



Forging the Future

Mary Calmes

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Jin Church is back where he started, alone, wandering, and uncertain of his path. It's not by choice but by circumstance, as he remembers he's a werepanther... but not much else. He knows one thing for sure—he needs to find the beautiful blond man who haunts his dreams.

Logan Church is trapped in a living hell. His mate is missing, his tribe is falling apart, and he's estranged from the son he loves with all his heart. His world is unraveling without his mate by his side, and he has no one to blame but himself.

If Jin can regain his memory and Logan can overcome the threats to his leadership, then perhaps they can resume their lives. The question is: Is that what they want? Back to the same house, the same tribe, the same troubles? They can choose from various roads leading to their future... or they can forge their own path.

Forging the Future Details

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From Reader Review Forging the Future for online ebook

Renée says

4.5 stars. Excellent ending to this series!

Action-packed, edge-of-my-seat story! This was a roller-coaster ride of a shifter story that was amazing to experience.

The betrayal blindsided me. But thinking back on things from the previous books, maybe not. I definitely wanted more bloodshed than was provided to those responsible, but the laws of these shifters have always made little logical sense.

Best of the series by far!

Rosa, really says

Holy shit!

I really like it!

When I volunteered for this ARC I fully expected to have a rather *meh* reaction to it, like I've been having to a lot of Mary's recent work. Basically, I am fucking sick to death of reading about clueless dudes in Florida beach towns. Also, while I liked the last book in the Change of Heart series (Crucible of Fate) I can't say I found it that exciting. It was enjoyable, but rather silly. (<--That last sentence pretty much sums up 65% of all my reviews of Mary's work, even though I love, love, love her.)

But this book?

Forging the Future is a damn good read. From about the 2nd or 3rd chapter on I couldn't put it down. I read straight through Jon Stewart, people. I **NEVER** do that. Tyler Hoechlin and Dylan O'Brien could appear in my bedroom and insist I watch them have sex and if Jon Stewart were on I'd say, "You asshats can't wait 30 minutes? Have you *no* self-control?"

But, no, Jon Stewart was on, probably saying something hilarious and insightful but I didn't give a shit, I was reading about Jin and Logan's epic *lurve*.

****The rest of this review may contain minor spoilers. No, fuck it, it will definitely contain minor spoilers, but only for the first 10 or 15% of the book. There will be spoilers for the first four books in the series.****

Okay, the book opens 5 or so years after Crucible of Fate. Months previously something so horrible happened (no, I'm not spoiling that) that it not only made Jin run but completely lose his memory. He knows he's a werepanther, but other than that he remembers absolutely nothing--not the fact that he's a reah (the

true-mate of a semel, or an alpha) and a nekhene cat (he can shift into all sort of weird creatures), not his mate, Logan, their son, Ilia, or anything about their culture. (Which is odd, since Jin is usually a font of information while everyone else wanders around with their thumb up their asses with no idea what's going on.) Anyway, Jin (now called "Jim") is working at a restaurant run by werepanthers in New Orleans. Within a couple of chapters he meets the local semel and they soon realize that "Jim" is a reah. Still, the local semel has no idea that Jim is actually Jin.

I gotta say, that part bugged me. Jin's supposed to be the only reah alive, the only male reah ever and the only nekhene cat in existence. Also, he's mated to one of the semels who competed to be the ultimate semel of semels, the semel-aten. How could he not be well-known? (By the way, if I'm not making any sense to you it's because a) it's 2 am and I'm tired and b) you probably haven't read the other books in this series. Please start with *Change of Heart*. Thank you.) It's even more annoying later when Crane shows up and Jin asks him why the local semel believed him when he (Crane) said he was Jin's beset (aka a reah's BFF). Crane just grins and says it's because when you're a reah's beset you're pretty well-known. Well, how the fuck is Crane well-known if Jin isn't? How does that make sense? But whatever. Moving on.

Where was I? Okay, like a lot of people, when I read the blurb for *Forging the Future* it scared the shit out of me. My biggest concern was would Jin and Logan spend the majority of the book separated only to reunited at the end? Mary does that a lot in this series and it really bugs me. I like my heroes to be together. My second concern was Jin's memory and what the fuck did Logan *do*? Is he going to need a serious ass kicking and would I be able to forgive him?

But I didn't need to have any serious concerns about any of that. Yes, I was on the edge of my seat for a good portion of the book, but it wasn't until everyone's back in Nevada that shit gets real. Like it says in the blurb, Logan has to "overcome the threats to his leadership." And...

It is *awesome*. I didn't see any of that coming (though maybe I should've). If this is the last book in the series, it's really well-done because it made me want to go back and reread the whole series. Just to see "oh, is this where this happened?" and "is this where this guy turned into a raging douchebag?"

