



Stormwalker

Allyson James

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Book One of a the Stormwalker series. Allyson James also writes as NYT Bestselling author Jennifer Ashley

Half-Navajo Janet Begay possesses extraordinary power which is tied to the storms that waft across the desert. The only person who can control her when she's caught in the storm's evocative power is Mick, a dark-haired, blue-eyed biker Janet can't seem to touch with her powers. He can wield fire and not get burned, and Janet's never sure where he goes when they're not together.

Together they investigate mysterious disappearances, which Janet fears are tied to her mother's people, the mythical gods from below the earth. They are helped along the way by Coyote and Crow, but these shapeshifting gods have their own agendas.

Stormwalker Details

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From Reader Review Stormwalker for online ebook

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Ok, ok, we've read it all before! You want your heroine to be able to control the weather? Try Ill Wind and the rest of the Weather Warden series. The worldbuilding is so much better there. Want a mysterious boyfriend of unknown species? Try the Fever series. At least there you won't be able to guess what Barrons is after about a hundred pages. Want a murderous parent with way too much power? You'll have more fun reading Magic Bites and the rest of the series, Vicki Pettersson's Zodiac series or Jaye Wells' Sabina Kane series. You want shapeshifters? Oh, come on, I don't even have to tell you that one! You want something new and unusual? Try reading Nicole Peeler's Jane True series because you definitely won't find it here.

Now, with all that out in the open, let's find something I did like, something that will make Stormwalker worth reading. The writing was very very good. I liked the dynamic and language use. There were some very interesting characters and some (but not many) hilarious moments. This is not a book that will stand out and become one of your favorites. You'll definitely have fun reading it, but I'm guessing you won't remember half of it after a week. If you are in love with Urban Fantasy, you don't want to skip this one. It's only the first installment, and let's face it, many of these series need a second, and sometimes a third chance. Just remember Magic Bites and you'll know exactly what I mean.

Also, if you are like me and you already know all the books I mentioned above by heart, you have to read Stormwalker simply because there's nothing left to read. :)

So, to conclude, 3.5 stars is my real rating. I WILL read Firewalker soon. I really hope I'll like it more than I liked Stormwalker.

Kat Kennedy says

I really enjoyed this novel with the sole exception of one character - Nash Jones actually goes out of his way to terrorize the protagonist of this story, Janet Begay.

Their first meeting is after an accident in which a truck was knocked off the road and Janet's motorcycle crashes. Nash shows up and immediately arrests Janet for reckless driving that killed the man in the car even though she totally didn't. His theory is that her motorcycle crashed into his truck causing it to flip over because apparently he suffers from an extreme case of STUPID! He insists she's lying, locks her up for the night in a jail cell without letting her contact anyone and then interrogates her the next morning. During this interrogation he insists that she is unwelcome in HIS town and that he's going to see to it that he PUTS HER BACK ON THE RESERVATION WHERE SHE BELONGS AND THAT THIS TIME SHE'LL STAY THERE.

I'm sorry, what?!

He finds out the very next morning (because it was THAT OBVIOUS) that she'd been telling the truth and he never apologizes. Just drops most (not all) of her stuff off and threatens her again.

It doesn't end there. He continues to brutalize, intimidate and abuse his power with Justine. When a gang of bikers break into and trash her hotel, with the intention of rape and kidnap, he ARRESTS JANET and once again tells her that he's going to put her back on the reservation.

He insists that she has no magic and that he doesn't believe in her mystical Indian crap.

Then, at the end of the book, a WHITE WOMAN - just in case you didn't pick that up - she is the whitest fucking woman on the planet and she looks exactly like this:

Okay, so where was I? Oh yes, the WW attacks a Latino girl with a knife. Janet fires three defensive shots to save this girl's life. So what does Nash do? He ONCE AGAIN arrests Janet for assault and firing a weapon without a permit. He's dragging her off saying that he's going to put her away for a LONG time. She gets possessed and tears apart his car.

You find out later that he's STILL booking her for firing a weapon without a permit and for damage to police property but that he's been OH SO NICE to drop charges of assaulting an officer. His reasoning? Well she totally fired the weapon where he could see it. He can't just ignore that!

You're probably wondering how long the white-bread, church-going blonde got for attacking another woman with a knife. If you guessed absolutely fucking nothing then you'd be absolutely fucking right. He charged her with nothing. Nothing at all. Don't you guys know? White chicks can't go to jail! They just don't belong there...

