



Flight into Darkness

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As an impulsive young man, Rieuk Mordiern accidentally freed Azilis, a guardian spirit charged with keeping the balance between the kingdoms of the living and the dead. Now Rieuk's sole purpose is to bring Azilis back—only she doesn't want to return. Instead she has attached herself to a very talented mortal, the renowned singer Celestine—becoming, as Celestine believes, her personal guardian.

Celestine has never needed a guardian more. Her desire for revenge against the people who consigned her magician father to the flames is leading her down a dangerous path. And chaos is growing. Seven daemons from another realm are now threatening to lay siege to the mortal world. Now both Rieuk and Celestine must discover what it means to truly be a hero.

Flight into Darkness Details

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Author : Sarah Ash

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Lucy Takeda says

This novel leaves me conflicted. I am decisively annoyed that I evidently need to read another trilogy to get the entire story; I should have checked out the Goodreads recommendations before I read this novel, evidently.

The novel continues the tales of Celestine, a fabulous singer that is linked to a goddess; Jaku, the musician that loves her but has vowed to a military career; Rieuk, who gets pulled into all kinds of political and religious conflicts; magical magi; dragons and demons. There is lots of action; in fact, the continued action tends to limit the background explanations and character development that would rate a 5.

Dani says

I found in this book I lost what the plot was really about and what characters I was supposed to be focusing on. I was a bit saddened by this. I found myself reading and wanting to read on more for Ash's writing skills more than the characters or plot. The ending seemed a bit rushed like she ran out of time to finish the story after meandering about for the first 3/4ths of the book. I just wish it had been more focused on whatever it was this book wanted to be. I found the fact that it was going on the same time as the Tears of Artamon trilogy more annoying than interesting and I found I kept wanting to reread those books than keep reading this one. Her writing is still very good but the plot for this one was a little weak.

Ingrid says

I love the world Sarah Ash created and enjoyed this book also. Unfortunately I felt that the “Tears of Artamon” should have been a 5 book series including the “Alchymist” series. The “Alchymist” was firmly tied in to “Artamon” and “Flight Into Darkness” was flashing back to the other books. I just think of how much better this could have been it told in a flowing time line. But I always wonder the story of Celestine the Opera singer. I strongly suggest you read it in this order:

- 1) Tracing the Shadow
 - 2) Lord of Snow and Shadows
 - 3) Prisoner of the Iron Tower
 - 4) Children of the Serpent Gate
 - 5) Flight into Darkness
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Jess says

I think that if I had read the first trilogy in this world before these two books, I would have appreciated the political finer points more. The first book, Tracing the Shadow, I enjoyed very much, but this one seemed to be full of holes that could only be filled in by reading the Tears of Artemon books first. If an author is

going to write a series of books that happen at the same time as other books, they should still stand on their own, and this volume just doesn't. That said, I love Jagu and Celestine and the world they live in, and may have to take a look at the previous series sometime in the future to fill in the gaps of story.

Jeanne says

I enjoyed Christine and Jagu's story before and after the Tears of Artemon series. It was real cool to find out what happens after the closing of Serpent Gate. I hope Sarah Ash continues to write, she keeps you on your toes with fast paced and intriguing stories...and allows you to fall for her characters...

Amanda says

I enjoyed this satisfying conclusion of the series. Sarah Ash's fantasy creatures are well-thought, and her world of fantastical beings and humans is well-integrated and believable. The religious sector and psychology of some characters makes the story quite relatable to us here on Earth.

At times, the story was encumbered by a re-hash of events from previous books. Many scenes were re-told almost verbatim, from another character's perspective. However, once I emerged from these sections, the story truly soared and I greatly enjoyed it.

Sarah Ash notably blends both good and faulty elements into her characters, so no one is purely good (though a few are pure evil). It makes for a richer read, but at times I felt detached from her characters. Her tone is often quite analytical.

Many of my favorites, like Kaspar Linnaeus and Eugene of Tielen, return to the story, and my curiosity about Linnaeus deepens. I saw on the author's website that she was writing a story about Linnaeus, but I do not know if it has or will be published.

Quantum Thief - BlackWolves Master says

i finished it and it was amazing beyond words!

James says

I absolutely LOVED this book! Sarah Ash at her very best.

She expertly weaves together the political machinations of the varying countries of her world with such ease, whilst writing fantastic characters and building a world so real it feels as if you're actually there.

I highly recommend the 'Alchemyst's Legacy' Duology though I would say that 'The Tears of Artamon' should definitely be read first! (It is just as superb!).

I loved the way that 'Flight Into Darkness' melded so well into the action of the previous trilogies time span and then continued on after to have it's own dazzling and intense ending.

Rory says

This is a solid fantasy novel. The author tries to create various countries and cultures to base the story around and in doing so never fully develops any of them. She does a good job developing the main characters but there are so many secondary characters that at times I was confused as to which character was a part of which country. If the author had just spent more time at the beginning explaining the politics between the different countries, then the story would have flowed better.

Erik says

This is the enjoyable finish to "Tracing the Shadow." The books are definitely not spectacular literature, but the plot moves and the characters inspire emotional reactions (both good and bad). It was a good read, even if the plot was a little bit contrived and predictable.

Isana says

Now, *Tracing the Shadow* was all right and interesting but this conclusion was just so FRUSTRATING! I really only wanted to know what happened to Rieuk or I wouldn't have even picked it up. If you don't absolutely LOVE the first book, then don't waste your time.

Kathryn says

2nd title in the series and just as strong as the first. The characters are multi-faceted and the political intrigue interesting. A good summer fantasy read.

Anthony Faber says

Alchemist's Legacy #2. This is the end of this series which is set in the same world as Tears of Artemon, but centered on Celestine de Joyeuse, rather than Gavril Nagarian. The continuity confused me, particularly since scenes from "Children of the Serpent Gate" were repeated here. If you liked Tears of Artemon, you'll like this, but I recommend that you read the first book, "Tracing the Shadow", first.

Brendan says

Compared to Tracing the Shadow this follow up is not good. I bought it as soon as it came out because I was desperate to see the conclusion to the story (which I did get, and am thankful for), but this book had a

plodding plot that mostly recounted what happened in the trilogy (I swear some scenes, especially with Eugene, were copied verbatim). The development of the characters was predictable, and the ending was not satisfying. I constantly found myself counting how many pages were left. Overall, I just felt...disappointed by it. Luckily the other 4 books of Ash's that I've read have never left me with that feeling.

N.A. Fedorak says

Decent continuation, although more in fighting between the characters would have been helpful.
