



# Silent Threat

*Dana Marton*

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**Silent Threat** Dana Marton

**“This suspense is romantic, timely, and different. Great pacing, great characters...just great storytelling all around.” —USA Today’s *Happy Ever After***

A former Navy SEAL, Cole Makani Hunter has returned home from a disastrous black ops mission without his best friend, his hearing, or the use of his right arm. So when his ex-commanding officer assigns him to an undercover mission at a rehab center for vets to discover who leaked sensitive military information to an enemy, he’d rather be anywhere but there. Almost immediately, Cole finds himself at odds with Annie Murray—a peace-loving ecotherapist whose dream is to open an animal sanctuary out of her home. While the two seemingly have nothing in common, their spirited arguments soon fuel a passion for each other.

But just as things begin to heat up between therapist and patient, dangerous complications arise. So does the past—and a shocking revelation that puts Cole and everything he now holds dear in the path of a murderous traitor.

## Silent Threat Details

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## From Reader Review *Silent Threat* for online ebook

**Diana says**

**3.50 stars**

Cole Makani Hunter is a former Navy SEAL who was severely wounded during his last black ops mission. He is sent undercover to a Hope Hill, a rehab center, to find out who is leaking out top secret information. Even though this is a mission for him, he is still involved in rehab and is attracted to the ecotherapist, Annie Murray. The attraction is instant.

Annie Murray just returned to her hometown and is working at Hope Hill. She is a nature lover and wanted to incorporate her love of nature to help others. She also has a stalker that is getting closer and more aggressive. Only her new found friend, Cole, makes her feel safe, but she is his therapist, so a relationship is out of the question.

It definitely took me a while to get into this one. I listened to the audiobook, and the narrator was very monotone at times. Once I got used to that, the mystery of the story pulled me in. There is very little sex in this one, but I didn't miss it because of the push/pull of the relationship.

All in all, a great little story, but I think I would have enjoyed this one a little more if I was reading it as opposed to listening to it

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**Jennifer Lanak says**

[ Cole is at the clinic on an u

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**Alaina Meserole says**

*Silent Threat* was such an amazing audio book to listen to today. I was constantly changing my mind on who was the "villain" throughout the book. I was surprised when the unveil happened and still enjoyed the book so much while at work today. I'm just a tad bit slow at finally writing the review because I just HAD to finish ACOFAS. Trust me, it was amazing.

Back to this review!!

I loved both Annie and Cole. Heck, I shipped the living shit out of them from their first encounter. Which trust me, it was super hard. They met at a gas station people!! That's like the least romantic meeting area ever! Heck, I still loved them and was so happy for their ending. They definitely deserved it.

The mystery was so freaking good. The villain was always from the POV called "The Good Guy" - which of course he obviously wasn't. Hell, I have no idea if I know any good guys who love to kill animals for fun in their free time?!?! Or ya know want to kill people for fun.. or kidnap their "mom". Trust me, "Good Guy"

was fucking crazy as shit. I honestly kept flipflopping that this guy (who just happened to be her stalker too) was either a patient or a co-worker.

I kept thinking patient.. but then when my favorite character outside of these two suddenly died.. I definitely threw that option out the window. Hell, this book took my through a never ending adventure with some pit stops due to emotions. I enjoyed the crap out of it. I'm mad that I didn't really solve the whole thing until it was revealed.

Overall, I loved this book. I seriously can't wait to dive into the next one. So far this is my favorite couple but I definitely want and need more from this series. I can't wait to see what the second book will bring me.

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## **Dísir says**

Dana Marton's books tend to stand out for me particularly since they tend to involve unusual and unlikely pairings with protagonists who aren't the most good-looking or the usual types that conform to the stereotypes of romantic suspense. Throw this unbalanced relationship—whether it's convincing or not depends on the book and the kind of characters Marton chooses to portray—into a plot that's generally tight and unpredictable enough to keep you guessing and Marton has become one of the authors I've come to realise I want more of.

