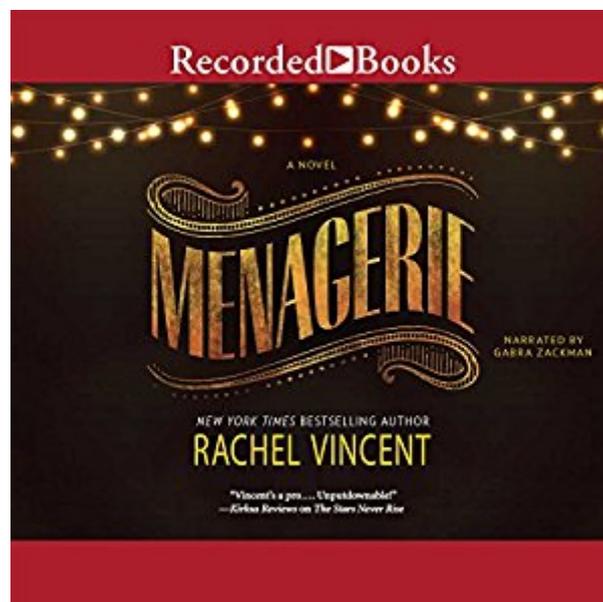


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# Menagerie



## Synopsis

When Delilah Marlow visits a famous traveling carnival, Metzger's Menagerie, she is an ordinary woman in a not-quite-ordinary world. But under the macabre circus black-top, she discovers a fierce, sharp-clawed creature lurking just beneath her human veneer. Captured and put on exhibition, Delilah is stripped of her worldly possessions, including her own name, as she's forced to "perform" in town after town. But there is breathtaking beauty behind the seamy and grotesque reality of the carnival. Gallagher, her handler, is as kind as he is cryptic and strong. The other "attractions" - mermaids, minotaurs, gryphons, and kelpies - are strange, yes, but they share a bond forged by the brutal realities of captivity. And as Delilah struggles for her freedom, and for her fellow menagerie, she'll discover a strength and a purpose she never knew existed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*  
Menagerie by Rachel Vincent  
Book One of the Menagerie series  
Publisher: MIRA (Harlequin)  
Publication Date: September 29, 2015  
Rating: 3 stars  
Source: eARC from NetGalley  
\*\*\*Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers\*\*\*  
Summary (from Goodreads):  
From New York Times bestselling author Rachel Vincent comes a richly imagined, provocative new series set in the dark mythology of the Menagerie. When Delilah Marlow visits a famous traveling carnival, Metzger's Menagerie, she is an ordinary woman in a not-quite-ordinary world. But under the macabre circus black-top, she discovers a fierce, sharp-clawed creature lurking just beneath her human veneer. Captured and put on exhibition, Delilah in her black swan burlesque costume is stripped of her worldly possessions, including her

own name, as she's forced to "perform" in town after town. But there is breathtaking beauty behind the seamy and grotesque reality of the carnival. Gallagher, her handler, is as kind as he is cryptic and strong. The other "attractions"—mermaids, minotaurs, gryphons and kelpies—are strange, yes, but they share a bond forged by the brutal realities of captivity. And as Delilah struggles for her freedom, and for her fellow menagerie, she'll discover a strength and a purpose she never knew existed. Renowned author Rachel Vincent weaves an intoxicating blend of carnival magic and startling humanity in this intricately woven and powerful tale. What I Liked: Super long review coming your way, people. No apologies.

Rachel Vincent brings us a new and enchanting series that is bound to be epic beyond all reason! Menagerie is a unique blend of paranormal and contemporary and shows us the darker side of menagerie settings where the participants are nothing more than prisoners. The world here is also unique in that it's aware of the less than human residents hiding throughout. There was an event in the 80s that's touched on for history purposes and basically it results in all these paranormal beings being seen as monsters. Though they look human, none are treated as such. It's almost a blessing, for the paranormal, to be killed because there are far worse punishments than death. Other punishments involve being hunted down like animals in game parks, being used and abused in less than savory environments, or being sold to a menagerie. Delilah has never enjoyed seeing the cryptids, aka the paranormal beings, being abused in the ways that society inflicts on them. At one point, she wanted to be a cryptid-vet and help to take care of them, but when she learned that that position involved more torturing and studying than caring, she quickly dropped her studies and resigned herself to being a bank teller. Going to a menagerie for her birthday wasn't the best gift her boyfriend could provide, but since tickets are expensive, she felt obligated to attend with him and her friends. It was at this menagerie when something unthinkable happened and Delilah is exposed as being a cryptid of some kind. We were aware of this prior to the event happening, though only in the vaguest sense of the word. And Delilah was completely unaware of her secret identity, and learning that she isn't quite human was a devastating blow.

MENAGERIE is fascinating and unique and incredibly imaginative. It's a story quite like no other with its unusual array of interesting and exotic characters. It's a story that will break your heart, will make you think, and will make you rail against the injustice toward, and inhumane treatment of, the beautiful and terrifying and extraordinary creatures that make up the menagerie. Author Rachel Vincent invites readers into a world that is dark and intriguing, strange and seductive and

spellbinding, harsh and heartbreaking, vicious and cruel. And she gives them a glimpse of what life is really like behind the scenes of Metzger's Menagerie for its reluctant performers. When Delilah Marlow first visited Metzger's Menagerie she was both captivated and repulsed by what she saw. Years later when the show was back in town she found herself just as drawn to the beasts, the oddities, the spectacle. But an act of cruelty toward one of its young and helpless performers enraged Delilah in a way she hadn't ever been before, revealing to her, her friends, and everyone who witnessed her transformation that she is not so different from the curiosities in the menagerie they'd come to gawk at. Finding out she was not human and that the life she had planned was no longer possible was devastating. Being taken into captivity and forced to make sense of a power she hadn't even known she had in order to perform for the menagerie was an absolute nightmare. One without end, unless she could find a way to use her power to escape her captors and flee to a place where she could exist, undetected, and live free from persecution. MENAGERIE isn't a story for the faint of heart. It doesn't tread lightly when it reveals the barbaric conditions the captives are forced to endure.

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