



The Pirate's Wish

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After setting out to break the curse that binds them together, the pirate Ananna and the assassin Naji find themselves stranded on an enchanted island in the north with nothing but a sword, their wits, and the secret to breaking the curse: complete three impossible tasks. With the help of their friend Marjani and a rather *unusual* ally, Ananna and Naji make their way south again, seeking what seems to be beyond their reach.

Unfortunately, Naji has enemies from the shadowy world known as the Mists, and Ananna must still face the repercussions of going up against the Pirate Confederation. Together, Naji and Ananna must break the curse, escape their enemies — and come to terms with their growing romantic attraction.

The Pirate's Wish Details

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From Reader Review The Pirate's Wish for online ebook

Kaya says

So disappointing. I was convinced that after the Assassin's Curse, which has had so much potential, the story would only go upwards. I was painfully wrong. The plot was resolved ridiculously easy and the relationship was absurdly forced. And why is no one talking about the mental abuse Naji had suffered from Ananna?

There are boons/wishes granted, few pirate fights, manticore royalty, gay queens, a lot of unnecessary teenage angst, whining, oh and also they're trying to break three curses but it doesn't seem important since Ananna only cares about how a particular boy doesn't like her and now the world is about to end.

Seriously, the manticore is the only character I loved in this book. Naji was ok too, I guess. The breaking of the last curse was too convenient, actually, the whole story was way too simplistic. I don't understand why two books were needed to tell it. The battles were small, unexciting and non-important to the overall plot. The cures for the curses felt anticlimactic and unimaginative. There were some talking sharks. Kill.me.now.

Ananna is a complete brat. I went from liking her in the Assassin's Curse to absolutely hating her guts in the Pirate's Wish. She showed no appreciation for everything Naji has done for her. Instead, she kept on punishing him and being cruel simply because GOD FORBID HE DIDN'T reciprocate her feelings. The concern he showed for her, or protection he provided, she whined about everything, like it's her they needed to fix. Well, truth be told she could really use some brain-washing.

Naji is the most pitiful character in the book since he was being mentally abused for no good reason, never mind he has been a skillful assassin with powerful blood magic. Afflicted with the curse, having unhealthy bond with Ananna, chased by supernaturals from another dimension, enslaved eternally to an order of assassins, ostracized because of his magic - the guy can't seem to catch a break.

When Ananna finally kisses Naji, everything goes to hell. Ananna was marked by every single YA cliché as her world literally spins around Naji's mood. She started hating herself because Naji didn't love her back and truth be told, it's not like she gave him a good reason to even like her. Because Naji doesn't want to be kissed in his sleep, Ananna suddenly thinks that her kissing technique is horrible, and that no boy could ever like her for who she is.

All Ananna cares about is getting Naji to fall in love with her - in a passive-aggressive way. In the Assassin's Curse, Ananna wasn't really bothered with what Naji thinks of her, even though she was aware she had feelings for him. She was too busy trying to save both of their lives. In this one, her biggest concern is whether Naji loves her or not. Ananna's happiness depended on whether Naji was with her - when he wasn't she was moping around and when he was, she tried to make him feel as worse as possible. EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T DESERVE IT.

I really don't believe Naji can just suddenly fall in love with Ananna, after how insufferable she was. I still don't comprehend the transition within his feelings towards her. Basically, most of the book, Ananna was kissing Naji and Naji didn't feel the same way, and therefore Ananna feels humiliated and ignores him. That exact situation actually happened TWICE. Ananna's feelings seem genuine, but his are just too abrupt.

I still like the non-traditional happily-ever-after. Everything is left open and in the future they'll actually have to WORK on their relationship and TALK much more than ever before. Unfortunately, their spark faded and

I don't think they'll be able to work it out without their sexual tension, which is too bad because in the first book they had a great build up.

Before they finally get together, there has been ridiculous amount of unnecessary drama caused by Ananna's mood swings. She acts like a child by ignoring Naji and taking every opportunity to flirt with other men in an effort to make him jealous. The author relies too much on magic to help her characters get together instead of actual conversation or even character development.

Navessa says

I enjoyed this book. I enjoyed this book IMMENSELY.