'Silent Threat' is no different in this way: a disabled ex-SEAL who's undercover seeking a traitor and an ecotherapist who dreams of having her own animal rescue sanctuary facing a stalkerish (and very creepy) threat provide more than enough intrigue for the suspense to be built on. Marton sets up 2 apparently separate threats, though there are hints that they are from one and the same source, in a more elaborate twist of the tale that I didn't see coming.

Marton's characters however, so obviously flawed and so far beyond the traditional definitions and appearances of what we think of when the terms 'hero' and 'heroine' pop up, may not always appeal.

In 'Silent Threat' as in a few of other Marton's books, Cole and Annie take some time to warm up to, though Cole was easier to relate to as a protagonist than Annie's softer and more fickle tree-hugger ways. Like Cole, I was too sceptical of Annie's Ecotherapy—the things she stood for and her earth-mother motivational sayings just sounded too flaky and naive to me with her trite and overused phrases like 'deep cleansing breaths'—but admittedly this is my jaded, cynical self talking along with the other SEALs under her care who rolled their eyes at this form of treatment. It was harder to like her as well, as I thought she simply needed to grow a spine when all she did was push away and run without working things out like the adult she was while she hid behind the excuse of preserving therapist/patient boundaries.

Cole and Annie's relationship however, isn't rushed, the build-up is slow-going with some amount of push-pull between them, with an equally slow burn until past the halfway mark, flowing well with the suspense that amps up toward the end.

In short, while 'Silent Threat' didn't quite stun me like Marton's other books have, which isn't to say that it isn't a decent read. It's a series that I'm going to continue with in any case, if only just to see what Marton has up her sleeve the next time around.

\*ARC by the publisher via Netgalley

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## **Anita says**

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

This is my first book by Dana Marton and I was pleased to find another author who writes what I want to read. The plot was inventive and I really loved the wounded warrior hero, Cole, and the ecotherapist heroine, Annie.

Annie Murray is an ecotherapist at Hope Hill, a rehab facility for recovering veterans. She firmly believes in the power to nature to heal, she is living proof. She also runs an animal sanctuary out of her house. When she is assigned a former Navy SEAL, Cole Makani Hunter, she knows from the start that he is going to be a very hard nut to crack. When a stalker starts escalating, Cole goes from patient to protector who will do anything to keep Annie safe.

Wounded Warrior, former Navy SEAL Cole Makani Hunter, has been to some very dark places and now he is on an undercover assignment at the request of his former commanding officer at Hope Hill to discover who is leaking secrets to the enemy. With near total hearing loss and limited mobility in his right arm, Cole has a boatload of issues and really needs Hope Hill, even if he doesn't want to outright admit it. The last thing he thinks he needs is a tree-hugging, animal rescuing ecotherapist, but he finds himself drawn to her warm spirit and optimistic outlook. Soon their clashes turn to passion and when she finds herself in danger, Cole becomes her warrior protector.

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## **Julie Miller says**

Loved it! What a great hero. Some incredibly tender and touching moments, yet jam-packed with action and danger. But I love Dana Marton's romantic suspense, so I'm not surprised. Already ordered the next book in the series.

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## **? Jeri's Book Attic ? I like says**

I struggled to connect with these characters - the whole plot felt more like a version of Beauty and the Beast somehow and that was not what I expected when I started reading.

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## **Madison Warner Fairbanks says**

Silent Threat by Dana Marton

Romantic suspense. Fast. Immediately engaging. Well written. A stand alone but takes place within the town boundaries where the series takes place.

I understood the ethical issues of the heroine but hated that she had to make that choice, especially because the timing. Cole was so patient with her. He deserves major kudos for handling her back and forth signals. Plus his lip reading was outstanding. I'm not sure it's like that in real life but hope for the best. The heroine was always good about making sure she was facing Cole and her empathy for him in the group scene was touching and educational for me.

A great read. I will have to go back and finish the series as I've only read the first.

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## Luli says

*You can find this review in English below.*

La señora Marton es una de mis escritoras favoritas de suspense romántico. Su serie Broslin Creek tiene algunas historias que me encantaron. Esta nueva serie es un *spin-off* de Broslin Creek, con la aparición muy breve de alguno de mis personajes favoritos, aunque se puede leer sin necesidad de leer la anterior.

