



# Smoke and Shadows

*Katerina Martinez*

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**Smoke and Shadows** Katerina Martinez  
**From USA Today Bestselling author Katerina Martinez**

My name is Maxine Cartwright, and as of this morning, I'm a fugitive.

New Seattle is a Shining City, one of the few remaining oases of civilization left in the world, but it isn't without it's problems. That's where I come in. I'm a hunter; a mage employed by the Faction to hunt down Fallen mages and bring them in dead or alive. It's a good gig, and one I've been doing for years. I have a reputation, or notoriety, depending on how you see things, and more enemies than I can count. Now one of those enemies is trying to frame me for a terrible crime I didn't commit, and the worst part is my own people can't look me in the eye and tell me they know I'm innocent. My only choice is to run away from the only life I've ever known, and figure out who is going out of their way to put me down.

Cut off from my friends and the people I once relied on for backup, I reluctantly accept the help of a man wanted for questioning concerning his potential ties to the Fallen. How am I supposed to trust someone who could be a terrorist? Then again, how can he trust me? Proving my innocence will be the hardest thing I've ever done, but before I can do that I'm going to have to learn the truth about the world I live in, and uncover the lies I've been told my whole life.

*Pre-order Smoke and Shadows today, and find out what the Order of Prometheus really is!*

## Smoke and Shadows Details

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Author : Katerina Martinez

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# **From Reader Review Smoke and Shadows for online ebook**

## **Jessica eldridge says**

Smoke and Shadows is the first book in the Order of Prometheus series. I really enjoyed this new world Katerina has created. If you haven't read it yet I recommend reading Katerina's novella Frozen Fire, it gives you a little of Aisha's background. Max has been betrayed by the people she trusted her whole life. In a great twist she must decide if she can trust the man she has been hunting in order to get to the bottom of her betrayal. I definitely recommend Smoke and Shadows and can't wait to read the next book in this series.

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## **Amanda says**

### **Good start**

This book left me with mixed feelings. The premise and characters were great, but the flow and timeline are sometimes confusing and awkward. Sometimes it was hard to follow along with the main characters thought processes cause she kinda jumps from one thing to the next without warning. And it was a little hard to get into at first because the author just jumped right in without any preface or back story. All in all though i did like the story and the characters. There was enough action and intrigue to make me consider reading the next book

I think most of the mistakes were just rooky error and I'm hoping they'll be remedied in the next book.

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## **Alexandra Bessières Dang-Tran says**

I'm in love with this book, honestly. I loved Blood and Magick (and still do), but this is even better, to me, a real masterpiece. But let's start to review properly.

Maxine is a badass heroine, a mage, strong, with brains of her own. She's loyal to the Faction, an organisation that regulates the use of magic for the greater good in a post-apocalyptic world, here, in New Seattle.

She is a top hunter, one of their best members... until she's found guilty of a terrible act. An act she didn't commit. Someone is framing her, and the Faction offers no trial, just a (fatal) sentence. Maxine has no other choice that to rely on the target she just arrested, possibly a Fallen mage, the ennemy she fought all her life, to escape and prove her innocence. But while digging in search of answers, she may find way more than what she was looking for, and the answers may not please her at all.

What if all isn't as it seems? What if she's more than everyone expected? And what if her ex-target is very hot? Ok, this last one wasn't necessary ;) Or maybe it was? Haha

I loved Maxine's character, strong, courageous and clever. She isn't perfect, but she doesn't try to, she's herself, doing her best. Jamie (the "rogue" mage) is also an interesting character, no cliché at all but sexy as hell in his own way. Aisha, whom you may have met in the prequel (really good one) Frozen Fire, is a fierce and loyal friend, and I'm sure I'll learn more about her in the next books.

The world is very well constructed, and the story has a great pace, with revelations coming just in time to have great impact. I really can't wait to read book 2, I feel like I NEED to know more about each characters and the whole world they live in. I'm sure there is a lot more to discover. More epic moments to come. More truths to unearth.

If you're into magic, dystopia and/or Faë, I think you really should read this book!

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## Tèo Sip says

Wow, this is pleurably entertaining! Definitely a *cliché done right* .

The book is your usual urban fantasy + young adult with a badass hunter heroine who unwaveringly believes in the system and an attractive rebellious hero who convinces her otherwise.

