



Lure of Obsession

Lisa Kessler

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Melanie Jacoby teaches English at Crystal City High School. She's also the reborn Muse of Tragic Poetry, but she isn't prepared for the tragedy of finding her roommate dead at the bottom of the stairs.

Nate Malone is the detective assigned to the case, but as the evidence points to an accidental fall, the visions begin. He sees a killer in a gold Kronos mask.

Mel is the next target.

The Order of the Titans are eager to bring about the return of the Golden Age of Man, and they're prepared to kill the Muses to complete their mission. But Nate's desire to protect Mel is almost as strong as his hunger for her.

And tragedy isn't part of his plan.

The Prophecy - *"Every generation the nine daughters of Zeus are reborn, and with their rebirth are also nine Guardians. They will be marked by the gods, and given gifts to protect his treasure. Their abilities will only be unlocked when they find their muse."*

Lure of Obsession Details

Date : Published August 1st 2016 by Lisa's Lair

ISBN :

Author : Lisa Kessler

Format : ebook 266 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Mythology

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From Reader Review Lure of Obsession for online ebook

Umaiya ?Insignificant September? says

2.5 "It just didn't click" stars

Kahea says

*****3.5 stars*****

The premise of the book woke up my inner closet Greek mythology nerdgirl. I mean who doesn't love the Greek gods and all of the stories about how they meddled and manipulated not only each other lives but those of the human's who worshipped them? So, a story about the Muses being reborn and hunted by a fanatical group who believe that releasing the Titan's is a good idea is definitely up my alley. And while I enjoyed the book and am looking forward to getting to know the rest of the Muse's and seeing how they collide with their Guardians, I'm also left with wishing this book had delved a little deeper into certain aspects of the story.

I really liked Mel and Nate. Even though Mel is the Muse of Tragic Poetry, she is not a person who goes around depressed all the time. She does tend to think the worst in certain situations, but is able to catch herself before she slips into the tragic realm. I love her passion for her job as an English teacher and how she shows her students the beauty of the written word and how they can help to express yourself, hell I'd probably have adored her if she'd been my teacher.

Nate is all about protecting and serving, though an incident from his recent past and what he went through as a child make him doubt his efficiency at the protecting aspect of his job, but he perseveres. His past has shaped him also into believing that being a lone wolf is the only way to live his life, but a certain little blip in his life prove that he is wrong and show what a compassionate and sweet man is hidden underneath.

Though the situation that brings them together is not how anyone would want to be in a relationship, it is the catalyst that awakens the Guardian in Nate and from that moment on they find themselves undeniably intertwined. Things do progress quickly, but much of that is due to the Guardian/Muse bond and though there is a bit of push/pull that happens neither of them can deny the unnameable force that draws them to each other and they both make the decision to not deny it and through it find that they actually like each other beyond the physical and may just be exactly what they need.

This is my first book by the author and I was hooked from the first page and, as I said, I love the premise of this series. The characters are fun and interesting and I really like how the girls have little quirks that tie them to the Muses they represent. The mystery/suspense part was done well and I liked that not only did we get Mel and Nate's POV's, but the baddies as well to round out the story. Now for the delving deeper thing, I do wish that there had been more detail the Golden Age of Man given and just why the Order believed it was a good thing, though being fanatics the details aren't always necessary, as well a little more on how the girls, or at least Mel, felt about being a reborn Muse. This isn't to say that what is in the book isn't enough, but the nerdgirl in me didn't feel as if it was entirely satisfied and Googled. I'm chalking this up to a "it's not you, it's me" thing because I did really enjoy the story and am looking forward to seeing what the next book in

the series has in store for us.

~ ARC received from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review ~

Lyndi W. says

Super spoilery review because you definitely should not waste your time reading this.

Any romance novel that has a half naked man on the cover is an adult book - can we all agree on that? I think so. This felt more like YA at times (crazy angst), bordering every now and then on NA (lots of sex), but very rarely did it feel Adult (the sex was always gently worded). There was actually an "I mean, I *like* like you." moment.

