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Former Army Ranger William Logan is serving hard time in Leavenworth for a crime he didn't commit. With three months left on his sentence, he's approached by a recruiter for a private military group. The Red River Group make him an offer he can't refuse—a get out of jail free card and a chance to continue as a soldier, working as a hired gun. He's sent to join a team already in training for their first mission. The new soldiers are all former elite military but also misfits, like Logan, and recently sprung from brigs across the country.

At the training facility, he meets company man and trainer, Luke Warren, a former Navy SEAL. Logan begins an intense relationship with the prickly but gorgeous man as they get ready for a top-secret mission against the drug cartels in Mexico. The team has to make sure that MARS, a highly addictive and lethal new drug, along with the factory that produces it, is completely destroyed.

When everything on the mission goes wrong and the factory blows up in their faces, the team wakes up to find they not only survived, but the now have impossible enhanced strength and abilities. Frightened and confused, not knowing who to trust, Logan leads the team in a run for the States to find a safe haven, forcing Luke to come with them.

With violence and intrigue swirling around him, Logan relies on his instincts and his ingenuity to discover who his allies and his enemies really are. As they travel across the country, Logan and Luke begin to realize that they have to stick together and they'll need all their newfound abilities and a lot of luck to make it out of this alive.

Origins Details

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From Reader Review Origins for online ebook

Carmen says

Rating 1.5, rounded up because I'm feeling generous in the middle of the chaotic couple months I'm having. I'm extremely tempted to give it only 1 star, but I'm controlling myself because at the very least, I was entertained.

More than once, my eyebrows disappeared in my hairline, but the coup de grace was when the author tried to tell me the Greek god of war was called **Aries (which is the ram, btw) instead of Ares** ...it killed the book, especially because the name of the series is Gods of War, and even if at first it was a typo, it wasn't corrected and is a monumental mistake.

Complete review soon, because right now I'm not in the mood.

Susan65 says

Reviewed for The Blogger Girls

I love paranormal, I love military and action, and I love watching big, tough men show their softer sides. We get most of that in this one...the softer side? Not so much, but it was there, in a super masculine way, if you looked really hard. This story reminded me, a lot, of the Metahuman Files series by Hailey Turner, but was just different enough that I enjoyed myself immensely and was happy to have another series, full of the tropes that I love, to read.

Logan, and his secret government paramilitary band of fighters, were at one time all special forces military men who found themselves in hot water...and prison. Logan's crime was more being in the wrong place, at the wrong time, without friends, and being an idiot...but he is not a bad guy. Luke is his gorgeous, but very uptight and prickly superior...and a very hot submissive to Logan's dominant and alpha tendencies. This is not a bdsm book, per se, but a more playful sexual escapades that includes roughhousing and borders on non-con...but doesn't cross any lines, well not any lines that Luke draws, anyway.

In addition to the growing relationship between Logan and Luke, we have to deal with a mission gone wrong,(view spoiler) And somehow, they all now have superhuman strength, (view spoiler) We get a lot of closure but there are still some questions to be answered. For the most part, this was a great start to a new series and I am looking forward to seeing what happens next.

Overall Impression: I really liked it

I purchased my own, personal copy of this book for review.

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

Intriguing new series this is shaping up to be! Men from various seemingly unsavory backgrounds are given the opportunity of joining a team of soldiers to be trained and their specialties utilized in secret missions. All were in one branch of the military or another, and all found themselves in bad situations. It doesn't take much for them to accept the offer, and their training begins right away. They quickly learn their first mission is to take out a drug lab.

Things are a bit sketchy from the get go, but the team is determined to complete their task. Doesn't take long for things to take a bad turn and the men realize they were double crossed. Now, they don't know who to trust. Luke, the man who recruited them is front and center, but as he seemed to be affected as well, there is enough doubt for Logan to not turn his back just yet. Add to that the chemistry they shared, and when Logan is tasked with leading the men, Luke must bow to Logan's commands if he wants to make it out and find the answers they seek. This was a fun turn of events in that roles are reversed – Luke goes from being Logan's superior to being a submissive to Logan's more dominant nature.

It takes some convincing for Luke to not want to run back to the company who sent them on the mission. But, Logan and the team give him little choice. Interestingly, in the betrayal/scuffle, it appears the men have all gained some unique powers. So, needless to say, they have a lot of unanswered questions. Each man as a slightly different type of enhancement and it takes some time for them to believe it isn't all hallucinating on their parts.

There's not much in the way of romance here, but Logan and Luke are definitely a good match. Things become a little clearer as the story unfolds, but there is still much to learn. I found it to be quite interesting and am definitely looking forward to finding out more in the next installment.

Review written for Love Bytes Reviews.

??? Michaëlle ♡?? says

3.8 Stars

I've never read anything by TS McKinney but I have read a few books by Shannon West...and honestly? With those? I wasn't all that impressed. **This book**, however, was a good start to a new series and I was hooked on the story and characters right from chapter 1.

The sex was brain-meltingly hot (even if the affection that followed on in the story seemed a little quick) and the action/mystery was very intense. My suspicions about the shadiness of this Institute operation (as I also look at *all* civilian para-military organizations as untrustworthy) were definitely founded. And how!

Kowalski's exposition of all the things the reader might question about what had happened to them was kind of lack-luster though, and doing it that way was a bit of a disappointment. I almost wish those details would have come to light as the story progressed, in the action and not as regurgitated facts/information. Or like a caricature-based "bad guy" gloating over his success at capturing the "good guys."

