



Mindline

M.C.A. Hogarth

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At the advice of Vasiht'h, his first and truest friend, Jahir Seni Galare has accepted one of the most coveted residencies in xenotherapy, even though doing so has severed him from all the relationships he's fostered since leaving his cloistered homeworld. But not all the simulations at school have prepared him for the reality of being an esper in a hospital large enough to serve the winter capital of the entire Alliance, and it's not long before he's questioning the wisdom of having left the university for the tumult of one of the largest port cities in the known worlds.

When Vasiht'h follows Jahir to Selnor, he's not sure whether his plan is to help his friend survive his residency, or to drag him back to Seersana University and into a less strenuous program. But a storm is coming to Heliocentrus, one they're uniquely positioned to address, and their nascent mental link is about to receive its first test in the crucible that will either forge their lifelong partnership—or kill them both.

Mindline completes the Dreamhealers duology that began with Book 1, Mindtouch.

Mindline Details

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From Reader Review Mindline for online ebook

Bernard Peek says

This second book of the series further details the progress of the two protagonists as they complete their education and gain their license to practise their highly unorthodox but also highly effective therapies. The telepathic bond between them continues to deepen and plays a critical role in some of the tough situations they face.

This volume is focussed on the pair although it does elaborate a little on the societies they live in. Societies plural because the Eldritch are not fully integrated into the Alliance, by their choice.

As a middle volume of a series the book acquits itself well. There is substantial development in the lead characters and a some development of our understanding of their milieu. I am looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

KA says

I wish there were more books in this series! Maybe someday . . .

Bill says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/13368061>

The 2nd half of the Dreamhealers Duology. The first half of which made me cry no less than three times.

There is significantly less crying in this book. While the plot is more dramatic and further reaching than MindTouch, and the highs even higher... the lows are less sublime. The character's discover of an unfolding relationship and domesticity were such a touching part of the first half that I raved about it for days. This book is lacking that; but it is just as well... I doubt anyone could have duplicated in another work, even a sequel.

The wisdom we overlook when we fly past a sign at 100 mph, and then having to walk back and pick it up is a valuable lesson. We all have those moments/milestones. Jahir has at least 2 of them. As does Vasi, although his is more like the opposite and he has to race away at 100mph to put his wisdom to use.

I really would like to have seen Jahir disappoint someone, a friend. Certainly, there were people he couldn't save, outrageous requests that he couldn't agree to, and love that he could not return. But in every case, people, people seemed to shield him quickly, taking the sting out of it. Of course, in a few cases, he stepped "heroically" past those shields.

I was disappointed only on the crudest levels about the sex (I mean they're young, it could still happen - if not... well, that's what fan fiction is for). The story was very satisfying, with just a little "patness" to keep it from five stars.

Wilson E. Stevens Sr. says

After one of the girls at the hospital dies in his arms, Jahir the Eldritch decides to become a doctor to treat and assist the short-lived individuals in the alliance. He completes medical school and is accepted at two universities. His closest friend Vasiht'h, a small centaur-like Galeash suggests he goes to the best hospital for his residency. After he leaves, Vasiht'h realizes he can't make it without his help and follows to assist him at the new hospital. After arriving he finds Jahir having difficulty coping with the higher gravity of the world, and combined with a medical emergency that comes up, changes the two and their relationship forever.

Jeanne Johnston says

A continuation of a really thoughtful story, really more like two big chapters as Jahir heads off for his residency--which involves his difficult acclimatization to the heavier gravity as well as an epidemic that needs to be figured out, thanks largely to Jahir's peril, and then the greater part of the story is their developing relationship, which is fascinating--a platonic love between two men (I find myself wondering if this leaves room for a third or fourth party and children, or if Jahir will simply enjoy this in itself and leave a wife to the future...)

The issues of space travel seem well considered. I don't recall any sci-fi movies addressing the problems of a person's physical structure versus planetary mass and gravity. The Eldritch's long lives makes for a sad subtext.

I note also that I seem to have discovered the later series first, thanks to a BookBub freebie, so I'm having to integrate the few references to the Eldritch world being before all the "prior" excitement and Jahir's references to the Veil that apparently is still in effect. If you're just discovering this author, you might do enough research to read them in proper order.

K Orion Fray says

Well, I thought I'd already written this review, but I suppose I haven't. I really ought to, before the next book in the series comes out and I become even further behind. And besides, it's the sequel to the book that really got my teeth sunk into this author's work, so why shouldn't I pay it some mind?

—

Mindline is an amazing follow-up to Mindtouch, the first of the duology. We continue to follow two of my favorite of M.C.A. Hogarth's characters, the Eldritch Jahir Seni Galare and the Glaseah Vasiht'h, as they continue to find their way not only in the world they are growing into, but also their expanding relationship. *Mindtouch* left off with a horrific cliffhanger as the two split company in a heartbreaking manner (which I have only forgiven Micah for by the glory that is this book), but needless to say, *Mindline* sees them back together again, and Jahir into his residency at one of the most prestigious hospitals he could work at.

