



# The Last Keeper

*Michelle Birbeck*

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## **The Last Keeper** Michelle Birbeck

Serenity Cardea's race has been hunted to near extinction. She's a Keeper, with the ability to influence others, including those immortal beings who want dominance over the world. Ray Synclair is a history professor in training with a passion for times past. Fascinated by Serenity, he has no idea that the world is filled with immortals, most of whom want him dead. Because the only way to kill a Keeper is to kill their partner...

## **The Last Keeper Details**

Date : Published May 3rd 2012 by The Writer's Coffee Shop Publishing House (first published May 2nd 2012)

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Author : Michelle Birbeck

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Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fan Fiction, Fiction



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# From Reader Review The Last Keeper for online ebook

## Tamie says

Review tomorrow @ <http://bookishtemptations.com/>

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## The TBR Pile \*Book review site\* says

CONTEST: <http://thetbrpile.weebly.com/1/post/2...>

This story had many twists and turns that kept me on the edge of my seat and moments that brought me nearly to tears, both sad and happy ones. As the various prophecies that were woven into Serenity's life were fulfilled and as all the events played out, I was continually as surprised as the characters. The Last Keeper is a great story with a unique take on the paranormal worlds we love and villains you love to hate.

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## Talk Supe says

Full review at Talk Supe

Serenity is a wonderful heroine and at times too wonderful she was starting to frustrate me. I wanted her to crush her enemies but instead she gives them mercy, I wanted her to be mad and unleash her anger due to Ray's disappearance but she deals with it with grace. I enjoyed reading her story because she is the total opposite of myself, I'm not supernatural being but her humanity is exemplary and her and Ray's relationship is something we all want to have in our life.

The character development in this story is its other strength. Usually secondary characters fade into the background but not in THE LAST KEEPER. Each individual has their own clear voice, unique from the others and none of them remained stagnant. I loved Helen and Jane as well as the fearsome Poppy Baruti and the rest of her little coven.

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## Dale Ibitz says

The concept here is a good one, a Keeper is one who keeps balance in the supernatural world. There are many curves and turns and twists that keep the plot interesting. The problem is that those curves and turns and twists don't appear until the last 1/3 of the story.

While I understand the importance of developing the relationship between Serenity and Ray, it just went on forever with nothing happening. It was so mundane that it would be easy for the reader to lose interest. If you keep chugging, however, there is pay-off in the end.

I didn't feel the chemistry between Serenity and Ray that I would have liked. If there had been more, I don't

know, it going on, the first 2/3s of the story wouldn't have been so mundane, but there really wasn't any spice. It was all very calm, cool, and collected. It's a nice story, but not one that would keep me up at night reading.

I'm hoping the 2nd book in the series starts out with a bang, now that we got all that history out of the way.

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### **Sofia Lazaridou says**

First I did not liked it. But since I had to review Last Chance I forced myself to read it in order to understand what happens next. And I ended up liking it. Some things are still confusing but if I put that aside, I will have to say that I read a very good book.

I liked the way Birbeck combined the historical with the paranormal romance. Before you say "Oh, another book with vampires and stuff? I will not read it" you have to know a few facts about it. As you can see from the title vampires aren't the only supernatural creatures in this worlds. Keepers, vampires, witches and shifters (cats, lions. wolves etc.) live among the human race. The heroine is the one with the power and the hero is the one who is helpless. Usually is the other way around with the heroine being the damsel in distress and in need for protection. I loved that. For once Serenity is the one who saves the day. Almost always is the other way around...

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### **Kimberly Gould says**

The setting and personality of the main character really sunk me into this book. I sped through the first chapter, eager for more. However, as soon as the power level of the protagonist became clear (particularly after meeting her mate) I became less attached to the main character who seemed to be, for all purposes, indestructible. Why should I worry for her? The second 'book' didn't draw me the way the first did. The new characters didn't seem to fully form in my mind. The confluence of events felt abrupt as well.

Back to what I loved. I loved Serenity's voice. I loved her attitude. I loved her wit and stubbornness. I loved the geneology. It was great seeing Helen young, then old, then dying. It was fabulous to watch that progression.

So although the 'world building' wasn't to my taste (and will probably deter me from buying the sequel), Birbeck shows her skill in this novel and I will definitely be watching for other story lines from her.

