



The Myth Manifestation

Lisa Shearin

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The agents of Supernatural Protection & Investigations (SPI) protect people from predatory supernaturals. This time, we're the ones who need protection.

New York is one of the most popular convention destinations in the world—for humans and supernaturals. Every hundred years, rulers of the world's supernatural races come together to negotiate and renew a peace treaty. Meeting in the same hotel are the governors of our world's goblin and elf colonies. SPI is saddled with the security nightmare of keeping the living delegates alive and the undead delegates from becoming permanently deceased. We've got our work cut out for us.

I'm Makenna Fraser, seer for SPI. Our security nightmare becomes real when monsters from the delegates' mythologies begin mysteriously appearing in the flesh to hunt delegates from every side of the debate. And when the hotel gets sucked into another dimension, there's no escape.

We discover that we're all pieces in an elaborate and deadly game. A game about to spill out into the real world. Failing to escape is game over and not an option. We have to save the world—but first, we have to save ourselves.

The Myth Manifestation Details

Date : Published January 16th 2018 by Ace

ISBN :

Author : Lisa Shearin

Format : ebook 274 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic, Vampires

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From Reader Review The Myth Manifestation for online ebook

Bea Charmed says

3.5 maybe 4 stars

Mandi Schreiner says

I jumped into this UF series with book five. Very cute heroine, but this is a very populated world. I understood the world building but there were so many characters! Nice voice though. Mini review coming

Katyana says

I loved it, as usual. I mean, I completely blitzed through it, and finished it in a single afternoon... I just couldn't take my attention off it.

I honestly love Lisa Shearin's books. She has definitely become an auto-buy author for me.

If I were to offer the tiniest quibble in this review, it was that I don't understand how Mac was without her partner for 99% of it. I'm okay with not shipping Mac/Ian, but I love their partnership, and that relationship has been the bedrock for the series. Ian was barely in this book at all, and Mac was constantly in dangerous situations (doing her job, not being TSTL) without him, and it just didn't sit right to me. They are still partners. And protecting the seer is still critical for SPI. So I don't understand why he was constantly off doing his own thing (offscreen) and leaving her to do her thing.

But it's a quibble. I liked the book very much. And I enjoyed the crossover from the Raine Benares series (yay Mago!), which is unquestionably my favorite Shearin series.

More, please!

Kt says

Posted on A Book Obsession

I know I say this in every time a read a new book in this world, but I absolutely love this series. It's just so much fun, and has a fantastic set of characters in a very rich world. I know every time I pick one of these books up I'm guaranteed an excellent read, and THE MYTH MANIFESTATION was no exception. Of course we have the usual fun from the excellent cast of characters and the bits of snark and humor had me bursting out loud. But this time, the plot really stole the show for me. It felt like a cross between a murder mystery and an escape room, and all the hi-jinx involved there-in. Add that to the fact that all of the very many species in this rich world were all locked in the same place together, and it made for one heck of a read.

I foolishly started this book in the late evening thinking "oh I'll just read a few chapters and then go to bed." WRONG! I wound up staying up until the wee hours just to finish as I couldn't get enough. Let me tell you the next morning came quick on just a few hours of sleep, but it was well worth it. So a word of warning, don't start this book unless you have a solid block set aside as you simply will not be able to put it down.

All in all I cannot praise THE MYTH MANIFESTATION enough. I loved every single moment of this book and I cannot wait to get my hands on the next book. I'll be counting down the days for sure! Fans of the series are sure to be pleased!

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy.

THE MYTH MANIFESTATION is exactly what one would expect from Lisa Shearin and the SPI Files series. It's got our sassy-as-ever Mac, action packed scenes with creepy creatures, and general all around humor and fun. Plus, this book opens the door for even more crossover between Shearin's SPI Files and Raine Benares series.

As a lover of all things Shearin, having read the original six books in the Raine Benares series while they were still being published (I like to think of them as my first foray into urban fantasy!), the crossover between the two series is something I gleefully welcome! However, it might be annoying to some readers if they aren't familiar with the Raine Benares world. To those readers, I say: do yourself a favor and go read the Raine books. They're good, and while somewhat "traditional" fantasy (in that they don't take place in our world) if you like Mac, you'll like Raine. Shearin's writing is predictable in a good way, and the sass, action, and humor are very similar in both series.

The thing that bothered me the most about THE MYTH MANIFESTATION was Mac's internal dialogue. It doesn't always sound super real, and it sometimes gets repetitive. The repetition is a complaint I had with previous books, and definitely something that eventually you get used to, as a reader, but this is the narrator we're talking about here, so it's a bit frustrating.

But THE MYTH MANIFESTATION has plenty of good. One of my complaints about the previous book was that Mac felt a little coddled. While I still see elements of overprotectiveness in Ian and Rake, she definitely strikes out on her own more in this book, and it feels like her skills are growing and she's getting more confident. The pacing of the plot was good, and there was enough explanation about elven and goblin politics that readers not familiar with Shearin's books would totally get the idea. In fact, I can easily see somebody picking up this book, not having read any of the others, and being able to slip right into the world. (I don't recommend it, because the other books are SO GOOD but, eh, whatever floats your boat!) And the cast of characters who surround Mac continue to delight and entertain.

