



Life Reader

K.M. Shea

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When Fifteen-year-old Raven Wishmore, a member of a secret society devoted to protecting magic, is charged with finding a priceless cauldron hidden in the infamous Saint Cloud Library, she thought her most difficult task would be keeping up her disguise as a gum snapping, skirt wearing flake-of-a-girl. She was entirely unprepared for a chilly reception from her teenage coworkers, the tyrannical library director, and the poor state of the library.

The already difficult assignment turns dangerous when magic abusers threaten to destroy Saint Cloud unless they are given the hidden cauldron. If Raven wants to complete her mission and save the library, she'll have to work with the library staff members—including the mischievous Montamos brothers—and use her taboo magic that she has kept hidden for years: the ability to read things to life.

Life Reader Details

Date : Published May 26th 2013 by Amazon Digital Services, Inc.

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From Reader Review Life Reader for online ebook

Stephanie Rehkopf says

Fun read

The book could use some editing (it drove me crazy to read 'Brandon' instead of 'Brannon' multiple times. Otherwise it is a unique and fun read. Kinda wish I could see more of the world

Rose says

This was too good for words!

Raven has discovered that when she reads aloud, her characters come to life... Literally.

There is so much more to the story, but I don't want to spoil it. This is beyond fun and so, so funny!

Mollie Smith says

Loved it

I don't usually (really, never) like fantasy set in the modern world, but I loved the crap out of this! Please bring on the next book!!

Its only 4 stars because of typos. I only noticed a couple grammatical errors, no big deal BUT one (football player) character switched between being Brandon and Brannon. Dude, either name is great but pick one.

Jemma says

'Twas pretty good. The characters were fun and the plot wasn't bad.

If you're looking for a light fun read, I would recommend this or My Life at the MBRC (Which I enjoyed more, but was a bit soppy on the romance side)

- Second time through -

One of K M Shea's best actually, despite being an earlier book. The writing was pretty decent, and all the characters had a bit of development and interest. The romance was barely even noticeable, while still being really sweet.

And the twins are awesome :D

Desiree Jacobson says

Loved it

Great story with Blairs and loveable characters. Loved the magic and the twins. The interplay between them is awesome. It's set up for more in the series, which would be amazing because i loved the world is set in and how her magic works. Fabulous

Robyn says

Another excellent book by KM Shea.

The opening scene was aces. It got right to the point and grabbed my attention.

Raven is a no-nonsense heroine who has to pretend to be a flighty, ever-popular, girly-girl. I loved her slip ups, when she accidentally expressed her real opinion and then had to cover it up with some vapid comment or inane act.

The twins were hysterical and I loved the way they interacted with each other and the way they brought Raven into their inner circle so completely.

I'm hoping for a sequel! Hopefully one in which the mysterious figure from Raven's class is explained.

Tabby says

K.M. Shea is one of my favorite authors so I jump at the chance to read any book by her I come across. Unfortunately Life Reader isn't one of my top picks from her.

I did enjoy the book. I liked the characters a lot and the modern day setting with a hidden magical society operating under everyday peoples noses was also fun to read. But I felt the story lacked a little polish I guess.

Even though the main characters were all in high school the book felt middle-grade to me. Raven is a strong female lead, something I expect from K.M. Shea, and the twins that serve as her companions are quirky and entertaining. But the plot and the modern day magical society in the book both could have used some work and more depth. Like I stated before, the book could have used a little more polish.

All in all even I did really like the characters and world and I would definitely recommend this book. There are plans to eventually expand Life Reader into a series so I look forward to reading more. Perhaps the ideas started in this book will be more fleshed out in the next book. (Though K.M. Shea's website says that could take years.)

Margo says

Not sure where the high rating comes in ... At least 19 blatant errors in the first three chapters, and not that interesting to boot. No excuse for the likes of "wracks" of books and security "breeches" -- I'm out.

Catherine Boel says

I never know what to expect when I start a new KM Shea book. She writes wonderful tales, weaving simple but fascinating worlds with plucky characters but I sometimes find myself disappointed by - what appears to me - a too rapid ending. Life Reader was one such case but, alongside a few spelling mistakes, it is the only downside to this volume. I will state that it is a must read for fantasy book lovers! Not only does KM Shea offer an intriguing new world rife with captivating personalities but the entire story revolves around magical libraries and librarians with powers connected to literature. Our heroin's ability is much stronger as she can give life to the books she reads, not just create illusions. As is the case in most stories, such great strength does not come without a price and, fearful of her fate should anyone learn of her talent, she keeps it hidden from all, including her family. The story evolves slowly but the action will keep the reader wanting to know more while the witty dialogues between the quirky characters are highly entertaining. I spent half my time reading and the other laughing aloud in public.

MissFaerieKaiti says

This book has so few reviews, it's shameful. Here are my two cents: This book is a must-read! <3 It's a clean, enjoyable read with a neatly wrapped-up story arc and a promise for future adventures. Raven is a stellar lead with a good head on her shoulders (though I did want to shake her at one point), and you can tell that she knows what she's doing.

The world in which she operates is familiar to her - so, by extension, to us, by the time we're a few chapters in. I'll be honest: my biggest complaint about this book was its learning curve. Kitty (the author, K.M. Shea) used quite a few terms at the beginning that I found difficult to grasp at first. However, it wasn't too long before I started to feel on par with Raven's familiarity, and the difficulty I had at the very beginning was well worth the payoff.

