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Marianne de Pierres

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Oddly, Hamish is the only one she can rely on. Life is complicated.

Mythmaker Details

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From Reader Review Mythmaker for online ebook

Kimberlee says

That ending! So when is the next one coming about??? I really enjoyed this, if you couldn't notice. I really love Virgin. Sixkiller is fantastic. You get more of Hamish. I oddly am fond of him. And Caro is amazing. Just need the next one.

Joelene says

The only thing Virgin Jackson ever wanted to do was protect Birrimun Park, the world's last nature reserve from anything that tried to harm it. With a murder rap hanging over her head and an international organisation, GJIC, only willing to protect her from it if she agrees to work for them the park will have to wait.

Now Virgin's trying to figure out what the Mythos are up to, find a way to keep the higher ups from shutting the park down and search for any evidence that her father might have left before he died. Luckily she's not on her own. As always, the brilliant Caro has her back. Nate Sixkiller can teach her the ropes of this new supernatural world she's found herself in. And – surprisingly – Hamish always seems to be around when she gets into a close scrape.

Finally the long-awaited – okay, year-long awaited – second book in the award-winning Peacemaker series is out! If you've not read the first, I'd recommend doing so. Mythmaker does a decent job of getting new readers up to speed but considering the amount of action, mystery and character development in Peacemaker, it can only do so much.

Peacemaker was one of those books that crosses genres to create something wholly unique. To summarise as succinctly as possible, it's an Australian futuristic Western that ambles into mystery and then surges into action before hitting us with a double dose of paranormal. Even with that rollercoaster ride of a first novel, I was not expecting the twists and turns I found in the second.

First up, Hamish. I mean, what? I don't know where that came from, and I don't care. I am on board with it. And I don't say this lightly. Bad boys are about a million light years away from my thing, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't squee a little whenever Hamish showed up. He doesn't try to talk Virgin out of doing things her way, he doesn't condescend to her. She figures out what she's doing and he helps out. Also, if she says that she can do something, he believes her. There are so many more nuances in his and Virgin's relationship than there are between her and Sixkiller, or Heart.

The world comes together so much more in Mythmaker. Peacemaker set the scene and let us meet the remarkable players, but there was little about Mythos and much of the novel took place in the park. In Mythmaker the world of Mythos just explodes. It's a much more in depth look at the supernatural, exploring what the Mythos are, what they want and how humans might shape them.

Fast-paced action from start to overwhelming finish, Mythmaker ups the ante from the first chapter. My only question now is, how long until book three?

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 2.5 of 5

About two years ago I was really thrilled to have read/reviewed Marianne de Pierres' book, *Peacemaker*. *Mythmaker* is the second book in the Peacemaker series and I was really looking forward to it. I wrote then about how excited I was to find a novel that crossed so many genres and had such an original premise. That hasn't changed.

Picking up where the last book left off, Virgin Jackson is facing a murder rap and is being blackmailed into working with a secret, subversive (?) organization called GJIC (the Global Joint Intelligence Commission). The head of the GJIC is her own mother, whom she had thought dead. The Mythos (creatures from another world) sightings are increasing with Birrimun Park (where Virgin is a ranger) being their prime location. Virgin's brother appears to be stirring up trouble between some human factions. Her best friend Caro is up to something. Her new partner Nate Sixkiller takes a little bit of a back seat in this adventure, while Hamish steps it up. All around her things seem to be getting out of control and Virgin clings to any bit of humanity left, while stepping up her game in confronting everything head on.

Just as with the last book, the action here comes fast and furious and is always surrounding Virgin, meaning she moves from one hot-spot to another, and in nearly every instance it's a very heightened issue and each instance barely gives Virgin (or the reader) a chance to breathe. And yet ... nothing really happens.

Okay, *things* happen, but story progress doesn't appear to happen.

This entire book feels like a spacer. A conduit to connect book one and a future book. Everything that happens here is to provide background for something that never comes to fruition in this book. Despite the action and the interactions, everything that happens is a set-up or background information for a part of the story that isn't delivered here.

One moment (or extended series of moments) that felt the most connected was when Virgin needed to step into the middle of a potential gang war and talk both sides out of it, trying to convince them that the responsible party for a previous action was not either side, but an outside party. Because the gang threats were escalating, the army begins to move in, shooting first and fire is spreading throughout the area. Virgin takes the time and risks her life to evacuate a young boy and his infant sister (knowing that their mother is already dead). This is a nice, albeit strange moment. Is this simply Virgin's attempt to hold onto something resembling humanity within everything that's going on around her, or will this boy play a part in the story later? It's a nice moment, but a strange one, given everything else that happens.

