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Seized Details

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Author : Lynne Cantwell

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From Reader Review Seized for online ebook

Judie Fisher-Crowley says

Enjoyed the story

I enjoyed reading the story. Was an interesting concept. I use a lot of Indian myths and cables in my writing...she followed true to form. I look forward to reading more of her work.

Elizabeth Myers says

Interesting read

This was good book. It was interesting to read. I like the story idea, and i believe others will as well.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Mediating between two opposing sides in legal disputes comes just a little too easily for Naomi Witherspoon. She is an ace mediator for her law firm, but when she discovers that she can "suggest" that the car ahead of her just get out of her way, and it does so by running a red light almost causing a head-on collision, Naomi realizes that all the sudden coincidences in her life are more than just her being very good at her job.

Naomi never expects to discover that a Sioux goddess has chosen Naomi as her avatar for the upcoming end of the world. And Naomi isn't all that sure that she wants the job.

It makes the conflict of Naomi's emotions and beliefs a wild ride in *Seized*, the first book of The Pipe Woman Chronicles by Lynne Cantwell.

As Naomi's journey begins, her life seems pretty good. She has a job she mostly like, a best friend she trusts and a handsome man who she hopes will finally pop the question after eight years of on-again/off-again that seems to finally be on track.

But there are some gaps in her life she still needs to fill. Her law firm is pretty wishy-washy about her mediation practice, and that's a big problem. Naomi doesn't feel right about litigation, especially considering some of the rich scumbags they've started representing. She's good at finding compromises, maybe too good. She loves mediation, especially the court-appointed work she's been doing.

About that man of hers...well, Brock has been part of her life since law school, but he's got one heck of a roving eye, and sometimes other body parts. He's very handsome but just a bit on the shady side when it comes to practicing law. But this time, their togetherness seems to be sticking. Naomi just wishes he'd finally ask her to marry him already.

There's one haunting blank spot in Naomi's life. She doesn't know who her father is. Her mother says that he died in the Vietnam War, and won't talk about him. His name isn't on Naomi's birth certificate, and there are no pictures. Her mom won't talk about him. But the war ended two years before Naomi was born. Pregnancy may seem like forever, but it doesn't last that long.

Naomi's best friend Shannon knows all the answers. At least, enough of the answers to put Naomi on the right path. But Shannon knows Naomi well enough that Naomi will have to start the journey for herself.

But Shannon believes that the world encompasses more than just technology and logic. She believes that there is still magic, and faith, and powers that shape the universe in ways that Naomi's legalist mind doesn't want to see. Shannon says that she's "fey on her Irish granny's side".

So when Naomi figures out that some of her gift of mediation is more than just training. Shannon takes her to a ritual Native American "sweat" outside of Denver. A very special ritual just for Naomi. So that Naomi can meet her destiny. And save the world.

But only if she can manage to accept it. While that destiny turns her entire set of beliefs, her identity, her world, upside-down and inside out.

Escape Rating B: This has the potential to be a very interesting series, and I definitely liked the opener. The story is ultimately about a war among the gods, through human avatars. What was interesting was that the primary point-of-view deity chose, not a warrior, but a mediator as their avatar. So the war is might be decided through negotiation rather than outright warfare. Neat choice!

This is a building of the fellowship type of story. A teacher, a healer, a mediator, a guardian create the team. The overarching story looks like a battle of the pantheons, with a flavor of "this has all happened before, and it will all happen again" thrown in for good measure. The gods and goddesses are picking sides, not because the conflict can be stopped, but because they want to make sure the result is "better" than the last time.

What constitutes "better"? That's always the question. Naomi's side represents better for the environment. The other side is looking for more unbridled development. Odin is on the other side. This has the potential to make things very, very interesting in the later books.

There is a love story involved, or rather, an insta-attraction sub-plot. But whether Naomi and Joseph's story turns out to be real love or the goddess making sure things go along the right path for her purposes is something that will be further investigated in book 2. Which I want to read.

Brenda Perlin says

Seized, book one of the Pipe Woman Chronicles by Lynne Cantwell is a unique read that is imaginative and mysterious. Caught my attention early on, keeping me on the edge of my seat. This fast paced story is well written and a fresh escape into uncharted territory. Nothing was predictable as Seized kept me guessing.

The author does a great job of writing a fictional supernatural/paranormal? story that in ways seems real. She has a great gift of making what seems impossible feel possible.

The clear writing style eases you into the story in a effortless way. Instantly I was absorbed into the story and

was curious to see where this adventure would lead me. This is a cozy read that I inhaled with very little work on my part. Not my genre of choice but in this case, the writing and the storyline was so gripping that I didn't want to put it down once I started. This is a great start to a very successful series.

