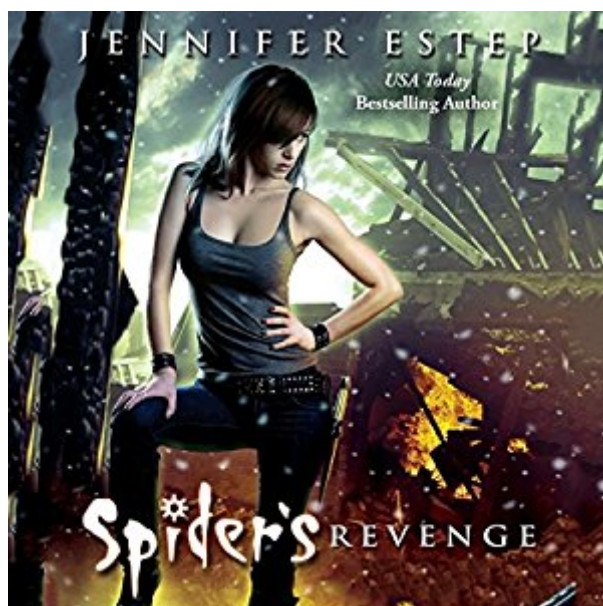


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Spider's Revenge: Elemental Assassin, Book 5



Synopsis

"Old habits die hard for assassins. And I plan on murdering someone before the night is through. Killing used to be my regular gig, after all. Gin Blanco, aka the Spider, assassin-for-hire. And I was very, very good at it. Now, I'm ready to make the one hit that truly matters: Mab Monroe, the dangerous Fire elemental who murdered my family when I was 13. Oh, I don't think the mission will be easy, but turns out it's a bit more problematic than expected. The bitch knows I'm coming for her. So now I'm up against the army of lethal bounty hunters Mab hired to track me down. She also put a price on my baby sister's head. Keeping Bria safe is my first priority. Taking Mab out is a close second. Good thing I've got my powerful Ice and Stone magic - and my irresistible lover, Owen Grayson - to watch my back. This battle has been years in the making, and there's a good chance I won't survive. But if I'm going down, then Mab's coming with me...no matter what I have to do to make that happen."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It gets pretty repetitive as Gin struggles to take down Mab and keep everyone she loves safe in the fifth installment. It started with a bang--it also ended in a somewhat satisfying way--but unfortunately, the 300 or so pages in between all of that seemed even more redundant than usual. I really enjoyed the last 2 books, so I was actually looking forward to this one, but the thing is, I was already going into this book expecting a 6th grade reading level and a certain amount of redundant filler. I mean at this point, I am no longer expecting any character development, and I've already

resigned myself to the fact that all the characters are reintroduced in a tedious fashion with every new book. I was willing to ignore all of this in the name of mindless entertainment...but wow...I really found myself struggling to get through this one. The characters were reintroduced multiple times here. Seriously, Mab, for instance, was reintroduced to the reader (backstory and all) about 3 times! I mean, there was just WAY too much rehashing going on. Like even more than usual--and not just a rehashing of events from the previous books (as usual Gin is dishing out the same old details of her family's fiery death over and over again ad nauseam), but a rehashing of events that had already happened in THIS book, as well. As if the reader needed to be caught up on the events of the previous chapter. There were also all these long, drawn out (and totally nauseating-cue-the-heartfelt-sitcom-music) conversations and scenes between the characters that were completely redundant. Gin's friends would be all, "Gin, we want to help you take down Mab because we care about you," and Gin would be like, "Really? You care? You want to help me take down Mab?"

I gave this book a 3-star rating, because it is not possible to give it 2.5 stars. Please be advised that there may be minor spoilers in this review...I have enjoyed the Elemental Assassin series so far, and I was eager to read Spider's Revenge (where we finally see a showdown between Gin Blanco and her nemesis, Mab). I grabbed the Kindle version on the release date, and spent the evening curled up with it. Unfortunately, I found myself disappointed with this installment in the series. Ms. Estep fell into a common trap - in an effort to make the latest book in the series still function as a potential "stand-alone," she spent a great deal of time summarizing the prior books and re-introducing characters. As a reader of the series, I find too much exposition distracting, because I actually remember the prior books. Recaps of the backstory that appear in multiple places just give me large blocks of useless text to skip past instead of adding to my experience. Also, like many other authors who use the exposition tool ad nauseum, Ms. Estep took shortcuts - using the same phrasing OVER and OVER in a cut-and-paste fashion, rather than finding new and original ways to recap the storyline or re-explain a concept (e.g., describing the Spider as patient, Jo-Jo as a "drama mama," the stones' "muttering," the "five-point" placement of Gin's knives, Gin's reaction to Mab's fire-power and Jo-Jo's air magic, the after-effects of experiencing Jo-Jo's healing, the connection of many vampires to the sex trade, etc.). I also found myself increasingly impatient with the world-building and character development.

If you've been following this series, then you're used to the massive repetition, repeats of

backstories more than once in each book and of course, that Gin Blanco, aka Genevieve Snow, is in fact, the assassin, the Spider. Why this needs to be repeated at least a dozen times in each book is beyond me, but if you're still following, it means you're looking beyond the tedious and rather elementary writing style and going straight to the guts of the story which is really good and entertaining. The last four books have been leading up to this particular installment because, like the title, Gin is going after Mab Monroe, the woman responsible for killing her mother and sister, among hundreds of others. For me, it wasn't whether it would come to this or how it would ultimately end, but rather who or what the collateral damage could potentially be. I've grown rather fond of Finn, JoJo, Sophia and of course Owen, so there was no way I was missing this story arc ending. This book starts with Gin going off on her own to take out Mab during a house party Mab is having. Now that Mab knows the Spider is after her, she's not taking many chances so this is the best opportunity Gin can see for weeks. Of course the rush to eliminate Mab is very unlike the Spider, who's symbol literally stands for patience, and instead of Gin patiently waiting and counting off her seconds to kill, she botches the job, which was a given since it's the first chapter in a 300 page book. Interestingly enough, the guests at Mab's house party are a large group of mercenary assassins who've been hired to take the Spider out and Gin's sloppiness ends up costing her significant turmoil which forces her to a showdown on Mab's terms, instead of her own.

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