



The Scribe

Susan Kaye Quinn

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The remnants of their minds haunt him.

Sasha won't survive if he has to erase any more souls. He needs a jacker Clan that won't force him to use his unique and horrible skill. When a slick revolutionary Clan leader offers him a chance to serve a higher purpose, Sasha's wary there's a catch. But when a beautiful female jacker is hunted by the kind of brutal Clan leader Sasha knows all too well, he has to decide if there is any cause worth the price of using his ability one more time.

The Scribe is Sasha's origin story.

MINDJACK: KIRA

Open Minds (Mindjack: Kira Book One)

Closed Hearts (Mindjack: Kira Book Two)

Free Souls (Mindjack: Kira Book Three)

MINDJACK: ZEPH

Locked Tight (Mindjack: Zeph Book One)

Cracked Open (Mindjack: Zeph Book Two)

Broken Wide (Mindjack: Zeph Book Three)

The Scribe Details

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From Reader Review The Scribe for online ebook

Trisha says

No Sasha, she thought, I'm here so you can save me.

Wow, and finally the Scribe - Sasha.

The one that I knew the least about from book 2. I now understand.

AND to be intro'd to Ava. Understand her back story, the link between Sasha and Ava.

And to see Julian help shape the revolution.

and to read of their flirting. It's so sweet and cute. The perfect ray of sunshine in this dark world.

Heather says

Now this is Sasha's story and he has the most incredible power I've ever read. I'm not going to tell you what it is. His name "The Scribe" might give you some indication but it is a powerful thing and any of the Clans would want him. But he's escaped to Julian. He wants to never use his "power" ever again. It takes a piece of him every time he uses it and he's used it so many times under his old Clan leader who basically raised him. Now that Clan leader is back and he wants the helpless girl that's just fled to Julian. As Arlis, the Clan leader lays seige to Julian and Sasha's new base of operations, Sasha has to war with himself, can he use his power for good instead of evil and at what cost to him? Will he stay sane if he uses it this time?

I'm not really sure what Sasha's power does to him, but it's painful for him as well as his victim. Maybe because he's a good soul who's been forced to do so many wrong's. But I think he also has to see all the wrong's the person he is working on has done and it's painful and he gets afraid that he'll get lost in the craziness. But you'll have to see how he ends up and who helps him. This is a story I really wanted to read because once you read about his "talent" you don't forget it. He will stick with you in Closed Hearts. Most everyone will. I loved this story and seeing him find his peace and safety. Another excellent tide over until FREE SOULS comes out!

A.E. Howard says

Loved this snack from the Mindjack world while waiting for book 3. Sasha was such an interesting character, and it was great to see the world through his eyes, and get inside his head (without jacking in of course ;-)).
Bravo!

Sheila says

Don't read any spoilers. You'll want to know why this novella's called the scribe, and the answer involves ethics, powers, brokenness and redemption in almost equal parts. Of the three stories in this set, this is the

one I like most, the character I most want to follow, and even, in some ways, the tale that tells me most about this future society.

The writing is spare and beautiful, vividly descriptive without being slow, equally at home with the feather of a dove and the mightiest sword of a powerful mind, and smoothly convincing. I enjoy the author's ability to invite readers into different minds and hold them there, to create a future and make it believable without long explanation, and to tell a good tale. Highly recommended.

Disclosure: The author gave me free ecopies of these stories when I expressed an interest in them.

Peter DeHaan says

Part of the Mindjack Trilogy Box Set

Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

I really enjoyed the Scribe, Sasha stays a bit of a mysterious character in the full length novels, so it was nice to get to see his point of view. I felt like this novella really explained some things about Sasha and gave us a feel for his character and personality. Sasha has had some hard times when growing up, someone trained him to use his mindjack powers, but Sasha feels bad about the souls he stolen. Now that he joins Julian's revolution he is determined not to use his powers again. This novella questions that decision and brings him in a situation where he has to choose what's the best option.

The novella takes place shortly after The Handler and still show the beginning stages of Julian his revolution. I really enjoyed seeing the process of them getting new recruits and seeing how it all started. I think it gives some interesting background information about the characters involved and about the revolution organization. We also get to see how Ava joins the group.

To summarize: I really enjoyed this novella/ Sasha stays very mysterious in the full length novels and I enjoyed getting his point of view. I thought it really added something and I got a good feel for his character and it was interesting learning more about Sasha and how his ability works. It shows an interesting point of view we never get int he full length novels and shows us the beginning stages of the revolution and also how Ava joins. There's a difficult decision Sasha has to make in this one and it's even a bit dark and shows the frightening impact of Sasha his mindjack powers on others and the effect using them has on him. And I really liked seeing Ava though Sasha his eyes.

