



## **Jaguar Sun**

*Martha Bourke*

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*Alternate Cover Edition for B006V4XLUK.*

DECEMBER 21, 2012 Will that fateful day destroy our world, or did the Mayans have something else in mind?

Maya Delaney knows. Unfortunately.

Maya Delaney is just an average sixteen-year-old. She's busy dealing with exams, her soon to be ex-boyfriend and fitting in.

But Maya's got bigger problems. She's hiding a major secret from her dad and having strange visions she can't control.

In her struggle to figure out who she is, she learns that she is meant to fulfill an ancient Mayan Prophecy and bring forth a New Age on earth.

Will the spirit magic Maya wields be enough to defeat Toltec, an evil society bent on keeping her from her destiny?

Or will that destiny destroy her?

## Jaguar Sun Details

Date : Published January 3rd 2012 by Balam Press (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Martha Bourke

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Young Adult, Fiction, Romance

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## **From Reader Review Jaguar Sun for online ebook**

### **Matthew DeBettencourt says**

Jaguar Sun by Martha Bourke is a thrilling science fiction, cultural history lesson all rolled up in a fast-paced coming-of-age young adult adventure. It is a first person narrative in the perspective of a high school student named Maya Delaney who lives in New Mexico. She comes from a family descended from the ancient Mayans (who'd have guessed?), but she's just your average, everyday awkward teenager with boyfriend trouble, a few close friends and an addiction to Diet Coke.

Also she's a shape-shifter. She soon learns, at sixteen years of age, that she has the ability to "phase" into an animal form. Along with this ability, however, Maya has to prepare herself for a number of new experiences and responsibilities.

I was captivated immediately by Jaguar Sun. The characters were lovable (and more importantly, believable), and the story kept me hooked. Just when I thought I knew what was about to happen, a twist! The first person view gives the reader a unique insight into Maya's mind and the struggles she faces with her friends, the Mayan myths, and the dreaded Toltec.

I would recommend this story to anyone! (No, really, ANYone). It's geared toward the young adult genre, and any teen reader who likes adventure would love it, but its a story adults would enjoy too!

(Can I give it SIX stars?)

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### **Katarina says**

I usually don't read YA fantasy. I can easily claim I'm a tough cookie when it comes to review books, because my taste level is extremely sensitive to bad editing, bad writing, stupid plot lines and idiotic characters. I say it how it is. Either your book's great or it sucks.

Martha was courageous enough to ask whether I'd like to review her latest book: Jaguar Sun. I had no idea what the story was until she just told me it had to do with the end of the world and the Mayan calendar. Alright. She convinced me to give it a shot.

Jaguar Sun is definitely a fun book to read. The style flows, the editing is excellent, and the story is really good. She tells the tale of Maya, a sixteen year old girl of Mayan descent, who one day discovers she has become a shifter. In a world where every human being has an animal alter ego, Maya knows the consequences of such a change on her life and the life of her friends. Her fate will soon be revealed to her, and she will understand she's part of a much bigger picture involving the end of the world on December 21, 2012. Aided by her lovely boyfriend Matt, and her best friends the twins Damian and Lyssa, she will learn how to accept her new condition and how to use her energy to save the world from evil forces. Jaguar Sun is the beginning of a series which will be followed by Jaguar Moon.

If you like witty and strong female characters, Maya is your girl. Matt is simply to die for, and I think every woman will have a serious crush on him after the first few chapters. The twins spice up the story with just the right amount of humor.

So what are you waiting for? Go read!

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## Heidi says

Three Stars: An interesting entry into the YA field; shape-shifters, Mayan lore, December 2012...all combine in this unique read.

Maya is a normal teenager, surviving high school, confused over her current relationship; typical problems plaguing a young lady. However, her life is about to get interesting when she starts having strange visions and dreams involving a jaguar. She can't shake the ominous feeling, and then she wakes after another vivid dream to find a tell tale mark on her neck. She now wears the mark of a shapeshifter. Maya's strange premonitions have come to fruition, she is indeed a shapeshifter, able to transform into a jaguar. As she learns to navigate this new found ability, she quickly finds that danger is stalking her. Maya discovers that she is the target of a dangerous group known as Toltec. This group is made up of shape-shifters determined to see that the coming age, predicted by the Mayan calendar, that promises a new era of peace and enlightenment is not ushered in. Instead they intend to maintain greed, corruption and power as the status quo. Maya quickly finds herself caught between the corrupt Toltec and the other shape-shifters who want to help usher in the new age. Maya may be the key to fulfilling the Mayan prophecy. Can she learn to use her new skills to help fulfill the Mayan prophecy?