I still like the world that Marianne de Pierres has created and I was really looking forward to getting more into the Mythos and sorting out the relationships between the gangs and GJIC. The closest we come is when someone from a gang sees Virgin's spirit animal (which is otherwise not present in this book). Otherwise, this was quite disappointing.

I really don't like when a publisher/author puts out a book that isn't a book. Just because it has a lot of pages and actions doesn't make it a story. A story needs a beginning a middle and an end. This has only 'middle.' This book should either have been split up with parts going to the first and the next book, or the entire series should have been one book.

There is a time and a place for serial story-telling. If this were a 100-page novella in e-book format or even in low-cost paperback format I would be slightly more forgiving, but for a 300+ page book at full price for a story that only adds to the questions and solves none...? I can't recommend that.

I give this a moderately decent rating (2.5, which will round up to 3 on Goodreads and Amazon), and I will look forward to the third book, because I like the characters and the world and de Pierres' writing, and I do want to find out how it all works together (and I really want to know more about the Mythos and the spirit animals!), but I don't appreciate being strung along this way. At least give me a resolved sub-plot to tide me over!

Looking for a good book? *Mythmaker*, by Marianne de Pierres, is the second in her innovative and thrilling "Peacemaker" series, but the book is mostly filler to bridge the gap between the first book and what is still to come. If you are okay with that, and have read the first book, you'll enjoy this one. If you haven't read the first book, or you don't like stories without end, then you'll want to wait for the series to be completed.

I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Amanda Wrangles says

Back in 2014 when I read and reviewed Marianne de Pierres' latest novel, the genre-mashing-spaghetti-western-science-fiction-and-the-rest: 'Peacemaker', I asked for more. More of everything. More street politics, more insight into the large cast of fascinating side-characters, more of the government conspiracies. Peacemaker was just so much fun, so fast and entertaining, but it felt like the tip of the iceberg. The world de Pierres had created was so vast, Peacemaker just didn't feel like it was long enough. I didn't want it to end. But now, we have 'Mythmaker'. And, as readers, we get the more I was after. And then some.

Set just a few weeks after the action-packed finale of Peacemaker, Mythmaker picks up with de Pierres' trademark way of throwing the reader right into the scene, and protagonist Virgin Jackson right into trouble. There's no mucking around with slow introductions here. Check the blurb:

Virgin's in a tight spot. A murder rap hangs over her head and isn't likely to go away unless she agrees to work for an organisation called GJIC (the Global Joint Intelligence Commission). Being blackmailed is one thing, discovering that her mother is both alive and the President of GJIC is quite another. Then there's the escalation of Mythos sightings and the bounty on her head. Oddly, Hamish is the only one she can rely on. Life is complicated.

The complications don't stop there, either. Something is up with Virgin's BFF, the fabulous Caro (the outcome of which is handled with extreme respect by Virgin), we see more of her softer, more compassionate side – along with her fearlessness and uncompromising passion to protect who and what she loves. Virgin hasn't lost her penchant for walking into trouble though, and there were a number of scenes where I wanted to scream at her: 'NO, NO, NO DON'T GO IN THERE!'

While caring for Birrimum Park - the last remaining natural habitat - as Park Ranger in a futuristic world is still Virgin's true passion, she spends more time away from it (by necessity) in order to save it this time around. We see more mythology combined with the hi-tech gadgetry, weapons and conflict. We also get more of the fabulous cast of supporting characters; some return from Peacemaker, plus a couple of newbies to spice things up and allow us to get to know a different side to Virgin. Her brilliant cowboy/secret agent partner, Nate SixKiller is back, as is the mysterious Hamish (who gets even more mysterious), and we learn there's even more to the ex-lover, formally known as Heart, than we already did.

I can easily say that while I very much enjoyed Peacemaker, I adored Mythmaker. It's like nothing else I've

read before. The mashing of genres, the world, the action of the city and the solace of the park, the suspense and the detective work. Marianne de Pierres makes this type of story-telling an art-form, but best of all, she does it with characters and relationships you can't help but fall in love with.

And still...I want even more. Book 3, please!

