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Jennifer Estep

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The *New York Times* bestselling Elemental Assassin series continues with a new e-novella--from the point of view of Finnegan Lane, the foster brother of Gin Blanco, and a fan favorite of readers of the series.

The fallout from his disastrous “family reunion” in *Bitter Bite* has left Finn feeling hurt, angry, and depressed. He can barely stand to look at himself in the mirror, much less eat any of the delicious barbecue from Gin’s famed Pork Pit restaurant.

But when the funeral for a slain security guard at his bank turns into a showdown with some nasty underworld giants, Finn knows that he must act in order to protect an innocent family.

Finnegan Lane might be the most unwanted man in Ashland these days, but he’s determined to try to make amends for his past mistakes...

Unwanted Details

Date : Published July 18th 2016 by Pocket Star

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Author : Jennifer Estep

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From Reader Review Unwanted for online ebook

Katie Michaels says

The idea of having a Finn-centric novella in this series seemed like a fun idea. I wish I could say that it lived up to its potential. It's not a bad story, necessarily, but there is not much to it. And it didn't really feel like the Finn we know and love.

Understandably, this isn't the time for Finn to be smooth or charming or sexy. This story is set on the heels of a book where his own mother tried to kill him. She tortured him and left a trail of bodies in her wake. And now Finn feels responsible. He feels guilty and everyone around him blames him too. No fun to be had here.

Basically, Finn learns the widow of one of his co-workers is being threatened and he feels like he needs to save her. This, while he essentially hates himself for being suckered by his mom. That's pretty much the whole story, less than 60 pages on my e-reader. I felt no flavor from his character and the whole thing read pretty flat.

Hard-core Finn fans may enjoy this one, but I felt really underwhelmed.

Rating: C

**ARC provided by publisher*

AH says

Everyone who reads Jennifer Estep's *Elemental Assassins* series loves Finnegan Lane. Finn is suave, debonair, great with money, looks good in black, and is a wonderful brother/support for Gin. I was really excited to read a story about Finn and was looking forward to something exciting. Well, I did not get what I expected. Instead, the story begins in the aftermath of book 14 **Bitter Bite** and no one wants to be around Finn.

Finn is ~~forced~~ urged to help out a "damsel in distress" who wants nothing to do with him. There's a bit of snarkiness about cheap suits - something that Finn would never be seen in - some bling, and some of Finn's skills are put to use.

I found this story a little bland for my taste. I think that perhaps I had expected more Bria and Finn, and more of the rest of Gin's gang.

Thank you to NetGalley and Gallery, Threshold and Pocket Books for a review copy of this book.

Douglas Meeks says

Let me start by repeating what a few reviewers have already said which is DO NOT read this book before you read Bitter Bite since it would be a total spoiler.

After the events contained in Bitter Bite this short novella tells us of the days following them in the life of Finnegan Lane who is consumed by guilt and is provided with a chance to relieve some of that guilt.

I loved the story but I am unable to share much more than the information contained within the synopsis since this novella is too short and plus I would have to be careful not to include spoilers from Bitter Bite .

Just trust me that Finn having to take action on his own to protect an innocent family is a great story.

Bottom Line: If you love this series you will love this story and that is about all I can really say for this 5 Star story.

Ferdy says

When will this series be over? I swear, the author is determined to turn every character into an unlikeable twerp. She managed to ruin Finn, he was nothing but an angsty self-pitying loser who treated Gin like crap, like everyone else in her life did. Then again, Gin adores having her nearest and dearest be disloyal dicks to her, she seems to get off on it.

Carmel (Rabid Reads) says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads.

Owen Grayson's novella was published three years ago which made it well past time for the other important man in Gin Blanco's life to get his own short. UNWANTED directly follows the events of BITTER BITE, so Finnegan Lane's story was written for existing ELEMENTAL ASSASSIN fans, and shouldn't be read on its own. The Spider's foster brother took a bit of a lickin' in the last installment, but he's still the son of the Tin Man, and quite capable of giving as good as he gets.

Finn's devil-may-care attitude has taken a nosedive which was difficult to see because he's been the rock throughout most of this series, and you know it's serious when not even hickory coffee or BBQ from the Pork Pit can lift his spirits. Bria and Gin try their best to pull him out of the dumps however, sometimes the only thing that can cure a truckload of guilt is making amends. Lane has one last funeral to attend, and it leads to an opportunity that ends up being a balm for his soul.