### What I Liked:

\*I enjoyed this creative and original book filled with many exciting concepts such as: Mayan prophecy, shape-shifters, and the looming calendar date of December 21, 2012. This book combines all of these ideas to create an exciting adventure.

\*I appreciated that this book moves away from the traditional recipe for YA books. There is no love triangle, instead this book presents a relationship between Maya and Matt that becomes a bit more complicated with the shape shifting element. The romance is a small focus, which is nice. What you get is a romance that ends up being intense and focused.

\*I really enjoyed the addition of the twins, who are Maya's best friends. Lyssa and Damian are funny, witty and a bit sassy, not mention, exceedingly loyal. They totally liven up the book.

\*I liked the presentation of the upcoming end of the Mayan calendar. Instead of presenting the catastrophic end of the world type scenario, we get the ushering in of a new era focused on peace and spiritual enlightenment. I liked this vision versus an apocalyptic event.

\*I liked learning about the Mayan culture and many of the prophecies and history of the Mayan people. Again this is such an interesting departure from a lot of the books in the YA genre. Very unique and refreshing!

### And The Not So Much:

\*This book is very fast paced. I enjoy a book that moves at a quick clip, but the problem for me was that the speedy movement meant that a lot of detail was glossed over or not discussed at all. I felt that so many things could have been improved if they author had slowed down and expanded on some of her ideas.

\*I liked the presentation of shape-shifters in this book. This book presents a culture where shape-shifters are not secretive. Shape-shifters bear a telling mark on their neck. The author gives us a setting where they are accepted. The problem was that there was really not a complete discussion on the shape-shifters and how they fit into society, nor was there an adequate discussion on how they came into being. This is of the topics that would have benefitted by adding more detail.

\*The book mentions numerous times Maya's loser mother who abandoned her, yet this idea is never

expanded upon. I was curious to discover all the details surrounding Maya's mother. Sadly, the book never provides anything more than mentions of a mother who abandoned her daughter. The whys and hows are never revealed.

\*The climax and ending came across as hurried. The book builds to the pivotal calendar date, but when it arrives I was a bit disappointed in how quickly everything come to pass. Then the ending itself was one of those where you are left thinking, "That's it!?" Granted, there is no cliffhanger but it is one that just cuts off abruptly with no resolution, which to me is extremely frustrating. I had no idea going into this that it is the first of a series. This novel would have been so much better if it tied off better at the end.

Jaguar Sun is a fast book that presents us with shape-shifters seeking to bring about a new era as foretold by the Mayans of old. This book is full of Mayan culture and legend. If you are looking for a unique book that steps away from the well worn plots of traditional YA books, you should give this book a chance, especially if you love shape-shifters and Mayan prophecy. You can grab a copy on Amazon for \$.99. The clock is ticking down to December 2012. Are you ready?

Favorite Quotations:

"Your dreams are where our world and the unseen world meet."

"The wall that had been between us melted away as though it had never existed. I had always cared about him, but something inside me changed at that moment. My soul understood his, and I knew that he felt the same."

"Every muscle, every nerve ending, every fiber of my being was completely attuned to him. He was my mate. I was home."

Posted @ <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/>

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## **Danielle Thorne says**

4 1/2 Stars

I was intrigued with the smart premise behind this Young Adult novel and decided to delve into the shape-shifter genre after reading the blurb.

Maya Delaney has spunk, attitude, and a rather cynical view of the world as most teenagers do. She is tight with her grandmother, and still seems grief-stricken that her mother has passed away. Her relationship with her father is tentative, but it was nice to see them grow together as the story flowered.