En este caso volvemos a tener unos protagonistas que no son perfectos. Esto siempre es un plus. Cole sufre un severo trastorno de estrés postraumático debido a torturas sufridas durante su cautiverio en manos enemigas, que también lo dejó sordo. Y Annie también ha pasado por varios eventos traumáticos a una edad temprana que la han marcado y convertido en lo que hoy es, una eco-terapeuta. Este también ha sido un ángulo original. Siempre he conocido de los beneficios de los animales y la naturaleza en las personas con traumas, pero este giro tan *terrenal* que nos muestra la autora ha sido nuevo para mí. La pena es que se ha quedado en un par de clichés y no ha profundizado en el asunto, pero ha sido original.

La trama principal de la historia gira en torno al ex de Annie, que se ha vuelto un acosador desde que lo dejaron, y alrededor de la misión encubierta que Cole lleva a cabo en el centro de rehabilitación donde Annie trabaja y donde él ha sido admitido como paciente. Esta es la fuente principal de *estrés* entre la pareja. La relación médico-paciente que hace que el romance sea **muy** inadecuado.

Pero esta vez la historia no ha fluido como debería. Ha habido inconsistencias, o al menos, improbabilidades. Me ha costado creer que una persona con un trastorno tan severo como Cole sea la más adecuada para realizar ese trabajo encubierto. Añade a esto que va a tener que investigar y *espiar* hasta dar con el malo con el hándicap de la sordera. La autora nos muestra en más de una ocasión lo difícil que es para él realizar este trabajo adecuadamente, pero nunca llega a explicar porqué es el elegido para llevarlo a cabo.

El problema de la relación médico-paciente era un problema real. A pesar de que Cole no estaba ingresado *realmente* como paciente, eso no quita que lo necesitase realmente y que su doctora era Annie, así que me ha chocado esa relación. Y me ha chocado que nadie tuviera nada que decir acerca de la poca profesionalidad de Annie.

Y por último tenemos la trama del suspense, (desgraciadamente) con punto de vista del malo, que esta vez, ha sido una caricatura, un personaje sin fondo y con las tan manidas obsesiones de someter sexualmente a la

protagonista. Pero en ningún momento vemos cómo hace y consigue todas sus fechorías. Ha sido uno de esos casos en los que el malo hace y deshace y los buenos no tienen ni la más remota idea de qué está pasando.

Y el epílogo ha sido muy empalagoso. Todos completamente felices sin hablar ni solucionar esos problemas tan graves que arrastraban. Me ha costado mucho creer ese final feliz.

En fin, que no ha sido lo mejor que he leído de esta autora. Esta historia no ha sido original y tampoco realista, le ha faltado profundizar en personajes y trama, se ha quedado en la superficie.

*ARC kindly provided by Montlake Romance via Netgalley.*

Ms. Marton is one of my favorite writers of romantic suspense. Her Broslin Creek series has some stories that I loved. This new series is a *spin-off* of “Broslin Creek”, with brief appearances of some of my favorite characters, although it can be read as a stand alone.

In this instalment, we have MC’s who are not perfect. This is always a plus. Cole suffers a severe PTSD due to torture suffered during his captivity at enemy hands, which also left him deaf. And Annie has also gone through several traumatic events at an early age that have marked her and make her become what she is today, an eco-therapist.

This has been an original angle. I've always known about the benefits of animals and nature in people with traumas, but this turn so *earthy* that the author shows us has been a new one for me. The pity is that she has left it at a couple of clichés and has not deepened into the matter, but it has been original.

The main plot revolves around Annie's ex, who has become a stalker since she ended things with him, and around Cole's undercover mission in the rehabilitation center where Annie works and where he was admitted as a patient.

This is the source of *stress* between the couple. The doctor-patient relationship that makes the romance **highly** inappropriate.

