



## Embers & Ash

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Sara Jane Rispoli is on the wrong side of the Russian mob, but closer to finding her family than ever. And she's willing to do whatever it takes to finally end this terrible journey even if the price is her own life.

The very cold fury that has seen her through the worst of her troubles is now killing her; she knows the cure, but she can't sacrifice the deadly electricity until she's rescued her family. But when she finally does rescue them, it's not the happy reunion she pictured. And the torment doesn't stop there, not even when she finally discovers Ultimate Power. Only destroying the Outfit completely can end this terrible nightmare.

Old enemies return to seek vengeance, double-crosses abound, and even more mysteries are uncovered as we rocket toward an end no one saw coming.

## Embers & Ash Details

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Author : T.M. Goeglein

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## From Reader Review Embers & Ash for online ebook

### Ricky says

A great conclusion to this great trilogy. Even if it did end a bit ambiguously, but then it also had a really good climax where someone I really hated got locked up in a vault, presumably for the rest of her (very short) life. :)

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### Debbie says

This last book in the "Cold Fury" trilogy does not disappoint. What a way to go out.

Lots more action, lots more surprises and lots more excitement.

In this last installment of the trilogy, we find Sarah Jane Rispoli still hunting her family down and trying to find the key to ultimate power. As she continues the search, the excitement heats up and the twists and turns of the first two novels are nothing compared to this ones.

I am so sad that this series ended. I can picture this series being an amazing HBO series just like The Sopranos. That is how likeable and amazing this story is. I can't imagine it ending. I will definately be picking up these books again to read. Once was just not enough for this gal.

If you are looking for a constant adventure with an amazing and likeable lead character, The Cold Fury is the trilogy you want.

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### Haley says

Flicker and Burn is the finale to the Cold Fury trilogy. This series is action packed and show cases the city I am closet to: Chicago. This series is unlike any I've ever read. It's a crime thriller, but has a paranormal/sci-fi element.

Sara Jane has an ability called cold fury. She can use it see a person's deepest fear and make them see it too when she looks in their eye. She can use it to make them do what she tells them (compulsion). She also has electricity in her body because of some enzyme and the gold in her eyes. She can shock people with it, but it also hurts her. The author denied this was paranormal when I asked him. So, I'll say its sci-fi.

I love the setting so much because I live in Chicagoland. I like picturing places I'm familiar with. There's a part in the book where Sara Jane and some student take a field trip up to the sky deck on the Sears Tower (or now the Willis Tower). 103 stories up. I've never been on any of the sky decks downtown, but I can imagine it's amazing. The photos I've seen are amazing. Also, lots of tunnels, trains and driving on streets in the story. I've been on the Blue Line and the Red Line trains only. Going under ground to board a train is kind of scary. Definitely had an easy time picturing the setting.

The character are great of course. Sara Jane is like Maximum Ride and Katniss Everdeen, except in the contemporary world and with a strange power instead of wings. Sara Jane is a boxer, so she can kick butt. She's very tough and somewhat serious, but she uses sarcasm. She's friend with Dough, who's gay and used to be fat, but lost weigh because of some drugged icecream in the previous book. He's awesome and

obsessed with movies. He's got a little more serious, mostly because the drug withdrawal. He stupidly takes up smoking even though Sara Jane keep telling him how bad it is.

There's so much action and mystery in the story. I love the mystery of this "ultimate power." Sara Jane has a note book and some clue and they have theories to. It's a surprise what it is. There's so many crazy events and plot twists. This book is such a mind-blowing finale. I don't think I could've asked for more. The ending is perfect. I waited a year to read this. Should have read it sooner. I read both the first 2 books as ACRs, and met the author at a Pre-Pub event. He's cool. All three books are signed. If Cold Fury wasn't offered as an ARC at Anderson's Bookshop in Naperville, I doubt I would have ever discovered this great series. I'm so happy I did.

Cover Art Review: Fits the subject. Like the Chicago photos.

~Haley G

My blog:

<http://breathlessbookreviews.blogspot...>

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## **Ed Casey says**

I have seen people on Twitter compare this novel trilogy to one of my favorite movies series the Jason Bourne movies. I can see why as these novels read like movie scripts packed with the frenetic pacing and all the action of the Bourne series. This trilogy is so much fun you feel you need to be reading with a tub of popcorn in your lap.

Sara Jane Rispoli's family was kidnapped in the first novel. She learns while looking for them that her father served as a counselor-at-large for the Chicago mob. Sara, a high school boxer and social outcast, assumes this role in the mob as she searches for her missing family. As the series progresses Sara becomes further intertwined in the business of the mob, yet she is no closer to finding her family.