So I like the basic idea of the plot - the nine muses are reborn over and over again to inspire humanity, but some crazy dudes want to release the Titans and killing the muses will buy them more time to do so. The muses are handily appointed guardians that will protect them from something that is never revealed to the reader. Okay. I get it and I'm kinda following.

But... the titans are imprisoned in the **center** of the Earth, so the bad guys are deep oil drilling in an attempt to break the Titans out. I no longer follow because that makes no fucking sense. The deepest humans have ever drilled is like 7 miles; the center of the Earth is about 4,000 miles deep. We've never even gotten past the **crust** of the planet. How fucking long are these assholes going to drill? My calculator won't even give me recognizable numbers when I try to mathicate this shit. The author clearly expected the reader to just accept this nonsense because it's in a paranormal book, I guess.

So why do they need to kill the muses anyway? Because the muses will inspire the world to make advances in science, specifically in the tech fields of clean energy. Solar powered cars and stuff. And this is bad for the oil industry. And the bad guys need the oil industry going full throttle to earn the money necessary to continue drilling to the center of the Earth for like 8,000 years.

Again, this makes no fucking sense. We're making advances in clean energy every day and the oil industry is doing just fine. If solar powered cars were available tomorrow, the oil industry wouldn't take a hit at all. Look at how well they're doing with electric cars on the road. Industry doesn't move so quickly that somebody can be inspired, invent something spectacular, and immediately make their product available to the entire world in such large quantities that the competing industry suffers. Tesla electric cars have been available for 10 years and there are less than 80k of them on the road. In comparison, Honda sold nearly 5 million cars last years. So the idea that any advances in clean energy would destroy the oil industry before these idiots finally realize they can't actually dig a hole to the center of the Earth is beyond laughable.

I mean, it's almost offensive in its absolute stupidity. Did the author do *any* research at all?

I actually have plenty more to bitch about, but it's 5am and I've already wasted more than enough time on this crap, so I'm just stopping here. Don't read the book, the end.

Linda says

When Mels roommate turns up dead and the police doesn't believe there's foul play at work, she doesn't know who to turn to. As one of the nine Muses, Mel embodies the Muse of Tragedy to the T.

Detective Nate thinks the death is an accident, until he gets a vision touching the door. Is he going mad or is there something greater at work here? When lore turns out to be reborn and real, Nate will have to decide if this is something he can do.

Something big and bad is targeting the Muses, and they need help from the Guardians.

PNR romance, suspense, action and smutty fluff in a great combo, and a great start to a new series. Can't wait to see more from the sisters =)

Disclaimer; I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Margaret says

What a way to start a new series! It's no secret I'm a big Lisa Kessler fan, and this book has everything I have come to love about her writing – great characters, lots of emotions, great writing, and a story that pulls you in and makes you want to be a part of it. And I just love the premise of the series – focusing on the Muses and the mythology behind them.

Nate doesn't do relationships, but when he meets Mel all of his protective instincts kick in. When he begins having visions about the murder of Mel's roommate, and then learns from Mel about the Muses and his status as her Guardian, he's committed to keep her safe – but a relationship still isn't something he thinks he's capable of.

Although Mel is usually a glass half empty type of person, a part of her being the Muse of Tragic Poetry, with Nate she's able to feel safe...and I loved watching her push her negative thoughts aside when it comes to him. She's aware of Nate's aversions to relationships but is willing to put herself out there to see what might happen. She sees his past scars as a testament to his being a survivor, and I love how she begins to help him heal. I did find her a bit reckless though – I loved her wanting to help Nate when he didn't have backup, but it was a bit frustrating to find her putting herself in danger...she was very stubborn!

The supporting characters in the book helped set the stage for the overall series arc – something Lisa Kessler has a gift for doing. We are introduced to the other Muses and also the main players in the Order of the Titans. As the first book in a new series enough information was given about the lore and history without bogging the story down – something else that Lisa Kessler excels at.

