



# Smokeless Fire

*Samantha Young*

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**Smokeless Fire** Samantha Young  
**FEAR THE HEAT...**

When eighteen year old Ari Johnson is transported from her bedroom into the chilling realm of Mount Qaf - home to the terrifying and mercurial Jinn - she learns a truth that rocks her very world. Suddenly her anxiety over college and her broken friendship with Charlie seem like small change compared to the war she now finds herself stuck in the middle of. Her unease isn't lessened any by the hot guardian, Jai, who won't stop following her around everywhere - a Jinn whose loyalty Ari hates to question but must. She has no idea who she can trust.

When the truth burns through her life in its determination to turn it to ashes, Ari will have to battle with ancient deadly creatures, epic family drama and heart-wrenching romantic entanglements.

## Smokeless Fire Details

Date : Published October 21st 2011 by CreateSpace (first published October 20th 2011)

ISBN : 9781466297685

Author : Samantha Young

Format : Paperback 358 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Romance, Magic

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# From Reader Review *Smokeless Fire* for online ebook

Maida»-(^v^)-» says

## MY RATING: 4 Hearts

\*\*\*\*I would like to thank Samantha Young for providing an e-copy of the book, and giving me an opportunity to review it! :D\*\*\*\*

Usually when you hear “YA paranormal romance book”, the first things that come to mind are - vampires, werewolves, witches, warlocks, angels and demons. But hardly ever do readers come across Jinns. Yes, you heard me...JINNS. I don't know what I was expecting when reading *Smokeless Fire*, but it definitely wasn't a world so brilliantly created by Ms. Young. The original concept was one of the strongest qualities of this book - and I found myself completely absorbed by it. A wonderful start to a new series - *Smokeless Fire* will leave you pleasantly surprised from the first to the very last page.

It's always refreshing to read about something new, especially in the YA paranormal genre, where more than often the topics are generally “similar”. By introducing Jinns to the YA scene, Ms. Young's inventiveness is much appreciated. The idea of this whole other world where Jinns exist was simply fascinating. But what's even more surprising is how much the characters were so easy to relate with, despite having that paranormal aspect present. The portraying of these issues through the character's emotions was very well written - and it was something I looked forward to while reading this book.

As the protagonist - I thought Ari was lacking that “it” factor. I liked her - and on more than one occasion found myself relating to her and sympathizing for her. But, I believe she still needs a final push into being a great heroine. Although, Ari hasn't fully captured my attention, I still found her to my liking. No matter who or what she was up against, she never gave up. She remained strong and never got deterred, which is an admirable quality to have in a character - and one I liked best about Ari. Another thing that really struck out to me was when Ari finds out about her Jinn heritage - it takes her a while to come to terms with it. Ms. Young didn't rush through that issue, which made it realistic and an effective aspect of the story.

Then of course, what's a fantasy story without a love interest? Ever since she was young, Ari believed that she was in love with Charlie, her best friend. Even after Charlie loses his brother in an accident, and cuts off all contact with her, she still “loves” him. That is until she finds unexpected growing feelings for her new bodyguard, Jai. The constant bickering and humor between them is a bright side to the story, which always had me smiling. Jai is, to put it in YA terms, the bad boy with the soft soul. There was nothing I didn't like about him. He was fun, unique and someone you would love to be friends with. The romance between him and Ari was achingly sweet. It's a gradual build up, that just barely skims the tipping point - so there is a lot to expect from the next book. But, it was perfectly paced and a joy to read about.

One part of the book, that really got on my nerves was the relationship between Ari and Charlie, the best friend. Honestly speaking, I didn't understand them. After losing his brother, Charlie cuts Ari out of his life and turns to drugs. Throughout the story Charlie repeatedly hurts Ari, but she is still infatuated with him. She wants the old Charlie back, so she sticks to him. Where loyalty is an admirable quality, in this case it was just irritating and frustrating beyond belief. But, thankfully, Ms. Young turned the story around just in time, by bringing Jai into the picture. I really hope the sequel presents this relationship a lot differently.

Overall, *Smokeless Fire* proved to be not only adventurous and action-packed but also a refreshing and original read. The story captures your attention from the very start and it will have you flying through the pages. I am looking forward to the sequel to this because Ms. Young's beautifully crafted world is not one I intend to miss out on.