It's sometimes easy to forget that Finn is the Spider's right-hand man for a reason; not only is he an excellent shot, he was raised by the assassin who taught Blanco everything she knows, so even though he's usually ok with playing second fiddle, if the need presents itself, he's fully capable of stepping up to the plate. I really enjoyed witnessing his "solo mission", and I loved the little twist that involved Stuart Mosley, Lane's boss at First Trust bank.

UNWANTED exposed Finnegan Lane's soft underbelly, and somehow made him even more irresistible!

Beth says

Unwanted is what happens in the aftermath of *Bitter Bite* written from Finn's perspective. Caution – make sure you read *Bitter Bite* first to avoid spoiling that story. That being said, if you haven't read *Bitter Bite* you might want to hold off on reading my review.

Finnegan Lane is struggling with the chaos and devastation caused by letting his mother back into his life. The guilt is overwhelming. The public's opinion, his career, and his self-esteem have all taken a huge hit.

An unexpected ally, pushes Finn into helping one of this mother's second hand victims. His help leads to a show down Finn might not survive. Feeling utterly alone, Finn proves to us the man we always know him to be.

I flat out Love Finn. I flat out Love Gin. I flat out Love Estep's storytelling. So, there was no doubt I was going to love *Unwanted*. What did surprise me was how much Estep packed into a novella length book!

If you haven't read the Elemental Assassin series, I just have to say, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Amazing world building, fabulously original plots with characters that become family, all wrapped up in a scifi romantic fantasy. What more could you ask for?

I received this ARC copy of *Unwanted* from Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication July 18, 2016.

My Rating: 5 Stars

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Reviewed for:

Jo says

No one had ever made me feel as worthless, useless, and foolish as she had.

A really great, and much needed novella from Finn's POV. After the mistakes he made in *Bitter Bite*, it was so heartbreaking to see the charming and happy Finn so disillusioned, so broken by the guilt he carried.

I needed to do something right for a change, after doing so many things wrong with Deidre.

I'm very glad that by the end of this novella Finn was reminded that he is his father's son, and definitely not like his cold-hearted mother. He's a good person, that makes mistakes, and will do whatever he has to fix what he did.

A must read for all fans of this series.

? BookAddict 🦋 La Crimson Femme says

This story of being on the slow path of redemption features Finn post mother fall out. Finn is a man who can con the best of them. When his supposed dead mother returns to life and into Finn's life, he throws all caution to the wind. When he's badly burn with no one else to blame, he is left in not only an awkward position but a rough place. None of his coworkers trust him anymore. He's alienated everyone by causing the deaths of innocent people. He also hurt his foster sister, Gin. Fortunately for Finn, Gin is always loyal and ever ready to forgive. No matter how many times the people in her life kick her in the gut, she is still always gracious and supportive. I don't know how she does it.

This short little novella shows how Finn's every act to mend fences with his coworkers is rebuffed. It can be totally demoralizing but he takes it all because he feels he deserves it. When a chance to help the widow of one of the slayer bank workers comes about, Finn blunders head first without his usual suave preparation. His lack of confidence shows clearly and criminals pick up on it.

Ms. Estep's systematic deconstruction of Finn into his lowest level is painful to witness, even if it is needed. The way she allows the character to grow and mature through mistakes is admirable. Finn comes back stronger, better and a little wiser. I thoroughly enjoyed this little feature on Finn. Recommended for readers who enjoy a redemption theme with a happily for now ending.

**provided by NetGalley*

Marta Cox says

This novella follows on from the events that happened in Bitter Bite so please don't read this unless you've already had the pleasure of reading that story because there are pretty major spoilers here. Ok having said that its time to get my thoughts organised .

This is a story that's definitely aimed at the fans of Finnegan Lane. Finn is kind of the adopted brother to Gin aka the Spider and he's always been this big brash character with an almost devil may care attitude. Whilst not part of either the families legitimate business nor really involved in the wet work Gin has inherited from his father Finn has nevertheless always been a confident and highly capable character . That's all turned on its head here with cracks showing but ever the showman Finn holds his head up high and valiantly meets any and all head on.