The writing was solid and even though the romance moved a bit quickly in my opinion it fit the lore of Muses and Guardians so it didn't come across as insta-love (which I'm not a fan of!). As I already mentioned, the plot for not only this book and the series was laid out perfectly to keep the story moving and ending with a happy ever after but leaving enough open to have me waiting for the next installment in this series.

A must read for any romance lover, but I think this would definitely appeal to any lover of mythology and suspense.

I received a copy of this book from the author for an honest review.

Claire Robinson says

4 - **"The gods were kind to me when they made me your muse..."** Stars!

Lisa Kessler is an author who has been on my radar for quite some time, but every release I have seen for her lately has been a book that is part of a long running series, and I am one of those readers who has to start a series from the beginning.

As such when I saw *Lure of Obsession* was the first book in the authors new *Muse Chronicles* series, I did a small, but very rhythmic happy dance, at finally being able to see what this author was all about.

"Inspiration before intercourse."

I really enjoyed this story, it is definitely the start of a series that I think is going to need to be read in order, and potentially eight books long. Seeing as there are nine sisters (*Daughters of Zeus*). Unfortunately this book starts with the murder of one of them, and through its course you are introduced to the rest of the women all of whom have their own very diverse personalities and differing talents, with Melanie Jacoby; *Muse of Tragic Poetry* being the lead sister of the story.

He was like Superman with a gun.

After finding her flatmate dead, it falls to Detective Nate Malone and his partner to investigate the crime. With no evidence of forced entry, or clues as to why anyone would want her dead, Nate is struggling to rule the death as anything other than accidental. Apart from Mel's insistence that it was murder there is very little to indicate that it was anything other than a tragedy. That is until he starts having unusual, and unexplained visions...

"I lost someone I should have been protecting. I'll never let that happen again."

I won't lie the relationship aspect between Nate and Mel goes at warp speed in this one. Even though Nate has issues with commitment, it seems the lure of being Mel's *Guardian* is strong enough to make him step out of his comfort zone very quickly in order to offer her the protection she needs.

This was a sweet read, plenty of secondary characters and POV's to keep the plot moving, and plenty of scope for the rest of the books with the villains still at large and the sisters still intent on getting their theater up and running, and I look forward to reading more books as they are released, and hopefully have the time to start some of the authors more established series at some point too.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Shanny says

I'm going to love reading this series! I love the premise of muses being reborn and having guardians! And of course, some type of evil out to get them! So much fun and romance!

Melanie is the first muse's story we get, Melanie is the Muse of Tragic Poetry, and her roommate, who was also a muse, has died. Melanie and the other muses suspect foul play, but the police say it was accidental. Nate Malone is the detective on the scene, and when he meets Melanie strange things begin to change for him. Melanie and Nate begin to feel a pull towards each other, but both have reservations about the situation.

I love that there is a bit of mystery to the story, and I enjoyed the action scenes. Melanie and Nate have great chemistry, and are really sweet with each other. The sex scenes had just the right amount of spice and heat and emotion! Nate was a sweetheart and I liked his need to protect Melanie. Melanie was fun and tough, and I loved that she has a bit of spunk. I love that we get POV's from both Melanie and Nate, but we also get the bad guy's POV, which I would have liked a bit less of, so there was a bit more mystery, but that didn't ruin the story for me. Also, the Maggie situation was a little weird for me, I don't know why it didn't quite mesh with me because it was a sweet aspect, but something about it sat wrong for me, but that also didn't take away from my enjoyment of the rest of the book.

I love the combination of romance and suspense, so I am really looking forward to reading more books in this series! I enjoyed the other muses, and can't wait for their stories and for them to get their own guardians! I also enjoyed the writing, and look forward to reading more books by Lisa Kessler!