**The plot** is simple without many twists and turns. It is not glaringly obvious but not unexpected either. I can guess what happens next, who are the villains, what the characters are going to say, etc. The dialogues, for instance, are quite straightforward:

*"I need to find XYZ."*

*"Why XYZ?"*

*"\*Explain\*"*

*"Okay... but why is XYZ so important?"*

*"\*Explain\*"*

*"And that is?"*

*"\*Explain explain\*"*

*"What are you hoping to achieve with that ABC?"*

*"\*Explain explain explain\*"*

I cut out some parts due to spoilers but you get the gist. It's like a plot explanation for readers and not an interesting conversation. The person who asks those questions is supposed to be smart. He can connect things together and guesses the answers himself (the readers certainly can). So instead of being boring and explanatory, dialogues can do much more, such as adding humor (Ilona Andrews' Hidden Legacy is an excellent example). Some random hilarious lines from Ilona Andrews:

*"What happened to the alpha-wolf?"*

*"LEGOs."*

*"Legos?" It sounded Greek but I couldn't recall anything mythological with that name. Wasn't it an island?*

*"He was carrying a load of laundry into the basement and tripped on the old set of LEGOs his kids left on the stairs. Broke two ribs and an ankle."*

*"Are you sure you know where you're going?"*

*"Would you like me to pull over and ask that bamboo for directions?"*

*"I don't know, do you think it will answer?"*

*We peered at the bamboo.*

*"I think it looks suspicious."*

Or revealing characters' backgrounds (Brandon Sanderson's Stormlight Archive), conveying emotions

(Karen Marie Moning's Fever), challenging the audience, and so on.

**The protagonist** is a strong, independent girl and the most fleshed out in the book. Max's abilities and traits are *shown rather than told*, and I easily connect with and cheer for her. However, other characters including Max's best friend, love interest, co-workers, villains have great potential but also leave a lot to be desired. Maybe because the book is a novella so there is not enough time/pages for all characters.

**The world building** is also underdeveloped. We do not know what Max's magic is, what she can do and honestly, her magic is not original nor fascinating. Unlike epic or adult fantasy, most young adult fantasy seems to include magical elements as a minor spice and not the main course. When you take the magic out, the story stays the same, unaffected, which means the magic does not have proper storytelling importance. Max can be a normal hunter with guns and physical enhancements and the story would not change much. One thing I love is that it does not have long paragraphs of info dumping. Instead, the author weaves information into the scenery naturally.

*Distant, soundless lightning zipped across the sky, leaving a seam in the air that shimmered lightly, the clouds electrified by its passing. On a clear day, a mage could almost see the top of the magic bubble encasing the city; the shield that kept the city safe from what was out there. Today wasn't one of those days.*

**The writing** is smooth, suspenseful but has some typos. Even the synopsis confuses "its" with "it's". While the errors do not hinder my understanding of the text, having silly errors show unprofessionalism. Moreover, they can totally be checked with Word or Grammarly.

**Overall**, *Smoke and Shadows* is a guilty pleasure full of tropes done in a right way. This is a compliment as some cliché books cannot even be enjoyable like this one. Despite all the drawbacks I mentioned above, it is not a bad book at all (I gave it 5 stars), yet it can be better and I genuinely hope the next ones will improve.

**Cliffhanger:** low.

**Love triangle:** none.

Suitable for a quick, easy and entertaining read.

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## Jeanny says

3.5 stars a good set up for a potential great action filled series. I will be reading book 2

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## Amanda says

### Awesome

I always love Katerina's work and this one is another win. Max is a hunter mage who takes down the bad guys. Until she grows too powerful for the Faction she has worked for all her life. After being framed and Jamie, a Fallen mage set out to find the person or persons responsible for blaming her for the death of thousands. Great story with lots of action and intrigue.

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## **Gena says**

Recently one of my favourite authors gave a little snippet on how to write an outline for a book reminding me that there is a science to book writing as well as creativity. Reading this was jarring as I got into the story and then certain phrasing or scenes would jolt me out and I'd find myself thinking of the techniques of writing like the author was going from a writing manual. However what tipped this a little higher was the willingness to be real. We've read the books where something corny happens and no character says anything. Here our heroine remembers she has a flashlight after a couple days the hero calls her on it. It would have been a three \* but felt like Max was trying too hard to be a tough leader. And I've yet to meet a man who stays where he is after being told to and yet here Jamie does frequently. He's definitely a supporting character.

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## **Janice Rose says**

### **This series is a must!**

I began this series with a novella by this author in the anthology called Fire Kissed. It's a very interesting world. Book one, Smoke and Shadows, begins with post-apocalypse New Seattle run by a group of mages called the Faction. Their opposition; a group called the fallen. Original characters, in addition to some really well-developed new ones really set a high paced, entertaining story. A powerful female hunter mage, a Dragon Fae, secrets and adventure that will keep you reading!! Who's got the real power? Who's telling lies? Check this out, I recommend!