My only complaint about the ending is that there wasn't enough blood. There was some, and maybe it'll be too much for some readers (though I doubt it), but I'm a bloodthirsty, revenge-oriented asshole and I wanted more than a verbal ass-kicking. Seriously, I was so pissed off for Logan's sake. How dare those fuckers question his leadership? I wanted heads to roll, I wanted just a touch of mass murder, I WANTED THOSE FUCKERS TO CRY AS THEY DIED.

I may have issues.

Anyway, this was an all-around awesome read. Yeah, there's the usual Maryness that makes Mary, Mary. (For instance every new person that's introduced--and there are a lot of them--is fabulously good looking and it's necessary to devote at least one paragraph to everyone's prettiness. *Barf*. I'm telling you, if you took out all those paragraphs the book would be missing about 50 pages.) But if Mary weren't so Mary, I would miss it.

P.S. I just realized THERE IS NO PIE IN THIS BOOK. I repeat: NO PIE. I feel sad now.

Copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Meags says

3.5 Stars

This series, when viewed as a whole, was a lot of fun. If someone had told me after I finished Change of Heart that I would end up genuinely adoring Jin and Logan, and even view them as one of my favourite shifter pairings in fantasy fiction, I would have laughed in that someones face! Clearly my reader/character relationship took a while to develop, but over time, and during the course of some pretty crazy and intense werepanther ordeals, somewhere along the way I became totally and unashamedly hooked.

Generally, I am awed and impressed by the shifter world that Calmes has created here. This kind of story, with its complex and wholly original world-building and unique terminology, is completely my kind of thing, but it won't be for everyone. The info-dump can be overwhelming at times, but I tend to enjoy this kind of intricately layered storytelling; it keeps me focused and intrigued. I like learning new information (regardless of the fact that it's completely fictional) and I like then adding upon said information as a series of books progresses. In this regard, the Change of Heart series delivered in spades.

I even love how gritty and violent these stories became. It gave the whole thing an edge that many shifter books shy away from - the story went from the usual "mates/mine/claim/HEA" formula, and instead developed quite a detailed, layered plot, that built across several books, culminating nicely here.

In the end, my main concern was that many of the nefarious assholes in this particular story didn't get what they so very much deserved (i.e. brutal deaths - don't judge me, this is how I roll). For this reason - and due to a few other random details which are easily summed up by my status updates - I kind of felt unsatisfied with this final book. (Is this actually the final book?).

Don't get me wrong, overall I very much enjoyed this installment. There were plenty of *hell yeah!* moments, and many great, often touching scenes between Jin and other important characters from this series - **cough** CRANE **cough** - not to mention, all of the romantic and possessive good stuff that I've come to yearn from Jin and Logan. But, I guess, there was just something missing for me personally, something that I can't quite put my finger on. Although, there's a good chance that part of me may just be grumpy that there are no more books to read in this series, and my subconscious is acting out by claiming she feels a little bit indifferent, when truly she just cares too damn much and hates that it's seemingly over.

A big thank-you to R, for what has surely been the most engaging and enjoyable reading marathon of our BR history!

Josy says

~ 4.5 stars ~

Heller says

4.5

Such a great ending to the series that I'm hoping it's not the end. Jin and Logan have such a fabulous story I'd love to see a time jump and see what happens with Ilia.

MostlyDelores says

On the one hand: completely illogical. How come everyone knows the laws that let them kill other people, but they don't know any of the other gazillion laws that let them live in a society or own property?

On the other hand: SO MANY RULES, and at any given time there's only one person in the room who knows whichever one is at play at that moment.

On the third hand: not long enough? These books usually meander on for hundreds of pages of stuff that happens to Jin because of course it does.

On the fourth hand: WTF with all the loyalty/betrayal/loyalty again/no really, betrayal? For god's sake are these people or windsocks?

On the fifth hand: was there a sale on icy, power-hungry bitches? You are over your quota.

On the sixth hand: Crane is awesome and Domin and Yuri should have another book.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4.5 Stars

You know, I've got quite a bit of shifter books under my belt and they all have some degree of claiming, marking, mating - but I'd have to say that this takes the cake, because the way Calmes describes and lays it all out how Logan and Jin are just made for each other, really impressed me.

"Every part of me: human, beast, heart, mind, and dear God, body, recognized him as belonging to me...There was no part of me that could have denied his claim as the animal I was recognized its mate, without question, and yearned to lie down and submit. I wanted him all over me, holding me down, moving inside me..."

So yes, this still had massive info dump. There's still the insane werepanther laws to shake your head at and a cast of characters too large to remember. But the bond between these two?? Possession. Obsession. *Unf.*

"You ask too much if you expect me to live and not have your sweet eyes on me at every moment. You must be the first I see when I wake and the last before I sleep. It can be no other way...my heart can't take any less."

Now I haven't read all of Calmes's works but I think I can say that she really out did herself with this.

Granted, there will always be convenient loopholes and over the top shenanigans, but I swooned the hardest in this last installment. Please consider reading this series in one go, lest important brain cells be lost in trying to remember the intricacies of this complex but impressive world.