So what's the sum of Janet's response to this treatment? The most you ever hear her even THINK about this treatment is that he doesn't really have the right to send her to a reservation and she doesn't really like him saying that. FUCK! REALLY?

She saves his ass, finds his long lost fiancée, puts up with all his shit behaviour and never once calls him up as the racist, angry, asshole that he is. In fact, his treatment of her is just completely dismissed as no big deal. He's considered one of the 'good guys' of this story and he and Janet has some kind of weird sexual attraction thing going on.

Apart from this aspect which absolutely drove me insane, this book was quite a good read. It was interesting, well-written with good characters and a good mystery. I actually quite enjoyed reading it apart from the above and I fully intend to read the next book in the series, Firewalker.

Vered says

An unexpected treat. Very good story, great h/h (strong yet not bitchy annoying heroine) and fun secondary characters (I love you Nash!!). But there was something more, something about the writing itself - sexy writing. Not just the sex scenes (oh and those lovely dreams), but there was something about the writing that just makes you feel mmmm mmmmm mmm.. And that's the best I can do at this hour, and after a long long day.

It's definitely a go read book.

Mandi Schreiner says

Reviewed by Tori

Favorite quote: "I swing both ways honey. I'm an equal opportunity mirror."

Janet Begay is a Stormwalker. She is able to harness and manipulate the power in storms. It is a raw elemental power that often overwhelms her. Mick, her black hair blue eyed lover, is the only one who can ignite her passions while calming the storm within her.

Janet has come to the desert town of Magellan at the request of the police chief to look into the mysterious disappearance of his daughter Amy. Located in this town are vortexes. Vortexes are magical gateways that connect the human world with the mystical world of the Beneath. Janet is also here to look for her mother. A vicious self adsorbed goddess who needs Janet to finalize her plans to reenter the human world. Janet has managed to stay one step ahead of her so far; but the fates have determined that Janet must face her mother and make a choice.

Monsters, shapeshifters, a pervie coyote, and a bi-magical mirror...what more could you ask for?

Janet is an enigma. She is able to harness the power of the storms and bend it to her will. But it leaves her full and she must drain off all that excess power. That brings us to Mick, Janet's yummy sexy tattooed lover. Mick is able to absorb her excess power with no ill effects. He is also a Firewalker. He is able to harness the power of fire and use it. He insists he loves her and will protect her with his life. Janet is unsure about him though because even though they have been lovers for over five years...she knows nothing about him.

Janet decides to leaves Mick and settles down in Magellan but some people don't want her there. Sheriff Nash Jones is one of them. Amy's lover and a prime suspect in her disappearance; Nash uses any and all excuses to haul Janet to jail. Nash is an unbeliever of the supernatural and believes that Janet is nothing more then a con artist looking to score on the police chief's misery.

Janet's mother has become more demanding in that Janet join her and has unleashed her minions, Skinwalkers, to deal with anyone who gets in her way. As Janet works through her feelings for Mick and attempts to find out what happened to Amy; she also has to deal with a pervert shapeshifter who MAY want her dead, a bi sexual mirror who is more interested in what's in her pants then helping her, and the fact that she is the only thing that stands between us and total annihilation.

Stormwalker starts with a BAM and continues on in the same fashion till the end. The protagonists, Janet & Mick, are both strong and passionate with an innate sense of justice. Janet is a kick ass heroine that is trying her best to deal with her magic and her personal life. Mick, her boom chick a wow wow boyfriend, is so much more then what he seems. And HAWT. Did I already say that?

This is a fast paced read filled with suspense, romance, magic and a sense of humor. Janet and Mick have a very sensual erotic relationship and they mesh well together. The supporting characters are deep and intense. Each has a hidden agenda that kept me guessing to the end. The conflict between Janet and Nash is powerful

and almost painful to read; but they need each other and it's funny watching them try and overcome their extreme dislike to work together.

Janet's mother is a narcissistic villain who has a VERY nasty power which Janet has inherited but remains ignorant of. The only thing I did not like was how easily Janet seems to buckle under authority. Janet's way to cope is to run away. Watching her was a little embarrassing but Ms. James does a wonderful job of using that flaw and making it a weapon.

I cannot wait to read the next in the series.

Rating: 4.5/5

Jessica ❁ ⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Ugh.

I nearly DNF-ed this at 10%.

After being attacked on the road by a demon, Janet Begay is arrested for involuntary manslaughter/assault with a deadly weapon when an innocent bystander is killed in the attack.

Except not really.