All in all, I really enjoyed THE MYTH MANIFESTATION. I am overjoyed to see that Shearin has four more books planned for this series and cannot wait to see where they go. This might even merit a reread of all of Shearin's books!

Sexual content: Implied sex

Melanie says

My review and an extended sample of the audiobook are posted at Hotlistens.com.

I was glad to be back in Makenna's weird world. This series has been a lot of fun from the beginning. Mac is a seer. She can see things that others can't and can see through glamours. She is invaluable to SPI (Supernatural Protection & Investigations). She isn't a fully trained agent, but is partnered with one of the best, Ian.

In this story, the team is working a U.N. like meeting where all the different species from our plane and others come together and negotiate the different treaties and such. Vivienne Sagadraco, leader of SPI and dragon, is the one in charge of all of this. She wanted her best teams running security for this shindig. Oh, and it's being held at Rake Danscu's hotel. Rake is Mac's goblin boyfriend, though things haven't gone very far at this point.

When a portal mage is found dead, Mac, Ian and the team have to figure out what happened. Oh, and someone has locked down the hotel. No one can seem to get in or out. I guess if you're going to be locked somewhere for a long time, there could be worse places than fancy hotel. Well, unless that hotel has dangerous creatures popping in trying to kill people.

This was another fun and high action story. There is plenty of humor mixed in with the action. What really makes this series for me are the characters. I just love Mac, Ian, Rake, Kenji (tech geek and half elf), Yasha (werewolf and Ian and Mac's driver), Kitty (portal mage and baker) and Vivienne Sagadraco. This is a great group of characters. If you like urban fantasy, I highly recommend this series.

Narration

I'm a huge fan of Johanna Parker. I think she has a great ability to bring out the humor in a story. She does a great job with different accents and male and female voices. This series has a large cast, and she does a great job.

**I like to thank the publisher for providing me with a copy of this audiobook in exchange for an honest review.

Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says

Taking place a few months after the conclusion of *The Ghoul Vendetta*, *The Myth Manifestation* features a summit of most supernatural races that reside on Earth. It's been a hundred years since they last came together in the name of peace, and SPI is carefully monitoring (and providing security for) this huge shindig being held at one of Lord Rake's hotels. Unfortunately, politics and magic get in the way of a smooth event and the occupants become locked inside a pocket dimension. It's up to Mak and SPI to save the day once again.

The Myth Manifestation is the fifth full-length title in Ms. Shearin's SPI Files series but could probably work as a standalone if one is unfamiliar with the series. Each book's storyline is standalone and the author

provides more than enough background to help new readers adjust to her world. The few threads of story arcs that jump from story to story, such as Mak and Rake's relationship, aren't strong enough to demand a read from the beginning of the series.

The story within The Myth Manifestation is solid, and there is subterfuge-a-plenty, making it exciting at times. However, it took too much time for my liking to get to the meat of the story; I found the tale slow and repetitive until over three-quarters into the book. Yet, I found the puzzle of what was happening and why an interesting mystery to solve.

Having read/listened to the series from the beginning, I have struggled with the storytelling in the last couple books. While it was probably like this from the beginning, it becomes more noticeable with each subsequent book I listen to in the series. The crux of my issue is that while the story is shared from first person POV of Makenna, it's told as if she's explaining the story to someone else rather than as if she's experiencing the action. I feel like the lengthy explanations and repetitive reminders don't fit with the first person POV. I want to live through her experiences not have her explain them to me. And she is constantly repeating herself, giving readers (listeners) repetitive reminders and descriptions.

I also continue to struggle with the romantic story arc involving main character Mak and Goblin Lord Rake. While I was pleased that the author significantly reduced the Mak/Ian page time, making them feel more like the partners they are and not potential love interests, I still feel that she is doing a disservice to the potential/existing romance. At the end of the previous book, it seemed as if the pair were finally a committed couple, but at the start of The Myth Manifestation, we find Mak wondering if they are together or not. The entire aspect of the series is wishy-washy and it frustrates me. The problem is we just don't see any of their romance; we don't see them together as a couple. Either make it a solid part of the story or get rid of it. I don't need explicit scenes, just them spending time together not working.

The narration by Ms. Parker continues to be a shining part of the series. She gives a solid voice to Makenna, bringing her to life. I love the southern drawl and the measured cadence of her storytelling. It is comforting and familiar, but also emotional, especially when Mak is worried or angry. The supporting characters' voices are equally as familiar by this point, but I still struggle with some similarities between Rak and Ian.

In the end, I mostly enjoyed The Myth Manifestation; however, Ms. Shearin's method of storytelling is wearing on me. I like the characters and love the world she's created, but feel the constant repetition hinders the development of the story.

My Ratings:

Story: B-

Narration: B+

L.E. Doggett says

I think this one should be 3.9. Not being funny. It is a good story-remember only stories and writing I consider to be Very Great get to be five stars-a worthy read but just not on my favorites list. Not sure why.

