happen to characters that are already in play.

I have cherished this series and found that it has become a treasured part of my library. The world and its inhabitants are so fresh and novel that I have looked forward to each book with anticipation. While this book continued the same rich inventive tapestry, It just did not work for me in the same manner as books 1-3. For me the pacing was very off in this book, leaving it a slow, meandering read. I found it sluggish and without a theme at its center. The climax was more of a thud than a high point in the book. Throughout the book I felt I'd been left by the author to drift and find my own story. I understand the through line but as a work unto itself this just didn't measure up for me. That said, I love this vision and the world created in books 1-3. I'll very likely read the next volumes. This felt limp and leaden compared to the prior books. Had anyone else written this, I'd give it 2 stars. Bishop is so good I feel this warrants 3.

This fourth installment of the Others series really is the culmination of a lot of buildup to a climax that the series has been heading for thus far. The HFL movement has spurred a much more intense reaction from the Others - evoking the wrath of the Elders (hopefully this isn't the last time that we will see them!) and the scope of the series has expanded far beyond the borders of the Lakeside Courtyard (if only the opening maps would reflect this!). This one really is action-packed and exciting. The new characters (yay a cameo from the Ocean and the Sharkgard) fit in well and Bishop, as usual, makes it easy to instantly connect with them and feel an instant rapport. The only downside of the expanded cast and scope is that this means that there are much less of Meg and Simon... their relationship is progressing, but I feel left out of some of their interactions! Still, it's a great series and I am left unsure of what direction the series will take next... I am glad that I decided to re-read this series for my birthday!

This book was a bit slower than the first three books and there were a lot more characters in this one. Although I really enjoyed it I miss the book revolving around the courtyard and I struggled a little with remembering who was who in all the different locations. Most of the book is about the others and intuiting preparing for the "culling" that's coming and hoping that they and the few humans that they are friends with will survive. The trademark humor was still here and I laughed out loud a few times. Not many scenes with Meg and Simon though so that was a little disappointing. Overall, not my favorite but I still really enjoyed this book and I do love this series.

I love this series! After a rather slow start, the story picked up and I felt like I was in the midst of the story. I felt as though the author was fleshing out the existing characters before introducing additional members to the storyline. One of the reasons I really enjoyed this, was because I took the time to read the other books in the series again. Since everything was fresh in my mind I didn't have to try to remember who was who. Meg and Simon are still becoming close however I don't think they will become mates. The premise of this series is so new and different that everything that comprises the world building just provides a totally different perspective. I love the comic moments, the break up the tension and give me a quick break to breathe. I know that there will be at least one more book but, I'm hopeful that there will be a new story arc, that will give us new characters with new problems on how to rebuild. Simply Fantastic!!!

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