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### **Passion For Pages says**

Review can be found on my blog <http://passionforpages.blogspot.ca/20...>

The first thing that caught my attention was the cover for this book. It's so simple, yet the woman is so captivating and mysterious. You know the saying "you can't judge a book by its cover"? Well, I do. I'm a cover whore. C'mon. The cover and title are the first things that you see. It has to be eye catching to make you want to take a closer look. So I took a closer look and after reading the summary I knew I had to be part of this book tour.

I've never read a story with such a unique plot idea when it came to the Keepers. From the very first paragraph I was pulled in and couldn't wait to find out more about these supernatural beings and their lives. I also loved that it was set in the mid-1900s. I was expecting something recent, something of this decade, so it surprised me with the historical timeline.

The twists and turns in this book are what makes it an interesting read. Some things were easy to figure out – like who betrayed Serenity's family – but just when you think it's going to end up another predictable storyline something is thrown at you that you didn't see coming.

I enjoyed how all the characters had a fairly major role in the book, even the minor ones. Birbeck created the story in a way that included everyone, and there wasn't a character that was there just "because." Everyone had a purpose.

Serenity is a strong, feisty female lead character. She grew on me very quickly and my heart broke right along with hers for every hardship she had to overcome. She's exactly the strong willed, independent character I like to read about.

Berbeck again surprised me with the character of Ray. I loved how she described the connection a Keeper has with their partner, how closely their lives are intertwined. Because of a childhood accident, Ray was as weak as Serenity was strong and I loved how they balanced each other out.

The only complaint I have with the story was the showdown at the end with Serenity and The Seats. I didn't feel like what Serenity did towards Elena was really all the....powerful. Yes, everyone knows she is able to kill a vampire at the drop of a hat without breaking a sweat or a nail, and for that they should fear her. But I just didn't feel like she lived up to all that talk in the end. I would have liked to see a little more reason for The Seats to fear her; a little more rage on her part when Elena attacked Lizzy would have done it. I don't want to give away the ending, but I just feel like Serenity could have done so much more damage than what she did.

Other than that I thoroughly enjoyed The Last Keeper, and will be on the lookout for more of Birbeck's work.

\*\*I received an eBook copy of The Last Keeper from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Mell says**

Read as long as I could- just couldn't get into the characters or the plot.

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## **Alley Cat says**

This book took me a while to get into, but once I passed chapter 8, I couldn't put it down.

I like how everything comes together at the end of the story. There were things that I wasn't sure how the author would be able to connect, but she pulled it off.

She made me cry, laugh, grin evilly, and bite my nails off. I really enjoyed this one, and I am definitely going to recommend this to my boyfriend (aka: nag him until he reads it).

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## Elsa Carrion says

I loved her nick name "Angel of Death", I love that she is one strong kick ass female character, I love the romance, and I love the action.

Serenity's race has been hunted to near extinction. She's a "Keeper" an 880 year old (give or take a century!), with the ability to influence others, including those immortal beings who want dominance over the world. Ray, is fascinated by Serenity, but has no idea that the world is filled with immortals, most of whom want him dead, and the only way to kill a Keeper is to kill their partner!

She's never had a partner, not that she doesn't want one, but she knows the risk that having a partner will do. But once they are located nothing can keep them apart. The feelings alone will drive them insane if they try to ignore the link. She is one of the two Keepers still alive only because she has been unlucky and not run into her mate yet. The other Keeper being 1500 yr old unlucky younger brother William whom has found his mate, Allison will have to be extra careful that they not located, by those that would like to see the Keepers finally extinct.

This story has a whole lot of action, romance, and betrayal. I was laughing one minute and sadden the next. The loss of her family was very vivid and my heart went out to her. The betrayal from one of her family members was a surprise, didn't see that coming. The pace is fast and never dull, so many twist and turns I didn't see coming. The story tense is present tense and the POV is from the Angel of Death / Serenity. I don't recall any grammar errors, I might just have overlooked if there were, no one is perfect so I tend to ignore them if they are a few and don't take from the story. Since, I don't recall any there were either none or not a significant amount to recall. The ending was great it would have been fine if the story ended there, however there was a one page preview into the next book where it left the story in a sort of cliffhanger which I'm not to found about. I don't like to wait a year for the next book in the series; however I was very fortunate that the next book was already out. I want to see what happens with Ray and Serenity and the rest of her family.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion and review.