Rhiannon H Morris says

As a short background story to the MindJack trilogy, I enjoyed this. It's short and nothing special, but it does add a little extra depth and understanding to the events recounted in the Mind Jack trilogy, especially books 2 and 3. As a 77pence book, this is worth buying but only if you have enjoyed the main trilogy first.

Arlene Adams says

Sasha the scribe. When my mentor, Arlis, found me, I was a dazed changeling horrified permanently erasing my gym teacher's mind. He took me in, helped me recover, and taught me how to control my ability to erase a person's mind, down to every last memory and personality quirk, and rewrite them into someone new. It took a long time for me to realize that anyone who plucks a thirteen-year-old boy out of school and turns him into a weapon isn't a savior, he's a monster.

Following Arlis had taken me down a path where I had destroyed more souls than I could track. They invaded my sleep, becoming a tangled mess of personalities and histories that nearly drove me mad. I left Arlis behind and worked the handyman trade, but was quickly pulled back into the underground mindjacker Clans. I had sinned so much, what was the point in stopping? There was no redemption for me, no more than it was possible to return the memories and lives I had stolen.

Julian can manipulate your instincts, but he can't jack you directly. That means anyone he can handle will be easy for him to control, but if he can't reach their instincts, for whatever reason, he's virtually powerless. I thought he could handle anyone, anytime. I never worried about him, until..." "Until Serena came along," I finished.

My victims lived and breathed, but they were hollow copies, empty of the uniqueness they were born with. The simple truth was that I'd rather have my pitiful life end now than destroy another soul. And I couldn't chance bringing on the nightmares again. They would only carry me off into madness, and who knew what kind of harm I could do.

Serena, nearly killed us all before Julian stopped her. She had already wiped out my old clan one member against the rest, until he killed everyone but me. I only escaped because I managed to steal his soul first.

"Myrtle's a friend of our mutual friend Henry's. She's set up a halfway house of sorts a few blocks over." Ava the second recruit But your thoughts sasha told me so much... I figured, if only I could find a way here, to you, then maybe I might be safe again."

"I can read thoughts without people realizing I'm in their heads. I can link thoughts too." She dropped her hand and gazed into Julian's eyes. "And I can do it at long distances." I can't keep people from jacking me worth a darn." Once I reached all the way to Wisconsin, but that was from the northern suburbs of Chicago New Metro. I haven't tried farther than that."

Julian said she was a Viewer There were a few people who claimed they could see things at huge distances... but I didn't think it was real..."

He told Ava to find Myrtle. "She's older, a grandma. She's fond of knitting and the Cubs. And..." Ava paused, then opened her eyes to focus on Julian. "She worries about you, Julian. You remind her of a grandson she had, then lost. He was a dreamer too."

"Sasha thinks you're fighting for something important. That you're the hope for the future of all of us."

That was the truth that I feared—she and Julian were just waiting for the right moment, the right pressure, to trick or force me into using my ability. I wouldn't do it, but even thinking about set off a twitching in my stomach that made it seize up.

Sasha had time trusting Ava she told him to mindjack her. They threatened to hurt my family, Ava thought. I'm not sure how they found me. I never told a soul that I was... different. But when jackers were revealed to the world, I think someone must have suspected. Someone I knew told someone else and eventually they found me. They forced you to join their Clan? I asked. She played an image of their rough hands grasping her, forcing her to leave her mother behind. And to serve them. Spy for them. Find other jackers for them. She had edged closer, and I had a hard time drawing in a normal breath. How did you escape? I found you, she thought, and I realized that maybe it was possible to leave. Possible to find someone who would protect me. Once I knew I had somewhere to go, it was easy to leave. She flashed a scene of herself, creeping past sleeping bodies in the dead of night. She paused by the dark shadow of a jacker splayed on a cot, snoring. Even in the weak streetlight falling through the windows, I could see his face: eyes closed, black hair tossed by sleep, a light scar drawing an X across his right eyebrow. A scar I recognized, having been there when he first got it. Arlis. I stopped breathing. He was my Clan leader, she thought. And, once upon a time, he was yours too. A pulse of fear jolted me. She's here to bring me back. The thought came fast and without control, tripping on my sudden flash of terror. She must have heard it, because she reached out a small hand and laid it on my chest, over my heart. I flinched away from her touch, like it might burn me. No, Sasha, she thought. I'm here so you can save me. She was telling the truth; she couldn't lie to me, not while I was in her head like that. She wasn't here to take me back to Arlis—she was seeking sanctuary from him. She wanted me to keep her safe from the man who had taken me as a boy and turned me into a monster. There was no way I could say no to that. No way I could send anyone, least of all someone as vulnerable as Ava, back into his hands. No way I could let him do to her what he had done to me.