It was interesting seeing Finn in this role and sometimes I forget that as the son of the infamous Tin Man Finn has had all sorts of training . Yes the readers know he's an expert marksman but Finn is also proof that the proverbial Apple really doesn't fall too far from the tree! Without saying too much about the plot I will state that from the first page I was enthralled and this author always grabs my imagination. The price compared to a full length book might not sit well with some readers I know but for a story that helps flesh out Finns character I'm not going to complain too much. Now I'm itching to get my hands on the next book Unraveled and thoroughly recommend this series

I was gifted a copy from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Jennifer says

Much like Owen needed to wrap up some things in his novella, Kiss of Venom, after Widow's Web, Finn needed to deal with the emotional fall-out of Bitter Bite in his own novella.

Unwanted is a short look into Finn's mind and it was an enlightening journey for him and fans of the character.

If you've not read Bitter Bite there will be a mild spoiler.

Read this review in its entirety at The Book Nympho

Ezinwanyi says

This was a welcome addition to the Elemental Assassin series as the reader got to hear Finnegan Lane's point of view.

Following the crushing betrayal by this mother Deirdre Shaw in Bitter Bite, Finn was still wallowing in guilt over the death and destruction caused her in attempted robbery. Finn was trying to figure out how to make amends and regain the trust of those who felt that he was complicit in his mother's scheme. This book saw him begin to regain his sense of purpose and respect as he was able to help a family who lost their protector and provider in the bank massacre. What I loved was that it wasn't Bria or Gin or even the ghost of Fletcher Lane, but Finn alone taking a step onto redemption road.

While I found all the blame heaped on him to be undeserving, it spoke to Finn's character that he didn't brush people's feelings aside. He took everyone's hurts to heart and he resolved to help make amends. This novella had a slightly somber mood, lacking Finn's signature cocky quips, but it still felt like an Elemental Assassin. It was a nice shift in focus to another beloved character in this series.

**Special Thanks to Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books via Netgalley for the e-arc given in exchange for an honest review.*

Maria Dimitrova says

Since the beginning of the series Finn has been a major player. He was Gin's rock throughout all the battles and all the drama. But in the last book he screwed up big time. And now he gets to atone for his arrogance.

I've always wanted to get a glimpse of what's inside Finn's pretty frivolous head and I finally got my wish. At first he seems a brainless flirt but as we've all learned over the course of 14 books Finn has a sharp mind and

even sharper reflexes.

I hated the start of this novella. Seeing the usually confident, laidback and charming Finn brought down by the heavy burden of guilt broke my heart! He was treated abominably by his mother in the previous book and now everyone blames him for what happened. Even though they wouldn't have fared any better had they been in his shoes. Only his family and his boss are on his side but while the former are at a loss at how to help him move on the devious boss of First Trust has formulated a plan to make Finn remember he is his father's son and to get rid of some problems. Finn gets manipulated again but this time the result is much better and Finn gets a bit of his confidence back! And he will sure need it to help Gin deal with the oncoming threat of the Circle.

Steven says

Finally! Finn's perspective! We get to see Finn play the hero without having to be rescued or passing it off to someone else.

Really enjoyed this little novella. :)

Suzanne says

Unwanted is a story from Finn's point of view, which takes place after a disastrous event. He is feeling a lot of guilt, people are angry with him, and forgiveness is difficult. I really like how this story points out that actions have consequences and things can't always be made right, and also how it is still important to try and do what you can.

There are definitely some spoilers for earlier books in the series.

Sharon ∞🐾 is an emotional book junkie 🐾∞ says

4 ★'s

We finally get a book where it's Finn's turn to shine instead of Gin's and it was something that was much needed... especially after the last book. My heart really went out to him because of course, we all know what a great guy he is.

And because of what happened in the last book, everyone at the bank is treating Finn quite horribly. Unfortunately, they don't know exactly what happened but they blame him all the same.

Finn's boss, Stuart Mosley, is taking Finn to task but not *exactly* like everyone else. He is holding Finn somewhat accountable but let's just say he's a little more tricky than he seems.

A situation presents itself and Finn doesn't shy away from helping someone...and he did it all by himself, even though he could've called Bria or Gin at any time. It was a big step in his road back...

Thankfully things work out and hopefully things will start moving in the right direction again. We all need the Finn we know and love back!

This story is short and sweet and definitely for us Finn fans. I would've liked more but I did like the side of Finn we got to see.
