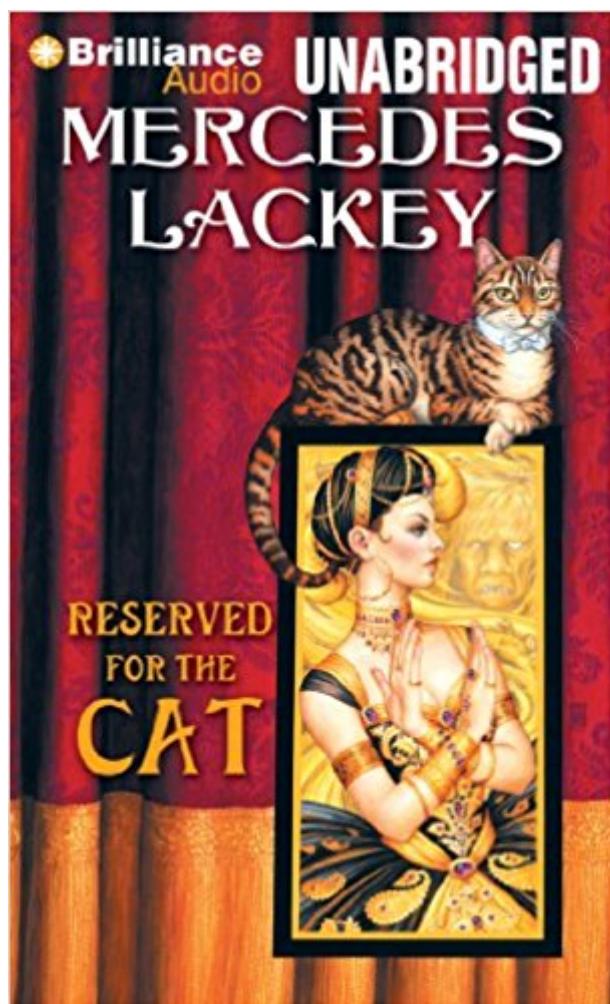


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# Reserved For The Cat (Elemental Masters)



## Synopsis

Ninette Dupond was a dancer with the Paris Opera Ballet. She had been very lucky— if she had not been pretty, and a natural dancer, she could only have become what her mother had been: a washerwoman, or perhaps if she were desperate and hungry enough, a prostitute. But Ninette's good luck ended the day that the lead dancer sprained her ankle and Ninette was chosen to dance her part at a matinee. Her reviews had been very good— too good. Shortly thereafter Ninette had been fired in an attempt to soothe the wounded ego of the ballet's primary soloist. Alone, unemployed, and filled with despair, Ninette had returned to her apartment to find a thin, rangy, tabby-striped tomcat sitting on her windowsill. He seemed like just another stray, until abruptly he spoke to her, mind-to-mind. Ninette thought she was going mad, but the cat offered her an alternative to prostitution, albeit a very odd one. He proposed that she impersonate a renowned Russian ballerina, Nina Tchereslavsky, and go to work in a specific music hall in Blackpool, England. The cat also told her that he would take care of her in every way— he would somehow convey the English and Russian languages to her, supply her with money, and guide her every move. With no other option open to her, she placed her life in his paws. What Ninette didn't know was that the cat was an Elemental Spirit sent to protect her, and that the music hall in Blackpool was owned by an Elemental Master. But she also didn't know that the real Nina Tchereslavsky no longer existed. For the real Nina had been absorbed by an Elemental Spirit of the darkest kind that was now bent on Ninette's destruction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for the Elemental Masters series:  
"The Paris of Degas, turn-of-the-century Blackpool, and the desperation of young girls without family or other protection come to life in a story that should interest a broad readership." • Booklist  
"All in a fine fairy-tale tradition." It's grim fun, with some nice historical detail, and just a hint of romance to help lighten things. • Locus  
"The action and dialogue flow freely, mingling with beautiful descriptions of European countryside and just a hint of romance."  
A well-developed heroine and engaging story. • Publishers Weekly  
"The fifth in the series involving the mysterious Elemental Masters, this story of a resourceful young dancer also delivers a new version of a classic fairy tale. Richly detailed historic backgrounds add flavor and richness to an already strong series that belongs in most fantasy collections. Highly recommended." • Library Journal  
"Lackey's fantastical world of Elementals, plus her delightful Nan and Sarah, create an amusing contrast for Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. The mix of humor, history, fantasy, and mystery is balanced in a way that any reader could pick up the book and thoroughly enjoy it from beginning to end." • RT Reviews  
"The Elementals novels are beautiful, romantic adult fairy tales. Master magician Mercedes Lackey writes a charming fantasy." • Worlds of Wonder  
"Ms. Lackey is a master in fantasy, and this visit to an alternate historical England is no exception. Vivid characterization and believable surroundings are flawlessly joined in a well-detailed world." • Darque Reviews  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Mercedes Lackey is a full-time writer and has published numerous novels and works of short fiction, including the bestselling Heralds of Valdemar series. She is also a professional lyricist and a licensed wild bird rehabilitator. She lives in Oklahoma with her husband and collaborator, artist Larry Dixon, and their flock of parrots.

