



Thin Air

Rachel Caine

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View our feature on Rachel Caine's *Thin Air*. After preventing Mother Earth from destroying the planet, Joanne Baldwin lost her memories thanks to Ashan the djinn-and they will remain lost forever unless Joanne can recover her identity-and destroy the demon who is impersonating her, fabulous shoes and all...

Thin Air Details

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Author : Rachel Caine

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From Reader Review Thin Air for online ebook

Sarah A. says

What a book!

I never quite read anything like this, the story goes as Joanne jumps from one mind to another, you see... (Spoiler) she has lost her memory and acquired new talents. So every time she feels threatened or in need, she simply gets in peoples heads and sees their memories. Now, imagine being inside Cherise's head, or Marion's head... Or even better (or worse!) Eamon's!!!!

I can't say I read anything like this, the idea that your heroine loses her memory? Yeah not so new... but her ability to see people's memories and having her own memories manifest into a demon... wow! And it was magnificently written by the way.

I felt so deliciously frustrated most of the time. Reading how Joanne hugged Eamon not knowing what a shit he was... I wanted to die!

I loved also how the previous books were all about saving the world, from one disaster or another. But this one focused on saving Joanne and having her deal with everything alone, with almost no help from anyone.

I teared up shamelessly in the chapel scene. I think anyone who's ever read this book would know exactly what I'm talking about. So damn emotional and not in a normal love way, it's about the holiest of relationships... a mother-daughter love and grief.

Although I couldn't understand why would Joanne hesitate to kill Ashan. I know I wouldn't, knowign he killed my daughter and admitted to have enjoyed it. I noticed Rachel Caine shies away from killing even the bad guys and vengeance in general; sometimes it's just unrealistic in her books. Her characters are too noble to be true.

That said, I'm very much in love with this series. I see no fault even if there was!

AH says

I usually don't read books in a series back to back. However, after that ending in Firestorm, I just had to continue reading. So I picked up Thin Air. Poor Jo! She really gets banged up a lot and in this book, her memories have been taken away. Imagine waking up naked and freezing and having no idea who you are. Lewis and David to the rescue.

This is really a cool series. I especially like it when Jo is in the Aether in Oversight and how the author describes what Jo can see. It's beautiful. I also enjoy the author's sense of humor - she gives Jo just the right amount of snark. And the villains - oh, so nasty - especially Eamon and Ashan. I also loved the musical

playlist at the end of the book. That's quite a nice selection of music.

There's some bittersweet moments for Jo as well and my heart broke for her. I'll have to pick up the next book soon.

Angela Oliver says

After five excellent, fast paced books, this one felt like something of a let down. Having the main character develop amnesia is a lame plot device in many stories, and whilst I could understand its purpose here, it still irritated the heck out of me. I think because to make amnesia work in a story, the reader has to have exactly as much knowledge as the main character retains, with them slowly realising the bigger picture as the character does. Because we are rather used to Jo's life and know all about Eamon and Lewis, David and all the other characters, it just leads to feelings of discomfit instead. Unlike the other books, this one dragged too - the first portion was spend wandering in the frozen forest with very little action or much plot development. Watching Joanne be all meek and submitting to other's instruction was somewhat disappointing too.

Not a bad read by any means, and I have the remaining three titles waiting here for me to read them - but either this one was a letdown or I've OD'd on the series, because it did not grip me in the same manner.

And, the fictional town of Seacasket has mysteriously shifted from Maine to New Jersey. Perhaps this was due to the demise of the Fire Oracle? Although, I would say it is more due to the author getting confused. It might not bother Joanne - she's lost her memory, but it sure as heck bothered me - I haven't! It's not even as though the two states are that close to each other.

Dianna says

It was pretty good. I enjoyed the play with the Evil Twin theme, and I enjoyed that the amnesiac Joanne got to make a choice between Lewis and David. The whole idea of David's undying love for her while she seems to be playing the fence (this plot point, while it rings true to life, has annoyed me) was tackled a bit in this book, and the teaser for the next book shows that it'll finally be tackled head-on.

Here's my favorite part of this series (especially in comparing it with other contemporary urban fantasies): The author has obviously been planning her books ahead of time, making notes, and doing some great editing. The "world" of the series does not randomly get bigger and more complex with each novel... it merely is more illuminated.