Ember and Ash has Sara finally making progress unraveling the series of clues contained in her family's notebook of secrets. While she is unraveling these clues she is also helping guide the Chicago outfit through an all out war with the Russian mob which is now operating in Chicago. Matters become even more complicated and urgent when she learns that her family's captures see limited value in keeping them alive. Ususally my interest flags with series. It never did with these books! I loved the characters in these novels. Sara battled not just teenage insecurities but also the realization that her family as well as her own actions were often immoral. How can she hold onto the better aspects of who she was before she became immersed in the grit and grime of mob life. She learns it is hard to keep it together after she herself has killed another human being. The supporting characters are unique and colorful. They are the type of people you want no where near you or your family yet you would sit fascinated hearing stories about all of their exploits.

I loved the break neck pace of this series that never quit throughout the three books. There are a series of shoot outs, car chases, and double crosses. The action is smart though. If there wasn't such great character development and a smart plot to guide the action you would have a Michael Bay movie. No one wants that! I never found the action to be silly or done just for the sake of filling the air with gunshots and explosions. My favorite aspects of this series is that all of the action takes place in the real life locales of my hometown of Chicago. In Embers and Ash Sara finds herself high atop the Willis Tower, traversing the sewers and tunnels below the Green Mill and The Riviera, and even far out on the water intake cribs that sit in lake Michigan, visible from the beaches of Chicago.

I also love that the novels include a lot of real life history of Chicago's outfit. There is even a connection to the St. Valentine's Day massacre that was ordered by Al Capone contained in this novel.

The unique characters, the pages full of action, the setting of Chicago which is so lively it almost serves as an additional character, as well loads of Chicago's notorious past made this one of my favorite series ever. I can't recommend this trilogy enough. It has something to hook almost any reader. Once you are hooked you will want to see Sara Jane's tale through to the end. Unfortunately, it will leave you wishing for a fourth book, not because the ending isn't satisfying, but because it is that much fun!

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## Ally says

Cold Fury's trilogy ends with Embers & Ash. For some reason, I'd taken upon calling this book Embers & Ashes, so forgive me if I accidentally slip up throughout this review. I sometimes think that Embers & Ashes sound better than Embers & Ash. But let's get back to the review, and I'll stop stalling.

I tire of mafia books. Or "mafya" as some books like to call it. I think I'd read five already, but the number might actually be two or three. So it is an exaggeration... Anyway, I'd read another book really similar to this one and the last book is called In the Age of Love and Chocolate. (And the only reason I know the name of the last book is because it is on my bookshelf and right in front of my nose. Don't question me. Don't question me).

So I might be a little grumpy in this review...

Sara Jane Rispoli is definitely a cross between MCU's Black Widow and Angelina Jolie's Salt. Yep. I suspect it myself. She is definitely a spy. Okay. I'll stop now. (I will never stop). She is quite smart and good, but sometimes she needs help from her friends. Though she is a bit... she has a very thick... wall around her head.

(Is that the elegant way of saying it? I believe the answer is yes).

The ending disappointed me. Isn't the cold fury killing her? It could blow her up from the inside? (Quite literally, actually). Well, I hate loose ends, but the ending isn't exactly terrible. Fitting ending, and I'm pleased that Max is no longer involved with the Mafiya things. It gets way too complicated when that happens. Boy. Girl.

And the plot is quick and nicely paced. Action type. I also enjoy the little things Doug says. (And I have no idea why I suddenly typed "Dough Boy." I need a new keyboard. Or a new set of hands. And I have to stop autocorrect sometimes).

Anyway, I think the trilogy is... good in the beginning. Meh in the middle. It gets better towards the end. Much better. But it isn't as good as it could have been. But I did not walk away, so I will not rate this a very low rating.

(Sorry, I must be crazy. Having one of my seasons).

Overall, Embers & Ash is a much better book, but it isn't exactly a solid end to the trilogy. I sort of feel like... something is missing from it. Something off... Hmm... I'll let you know if I figure it out. If ever...

Rating: Three out of Five

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### **Carol Eshaghy says**

2 1/2 stars. Readable but unbelievable story of a girl in the Chgo Mob fighting a takeover attempt by the Russian Mob. She also has superhuman powers. This is the third book of a trilogy and I hadn't read the first two so some parts were confusing.

