



## Fragile Reign

*Stacey O'Neale*

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## **Fragile Reign** Stacey O'Neale

*It's been a week since all hell broke loose...*

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*Will Kalin sacrifice her relationship with Rowan to strengthen her court?*

Rowan and Marcus return to a fire court in turmoil. Liana's death has fueled the fire elementals' distrust against the air and woodland courts. The unbalanced elements have set off natural disasters all over the mortal world. Rowan takes the throne to restore balance, promising to unite the fire court. But not all elementals are happy with his leadership. Many are secretly loyal to Valac, which means Rowan needs to find allies for his cause.

*Can Rowan unify the court of fire before the elements destroy the world?*

## **Fragile Reign Details**

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Author : Stacey O'Neale

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## From Reader Review Fragile Reign for online ebook

### Jina says

\*I will try to avoid spoilers.

Fragile Reign by Stacey O'Neale

As you may recall King Taron of the air court was recused but not before the effects of being held prisoner in the mortal world took its unfortunate toll.

The combination of aging and iron poisoning left many unsure if King Taron would be able to fully recover and remain as their king. All the uncertainty applied pressure for Kalin to become queen. Of course, it is not that simple. A halfling has never ruled over any court.

The council insists that she marry Sebastian, a full air elemental who has been her betrothed since birth.

Taron may have agreed to the arrangement but Rowan has Kalin's heart.

With Liana removed from the throne of the fire court it has caused chaos, acts of revenge, and destruction.

Rowan knows he must take his rightful place on the throne to not only set things right but to unite his court and rectify the wrong doings within his court.

He must prove himself to be the true King and take down Valac and Valac's misguided loyal followers.

Will doing what is best for Avalon mean putting duty before love?

I continue to LOVE this series! I always feel like I am right their with Rowan and Kalin every step of their journey. Ms. O'Neale pulls me into the world she has created with each book! When each book ends I find myself saying NOOO NOT YET!

\*Checkout and follow my blog:

<http://wicked-blogs.blogspot.com>

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### Margie aka The Bumble Girl says

FRAGILE REIGN picks up right where we left off...

Just when Kalin thinks that things are going to settle down and she will have time to take in everything that has happened and begins to accept what her immediate future may hold, things start to fall apart again. Kalin is needed now more than ever.

Rowan is out in the mortal world trying to control the chaos that Valac's followers are causing. Luckily for him, Marcus is right by his side, and they make a great team. However, things are far worse then he anticipated. His kingdom has no ruler. And he must decide how to claim it in a way that will stop the war

and diminish Valac and Valac's followers.

Oh my, so many things happen in this book!

Kalin and Rowan are both struggling with what they have to do versus what they want to do. It is hard to choose between what is best for their kingdoms and what is best for themselves, their hearts. They have both been through so much and have matured so quickly. Their relationship is just starting to bloom, and yet, there are so many obstacles, will it really be worth the trouble?

And now, with Taron struggling regain his powers, he is heavily relying on Kalin to follow their false plans to buy her time to come into her true powers before becoming queen.

In the meantime, we get acquainted with much loved characters and are introduced to new ones - new faces that will have a huge impact on on Kalin's fate.

We also learn more about Avalon and the elemental's history - very intriguing. I'm sure if the author decided to right a book just on this I would definitely pick it up and enjoy it.

I don't want to divulge into any other details in fear of slipping a few spoilers...

I have to say, Stacey O'Neale really knows how to create characters that I love to hate; she gives her antagonists more depth than just being the enemy with an agenda. There's always more to them, with a deeper meaning - a reason for them to be the way that they are, like it's not their fault, they have to be this way and there's no other way around it. And these characters stick with me! I rarely give a second thought to the bad guys - hardly remember them. Of course I remember their name and their main purpose to the story. But not MORTAL ENCHANTMENT's characters - these make me want to reach into the book and put up a fight right along with the protagonists! They stay with me and completely stress me out... so annoying!

And just when I think that the author couldn't possibly come up with more, she does! And delivers it all beautifully. She has kept me in awe from the very beginning. With a very strong cast of characters, realistic world-building and incredible story development - I cannot wait to see how everything will unfold in the next book!