You know a book is good when you try to think of how to do it justice in a review and all you can come up with is something like this:

Since I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review I'll try to abstain from that and use *actual words* to describe its epicness.

The first book, *The Assassin's Curse*, ends with our main character, Ananna, stranded on the spooky, mist shrouded Isles of the Sky with Naji, the perma-grumpy assassin forced to protect her because of the curse he incurred while trying to **kill** her. Oh the irony.

They learn that in order to break the curse he has to complete three impossible tasks:

The first; experience true love's kiss.

The second; hold the princess's starstones.

The third; create life out of violence.

This book follows them on their journey to complete these tasks and during their travels they go from the Isles of the Sky to the high seas, a dust swept desert, a magic filled jungle and an underwater city that can only be described as Atlantian.

The main character is a foul mouthed pirate who has a propensity for words like 'ain't' and occasionally speaks in half formed sentences. She's gruff, likes a spot (or two or three or four) of rum and only feels at ease with shipboards swaying beneath her feet. Her poor English *could* have been annoying if not properly executed but I thought that in this case, it totally hit the mark. Also, only her speaking parts and internal monologue follow this theme. What's written in observance and occurrence is beautifully done and makes up for her lack of eloquence in my opinion.

The way Clarke paints the support characters and the cities and shores Ananna and Naji visit through analogies is both understated and elegant. I loved that she could use just a sentence or two to describe someone and yet somehow I had a perfectly formed picture in my mind of WHO that person was from the wrinkles on their sun-darkened face to the tatters in their salt-stained clothing to the slyness of their mind.

And speaking of characters. As soon as I saw this book I found myself wondering what that creepy human-lion-scorpion-batwing creature on the cover was and how it would come into play. It's a manticore. No big deal. It also eats humans and is trapped on the Isles of the Sky with Ana and Naji in the beginning. Her name is Ongraygeemryn. Try to say it three times fast. Hell, try to properly pronounce it once. They strike a deal with her that she won't eat them if they take her back home. I absolutely loved her. She was bloodthirsty, blunt and my favorite support character by far. I hope she shows up again in the later books.

I don't want to get into too much detail about the plot because I feel like almost everything I want to say would be borderline spoilery. What I will say is that during their journeys you meet some old friends from the first book but also pick up some new ones along the way until the group they travel with forms into a motley crew of pirates, noblemen, assassins and queenly consorts.

Not only is this book filled with near constant action and adventure (to include an EPIC SEA BATTLE) but there's also a pretty believable romantic sideline. You see, Ananna loves Naji. No, not wuvs. Loves. I say this because it's realistic love and unrequited in a sometimes cringeworthy way. I thought it was really refreshing that she didn't think everything he did was magic, that she could still recognize when he was being a prick and want to slap him upside the head for it.

Okay, I've run out of words. This book is awesome. You should read it.

Maureen says

3.75/5 stars

I really really enjoyed this Duology. It's not without its problems and issues, but overall it was wonderful!

Catriona (LittleBookOwl) says

I plan on doing a series review! AHHHHH it was so good!

Katie says

The Assassin's Curse was one of my favorite books I read last year. It blew me away with its originality and creativity, and it had me wishing there were pirates and assassins in every YA high fantasy. So when Strange Chemistry emailed me about digital copies of *The Pirate's Wish* on NetGalley, I freaked out. I NEEDED this book to be good. And it so was!

Cassandra Rose Clarke has written two books that are crazy original. A lot of high fantasy (specifically in YA) is really similar - medieval-esque setting, a big prophesy, a "Chosen One," and lots of sword fighting. But Clarke gave us something else - pirates, an underwater kingdom, a talking minotaur that has immaculate manners, and a hero who's crazy hot, despite being disfigured. The originality is definitely still here, and it's so refreshing!

My favorite character in this series is totally the minotaur. She. Is. Hysterical. All her scenes were the best, and I seriously wanted her to be in the entire book (which, sadly, she is not). I also really love Ananna and Naji, who are both so different than other YA characters I've read.