The story opens with suggestions that Maya is haunted by some other worldly Amazon predator, although I was a bit unclear on the implications. The story quickly develops and moves on, as she realizes her destiny as a shape-shifting Mayan Goddess and the destiny resting upon her shoulders. The pacing is good, and the backstory and culture woven into the plot make for a fascinating tapestry.

The supporting cast of JAGUAR SUN is fun; family, friends, boyfriends, and villains... There was a lot to absorb, but I appreciated how each character fulfilled a role as the story came to an apex. Maya cannot save the world or herself without help from those she loves, and this concept is a comfort, and an important one, in the YA genre.

As a reader, for this genre, I would have preferred to have less language and no adult content, but I was grateful that Maya's intimate relationship was handled with innuendo. It is a sensitive subject, for teens and for parents according to personal values.

JAGUAR SUN is a well-written, shape-shifting adventure with culture and substance. It's an enjoyable read, and I do plan to grab a copy of the next in the series.

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### **BookHookup says**

Everyone's talking about it...2012! Will the world end...and, if so, how? Like a lot of people, I know very little about Mayan mythology and this book certainly shed some light on things for me. This story is about a Mayan prophesy and about shape-shifters, people who can change into animals. When the main character, Maya, begins to dream about a jaguar, she's scared and confused. And, when she finally discovers she's a shape-shifter, she quickly realizes that there will be many challenge in her future.

Maya is a typical teenager...sometimes snarky, sometimes happy, sometimes confused. This makes it fairly easy to like her. She lives with her father (ever since her mother left them when she was little) and has a great relationship with her grandmother. But her belief that she's just a normal teenager comes to an abrupt halt when she learns of her fate as a shape-shifter. Maya, although scared and confused, takes everything in stride. And that's a great thing, but it's also one of my concerns with the book. I would have liked to have seen her struggle more with the concept of becoming a shape-shifter as well as her new abilities. It felt like everything came way too easily to her, she mastered her new skills on first try. This certainly made the book flow faster but, for me, a few extra pages of struggle would have been worth it.

The secondary characters in the book were quite likeable. Her best friends, Lyssa and Damian, are twins who are smart and sassy and lift Maya up whenever she gives in to some brooding. Her grandmother is her rock and, even though she parcels out information on a need to know basis, her love for Maya is obvious. The one character who I really wanted to like but couldn't quite warm up to was Matt, her boyfriend and ultimate soul mate. Overall, he was sweet and good but I think it was their relationship, which was basically "almost over" at the start of the book and turned around very quickly, that wasn't as believable as I would have liked. I feel like I really didn't get to know him well enough and I'm hoping that he'll be better developed in the second book.

The second half of the story is fast paced and full of twists and turns. Maya learns that you can't always trust everyone, even when they appear to be on your side. She also learns that sometime you have to do scary things for the good of others...those you love and those you don't even know. Maya becomes stronger in the last part of the book, more self-assured and more determined to do what's right. She also embraces her heritage which was nice to see.

Overall this was a quick read with an enjoyable plot and some interesting mythology built into a present day story. I think that these characters will grow and develop and that their adventures will be even more interesting in the upcoming books.

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## **E.W. Greenlee says**

Although I am 53 year old male and an author, I try to read some of the young adult stories around. I could not get into Twilight after the first chapters of the second book. I took a chance reading "Jaguar Sun" because Martha is a excellent Twitter follower and I know how reviews help an author. But, I also know it had to an honest review.

Jaguar Sun is an original story, with a setting definitely for young adults. The dialog is of your generation not mine. But I continued on to see where the story and Martha was leading me. I had not read any fictional story about Mayan culture or shape-shifters. Soon I found myself more and more intrigued on the growing powers of these teen shape-shifters and their devotion to their friend "Maya".

The story begins in New Mexico, where I once lived, so the detail was such that I could see the characters play out their roles in the terrain that is the area of the Gila national forest. The story progresses and ends in the jungle of Mexico. So there is a journey, a quest, and a plot involving good and evil, which is my kind of story.

Without giving away any spoilers, I was very much surprised with her plot development and ending. It was original and held my attention to the very end. As a writer myself, Martha engaged my imagination in her narrative that I might be able use as well. Which is the whole purpose of reading, to be taken to new worlds and situations. Martha has done that. Her explanation of Mayan culture had me researching some of her narrative.