While I haven't had a chance to really look in-depth yet at the amount of research and effort Hogarth put into the book, it shows in how seamless the transition is—both in clarity for the reader and jaggedness for the

characters. Jahir is entirely unprepared for the physicality of the world, the strain the residency places on him, the unnerving emptiness being apart from his friend leaves in his heart. Vasiht'h doesn't know what he's doing, really, but he knows that he can't do it sitting back at school with Jahir a world away. He dives head-first into a world he hadn't expected to enter, and finds himself required to hold not only his own, but a portion of his friend's as well. And through it all, the two find themselves closer and closer bound, until finally there is a choice to be made...and it may alter the course of their lives forever.

While I have often commended Hogarth on her writing, and could type out words of praise for an entirely unnecessary amount of time, there is a scene in this book that truly shows her shining at her brightest. I won't give the details, as it comes near the end of the book and gives a rather major point of the conclusion away, but it is a wonderful balance of anticipation and panic. Jahir is faced with an abrupt shift in his future, and can feel the floor give out beneath him—and that is a feeling that was absolutely replicated in me. Very few times have I ever been so moved by a book, but as he walked through those moments, I felt my heart sink and my stomach twist. I knew it couldn't be—Micah wouldn't have done that to us, to them—but I couldn't bring that to mind then, and couldn't think of anything that could be different even if I had been able to. I was lost in the despair Jahir felt, the absolutely and utter defeat...which meant when the floor suddenly came back and straightened us out again, I exclaimed out loud at my Nook and pointed fingers and confused everyone at my place of employ greatly. It was the longest page or two of a book I have ever read, and the some of the most fulfilling moments in my reading experience.

There are portions of this book that make me bounce with glee, and parts that make my heart stop in fear, and parts that shred my heart into bits and force tears to my eyes. Yet again, Hogarth's characters are real enough to walk around your room and force you to know their world just as well as they do, and these two in particular are champions at stealing away hearts and doing as they will with them. We are all just lucky that Jahir and Vasiht'h are as compassionate and caring as they are, and that they are just as likely to apologize for the pain and offer as much consolation as they are able, as they are to do anything. And for that, I will continue to be grateful.

Shannon says

This is probably my favorite book in the Dreamhealers series so far, mostly because it hit all the hurt/comfort tropes note perfect. It kind of reminded me of some of Mercedes Lackey in the way that Jahir suffers so prettily throughout the book, but endures stoically. And there were more hugs, which I always appreciate.

I wasn't particularly fond of the "the space elf is too pretty and I can't help molesting him even though I'm his supervisor" subplot, but other than that, I liked the mystery of the plague, and I liked the loyalty between Jahir and Va'set'h, and I felt that the romance actually ended up working out much better in this one.

Rindis says

Part two of the Dreamhealer's duology naturally picks up right where *Mindtouch* left off.

Jahir starts his residency on Selnor, and finds that it has even higher gravity than the (for him) heavy gravity that he'd had to get adjusted to on Seersana. I was a bit tired on my own while reading this, and the combination of reading through Jahir's struggles with a planet too heavy for him grinding him down really made me feel it.

Vasiht'h chases after him and helps keep him going as they get drawn into a medical crisis that strains both of them. (This gets into one of my problems with psionics, as Jahir's purely mental (as in brain/nervous system) ability seems to be able affect something that from what very little description is given is more purely chemical.) In some books, this might be enough for the entire story, with a triumphant, but bruised ending.

But this is a book about two people, and not the external problems they come across. The crisis is maybe half the book, and definitely makes me think of *Cordelia's Honor*: "But I've always thought—tests are a gift. And great tests are a great gift." The second half is rebuilding from a test that nearly kills them (Jahir especially), and a clearer return to the themes of the first book.

The pair really are one story. There's a third book in the series now (and some short stories), but that's a sequel, and a new story, and so isn't essential to pick up immediately as this one is.

Diane says

About 3.7 Goodreads stars.

The intense crisis of this book (the unresponsive patients dying at the capitol hospital) involves Jahir endangering his life due to risky mental connection with the dying while his constitution is already strained by the world's heavy gravity. Vasiht'h's arrival provides a desperately needed emotional anchor, and a refusal to lose him, even as Jahir's residency becomes very different from anticipated.

However, be aware that the whole end section of the story is *after* that situation is resolved, as they move forward with their realizations of what their lives' work really should be. The conflict at this point is quieter, merely trying to figure out how to prove their methods' effectiveness and safety to the non-espers who have the authority to certify them or not.

Themes include needing balance in one's life, partnership, and accepting that saving everyone is impossible. Jahir's too-high hopes for the marvels of Alliance medical science make his disappointment worse. The fact that his long life-expectancy means he can pursue more than the one career most mortals must limit themselves to, but also that he will lose many people he allows himself to care for, makes for an interesting angle in his decisions.

Secondary characters include some old and some new. I enjoyed meeting one of the sole water-adapted Pelted race.