The adventure is great too! I loved all the battles and the cities they visit and the journey of curing Naji of his curse. I never knew where the group was headed next or how Clarke was going to wrap everything up in the end. And while the ending isn't necessarily final, it's satisfying.

Something I feel like needs to be mentioned is the romance. It's NOT your traditional YA romance; nor does it end the way you think it's going to. I've read some early reviews, and there seems to be some discontent with the romance as a whole. But I liked it, and honestly, how could we expect anything traditional from Clarke, who has broken all conventions so far? I think the romance fits the book really well, even if it isn't necessarily pretty and perfect and wrapped up in the end. Also, I kind of like the whole girl-yearning-for-boy-who-doesn't-like-her-back thing. That's such a universal thing, and I think Clarke balanced that well.

I always have a hard time expressing my thoughts on a book I really liked, so I'll just end by saying that this was a satisfying conclusion to The Assassin's Curse duology. A part of me wanted there to be another book, just so I could stay in this world some more, but I'll just have to content myself with the companion duology that Clarke is writing.

Loved this book. Loved this series. Definitely an author I'll be reading more from!

Norah Una Sumner says

4,5 stars

Who would've guessed that I'm going to love this book so much? Yes, it had many flaws but I don't know...I just really felt the pain the characters were in and the story was really interesting. I kind of got really attached to Ananna, even though I didn't like her that much in the first part of this duology. Marjani and the Manticore were fantastic supporting characters and I loved Ananna's parents too. I love the way Naji is portrayed - he still wants to be accepted and to have someone who will love him no matter what, even though he's an assassin. The ending was...*different*? I actually liked it and think that Cassandra Clarke did a great job wrapping up the story nicely.

Ava says

*Together, Naji and Ananna must break the curse, escape their enemies — and come to terms with **their** growing romantic attraction.*

EXCUSE ME.

What 'romantic tension' are you talking about?

Ananna and Naji never even had any in the first place. I have more *sexual* tension with my fish.

~~I still want to read this, though.~~

Catie says

Above all else, this is a pretty satisfying conclusion to a story that began not so long ago with one runaway pirate bride on a camel. I thought I would have to wait a whole year to find out how the dreaded Assassin's Curse was dealt with, but lo – the internet is generous to me. I read this book in about four noncontiguous hours of metro riding and would have happily holed up with it somewhere if I'd had the chance. It was a quick, enjoyable read. However, this second installment was not as enjoyable as the first for me, for a variety of reasons.

This second half of the duology starts off pretty much exactly where the first left us – with Ananna and Naji trapped on a mysterious magical island and bound by an impossible curse. As with all impossible curses, the cure involves three impossible feats – one of which is true love's first kiss (naturally!). Poor, scrappy Ananna knows that it would be all too easy to complete that particular feat, but Naji is still delightfully clueless about her feelings. However, once a rather feisty manticore enters the picture, bent on curing Naji so she can have a tasty meal of non-cursed blood magician meat, things really get cracking.

I went into this thing expecting the final resolution (and mostly the kiss) to get pushed off (realistically or artificially – by any means necessary) until the very end. After all, the romance novels I know and sometimes love are notorious for dragging out final declarations and for placing undue emphasis on THE FIRST KISS. Here is how the average plot structure of a romance novel looks like to me:

Note the slow building tension, the climactic declaration scene, the HEA, and of course – the unnecessary epilogue where we'll probably see the heroine blissfully happy with two precocious kids and a lust-filled marriage.

I must say that I was shocked when that didn't happen! I have to give Clarke major kudos for punching my expectations in the face and surprising me many times in this book. I mean, not only did she give me yet another talking cat (close enough) for my collection, she let the heroine claim the first kiss in the beginning chapters AND learn to be an independent badass lady by the end of the book. However, weirdly enough I think that some of the things I admired about the book's nonconformity to romance novel standards actually ended up lessening my overall enjoyment of the book. The plot of *The Pirate's Wish* felt something like this:

