

Book Review: April 2009

by RLYnne (reviewer at MBR)



Thief of Always

Kim Baldwin & Xenia Alexiou

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Lesbian Romantic Intrigue

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Midwest Book Review

278 Orchard Drive
Oregon, WI 53575-1129

Phone: 1-608-835-7937

E-mail:

mwbookrev@aol.com

James A. Cox

Editor-in-Chief

Thief of Always is the second novel in the Elite Operatives series. The protagonist, Mishael Taylor, had a cameo role in the first novel, *Lethal Affairs*.

Thief of Always takes the reader to Venice and to Holland. Dutch countess Kristine Marie Louis van der Jagt has just inherited her father's rundown mansion, his pile of debts and the Blue Star Diamond. Mishael's assignment is to steal the diamond and return it to its owners, the Afghan government. In doing so, she must contend with Neo-Nazis, Afghan terrorists, and the beautiful troubled countess.

Baldwin and Alexiou are skilled at fleshing out their characters and in describing the settings. Whether their protagonist is dodging bullets in Venice, Holland, or Afghanistan, their descriptions are accurate and take the reader into the action. Fast paced, with dazzling scenes that stir the heart of armchair travelers, *Thief of Always* grabs the reader on the first page and never lets go. Cameo appearances from *Lethal Affairs'* Domino only add to the fun. *Thief of Always* is a rich, wonderful read that leaves the reader anxiously awaiting the next book in the series.

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