



The Glamour Thieves

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JT is an orc on the way up. He's got his own boutique robotics shop, high-end clientele, and deep-pocketed investors. He's even mentoring an orc teen who reminds him a bit too much of himself back in the day.

Then Austin shows up, and the elf's got the same hard body and silver tongue as he did two years ago when they used to be friends and might have been more. He's also got a stolen car to bribe JT to saying yes to one last scheme: stealing the virtual intelligence called Blue Unicorn.

Soon JT's up to his tusks in trouble, and it ain't just zombies and Chinese triads threatening to tear his new life apart. Austin wants a second chance with JT—this time as more than just a friend—and even the Blue Unicorn is trying to play matchmaker.

The Glamour Thieves Details

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From Reader Review *The Glamour Thieves* for online ebook

Elisabeth Lane says

Phenomenal book. I'm reviewing for TBR Challenge.

K.J. Charles says

I enjoyed this hi tech elf/orc m/m heist fantasy sci fi romance with masses of sex and no HEA *enormously*. If you have issues with any of the above, move on.

Written with glee, with a lovely pair of flawed heroes and a keen appreciation of its own absurdity, while *not* being annoyingly tongue in cheek. The adventure romps, the MCs' mutual pining is real and emotional and raw, the sex is hot if you don't mind the associated elf orc weird stuff which...is admittedly *quite* weird at points, the worldbuilding manages to be completely clear but incredibly understated in a masterful way, and I am dying to find out What Happens Next in the ongoing story. I glommed it in a sitting.

Don Bradshaw says

What an awful read. I guess the author was going for steampunk but didn't get there.

Len Evans Jr says

OK... might add more to this later, but just wanted to leave a few thoughts for now. First off, if you go into this book expecting a HEA or HFN then don't. As far as I can tell Austion and JT will not be getting their HEA until book 3 is released November 19 2018. That said... I still enjoyed this book immensely, the author did a very good job of balancing the action, sex and the actual story he is telling quite well. The worldbuilding is well done with a lot of interesting stuff. I look forward to fuller exploring the somewhat dystopian world mixed with fantasy elements as the series progresses. This is the first m/m book I have read with orc/human and orc/elf pairings and I was not quite sure how well I would like it due to things like tusks that get in the way sometimes, etc. However I really enjoyed it, in fact the sex scenes were quite hot and although there is no overt romance there are a lot of foreshadows of what is to come later. Also, I am just starting book 2 which we get to see Buzz from this first book's story. I really liked him in this book so am expecting good things from book 2.

Erica says

This is what it would be like if a game of Shadowrun came to life. This is what it would be like if Neal Stephenson wrote LGBT fiction. This is what it would be like if Neuromancer and the Lord of the Rings

trilogy had a beautiful gay baby. This is the best thing I've read all year.

Gabriella (Gabi) says

Just a messy review, don't have time.

I think it's the perfect length, even though there are a ton of questions left unanswered. Such as, what happened to the humans? how this world came about, with orcs and elves and wizards? It is most definitely a post-apocalyptic, futuristic fantasy world. What happened to Austin and JT in the past, how they got captured and why, and how did they get away? So yeah a lot of questions, I'm hoping to get answers.

Lots of action with guns, and all kinds of high-tech stuff. Just what I wanted. At times I didn't know what the hell they were talking about though, I'm not a tech-savvy.

There is romance in this book in my opinion. A best friends to lovers and second chance romance. But it's kinda a love triangle, not really but there is 3 person involved. And no HEA, yet at least, so I guess I'm reading the whole series. :)

And awww the little foxy, hehe. :)

And I know you're dying to ask, yes, there is orc/elf sex. HOT!

Gemma ? Books_McCoy says

Probably more like 3.5. As much as I enjoyed it I couldn't rate it 4.

It was good for what it was and I would consider reading the rest of the series but I was disappointed with the lack of world building and the way we didn't really go into the characters backgrounds. It was all mentioned, all teased but I feel like I don't really know it at all.