Those who love fantasy must add this series to their TBR now!

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\*A paperback copy was sent to me by the author for an honest review.

All thoughts are my own

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### **Amber says**

Fragile Reign is an amazingly stunning continuation of this incredible epic adventure! Just when you think things couldn't get any better, I advise that you buckle your seat belt because the journey is just getting started. The danger deepens, the action builds, and the drama heightens as the real battle begins to heat up. If you think you know what's going on, then look again because as the mysteries unravel, nothing is as it seems. Don't get too comfortable and always remember to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

Kalin finally has her dad back, and he is working on recovering from his torturous capture. Shortly after she returns home, she finds that the air court has serious doubts about her ability to take her father's place on the throne. While continuing the fight to prove herself to her own people and trying to help her father recover his

own power, she finds that she needs to draw her strength, hope, and love from Ariel and Rowan. They are her greatest allies, and she will do everything she can to keep them close and alive. As Rowan returns and begins his fight to ascend to the throne for the sake of his own people, he finds that he can only keep his sanity as long as Kalin is in his life. Even though he is not used to depending on anyone other than Marcus, he finds that his heart can't and won't let go of her. Saving her life was the best decision he ever made, and he intends to hold onto her with everything in him. She has imbedded herself so deeply into his heart and soul that he finally realizes that she is a part of him and always will be. Rowan's struggle to unite his people will be a long and dangerous battle, but he knows that the alternative is unthinkable. If necessary, he will sacrifice whatever he must in order to bring balance back to the fire element and help bring stability to the planet. No matter what Rowan and Kalin must face alone, they know that they can face it as long as they have the other by their side.

I loved these characters from the first two books, and I find myself falling even more in love with them. Ariel and Marcus are tremendous secondary characters who truly lay the groundwork and help forge the deep and strong relationship between Kalin and Rowan. Without these two amazing characters, Rowan and Kalin wouldn't have the faith and courage in themselves that they nurture in the other. What a hollow and empty world it would be with no friends or family around to care about you, risk their own safety for you, and show you that you are worth more than you think. Kalin and Rowan must both learn that they need to keep their friends close and their enemies closer if they want their plans to succeed.

Stacey O'Neale continues to astound me with her incredible and exquisite writing talents. I wasn't sure what to expect yet, but this continuation was absolutely beautiful and utterly perfect. It showed the progression and deepening of relationships and the complexity of the continued power play that is being revealed slowly but surely. I am officially a huge fan of Stacy's, and I look forward to reading more from her even beyond this brilliant series!

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### **Haddie Harper says**

#### **DISCLAIMER: I was gifted a copy of this book (via the author) in exchange for honest review.**

The mortal world is undergoing what seem to be the worst fires Rowan has ever seen. Which can only mean one thing: Fire Elementals are attacking.

Kalin is filling in for her father, allowing him to recover from having been kidnapped. On top of that, she is trying to figure why her father *thinks* she is the next Akasha. Oh! and apparently she is betrothed to the son of a member in the Air Court. \*shrugs\* Yeah.

Rowan's half-brother is the reason the Fire Court is out of balance. Only if a true ruler ascend the throne can the balance and the peace be restored. His friendship with Marcus is stronger than it was ever before. Oh! Marcus became the new pack leader of the Gabriel Hounds, due to a small "complication" during Rowan's attempts to ask for the Hounds' allegiance to him on the throne.

There is a new traitor in the Air Court. Or perhaps two, because they are related. Kalin and Rowan can only see each other when they sneak away. Titles make things more official, but also . . . they are in love with each other. It gets a bit more *romantic* because Kalin's parents are reunited and they have not been with each other for while. Also, Rowan and Kalin have the beach. They have not "been with each other" per-say, but it gets a foggy at one point.

This book ends on a bit of a cliffhanger. I finished it early this morning after having to force myself to put it down late in the night. Again, I shared this with my younger brother. I read him a chapter early on in the book, and he has been coming back to me to find out what happens. Such a great series. I can hardly wait to read the next book!

