



Endless Winter

J.A. Armitage

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Anais has no idea just how much her life is just about to change. A locked door stands between her and freedom but as she is just about to find out, the door is the least of her problems.

A story of first love, of adventure, and of a race to save the lives of everyone on the planet.

Endless Winter Details

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Author : J.A. Armitage

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From Reader Review *Endless Winter* for online ebook

Damian Southam says

In one of those universal fears we all experience at some stage the novel begins with Anais awakening in a bed not her own, despite distinctly remembering going to bed in it. That in itself was only the start to the rising panic that accompanies working out the door to the unknown room has no handle to open it. Devoid of everything but the single bed she awoke in, the pitch blackness and her missing memories begin to give rise to an increasing claustrophobia. The contrast between the sheer happiness she had awoken with juxtaposes the crushing feeling halting her breathing and fight for supremacy.

As realisations set in fear turns to grief at the worry for her elderly housemate and landlady, Winnie; who must surely know there's no possible way she'd have abandoned her in the middle of the night. Having become orphaned in just the past year and hitting rock bottom around six-months later, there were times following drunken benders where she'd slept in places she did not recall going to, but nothing like that had occurred since she began living with Winnie six months ago. Anais serendipitously strolled through Winnie's bookshop doors at exactly the right time. A broke and homeless young woman of eighteen, who'd spent six months following her parents' deaths sliding down the slippery curve toward rock-bottom, met a lonely elderly woman needing company and an assistant. Fate, as it seemed at the time, saw both their lives reaching a new path.

Minutes turn to hours with nothing more than a quilt to cover her and her thoughts to torment her. Anais' sharp intelligent mind cycles over and over, her circumstance leaving desparity and despair in it's wake. Its apparent that someone or someones had managed to drug her whilst in her own home and transport her with no awareness of it occurring. The room she now occupies, absent of light, windows, door handle and sound, must have been prepared in advance for her and possibly even other's arrival. Going through the aspects of her life Anais can find no incentives for why she would be targeted. So when she finally meets her keeper it turns out to be the sbsolute opposite of anything she expected.

Firstly she is a she, not a he; she is startlingly beautiful in a radiantly ethereal way; and she is softly spoken, mannered and apologetic for her actions, spoken of as a perceived duty but not desire. Indeed the first words that are exchanged are 'oh' and 'sorry'. As the former hours of imprisonment turn to days and then weeks, Anais grows a strangely fast liking-to, dare say friendship with, her keeper Aethelu. But of all the things Anais is permitted to discuss there's one, the most important question of all, that is the topic that could not be discussed; why is she there? Just as the limit of her unusually lengthy patience ends, having been helped along by the stimulating time spent with her keeper, Anais makes the decision to use her limited freedom to her advantage.

When the opportunity finally arrives she tests the bounds of their burgeoning friendship to finally obtain limited answers to her burning question. Despite the remarkable admission and apparent honesty with which the information is delivered, its simply too outrageous to be accepted. For Anais the absurdity of the answer unfortunately gives rise to one of her newly identified keeper's act of proof, reducing her to hyperventilation and the relief of encroaching darkness, as Anais' feints. As Anais is granted a tour of her prison the story of the Custor Lux, the Guardians of Light, and the terrible act by her second keeper to prove their assertions, could never have amounted to the shock of finding her father in one of the house paintings.

As the story then unfolds there's much Anais did not know of in her life. Despite the circumstances of her predicament she grows an attachment to Aethelu that knows no bounds. The life her father left behind

becomes a life that presents the greatest dangers Anais has and will face in her short time span. People she loves are not the people she thought they were, but in the truth lies possibly the beginnings of the greatest adventures she'll ever know. But as with most gain there is the potential for equal or greater loss. If she's lucky and well prepared she might get to achieve things her wildest dreams could never have considered. If she's not prepared though she may not make it to the other side intact or with the things she has come to love most.

With a science fiction-fantasy backbone that is more science than fantasy *Endless Winter* aptly names the passing of time throughout the plot and the early perceptions of that time. There is a strong coming of age and young adult element with the joys, and hitherto unforeseeable, prospects of falling in love. An unknown past links a possible future, where the latter has a potential for a dystopian element depending on how the series progresses. This book I imagine was written to establish in detail the platform from which possible future directions might swing. With exception to the token bad guy, or evil element, the characters are lovable, even those with more quirks than normalcy.