But this time the story has not flowed as it should. There have been important inconsistencies, or at least, improbabilities. It has been hard for me to believe that a person with a disorder as severe as Cole is the most appropriate to perform that covert job. Add to this that he will have to investigate and *spy* until he finds the bad guy with the handicap of deafness. The author shows us on more than one occasion how difficult it is for him to carry out this work properly, but she never explains why he is the one chosen to do it.

The *doctor-patient relationship*’s issue was a real one. Even though Cole was not *really* admitted as a patient, that does not mean he doesn’t really needed it and that his doctor was Annie, so that relationship has shocked me. And I was shocked that nobody had anything to say about Annie's lack of professionalism.

And finally, there is the suspense, (sadly) with the POV of the bad guy, who this time, has been a caricature, a character without a background and with the hackneyed obsessions of trying to sexually subdue the heroine. But at no time do we get to see how he does all his misdeeds. It has been one of those cases in which the bad guy does and undoes at his heart content and the good guys do not have a clue of what is going on.

And the epilogue has been so cloying. All the characters living their HEA without solving all the problems they were carrying. I couldn’t buy it.

So this is not the best I have read by this author. The story has felt underdeveloped and unrealistic. It has

lacked depth in its characters and plot. There were some original elements but it hadn't been enough.

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### **Claire Robinson says**

Really decent story let down by the fact that the author built combustible sexual tension between the H/ h and then neglected to write a decent sex scene for them to work it out in.

Perv that I am, I wanted the sex, and not just a couple of finger bang sessions.

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### **Alison says**

Three and a half stars.

This started really well, Cole Makani Hunter is a former SEAL, partially deaf and with his right arm non-functioning, he has been sent undercover to a new age rehab centre for vets to discover who (staff or patient) is transmitting military secrets to someone in the Yemen.

Annie Murray is an ecotherapist working part-time at the Hope Hill rehab centre in Broslin Pennsylvania. Her treatment consists of helping vets get back in touch with nature through barefoot walks in the woods and drawing analogies between the men with their issues and nature. Whilst at first Annie was a bit new-age hippy dippy for my taste, and Cole wasn't wrong when he called her a tree-hugger, she grew on me. Brought up by a single mother, ostracised and criticised by her maternal grandfather - who she nevertheless continues to care for - and with unresolved issues with her cousin Kelly, Annie tries to make life better for everyone around her and runs an animal sanctuary in her yard.

Annie and Cole have a LOT of back story, it made me wonder whether they had featured in previous books by Dana Marton in different series. Either way, it was good that both had histories and experiences which moulded their lives but didn't overrun them - in other words it wasn't all angst-angst-angst like a YA/NA novel.

Annie has a stalker. I liked the suspense of not knowing who the stalker was and guessing at each character, I also liked the way in which the two stories: Cole's traitor and Annie's stalker wove together. I liked the development of the romantic relationship and the way in which Annie's therapy methods helped Cole deal with his issues whilst not being a miracle cure-all. I even liked the extended epilogue. My only gripe was that the climax felt a bit rushed, I even reread it this morning to see whether I had been mistaken when I read it last night but I remain slightly disappointed that the ending felt rushed rather than the steady build up of tension that usually happens with a romantic suspense.

Overall, I like Dana Marton's novels, she writes interesting characters who aren't all traditionally beautiful and perfect, Cole's initial description of Annie is WAY less than flattering. Also, its funny which is unusual in romantic suspense. Cole and Annie have some really nice banter going on between them, I especially liked when Annie was able to laugh at herself.



I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

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## **Heather says**

This latest book of romantic suspense from author Dana Marton features former Navy SEAL Cole and Annie Murphy. Cole is on an undercover operation at a veterans rehab facility, while Annie is one of the ecotherapists that works at the facility. While Annie is very much aware of the ethical dilemma keeping her from getting involved with a patient, Cole finds little reason to avoid Annie when she falls victim to a stalker. But when the danger escalates, will Annie continue to push Cole away?

