



## Shaman's Blues

*Amber Foxx*

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*The second Mae Martin psychic mystery*

On the eve of her move to New Mexico psychic and healer Mae Martin gets a double-edged going-away gift: beautiful music by a man who's gone missing, and a request to find him. In her new home town, she quickly runs afoul of a questionable psychic who runs a health food restaurant. When Mae confronts her, the woman disappears—either to Santa Fe, or into another dimension. Now Mae has two missing persons on her hands. Finding them may prove easier than learning the truth about either or getting one of them, once found, to go away again.

## **The Mae Martin Series**

*No murder, just mystery. Every life hides a secret, and love is the deepest mystery of all.*

## **Shaman's Blues Details**

Date : Published April 2015 (first published February 14th 2014)

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Author : Amber Foxx

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## From Reader Review Shaman's Blues for online ebook

### Rachel Watts says

Tossing up between 3 and 3.5 stars, ended up going with 3 but your results may vary.

The spiritual side of it, the “shaman” of the title, wasn’t overplayed. Foxx runs her fraudulent Muffie character alongside Mae’s earnestness in a playful, tongue-in-cheek way. In fact, the whole novel is shot through with a really enjoyable sense of humour that made even the more grating aspects of Mae’s saviour complex enjoyable. This is a light read and if I could change anything about it (other than the cover art) I’d probably give it another edit and make it a little tighter. That’s a little quibble though, fans of mysteries would no doubt enjoy this a great deal.

Full review here: <http://leatherboundpounds.wordpress.c...>

I was supplied with a free Kindle version of the novel by the author.

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### C.L. says

The author's use of imagery is stunningly good. I liked this novel a lot but wished it could have ended on a less ambiguous note. Even so, it makes me want to read a Part 2. Good work!

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### Richard says

If you haven't read The Calling, please run off and do that now. I can wait... All done? OK now, forget my little review here and just go read Shaman's Blues. It's even better than Ms Foxx's first novel, and that was a really good book.

I started reading this yesterday evening and gulped down half of it in one sitting, partly because I got a little case of the madly gushing eyeballs in Chapter Two. (If you read The Calling and you're not Mr Spock and you get to Chapter Two here, you'll kind of figure out why.) Ms Foxx has a pretty amazing way of sucking me into the emotional lives of her characters, and getting tears to well up rather frequently.

The setting is mainly Santa Fe, and the author does a great job of evoking the lush, colorful desert southwest. Her writing is clear, warm, literary, intelligent. She also has a fabulous way with descriptions of musical texture, something I always enjoy in a book when it's well done. The story picks up right where The Calling left off, and I was happy to know that I didn't miss a moment of Mae Martin's life, even though I waited months for this book to come out after I read the first one.

Shaman's Blues is mostly a two-character book, at least up to the 67% mark where I am now, and a lot of it concerns interpersonal relationships, especially the dance between Jamie and Mae. It's kind of an emotional roller-coaster, too, because the characters each have a big bunch o' baggage they're lugging; but they're also *super* huggable.

Finally, finished or not, I couldn't prevent myself from rushing over to the keyboard and registering my amped up level of *Squeeness*.

Ms Foxx publishes herself, and I will note for skeptics that her copy-editing is truly excellent. Up to chapter twenty I have not spotted any typos. This is a first-class, professional piece of prose. (Note to budding authors: *This is how it's done kiddies*. Observe and learn.)

Also, P.S. in the interests of full disclosure: I do *not* know the author personally; I *did* pay full price for the book at B&N; and I would do so again, easily.

P.P.S. Finished. The resolution to the "Muffie" mystery was wonderful. LOL.

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### **Victoria Zigler says**

Having enjoyed book one, I was eager to read this book. I was not disappointed. In fact, this second book in the series is even better than the first, since it actually involves more of the mystery aspect the series title led me to expect.

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### **Andrea Stoeckel says**

[ I received this book free from the author and I thank her for her generosity. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising]

"How do other people see the world? What is out there that we might be missing?"

Mae Martin has gone west from her home in Virginia to Truth or Consequences New Mexico to live near her long lost father and his partner Niall. She has enrolled in the College her father works at, and the Fall Semester starts soon. However, in the meantime they've asked her to make their investment home in Santa Fe ready for their next tenant. This is a bigger job than anyone wants to tackle. The last tenant was evicted for breaking every part of her lease, and not giving a figg about it. And, Marty hopes that Mae can heal their house cat, Sweetiepie, who was traumatized almost beyond saving by the tenant's illegal dog. Between the dog hair, the smoking and just being an overall slob, Marty and Niall hope Mae can get the house liveable again.

Add in a young "weird" man: Jamie Ellerbee, who is a gifted musician and singer but an overall "mess". As needy as Jamie is, he seems to heal Pie (the cat), while getting closer to Mae. However, Jamie's got a lot of baggage, and seems to throwing some of it towards her, as she tries to find him a lifeline. All this as she deals with the true ending of her marriage to Hubert, and his subsequent attempts to move on, and take her step daughters with him.

This book, the second in the series, is as wonderful as the first. However, it feels sometimes like this reader was kind of "drowning" in all the "stuff" that is presented, psychically and physically. Ms. Foxx does sort it

out, but I was so tired at the end, I need a break from this series to regroup ( and I say that very tongue-in-cheek). I highly recommend this book.