I adore the varied cast of characters Raven interacts with, from the director (heeheehee, this guy xD) to the twins (AHHH, THE TWINS! <3) to Raven's school friend (underrepresented, but if there's a sequel, I bet we'll see more of her). I would happily throttle perhaps two or three of the other characters - none of whom are villains, by the way, but all of whom are antagonistic in a way that makes me hold a grudge. xP Speaking of the villains, I'm actually really curious about Fox, and I think I'll leave it at that to avoid giving spoilers.

Oh, and the library itself is a character! Sort of. I mean, basically. I mean, I don't really have that part completely figured out, but I totally don't mind just going with it, especially given the additional information provided in bonus short stories on the author's website. ^_^

So there you have it - my two cents, whatever that will buy. xD The book is totally open for a sequel at some point, but it by no means ends on a cliffhanger. The plot points introduced at the very beginning of the novel are all resolved satisfactorily by the end. I have definitely fallen madly in love with the characters of this

story and will revisit them again and again! <3

Cassia says

Life Reader by K.M. Shea

During the past week I have literally devoured all of K.M. Shea's books (excepting the King Arthur series). I started with the two MBRC books and Princess Ahira. Then took a detour to Robyn Hood, (my least favorite), before speeding through the Timeless Fairytale Series. Finally, I finished with The Red Rope of Fate and Life Reader.

I saved Life Reader for last because the book description did not seem to make sense. Once again I was pleasantly surprised. Life Reader is so far my favorite of Shea's books, (closely tied with The Little Selkie.) Now I find myself disappointed because I want more!

However, I hear that there is a new Life Reader book coming out in 2016, and I can't wait! There are so many possibilities... How will the twins will complicate Raven's life as an Administrative Assistant. What is Jeremiah hiding? How will Foxx's obsession with Raven develop? Will Shannon return with a bigger role as the 'Human Friend'?

Melody says

Plagiarism.

Firstly. How on earth did she get this published with so much barely concealed, stolen material? The identical twins take Raven to a magical store hidden from humans. (Honeydukes, Zonko's Joke Shop) There they purchase fireworks, tricks, candy named after magical creatures and every flavor magic drops. Not an exact copy but so, so obvious. They travel to the magical store through a hidden portal in a bathroom stall of a rundown looking store. (The Ministry Employee Entrance, The Leaky Cauldron) The magic rings they all wear have cores from magical creatures such as dragons and unicorns. The adult Raven reports to is her guardian/father who is a black dog. (A job not literal dog but still.) Seriously.

They have to watch out for hordes of floating "decayers".

They have a dangerous willow tree protecting their yard. (Whomping Willow anyone?)

Secondly. The heroine and her father are supposed to be undercover. Her father, a professional undercover agent, does big magic, in broad daylight, in his front yard. They don't have separate magic towns but live among nonmagic people. They aren't supposed to let nonmagic humans see magic. Plus they have relocated and need to stay under the radar of their enemies. He makes an entire willow tree disappear from his yard.

The heroine is dumb as dirt. She talks OUT LOUD to herself about top secret and sensitive stuff where anyone can hear her. Repeatedly. She also does big obvious magic in her front yard exposing her true identity to her enemy.

She hides her magic from her family and allies only showing it to her ENEMIES. Even when she discovers her magic is rare, special and needed instead of forbidden and shameful she won't tell her father about it. She

decides to only use her magic to save lives but then when all her friends and co-workers and the library she is supposed to protect are being destroyed she still won't use it. This happens twice.

She doesn't recognize the bad guy in disguise even when he gives her a BIG RED CLUE to his identity. I don't know why he would do it but it was unmistakable to ANYONE but her.

There are so many more reasons this book is badly written. There are many typos and other errors. The character Brannon shows up as Brandon 11 times.

And so many things simply don't make sense.

The premise of the book is cool. And there are a few funny parts but on the whole even ignoring the large-scale magical content theft, it just isn't well done. The heroine is just so dumb, selfish and disappointing.

This author has a few really great books and a few really awful ones. I could at least finish this one.

Ianthe Silverfire says

This book is Ouran High School Host Club crossed with Harry Potter. And it mainly takes place in a magical library. I LOVED it.not just for those elements. It's definitely one of Shea's earlier books. But I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Jami says

Oh my! I loved it!

I'm a huge fan of K.M Shea's books. This was the last of her books for me to read. Now, I've read ALL OF THEM.

This story is about Raven Wishbone and her awesome magic which is reading life into stories or parts of stories.

After her family is attacked by magic abusers, her life is uprooted. She is given a new name, life style, and home along with her family. After a briefing from her dad's boss, Gram. She learns she will do undercover work at a library she HATES. Why does she hate it? Learn more by reading it. Enjoy the trouble she goes through!

A special note, I think Asher likes her A LOT.

Gnome Claire *Wishes she was as cool as Gnome Ann* says

This was a fun read but the world felt a bit disconnected, I never really understood the magic or the societies within it, it just didn't feel that well explained. I also couldn't get over how roll-play Kingdom Quest sounds, every time someone mentioned it all I could think of was a group of people in fancy dress waving sword about shouting Hurrah! rather than a serious magical society.

The plot was a bit predictable and at times it felt like it was plodding along to the next thing to happen. I found all the high school stuff and Raven pretending to be a brainless idiot really dull, she was trying to blend in so I guess she was trying to be unremarkable but it was dull to read about.

What I really loved about this book though was the characters, they were really great, I really liked the strange mix and their different conflicting personalities. They were sweet, funny and infuriating all at the same time. The twins were brilliant.

I'd read the next in the series, but I probably wouldn't re-read this one.