While I applauded the kiss coming so early in the story, the pages and pages of angst which occurred after the kiss did start to feel tiresome to me. The battles (always occurring just in time to prevent something important from happening) were small and unexciting. The cures for the curse felt anticlimactic and unimaginative (and sometimes rather silly: see talking sharks). And the huge romantic declaration, which is something I'd usually rather skip, was largely MISSING from this book. I didn't need a huge gushfest by any means, but I did need SOMETHING. I needed some small glimpse into Naji's head, to be able to understand why he would want to be with Ananna. Sure, maybe Ananna is an independent woman who

doesn't need a ton of assurances or any proof of Naji's love...but I guess I needed it. And I think she deserved to have it. How strong and independent is she really, if she can't even ask for what she needs from him? Also, can I just say that I was sorely disappointed that Naji's bratty ex didn't make a reappearance for some good old-fashioned comeuppance, courtesy of Ananna?

However, I did really like that the ending was left open and only partially resolved and I also liked the lack of a completely gushy-mushy HEA slash epilogue. This was a bit of a let-down for me after the brilliance of *The Assassin's Curse*, but it was still a fun ride.

Perfect Musical Pairing

Heart - I Didn't Want to Need You

This series is still satisfying, like the perfect pop song. And best of all, there's no more waiting required because it's a duology! I'm hoping she writes a spin-off series or two, but until then here's my tribute to Ananna and Naji from Heart.

Also seen at The Readventurer.

Lia says

You people! Yes, I am back.

It is finally time for me to review *The Pirate's Wish*. I cannot hide that I was a teeny tiny bit disappointed in this book: while it was still highly enjoyable, it lacked that extra something that made me love *The Assassin's Curse* so much. And yet, this duology is definitely what I would recommend for an entertaining and engaging read, and I look forward to reading more of Ms. Clarke's work.

This series reminded me slightly of the Ruby Red trilogy, probably because of how light-hearted and fun it was (even though *The Assassin's Curse* is, in my opinion, a much better series) and the second installment introduced us to new characters and new goals. To finally get rid of the curse that bound him to Ananna, Naji had to complete three seemingly impossible tasks.

Now, I've always loved the idea of a hero that must complete some perilous tasks in order to achieve a goal. From Hercules to Feyre from ACOTAR, this kind of thing always makes me feel excited, and I was disappointed to see that in *The Pirate's Wish* the whole business ended up being quite underwhelming. There was way less action than in the first book, and while I still decided to give this book three stars, I think a lot of things could have been handled better. Not only Naji's three tasks, but especially the relationship between him and Ananna and, ultimately, Ananna's character development.

I absolutely hate it when authors set up silly misunderstandings that keep two characters from being together, and while Clarke did not go *all the way* there... she almost did, which annoyed me to no end. Luckily, I never fell out of love with Naji, that for me will always have the mysterious charm of a silent and dangerous assassin, but I did have some problems with Ananna, despite having loved her in the first book. She was still headstrong and independent, but all her pining over Naji often made her sound annoying and whiny. While I do appreciate that hers was kind of an unrequited love at first, which is quite unheard of in YA (especially when it's the heroine that is pining over the hero), I also think that we spent way too much time in Ananna's

head. Yes, I get it, you're in love with the guy, and it sucks that he doesn't return your feelings. But please, stop *feeling sorry for yourself*. So, yeah, I have mixed feelings about Ananna, but I still wanted her and Naji to be together, so at least this whole thing didn't completely ruin it for me.

As I mentioned before, *The Pirate's Wish* had a slower pacing than *The Assassin's Curse*, only to turn out pretty rushed at the end. I've already said several times that I really enjoy journey books, so that aspect is always more than fine by me, but I was expecting something a little bit... **more**. On the other hand, I really appreciated the F/F relationship in this book. Marjani's preference for women was never treated as a big deal, and not only do we need more same-sex relationships in YA, but we need more same-sex relationships that do not follow the angsty-and-painful stereotype.

However, the thing I enjoyed the most about this book was the way it ended. (view spoiler) It was a beautiful and original way to end the series, and I'm glad that the author decided to make a brave choice and go against all clichés.

"So we really are creatures of magic."

"Magic and the sea," Naji said. "And yourselves, given the time."