Shearin does great with descriptions, her characters are real and you can relate to them. The story follows the plot well. There are twists and surprises yet not as many as could be. The world is very imaginative and well done.

I think for me it was the storyline and that she doesn't get down deep into her character's psychic. Some writers do that well but many only go so far down.

Still I do recommend it. I enjoyed it and was entertained by it. However remember this is the fifth in a series. You probably could enjoy it and get enough of the past story lines to enjoy this one by itself but don't. Get the whole series.

Margaret says

Yay! Another installment of the SPI Files!

My favorite part about the Myth Manifestation is that it is a locked-room mystery. I got a kick every time another character sputtered "That's impossible!" Shades of the Princess Bride indeed! OK. Neither magic nor tech works. So now how will you get rid of the bad guy party-crashers!??!

I really enjoy urban fantasy police procedurals. Well, not just ordinary cops. But acting as security nonetheless. I enjoy having so MANY different alien races show up and interact. I particularly like the SPI New York crew.

New readers would enjoy picking up any of the books in this series. (This is book five so you need to start at the beginning, you only need to read the first four.)

Highly recommended!

Ami says

Mac, Ian, as well as some selected SPI agents are at Regor Regency Hotel, New York, as part of security detail for Centennial Supernatural Summit. Rake Denescu -- who has been courting Mac for the past several books -- is the owner of the hotel. It's a very important event for everyone attending.

Unfortunately before the meeting starts, the hotel is being 'attacked' by creatures that, well, on theory, are not supposed to be there. So everyone is busy defending the hotel while making sure that all of delegates are alive (or stay dead in case of vampires, and not, you know, *deader*)

...

Another FUN time with the SPI agents and the supernatural beings!! Although I'm not sure they think the same when they're battling manifestation of 'mythical' creatures *laugh*. The setting is a little bit different; everything pretty much happened inside the hotel, so the stake is quite high for the team to make sure that nobody died.

Loved the pace of this one, and I wholeheartedly ENJOYED reading about the 'new' creatures. Like the *buka* or the *grimtogs*. And as always, the humor is good, Mac is cool (earlier in the book, she saves the day with bacon-throwing!), and Vivienne Sagadraco is A GODDESS.

Apparently this series no longer released by Ace Books. Lisa Shearin released this new one from digital platform of her agent (I read that in her blog). Somehow I hope that this means it won't take another year for the next book. Because I seriously cannot wait to see Rake meeting the parents *wink wink*

Darcy says

I'm not sure why all of those from SPI didn't expect things to things to get out of control at this important summit. Sure it seemed like they were prepared, but quickly things got out of hand. No one really knew what to do, things came out of no where and went back to no where. It was to see everyone try to work things out. When they did get the main part figure out it was a bit shocking, no place was safe or not contaminated. I did like how they were able to catch the bad guys and how they were punished.

Drew Doll says

Wild, rollicking fun

What a great ride! The newest addition to the SPI Files hits the ground running and never slows down. It is a fun, exciting ride. I loved the excitement, humor, suspense, and witty dialogue. Ms. Shearin gets better with every book. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Cristina says

Carino, ma l'ambientazione asfittica (si svolge tutto in un albergo) rende gli avvenimenti un po' ripetitivi. Mi spiace che Ian abbia una parte minore nella narrazione. Mai amato troppo la svolta sentimentale della protagonista che trovo tutto sommato banale. Il cattivo ragazzo riformato ormai mi ha stufato. Letto già troppe volte. Pazienza.

Comunque una simpatica lettura senza pensieri.

Cute, but the settings (everything takes place in a hotel) makes the events a bit repetitive. I miss Ian a lot. Here he has a minor part due to the sentimental change of mind of the author. The reformed bad boy becoming the best of boyfriends is a little boring as storyline for my tastes. I've read it too many times already, unfortunately.

Beth says

Very Good!

Saving the day with bacon.

The return of Rolf the Bionic Viking.

I honestly cannot wait for the next book considering the changing of the guard. :D

I'd post more quotes -- but I'd rather read the witty writing. :)

Stacy says

THE MYTH MANIFESTATION was another great addition to the SPI Files series.

Get ready for action, mystery, and drama with a little side of romance in THE MYTH MANIFESTATION. We get visits from old friends—even some crossover from the Raine Benares series—and learn a lot more about what lives in the world that makes up the series. Mak seemed to be on her own quite a bit in book five, which I found a little odd. I really like her partnership with Ian and wasn't understanding why they were separated so much, but I still enjoyed watching her work through clues.

One thing I would really like to happen is more insight on Mak and Rake's relationship. I would love for the author to reveal more about them together. I feel like a lot happens off page and then I'm a little lost as to what is happening. I think if we got more in-depth with them, I would love them more as a couple instead of just liking them.

The SPI Files has been a fun series so far. I enjoy the characters, the settings are always interesting and the plots never disappoint. I look forward to seeing where Lisa Shearin takes Mak and her friends next.

* This book was provided free of charge from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.