Title: The Last Keeper (The Keepers Chronicles #1)

Author: Michelle Birbeck

Format: EBook 451 epages

Story length: 35 chapters w/ 1 pg of 2nd book

Setting: London 1940

POV: Serenity

Tense: First Person Present

Published: 5/12

Genre: Adult Fantasy / Paranormal

Rating: 5

Cover: 5

Main Characters: Sam & Serenity

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-l...>  
<http://www.amazon.com/review/R20GVLTN...>

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## David says

Allow me to begin by saying that the Last Keeper is a book full of contradictions. Before you stop reading, let me explain that I want to challenge your view on the word contradiction. I put to you that this is a *good thing*, and I'll tell you why.

Michelle Birbeck has written her own mythology on all the creatures she introduces yet they retain distinct recognisable and familiar aspects, then integrates them all quite seamlessly into a very human world at war in more ways than one. You are drip-fed information on not just the titular race The Keepers - of which heroine Serenity Cardea is the last - but also the Vampires she fights and the Weres & Witches that inhabit the world.

When the twists come [no spoilers here, that would just be rude] they *contradict* the knowledge you had been led to believe was the law of the Universe built, yet because the characters learn of these possibilities the same time as you as the reader does, it never seems to be deliberate deception. It's a neat rug pulling trick that Michelle pulls off almost *perfectly*.

Serenity herself is another example of a contradiction, depending on your point of view. She's a strong, independent woman - intelligent, physical, beautiful and almost immortal. The only thing that can kill her, just like the rest of her race, is the death of the person she is destined to be together with - in Serenity's case, Ray Synclair. Some would consider such a weakness the sign of a poorly conceived character but instead of relying on her love to protect her, Serenity continues to be strong, doing whatever she can to protect *him*, and it makes me love her all the more.

In the end, the book is a gripping read that draws you into the world of the Keepers and makes you want to keep going until you reach the end - only to be given a tantalising sliver of what's to come! As the first in a series, Michelle builds a fascinating world that she isn't afraid of changing the rules of when the time is right. And I, for one, *can't wait* to see where it goes from here.

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## Shelby says

Good story. Boring book. This book had a lot of potential to be really good but it lacked the action that could have made it great. It just turned out to be kind of boring. I may read the next book in the series. Hopefully it will be better.

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## Andrea (mrsaubergine) says

Really interesting take on the vampire-hunter genre, about Serenity Cardea (great name, btw), a 3000-year-old "Keeper" charged with keeping all the supernatural beings under control. When the only other keeper in

the world dies, Serenity must face the job alone, and must also live without the man she only recently discovered was her partner and only weakness.

Set initially in 1940 and then in 1974, the story is full of details and lively characters who were really well drawn. Ray is lovely, and I also very much enjoyed his and Sere's family over the years. I also liked how differently this book treated the issue of punishment - that there are things worse than death if you are an immortal.

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## **Adunn says**

As another addition into the over saturated vampire genre market any debut novelist would have to create something uniquely special to keep this reader reading. In the Last keeper Michelle Birbeck has done exactly that. The last keeper is a brilliant introduction into what promises to be a gripping series, setting up a fictional but yet believable world that got me hooked from the first page. as a debut novel it could have spent a lot of time establishing exactly the world that Birbeck has created and just how everything works. This book does not suffer this problem, instead the reader is brought straight into the action. Little clues and hints means the reader has to work out what is going on and how things work themselves. It is not until partway through the book that an explanation for anything is provided, and even then it is explained through the characters dialogue and actions rather than as one big information dump.