A truly satisfying end wrapping up fate and destiny, and giving Jin and Logan the best possible happy ending. Everything surely happens for a reason and what will be was always meant to be - it's simply *maat*.

A shout out to Meags for all the fun and torture we had with these two crazy cats!

Adam says

A fitting end to the Change of Heart series

The first few chapters were just full of info-dump. Usually, that would annoy me to no end. But in this case, I didn't mind at all. It's been a few years since I'd read any of the preceding books in their entirety (though I have gone back to read my favourite scenes often), so I appreciated the werepanther review lessons.

Not only were there review lessons, but there were also some new things that Mary Calmes introduced throughout the book. The werepanther world is complex, and often very confusing, but it's hella fun. I think fans of the series will be pleased with the different direction that the story took. I didn't see any of it coming, so I was certainly surprised.

As always in this series, family plays a big part in 'Forging the Future'. Iliia, who is now five-years-old, stole the show every time he was on page. I loved it! The kid's a little monster, but he's an extremely *cute* monster. And of course, it was great catching up with the other members of Logan and Jin's ragtag self-made family.

As for Logan and Jin's relationship, there's not really much added to what we already know. But that's to be expected, seeing as they've been together for years at this point. There's some angst with the whole memory-loss thing, but it more so reinforces their prior relationship, rather than introducing anything new.

This book was full of everything I've come to expect from the Change of Heart series: love, hot sex, family and friends, family drama, violence, action, excellent worldbuilding, and a happy ending. 'Forging the Future' was a great end to Jin and Logan's story!

VVivacious says

August 16; 2017

And here I was thinking that I had only read this book two times before now. Gosh! four times, but this book is definitely one that can be read again and again because I love it each time.

November 15; 2015

I just read this book for the third time and Jin & Logan take my breath away every time.

June 29; 2015

Jenni Lea says

OK, Mary Calmes is a goddess who puts crack in her stories. I LOVED this! I've always been a MC fan but this brought it to the next level. I adored this book.

Some people were brought into the ~~cult~~ fold by Jory's story. For some it was Weber Yates and his lovely doctor. For me, I lost my Mary virginity with Jin and Logan in the Change of Heart series. I read the first book, *Change of Heart* a bazillion years ago (more like three) and after just the first chapter I was hooked.

This book is by far, in my opinion, the best of the bunch. It was everything I'd hoped it would be and more. The blurb scared the shit outta me and there was a point about 75% in where I was a little afraid to go on. I laughed while reading this story. I cried too, but most of all I **felt**. I was overflowing with emotions. I wanted to hug my e-reader when I was done. The ending was perfect. I'm sad this is the end of their story but I certainly won't be missing them as I'm sure I'll be reading this entire series over and over again until the end of time.

That blurb scares the **shit** outta me.

My spoon is ready.

Bring it.

Gigi says

I fucking loved this series! Read it, everyone! Worth every moment.

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

[**akhen-aten**: King of the semels.

Aker: A leadership position i

BWT (Belen) says

[image error]

Karen says

The good news is...IT'S MARY CALMES, IT'S BOOK CRACK!!! IT'S FRICKIN' AMAZING BOOK CRACK!!!

The bad news is according to everything I've seen it's the end of the series and I love this series...even more than ever after reading this book.

I resisted reading this series initially because at the time I just wasn't into shifter stories, so I figured it didn't matter who wrote it I probably wouldn't really like it....WRONG....I have loved it.

Seriously this book was released on June 29th, I wasn't able to get a copy until June 30th. I read the last 20 pages this morning because I had to sleep, I finally reached the point where my eyes would not stay open no matter how good the words on the page were and believe me they were good.

I know I could go on and on about how much I loved reading this book and I also know that there are already some really good reviews for it. So because I'm tired and my brain isn't really formulating a lot of impressive thoughts right now. I'm just going to wrap this up by saying this book was all that and a bag of potato chips. However, if you haven't read the rest of the series stop right now go back and read it otherwise I'm pretty sure you're going to find yourself more than a little dazed and confused and definitely not enjoying the story near as much as you should be.

Also before I forget I love that cover it's awesome. Definitely my favorite one of the series.

Dalia says

2nd read: 03-07-2015 (I need more Mary Calmes in my life.)

3rd read: 17-09-2015

4th read: 08-11-2015

happy sigh This was such an amazing installment. I loved it so much! I can never get enough of Jin and Logan and everyone else. Mary Calmes stole my heart with this series.

“We’re going to be all right,” he said as he bent and kissed me tenderly, achingly, because he loved me, and my heart swelled that much more. “We’ll make this home.”

I turned to look at him over my shoulder. “It already is. You’re with me, and so that makes it home. Always.”

Oh. My. God. Look at that blurb.

*ETA 18-06-2015 I just finished re-reading all four books in this series. I'm so freaking ready for this one!
*fist pump**