Quote ~

Honestly, I never did figure out what I had that the other girls didn't. It wasn't that I wasn't impressed by his looks; I was drooling right along with everyone else. It wasn't that I played hard to get, or any of the other annoying games some women play to attract a man; the only thing I did differently, really, was to hold myself apart from his seraglio, and the only reason I did that was because I was sure there was no point in trying for him. As I've said before, my mother didn't raise any self-confident children. I took one look at the uber-chic girls who were throwing themselves at him and resigned myself to watching the action from afar.

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Fantasy/Magical Realism

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Those interested in alternate spirituality, Native American history and mythology, those who enjoy well-told stories

My Thoughts: What a cool idea for a story! The general gist is that all the other gods and goddesses have decided Jehovah is just too uppity and want to take him down a peg. It's obvious that the author has done a great deal of research into the Native stories and tales, including creation and destruction myths, and woven them into this great story. There is even a special guest appearance by Loki, which ought to make some people quite happy.

This is a five-book series, so the pace is leisurely, allowing plenty of time to develop the characters and plot points without feeling rushed. The story flows smoothly, however, and is engrossing and entertaining. I'm so happy that my friend Kriss recommended these books to me. Looking forward to several more days' worth of terrific reading.

If you like learning about other aspects of spirituality, if you are interested in Native American stories and tales, and if you enjoy a well-told story (and won't be offended by the presentation of Jehovah as power-hungry and petulant), then you should definitely check out this excellent series.

Series Information: The Pipe Woman Chronicles

Book 1: *Seized*

Book 2: *Fissured*

Book 3: *Tapped*

Book 4: *Gravid*

Book 5: *Annealed*

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the author's publicist in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

Synopsis: Naomi has a pretty sweet life. Respected as a skilled mediator, she has an almost uncanny knack

for getting people on both sides of a dispute to agree. And her handsome boyfriend Brock has just proposed to her. But a white buffalo calf is bowing to her in her dreams. And who is the Native American man who has been following her around? Naomi doesn't know it, but things are about to change....

Johnnie-Marie Howard says

I really enjoyed the character's in this story they all were really strong and could handle themselves really well. I really liked how Naomi had to face off with her ex-fiance who in turn had a Norse God with him. Naomi did find the love she needed with Joesph which in turns is suppose to be her Guardian according to Half Pipe Woman. Joseph is a great guy he knows actually how to trick people into doing what they should be doing but also has a temper to watch out for.

It was a really Great Mythology and Native American story, mixed really well I have never read one like this before. I felt like the author did a great job trying to stay true to both things in the story while at the same time making it Urban. I gave it 3 stars only because it took me awhile to finish it and I don't like taking a very long time to read something. Meaning it took forever for me to get too the main point of the story and that kinda bugged me. Yes, I understand that to make a good story you can't jump into the good stuff have to ease into it, but this just took to long to get their.

I did receive this book in a group read for free it just took me a little longer to finish I did however get it somewhat finished close to September. So I thank the author for letting me read her story.

Darlene says

Well, can you tell it is NaNoWriMo time? Here, yet again, is something that isn't me working on my novel. Yeah, let's read and review someone else's novel while we figure out how to write again.

Basically, this has been by bedtime book. I've been reading it in the Omnibus but decided that I need to review each book separately and will review the whole series when finished with the Omnibus.

In this first book, Seized, we learn about the main character, Naomi, her life as a mediator, her handsome fiancé, and her sudden being taken over by a goddess, White Buffalo Calf Pipe Woman, during a sweat bath with her "Woo woo" (translation: New Age) best friend, Shannon. I believe peyote was involved. But soon Naomi and friends are sent out on a quest to save the world. Yeah, a lot to put on one person and her friends.

There is a lot of old-world Pagan/Norse mythology, a couple Native American tribal religions and the Judeo/Christian theologies. Thought-provoking fiction to say the least.

There are scenes of action and moments of philosophy. But best of all, for a first book in the series, no cliff-hangers.

This book is free on Amazon. Well worth the price! I am well into book two so I am trying to remember book one. I hate it when I do that. Let's blame NaNo, shall we? Enjoy!

Linda says

Native American and old world mythos intertwine in a captivating story surrounding the winter of solstice 2012. Naomi has a pretty sweet life as a skilled mediator at a large legal firm in Colorado and she has just become engaged. When events from her past come to light, her whole world is turned upside down. It will never be the same again.

I have a soft spot for Native American stories, I am not sure why, as far as I know I have no Native American blood. I also enjoy stories about old world gods and myths. This story combines the two in a unique way. This contemporary fantasy is told through Naomi's eyes. She is an intelligent, well-balanced character that you can't help but like. The story is well thought out, draws you in quickly and has a steady building plot that adds some interesting twists.