Kogiopsis says

The spoiler-free version:

Rachel Caine pulled an amnesia plotline, and she did it well. Not only did it illuminate Joanne's character (I loved seeing her through Cherise's eyes, and Kevin's perspective was surprisingly interesting) but it progressed the plot, putting many of the main players in a position where they were forced to accept an outcome half of them didn't want. Again, I finished this book excited to see how the consequences played out

in the next one - and part of that comes from knowing, having read 2/3 of the series so far, that they *would* have an impact.

Aside from plot stuff - Jo continues to kick ass, take names, and drive fast cars; the book is a quick read (I got through about 75% of it in one day of shaky internet connection) and a fun ride. Also, I'm increasingly impressed by the series' cast of female characters. Cherise is a gem, obviously, but Rahel, Venna, and Marian Bearheart are also great, all with their own motivations and first loyalties. Sarah is... Sarah. I imagine her next conversation with Jo will be interesting. In general, I just love the variety of personalities, goals, appearances, and perspectives they provide, and the more the series matures and moves away from jokes about other women being trashy (which it largely has at this point), the more I enjoy it.

Spoilery bits!

(view spoiler)

Nothing like a heroine who has no time for the establishment's bullshit. The ending of this book and the preview of the next hint that Jo has a position of power within the Wardens now - I can't wait. (hide spoiler)]

Valerie says

[I *am* getting tired of the

Joy says

This actually concludes the on going war between Wardens and Djinn that has spanned all the books so far. The author certainly has no problem killing people. They die left and right and the main character takes a beat down every book. Of course like many fantasy worlds there is magic healing so no harm done. I've always had a bit of aversion to this kind of easy save. It happens in the games too. But it would be a boring chapter if you had to wait for the focus character to be up and running again.

Kt says

The ending events of the last book were absolutely horrible emotionally. Ashan, the leader of the djinn who are against humanity killed Imara and completely wiped away all of Joanne's memories in an attempt to destroy her as well. This was all done in retaliation for stopping his plot to destroy humanity. In the beginning of this book Joanne wakes up naked in the snow with no knowledge of who she is. She is rescued by Lewis and David, but that does not go very smooth at first since she has no idea who they are. She reluctantly decides to trust them since they do seem to be helping her. Much to their surprise they realize she is now manifesting a new power category, earth. Lewis is the only other person who has manifested all three

powers, so her new power really scares all of them as they do not know what it means. Joanne has always been powerful, but this takes it to crazy extremes and will make it interesting to see where it leads.

While trying to get back to warden headquarters to try and find out how to restore her memories, she runs into a demon who looks just like her. The demon has stolen her missing memories and identity, and if Joanne isn't careful she will lose everything to it. Joanne's position in the wardens is not something you would want a demon to have access to, as it would give the demon the means to cause a great amount of damage.

I cried so hard when Imara died. Even though she was only around for such a short time, she was such an important part of Joanne's life. She had to make the heart wrenching decision to choose all of humanity over her daughter. It almost is a good thing Ashan stole Joanne's memories because I don't know if she could ever really forgive herself for choosing to not save her daughter, let alone function with that pain. At least for now she doesn't remember any of it, so the potential anguish at least isn't preventing her from going after the demon.

I almost didn't want to read this book because I didn't want to see and feel Imara's absence. Although it was really heartbreaking at times, I am glad I read it. The ending of this book gave a little bit of relief, but things are extremely tenuous at best. It wouldn't take much of anything to make everything come crashing down. I'm sure the next book will show even more craziness being thrown at Joanne, and luckily she has the new earth powers to help support herself.

The Listmaker says

Not quite up to par with the other books in the series. It's as if Ms. Caine tried to do something different; but you know what - if it ain't broken, don't fix it.

Relying on old soap opera cliches of amnesia and evil twins serves no real purpose to propel the story forward. What small character and plot development there was could have been achieved without relying on such trite plot devices.

Still a good book, and a good recap of what's happened in the previous five books (think Cliff Notes version of the Weather Warden series) for those new to the series. It's just not as good as previous entries.

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

This has been posted on my Happy Indulgence Blog. Check it out for more reviews!

We've reached the halfway mark for the Weather Warden series and as far as I'm concerned, Thin Air is the best in the series so far. Since the epic world-domination build up from books 1-4, Thin Air throws all of this out the window and gets us back to basics.

