



Golden

Jennifer Lynn Barnes

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When Lissy James moves from California to Oklahoma, she finds herself in the middle of a teenage nightmare: a social scene to rival a Hollywood movie. And if understanding the hierarchy of the Golden vs. the Nons isn't hard enough, Lissy's ever growing Aura Vision is getting harder and harder to hide, and if she's not careful, she's going to become a Non faster than you can say "freak."

But it's becoming clear that Emory High has a few secrets of its own. Around the halls, the term "special powers" goes way beyond one's ability to attract the opposite sex, and there may be something more evil than the A-crowd lurking in the classrooms. Lissy can see a lot more than the average girl, but she's about to learn the hard way that things aren't always as they appear and you can't always judge a girl by her lip gloss.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Golden Details

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Author : Jennifer Lynn Barnes

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From Reader Review Golden for online ebook

Kara says

well. finally finished this book. Finally. After awhile of stuggling through it reading it properly, I gave up on that and I ended up skim reading it.

Good things:

-interesting storyline

Bad things:

-I didn't like the writing style

-didn't like the main character

-didn't like any of the characters, actually.

So. As you see, the bad things clearly out-weigh the the good things. I definetly liked raised by wolves alot better. :)

Soph - Lock&Key says

Okay, so I had two main problems with this book.

- 1) It was to short: there were not enough pages in this book to let a reader truly understand the plot.
- 2) The characters: All the characters bugged me, some of them were all the same and the others were just not put in properly, they did not fit.

I loved the storyline to this novel, it was different, well thought out, just not put together properly, some of the descriptions did not make sense and i didn't fully understand what had happened by the end, I read *raised by wolves* by this author and loved the writing style, I have to say that I feel the same way with this novel, the writing was simple and easy to understand.

This book had some very typical aspects of it, it also had some loop holes in the plot. The characters ruined it for me the most, but this book was okay, It is worth a read. I think.

Rennai says

This is a book that the target audience, teenage girls, should enjoy. Lissy moves from California to Oklahoma with her younger sister, mum and dad. She is not happy about going. She is also not happy with having her Sight, which allows her to see people's auras. Sight runs in the female side of her family. This Sight has meant that Lissy is often labeled weird and her mother's Sight also resulted in the family having to move. Things don't turn out too well for Lissy in Oklahoma, especially at her new school. Not only does her Sight develop and she sees evil floating around the corridors at school but she has to cope with a bunch of popular mean girls to rival anything you have seen in a movie or read about. Those that like their teenage

stuff (friendship, love interests, peer pressure etc) "straight", as in realistic drama, may not like the dominate paranormal theme in Golden.

Savannah Siepel says

Spoiler Alert (this review contains spoilers for the book, you have been warned)

For her first novel at age nineteen I think Ms. Barnes did rather well. However, I did find a few problems with the book. Side note: I haven't read Platinum yet so maybe some of these problems will fix themselves. Before I go on about the things I didn't care for in the book I should probably start with praise. For one thing I liked the tone of the entire book, it stays consistent. I liked Lissy for a protagonist, she was surly and cynical but not annoying or over the top. Normally I don't care for the lead I prefer the side characters, but Lissy was one of the better protagonists I've come across. Now for the things I disliked about the book. Aside from Lissy and Lilah there really are no fleshed out characters. I thought the antagonist was weak. I truly hate it when a villain is just evil for the sake of evil. Of course Kissler was evil out of greed that's a totally new aspect on villains I'd never encountered before. *rolls eyes* The plot was rather obvious and see through. Audra was a walking ex machina especially towards the latter end of the book and my last problem with the book might not even be on the author but rather the library that I checked Golden out from. You see Golden was listed as a horror novel and I had read some other books of Barnes and she has got to be one of my favorite authors so when I saw that she had written a horror book I was all over it. But here's the thing, Golden isn't a horror novel. A YA yes, a mystery sure, fantasy defiantly. But a horror it is not. A horror novel is intended to disturb, frighten, or startle a reader. This book has no intention of doing so. None of it's themes or elements are remotely centered towards horror. All in all I like Jennifer Lynn Barnes I think she's a good author and I got into this book with every intention of liking it. It's not a bad read but it isn't a good one either. Would I recommend it to a friend? Depends on the friend. Would I read it again? No. Do I have plans to read the sequel? Sure. Hey if you like Barnes as an author I would then I would say go for it.

Kseniia Okhremenko says

10. **התקנת תוספת** – תוספת זו תהיה חלק מהחוק, ותהיה כפופה לכללי החוק.