The main character, and indeed narrator, is one of the two remaining keepers. Her name is Serenity Cardea. Super strong, super fast and a quick healer Serenity can seriously put the vampires in their place. And were creatures, humans and witches. That is a keepers role in life, to keep the balance between the creatures and make sure they stick to the rules. As a keeper the only way to be killed is for someone to kill the love of his or her life. This is an event that Serenity does not believe will happen to her until she meets Roy Synclair, a history professor that gets drawn into her world. This is with spectacular and sometimes heart wrenching results for all those connected to Serenity and Ray. Results that set in motion a chain of events that can be shocking, unexpected and at times painful to read. The way Michelle uses language provides just enough details for the reader to understand what is happening whilst allowing them to fill in their own details. The reader is put through the same emotions as Serenity and the way the novel is written allows the reader to relate to events using their own emotions and experiences. This at times makes it a hard book to read but if you keep going then you are rewarded with a very satisfying plot. Given the premise it could be very easy to write this off as a typical romantic tragedy story. You would be wrong to do so, whilst the main plot does come down to Serenity and Rays relationship it is not always romantic, it is not always tragic and it is not in anyway typical. If any cliché was more appropriate here then it would be this one, love changes everything. In this book nothing could be more apt. However this is not a Mills and boon novel as it is clear from the start. There is more than Serenity and Rays relationships explored in this book, the other characters have relationships that are just as important for the events in this book. Birbeck, perhaps unintentionally uses the characters, all of them, to explore how friendships, relationships and family ties can not only change a person but set events in motion that will have a significant impact on the rest of the series. Every ones actions and decisions have consequences for everyone else, even the most minor of decisions and conversations give clues to a huge, emotional reveal that has the biggest and most powerful consequences of all. Do not dismiss any of the back story provided as irrelevant or any of the characters as minor as that would be a big mistake. As a reader you really do have to pay attention to keep up. This book does not assume its reader is stupid and



as such does not go for a dumbing down route. This is one thing I really appreciated, at times things may seem slightly muddled or confusing but literally every word choice in the book was crafted perfectly for a specific plot driven purpose.

if Serenity and Ray are the good guys that implies there is a villain. In fact this novel features several, mainly connected to the character of Elinor, a vampire who will stop at nothing to get what she wants. She is ruthless, devious and calculating and responsible for one of the most nightmarish scenes in this novel. To give details would spoil it but its fair to say not everyone who encounters Elinor survives. In Elinor and company Michelle has created a vampire society with an interesting dynamic and not at all traditional. However even with this in mind not every vampire, indeed character is who they seem to be. It would be too simplistic to say that every character can be seen as been on the side of good or evil as established in the keepers universe, almost every main character has motives that make you question which side, if any, they are on. Indeed It would be too easy to assume that every vampire is like Eleanor, however this is not the case. By Choosing to set the bulk of this book within the background setting of war , birbeck draws strong comparisons of the war the human society is having and the conflict within the vampire community. No other character makes this more clear than that of Poppy, a vampire with a reputation of doing unspeakable things but yet seems to have switched allegiances. If Eleanor is using her ruthless side for domination then Poppy is now her opposite, again changed by the love of her partner but not afraid to do things to get the job done. Poppy may have been one of the least seen characters in this book but she is the one that I found wanting to know more about.

Every character in this novel, seen or otherwise, does things that can be seen as morally wrong. Birbeck is not afraid to take the plot into areas that can be gory and uncomfortable and the novel benefits for it. To take a safe path would have been more reader friendly in some regards but just would not have worked. Whilst events are gory , the gore is stylishly portrayed. Birbeck does not go down the established blood and guts route, what she does is something almost clinical which has a more psychological impact. Even after reading the book in its entirety and knowing why the characters did what they did it still shocked me the solution Birbeck has created.

This is not a typical vampire romantic tragedy story, not even close. Not even a keeper can change the past and every event that happens must happen for an as yet unexplained reason. Every event in the book answered one question but asked another keeping the reader hanging on to find out more. Birbeck has took the basic elements of a paranormal story and has turned them into something unique. With a story that spans several decades and locations this is a story with serious bite. With strong memorable characters that keep you guessing, several interesting plots being established with almost none being neatly tied up, and enough twists to keep the reader engaged this is a book that I will happily recommend. Go, Read and Enjoy!

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## **Bec Pearce says**

I have read a lot of vampire and supernatural stories and I was expecting this to be 'just another one'. I was wrong.

The Last Keeper pulls at the heart strings in exactly the right ways. The epic world which Michelle Birbeck has created ensures complete submersion and you are gasping for breath by the end, while simultaneously wanting to drown yourself in Serenity and Ray's lives.

Michelle has succeeded in creating a threatening vampire culture that almost laughs at the cuddly vampires we have become used to in other novels, whilst providing us with the comfort of the Keepers - who protect us, and each other, from all the other supernatural races.

This book is marketed as book 1 in The Keepers' Chronicles and I hope that book 2 comes along soon so I can reemerge myself in this world again.

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