She's never Mirandized. She's never actually told she's being arrested. She's just cuffed and thrown into the back of the local jackhole sheriff's SUV and told she's being taken in for questioning. When they get to the station, Jackhole tosses her in a cell, says he'll talk to her in the morning after she "cools down," and leaves.

BUT.

In the morning, her long lost ex-boyfriend shows up and busts her out . . .

Of jail.

And they just let her go, with Jackhole doing a decent imitation of the sheriff from **DUKES OF HAZZARD** when those darn kids get away again.

It's ridiculous.

This is frickin' 'Merica. You can't just throw someone in jail. And you sure as hell don't let someone jailbreak them out once you put them there.

I can't remember why I kept reading. I think it was simply the vain hope that it would get better.

And it did, I guess. A little bit.

But mostly it was just MEH.

If Native American folklore is your thing, give either of these a try:

They're wayyyy better than this sad mashup of pagan gods, complicated familial relationships, and diabolically diabolical Bad Guys.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of AllThingsUrbanFantasy.blogspot.com

There is a lot to like about Allyson James first book in her new Stormwalker series. The stunning cover art by Tony Mauro is just the beginning. The world building involves a Native American twist on the four elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Wind, and a mythological history of earth. The main character, Janet Begay, is a Stormwalker. When a storm rages, Janet becomes essentially an X-man (minus the creepy white eyes and comic book spandex).

I did have a moment of disorientation in the beginning of STORMWALKER wondering if I'd missed some earlier novella in this series. Thankfully no. Allyson just chose to throw her characters right in the middle of the story and provide the back-story of Janet meeting both Mick and her mother in flashback chapters. So if you feel like you missed something in the first few chapters, don't worry, it's coming.

Normally Janet endures the mother of all magical hangovers the day after riding a storm, unless Mick is there. Mick is Janet's on again/off again lover. With fire abilities that rival her storm powers, Mick can siphon off her storm energy and leave her calm and nearly sexually sated. When caught up in a particularly heady storm, the experience for Janet is almost orgasmic (see the scene in the jail).

Speaking of sex, there is quite a bit in STORMWALKER. A lot of Janet's magical abilities have sexual repercussions. Tantric magic, for example, created by some spectacularly creative sex, can reinforce magical wards. Ultimately, there ended up being more references to crazy wild sex than actual descriptions. Most, not all, of the sex scenes are relatively brief and only moderately graphic.

And I haven't even mentioned Beneath yet. Imagine the planet as an onion with layer upon layer of worlds, each better than the last. Various gods and humans escaped through to this world and sealed below the rest, including Janet's psychopathic mother. Some of Beneath's nastier creatures made it into our world including skinwalkers and nightwalkers (aka shifters and vampires).

As far as the plot goes, I never really bought into Janet's reason for being in Arizona. She explains that she's been hired to find a missing woman, and decides to buy and fix up an old hotel in the process. The how and why are a bit weak, as is the initial reason for her level of dedication. The clues that she puts together are also pretty random, and I still think that the last leap in logic was totally unbelievable.

But I didn't really like STORMWALKER because of the missing woman mystery. I liked it because of the main characters and the paranormal world that they lived in. Janet is this tough biker chick who never got over her first love. She struggles believably with wanting to just be loved and knowing her own self-respect

won't allow her to stay with a man who won't reveal anything about himself. Mick, for all his smoking good looks and fiery nature, doesn't seem to know how to love Janet the way she needs to be loved. Each one is trying so desperately to protect the other that they don't realize that they may lose each other anyway. Their whole relationship is volatile and addictively compelling and I can't wait to read more about them when Firewalker comes out on November 2nd.

Sexual Content: Several sex scenes of various lengths and graphical intensity. References to ménage sex. Attempted rape.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Okay, wow. This book is fantastic! I'm not a huge fan of Urban Fiction, not by a long shot. I love Briggs' Mercy Thompson and I love Moning's Mac Lane. But most others, not so much. But this book? Fantastic. Jennifer Ashley/Allyson James is a great writer, she has written several of my favorite paranormal romances ever, and some studly Highlanders while she's at it. And I will be waiting on bated breath until Nov. 2nd when Firewalker is released.

Janet Begay is a Stormwalker. She can harness the power of a storm. And she uses it mostly for protection. Unfortunately her mother is one pissed off goddess from Beneath who wants Janet to open the vortexes around Magellan, AZ and release the old gods and creatures. Janet has moved home to Magellan to both renovate a hotel, and help the police chief find his daughter who went missing while planning her wedding. The sheriff was her fiance and also a suspect. Janet does nothing but piss off Sheriff Nash Jones for some reason or other and he makes her life hell. Unfortunately so does her mother who keeps trying to possess women in order to get them impregnated...just like she did to Janet's birth mother. However Janet isn't so easy to manipulate, so her goddess-mother keeps trying for a new child, but her magic is too strong and it kills all the other women.