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16. **התקנת תוספת** – תוספת זו תהיה חלק מהחוק, ותהיה כפופה לכללי החוק.

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18. **התקנת תוספת** – תוספת זו תהיה חלק מהחוק, ותהיה כפופה לכללי החוק.

19. **התקנת תוספת** – תוספת זו תהיה חלק מהחוק, ותהיה כפופה לכללי החוק.

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♥ Innocent Lamb ~ Forever Reading ♥ - AKA Smarties says

LOVED IT! I am speechless... Totally recommend you read it if you are into high school cliques and/or people with 'special, supernatural powers.'

Totally plan to read sequel.

Melissa Railey says

This book started off slow and a bit juvenile but as it went on, I found that I was starting to like Lissy and really liked all her snarkiness. I thought she was hilarious. Then about halfway there was suddenly a story and a mystery to solve and I was really enjoying it. I read that Jennifer Lynn Barnes wrote this book when she was 19 and, if that's the case, that would definitely explain some of the juvenile-ishness (like my word there) of the book. One of the best parts of the story was that, although there was a romance, there wasn't really. It was more the promise of a romance to come and I like that. I wanted more from the characters and I'm a little sad to see that the second book switches over to Lilah's point of view. Maybe there'll be more about Lissy and Dylan in it ;)

About the audiobook: The narrator, Jenna Lamia is wonderful. I've listened to her in other audiobooks and she does a terrific job. One thing that threw me off was this story had a lot of music thrown into the production and every time I thought it was my cell phone going off and started looking for my phone before I realized it was the audiobook.

Overall, this is a fun, light listen.

Anna says

This is a cute lighthearted Spence not I thought it was really good and he recommended I like the characters in there when I really liked the mail love interest I have a Rickman this

Karen says

I'll admit I nearly skipped the beginning chapter, with the confusing dream and Lissy riding in the car. Ho-hum, I thought, yet another girl moving to a new town with worries about a new school. But Lissy's ability to see auras made me keep reading. As I kept going, Lissy grew on me. I also liked seeing the different personalities of the Goldens emerge.

Soon I started laughing and snickering. (In the appropriate places of course.) I loved lines like, "With my luck, she'd probably thought of a brand-new rumor to start about how I'd tried to seduce her boyfriend with my sensual barfing skills." I wish Lissy would unleash her inner snarkiness. More of it, anyway. Maybe she'll discover a bit more purple in her aura in the future.

I thought Lexie seemed awfully young for thirteen. And awfully nice for a little sister, when compared to the

two I have. (ducks a flying book) I liked how Lissy didn't go for Brock or Tate, but formed a connection with Dylan instead. I wanted romance between Dylan and Lissy, but I suspect I'll have to wait for a sequel. Curse you, cliffhanger ending!

Kandice says

Lissy is moving from California to Oklahoma to escape some shame her mother has been painted with through no fault of her own. That in itself is a tragedy when you are a teenager, but add to the complications and angst the fact that all the women in Lissy's family are "gifted". Her mother can see what's happening right now even when she isn't present. Lissy herself can see auras. Not only the colors, but the the meanings and traits associated with certain colors. Lissy's little sister has not yet discovered her own gift, but it's certain she will.

The story started out interesting and the characters were developed enough that I liked a couple of them, but not so much that I really *cared* about them. There is the usual teenage drama of being the new girl, leaving behind a budding romantic interest, appearing to be less than whatever it is that makes the popular kids popular. Up the ante because of the clique system in place at this new school. There are not the usual multiple layers of the social hierarchy, there are only two. You are "Golden" or you are "non". That's it. No middle ground. You have it or you don't. Despite Lissy's gift...she doesn't have *it*.

Lissy still manages to make a few good friends, find and eventually solve a little mystery, and cherry on the top, discover that not only can she see auras, but she can actually **do** something with them. What she can **do** was my favorite part of the story. It just wasn't great enough to erase the silliness of some of it, or the blandness of the rest.

The ending of this pointed toward a sequel, but I won't be reading it.

Samantha Constant says

For someone who can auras, Lissy is super chill. She just moved to a new town, all the way in Oklahoma, from California. The reason behind the move was because of her mom. All the woman in the family are gifted with the gift of Sight. Lissy's mom sees things happening as they are happening, even if she is nowhere near. Lissy's power went from barley being there to full-on when she moved. She discovers a horrible secret about one of the teachers and her new friends and sister help her fix the problems that come up and help with taking care of the bad teacher. I recommend this book to anyone who likes mystery and who believes in magic. I liked this book and rate it as a 5/5.

