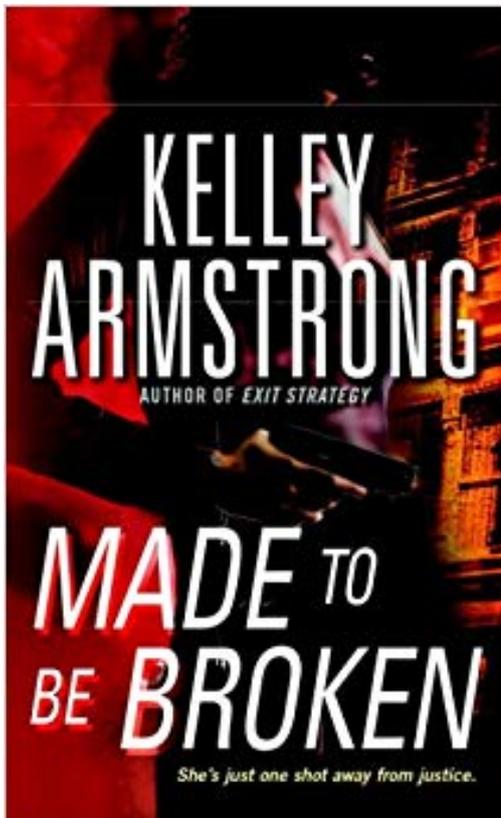


Made To Be Broken (The Nadia Stafford Series) by Kelley Armstrong



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Nadia Stafford isn't your typical nature lodge owner. An ex-cop with a legal code all her own, she's known only as "Dee" to her current employers: a New York crime family who pays her handsomely to bump off traitors. But when Nadia discovers that a troubled teenage employee and her baby have vanished in the Canadian woods, the memory of a past loss comes back with a vengeance, and her old instincts go into overdrive. With her enigmatic mentor, Jack, covering her back, Nadia unearths sinister clues that point to an increasingly darker and deadlier mystery. Now, with her obsession over the case deepening, the only way Nadia can right the wrongs of the present is to face her own painful ghosts — and either bury them for good, or die trying. Because in her book, everyone deserves a chance. And everyone deserves justice.



Reviews of the **Made To Be Broken (The Nadia Stafford Series)** by Kelley Armstrong

Cerana

This was my second reading of these 2 nadia books and it certainly won't be the last! I couldn't believe I never reviewed it, so here goes. I won't go into the plot of the book as others have already done a great job.

I thought the investigation this time around was a good one, but my main point of interest has always been the relationship between jack and nadia. In this book, quinn makes his return and you get to see jack's reaction to that. I have never been so frustrated with a character as I was during jack's convo with evelyn! At that point, I was totally fine with nadia deciding to try something with quinn because if jack isn't going to step up then why wait? And I have nothing against quinn, he's a great guy. I just happen to like jack better for nadia. I really think they know each other so well and he's the one who, at the end of the day, knows her better and knows more about her. And she openly admits she has feelings but they are just both scared and that's understandable to a point, but jack really has to open up to her if he wants something more or else she WILL settle for quinn as evelyn says.

So I'm really looking forward to what book 3 brings, can't wait!!

Beazerdred

Nadia Stafford is back in her second novel as lodge owner/hit woman in "Made to be Broken." As we start the novel Nadia is having some employee issues at the lodge. Her new girl hired to take some of the load off the elderly cook and caretaker is more concerned with the health and happiness of her baby than with her paying job-and Nadia can't bring herself to fire or discipline a teenage mom-especially one who's so determined to be good at it.

But when one day Sammie and her three month old daughter disappear Nadia just can't buy into the rest of the town's theory that she's run off like a bad apple. So she starts investigating. And finds Sammie's body in an unmarked grave in the woods-baby nowhere in sight.

Based on the way Sammie was killed Nadia knows a hit man/woman was involved. So she goes to her mentor Jack for help tracking down the killer and trying to find the baby-unsure of what she'll do even if she does manage to locate it.

Like the first novel in this series "Made to be Broken" has little in common with the women of the otherworld series except for a general similarity in writing style. None of the sex scenes that Kelley Armstrong is so famous for appear here, nor do the massive action sequences (though to be fair, there is action.) But for all their differences these books bear such a resemblance to the supernatural side of Armstrong's writing that fans will have no trouble with the crossover and diehard fans may find themselves a bit bored with all the old standards.

Overall this is a decent book. I'm pretty good at guessing mysteries and I didn't have this one figured out in the end. While I prefer the women of the otherworld series I wouldn't say no to reading another Nadia Stafford book in the future.

Four stars.

Direbringer

Nadia is not your typical fictional heroine. She is an assassin. In this second book of a series by a writer who usually tells supernatural tales, the characters develop more depth but still leave many

questions unanswered. Vaguely reminiscent of a Mercedes Lackey tale, the title character is a girl who truly needs help; but, unfortunately for her, never gets the help that is needed. The cliché of the book is the cynicism of not being able to overcome your background. Be it "trailer trash" or "cop kid," the environment and the circumstances conspire together in an unavoidable trap. The heroine, Nadia, was a cop who took the law into her own hands, and has become a law unto herself. I truly liked the descriptions of weather and nature, as the breeze from my fan helped raise the "chicken skin" on my arms when reading what the wind had wrought. This is an other world, where the writer does better in her "otherworld" series of witches, necromancers, and werewolves. As a slightly off-kilter detective novel, there are many redeeming factors.

Falya

The first book Exit Strategy (Nadia Stafford Series, Book 1) is not a prerequisite to enjoying this book but I strongly recommend it because a lot of fundamental character development goes on there.. Overall the plot is quite good with a nice twist but not as strong overall as it could be. The characters are all developing nicely but Jack and Quinn seem to not be keeping up with Nadia. Overall nicely done and relatively realistic given the state of the adoption industry here today. A moderately wealthy family could see the way to spending a couple hundred thousand on getting just the baby that they want when the basic adoption will likely hit them \$50k or so. To bad it is infeasible to reveal Sammy's murder and make the OPP sergeant look bad as he deserves but in reality you can't have it all and the overly neat endings are sometimes jarring. A little nice humor here and there and a commendable absence of editorial errors. Nadia spends a little too much time on self justification with a dash of pity thrown in but overall the book is an excellent read.

Braswyn

I loved this book and the other 2 of this little series. I had to go back and reread all 3 immediately, to the exclusion of many other things. While it would seem like the intro of the main character would be distaste or offense--I was immediately drawn in and could empathize far more easily than I anticipated. This is not even the sort of book that I like, but I loved other books of this author so bought them and just devoured them. Extremely good read, keeping you guessing and very fast paced! Buy it, read it, do not emulate the main characters in their profession but in their cautious growing relationship.

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