Lots of potential but I think it needed to be longer with more plot and character development. I still enjoyed it, but mostly by looking at it as smutty fanfic! That really helped.

I did like the characters, especially JT, but again I felt like way more needed to be said about their backstory and growth.

Sophia says

A futuristic fantasy world, anti-heroes reunited for one last adventure, and nothing is as it seems in this first time outing with new to me author. I was eager for the high octane rush that was sure to come with a story such as this and it did not wait long to present itself.

This story had a lot of moving parts and was layered with hints to a backstory and world building involving the main characters that played a huge role in the present, but was fed to the reader in bits and pieces throughout. It was a loose plot though it possessed a fast, gritty tone that I thought well suited to the story. I found it a tough go at times and had to stop and re-read sections or wait for further pages to elucidate things to get back on track.

The main plot thread of protecting an old friend and a secret device from a criminal group was the easiest to focus on, but I found myself less interested and wanting more of what was happening with JT the orc and Austin the elf. The pair were once friends, almost lovers, and now have an acrimonious distant relationship at best. The flash backs helped get to know them better and what led to where they are at with each other now.

Speaking of their relationship. Their attraction is off the charts and the pair do eventually get down and dirty. I got frustrated with them and wanted to lock them in a bunker (closet wouldn't be strong enough) and force them to talk things out since they both have skewed memories of the past. The end came and things were still unresolved. I will give things the benefit of the doubt that as this is a series, there will be more of their story in future books. Other parts of the plot are left open so this is not a far stretch.

There's a bit of a love triangle type of affair going on, but I tolerated it because it felt more wishful thinking and a form of denial on the part of JT than anything real. Not to mention, I don't think this pair will do conventional in the long run.

All in all, it was interesting, creative, and somewhat confusion for me. I'm willing to press forward with more of the series and the characters and would definitely recommend *The Glamour Thieves* to others who enjoy a futuristic fantasy mash-up.

My thanks to Riptide Publishing for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Line says

Price drop at Riptide and the zon.com for a week: <https://www.amazon.com/Glamour-Thieve...>

Ije the Devourer of Books says

Not a great hit with me unfortunately because I really liked the blurb.

When I read the blurb for this story I immediately wanted to read it. I kept a look out for it on Netgalley and when it finally arrived it went straight to the top of my review pile (and yes I have a substantial review pile). There was just something about an adventure with an orc and an elf that sounded both intriguing and innovative.

And to be honest it was innovative and intriguing but it just didn't grab me.

I thought the story was a bit slow for the first 50%. This may be because the first part of the story was focused on world building, introducing the characters and kind of setting the scene for the story and it

managed to do this but it just wasn't interesting for me. There was also a flash back in this first part of the book which was actually a sex scene from the past and I don't think that added anything to either the world building or the development of the characters. For me a sex scene needs to be really integrated in the story and somehow move things along and I felt it just didn't do that and so overall the first part of the book kind of fell flat.

There was a lot to get to grips with in the first part of the story which isn't a problem normally but for some reason it just didn't flow for me. There was the world, the characters, their pasts, their powers, the enemies and all this different sci fi technology. Each of these aspects of the story were well thought out but I felt something was lacking in the way the aspects unfolded as the story progressed.

This is the first time that I am reading anything by this author and so it could be that I just haven't clicked with the author's writing style.

But I did click with the characters towards the end of the book. From 60% onwards I felt the story started flowing and it felt as if each character really came into their own and the story became more comprehensive.

But alas in summary, this story didn't really work for me which is fine because I don't think every story has been written for me and I am sure there are plenty of readers who will love this.

Having said all this I am still glad I read it because the characters are unique. I haven't read any mm stories with orcs in them, especially orcs who build cars and this is what attracted me to the story in the first place. So I am pleased I read it to the end even though I didn't really enjoy it

Copy provided by Riptide Publishing via Netgalley in exchange for an unbiased review.