Kathy Martin says

All the women in Lissy's family have the Sight - a psychic gift that Lissy would be more than glad to give up. After all, the Sight caused the family to move from California to Oklahoma because her mother's gift is finding lost things. Only she didn't find the kidnapped child before he was murdered and public sentiment has turned against her.

Lissy's gift is growing. Now she sees connections between people. This doesn't help in her new high school which is divided between the Goldens - the popular, beautiful people - and the Nons. She is thrown together with Lilah whose mother is dating Lissy's uncle and her crew of Goldens but soon finds her own crew with Nons Audra and Dylan.

Something evil is happening at her high school but she can't convince her mother and grandmother that her new math teacher is evil. This leaves Lissy, Audra, Dylan and Lissy's younger sister Lexie to find out what is going on and stop it before there are more deaths.

This is the author's first book and was written when she was nineteen. It has some rough edges but was an enjoyable paranormal story.

Alyssa Nelson says

The beginning is slow, but once you get into it, Golden is a novel that is hard to put down. There were revelations that actually surprised me once the mystery started to unravel. Because while this is very much your typical unpopular-girl-trying-to-navigate-her-way-through-high-school sort of book, it also has a rather intriguing mystery attached to it. I was definitely more interested in this than Lissy's analyses about how much of a freak she is, so it's a good thing that the mystery takes over in the latter half of the novel.

While it's a good story, it's apparent that the author was nineteen when she wrote this. The characters lack complexity and a lot of the conflict is superficial. I know it's probably supposed to be the point that all the "Goldens," or popular kids, at the high school are unintelligent and shallow, but I like to have a little more realism in the characters I read about. The only interesting character is Lilah, the leader of the "Goldens" because she's hard to figure out.

Even though I don't usually like music and sound effects in audiobooks, I did like the music that signaled the end of every section. It was different each time and perfectly complemented the tone of the story at the time. The integration is so well done that I hardly noticed that there was background music playing (which is a sign of a good soundtrack, in my opinion). Jenna Lamia also does a good job in portraying Lissy. I was sure she was a high school student, which turned out not to be the case.

I would say that Golden is a good beach read. It's quick, has a decent plot, and a really good ending. Young adult paranormal fans -- this one's for you!

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

Jennica says

Jennica Munden

Modern Fantasy

Critical analysis: In this story, there is evil. There is magic. It's the popular crowd versus the losers. But there is still some time for a hint of romance and plenty of growing up.

Opinions: It is interesting enough, but I just didn't like it. If you are a teen still trying to make your way

through high school, it might be a nice read. But just remember to be yourself, no matter how crazy things get.

Summary: Lissy James moves from California to Oklahoma and finds herself in the middle of a teenage nightmare. Understanding the hierarchy of the Goldens vs. the Nons is hard enough, but Lissy's ever growing Aura Vision is getting harder and harder to hide, and if she is not careful, she is going to become a Non faster than you can say "freak." But it's becoming clear that Emory High has a few secrets of its own. Around the halls, the term "special powers" goes way beyond one's ability to attract the opposite sex, and there may be something more evil than the A-crowd lurking in the classrooms.

Kelly says

What better setting than high school to explore the true nature of evil?

Lissy James is the new kid in school. A recent transplant from California, she doesn't understand the odd social structure of her new high school where popular kids are Goldens and those less fortunate are known simply as Nons.

To complicate Lissy's life, she's been blessed (or cursed?) by The Sight. Every female in her family line has a version of The Sight and Lissy can see a halo of color around every individual. These auras are the outward representation of personality and mood.

Since Lissy just doesn't seem to fit in with the catty Goldens, she befriends a few Nons including Audra and Dylan. While Lissy tries to avoid the minefields the Goldens seem to lay before her, what really throws her for a loop is her high school math teacher. What she sees in his aura is so horrible it makes her actually pass out.

Golden by Jennifer Barnes is fun, inventive, and intriguing. It has a really entertaining mix of romance, mystery, and the supernatural. The only thing preventing me from giving it another star are a few minor reservations. Lissy's lingering relationship with some of her friends back in California seemed unnecessary. And the final denouement felt a little awkward. I would have liked more plot between Lissy's revelation about her math teacher and the final conclusion.

Even with these reservations, I would recommend this book to most any teen reader grades 8-12. It will be an easy sell to teens accustomed to both chick lit and supernatural genres.