Each character in the story is well developed and plays an important part in the development of the plot. I loved the way this story challenges all belief systems, this author has taken this on in a grand scale. The dialogue is realistic, entertaining, and humorous at times. I found it very easy to suspend my disbelief and become immersed in the story. I am excited to see where she takes us as this story continues to build in its ever-widening scope. Well done, Ms. Cantwell, well done. I think I have found a new favorite fantasy author.

This book contains adult language and situations that may be offensive to some, but I don't feel they were added for shock value. I found no significant errors or issues.

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. ** February 8, 2013

Rating: ***** Five stars

Laurie Boris says

I expected to enjoy Seized, the first book in Lynne Cantwell's Pipe Woman Chronicles, because I am a fan of Ms. Cantwell's direct, journalistic writing style and wry wit from her Indies Unlimited blog posts. What I didn't expect was that Seized kept me up late several nights in a row because it was so hard to stop reading. The story started easily in the realm of the familiar, with Naomi, a smart mediator who seems to have it all: the powerful job, the handsome boyfriend, and the best friend who understands her better than she understands herself. But wait...we know that nothing comes easily in fiction without consequence. So things twist up a bit when said best friend urges her to tag along on a New Age adventure. Several rounds in a sweat lodge release more than perspiration, including a visit from White Buffalo Calf Pipe Woman, a mysterious Native American spirit that weaves in and around Naomi's life, tasking her with a near-impossible challenge for a mediator...no, for anyone. Lynne's writing style (and choice of first-person narration) is key here. I became deeply invested in Naomi's future, and the author rides a nice, believable, and relatable line between the protagonist's cynicism with the happenings around her and her faith that it's all for a greater good. The story is smart and thought provoking, the fantasy element sophisticated and well integrated into the storyline. Never did I feel that this was fantasy with a story attached or vice versa. It just worked so well. I'm eager to

read the rest of the series.

Gordon Long says

This story is rooted in a disagreement between the gods of the Norse and the gods of the Plains Indians. But the cooler heads of the metaphysical world have decided that the good old ways are counterproductive, and have decided to short-circuit the old violent methods of their contemporaries by inserting an element of negotiation into the mix.

Enter Naomi, plain, normal human being, trying to make her way through life as a lawyer, but not really suited to the cut-and-thrust of the legal profession. Her decision to become a mediator makes her perfect for the astral job. The gods, as usual, play out their drama using the other characters in the story as their avatars. The fun part is that two of the characters are Loki and Coyote, who play the trickster role for their respective pantheons. This leads to some entertaining antics, and contributes to the playful feeling of the conflict. The other characters are well fleshed out and sympathetic, and a vein of gentle humour runs through the book.

But perhaps you can see the problem with a plot where the main character is a mediator; it is not likely to create a great climax for the story. The moment the daggers are drawn (figuratively speaking) and the male egos start splashing around the room, Naomi puts on her mediator's hat and calms them all down. Which is as we wish affairs would turn out in the real world, but it doesn't make for great battle scenes.

Likewise with the romantic side of the story. Naomi is a calm and undemonstrative sort who allows herself to be inveigled into an association she really doesn't seem to enjoy with the representative of the opposing side in the conflict. So there isn't that much pain when she is rescued from his clutches, and the relationship with her new love comes about so naturally that there is little sexual tension there, either.

So what we have is a gentle New Age fantasy, in which even the harshest of the Old Gods can be persuaded to sit down and air their grievances in a civilized way, if only the right woman can be found to help them control their rambunctious male egos.

It isn't much of a spoiler to reveal that by the end of the book the first skirmish has been averted. But the next battle – this one to bring Jehova back into line – is about to begin. The all-destructive war of Ragnarok has not been prevented. Plenty of scope for Naomi's mediating talents; the Pipe Woman Chronicles contains four more books.

When it comes to handing out stars, I think they are meant to combine two different opinions: how I reacted to the book, and how I think the average reader will react. So, while I enjoyed this book immensely, I think most Fantasy readers will find it a bit low key and in need of a notch more tension and excitement. Highly recommended for the gentler, more thoughtful sort of reader.

Tasha Turner says

Native American urban fantasy. First book in series. Not as much action as you'd expect to find in a typical UF but still very good. This is very much the world building book. I enjoyed for the most part. Plot line came as a bit of a surprise.

I loved the Skinwalker aspects as well as the other superpowers. I loved the Native American aspects. They seemed authentic. Bringing in the pantheon of gods from around the world added a nice touch. In parts it was a bit like Kevin Hearne where you're trying to keep up with which gods from what pantheon and whom is aligned with who and making bargains/brokering deals,

I agree with another poster who said parts were also reminiscent of *River Marked* by Patricia Briggs.