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### **Victoria Stolte says**

Stellar finish to an awesome series! If you thought the first 2 books in the series had twists and turns you have not seen nothing yet. In the final installment we find SJ doing her usual thing. After scouring and scouring for the Ultimate Power it finally comes with-in her grasp, but with the "Reds" (Russian Mob) and Big decisions coming upon her, making it even more perilous that she finds what she needs and saves her family, it seems to always elude her. T.M. keeps you guessing til the end in this one and just when you think you have it figured out it seems another Capone door pops up and you are left wondering WHAT? With some shifts in the family we start to see a different side of some of the characters. The story line moves at a great pace and there is definitely some revelations and incidents that will keep you reading for more.. I was sad that the series ended as I enjoyed the characters and the whole aspect of the stories. It is definitely interesting to say the very least. If you like an action packed story with a great heroine and a trusty side-kick or 2 then this series is one for you!!

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### **Kristen says**

The final installment of the series really was packed with action and intrigue. Sara Jane is finally getting closer to finding her family and saving them. It may just take 4 million in gold and an untimely death. This is one of my favorite action series. I love the mystery and intrigue. It makes me want to venture into Chicago to find some of these mythical Capone doors.

If you haven't checked out this series yet, you ought to!

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### **Chapter by Chapter says**

I've been a huge fan of author T.M. Goeglein's Cold Fury series since I read the very first book a couple years back. Needless to say I was hooked. The protagonist, the setting, the badassery of it all—you can't even begin to understand how sad I am that the series is coming to its end. Sarah Jane is a main character who I cheered on to the very end and while I'm crossing my fingers for a spin-off series (or to get a chance to read something else of Goeglein's work) who knows that could happen after Cold Fury. Any readers dedicated to the series will be very happy to hear that Embers & Ash lives up to the hype created around it and won't leave any of us disappointed.

In Embers & Ash, Sarah Jane is pursuing Ultimate Power and avoiding the Russian Mob. When her search for Ultimate Power leads her to an unexpected discovery it suddenly seems like everything is at stake. Her

crazy ex-babysitter is on her trail and balancing being a part of the Outfit and maintaining mundane appearances is all beginning to reveal that nothing may ever be what it seems. As Sarah Jane uses her cold fury to the best of her abilities she finally finds the real face behind the Russian Mob and is a step closer to being reunited with her family. However the reunion might be anything from happy. The price of gaining back everything SJ's lost might be Ultimate Power and possibly even her own life.

Right from the opening chapter we know that Embers & Ash isn't messing around. It sets a fast pace and refuses to ever once let up. There's twists at every corner, unexpected revelations and more fight scenes the novels before it. Everything about Embers & Ash is badass and action-packed. Friends become enemies, real baddies' true natures are revealed and it's made crystal clear that nothing will ever be the same.

We see a lot of changes in Sarah Jane's character. Compared to the girl she was at the beginning of the series it's obvious that she isn't that girl anymore and can never revert back to her past-self. That version of her is gone and replaced by a member of the Chicago Outfit who isn't afraid to take a life if it's in the name of saving her own and that of her family's. Bottom-line: Sarah Jane's character kicks some major butt in Embers & Ash. Look forward to that (seriously, she's just fighting left and right in this book).

Plot-wise I was very surprised by what occurs in the novel. There were so many unexpected plot twists and so many dark scenes that gave the novel a very noir feel. This isn't the somewhat optimistic novel that we got in Cold Fury and it isn't the same mystery we got in Flicker & Burn. Instead in Embers & Ash we get a novel that is pessimistic bad always has you cheering for a happy ending. I couldn't put it down and savored every last minute spent with Sarah Jane Rispoli.

Any readers who haven't checked out the Cold Fury trilogy yet need to get on it. This is a series that is definitely one that will keep readers hooked from the first novel and never let go. The plot, the world-building, the lore and the entire cast of characters all just make Cold Fury an unforgettable experience.

I would recommend Embers & Ash to any readers who have been keeping up with the series (duh). Any new readers who want a strong female main character and some mafia badassery thrown into the main story need to read the Cold Fury series. Readers who want a series with major character development should also give it a read. All in all I'm so glad I got to read all of Sarah Jane's story and don't know how I'll let her go. Embers & Ash is the ending that she—and the series—deserved.

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### **Annika says**

It was a really good book, but I found that too many people were killed. I know that that's mafia for you, but it was kind of not necessary for the story in my mind. I thought that the rest of the story was really good though.

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### **Beth says**

When comparisons are made to the Sopranos (except for how it is appropriate for teenage readers and with a bit of a sci-fi tweaking), I cannot help but say... YES! YES... because the books read much like that show, in bursts of emotion, action, dialogue that are all leading to a finale that will rip your heart out since you're so deeply involved with the family and behind Sara Jane completely.

And Embers & Ash is that grand ending. The moment that sticks... and sticks with you after you close the book on Sara Jane. Well sort of, I mean afterall, there's her journal for the just in case...

