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Hunted (The Flash Gold Chronicles, #2)



Synopsis

Self-taught tinkerer Kali McAlister is determined to build an airship and escape the frigid Yukon forever. Unfortunately, she's the heir to the secrets of flash gold, an alchemical energy source that tends to make her a popular target for bandits, gangsters, and pirates. With the help of her bounty-hunting business partner, Cedar, Kali has outwitted and eluded attackers before, and she thinks she's prepared for anything. Then her ex-fiancé strolls into her workshop. As if fooling her once wasn't enough, he aims to embroil her in a fresh scheme. Meanwhile, a new nemesis is stalking her, a shrouded figure with an arsenal of deadly machines that make Kali's inventions seem like toys. This time, it'll take more than her ingenuity and Cedar's combat skills to survive. Hunted is a 27,000-word steampunk novella. Printed page count equivalent: 120

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like the banter between Kali and Cedar. Particularly as they struggle with the feelings that they have for each other while attempting to avoid possible rejection. Circumstances do drive them

closer to each other as the story progresses. Sebastian, her ex, shows up to involve her in a scheme that will be detrimental to her health while Cedar stands stronger as her protector. They must shoot and tinker their way out of kidnapping and attempted murder while learning new things about each other's backgrounds. I anxiously look forward to the next book.

Hunted is the second novella in the Flash Gold Chronicles series by Lindsay Buroker. In this story Ms. Buroker continues the adventure begun in Flash Gold with Kali and Cedar, now business partners as bounty hunters. They've left Moose Jaw and are setting out upon a new adventure seeking Cedar's arch nemesis, both for the bounty and for personal vengeance. This takes them to a mining camp out in the wilds of the Yukon where they encounter Kali's greatest enemy, and her hero, and find themselves in one desperate situation after another. The story is tightly written with lots of action, witty banter between our protagonists, as well as a few of the antagonists, and is well edited. The romantic angle steps up a notch, but is still within the comfort zone of those who do not enjoy romance novels. Much more is revealed about both Kali and Cedar: their backgrounds and motivations. Even the mysterious mechanical genius antagonist steps out of the mists for an introduction. And we get another dose of the wonderful machinery for which steampunk stories are known. My only reservation about this story is that it wanders a good distance into the realm of fantasy. For me - and this is a *personal* preference - any time magic overshadows the mechanics and science I begin to lose interest. "Hunted" defines the direction that this series will be taking well enough that I probably will not continue. But only because I don't care for magic; Ms. Buroker is an excellent writer and I have already bought Ice Crackers and Encrypted, looking for more of her stories and hoping they will be more suited to my admittedly narrow band of tastes. Most readers will find this a very enjoyable book. Indeed, I enjoyed it; I just don't care for the direction it's heading. I will continue heading her in these other works.

Kali's dream of building an airship to sail out of the frigid Yukon is her main ambition but she keeps getting herself in trouble with people who want to steal her 'limited' knowledge of her deceased father's invention. People come out of the woodwork to hunt her down, and this includes her dubious, last lover, Sebastian. Just when things are calming down a bit and she wants to get working on her airship, Sebastian shows up with a job offer. With Cedar, luckily, in tow, the two set off on an adventure that will also allow Cedar to hunt someone near and dear to his heart, his brother's murderer. There's more steampunk magic in this installment of the adventures of Kali and Cedar, an unlikely duo from the town of Moose Hollow in the Yukon. Lindsay has created a fun and

adventurous serial that will keep this reader coming back for more. The writing is crisp, the ideas fresh and fun and the characters are ones I will be rooting for whenever I can get a new story to read. The contraptions are fun and Kali is a whiz with tools and gadgets while Cedar is just a handy bounty hunter to have around. In *Hunted*, May has arrived and the miners are settling in again to mine the gold on the river. More than one person has their eye on Kali, and for very different reasons. Catch the Gold Flash Fever and check out this steampunk series, I don't think you'll be disappointed if you like action, adventure and a little peck of romance.

Ms. Buroker asked at the end of *Hunted* that if readers wanted more of *The Flash Gold Chronicles* then they should write a review. Well, here it is. I like the plot, I like Kali and Cedar and the writing is superior. I want more. In this novella, Kali is visited by her ex-fiance who wants her to help mine his gold claim. She refuses and throws him out but her partner Cedar wants to use the claim to spy on a nearby wanted man. So he persuades her to accept the offer. On the way to the claim the two are attacked by a mysterious stranger in a flying machine who seems to be targeting Kali. I don't want to spoil the story so I'll say no more but there are twists and turns ahead. I was reading Ms. Buroker's website today and she had an article about the advantages of self-publishing. I want to mention one of the disadvantages. And that is that a great many indie authors cannot edit worth a damn. Few things irritate me more than something an author has written, run a spellchecker over and considers it edited. It seems to me that an author cares little for their own work than if they, for instance, write the word 'waste' when they mean 'waist' and don't reread their work well enough to catch the error. Some works have a few such errors and others have an abundance of them. For me, it detracts greatly from enjoyment of the book whatever the price might be. BTW, Ms. Buroker's works do not suffer from this problem. She obviously cares about what she writes.

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