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## Lisl says

Second in Amber Foxx's *Mae Martin Mysteries* series, *Shaman's Blues* gives us a sneak peak into a dire moment in Jamie Ellerbee's life, then re-opens with Mae Martin as she prepares to leave her Virginia practice where, until now, she offered energy healing and psychic services. A year since discovering her psychic ability, Mae is now in the midst of a divorce and about to embark on a journey to New Mexico, where she will attend university and re-unite with her father, who came out and separated from his family when Mae was a teenager.

Before leaving, her soon-to-be-former supervisor, Deborah, gifts a CD of healing music to Mae, with an "ulterior motive," as Deborah playfully calls it. The musician, Jangerrai, seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth, or at least from Santa Fe and all known Internet, and Mae is tasked with finding him.

It doesn't take Mae long to encounter a variety of personalities: her father and his peevish partner, Niall; Kenny, her new neighbor; even Muffie Blanchette, owner of a local restaurant that caters to what Neill refers to as "spiritual tourism." Dada Café, called after an art style later linked to theater, utilizes customers in a similar way as the stage movement, with the philosophy that the "audience is as much a part of the show as the actors."

Muffie, who typically circulates, advising patrons on colors, food intake and the state of their auras, disappears following an encounter with pragmatic Mae, who is then informed by the manger, Roseanne, of Muffie's stated intent to *ascend*. She thinks Muffie is a whackjob, and shows the psychic Muffie's website:

*Sri Rama Kriya teaches us how to choose our time and leave our bodies without pain or death, how to channel our spirits directly to the upper realms of energy and light. When you study Ascended Bliss, you are freed from the cycle of karma and rebirth, and from your body.*

At this point Roseanne enlists Mae to find Muffie, steering her two searches together and leading the healer toward a path inhabited by a series of quirky characters of many temperaments. Foxx even sets the story in a place with a cautionary moniker: Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, pertinent not only for being an unusual designation, but also the city's acquisition of it whereby the inhabitants became part of the television show it gets its name from.

As I was getting started, I'd wondered if the book would read like a New Age novel, but Foxx keeps it diverse, with doubt even from Mae re: the veracity of some individuals' beliefs, and includes the added bonus of treating vulnerable characters with dignity. *Shaman's Blues* is also a smooth read with an intriguing landscape to match the sense of place infused within:

*Openness to the odd fit with the character of the land: vast empty spaces of juniper-stubbled pink-beige dirt, dramatic wind-carved cliffs, narrow hoodoo towers, broad mesas, blood red arroyos, black volcanic teeth jutting from brown earth. Anything seemed possible here.*

Fortunately, Mae is open to these possibilities, and as she encounters answers new questions arise, leading her to be a detective of sorts in the life's mysteries referred to in the series' tagline, "Every life hides a

secret." What secrets are these two people hiding? As she makes considerable strides in her searches while also trying to live her life, Mae begins to recognize the realities of hiding behind created identities, to become someone more fascinating as well as more ordinary, to hide from others and from one's own self.

As Mae locates Jangerrai and begins to unravel some of the mystery behind a semi exchange of roles involving the two missing persons, she becomes familiar with the world of the shaman, part of his world whereby an individual in aboriginal Australian society is chosen by the spirits to learn to utilize the elements and act as a go-between for the human and spiritual dimensions. It is a heady realm to be investigating and the skittish singer only slowly and reluctantly reveals to Mae the events that brought him to the place he now inhabits.

The journey is one that Foxx maps out with expertise and finesse, playing knowingly to reader expectations and drawing back at just the right moments. We feel Mae's frustrations, sometimes groan at her enduring patience, and always eagerly read on to see what she is coming to know, whether it be more recounting of events or details that link her closer to understanding the past. It is a topographic exploration of the psyche to learn the lay of the land, and she must walk it to determine the features and their limitations, as well as which direction to move from there.

Few of us have the gifts Mae is given, but we have in common with her our own limitations, such as with a likeable but needy person who holds on too much, too long. "It was going to be a long, long night. Mae hoped she could get through it still liking him. He had the potential to either entertain her or get on her nerves, and it was a fifty-fifty which way things would go."

The author also tosses in the familiar in a new way—"Whoop - missed the street - chuck a yewy"—and humor we can relate to—"a van that looked old enough to vote"—to create a balance of the fresh and familiar. In so doing, she also tells us a story with a potentially heavy framework, but in a manner that keeps us from having to perform the heavy lifting.

As she begins to wind down, Foxx also gives us a thrilling few moments, within the plot as well as where it all will take those involved, including readers. I personally was pleased to see that certain events do and do not transpire, and how the author takes us back to Mae's beginnings while also showing the resultant links amongst various players. These are sure to spur readers to seek out number one in the series and learn the events in Mae's own life, her marriage, the discovery of her gifts, everything that leads her to the moment she herself now inhabits, where we as readers first came together.

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### **Skye Skye says**

The first book of the Mae Martin series *The Calling*, sets the ground work for what's to follow in *Shaman's Blues*. Mae journeys to New Mexico to meet up with her father and his partner. The dual settings of Santa Fe and Truth and Consequence provide a perfect background for this book and the emergence of Jamie. Ms. Foxx successfully and artistically creates a very intense portrait of a very complex man. This was quite enjoyable and somewhat troubling. The book will greatly appeal to lovers of music, yoga and dance as well as the state of NM.

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## **Indiebrag says**

We are proud to announce that SHAMAN'S BLUES (Mae Martin Mysteries) by Amber Foxx is a B.R.A.G.Medallion Honoree. This tells a reader that this book is well worth their time and money!

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