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## Novel Grounds says

5 Stars|Amazon|Goodreads

I feel terrible for it taking me so long to write this review! Sometimes a book is so good that I actually forget to sit down after I finish and to write, because I am that hyped over it. This is one of those books.

We got introduced in the novella and then really got to know the characters in the first novel. When this novel was released I was over the moon. I wanted MORE. More Kalin, and definitely more Rowan. We got that in spades in this novel.

With everything really having culminated at the end of the first novel, we were all anxious to see where this one would take us. Filled with questions about the King and that ending, we jump into this novel wanting answers. Don't fret though, we do get some of them.

Kalin's father is not in great shape. Worse yet, Kalin is having to be the face while her father starts to heal. The council is not a fan of this. They want to see the King or they want another ruler. With no new signs of her being the Akasha they are doubtful. They want answers and they aren't trusting a child like Kalin to give them honest ones.

Kalin knows she has to do what is best for her kingdom and currently that means she needs to marry an air elemental named Sebastian. Only one problem, Kalin is still very in love with Rowan. Mix in how things are really a mess with all the different courts, especially the fire, and you have the makings for a real showdown on the sunrise. Secrets that have stayed hidden in the shadows are ready to come to light and they are going to rock these character's lives.

This novel had a lot of things building throughout it and as things came to a head it really got crazy. There were a lot of high intensity sense both emotionally and action packed. You don't want to miss this great series!!

**Synopsis:**

*It's been a week since all hell broke loose...*

Rumors of King Taron's weakened powers have left the air court vulnerable. Kalin is desperate to awaken her akasha powers, except she doesn't know how. Tension within the court is at an all-time high. Pressure is mounting for her to ascend to the throne, but a halfling has never ruled over any court. To solidify her position, the council has advised her to marry Sebastian—a high ranking air elemental she's never met and her betrothed.

*Will Kalin sacrifice her relationship with Rowan to strengthen her court?*

Rowan and Marcus return to a fire court in turmoil. Liana's death has fueled the fire elementals' distrust against the air and woodland courts. The unbalanced elements have set off natural disasters all over the mortal world. Rowan takes the throne to restore balance, promising to unite the fire court. But not all elementals are happy with his leadership. Many are secretly loyal to Valac, which means Rowan needs to find allies for his cause.

*Can Rowan unify the court of fire before the elements destroy the world?*

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### **Enigma says**

First of all, let me apologize for taking this long with the review. I finished this book in almost **2 days** straight and after, I was drowned so deep in different emotions that I couldn't figure out what to write. As you might have seen with my previous reviews, I have loved the series so far and the third installment does not disappoint as well.

I fell in love with Rowan before the first book even ended and thoroughly missed him in Mortal Enchantment. But Stacey O'Neale does not fail to give its readers what they want. She made us really happy by turning Fragile Reign into a dual POV. After how Mortal Enchantment ended, I was excited to see what Stacey would bring us in this book. Kalin and Rowan both struggle to contain their elements, and to bring them back in balance.

*Can the disgraced prince unify the court of fire?*

Personally, I think that Rowan can do anything he sets his mind to. I loved the way he carried himself and the confidence he displayed in the face of peril. He stood against his own court members, albeit the rogue ones, in order to save the woodland fae and air elementals. He didn't just claim the fire throne with his name instead he won it with strength and his presence of mind. He has good instincts and some mad sword fighting skills.

Well, I can go on and on about him but then we'd get off-track from the book review (I think I'd have to do another one featuring Rowan only \*sigh\*)

While Rowan is busy unifying his court, Kalin faces a tough decision. King Taron is not getting any better and her council is forcing her to marry a pure-bred air elemental in order to secure the throne for the House of Paralda. While her parents agree to the engagement, there's no doubt that it's the Fire Prince who holds her heart.

*Will Kalin sacrifice her heart to do the council's bidding?*

Then there's Sebastian, Kalin's betrothed. Is he good? Will he let the Princess follow her heart and put aside the only future he ever believed in since his birth? Or will he plot to take the throne for himself?

You have to read the book to answer all your questions. And believe me, when I say that you won't be able to put the book down till the very last page.