It took me a split second to realize it was Arlis. I jerked back, trying to keep out of the screen's range. Julian barely noticed, he was so intent on the image hovering above his phone. "Mr. Navarro!" Arlis boomed from his tiny projection. "I've heard a great deal about you, son. "Arlis Specter." He used the same fatherly tone I remembered too well. "I have a small Clan, not too ambitious, just working the New Metro suburbs, trying to stay on the right side of the Feds. Not unlike you, I'm sure. And "I believe you have something that belongs to me." Julian's jaw worked. "You mean someone."

"Yes, yes." Arlis's beefy cheeks bunched up, his smile all the more menacing for being the picture of grandfatherliness. It made me shudder. "She's a pretty little thing, isn't she?" His smile disappeared. "But I'd like her back." "I'm afraid that's not going to happen," Julian said, which allowed me to take a breath again. "Well, now, maybe you can just put her on the phone," Arlis said, "and we can have a little chat." "That's not going to happen either. She's not interested in returning to your Clan." "Look, Julian," Arlis said. "I know the girl is valuable. I'm sure we can work out an arrangement to compensate you for your loss. This is just business. No need for things to get messy and involve the poor girl's family. I'm sure she'd agree, if you'd put her on the phone.

Julian's expression fell as flat as his voice. "Perhaps I'm not making myself clear. Ava is under my protection. Any move against her family will be treated as a direct threat to this Clan, and I assure you that you do not want that to happen." "I don't take kindly to threats, Mr. Navarro." "It's not a threat, Mr. Specter," Julian said. "It's a promise. Good day."

"He'll carry through on his threats, Julian," I said softly. "He gets rather... obsessed with things." "I'll send Henry out to her family, right away, to move them to somewhere safe."

Arlis came to warehouse get Ava back Sasha described him. reached the cloud of mental connection that enveloped everything: bits of memories, snippets of personality quirks, behaviors and convictions, all wound together like a giant ball of string. No organization, just connection. A set of memories that wove together into a conviction which then threaded into a new behavior. It was the tapestry that made Arlis unique. I plucked a string and it unraveled, traveling back in time to when he was a child, a boy with few possessions to call his own. A boy who grew into a man who discovered he had a great power. Who would never be satisfied, always craving what his power could bring him. The tapestry came apart in an endless cascade of

memories and emotion that washed through me like a pulse of energy, intense and paralyzing. The pieces of Arlis fought for space inside my head, pushing around my own thoughts and memories. I absorbed him, became him. I held the empty box that was a cruel joke by my foster father on my birthday. I cried silent tears while I bunched up the sheets on my bed, wishing the pain would stop, vowing never to hurt from wanting again. My mind blew the memory away with caustic sands that eroded me into bits. The pieces lifted like small leaves swirling into the air on a whirlwind. I scrambled, grabbing at them, trying to shape them into a life. My life. Arlis's life. Any life. But they shredded into a hazy cloud of dust.

I remember you, Sasha, a voice spoke in my head. I know who you are. It was Ava's voice, like a lighthouse in the cloud, calling me. My own thoughts and memories I remember you, Sasha, Ava said again, inside my head, urging me on. I collected up the pieces, gathering and shaping them, until they coalesced into a single life. Mine. I blinked open my eyes.

Arlis's mind and rewrote him, reassembling the pieces of him to form a new picture and scribing his mind into something better than was. I left every memory of every wrong act intact, but made them barbs in his mind; thorns that he could never remove and that would remind him of what he had done. Then I crafted a basic need, stronger than any other, stronger than self-preservation itself. A need to fix what he had done. Ends when Sasha kissed Ava

booknerd_dork says

It was awesome to know Shasha's story. I love him! He is my fav character. Getting to read about him and how he and Ava got together was amazing and cute.

Sher A. Hart says

It had been long enough since I read Closed Hearts that I couldn't remember much about Sasha until The Scribe made me recall wanting to know more about him. Now I do, and I can say Susan did an excellent job of creating a soul so tortured that he needs more than Julian's skill to make something useful out of the shambles.

Susan's symbolism is great. With his life in the toilet, Sasha works to build a bathroom while he tries to rebuild his character destroyed by Arlis, a rival clean leader who forced Sasha to erase other people's personalities. Then, along comes Ava to clean up Sasha's act. He doesn't know what to make of her, a reader who's more like a linker. He doesn't even know what his own emotions are trying to tell him. He's too confused to hit the nail on the head.