Teal ?specializing in the DNF? says

**** 4.5 stars ****

What an awesome mashup of cyberpunk science fiction and urban fantasy, featuring AIs and orcs, virtual realities and elves, high-tech weapons systems and necromancers. The world-building is rich and complex; best of all, backstory is gradually revealed rather than info-dumped onto the reader's hapless head. In fact, lots of history -- like the Awakening by which creatures like orcs and elves came to exist in our world -- isn't elaborated on, but will doubtless be revealed as the series continues. I love that approach to world-building. Love it.

Another thing I love is that this is most emphatically NOT a formulaic romance... if it can even be called a romance at all. I expect that over the course of the series the story will work toward an HEA. But in this book it's not even clear at first who the love interest is. There are not one but two (two!! how did I get so lucky?!) second-chance romance opportunities.

JT and Austin were once best friends and fuck buddies (although feelings were deeper and far more convoluted than either of them could understand or articulate). JT and Buzz were never an item, but not because of any lack of effort on JT's part... more because of that whole biting thing that orcs are prone to. His reunion with Buzz goes something like this:

"Keep away from me, you cannibal!"

...That worked JT's nerves. "It's not cannibalism if you ain't the same species, Buzz. It's just dinner."

OMG, I would have liked to see *that* explored in more detail. Maybe in the next book. Which I'm buying, even though I could read it for free from Hoopla, because I want to support this author. If he keeps this up, he'll have a place on my favorite authors list.

If this sounds at all interesting to you, take a minute to check out Kristen Burns's excellent review as well.

Eugenia says

Cyberpunk Love, Mayhem, and a Bumpy Ride.....3.5 Stars.....

Welcome to sometime in the future. A time after the Awakening, which I assume to be when magic came upon the earth again. This is not explained. Actually, many things are not explained in this, my first book by this author.

At times this book was simply awesome:

- Intriguing characters
- Fascinating world
- Crazy technology
- Sexy green orcs with tusks
- Magical elves with fruit-flavored emissions (YUM!)
- No info-dumps
- ONE OF THE TOP SEX ON THE GOOD OF THE CAR SCENES EVER!!

And at times it was a mess:

- Little details into the actual world itself
- Crazy flashbacks in the middle of scenes...THIS DROVE ME NUTS! Sometimes it was hard to tell "when" I was. Other times, this was done very smoothly.
- POV's from characters other than the MC's.
- Nothing feels resolved at the end. The MC's were messing around with other people and each other. They had history, sure, but I wasn't sure what the through line here was. I suppose I can give it up for originally to the author for writing outside the box.
- Sometimes the action was hard to follow; sometimes not.
- LACK OF COMMUNICATION!

So, I hemmed and hawed about this one. Three or four, three or four? I settled in the middle and rounded up for originality amongst all the confusion.

Oh, and that car scene!!!!!! To die for!!

Kristen Burns says

4.5 Stars

Review:

I received an ecopy of this book via NetGalley. This has not influenced my review.

This book was fantastic! I saw the title and the cover, and I was interested. I saw the genre was sci-fi/fantasy, and I was still interested. I started reading the blurb and saw the word 'orc,' and I was sold. I didn't even finish reading the blurb before deciding I wanted this. And it did not disappoint.

The writing, the characters, the characters' *voices*---that was what made it so amazing. Their voices were so strong, well-written, and different from what I normally find. Harder, raunchier, grittier. I want to say it's exactly what you'd expect an orc to be like, but, to be honest, I don't know anything about orcs. It was definitely not what you'd expect an elf to be like though, which only made it even more interesting.

Speaking of the creatures, as I mentioned, I didn't actually know anything about orcs, but I love uncommon supernatural creatures, so I loved that the main character was one. The orcs were pretty cool, different from other creatures I'd read about. They even had tusks! Elves are markedly more common, but it was still cool seeing this author's take on those too.