So bodies are showing up left and right, and Janet is being hunted by Nightwalkers, Skinwalkers, and the law. Meanwhile, her lover from 5 years ago, Mick, is back in the picture...the question is why? And why now? I won't spoil what Mick is, but they call him a Firewalker. He, a friend named Jamison, and the trickster god Coyote are Janet's only allies. (The prequel "A Little Night Magic" in Hot for the Holidays is about her friend Jamison (a cougar shifter) and he has a couple of cameos in this series).

I am soo hooked to this series, and I am so angry because the reason I don't like UF is that there is never an ending. So now I have to read to find out what happens next. Well, good job Allyson James, since I am now addicted to your newest series.

See full review on:

<http://www.demonloversbooksandmore.co...>

Catherine says

I was pretty underwhelmed by this book. The description made it sound interesting, but the characters were kind of a let down for me.

Janet Begay is a Stormwalker. She can ride a storm and draw power from it, but usually she ends up with the short end of the stick. She's helpless to resist the power of the storm and usually ends up sick and exhausted after it passes. She doesn't like that aspect much, but she's learning to deal.

Janet heads to Magellan with the excuse of helping the police chief search for his missing daughter. Janet is committed to finding the missing girl, Amy, but also has a more pressing motive for arriving in town. Magellan is home to a vortex that Janet's mother wants unlocked. She plans to use Janet as her tool and make her a willing slave. Janet knows that the time has finally come to stop her mother once and for all.

Janet has some trouble with Sheriff Nash, Amy's fiance, and one of the suspects in her disappearance. Nash basically goes on a power trip and locks her in jail and won't believe her when she says something bad from the magical world is headed her way. For some reason everyone seemed okay with the fact that Janet was held in jail without being arrested or in-processed. They were still okay when Janet was busted out of jail and taken back to her hotel. What?

The guy responsible for the jail bust is Mick, Janet's ex. They've been apart for years (at Janet's instigation) but they've never really gotten over each other. Janet's an extreme pushover where Mick is concerned. She's very willing to just give up trying get her way and will let him do whatever he wants. She also very easily decides to resume having sex with him - only to help draw off the power of course! I wanted to like Mick, but because I was stuck in Janet's head I never got to know him well enough.

Janet didn't know anything about him when they first got together and she still didn't know anything about him when she finally left him for being too secretive and smothering. She didn't even know his last name and he would disappear on her and then show back up like nothing happened. She put up with that for six months before she finally got it together enough to leave him. She just seemed like the biggest idiot to me. She also seemed extremely young in all her thoughts. I'm not referring to the flashbacks either. Her internal whining and insecurity reminded me of an extremely immature teenager with her first boyfriend. It was very off putting.

I also couldn't help but think she was the most dense individual in the world for not figuring out what Mick was hiding. Now I don't blame her for not knowing why he first integrated himself with her, but I do think it was blatantly obvious what Mick was in addition to a fire wielder. When the author drops so many blatant hints again and again it doesn't make her protagonist look like the sharpest tack in the box when she doesn't figure it out. It just makes her look stupid.

I wish I would have liked this book more, but I just couldn't make myself enjoy it. I doubt I'll be picking up anything else in this series.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

DNF at 40%.

So this is a book about a bunch of horny people who are trying to save the world from the usual clique of evil demons and freaks of the underworld. And when I say horny I mean HORNY. Janet the stormwalker is horny, Mick her big bad biker/dragon boyfriend (my boyfriend is a dragon! I've know him for 5 or 6 years but I never saw it coming! He has fire magic, dragon tattoos all over his body and there is that huge, strange, dark shadow about him sometimes but I would never have guessed! I keep mentioning dragons but I know

they don't exist!) is horny, the Coyote God is horny, so are the electrician and the local sheriff... I don't mind horny but when you get to the point where even the freaking magic mirror is obsessed with sex you just feel like screaming "STOP" at the top of your lungs! This was just too much.

Apart from that Janet pretty much left me cold and so did Mick (actually no, Mick didn't leave me cold, I just didn't like him). They have the most screwed up, unhealthy relationship ever but it doesn't seem to be a problem for Janet. Mick disappears for days without telling her anything (oh right, he's a dragon and has to go off and do dragon things that he can't tell her about!) but when he comes home they just have mind-blowing magical tantric sex (whatever that is) and that's that. At some point she even feels guilty about asking him where he's been... Kick-butt heroine? I think not. This girl is hopeless.