Lisa says

This book is amazing! I love paranormal romance, and I've enjoyed mythology since I was a kid. When I read the description for this book, I knew I had to read it. And I literally tore through the book in less than a day. I was immediately drawn into the story and could not put it down. Melanie, the Muse of Tragic Poetry, is dealt a shocking blow (along with her fellow Muses) when she finds her roommate/sister muse dead. Detective Nate Malone is assigned to work this case, and together they learn the roommate's death was not an accident, Melanie may also be in danger, and their pull to each other is more than just attraction.

Mel is a smart, compassionate and funny muse. Her own self-doubt and leanings towards the negative can sometimes get in her way, but also brings a little humor here and there. She is loyal to Nate and all he has overcome, and is just awesome. Now Nate... I've got plenty of favorite book boyfriends (Peeta Mellark, Rhysand – High Lord of the Night Court, etc.), but Nate may just take the cake! He is intelligent, fiercely protective, sensitive, caring, sexy, and unfortunately dealing with his own personal demons from the past. I loved that he was able to let his guard down and let Mel help heal his emotional wounds.

I love that this is just the start of a series. There is an organization determined to stop the Muses from contributing to the inspiration of mankind, and none of the muses are safe. Let's just hope each muse finds their protector guardian and H.E.A. in such a way that is as sweet, funny, suspenseful, and downright sexy as Mel and Nate found each other.

Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

Heather andrews says

Nate can ask for help at times, "yeah." He slid free from her and sat up. "I'm sorry. Dammit. I've never forgotten before." He looked over at her. "What do we do?" Her big, strong police detective was asking her what to do." I loved Nate he was protective as hell, and he could be sensitive.

Lorna says

(RabidReads.com) I am a fan of Lisa Kessler's, Moon series and have read and liked all of them. So it was an easy decision to read her latest release which is part of a new series. I must admit, the paranormal element was new to me as far as reading fiction. And that element is from Greek mythology-Muses.

Mel is the Muse of Tragic Poetry, having changed at the age of eighteen. She's still human, but embodies the Muse. Now she has not only met the other eight Muses, but is in partnership with them as they work to renovate an old theater. Their goal is to have a place for all artistic endeavors to happen there. Mel's roommate Nia is the Muse of Astronomy. When Mel comes home one night, she finds a tragic scene in her home. Nia is dead. She meets Nate, a detective, and is pretty much immediately attracted to him. Even as she grieves. Nate doesn't understand why he is so attracted to her either, as it goes against all his professional rules.

Mel is the complete opposite of a optimist due to her being the Muse of Tragic Poetry. Everything to her is a potential disaster, but she doesn't act out or anything, it's just what runs through her mind. She's a high school English teacher, the kind of teacher that kids never forget. Nate is a handsome man, one that refuses to ever settle down. He's good at what he does and is usually very professional. Meeting Mel, and becoming involved with her goes against everything-and he really doesn't care as he can't think of anything but her-and the case. What started out as just another case really ramps up when he starts having new abilities-out of the blue. It pretty much makes him think he is going crazy. Also featured is his partner, John, who doesn't approve of Mel. Mel's fellow muse, Callie, has a bigger part to play as Mel's friend. There's also an assortment of villains, all with the same agenda. An agenda that involves Mel dying.

To me, the romance and the mystery took precedence over the paranormal aspects with Mel. And there is nothing wrong with that. However other than her "glass is half empty" view of life, the reader doesn't see much of the paranormal. It's more of a personality thing, then something that really manifests. As far as Nate goes, his new powers seem to be more paranormal than what Mel is. However, he does have the powers because of her. And I am going to leave it at that because of spoilers. As far as the reasoning of the villains, I am still a bit unclear of the why of what they do. To be honest, that part was a bit out there for me. I hope in the next books, the villains and their reasons will be explored further.