And some parts of it reminded me a *little* of the Metahuman Files books with an explosion and chemical exposure causing mutations. (Or, you know, The Flash.) But with this one we get to see how the characters realize and come to terms with these new abilities as they manifest. That was way cool. I do have to say that it seems like Logan has entirely too many new "powers" but since we don't know much about how the other

characters fare (which I hope will be rectified in subsequent books) for all we can tell they each have numerous new abilities. (I especially liked that (view spoiler).)

So, yeah. I'll definitely read the next one when it comes out because I want to know whether Kowalski's info is accurate, whether these guys are the new "expendables" and how much The Institute had to do with what happened to them. A lot of threads left dangling that I hope will be cleared up.

Ericka Walden says

Pretty good start to a new series I think. So totally don't like cliffhangers though.. ugh!!!! But... intrigued enough to read the next book in the series.

Lara says

Awesome

Shannon`s books are always a fun read with at least a little bit of kink thrown in. Then add a good strong storyline and you have an excellent book. I can't wait for the next in the series. Superhumans, sex, hot guys, kink and government conspiracies are always a fun combo.

Jennie says

There was plenty of action in this book. It was fast paced and plenty hot with it's fair share of intrigue as well. I became more drawn into the story as it progressed.

Logan tries to work out who he can trust on his team.

There was not a cliff hanger ending but it is definitely not the end of their journey.

I look forward to seeing what happens in the next book.

SoCalBookReviews says

Good start to a new series.

Not normally a premise I would usually read but the blurb had me intrigued. And I'm glad I gave this one a chance. I really did like it. I didn't want to put the book down and it made me wish I could read faster to know what happens next and how the story ends. There's a lot of suspense and fast paced action, and the dynamic between the main Character Logan and his counterpart Luke was really interesting to read about. The sex between the two in this book was ridiculously Hot and dirty. I look forward to the next book and seeing how this whole series plays out.

Logan is former military, serving time in jail for an accidental death he did not really cause. He is recruited by a private security company and given a get out of jail free card, an offer he basically cannot refuse. Luke is former military as well and in charge of the rag-tag group of "expendable" military rejects the company finds to create a special team. After the very first mission goes horribly wrong they are all on the run. Logan wont let Luke out of his sight for more than one reason. And they ban together to try and determine what

went wrong and how they are still alive after the disaster of that mission should have left them dead, but not... They all have these weird abilities they cant seem to control, and that seem to just be getting more intense. Their "mutation/powers" seemed to progress at a really fast pace for the book. That part of the story seemed a little messy, and kind of all over the place I personally feel like that part needed more time to explain and develop so we have more depth and details on their individual powers. But that could very well happen in the next book... I am sure we will get more to the story and hopefully find out what happened and what comes next for these two men. I will be waiting impatiently for book two...

Zulima Ike says

So amazing

This was so good. It had a great story and the best sex scenes. Have reread it so many times.

Helke says

That is a storyline I'm bound to love. Hardass soldiers or ex-soldiers because they are non-conform and undependent falling in love with each other while sitting in a tight spot. What's not to love about that? Through in a bit of light BDSM and you got me hook line and sinker. For friends of these sort of stories a must read. So looking forward to the next book. I do hope the author duo can write pretty quick.

Daphne says

2.5 Stars. There was just too much happening with a surface treatment covering all of it. The premise is interesting (although it feels similar to Hailey Turner's series or Victoria Sue's Enhanced, so not entirely unique) but the execution left more questions than enjoyment.

First books in a series can be hard with so much to establish.

Claudia says

WOW... This book is so awesome! it got me hooked from page one!!! Best of all, it's the first book on a NEW SERIES!

When Logan is contacted to join a particular "mercenary like institute" while spending time in a military prison, he gets his hackers on about why they've choosed him since there were more qualified people available... but since any option is better than the prison, he agrees to become a mercenary.

Luke works for the institute training their mercenaries... so this group shouldn't be any different from the last ones he trained... if it wasn't for a big mouth called Logan that defied his every order and took him out of his mind...

A mission going wrong is all that needs to happen to bring them together - they've a new mission now... to find out what went wrong and why things suddenly seem too unrealistic to be true.

But their journey will lead them way deeper than just a mission... it'll lead them to each other...

Lorraine Lesar says

“If someone offers you something that sounds too good to be true, it probably is”.

Logan knows this. But languishing in jail for a crime he was set up to take the fall-on, the thought of getting out of the hell-hole he’s now in, is just too much temptation. His gut feeling is shouting at him that it was going to be a bad mistake, he didn’t realise until it was too late, how much of a bad mistake it was going to be.....

It was supposed to be a simple raid on a drug making operation deep in the jungle. An injection, an explosion and a betrayal, not only changed his life completely, but the men on the mission as well. They are now very confused, broke and on the run. Only Luke is keeping Logan from going crazy, but can he be trusted? In fact, who can they trust? Something very serious and with life changing consequences has happened, but what should they do?

I contacted Loganlitis Fever when reading this book and be warned, it’s highly infectious. You are going to get hooked right from the start. It’s fast paced, action packed and some hot lovin’ thrown in as well. No spoiler, but the way these two authors laid out what happened in that jungle and the consequences, was expertly conveyed. They didn’t try to over complicate, but kept it simple and therefore plausible. So looking forward to seeing how this all plays out? I need Book 2 ASAP.

Highly recommended.

Teal says

You know what? Life is too short to be wasted reading bad books. DNF @ 78% and good riddance.

Updated to add: I felt so cheated by this book that I returned it to amazon for a refund. There is NO WAY it should be sold to readers for \$4.99. It should still be in the hands of an editor -- someone who can flag the stray first-person sentences popping up in the third-person narrative, among other crimes against the English language. I loved the premise, which is why I gave it 2 stars, and why I slogged it out all the way to 78%... but it's very painful to see a good premise ruined by poor writing.