The other problem with this book is the writing. When I started reading I actually double checked that this was really the first instalment in the series. The author throws the reader into the story and keeps mentioning past incidences as if they had happened in a previous instalment. It's fine to talk about events from the past but here the whole thing was badly done. It was really confusing and I kept feeling like I had missed something.

I had decided to give Stormwalker a try after reading "Double Hexed" (a novella from this series) in the Hexed anthology. I enjoyed it quite a lot and thought the setting and premise for this series were engaging. Unfortunately, the poor execution, uninteresting plot and inane characters really spoil it for me. One more series I can scratch off my list, yay!

Shera (Book Whispers) says

Thoughts:

I've been putting off this review for a while now, because I had mixed feelings about how to rate it and what I actually thought of it. Like all things time is all you need. After reading it I thought this book rocked, then after a bit I thought it was kind of average.

Native American themes and ideas have always interested me. Not too many PNR have included Native American themes and ideas, so I was an eager reader for Stormwalker.

The whole mythology was great. The idea of the element powers of earth and then the powers of the Beneath was well thought out. The explanation that James gives us is that there are layers of worlds. The beneath is a world below are own that has been "locked" away so that the creatures of the Beneath can't take over Earth. (Though I think author explains it better than me.) There's skin walkers which are always fun to learn about in Native American legends. In this case they are ugly rotting things that can take the skin of a human or animal, but in the beneath look like angels. Lecherous magic mirrors are also featured in this read, which had me laughing on numerous occasions. Coyote is also featured in here with a great rendition of what I would think he would look and act like. (Coyote is a Native American god, there's lots a legends about him out there.) That's just a tip of some of the magical things.

Janet is the key to opening up this door and bringing on the take over. Janet's mother is basically a goddess in the Beneath and has been working for years, maybe centuries, to get into earth. Wicked mothers have always been a favorite of mine for evil villains, and this one is evil to the bone. The way wicked mother goes about making a key to earth is really chilling and gave the mystery to the book a little edge, and twist on the dark

side that I love.

Some things were a little flat, like how Janet moves to this town because she is trying to solve the mystery of a missing girl. She's been there for a year and is now restoring an old hotel to run. Personally the mystery should not have taken a year to solve, I think she just lacked motivation before which was just lazy. Plus, Janet's moved to the town to deal with her mother, but she has no plan or idea how to do it and has no powers to do it. By moving to this town, she is close enough to a vortex that her mother can send some of her power and influence through. Janet knows her mom has plans to use her to open the portals, because her mother had approached her years ago when she came close enough to the vortex. Yet Janet acts like it's a huge surprise when she finds out she's the key to the vortex! Ignorance is not bliss, or a good plot twist.

The love interest is really yummy and I would like more information on him. Of course I think Janet would like more information about him as well. They had been "going out" for about 6 months and Mick had not shared a thing about himself. In fact, he would go out and disappear for days at a time not giving Janet any details about what he was doing. Then he expected Janet to obey like a good little girl. That's why Janet broke up with him and left. When he steps back into her life right at the beginning of the book, Janet doesn't put up too much of a fight. Of course absolution is given at the end of the book. Mick couldn't tell her anything because he was sworn not to. He was sent to kill her because she was too dangerous, but he fell in love and kept talking his people into allowing her to live. That old ploy, is getting old.

So the romantic growth really didn't impress me. Neither did the fact that it took almost the whole book for Janet to figure out what Mick was. Within the first 20 pages I already knew what he is, even before James threw that BIG clue out there.

A save on the disappointing romance was the fun characters that come along with this ride. Maya the rude mouthed and completely annoying electrician is strangely lovable. The plumber, who is a magic wanna be, is really a fun comic relief that some how ends up adding a lot to the book. The over baring and absolutely infuriating police chief was fun butting heads with, and I would have preferred him as a love interest more. Other characters where really fun. Like the family Janet has been running away from and avoiding.

Bottom Line:

Considering how many books she has out, Stormwalker probably isn't as strong as it should be. Still it's a fun debut in a series and I love the Native American lore and what not. Looking on the plot and idea, this probably could be any other old book out there. A good mystery and awesome characters make this book really great! Sure there's an over whelming amount of you're-under-arrest moments, hotel getting recked scenes, and standard drama moments. This series just might go some where and I look forward to seeing the problems I had with this book being resolved.