Keertana says

Rating: 2.5 Stars

It seems to be a trend this year that every series finale disappoints me, in one way or another. As such, it was probably foolish of me to expect any better from *The Pirate's Wish*, but I did. I had high expectations for this novel - very high expectations - and while I certainly enjoyed the quick read it provided, it isn't the memorable novel that its predecessor was. And, frankly, I think this conclusion could have been better - a *lot* better - but I suspect that those thoughts belong solely with me. If *The Pirate's Wish* hadn't resorted to using some of the classic trends I dislike, perhaps this novel would have worked out better for me. Perhaps.

The Pirate's Wish starts off directly where *The Assassin's Curse* ends with Ananna and Naji stranded on an island, waiting for their pirate friend, Marjani, to pick them up so they can somehow break the curse Naji is under. Within the first three chapters of this book itself, a few important events occur that more-or-less chart the course for this novel and, consequently, my enjoyment of it. First and foremost, Ananna finds and befriends a manticore, striking a deal to deliver her back to her homeland if she refuses to eat Ananna or Naji. While the friendship between this protagonist and mythical beast cannot rival those in other novels such as *Stormdancer*, it is a cute addition to the tale that I found myself greatly enjoying. It is then, though, that the manticore convinces Ananna to kiss Naji in his sleep, thereby fulfilling one of the three tasks they must complete. And Ananna does. And, at that point, all hell breaks loose.

What *The Pirate's Wish* has in plentifold is creativity, action, and drama. Clarke continues to amaze me when it comes to the sheer span of imagination she has. Like its predecessor, this installment continues to impress in terms of world-building, magic, and new faces and realms both. Additionally, with a crew of pirates, action is never far behind and, once again, I greatly enjoyed this feature. Yet, side-by-side with these

is a rather heavy dose of drama. Ananna, from the beginning of this novel itself, is cast as a heroine facing unrequited love and, as such, her mood swings and feelings for Naji are constantly changing - enough to give me a headache. Although Ananna is still the headstrong heroine we fell in love with in *The Assassin's Curse*, she has a new, mopier side to her too that we now get to see. Yay. -.-

Quite honestly, Ananna is the sole reason I was so disappointed with this novel. Although I sympathize with Ananna's situation, I wish that her character could have grown from this event, not remained static. Ananna could have developed to be the type of protagonist who doesn't allow a small set-back to overturn her life, but unfortunately, that isn't the case. Ananna makes a *big deal* out of Naji not loving her back, constantly putting herself down and jumping to the conclusion that no man can ever love her. Furthermore, she resorts to childish behavior, ignoring Naji and taking every opportunity she has to flirt with other men in an effort to make him jealous. Not only is this a typical trend in literature, it's one I've grown exasperated with. All the more, I wish the purpose of *The Pirate's Wish* was to convey to readers that girls can be headstrong and find meaning in life from themselves or others around them, not men. While Ananna does have some very interesting conversations with Marjani (fine, one to be exact), none of this courage is exhibited through her actions and she relies on Naji to feel good about herself, all throughout the novel. Folks, I cannot tell you how much it physically pains me to see a bright, strong, and ambitious girl reliant on a man to feel happy. Physical. Pain.

Yet, Clarke continues to use very standard tropes when it comes to the romance in this novel. As a fantasy author, she relies on magic to mysteriously throw her characters together instead of conversation or character development. While there continues to be plenty of tension between Ananna and Naji, when you strip away the magic, all that's left are two vulnerable, shy people who lack the faith in themselves to approach one another. In fact, if this was a contemporary novel, Ananna and Naji wouldn't even have found love together. Without the element of magic in their lives to bind them and tell them what they can't tell each other, their story would fail to move forward. Granted, this is a fantasy series and as an author, Clarke has the full capability to do what she wants with her stories, but what this does for me as a reader is cheapen the actual relationship as it fails to build upon a foundation of friendship or conversation. If you'd ask me how invested I was in this relationship after *The Assassin's Curse*, my praise would likely know no stopping point but that excitement gradually declined over the course of this story. Without much conversation, this love story fell flat for me.

In fact, the best part about it was within the last chapter, but by then I'm afraid this book was too far gone to salvage my disappointed heart. Nevertheless, *The Pirate's Curse* is an action-packed follow-up novel that I am confident many readers will love. Unfortunately, I'm simply not one of them.