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## **Donna Thompson says**

I never fail to be astonished by how much I love a Katrina Martinez novel. I have no idea why though, because she is absolutely the best at writing top notch urban fantasy fiction. I was completely bowled over by this first entry, "Smoke and Shadows," in her newest series, The Order of Prometheus. I fell in love with Maxine, all the other characters and this world she's created, which includes Aisha from a previous prequel novella, "Frozen Fire." I can't recommend this book, and Ms. Martinez's entire repertoire, highly enough. She knows just how to pull all the strings together to weave a fantastic, engrossing and highly entertaining paranormal fantasy tale that you'll be thinking about for days. I can't wait for the next book in this series.

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## **Vinita P Hayes says**

I have read her Amber Lee series so was intrigued to find out what else she had in store to continue her journey in writing since her debut a few years ago. I was not disappointed. This story happens in a future that has mankind living in isolated domed cities free from the devastation of nature because of our ignorance and wasteful use of our natural resources. When Mother Nature retaliated from our abuse with earthquakes, tsunamis, global warnings and the like a group of people called the Faction stepped in and created domed cities using magic.

They r now the governing body that control the population. But there r guidelines that they have established to keep things in check. Max is a hunter mage who tracks down the Fallen(mages who supposedly steal magic n use it to fight against the Faction). She is good at her job n with the help of her Guardian has apprehended well over 400 of the Fallen. The assignment she currently undertakes goes awry n finds her fleeing for her life from the Faction. The help she gets to find out who framed her comes from the very same people she once hunted. But not everything she was told about the Fallen is true n her whole life has been nothing but a bunch of lies. Take the journey as Max finds out what lurks in the shadows.

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## **Melissa says**

### **A Great Start**

I have enjoyed reading the first part of Max's story. Max is a hunter who collects Fallen Mages for her government. When a horrible, tragic act of terrorism strikes the city, Max finds herself framed for it. What follows is a journey of self discovery and political corruption. Looking forward to the next book of the series.

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## **Phthon says**

Oh. My. Goodness. That was just AWESOME! This girl knows how to write! Action. Danger. Conspiracies. Everything that makes a book something you don't want to put down...can't put down. I am looking forward to the next book with bated breath. I suggest you take a chance and read this book, you won't regret it.

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## **Fiona Padmore says**

Excellent, Awesome, I need more! !!

I chose the 5 stars because there were no more for me to highlight otherwise the book would have received more from me.

I guarantee that you will be hooked from page one and you will be so engrossed in the fast paced and well written story that you will find the time to have flown by and the book is now finished ? I need the next book now, please don't make me wait too long.

The characters are so well thought out you can picture them in your minds eye being there with you as they take you on the journey that is Smoke and Shadows. Maxine, the female protagonist, has a very strong willed character who takes being badass to a whole other level. There are mages and fae, the good and the bad who will keep Max on her toes but Max does get her bit of eye candy ? but I'll let you check him out, don't want to give out any spoilers now.

Being taken through each scene from Faction HQ to going to another realm, you are going to need thermals for that one, helps to give the reader more insight into where the characters are positioned and we can only picture a scene to that extent if it has been written by someone that has seen it and has excellent writing skills enough to share it with so much precision.

Look if you love magic and female protagonist's with attitude then this is definitely worth checking out. I genuinely cannot wait for the next installment. I for one am so very grateful for the time and effort the author has taken to produce such a bewitching story, thank you Katerina Martinez.

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### **Kristen Lewendon says**

Speechless. I'm left utterly speechless. My mind boggles at how I'm supposed to put into words just how amazing this was without giving away the best parts of the plot. That's made even more difficult for me because there weren't any bad parts. The plot twists and turns and doubles back on itself leaving the reader wondering just who can be trusted. Especially when Max isn't sure she can trust her own mind. Friend becomes foe and the enemy just might be the only ally she can count on. And when all was said and done, I wasn't ready for it to be over. There's still questions I want answers to and I will be counting down the days until the next book is available.

I received a complimentary advanced copy of this book.

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### **Lucinda says**

A totally kickass urban fantasy tale! Strong female lead throwing off her shackles from her previous government type employer to be magically free like she always should have been and trying to enlighten the masses!

Some great fantastical shifter and fey creatures feature in this as well as plenty of magic.

We get to revisit an alternate realm if you read the novella Frozen Fire before this though you don't need to read it to enjoy this story. Looking forward to reading more about this in the next story.

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