But Ava trusts him. I can't tell you whether he will do the one thing he's sworn never to do again to protect a girl who sees something in him that he never knew existed: redemption. Oh, and love.

Sara says

This short story is about Sasha, who was introduced in The Handler. And isn't he just gorgeous on the

cover:~) He and Julian have a meeting with a new recruit. Ava is a wisp of a girl that has the ability of a linker. And she can read minds without the person knowing. At first he doesn't trust her, but she slowly gains his trust. They both come from the same Clan leader, Arlis, but they did not know each other as they were in the clan at different time. They both want to stay away from him. But he wants Ava back, and so Arlis stages a confrontation to try and get her. Sasha must decide whether to use his ability to erase memories and build new ones to keep them safe from Arlis for good, or whether to kill him.

Ava is now the 4th member or their revolution, and there is a budding romance hinted at for Sasha and Ava. I am anxious to discover what happens in book 2, Closed Hearts, of this series.

Carrie says

These short stories are really great additions to the Mindjack series. I'm trying to work through them before diving into the next book so I can get a better feel for all the backstory that is not 100% covered in the books.

Sasha is a great character. He's been gifted with a powerful skill but it was twisted and abused by his last clan leader. His motivations are pure, but there are a lot of risks involved in joining Julian's clan. Sure, he says he won't ever use his power again, but the temptation is certainly there when forced to choose the fate of someone he despises.

Overall, this was a solid addition to the series and I'll keep gobbling these little stories up.

Sandy S says

THE SCRIBE (Mindjack Origins 2.2) by Susan Kaye Quinn

THE SCRIBE is another short-story (August 2012 release) from Susan Kaye Quinn's Mindjack Trilogy. In a world where mindreading is the norm (due to decades of contaminated water) those without the ability are known as zeroes, but there are a few who possess a power greater than most. This story takes place between Open Minds and Closed Hearts.

Sasha Rimbali has a power that he considers so evil that he is willing to die before he ever uses his powers again. Believing his powers are too destructive, too complete and too final, Sasha searches out Julian Navarro and his small Clan of mindjackers hoping to side with them in the upcoming revolution. The revolution that will see mindjackers as the dominant species, Sasha hopes that Julian will see a different side and not use Sasha's power to control, punish or gain power against others. Sasha believes Julian will make a difference, but time will tell if Sasha or the others will survive without the use of his powers.

Sasha was a new changeling when Arlis (Sasha's old mentor) discovered his unbelievable powers. Teaching Sasha how to control and use his powers was more than beneficial for Sasha but also for Arlis and his Clan. But recruiting Sasha to use his powers for control and punishment was something that Sasha could no longer tolerate-the nightmares were frequent and the guilt was too high.

Ava Trinkle is a viewer. With the ability to view at great distances, Ava's powers will benefit the Clan when she is able to reach and read their enemy during the revolution. But Ava and Sasha have something in

common, and it is their common thread that will unite the pair for more than just a battle-but perhaps in their hearts. When Ava is accepted into Julian's Clan, Sasha will become Ava's protector in more ways than one.

THE SCRIBE is another short story that introduces two more members of Julian's Clan of mindjacking specialists. From the talented desk of Susan Kaye Quinn, The Scribe is another welcome addition to the Mindjack Trilogy.

see all of my reviews at : thereadingcafe.com

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

So, so happy to have the chance to tell you about these two short novellas (The Scribe, The Handler) that go along with the Mindjack Series by Susan Quinn. I have reviewed the first two novels, Open Minds and Closed Hearts on my blog. I loved them.

I just love when authors give us these novellas. For me, it serves two roles. First, it feeds me need to read more in between the actual full length novels. A little snack at intermission. :) Second, it gives me a glimpse into the lives, emotions and history of individual characters. It's awesome. Now I love Julian and Sasha even more.

These two novellas are fantastic. Julian and Sasha are both introduced in book two of this series and if you have read book two you will be wondering about them both. I sure was. Your heart will break just a little for Sasha. Well, maybe a lot.

My thanks to Susan Quinn for allowing me a chance to read and review these novellas. Love, love, love. I cannot wait to read the next installment in the Mindjack series, Free Souls.

Concetta Phillipps says

This was one of the better novellas surrounding the Mindjack series. I've been reading these because I enjoyed the Mindjack world, but I think the characters would be better served by full fledged novels. Sasha, for example, has way more character available than is developed here.