If you haven't read the series yet, you are missing out on a thrilling and enchanting YA read. I seriously can't wait for the next book to come out, can't believe that it will be the last. I want more of Rowan! (and Kalin too :p)

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### **Karalee says**

May contain spoilers...

Fragile Reign was a great continuation to Mortal Enchantment. Stacey O'Neale's books have a way of sucking you in. Before I realized it, I was finished this book.

After getting her father back everything is not okay for Kalin. Her father, King Taron of the air court having poison running through his veins from the iron he was locked in, is too weak to use his powers or do much of anything. So it is Kalin's job to attend meetings in his place, and possibly have to take his place as ruler. The council is not in favor of this with her being a halfling, half human half air elemental. They tell her in order to be queen she will have to marry a high ranking air elemental named, Sebastian; but there is a problem with that, she is already in love with Rowan.

Rowan is the hot heir to the fire court thrown. He and Kalin have fallen in love with each other but being in love is a hard thing for two people on very opposite sides. After the fire court attacked the air court the two courts are not exactly at peace with one another and with there still being some rogue fire court members causing trouble everywhere, led by Valac, Rowen's adopted brother who could destroy the world, things are still in chaos. It is Rowen's goal, with the help of his best friend Marcus, to take back the fire court throne, which is rightfully his, and stop his brother while keeping Kalin safe.

With everything going on there is one more thing to add an extra topping of crazy to the mess of Kalin's life, which is... it is believed that Kalin is the akasha, one who controls all of the elements(air, fire, water, and earth) and is the only one who can save everyone, which would make it hard for Rowan to save her.

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### **Henny says**

It is probably not a good idea to walk through the streets with your head stuck in a book, unless you're a Disney character (and possibly even then) but I was so engrossed with Stacey O'Neale's Fragile Reign that I literally could not put my copy of the book down and I walked most of the way to work while reading it. Luckily, I managed to not get hurt. And the only reason I stopped was because someone drove me the rest of the way there and I get carsick if I read in a car.

The second book in the Mortal Enchantment series splits between Rowan's and Kalin's points of view, which is a nice change of pace from her other two books which were only told from one character's point of view per book. My only quibble is that I would love to read more about Marcus, because let's face it, Marcus is just the best.

I think everyone should read these awesome books!

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### **Christina Marie says**

Excellent installment for this series! Stacy O'Neale has rocked my socks again! With fantastic characters, plot and feels! There was SO much character development and plot progression that I sometimes didn't know what to do with myself. There was just so much for me to hand onto.

This is the second (third) installment to the wonderfully fantastical MORTAL ENCHANTMENT series. I

was in love with THE SHADOW PRINCE and continued to fall in love during MORTAL ENCHANTMENT and now Stacey has taken me on a whole new high with this latest book - FRAGILE REIGN.

If you haven't read either book one OR two, then I recommend doing that before reading my review because while I do not spoil, I do hint at happenings that in NO way make sense to anyone who isn't caught up.

We pick up with Kalin filling in for her dad as he recovers from Valac having kidnapped him and with Rowan out in the mortal world trying to protect it from the war that's starting with the elemental kingdoms. And Marcus is with him after their reunion in ME. It's absolutely wonderful to see familiar and loved characters again.

Stacey wastes no time introducing the plot to the reader, with Valac trying to claim the throne that isn't his to claim and with Kalin trying to come to terms with being the akasha as well as dealing with a prejudiced court that won't hear of a halfling ruling their kingdom.

A lot happens. I don't even know how to put it into words... It was just SO gripping! Rowan, being his charmingly arrogant self realizes that in order to defeat Valac he has to return to the fire court and rule. So this book takes us on his journey of that, while is VERY heartwarming and bittersweet at the same time.

Kalin's journey involves the dealing of an unexpected/unknown (on her part) betrothal to Sebastian, the son of one of the court members. Along with a betrothal, her learning of her akasha powers start to become a bit more of a focus.