The story thus far has a significant drama component but it does present several directions for possible pathways and is therefore necessary regardless of future developments. For a reader, such as myself, who is more use to a constant anxious suspense filled plot with supernatural wonders I would be more inclined to think of this book as a traditional 'nice' read. Certainly not something I am all that accustomed to reading, but not to suggest it wasn't pleasurable. The fluent and economical writing style should appeal to most readers and the PG13 rating gives it a wide berth. The *Custor Lux* definitely has room and context to take the series into many different genres.

W. Gregory Kett says

Warning Spoilers ahead, although how this could be spoiled even more I don't know...

Dear gods, where to start...

- 600 years old, and they have learned NOTHING. They still act like petulant highschoolers.
- Anais, for being smart, is so incredibly STUPID. Someone takes pictures of their using a bypass around the estate security, and does she tell or warn anyone? No. What does Anais do in the first third of a book? Takes a Bath and has a snowball fight. When she has information or questions, what does she do? Goes to sleep, every time. I thought dainty stylish fainting went out of fashion, but no Anais has made an art of it. Anais is either fainting, or sleeping at the end of almost every chapter, rather than doing something. This girl is so far beyond spineless, she is an insult to jellyfish.
- The brothers have had serial girlfriends for hundreds of years, and in all that time only Anais is a Guardian hybrid?
- Judith, she arrives, stays in Andrews room, has an almost affair with one of the brothers, yet she isn't written into any of the scenes until much later.
- Someone cuts the brake lines in the character's car, and no one seems to be upset or to even discuss it?
- The villain wanders in and out of the estate at will, and people go Ho Hum! Say what?
- Everyone is being called back to hunker down inside the estate, and yet they send out the least aggressive and smallest all alone. Seems the author and these immortals have never learned about satellite phones?
- Anais is told she has to have a baby with one of the brothers to save the world, and resists for about an entire two pages before meekly acquiescing. The implication is by standard sex. Only much later is IVF mentioned.

- The climatic encounter where they capture the Villain? Entirely handled off camera. And of course, he is out to kill them and much of the world, so they keep him alive to escape and start it all over again.

I am sure there are a dozen points I missed, or could be bothered to pollute my mind remembering. Do yourself a favor and run screaming from this turkey.

Melissa ownsbey says

thank you for letting me read and review
I thought the ok was good
a great book for a great series I cant wait o read te rest
I have a few quistoins I need answers to
I enjoyed getting to know the chatcers in the story

Malissa says

Eternal life

In a potion. Created to cure ailments over 600 years ago... And then the plague hit and a potion they swore never to use became their life saver. Great storyline. Great twists and turns. I look forward to reading more in this series.

Patricia says

Fantastic

Absolutely fantastic! The way the author uses words to describe things in the beginning of the story where the character is in the dark and can not see is so amazing. It engages all of your senses and you can literally visualize yourself in that pitch black room. Then the relationship that is forged and the friendships that are made are developed so spectacularly every twist and turn in the plot is just brilliantly written and developed from start to finish. I can not wait to read the next book in the series

Gwyndolyn Abbey says

Very good

I wasn't really sure what to expect from this book as I've never read a book from this author before but I was very impressed. I'm really enjoying the characters and the budding romance as well as the world building.

Jamie Donaldson says

Great story

I truly enjoys the storyline and characters. It is very well written and leaves you wanting to know all about this group.

iamnotabookworm says

This book was set in England.

The start alone already had my heart racing. Like Anais confused, shocked and disoriented, I too felt like I was kidnapped and imprisoned in that room with her. It was a very stupefying start of a very interesting story. I liked how the author had me caught me unaware, right in the first chapter. Not knowing where the story will take me but none the less, believing that this should lead to more amazing revelations that will blow me away.

As I said, I could not make out what the story was about. And I say this as a compliment. Like Anais I had to wait until the facts and truth were revealed. I liked how the history of the Guardians of the Light came to be. It was very clever. This was a very well-written story that had a very believable background spun from a historical event.