Amy Parker says

Mythmaker is the second book in the Peacemaker series, and I definitely recommend reading the previous book - - before this one in order to fully appreciate it. Mythmaker starts off assuming you already know the situation in futuristic Australia, and what has already happened to Virgin Jackson.

The first book hinted at the supernatural, but aside from the disincarnates (kind of the spirit animals of the characters), there wasn't as much as I'd expected. Mythmaker is where the author really delves into the spooky side of things, now that Virgin has been accepted into GJIC, an organisation dedicated to studying and protecting people from the Mythos - mythological beings that are somehow manifesting and hurting unsuspecting humans.

The thing I most loved about this book was that instead of the usual tired mythological beings like vampires and werewolves, the author used little-known creatures. The one that stood out most for me was the Pocong, an Indonesian spirit that looked like a body tied up in a shroud. The Mythos are also aided by a human organisation bent on escalating conflict in the world so it's easier for them to manifest, which adds an extra edge of threat.

Virgin is still very new to all this, and naturally, her reaction is primarily one of 'what the hell is this and what do I do?' when she comes across new threats.

Secondary characters such as Nate, Caro and Hamish are back, and we learn new and interesting things about them as Virgin does. The plot thread about Virgin's father is also continued to an intriguing conclusion, and she also gets to interact with her estranged mother, now a GJIC commander.

I would have liked to see a little more of Virgin in Park Ranger mode, but she steps out of the park for most of the book and there's less of a Western feel to this one as a result. The fast-paced action and Virgin's gradually growing confidence in dealing with the supernatural make up for it, though.

The book has a solid conclusion that I didn't expect, and though most things are tied up neatly, there's a plotline that could make for another book in future. Pretty please?

I received an advance copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Steven R. McEvoy says

Amazing

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Full review to follow.

...

I was waiting months and months for Advance Reader's Copies of this book to come out. That is one of the big problems with getting review copies it is that much longer until the next book in a series publishes. I kept checking again and again to see if Angry Robot had review copies available. When it finally showed up boy oh boy was I excited. I could not wait to see what Virgin Jackson and Nate Sixkiller would get up to next. I was not disappointed.

These books read like a cross between old Clint Eastwood spaghetti westerns fused with Robert A. Heinlein, Frank Herbert or Alfred Bester. It is an awesome mix of western, soft science fiction and a strong bent to religious studies or spiritual realities. The three authors mentioned above all among my all time favourites going back to when I was just a teen gorging on any book I could get my hands on, and comparing de Pierres to them is among the highest praise I can give.

This book continues almost immediately after book 1 - Peacemaker. Virgin is still stuck between a rock and a hard place. She has been black mailed by her mother to work for a government organization; the CJIC. Her mother that she did not even know was alive. She still has a murder charge hanging over her head and a cop that does not want to seem to let it go. And it seems that with every day her life and responsibilities get more and more complicated. With such problems as a bounty on her head, an escalation in Mythos sightings and discovering her mostly estranged brother is somehow involved with this whole situation is not making Virgin's life any easier. And for someone who would prefer to spend most of her time alone on her horse patrolling the preserve she is spending far more time with way more people then she really wants to.

This story seems to have both a fast and a slow pace. Part of it is the back and forth between extreme action and trying to figure things out. We get to know both Virgin and Nate better and have an even greater appreciation for them and what motivates them. They are very well written characters. The pace of the story is great and when you hit the end you are desperate for more. So hopefully there will be at least a third book of not more in the series.

This was an awesome read and I highly recommend the series, but unlike some series this one should really be read in order. One of my top reads of 2015 out of the 113 books read by the writing of this review.

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#) and reviews of other books by Marianne de Pierres.

Sarah says

I normally avoid books that venture in to the whole supernatural type world. When I started reading the first book in this series I wasn't aware that the story would delve into this realm. Good thing too or I never would have read the book. I have enjoyed the story and the pace of these books as well as the different characters. There is quite an eclectic mix of genres and somehow it all comes together to make an interesting story. This book ends on a bit of a cliffhanger and I'm eagerly looking forward to the next book. I hope it comes out soon! I'm also hoping that there is a little more world building in any future books. The story takes place in Australia but it would be nice to have a bit broader view on what is going on in the rest of the world and how it fits in to the story with the mythos.

Tsana Dolichva says

Mythmaker by Marianne de Pierres is the sequel to Peacemaker, which I reviewed when it was released. It took me a while to get around to reading Mythmaker and then a while to actually finish it. The former is

because I don't really like Westerns, so even though I enjoyed the first book, I was hesitant to start the second. The latter is mostly because of life events disrupting my reading.