NOTE: Written from a pagan and Native American perspective

Review edited 9/12/2013

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

This book would have rated higher had the story moved a little faster than it did at the beginning. I loved the concept for this book legends, myths, prophecies, lore, God, and god/goddesses from all cultures. Normally this type of book intrigues me enough to plow thru it rather quickly. I realize there was a lot of world building going on but it still could have moved faster than it did. I admit I'm curious enough to see where this series is going. I look forward to the next installment.

Aarati says

Seized by Lynne Cantewell is very different from your usual paranormal books. You don't have a badass heroine who loves to fight, but that does not make Naomi Witherspoon any less kickass. She is also a lot older than your usual heroines.

Naomi Witherspoon is a 35 year old, working as a mediator in a law firm, rather than as a litigator. Unlike her fiance and the rest of her classmates, Naomi works in a law firm to help people rather than to make money. But if by working in a top class law firm helps her buy a condo, then that's just a bonus right? But why does it feel like working for a firm that supports soulless corporations means compromising herself?

All these questions are answered through the course of the book. She is a skilled mediator, she has an almost uncanny knack for getting people on both sides of a dispute to agree. But lately it seems that whatever she says people have to do it. Is that the reason her boyfriend Brock proposed?

Naomi realises that there is something going on with her. But what? She finds the answers when she goes to a sweat lodge with her best friend Shannon. There she meets Joseph Curtis and his grandfather Looks Far Guzmin, who helps her find out the truth. The stories Looks Far tells his audience reminds me of Patricia Briggs' *River Marked*.

Looks Far's home is in danger and Naomi mediates the case between him and Leo Durant who is being represented by her former fiance Brock and her old firm. What she doesn't realise in the beginning is that the Gods have a hand in this whole fiasco. Now she needs to mediate the case between the White Buffalo Calf Pipe Woman, who amped her powers of persuasion and the Norse Trickster god Loki.

Ms. Cantwell dishes out Native Indian culture on a platter to us. *Seized* is a good combination of fantasy,

religion and moral human philosophy. It is well written with great characters. Ms. Cantwell manages to suck you into the story from the very beginning and traps you in it till the very end. Even after the story finishes you can't help but pick up the next book.

Chris James says

Hugely enjoyable and original urban fantasy

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I began reading *Seized*. The book description doesn't give much away, but I found that to be a good thing. And in reviewing this book, I have a similar problem: it's really best for the reader to find out what happens as they read.

We start with Naomi, a fairly regular Denver-based lawyer whose key talent is getting conflicting parties to agree to settle. But on the 2012 winter solstice, her best friend Shannon takes her to an American Indian "sweat", which reveals Naomi's true purpose in the scheme of things, and we follow Naomi as she learns to cope with the new state of affairs and her responsibilities.

This story moves along at a fair clip, with the plot advancing through dialogue and action. I was often surprised at the plot turns, which added to my enjoyment. All of the characters are very well drawn: from Naomi to her "woo-woo" friend Shannon, young Joseph, who has his reasons for wanting to protect Naomi, to the mysterious Looks Far, an elderly American Indian.

And that's really as much as I feel able to tell. This is a very well-told, entertaining story which doesn't disappoint. One other thing: the standard of editing and formatting is absolutely excellent.

Charles Ray says

Naomi Witherspoon, after graduating from law school and getting a job with a large law firm in Denver, decides she'd rather be a mediator rather than a litigator. She finds, to her surprise, that she's really good at it, too, and has a string of successful mediations to back her up. Her former law school classmate, and fellow lawyer at the firm, Brock Holt, asks her to marry him. So, what can go wrong?

She soon finds out, when she starts having dreams about a white buffalo calf that bows to her, and in the dreams there's a mysterious woman, the White Buffalo Calf Pipe Woman. When the woman speaks to her, and informs her that she is the Chosen One, her troubles begin. Naomi finds herself caught between what appears to be a materialistic money-grabbing scheme by one of her firm's clients and her affection for a Native American man who is trying to protect sacred ground. Strange appearances begin to occur, not just in her dreams, but in reality.

What, she desperately wants to know, has she been chosen for? When she learns that she is the one chosen to mediate a war between the gods, her life takes a complete left turn.

Lynne Cantwell's *Seized* is a novel that weaves fantasy, religion, and reality into a pastiche that will seize your imagination and keep you turning pages until you find out what's going on. Deft dialogue and narration, infused with a bit of humor, make this a must-read, and, not just for lovers of fantasy. Cantwell will have you questioning your basic beliefs as you root for Naomi during her quest to forestall Armageddon. A great book, the first in the Pipe Woman Chronicle series, and a definite five stars. I received a free review copy of this

book, but would have been just as happy with it if I'd bought it. This is fantasy the way fantasy is meant to be!