I really had fun reading the story. It felt like I was right there with the characters freezing from the cold weather and liking the feel of snow. My only observations what that for one that was set in England and with all the other characters supposed to be English, I did not hear the accent or the common English expressions and words used in the story. It felt like all the conversations were of Americans, only they are in Britain instead of US soil. I wanted to hear the authentic English tongue. But other than that, it was all good. The descriptions and narrations were really detailed. I can easily picture out the scenes in this book.

I give the book 3/5 paintings of London. The feel of the English countryside was there but I just wished I could also hear the conversations in the British tongue. I did enjoy the story and I am looking forward to reading the next one. Hopefully, if it would still be set in England, I hope it would sound more English than American. This book probably had the best starting chapter. It stunned me and it took a while for me to recover from the shock.

It really was the most awful feeling, and the worst part is, people keep telling you to get over it as if you are suffering no more than a common cold.

- J. A. Armitage, Endless Winter -

Donia says

Disappointing

Characters and storyline could have been interesting but it's dragged out so long that I almost quit reading by 40% through. It picked up for a few chapters but then went boring once again. I did finish it but won't be buying the next in the series.

The Mysterious Reader says

This is a roller coaster ride of a story starting off with the lead locked into a dark room and then expanding in a somewhat confusing fashion which then jells into a pretty powerful story. Anais and Aethalu are interesting characters and the author does a good job of getting the reader an explanation of what the Guardians of Light are all about without needing to go into lecture mode. Instead we get a well written tale that has real impact - and leaves me salivating for the next book.

Definitely recommended.

Belinda says

4,25 stars

Imagine falling in love for the first time, the flutters and the adrenaline. You are an orphan, an outcast..... a prisoner in a room not knowing when you come out of it. In short two outer points of view in one moment.

Reading this book is like reading a rollercoaster. I can see the point of view Anais quite well in this first book about the Guardians of the Light. The opening felt as if it was a bit unbelievable. But the story keeps building up! There are a lot of characters involved in this novel but all they have their own places in the storyline. Loved the way Mystery is woven into the story next to the slowly growing love between two female characters in the book.

Some tasters out of the book:

- as her panic increase her heart rate elevated and her breathing became sharper-
 - She wondered about who had kidnapped her-
 - you are here for a very special reason-
 - the table had started to make a whirring noise.-
-

Tiff says

Endless Winter by J.A. Armitage is a fantastical story with a ton of twists and turns. The book is well written, interesting and completely original. I never knew what was coming next in the story, and found myself quite surprised.

The story begins as Anais is locked in a dark room, and she has no idea how she got there. PANIC TIME! There is no door knob, no sound and no light. She is trapped in this room for days, somehow dinner appears, but she cannot figure out how someone got in the room without her noticing. As the reader I was on high

alert, what's happening, where is this going. We let me assure you this is no torture/crime book. Oh no, not in the slightest. Anais finally meets her keeper, and she is a beautiful young woman. Seriously? Yes, but you must read on to find out the why!

Aethelu is holding Anais against her will. This is totally out of character for her, but it is for Anais's safety. She just can't explain to her the reasons yet. You see no one in their right mind would believe that Aethelu was really 600 years old, and was given not quite eternal life by drinking a magical elixir that her father created. She also must let her captive know in time that there is a deranged man named Jago on the loose that killed her parents, it was no accident, like you were led to believe, and now he wants to kill the Earth's population as well. Talk about a headache!

These two ladies come together as friends, finding companionship in a crazy situation. They begin a courtship that is cute, but in my opinion rushed. I wished it had taken just little longer for them to admit their feelings for one another. The supporting cast is interesting, but there are many of them and it was hard to keep up with them all. Overall this book is fun, and was an interesting read. It is free on Kindle Unlimited or just \$.99 if you are not. Totally worth it, and I look forward to reading more from J.A. Armitage!

My rating would be a 3.5

Dave says

I enjoyed the book and the twist on the story. I did struggle a little in the middle keeping two of the characters separate in my mind. I look forward to more of JA Armitage's stories.

Alison Motherwell says

Brilliant start to a new series. Found the characters engaging and the plot enthralling.

Shizuo Heiwajima says

From what I see this book is amazing and I can't wait for the chance to hold it and read it. Love it