As I said, I'm not a fan of Westerns, so I wasn't sure how much I would like Mythmaker. As it happens, it felt like less of a Western than the first book, so that worked out for me. On the other hand, it was also less science fictional and more (urban) fantastical than the first book, which worked for the plot and so forth, despite the SF elements being what I enjoyed most in the first book. Your mileage may vary. Also, having read this book over a rather long period of time (like, a few months), I got to have breaks from the elements I liked less, like Sixkiller, the American almost-cowboy.

My overwhelming memories/impression of Mythmaker are of violence. I'm pretty sure it was more violent than the first book and there were some scenes that were pretty intense. Not only was Virgin in something like a war-zone at one point, there was also a lot of up close and personal grisly murders. So heads up, if that's something that might bother you.

Plot-wise, there are a lot of threads in this book and while it's fair to say most of them were addressed, I didn't feel like they were all addressed satisfactorily. And the ending was certainly not what I expected, as far as resolving Virgin's story goes. I am not sure whether a sequel is planned. I wouldn't be surprised to hear that book three isn't on the cards, but well. Much was unresolved. I was kind of looking forward to seeing how things came together, but instead we got [tropes redacted for spoilers].

From the above, you could be forgiving for thinking I didn't like Mythmaker at all. That isn't the case. I genuinely enjoyed reading it and kept picking it up, especially in the last third or so, without pressuring myself to do so. De Pierres is a good writer and it was the readability that kept me turning the pages. I also liked Virgin, despite her somewhat self-destructive character. I kind of wanted to shout at her to look after herself better. But as I said, I was glad the Sixkiller wasn't too prominent in the latter part of this book. On the other hand, I pretty much would have liked to see more of the other characters like investigative journalist/friend Caro, particularly given the ending.

If you liked Peacemaker and want to read more about the characters, then I definitely recommend reading Mythmaker. However, be prepared for the increased violence. (The shift in genre should not be a surprise if you read the first book, at least.) I wouldn't recommend new readers start from this book, since a lot of worldbuilding is set up in the first book. If a sequel ever eventuates (very uncertain), they I will be picking it up. We'll see.

3.5 / 5 stars

You can read more of my reviews on my blog.

Maree Kimberley says

Loved this urban fantasy, the second in the Peacemaker series that features the wonderfully named ranger-come-crime-fighter and all-round kick-arse chick, Virgin Jackson.

There is so much to love about this book. The action, the characters, the pacing, the dialogue. It's a great read from start to finish with fantastic world-building, strong relationships and a fascinating mythology that underscores the whole deal.

The only problem I have is that the 3rd in the series hasn't been released yet. I need more Virgin Jackson!

Highly recommended for readers who love urban fantasy and action-adventure.

Ryan Lawler says

After having such a good time with *Peacemaker*, I couldn't help but feel disappointed with *Mythmaker*. The pace was electric, the characters were colourful, but the plot progression was minimal. *Mythmaker* is a filler story, and it's good filler, but ultimately it feels like the purpose of this story is simply to position all the pieces to make sure they're ready for the third book. I'll be there for the third book, but my excitement to read it has definitely diminished.

Ju Transcendancing says

Short version: I loved this and it was a great continuation from the first book *Peacemaker*. My full review is available on my blog, AWW15: *Mythmaker* by Marianne de Pierres.

Tracy says

I loved *Peacemaker* so much that I immediately began *Mythmaker* upon finishing it and I wasn't disappointed with this, the second book in de Pierres series set in a future Australia.

Mythmaker follows on almost immediately from where *Peacemaker* ended. Virgin Jackson and Nate Sixkiller are still a team, in fact Virgin has been coerced into working for CJIC by her mother. (At the end of *Peacemaker* Virgin's mother, whom she had thought dead, turned out to be the head of this clandestine organisation.)

Life has become decidedly more complicated for Virgin: Mythos sightings have been increasing and her investigations reveal her brother's involvement in the human faction working to bring the Mythos into Virgin and Nate's world for, as Virgin describes it an "other worldly coup." In addition a dogged police officer is determined to charge Virgin with murder.

So, Virgin has a web of tangled emotional dilemmas to deal with - her antagonism with her mother whom she sees as abandoning her, her troubled brother, her best friend's illness and several potential love interests. (What I like here is that these "love interests" are deftly woven throughout the plot, but are not the driving force and Virgin is not head over heels for anyone. What will happen with them though is anyone's guess.)