Jasprit says

Cover update! Isn't it gorgeous?

Rachel E. Carter says

~~It's a love story. It's not a love story.~~ It's... oh, who cares what it is, it was *beautiful*.

Thank you Cassandra Clarke.

Now. Let me praise you for taking this creepy beastling (*thank you Merlin on BBC for this nightmare*):

And turning her into this:

The manticore is now my favorite fantasy sidekick of all time, second only to Lord Rikash the Stormwing (from Tamora Pierce's Wild Magic series).

There was even more action, adventure, and general awesomeness. And I fell for Naji after all. Even though I spent half my time wanting to punch him in the face...

Now let's get to that ending. **NO. NO. NO.**

HOW COULD YOU!!! I get what you did there, I do, but you broke my heart in the process. It was so, so, so close to perfect. (view spoiler) Okay so it was still beautiful & made me cry so I forgive you a little bit but I feel so empty inside. I do not like this image in my head:

Still. It was an epic book and I can respect Cassandra's decision. She is an amazing writer & I will definitely be putting this on my Beauty & the Beast bookshelf one day. Because only my favorite books go there. And this is definitely one of them.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

While I wasn't the biggest fan of The Assassin's Curse, not even close, I was still very much looking forward to The Pirate's Wish. If there's one thing I admire about Clarke, it's that you never know what to expect with one of her books. She takes risks and they usually pay off.

Compared to The Assassin's Curse, The Pirate's Wish showed significant improvement in narrative structure. While the first book started had a promising start, only to flatline after the first few scenes, The Assassin's Curse had a solid beginning, a thrilling climax and a satisfying ending. Just like before, Ananna's world is enthralling, but Clarke makes it even better this time. Her deftly crafted world expands further to include more magnificent creatures, more sea battles and magical objects.

However, somehow, somewhere along the line, the feisty, courageous, unique Ananna was lost. In her place, The Pirate's Wish brings an almost unrecognizable, surly, petulant girl. The Ananna we all remember would never allow a boy to turn her into a whiny mess, but this Ananna, the new version, did exactly that. The

insecurities that made her more charming before weren't nearly as cute and relatable this time around.

It was odd how the two switched places. I didn't much care for Naji in the first book, but here he was the more reasonable of the two, even when he was too afraid to admit his feelings. In the end, I didn't understand where his change of heart came from. By the time he admitted it, there was nothing even remotely likeable left in Ananna. Just like I didn't understand what she saw in him before, now I couldn't see why he would want to be with her. I suppose it's safe to say that Clarke's romances just don't work for me, and I can't pinpoint exactly why. The best I can tell you is that it has something to do with the timing, and the amount of damage each of the characters does to the relationship before it even starts.

Those who were bothered by the language in the first book might be a bit more relaxed this time. I, on the other hand, missed Clarke's experiments. Ananna's language was still far from polished, but it wasn't nearly as pronounced as before.

If you enjoy adventures that are anything but formulaic, I highly recommend this duology. Even if it is far from perfect, it's undeniably a much needed breath of fresh air in young adult literature.

Ronak Gajjar says

[Imagine speaking sharks! Yeah! You got the picture, oh also the Manticore (hide spoiler)]

Cee (The Mistress Case) says

Assassins aren't scared of gifs – *a review for pure fun by Cee*

Ananna played by Rachel Weisz

- I thought about The Mummy a lot because of the desert in *The Assassin's Curse*. *The Pirate's Wish* is more about the ships and sea. Real pirate stuff.

- The difference between Eve and Ananna is that Eve is totally badass.

Naji played by Sebastain Stan

- I kept picturing the Winter Soldier as Naji haha

- THE MASK. THE MASK.

Even though there is more of this . . .

. . . there is also more of this.

My favorite character is the female manticore.

credit

credit

credit

“I thought he returned your affection. Humans seem to care about happiness. I wished to gift some to you. In exchange for combing my mane.”

I scowled. “You had me do it so you could eat him.”

“Well, yes, that too.”

All in all, I like *The Pirate's Wish* more than *The Assassin's Curse*.
