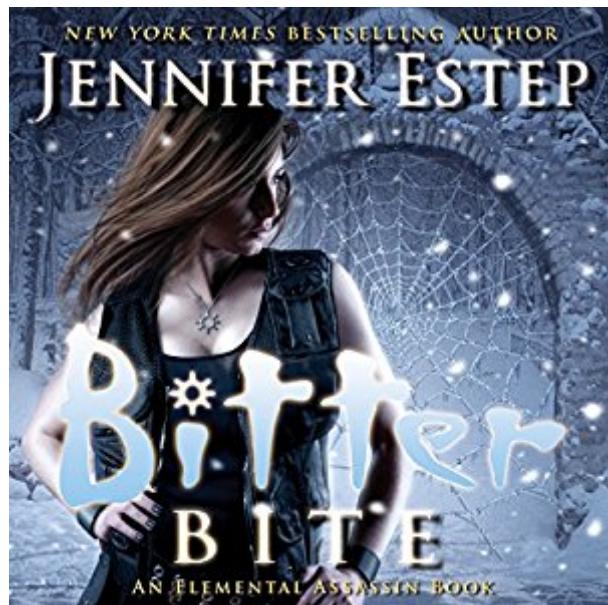


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Bitter Bite: Elemental Assassin, Book 14



Synopsis

Which is stronger: blood ties or a battle-tested friendship? That's the question Gin Blanco asks when a friend's long-lost relative strolls into town. The suspicious reunion is a surprise for everyone - and a big problem for Gin. Book 14 in the New York Times best-selling urban fantasy series RT Book Reviews calls "unbeatable entertainment"! It's not easy being queen bee of an underworld abuzz with crooks and killers. Wielding my potent Ice and Stone elemental magic will get me only so far - my real secret is my tight-knit makeshift family, a motley crew of cops and criminals, dwarves, and playboys. My foster brother, Finnegan Lane, is my right-hand man, but when his suddenly not-dead relative comes back into the picture, I'm the one on the outside looking in. It's funny how life works: One minute your best friend is rock steady, and the next he's doe eyed and buying in to this whole loving-relative routine to the point of ignoring you. I'd like to be happy for Finn, I really would. But all of my instincts are telling me that beneath the syrupy-sweet demeanor and old-fashioned charm, this sudden interloper is planning something. The whole shtick leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. This person might have avoided the grave once, but I'll put anyone who hurts Finn in the ground - for good.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: February 23, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01B5BONPU

Best Sellers Rank: #250 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Paranormal #261 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Fantasy #297 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

Finnegan Lane has been the most dependable character in Jennifer Estep's ELEMENTAL ASSASSIN series. The rest of the cast have all had temporary moments of weakness, or lapses in judgment, even Gin Blanco. I'm not saying that he's perfect because he's not, but he's never infuriated me to the point of wishing that he was next on the Spider's hit list. I

can't say the same of other linchpin secondaries like Owen or Bria. So, he was definitely due, and BITTER BITE delivered his misadventure in style along with a new plot arc that I can't wait to see bloom! I have no idea how many installments the author originally had planned because over the course of fourteen books many story lines have reached their conclusions, and yet Estep has somehow managed to not only keep the ball rolling, but also at a pretty decent clip. What I mean by that is I enjoyed reading this volume as much as the first. The high levels of action, entertainment, mystery and feels haven't dropped in the least! This title tied into previous threads involving Mab Monroe, Fletcher and Eira Snow while weaving another biggie that I can't comment on because I like to keep it spoiler-free. Gin underwent a bit of a transformation too; she relied on her Stone and Ice magic more than her knives in this novel which is unusual for her. She tends to be a physical fighter, and even though she does tap in to her Elemental juju regularly, it was nice seeing her fully embrace it. I thought that her reaction to Finn's long-lost relative was mature, and aside from getting a little emotional (understandable), Blanco dealt with the situation like a champ. There were flashbacks of her and Lane's childhood together too which I loved.

Well let me start this one off with a basic observation, I loved the book. Stayed up late to finish it and loved the ending. OK, got that out of the way because many times when I list things about a book that I might not have liked it gives some folks the impression that I did not like the book, not true here in the least. So, what did I not like? I always have problems with plots that seem to take familiar characters and turn them into somebody else which is what this did with Finn. This was not way out in the fringe since it was within the realm of reality for someone to act like this but I just did not feel it. So, something I did like? Plot twists, I kept thinking, this is the end but something would happen and the story keeps moving. I have no problem with "predictable" many times since it kind of goes with my paragraph above but there were several times that things went off in an unseen direction, I loved it. Something I did not like again? A situation that is so obvious but for reasons to move the plot along is ignored and when it happens it is like "SURPRISE" when it really wasn't at all. What I ALWAYS like? Gin, she is the heart of these books and she is the definition of "conflicted" since she manages to be a very believable assassin while having a heart of gold, Jennifer Estep has managed to create a unique character and make her someone that leaves bodies stacked in her wake and you still love her. Nice job since that requires some real creative writing skills. kudos. Bottom Line: This is a Elemental Assassin book, the fact that I still love to read them after 14 books (yes I have read all but 1) says a lot.

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