This novel had a great balance of suspense and romance even if at times you just wanted Annie to stop fighting her feelings and go after Cole. This is the first novel I have read that featured a deaf hero, Cole lost his hearing and the use of his right arm while fighting overseas. It was interesting how the deafness intersected with Annie's ecotherapy programs and ideas. Or even the difficulties of undercover work without the benefit of hearing. A great read and I look forward to what might come next in the series.

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## **Lucy Dosch says**

Great mystery. Kept me guessing. Cole and Annie, the mother of skunks, are adorable together.

You know that I love my wounded and imperfect heroes. In *Silent Threat*, I got my imperfect hero in Cole Makani Hunter, former Navy SEAL who lost his hearing and most of the use of one arm after an attack and several months of torture at the hands of insurgents. His description made me picture, Dwyane "The Rock" Johnson and it just fit the characters. He is a very large, muscled and very imposing man. Several times he slumps and tries to make himself appear non-threatening to Annie or others that he meets because he knows that he is a big scary guy. As a SEAL, that was great, but back in civilian life, it is not always such a great thing.

Cole has been sent to Hope Hill, a rehab center for veterans, because someone intercepted a message to Yemin with sensitive military information which appears to have come for the facility. He needs to find out if the traitor works at the center or is a patient there and stop him. Since Cole was badly injured after his last mission, and spent some time as a POW before escaping, he goes in as a new patient.

Hope Hill features the normal rehab psychiatrist and therapists, but also has several more creative therapies, including Annie Murray who teaches ecotherapy. Annie feels that connecting with nature helps bring an inner peace to the vets, especially those suffering PTSD. While Cole calls her a tree-hugger, her therapy is more planting plants or just going for a walk and enjoying the sounds of the leaves rustling and birds singing. I liked that manly-man Cole tried to intimidate Annie into letting him out of her tree-hugging program, and that Annie wouldn't back down to him until he gave it a try. After a barefoot walk through the woods and his first nap without drugs since he returned to the States, big guy Cole gives a reluctant, I guess it's okay and becomes a begrudging believer in Annie's work.

There is a quiet calm about Annie which seems to be her biggest problem. Annie is the focus of several enthusiastic suitors--you might call them stalkers--but men seem to have a big problem walking away from Annie. Unlike most stalker novels where the heroine is so beautiful that all men must have her. Here, Annie is attractive but the men focus on her because she is just a kind-soul who has a strong inner peace. Annie's

calm demeanor and gentle touch are a beacon to all these damaged souls and they all need to be with her.

It is the soldier in Cole that realizes that one of her stalkers is escalating. He then insists on accompanying Annie to take care of her rescued animal (part of her soft-heartedness). Unfortunately, while Cole is sticking by Annie for protection and his own obsessive need to be with her, his presence is sending the stalker into fits and creating more problems for Annie.

I can't help my own obsession with trying to figure out who the bad guy is in any mystery, but *Silent Threat* kept me guessing and bouncing around the possible suspects and oddly, that makes me very happy.

Overall, *Silent Threat* was an enjoyable story with strong characters, a believable storyline and a perfect amount of tension to keep you reading.

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## **Bea Charmed says**

How have I not read Dana Marton before now?!? I loved this book and the story. It made me so very happy. I was even happier when I realized I have some books in her Broslin Creek series that I picked up as Kindle freebies a while back. :) :) That's a good thing as the next book in this series, "Threat of Danger", isn't out until June. :( This series appears to be a spin-off, or at least related to the Broslin Creek books but I had no trouble reading it as a stand-alone.

### **What I Liked:**

1) Our hero, Cole Makani Hunter, is not the standard white, abled hero. He's mixed race, Hawaiian Pacific Islander and Caucasian. How about that, an MC who's not lily white. That was a nice change. He has limited mobility in one arm and deafness due to injuries sustained while on active duty. He does pretty well reading lips but he doesn't get it right a hundred percent of the time which seems to be true to life. I appreciated that our heroine, Annie, was always careful to look right at him or otherwise place herself so he could see her lips easily to read them. While being deaf came with certain challenges, it wasn't a main part of the story, and there was more to Cole than being deaf or having limited arm functionality. They were part of who was, like his dark eyes, his impatience, and his love for his pickup truck. Neither his ethnicity nor his physical challenges were the focus of the story, but simply aspects of the character.