All in all, I gave this story 5 stars not for a literary work of art, but for an imaginative, original and entertaining story.

Great job Martha! And as one of my readers have said about my stories, give me more!

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## **Frederick Brooke says**

This beautifully crafted YA book revolves around Maya Delaney, a high school junior in deepest New Mexico. Right from the beginning I was hooked on Maya's voice, a little snarky and flip, but also more and more overwhelmed at all the things that are happening to her. Why is this jaguar shadowing her at school? Why does she have these nightmares that leave her so exhausted?

The author does a great job of creating a little world around Maya -- her single-parent father, her loser-mom who abandoned her years ago, her friends the twins, Lyssa and Damian, and her boyfriend Matt. High school really seems like the high school I knew, complete with embarrassing drool episodes and realizing that an empty school hallway meant you were late to class.

It's amusing that Maya, despite her ancestry, can't speak a word of Spanish, even though almost everyone else in this New Mexico town does. When Maya discovers that she has powers that descend from ancient Mayan tradition, it's her maternal grandmother who shows her the way.

In a perfectly natural sequence of events Maya begins to develop her special gifts and at the same time discovers that she is meant to play a special role on the day the Mayan calendar predicted the end of the

world, December 21, 2012. As that day approaches, Maya is drawn into a colossal battle between the forces of good and evil.

This book is lovingly written and full of great turns of phrase. I recently read another much more famous YA book, Mockingjay, part of the Hunger Games series, and you know what? Jaguar Sun was a far better story. I'm looking forward to the sequel, Jaguar Moon.

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### **E.L. says**

Ok i have to say i loved loved loved this story! Like makes the top 10 loved! The story was original and interesting and engaging and...well i could go on and on lol I def want to know what happens next. Totally amazing! If itd let me I'd give it 6 stars!

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### **Carrie Ardoin says**

Maya Delaney is a 16 year old girl living with her dad since her mother ran off when she was a little kid. Thankfully, Maya is close with her maternal grandmother, who helps her keep in touch with her Mayan roots. Which, as it turns out, comes in really handy when Maya discovers a secret about herself that really rocks her world.

It is SOOOOO hard to talk about this book without giving away main plot points! But I'm going to try.

First of all, I am so very very glad that someone has done a story involving ancient Mayan mythology. Greeks and Romans are great and all, but this is such a fresh topic! And I am very impressed by Ms. Bourke's knowledge of the topic. She obviously put in a lot of research while writing this book, and it definitely shows. My Latin roots thank you :)

The characters: Maya is very likable, in a sweetly dorky way. She laughs at her own jokes and makes frequent asides in her own head. The twins are just hilarious. Lyssa is a firecracker and Damian is so smart. Even though he is a gay character, I'm glad the author didn't OVERTLY try to insert his sexuality into every aspect of his being. Sometimes I feel authors do that with gay characters, and it takes a lot away from the story. Matt seemed sweet enough but I didn't really get too good of a feel for him in this book. Maybe in the next one.

The plot: Mmm, definitely a couple of delicious twists in there! I was in awe when Maya finally found out the whole truth about herself and was able to make full use of her abilities. At every turn, I was like, "Dang, she can do that, too? AWESOME."

The action towards the end was also well written and fast paced, and really left me wanting more! There were plenty of LOL moments for me in the story too...but I can't divulge them without spoiling. Just know the book will make you at least smile.

The only quibbles I had with the story are minor, but added all up they led me to this 4 star review. At first, Maya seems to take everything that is happening to her way too much in stride. If it was me, I'd have been



far less accepting! Also, the relationship with Matt. She goes from one day being about to break up with him, to the next knowing he's her soul mate. Even with the mystical reasons surrounding it, it was a little hard for me to buy. The final thing that threw me off happened towards the end, and again it had something to do with Matt and Maya's relationship and the lack of believability for me.

Overall, I thought this was a great read and I am very excited for the next chapter in Maya's life! Great job, Ms. Bourke.

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### **Carina says**

**My Rating:** 2.5 / 5

Review to come soon.