Joanne Baldwin, our favourite weather warden with a wicked sense of humour, wakes up naked and shivering in a forest with no recollection of who she is. She is approached by Lewis, her colleague who tells her they have impending danger ahead. Slowly throughout the course of the book, she learns who she is by

absorbing other people's memories with the help of a Djinn and her own mysterious abilities.

There's one thing evident about Rachel Caine ever since Ill Wind, and that is her skill in delivering flashbacks to supplement the current story. Thin Air is all about flash backs, but it's from other people's perspectives. Ever wanted to see what swimwear model Cherise thinks of Jo and Sarah, her money-grabbing sister? What the cold hard life of a twisted killer is like? Thin Air delivers all of these and more, and it really adds to the character development in the story.

While Joanne is trying to figure out who she is, we know exactly what has happened and the whole memory loss thing didn't affect the brisk plot moving forward after the whole Djinn aftermath. We pick up where the previous book has left off, not knowing what's happened to Ashan and Imara. There's this awesome 'Evil Twin' plot thread happening too, an evil Demon who is trying to take over Joanne's life.

I devoured the whole book in just 3 days, and things are really looking interesting in the weather warden universe. If you haven't started it yet, you're missing out on a really unique and exciting series!

Alex says

Rachel Caine crapped out the first three books of this series. The next two required prune juice. This one required magnesium citrate and a lot of straining.

Also: I'd like to say that I hate to be picky, but I don't. I love being picky. And in books 2, 4, and 5, her fictional town of Seacasket was in Maine. In book 6, said *terribly* named town was not in Maine, but was in New Jersey. No explanation. No reason. No nothing. So either a) the quasi-apocalypse in the previous book had its major effect on zip codes and congressional districts, or b) Rachel Caine is not just a hack, but is a forgetful hack. I leave choosing a reason to this mystery as an exercise for the reader.

David says

Picking up almost exactly from where Firestorm left off, this novel starts with Joanne Baldwin waking up naked and freezing cold in a forest with no idea of who she is, or how she got there.

In other words, the good old amnesia plot.

As the novel progresses, Joanne must (re)learn how to use her powers, as well as struggling with the emergence of a new (to her) power, and with trying to reconnect with her past life. Alongside this, further insight is given into the state of affairs in the Djinn 'nation' (is that the right word?), and we finally see a culmination to what has been brewing in the last couple of novels regarding Demons.

With all that in mind, and despite the fact that amnesia, in many ways, could provide a 'clean slate', this is definitely NOT a good choice to enter the series on, with recurring characters and references to previous events (even if Joanne can't remember them, the people bringing them up can). For a change, this novel also does have an ending in its own right - indeed, it could be viewed as ending the plot strands introduced over the last 2 or 3 books in the series - while also leaving scope for more novels to be set in the same world with the same characters.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

The amnesia trope is done in a creative and unusual manner and it works for me. The first third of the book has good pacing and is very good. The plot slows for awhile at that point and I found it a little annoying but it picked up again after a few chapters and remained strong for the rest of the book. Jo spent a little too much time being rescued this time around but it went with the amnesia and the book set up far more power for her in the future.

Some past characters show up (at least one that really feels superfluous). There are some revelations here and answers to a few of my questions that I've been asking since several books ago. The best part is a major turning point in the series which is always refreshing.

I wanted to deduct a star because at one point, with what seems like impending battle, Jo receives what she sees as the perfect clothes for her including three inch heels. But fortunately the battle was just an indoor debate kind of thing and she has been very good about getting her priorities straight in these later books so I'll let it slide. :)

Wendy Darling says

Randomly picked this up at a library sale because I like the author's Morganville Vamps series...and I liked it! It was weird to read a middle book, but it actually worked out okay since it's one where the main character has amnesia. I like the characters and the story and the paranormal stuff, though, so I'm off to find the others...

Susana says

As always Joanne Baldwin doesn't have an easy life. She has lost her memories and a demon is out to get her. And if she doesn't fight back, she risks losing more than her past.

She risks losing her life.

After the way that the last book ended, I really didn't know what to expect...okay, maybe part of me, was expecting that Imara would return. Which she does, in a way....but even so, this story was really heartbreakingly sad.

I'm just grateful that the amnesia thing wasn't played in a way that could allow a love triangle. Because THAT would really be upsetting. Thankfully, it didn't. Because I really like David and Joanne as a couple, and I don't care how great Lewis is, because I really don't want to read about that kind of mess.

So in the end, this was another great book of the Weather Warden series, and I'm looking forward to read the next one.