So, that's all I can say without spoiling too much. Let me just explain how this book made me feel. I was happy, sad, angry, excited, nervous all wrapped up into one book. Kalin, as per usual, pissed me off to NO end. But I tried to be a bit more understanding of her character. This poor girl went from living a mortal life to ruling a whole kingdom. She's in over her head. And I feel that a lot of her decision making demonstrating that stress. Especially when it came to dealing with certain individuals.

Rowan's character has grown quite a lot, in my opinion, since the first book. While his arrogance never ceases, his insecurities make an appearance every so often. Especially when Marcus is around. Their bromance is probably my favorite aspect about this book. I love reading about them together. There's so much development of character during their conversations. Especially once they start to deal with the things that Marcus did in the first two stories. It was a very cathartic and healing process for both of them. And I just loved every moment of it.

Then Marcus -- this boy needs a series of his own. His characters in the book was awing. I was rooting for him (silently and loudly) throughout this book. He was just such a bright spot in this book for me, especially when he's dealing with his dad or with Rowan. And even with Ariel, who I love so much.

While I was able to predict 98% of what happened in this book, I loved every minute of it. Kalin may not be my favorite female character, but by the end of the book, I was so proud of her. Her growth really resonates with me by the time the book concludes. And it leaves me waiting for the next book.

These characters are just so well written. They're real, believable, vulnerable and so lovable. I just love the whole series.

Also, highlight of the book? Rowan and the Eternal Flame. And I'm not say anything else. Just. Read. It.

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### **Emily says**

4.5 stars <3 <3 <3

Yes! Yes! Yes! Stacey O'Neale has done it again!!

The Mortal Enchantment series is one of my favorites, and Fragile Reign was excellent! Told from alternating points of view, Fragile Reign picks up where Mortal Enchantment finished. O'Neale continues to lovingly build the characters in this series, and Kalin and Rowan have big roles to fill in their courts. One just can't help but cheer for them. :)

The other characters are thoughtfully woven into this story and continue to grow as well. The balance between the good and bad guys is just right! The climax of the story had my blood pressure soaring through the roof! The ending perfectly sets up the premise for another book in the series. The romance between Kalin and Rowan is even kicked up a notch, much to my delight. :)

Pick up Fragile Reign, part of The Mortal Enchantment series! You will be so glad you did!!

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### **Jenny says**

Another great read in the Mortal Enchantment series! We delve deeper into the lives of Kalin and Rowan and the history of the four houses of elementals. I love how Stacey weaves her own story into legends that we all know and love! The characters are just as lovable as the previous books and I love the dialog between them. It really helps bring the characters to life.

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### **Kelly says**

I love the way Stacey O'Neale writes. She has a way of making you hold on and not stop reading. She writes in both Kalin and Rowan's POV. With each chapter ending, it is like a mini cliffhanger. She leaves you at a crucial moment and switches POV's. Then you go to what the other one is up to, which of course you need to read because in the chapter before she left you hanging. It made me go crazy but in a good way, because once you start you just can't stop.

The story is rich in scenery, magic and mischief. Then there is Sebastian. I didn't like him. I agreed with Rowan who also didn't like him and didn't know him either. It created a few tiffs between Rowan and Kalin.

There is so much action and you also don't know who to trust or believe. Nothing is as it should be. There is so much change and so much is on both Kalin and Rowan in this book that it sometimes left me in a panic. Seriously! I didn't know how either held on.

As far as secondary characters go, I love Marcus and Ariel (don't hate me if I remembered her name wrong). They are loyal to their friends and I would want them to be my friends too. Plus when Marcus and Rowan are together they crack me up with all their testosterone!

Some of the things that happened were predictable but only to me and not to the characters involved. Although, I wasn't sure why some of them didn't figure it out earlier.

This time it ends with an ending that doesn't have me pulling out my hair waiting for the next book but I definitely will be waiting for it because the next book should be a major battle!

Seriously, I love this series! I would love to see it on the big screen!

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### **Patricia says**

A very appropriate title for this book. It could be talking about the air court or the fire court.

But to know which one you have to read the book.

This book had so much going on. Rowan has decided to claim his throne and things are not going to be easy. In order to prove he is the rightful king he has to find a way to prove it to his people.