As for the editing, it was not quite as nearly-clean as the first. There was one logically-questionable comment made: (view spoiler) There were a few assorted minor typos, of course, but the most annoying mess-up was in the epilogue, where *every single opening quote that should've been at the beginning of a line* was missing! I also continue to be brought up short by MCAH's use of "raveled" in the constructive sense re. their initial bond, when the word more often has the connotation of fraying or at least tangled snarling.

Still, never doubt that the writing has many lovely and/or thoughtful lines, and appealing characters to care about and keep you reading.

Alice says

Hogarth's Pelted Universe books tap into the kind of thing I used to think about before going to sleep when I was a child: cool space stations, amazing food and cat aliens. A gentle, charming story about the platonic friendship and deep mental connection between two very different creatures.

Amy Aelleah says

Sometimes I despair of the English language - and while trying to figure out the proper word to describe Jahir and Vasiht'h is one of those times. Friend is accurate, and probably the best word for it in English, but it's so tepid compared to what they are to each other. Lovers isn't right - and even if it was what they are, it still isn't enough. Honestly, I think I'm just going to call them soulmates. Sure, that word is usually used more for romance, but I think it fits these two very well because they ARE soulmates.

(Besides my little language crises, this book is awesome, I love it, I love Jahir and Vasiht't. Read the first book in the series first, though.)

Maggie Boyd says

This is book two of the dreamhealers and begins with Vasiht'h and Jahir separated. Jahir has gone to the capital planet of Selnor to begin an elite residency. Complications arise almost immediately. The gravity on the planet is much higher than he is used to and he can't utilize the medical option to fix this. Even as his health is suffering, greater problems occur within the hospital. People are arriving comatose and not even their best brain surgeons and organic healers can help them. Jahir wears himself to exhaustion trying to use his psychic powers to connect with the patients. When he finally meets with success, he could never have anticipated the consequences.

Immediately after Jahir left, Vasiht'h realized he should never have let him go alone. Two weeks of space travel later, and he arrives on Selnor to turn the sterile apartment Jahir lives in into a home. And to care for his seriously ill love as Jahir wears himself into an exhaustion finding out what is happening -- and why.

I liked the story, though I would have preferred Vasiht'h play a more active role in the healing process during the medical crisis. The nice thing is, th author once more concentrates on her characters and their developing relationship as the two try to figure out how to turn two lives into one. Both Vasiht'h and Jahir are easily likable and their domesticity is an written in a comforting, cozy way so that the reader feels welcome at their feasts and finds themselves enjoying the time in that universe.

Heather says

This review was originally posted on Based On A True Story

Pamela Lloyd says

This is the second of the terrific Dreamhealers series and continues the story of Jahir and Vasiht'h, Xenopsychology students. I loved this book. I love all of these books.

Quartzen says

This book picks up directly where the first one left off, with Jahir starting a medical residency on a planet with gravity way too heavy for his body and Vasiht'h realizing he's made a mistake letting Jahir go alone. By the time Vasiht'h gets to Jahir, Jahir has found that his esper talents may be the only source of information about a deadly epidemic sweeping the city- he can glean information from the minds of the afflicted at the moment of their death, and possibly even keep them alive, but at the risk of his own life.

I really liked this storyline, which takes up the first three quarters of the book, for the most part- it was tense and well-written, and the depths of the crisis really showed how functional and loving the partnership between the two leads is (to me, it feels like a queerplatonic relationship, but that word was not used.)

There is one misstep near the end of it though, and for me it was a rather large one, potentially triggering for some readers. As in the first book, we have a human woman who can't resist falling in love with Jahir, this time to the point of sexual assault- in a tense situation, she corners him and kisses him, having convinced herself that he returns her feelings somehow, which is also a mental violation given that his esper powers are touch-based. To make a bad situation worse, she is in a position of authority over Jahir's resident status, and there are no repercussions for her action beyond embarrassment. Jahir even reassures her that it's okay, and the power dynamics there are not really examined at all- instead, it's mainly a plot device to show how perfect Jahir and Vasiht'h's relationship is by having someone envy them. It left a bad taste in the whole resolution of this section of the book, and the whole thing was completely jarring and unnecessary in my opinion.

The last quarter of the book feels almost like a separate novella bound together with the other story, with a lighter tone more reminiscent of the first book. It follows up on Vasiht'h's dream therapy research from the first book and how it might be put into practice, and settling back into a more normal life after the previous crisis. I really enjoyed the domestic side of things, but I wish everything hadn't gone so smoothly with the practice, because there were some really big potential ethical questions to things that were sidestepped by everything going right. This subplot had another instance of a female supervisor/authority envying Jahir and Vasiht'h's relationship in a way that's beginning to get uncomfortable as a repeating pattern, though thankfully there wasn't the creepy obsession with Jahir from the earlier section of the book.

The epilogue gives some closure to some things from the first book, but it was unclear to me when it was set- it seems like a lead-in to the novella Family, but I understand that the next book Dreamhearth and the still-forthcoming Dreamstorm take place before that, so maybe not?