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### **Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says**

In an era in which the Mayan prophecy-allegedly announcing the end of the world in December 2012-has been the subject of fascination, fear, anxiety, and fact-finding, author Martha Bourke approaches the topic from a completely different perspective. What if the TRUTH about this "prophecy" was known? What if that Truth is known only to one person-a sixteen-year-old girl? Such is the premise of "Jaguar Sun."

Poor, poor Maya-not only does she bear the name of a primarily extinct culture, she is Hispanic, attends a primarily Hispanic New Mexico high school-and doesn't speak a word of Spanish. Her dreams are plagued by shadow animals, which then begin appearing in the day; her mother abandoned her at age four, and her Mayan grandmother is her only hope of a confidant for her experiences. She sure can't talk about to about-to-be-ex boyfriend Matt, or even her best friends, the irrepressible Vasquez twins.

"Jaguar Sun" is such a delightful book that the reader will be immediately captivated (I want to give it 10 stars of 5 ). Martha Bourke has a knack for being hip with the slang, perceptions, and attitudes of her protagonist's age group (and cultural dichotomy!) and doesn't spare it in giving readers characters we can truly relate to and with whom we can easily empathise. This book is very fast-paced, partly because it's simply so enjoyable, the reader is turning pages and racing on, not even thinking of it as a "story," but rather as an "experience"-an experience in delight!

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### **Melanie Adkins says**

High school is hard enough without adding anything to it. Just ask Maya. She's having some problems she isn't sure about and some boyfriend issues she's not sure she can handle. This is when she finds out she's a shape shifter. Maya is pretty freaked out when she sees her nightmare shadowing her during the daytime. The best place for advice- Grandma. Maya explains what's happening to her Grandmother and finds out she might be meant for even bigger things than she realizes. Her nerves are settling when she finds out her boyfriend is also a shape shifter and not by choice. They are mates. It all seems pretty confusing until Maya goes to Mexico on vacation. The trip is really much more. Follow her through the path of the unknown future

she has.

LOVED THIS BOOK!! While it covered the typical teen issues, it also went three steps forward and made this a book ANYONE would be delighted to read. I found the story plausible (of course I come from open minded people where this stuff is concerned \*smile\*), and when I really like a book, I share it with everyone. I've shared this with everyone around me physically, now I'm sharing it with you!! GET THIS BOOK! You won't be sorry!! I can't wait for more of Maya's adventures. I hope they are on the horizon.

Nothing wrong with this book.

I gave this one 5 out of 5 books because it's addictive!!

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### **Tracy says**

Timely and topical, this book is an intriguing glimpse into the Mayan Prophecy. The protagonist, Maya Delaney, is strong, funny and brave. Her entourage is a tremendous asset to the plot, providing humor and backup to Maya - while serving as a reminder that these are high school students who have been saddled with this awesome responsibility. The book is very well researched and written smartly. It pulls you in from the first chapter and you will find yourself wanting to keep reading to find out what happens next. I have read hundreds of books in this genre and would absolutely recommend Jaguar Sun. Adults and teens alike will enjoy it. I am looking tremendously forward to the next installment of this series.

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### **Savannah (Books With Bite) says**

One thing I love about stories is shape shifters. I love the tales of them, the rules, and the world building in this book. It definitely took me by surprise of how much I liked this book.

What I liked most about this book is the world building. I like the way the rules of the shape shifters were, the cults, and of course mixing it in with some real facts made the story much more intriguing.

The characters of the book had much growth in them. I adored how each characters were able to lean with what they are and help each other out. The loyalty that stem out of them is amazing. To see them work together to fight against darkness is great!

I loved the love interest! Why: For once, I can read a story with a love with no love triangles! YES! At first I was wondered that it would go that way, but I loved that it didn't. These two stuck by each other through thick and thin. My only gripe was bot being able to see their relation ship fully from the past. I would love to know more about them and how they got together in much more detail.

Jaguar Sun is a great tale the spans generations of history. It's filled with loads of ancient language, facts, and action. If you want a story about shape shifters and a great love, read this!

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**Molly says**

Fast-paced and fun! Interesting take on the Mayan 2012 prophecy with some well-researched mythology woven into modern day life. Perfect for older teens and adults. Quirky and likeable characters combined with an action-packed story line equals a great start to a new teen paranormal series!

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