Sexual Content: As stated above a lecherous magic mirror. Coyote is featured in here and he is a dirty old boy. Sex scenes aren't over powering and they're pretty light.

3/5 –Pretty good, had a few things that held it back, but still worth it.

Rhonda says

FUN, FUN, FUN!!!! 3.5 STARS

This book was a lot of fun, I liked Janet our heroine. Smart, and strong yet a little vulnerable too. Janet is a Stormwalker able to harness and use the power of storms. Her mysterious boyfriend Mick is a badass Firewalker and he's very much in love with Janet, willing to sacrifice his own life for hers. Maya a tough girl electrician who is working for Janet, they have a very strained relationship. I loved the bantering between Maya and Janet. I really liked the Native American folklore references, we have skinwalkers, nightwalkers, and a magic mirror that was very funny. This story holds a lot of promise for the coming books in this series. The only real problem I had with this book was Mick. Since the story is told in the 1st person POV, we don't get Mick's POV. It took me almost 2/3 of the book to really get a good feel for him. There's mystery, action, paranormal activity, and a love story here, and I look forward to Firewalker coming later this year. and getting to know these characters even more.

Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says

The characters:

Janet, Mick, Coyote, and the cop Nash Jones

The story:

Janet Begay, a half Navajo Stormwalker, can call the power of any storm and manipulate it to her liking. The Navajo and Stormwalker side of her is from her father. Her mother, an evil Goddess in a place called the Beneath, wants Janet to join with her so they can rule the Beneath AND with their combined powers, take over the world.

Janet not only has the physical struggles against the evil that has been unleashed by her mother but she also has to struggle internally with the insecurities of being only half Navajo and the daughter of an evil, power crazy Goddess.

Adding to her internal struggles, Janet does not know whom to trust. There is Mick her on again off again, super hot boyfriend who performs disappearing acts at all the wrong moments. Then there is the sarcastic, witty Coyote God, appropriately named "Coyote", the town cop named Nash Jones who seems to have a vendetta against Janet or the super hilarious Magic Mirror with a wisecracking mouth that will make you laugh non-stop.

Lost In The World:

The descriptions of the hotel, the desert, the small diner, even the railroad tracks made the setting so realistic. The author does a great job of making the reader feel like you are there.

Will I read the next book in the series?

Not only will I read it, I'll probably pre-order it. I really liked the book and especially how strong minded but vulnerable Janet was. I loved the relationship between Janet and Mick. The book had all the elements I love, it was scary and surprising, it had romance (and hot sex) and it had paranormal elements that were perfectly woven into the story line making it seem so realistic.

new_user says

Yeehaw! Marty, I've found another series to follow!

I enjoyed *Stormwalker*- what more need be said?

I can say that Mick is hot. Mick's got *skeelz*. While some may argue that their most passionate moments are past tense, I love that Janet and Mick have history. They have more to stand on than hormones, and I like the sensation of dropping into a rich, fully-developed story over starting from scratch (i.e. uninitiated narrators) where the information and experiences one can absorb from page one to book end is limited. Allyson James conveys setting through clear exposition, but since her world only tweaks ours, she doesn't have to resort to obscene infodump blobs of text.

Speaking of worlds, thank you, James! Thank you for research and context for our Native American heroine beyond the woo-woo stereotype that contents romance authors. James smoothly marries Navajo mythology like the four worlds with a modern understanding. From Coyote the trickster god -he peeks through Janet's windows, LOL!- to Janet's last name, I can see James' care with context. James even incorporates some modern-day racial tension, a note of relevance I appreciate.

Janet's fun to read. Here, another author takes advantage of the awesome power of the weather, but Janet's infinitely cooler than the rest. She doesn't just slap the storm on the wrist- she *is* the friggin' storm! How cool!

Moving along, unlike other urban fantasy heroines, she's a real biker chick. She loves her bike, and most importantly, her Harley carries her *everywhere*, mostly the open road, natch. I love that a kick-butt heroine has a kick-butt interest, minus the disdain *omnium* that some heroines have. Janet isn't hard.

Still, people are leery of her for various reasons, some because she's new to Magellan, AZ, others because she resurrects old grudges; she has to earn trust. In this deserted, unassuming desert town populated by tight lips and secrets, she wins information in her missing persons investigation through friendships and water cooler chatter beyond the stiff, almost one-man police force. James crafts this atmosphere deftly until I could taste the sun and dust, along with a memorable cast of characters whom readers will come to know so well they can predict Sherrif Jones' stiffness and Maya Medina's bite.