My favorite part of the book was the romance, and the addition of a small child in Nate's life, just made that part better. That didn't surprise me as Lisa Kessler knows how to write a good romance. The Muse part was interesting, but I would like to see more of what the Muse's do to change the person they inhabit. The thriller aspects were also a good part of the story, but as I said, I think I need more about the villains and why they feel the need to do what they do. I liked the characters and I will be interested to see who the next one will be

about. I thought this would be a good book for adult, light paranormal romance fans. Adult due to sensual scenes and some violence.

Elaine says

Take Greek mythology, add a modern take, have murder, mystery and a handsome, protective Guardian and Lisa Kessler has the perfect recipe for another riveting series! There are nine Muses who have had dreams that led them to an old dilapidated theatre and each other.

One of them is Melanie Jacoby, an English teacher who is the reborn muse of tragic poetry. On returning home one evening she is shocked to find it in darkness. She shares her home with Nia, the Muse of Astronomy, who always has lights on throughout their home. Mel's worst fears come true when she discovers her friend's body at the bottom of the stairs. She calls the police but most of them seem to assume it is a tragic accident but Nate Malone, the detective in charge of the investigation has some strange experiences, visions of events that lead him to believe it wasn't an accident and that Mel could be the killer's next target. The scene is set for a great murder mystery with Greek overtones and romance, too.

Both Mel and Nate are great, with additional well developed characters with plenty of background information to encourage the reader to empathise with them this is an engaging romantic suspense that I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I can't wait to read more in this enthralling new series!

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah says

Mel and her muse sisters are working to restore an old theater. A dark and mysterious group seemingly appears out of nowhere and threatens their project and their lives. Enter Nate, the main male character in the book. Nate is a good guy who had a rough childhood and therefore a hard time letting others in. Mel and Nate share undeniable chemistry and are pushed together for survival in a suspenseful setting with a sinister villain.

The book was well-paced and kept me guessing. I enjoyed the Greek mythological references that were applied to modern-day people and circumstances. There's action, mythology, character growth and development, interesting secondary characters (that I assume will get their own books--- ahem ahem), and some hot romance scenes. It truly has something for everyone. I missed my subway stop while reading this book because the surrounding world disappeared and I became immersed in the author's not so imaginary world--- twice.

Jan Murphree says

Awesome!!!

Great story!! I can't wait to read about all the muses!!

There mates....and there HEA....its awesome!!
Mystery ...suspense...love... What more could you want.
Buy it read it!!! You will love it!!!
Can't wait for book 2!

Heather book whore & shifter slut extraordinaire says

The title fits perfectly because with the first words you are lured into this book and by the end you have become obsessed with this series! Or at least that is how it happened for me. I have been interested in reading this book and this series for a while and was so very not disappointed!

The whole concept of the rebirth of the nine Muses and how they are meant to inspire each new generation of humanity to move forward is fascinating and excellent for a mythological based romance, especially when you add in the prophecy of “one Guardian for each Muse”. But as you read through the book you realize that the need for inspiration is not confined to “the Arts”. Scientists and doctors and especially our youth need inspiration to continually move our world towards a better place. Imagine if the Wright Brothers had never been inspired by Da Vinci’s drawings to build an actual airplane that flew. Imagine if Da Vinci had never been inspired by the heavens above him to create all he did!

Think about all the technological advances we have made in the last 100 heck even in the last 50 or 10 years. And how those advances have not only changed how we see the world and each other, but also revolutionized medicine and physics and even music! Mel is a teacher and uses her (and her sister Muses) gifts to inspire her students. She gives them a safe place to open up that side of themselves and allows them to experiment till they find their voice. This inspires them to become better version of themselves. She also gives them a safe place to fail, and learn from this failure, to find the right path for themselves.

I enjoyed the sense of humor the author brought to this book. These characters were able to find moments to laugh even as they were experiencing tragedy, sorrow and fear. Being able to do that makes us stronger as people. And they were able to open themselves to each other and take risks, even as they were scared of the changes to come and what the final outcome would be.

Love inspires us all to be better.