Another success in the Elemental Masters series by Mercedes Lackey. Ms. Lackey, as usual, writes beautifully, with clarity and great character development. Ninette's story unfolds slowly, and seeming coincidences turn out to be directed by her 'pet cat'. Though starting out in Paris, where Ninette is a

dancer with the Paris Opera, most of the story takes place in the UK in the world of "elemental masters" which we last encountered in "The Wizard of London".

This is one of Mercedes Lackey's Elemental Masters series of books, and one of the most enjoyable. I really liked the way they developed the main character as a performer, and worked out the love story between her and the elemental master who fell in love with her. The plot was extremely well done, as a take on Dick Whittington and Puss in Boots. I hope you will enjoy this book.

This book is one of the more emotional novels in The Elemental Masters series. I identified with the heroine of the story and having gone through a similar situation as her, it helped me process through some of my own problems. Mercedes Lackey doesn't shy away from uncomfortable subjects, but instead incorporates them into fantastic storytelling! I absolutely love this series and I love this book! Mercedes Lackey has been my favorite author for 16 years, and I definitely recommend her work to anyone who enjoys the fantasy genre.

Another excellent book from Misty. It's in the Elemental Masters series. It works well with the series but completely stands alone in case you haven't read the others. It has a very intelligent talking 'cat' and parrot in it. It posits a completely believable system of magic. It has a very likable character, a dancer down on her luck but willing to work like heck to get to the top with a little help from the cat. A nasty but interesting enemy to fight. It's just a tiny bit shallower than a couple other books from the series, and of course nothing she's ever written is as good as her Heralds of Valdemar series, but it's a fine book and a great read and another reason that Mercedes Lackey is one of my all time favorites.

A good read in the elemental masters series. Plot is somewhat recycled in places from earlier works. Still the author makes a good read of it. The worst problem with this and most of the other kindle books is scanning software which fails to distinguish between n, m, and r combinations. There is also too much confusion between 'c' and 'e'. The word merc frequently becomes mere. Breaks in words occur where there should be none. The little things which have nothing to do with the author are ANNOYING. This needs to be fixed if kindle is capable of doing so.

I can't tell you how many times I've read this one, being an intriguing departure from her original

'formula' for the Elemental mage series, this departure being that Nina is not herself a Master of one of the Elements herself. This departure in no way detracts from the story, and in my opinion adds to the interaction between characters in a very positive manner. As an added bonus, I addicted my ballet-mad little sister to it and enticed her to the light side of the force by siccing some of the rest of the series on her afterwards.

This was a fun read. I usually like M. Lackey's books, as was not disappointed. Instead I enjoyed the plot and the cast. I read without interruption except for school rides for my grandkids. When I transport my youngest grandkids, I tell them stories and/or sing. This story was so much fun to tell them, we even made up a song for the little dancer from the cat's view. Hurray! Such a pleasure.

The only problem with this otherwise wonderful tale is that it sometimes slows down to the point where action is displaced by too much unnecessary description. This would be intolerable were not the under-the-microscope detail being written by Mercedes Lackey with all of her story-telling magic! Fits well into this wonderful Elemental Masters series.

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