2) Annie Murray was a wonderful character even if her name gave me fits. Every time her whole name was on page, I thought of country singer Anne Murray. I even visualized Annie as Anne Murray. Yeah, I know. I'm showing my age. But hey, I listened to some Anne Murray songs while typing this up and that was good. :D

Anyway, Annie Murray, our heroine, loves animals, nature, and helping. She's a nurturer and a caretaker. She runs an animal rescue out of her garage with dreams of expanding into proper facilities. Meanwhile, she works as an ecotherapist. In Annie's words, "Ecotherapy is basically ecopsychology. We use nature to connect to our inner nature...Ecotherapy is about healing both people and their environment." I was a little unsure of ecotherapy at first and so was Cole. He was resistant at first but over the course of the book he starts to see its benefits and accept it as a legitimate and useful form of therapy.

While Annie is a lover and a healer, she's not weak. She can does take care of herself, both emotionally and physically, but also asks for and accepts help. Okay, she had trouble with the latter but she was able to do it.

She seemed like someone I would want to be friends with and I'd happily help with the animals. Even the skunks.

3) The story. Cole is undercover at the rehab center and that means therapy sessions in a variety of fields while he investigates. Several times, he wonders if there really is a mission or if the commander tricked him into getting help, and I admit, I had the same doubts. But there are mysteries, yes, more than one. Marton reeled me in, kept me reading, and kept me guessing. I had so many guesses and eventually I was right, lol. She provided lots of clues and hints, you just had to decipher them correctly.

The story grabbed me from the first page and I read it in one sitting. The pacing, the characters, the settings, the details, it all worked for me. The story flowed and was a good balance of action, dialog, humor, and romance. I had one qualm and that was that Cole and Annie were therapist and patient when they met and their relationship developed. Annie is hyper aware of this and tries to restrain to keep things professional. I didn't completely buy Marton's workaround to the ethical problem but it did ease my mind. I liked the gradual development of their feelings, the slow burn, and that they didn't rush into things emotionally or physically. The payoff was worth the wait.

"Silent Threat" was 4 solid stars, a wonderful blend of mystery and romance, with wonderful characters, both human and animal. Bring on book two!

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### **Book Lover says**

Cole Hunter is a tattooed, muscled, protective, alpha male, combat injured, medically retired Navy Seal. He is deaf and has minimal use of his right arm. His former CO calls and asks him to go undercover at Hope Hill to find who is leaking confidential military information to the enemy. Hope Hill is a healing place for recovering vets with psychological and/or physical injuries.

Annie Murray is an average looking ecotherapist with dreams of opening her own animal sanctuary. While I believe alternative therapies have a place in modern medicine, she came across as an over the top, sappy, Mary Poppins. She has not had any positive male relationships to date and currently has a stalker.

Cole signs himself into Hope Hill and begins his introduction into the different types of therapies available to him. When he meets Annie, he is rolling his eyes at her tree hugger ways. While he doesn't officially sign up for her therapy, he finds himself taking frequent nature hikes with her. Cole is surprised when Annie's unconventional nature therapy helps him unwind and relax.

While Annie finds herself attracted and drawn to Cole, she staunchly uses the no therapist/patient relationships allowed as an excuse to keep Cole at arms length. Yet, she continues to seek him out, goes with him when he seeks her out, and takes him to her house to help feed her animals.

There are several "no way would this happen or be allowed IRL" moments. If you can get past those, it's a good interwoven romantic suspense. Annie and Cole's relationship is slow developing for most of the book. I figured out early who the stalker was, and was pretty sure who the traitor was.

I struggled with Annie's character and never came to really like her. I really liked the concept of Hope Haven, intermingling modern medicine with alternative therapies.

This my first book by this author and an ok read. I'd be interested in seeing where the author takes this series next.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC provided by NetGalley and the publisher.

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