Meanwhile Kalin once again is to trusting and her life spirals out of control. The rescue of her father the king has its own complications.

To top it all off, Valac is causing all kinds of havoc for both courts.

As this book comes to an end we are left with a cliff hanger that is sure to have us eagerly awaiting the release of the next installment.

With each book I have found myself immersed more deeply into the story and the main characters lives. The author has also given us some wonderful secondary characters with their own stories to share.

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### **Chayse Sundt says**

Stacey did it again. I was pulled different ways with her first two books and the thought of having the next book in my hands is just amazing. I could not put down this book and I am so excited to see where this book is going.

Split Perspectives that is what caught my attention. I cannot express how much I love when authors do split perspectives. I feel that this is a skill that authors must practice and develop to make sure that it comes out perfectly. For Stacey it worked. The chapters flowed and we were able to see what was going on from all perspectives. I feel that seeing the book from all sides gives more to the reader.

I saw the betrayal coming but I still loved reading to see when it would come. I mean people would be insane to give up the chance of power but he had what happened coming. Kalin is growing up to being a young lady and with her powers growing, the truth of her role coming to a reality and a war on the horizon she must make choices that will affect the world of Avalon. Rowan is the new leader of the Fire Elementals and there are steps he must take in returning things to normal and he must confront a person from the past that will stop at nothing to take him down.

The love in the story is one that is looked down upon but I am all for the rebelling. I am curious to see where it goes in the next book and to see if there are any bumps in the road.

Overall I fell in love once more. I am excited to see where the next book goes, how the characters find a solution. Stacey O'Neale writes an epic fantasy that will surely leave you wanting more.

Happy Reading!

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### **Ethan Gregory says**

Full review and more available at: <http://oneguysguidetogoodreads.blogspot.com>...

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#### **My Thoughts:**

Okay guys, I just had to go back and reread my reviews of the last two installments of this series to get a feel for my mindset while writing this. Allow me to reiterate this for you all: THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SERIES I HAVE READ ALL YEAR. Woah. I sincerely apologize, I didn't mean to lose my cool like that, it's just that THIS IS THE GREATEST SERIES EVER. Woah, woah, woah. I should probably calm down before I blow a gasket here. Did you guys catch that? Did you hear like I enjoy this series? Anyway. With all that being said, you can only imagine how pumped I was to read the latest installment in this incredible series. Thankfully, just like its' predecessors, *Fragile Reign* was absolutely astounding. Let's break this down.

*Fragile Reign* picks up one week after *Mortal Enchantment* left off. Right in the middle of the elemental world going crazy. King Taron has been rescued, barely, but his court is in danger of falling apart without him. The fire court has so many problems they could use their own novel. Kalin and Rowan are... complicated, and if things don't settle down before too long, even the mortal world will be devastated by all the craziness that's happening in Avalon! Got all that? Basically Stacey had some big shoes to fill. She sets us up for a huge store, and I have to say guys, she did not disappoint.

From the very first page, I was hooked. I'm a big fan of series where the author just jumps right in and does not feel the need to essentially recap everything that has happened up to this point. JK Rowling was awful about that with Harry Potter, you could always skip the first 50 pages and know you wouldn't miss a thing! Thankfully, Stacey O'Neale doesn't waste her time getting to the good parts. Right from chapter one we have Rowan putting out forest fires, and Marcus fighting his inner demons. Kalin and Ariel are facing their fair share of issues in keeping the Air court together while King Talon recovers. This is not your average YA Fantasy.

When it comes to the characters, Stacey delivers more than she ever has before. We still have our amazing cast from the previous novels, as well as a few awesome additions. Rowan is still awesome, Kalin is finally getting a hold of her life in Avalon, Ariel still loves Marcus, and Marcus, oh Marcus. My favorite character. Marcus really gets his time to shine in this book. I know I have mentioned this before, but I have no idea why I enjoy Marcus' character so much, but I do. I am seriously getting to the point where I want Stacey to write another novella or series just for Marcus. Thankfully his role in this novel is much larger than in previous ones. All you Marcus fans out there will not be disappointed. Also, he's on the cover, how cool! The most awesome addition to the cast, in my opinion was Sebastian, or 'Bash', as he is called. Bash plays a very important part to our story line and I was very impressed with his character. Recently, another book blogger and myself decided that Bash was one of our favorite parts of this novel. Seriously guys, I can't say anything else without spoiling something, but I know you will all enjoy the character development in this novel just as much as I did!