In *Mythmaker*, de Pierres, once again immerses us in her writing with terrific world building and a cracking pace. The genre blending of western, crime, sci-fi and fantasy still held all its appeal as it did in the first book and the characters just get even better.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Mythmaker* and couldn't put it down until I finished it. Bring on the next book in the series!

Four Stars.

Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says

In Peacemaker we are introduced to Virgin Jackson and her love for Birrimun Park - the world's last natural landscape. Her lingering sadness of losing her father and having to work with a new partner. Nate Sixkiller, the US Marshall now trainee. After the events in book one she is now having to (grudgingly) work for GJIC and now Sixkiller is her boss.

You do not have to read book one to fully enjoy Mythmaker. There is enough world building and explanations for everyone to enjoy as a standalone. I have to say that I enjoyed this book so much! I didn't want to leave Virgin and the ending had me on the edge of my seat. I was sad to see her go and now I will forever wonder what could happen next.

Mythmaker was a thrill ride. Virgin spends less time at the Park and more time in the Megacity investigating the escalated Mythos sightings. She is being watched, followed and a hit has been put out on her. Virgin must go to the darkest, dirtiest parts of town all while trying to keep a low profile, yet question those who are connected to the Mythos.

With the help of Hamish and her best friend Caro, Virgin is lucky to still be alive by the end. She shows a lot of personality and empathy as not only her work life has changed but her personal life is turned upside down. There is all out war, action packed scenes and long kept secrets that have to come center stage to save the world.

I highly enjoyed Mythmaker, it kept me hooked and constantly surprised with the twists. In Peacemaker I was introduced to Virgin Jackson, now in Mythmaker I never wanted to let her go. What a fun ride.

Deborah Ideiosepius says

Two and a half stars for a great concept and world-building. Minus two and a half for poor writing, poor characterisation, bad editing and not making sense a lot of the time. I am tempted to lose another whole star for that idiotic fox on the cover art, but I restrained myself.

This is the second in the 'Peacemaker' series an Australian future-ish, cyberpunk-kinda, adventure story. Virgin Jackson and cohort continue the plot arc that began in the previous book, "Mythmaker" without having read the previous I would NOT AT ALL recommend trying this one. Since it is so very much a continuation, practically all this review is a spoiler for the first book.

Virgin has been blackmailed into working for an international FBI-esque organisation that hunts spookie stuff called 'Mythos' that were introduced in the last novel. The organisation calls itself GJIC and I wonder if its founding fathers were not named Scully and Mulder. The blackmail element is that Virgin is suspected of murder by a local (yet totally ineffectual) cop. As a GJIC she has protection but if she reneges she could go to gaol. We are reminded of this throughout the book a number of times. Oh, yes, apparently the mother she never knew she had is head of GJIC, we get reminded of this a fair bit to. I didn't like this plot element; forcing our leading lady into doing the right thing wouldn't even be nessecary if she wasn't such an immature waste case.

The park, which was a lot of my favourite bit from the first novel is almost entirely absent and instead a lot of our time is spent in the shanty town whose name I already forget. There is a cyberpunk/bladerunner feel to this that I would normally enjoy. Once again the reader has to suffer Virgin doubting her Eagle! FFS she does not deserve one, why do GJIC even want someone this stupid? We already went through this for about 300 pages in the first book.

I was going to go into an itemised extrapolation of all the things that I felt were poorly done, but I am going to go and read a good book instead I will just say that: The Author has great world building, and good future visionary plotting. Also, she seems to have really good ideas for characters without the skills to bring them out of the one dimension stereotypes or to develop their characters over time. The plot lines often seem awkward, contrived and to rely very heavily on the leading character doing batshit crazy things which she gets out of solely due to Dues Ex Machina.

I would love to see the author collaborate with someone who could reinforce her characterisation skills, provide a sounding board for the likelihood of actions and scenarios, provide editing to reduce the repetition of having characters tell us over and over what has just happened.

There is so much that could be really good about this book. Best suited to younger readers who will love the freshness of the world and concept, and who have a better chance of relating to Virgin Jackson who behaves like a teenager even though she is not meant to be one.

PS. What is with that stupid fox on the cover? If it means, as I suspect it does, that there is a #3 in the series coming I'm not sure I will bother reading it.

Liz says

Think a dark western meets TAZ Amnesty