Though leisurely paced, readers can't help but anticipate Janet's next encounter with this lively bunch. Who will reveal a crucial secret? Janet never muses for hours over decisions or emotions in endless introspection, rehashes, or ruminations on the universe, so our journey's blessedly smooth and driven with further punch by her shocking chapter endings! Oh, she's wily, that Allyson James. Action's shocking too!

In short, I loved the wild investigation, the character development, the Native American touches, the action, the sexiness, and even the unique secondary characters' storylines! I loved it all! I'm looking forward to further developments -of the hotel too! Home improvement's fun!- in book two, *Firewalker*, already out! A very solid four stars!

PS. Thanks, Catherine, for recommending I try this author again! :)

Alaina Meserole says

First: Prepare for like the shortest review I've ever written because I need to shower and head to work. I'll probably add more to this review later.. but I also might not because I'm lazy. Enjoy!

Second: Thank you Jessi for the great recommendations you have given me! I've really enjoyed them all so far!

Stormwalker was a really enjoyable book and a great start to this series. It is about Janet Begay who has a really cool power. However, she also has someone that can control her when she's caught up in her power.. and that is Mick. He is sexy AF and of course these two have a history! They were my sort of everything and I completely shipped them together.

Then there's Nash, who I absolutely hated. Besides him being an asshole throughout the book I actually really enjoyed Janet has an MC and Mick being her like kryptonite. I would've probably loved this book a hell of a lot more without Nash being in it but I guess we need to focus on him just to hate him every now and then. Loved the action and mystery in this book. I'm also happy that I got some answers from the weird ass questions forming in my head while reading. Again, I loved it and I am so happy for this being recommended to me!

I can't wait for the second book in this series!!

Jenni Lea says

Wow, this was great! No time to review; off to read the next one!

Umaiya ?A Far Off Memory? says

DNF@27%

I can't do it. I just can't. It's so hard to get into the story and though I just paused for 5 minutes, I just didn't wanna pick it up again. There's better stuff to read than waste my time on this, so I'm gonna move on.

Ian says

I've been plodding my way through this book for about a month. It never really captured me but it didn't annoy me enough to walk away either.

There are skinwalkers, the coyote (of Native American traditions), gods, demons and obviously the

eponymous Stormwalker. So yeah, it's tapping into that same rich vein as Mercy Thompson and Jane Yellowrock but it doesn't quite work.

As T.S. Elliot wrote,

*"This is the way the world ends,
not with a bang but a whimper."*

And that really sums up this book. It's OK without ever managing to be great.

Carolyn F. says

Pleasantly surprised by this book. This is an alias for Jennifer Ashley and I wasn't sure if she would be able to write this type of character. I love her historical romance books and her shifter series but I thought it would be like a copycat of Jane Yellowrock or Mercedes Thompson. I was wrong. I loved all the characters and the romance was a nice change of pace.

Janet is a stormwalker with a not so nice hereditary gift from her mom, a goddess from "Beneath". She moves to where it all began when asked to try to find a missing girl and ends up buying and renovating a hotel. An old boyfriend comes back in her life and she finally figures out most of the secrets that made her break up with him in the first place. There's a dick cop, who drove me crazy because he was so insensitive to anything even her throwing up all over the place. I still don't like him much even after finishing the book and finding out some of the reason he is like he is. I plan on reading the rest of the series.

CJ - It's only a Paper Moon says

4.72

Once upon a time I read the first two books in Rachel Caine's "Weather Warden" series. I subsequently forgot what those two books were about and thus stopped reading any more of the series. I will go back to it but that's neither here nor there.

If the WW series had been as engrossing and engaging as Janet's story then perhaps I would have stuck with it. I say this because this book shares some similarities with the WW series and I simply want to get that out of the way.

I was surprised about how much I ended up liking this book.

Plot

My only issue was that the Amy story seemed very much like a side story until the very end, when it was time to wrap things up and get ready for the final climax of the story. I would have liked to see Janet investigating a little bit more (really just once or twice more) so that I could get a bit more emotionally invested in Nash, Janet and their strange relationship. I also would have liked to know more about the mother. Maybe the Grandmother or Coyote could have dropped a hint or two. However, with that said -

everything moved smoothly and quickly without any jagged loose ends or too many out of left field surprises. It was a solid foundation to build a story and it was enjoyable and exciting.