I won't say too much about the plot of this one because I do not want to give away any of the surprises or twists, but *Fragile Reign* had it going on! Everything flows so well in this novel. There is action, suspense, love, and one scene that was so freaking emotional, even I shed a tear: it's that great. If you real Mortal Enchantment and were even just a little impressed, this one will blow you completely out of the water, trust me on that one.

That emotional scene in mind, Stacey really takes the themes in this series and pushes them to their limits: betrayal, forgiveness, and responsibility are huge parts of this series. At one point I had to remind myself that these characters are still teenagers. It's so beautifully written that at times, I forget that on top of everything else going on in their lives, these characters have to deal with growing up. Emotions running wild, normal teenage problems, etc: can you imagine? Better them than me. In all seriousness though, they handle their problems with such maturity that you cannot help but to have massive amounts of respect for both the characters and our author, Stacey O'Neale.

One of my absolute favorite part about this series are the relationships that are present. Unlike other YA novels you read, *Mortal Enchantment* isn't about true love or relationships in that sense. Romance and love are definitely involved, but just the basic relationships between each and every character at the ground level are phenomenally written. Stacey O'Neale goes above and beyond to remind us all that all relationships are important. Even the friendship between two girls (Ariel and Kalin) or two guys (Rowan and Marcus) can prove to be just as imperative to our stories as a romantic relationship. Platonic friendships FTW! Seriously though. Stacey has mentioned before about how she has gotten flack for the closeness of her characters, particularly Marcus and Rowan. These characters are so close, they are truly brothers in every sense of the word. Where is it in the world and in literature that we stopped caring so much about all of our relationships and just about those that involve a romantic nature? I am not sure, but I hate it. I love reading about a true to life friendship, 'bromance' as you will. As a male reader myself, I find it to be extremely refreshing to see two males who can have such a tight bond and close friendship where the author isn't trying to imply something else. The same can be said of Kalin and Ariel. Everyone has friends, so why do books sometimes leave them out? I know that I, and many of you, would take a bullet for my best friend any day of the week. That kind of friendship doesn't develop overnight, why not embrace it? Kudos to you Stacey O'Neale for taking a stand against the masses and others in the literary world and showing us that relationships can about so much more than romance and sex.

The last thing I really want to touch on is the setting and new elements in this novel. While a few scenes take place in the mortal realm, unlike the previous installments, this novel takes place largely in Avalon, a decision I ultimately really agreed on. Avalon is described in much greater detail in this novel and we really get a sense of world building that helped to guild our story along rather beautifully. Stacey's words as written so beautifully as to paint the picture for the reader as though we are there! Stacey also brought a huge literary element into *Fragile Reign* that was merely hinted upon in previous installments: Arthurian literary devices. In this novel we learn that Excaliber is real, the Lady of the Lake was real, and that well... so were a whole lot of other things. Things in Avalon are about to get crazy!

My biggest upset is that all this was to build up to the final novel. We only have one more *Mortal Enchantment* book guys, just one... Expected out next summer! I am extremely heartbroken about this fact, but I believe Stacey is going to end this ride on a higher note than I would have ever imagined possible!

Still reading? I suppose I should wrap this up. After all that raving about how amazing this novel was, it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that I am granting *Fragile Reign* by Stacey O'Neale a 'completely-perfect-wouldn't-change-a-thing', 5+ star review. Yes, you read that correctly 5+ stars. That, my friends, is a whole lot of stars. If you have been on the fence about whether or not to pick up this series, I urge you folks,

do not hesitate any longer. This series is truly a literary masterpiece and its' entire existence speaks volumes to the amazing originality and creative soul that is Stacey O'Neale. A perfect read for readers across all genres, ages, and genders: do not miss this.

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