There wasn't as much emotion as there normally is in the books I give 4.5 stars to, but there was enough. I felt for these characters, especially JT. They were hard and tough. They were thieves and hackers and adrenaline junkies and the type of people (or supernatural beings) who enjoyed getting each other off while driving at ungodly, one-wrong-move-and-you're-dead speeds on the magway. They could be real jerks sometimes. But they still had real emotions. They still felt pain over past hurts. They still worried about others. They still wanted to be loved.

And the *sex*. There was quite a lot of it considering the length of the book, and it was not for those with delicate sensibilities. It was just as rough and hard and gritty as the rest of the book but still sexy as hell because you could tell how much the characters enjoyed it.

This book also had a really cool urban fantasy/futuristic cyberpunk mash-up. There were orcs and elves and wizards and mancans. But there were also advanced technologies, cars that drove themselves or that you drove with just your mind, virtual reality laid over the real city, technology that basically allowed telepathy (including the ability to simulate touch to another person). JT was even able to feel what the car felt, like the wind, once he connected to it.

The only negative thing I can say is that there probably could've been more to the plot since the book was short and the plot itself mostly just consisted of driving and fighting some baddies, plus a romance that wasn't resolved yet. The book was more about getting to know the characters and the past relationship between JT and Austin. But this is going to be a trilogy, I believe, so maybe there's a good reason for the plot in this one being what it was. And I was able to pretty much overlook this because of how much I liked the rest.

So overall, this book was gritty and sexually charged with unique character voices, the plot was action-

packed, the orcs and elves were interesting, and the characters were all hard edges but still with enough emotion to make them seem real and to make me feel invested!

Recommended For:

Anyone who likes M/M, cyberpunk/urban fantasy mash-ups, uncommon supernatural creatures, and gritty, raunchy, hard-edged characters.

Original Review @ Metaphors and Moonlight

First Thoughts:

This was fantastic! Gritty and sexually charged with scenes that were action-packed and characters that were hard-edged but still felt emotions and seemed real. I'm thinking 4.5 stars. Full review soon!

Kathleen says

4.5 stars

Wow, what a wild ride! I was enthralled with the phenomenal world building, fascinating and deeply flawed characters, and the extraordinary story. It was an incredible blend of cyberpunk, urban fantasy, and science fiction. I can hardly wait to find out what happens next!

Ami says

2.75 stars rounded up

I was immediately intrigued with the blurb when I saw this being listed at Netgalley. *First*, ORC! Yep, orc and elf. While I read a number of urban fantasy books with elves, I don't think I've read many with orcs as main character and protagonists. *Second*, the allusion that JT and Austin had history previously. Second-chance romance will always be a favorite trope of mine. I wanted to know why it didn't work between them before and how would JT and Austin find a way back to each other again.

Unfortunately, I had trouble when I tried to figure out the universe of this novel. One important thing when it comes to urban fantasy books for me is the ability for the author to introduce the world so I can easily understand what is happening. In here, I felt that the particular aspect didn't flow as smoothly as I wanted.

There were references to previous events or other characters that were not known to me as a reader. I also didn't understand how Austin's glamour really works -- did it also influence feeling?? So I was quite confused with many things: the players, the events, the technologies, the magical power!! It wasn't really fun reading experience.

HOWEVER, I was excited with a number of things. There were times the emotional conflict between JT and Austin felt strong, I wanted them to work things out. Although their background didn't feel flesh out enough, I was quite invested with JT and Austin's relationship. I was a bit disappointed that the ending felt more like

HFN, though.

Conclusion:

Some things excited me. Some things confused me. All in all, I felt rather indifferent. But it wasn't bad enough for me to say that I disliked it. Thus the rounded-up '*just okay*' rating of mine. Not sure if it's enough for me to check out the sequel ... I just have to wait and see.

The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.