Characters

Janet was a bit naive and at times I found that her experiences didn't really match with her character. Here's a woman who can control Storms, can beat the crap out of crazy bar people and can have vigorous, amazing tantric sex but she can't work up the nerve to ask her boyfriend for a serious conversation. Not that I blame her, Mick is adept at sidestepping the question and sometimes you have to know when to pick your battles. Other than that, her character makes sense and I can't help but like her. She can be a hard-ass, sensitive, stubborn and normal despite her powers. She is down to earth with a bit of a kink :) Who wouldn't relate to that! All of character traits make sense when you look at them through the lens of her experience. Even the aforementioned naivete that bugs me. I understand why she's a bit naive. (view spoiler)

Mick is a bit too HUGE (built like a wrestler, he's 6'6" - agghh!) for my tastes but he is one sexy summamabitch. Though his over-protectiveness would at times excite me and irk me (much like Janet's reactions) he is still a great guy to have your back. I'd want him in my arsenal if I had to get into a supernatural fight. Not only that, you can tell he really loves her. This isn't one of those books of Boy Meet Girl, they have awkward relationship, jump in sack and continue to have strained weird relations until someone realizes they love the other. Ok, it's not *quite* like that. In this case, the stress and the awkwardness comes from knowledge of the other person and also the lack of. Mick is a mysterious character who I could've sworn was a (view spoiler)

Nash. Oh Nash. I want to like you but you come off as a dick to me. I get your backstory but yeah, I agree with Maya that you have no business being a Sheriff. Honestly, you are one crayon short of the box. The fact that you irrationally hate (seemingly) the "Believers" and go out of your way to constantly throw Janet in jail is a habit that does not endear me to you. Not even toward the end of the book. In fact, Nash, meet me at camera three (view spoiler)

Capice?

The side characters were engaging and intriguing and I hope we get to meet some of them again. I also hope some of them are more fleshed out. I want to know about the Grandmother.

So, you know. Go read this book already!

Torzilla says

Wow. Just wow. I had originally thought that the Native American female lead was soon becoming overused. I thought: okay, the concept of the story sounds interesting, but this Janet character probably won't stand a chance against Mercy Thompson or Jane Yellowrock. How very wrong I was.

If anything, I must concede now that Janet holds this certain type of allure that neither Jane nor Mercy have. I've always been attracted to the types of characters who have some elemental powers, and Janet Begay's specialty is definitely something that interests me. As a Stormwalker, she has the ability to control any storm around her--even if it gives her the worst hangover-feeling after. Imagine Storm from X-men, except instead of commanding storms around her, Janet needs a storm in order to tap into her power. This lends to

interesting situations that reveal just how cunning and resourceful she can be.

There is no random man that Janet stumbles upon during her journey. Instead, readers are introduced to a sexy, arrogant, frustrating fire-wielder named Mick. Can I just say that Mick is one sizzling ex-boyfriend? In the beginning of the book, when he finally saunters into the current scene (and into my heart), Janet slowly begins to explain why the two separated in the first place, and I felt myself sympathizing with the poor girl. Who would ever want to be smothered while dating someone? I know I wouldn't. Yet despite this, I still wanted to grab Janet by the shoulders to give her a good shake. Actually, now that I think about it, I wanted to do the same to Mick also. Gotta love it when characters are ignorant...especially in the good way.

But Tori, you might ask, how can characters be ignorant in a good way? While the tension between the two characters is frustrating to a certain extent, I think that on some level, the two know that they--despite differing feelings--care for each other, which comes before all else. There is this certain appeal, for me at least, when two characters have a history together. Allyson doesn't instantly deliver a relationship with a happily ever after for either character, but she does offer a relationship with instant gratification. Readers aren't forced to be wary due to anything being rushed. If Janet and Mick decide they want to have sex, then we can rationalize it by saying that, due to a past together, they are reconnecting. Humans do it all the time. It was perfect for the two of them.

I'm almost tempted to guarantee that this plot will make you grow animated at some point, but I won't. Read the book, and see for yourself if you had the same reaction I did. For me, it was when I reached the end of chapter 17. I won't go into the details about what happened (because it is way too juicy to spoil for anyone) but all I could think and gasp and then scream was: "What, what, what, WHAT?!" In fact, I'm still flabbergasted. Biggest. plot. twist. ever. I loved it!

Allyson James has a new and interesting series well worth reading. Not only are the covers for this series beautiful (sorry, had to mention it), but her characters and plot are so unique and interesting that one would be deemed crazy for not giving this series a shot. You hear me? Get this book pronto!