Like with all last books though, the final villain is shut down and the closure readers expect; they get it. Embers & Ash does deliver on the goods with the Outfit firmly put in their place, Greta shown how a true rat thinks and Sara Jane getting her family back. However, there's nothing completely hale and hearty about the reunion nor about Sara Jane. The closed door is hot to the touch and the incendiary bittersweet moments all locked up seem ripe to blow up. Meaning I do believe Sara Jane could definitely be living future adventures if Goeglein ever wanted to revisit this trilogy. At the same time, readers will get a thrilling build-up and an especially close look at the hardened resolve of Sara Jane as she sorts through her feelings on the crapload of secrets her family let go on too long without doing something about them and taking matters in her own hands.

Cold Fury introduced us to the situation Sara Jane was thrown into. Flicker & Burn lit the plot up into a hot mess of weird, what the heck and omigosh... so sorry Sara Jane. And lastly, Embers & Ash reveals the end game with Sara Jane landing safely and securely on her feet and fixing wrongs that might never truly be righted.

Remind you of anything... (Cough... Sopranos... Cough)?! (Or actually the Jason Bourne series too.)

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### **Deborah says**

So I think this is the final book in the series. I always find it hard to review the last book in a series, as I know that nothing else is going to happen and this makes how the book ends really important to me, and unfortunately I wasn't entirely happy with how this ended but more on that later.

There were many things I liked and enjoyed about this book, firstly I like that although this books starts a month on from Flicker & Burn, that we get to know what happens as a result of Sara Jane's action at the end of book 2. Also the recap of the first book came up in convocation which I made it more natural to read.

There are many twists and unexpected moments in this book, one moment you think you know something for sure, the next that idea is shattered, and you haven't got a clue who is doing/done what.

The reason for this book losing that half star is because of the epilogue, I loved the way that the last chapter left this book and I kind of wish I hadn't read the epilogue. Without giving major spoilers I just don't think that Sara Jane could live the life which the epilogue describes. I really hope we get a book 4 and it would be just as action packed and kick-butt as these three books have been.

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## **Savannah (Books With Bite) says**

Finally the last and finally book and WOOHOO, did I ever enjoy it. I really love the buildup of this series and the way it ends...absolutely perfect.

**Plot:** This story picks up where the last book left off and Sara is gearing up for the final battle. She is piecing together her family history seamlessly and vastly learning everything she can. Sara is just steps away from saving herself but at times I wonder who will save her? This plot builds up nicely with so much action to fight scenes to much drama that ensnares the reader till the end.

**Mafia:** I really loved the history on this part. Over the course of both books Sara has leaned much about her family and their secrets. She sees the fight that lays ahead of her but she is also very determined to win. I like that in her. The fight to control, to keep going. This girl is tough yet resilient. The connections that her family has leads to ever more drama. The struggle for power between families, wealth, and most of all the “ultimate power”. I anxiously read this book waiting for the answers.

**Ending:** If you ask me, the last chapters in the book are DA BOMB! Sara has done everything she can to save her family, she served her dues and now its time to move on. \*LIGHTBULB\* Sara comes up with a brilliant plan and WOO it made me giggle and get butterflies in my tummy. Sara, you are amazing!! The way the story ended, is like Sara kicked all those mafia guys to the curb. And they didn't even have time to BLINK! LOL.

If your into action-packed yet history filled story read this series. The characters grow wonderfully throughout the series and every question that the reader might have is answered. The motives, the mafia and the “ultimate power” all capture the reader till the very last page. Embers & Ash is awesome.

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## **Nancy The book junkie says**

Review coming soon!

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## **Kristina says**

### **What I Loved**

#### **Final**

This is the final book in the trilogy and what a ride this whole series has been. Everything was summed up very well. A fast paced, kick ass book with something crazy happening on every page. One thing after another kept on happening to Sara Jane, the poor girl, she is one character I would never want to trade places with. Oh man what an ending! Just when you think you have it all figured out something crazy happens and a new twist occurs.

#### **Action**

Never a dull moment or boring slow page in the whole entire book. Every page is utilized to its fullest. It is just jam packed with action, information, betrayal, car chases, fights...

#### **No Romance**

I do love reading a book where there is little to no romance, it is a great break from the heavy romance reads.

Characters

Sara Jane: I loved her tough kick ass character from the very beginning and loved her till the very end. She is one determined crazy girl to keep on doing what she needs to do to save her family.

Doug: The best side kick and best friend that anyone could ever have. He is fun character!

#### Didn't Love

It was sad to read all the bad crap that keeps on happening to Sara Jane, but it makes for an exciting book.

#### Recommendation

A must read trilogy for any male or female reader who loves fast paced action books and doesn't get squeamish.

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