This Review is also posted at: [Literary Love Affair](#)

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## **Moonlight Gleam says**

Never having known her mother, her father always away on business, and her best friend Charlie growing more distant since the death of his brother, Ari Johnson doesn't know how more she can take.

Ari just wishes that she could be normal, but she soon finds out that she's anything but that. On her eighteenth birthday, Ari discovers dark hidden secrets that have long been kept away from her.

Jinn are extremely powerful creatures with magical abilities and who deeply enjoy being at the center of chaos. When Ari discovers that she's a Jinn, her already complicated life turns even more upside-down, putting everyone around her grave danger...

The whole concept of Jinn (Genies) in *Smokeless Fire* definitely stood out and made it such a wonderful and enjoyable read. As a lover of the paranormal, the unique elements presented in the story were very exciting to read and had me flipping through the pages all in one sitting. I have to admit that I don't usually finish reading a book in just one sitting so that alone says a lot!

I loved all the characters presented in *Smokeless Fire*, namely Jai, Ari, and Charlie, in that order. Behind the tough act, Jai is very caring (even if he doesn't want anyone to know that, especially Ari). There are similarities between Jai and Ari that I won't go much into detail, but I do believe that they make these two characters perfect for each other. I am hoping to see more chemistry develop between Jai and Ari in the next installment! Ari is a strong character, and definitely dramatic at times, but she is very easy to relate to. I did feel very sympathetic with Ari and Charlie, Ari's whole life was a lie, and Charlie is going through a rough time trying to deal with the loss of his brother, which all in all puts a strain on their friendship.

I am also a big fan of love triangles and the one presented in *Smokeless Fire* is no exception. Action packed throughout and leading to a cliffhanger ending will leave readers wanting more!

I cannot believe that I have not read Samantha Young's work before reading this novel. Samantha Young is a very talented author who captures her readers with the details of this enchanting world presented in *Smokeless Fire*.

*Smokeless Fire* is the first installment in Samantha Young's *Fire Spirit* series, and I can definitely say that I cannot wait to read the next installment!

I recommend *Smokeless Fire* to Young Adult readers.

**5/5 Must Read! Highly Recommended!**

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## Quinn Loftis says

All I can say is read this book :) It was amazing. One of the things I noticed a couple other reviewers said was that the beginning of this book was slow. I got in touch with Samantha because I wanted to tell her this myself and I will say it here; it wasn't slow at all, it was necessary detail and back ground information that was heart wrenching and at times even made it difficult to breath because you felt Ari's need to help the guy she loved even though he continually hurts her. It's a frustrating situation and Samantha does an amazing job writing it. She is able to draw the reader in and help them feel what the characters are feeling. I loved it. I was very impressed with it and would recommend it to any YA paranormal genre lover. Well done Samantha!

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## Avery says

I must admit, I have been kicking myself hard since I finished reading this book. Why might I be kicking myself? Because I cannot believe that this is the first book of Samantha's that I have read (especially since I have at least five of her books on my Kindle- and have had them on there for at least half a year)! If you have yet to read one of Samantha's books, what are you waiting for? Seriously, go read one, I guarantee that you won't be disappointed!

This book was jam-packed with everything that I love, a wholly unique premise (I personally believe that Samantha has done for Jinns what Rachel Vincent did for bean sidhes), a strong (and snarky) female character, equally strong male characters (both of whom were entirely swoon-worthy), and the basis for a successful love triangle (for some of you a 'successful love triangle' may seem like an oxymoron, but in my opinion, a successful love triangle is one in which the reader has an extremely difficult time choosing which of the characters they would like the main character to end up with, in this case Charlie and Jai, because both are such equals, possessing amazing qualities and whatnot, versus an unsuccessful or unnecessary love triangle where it is obvious from the get-go who the main character will choose as one option clearly outweighs the other- for instance Jace over Simon in Cassie Clare's "Mortal Instruments" series). While I am a tad bit more Team Jai than Team Charlie, I wouldn't be disappointed in the slightest if Ari were to choose Charlie.

As mentioned, each and every one of the characters in this book was so well developed and complex (main characters and secondary characters alike!)- from Ari, lonely and struggling to find her place in the world (even before being made aware of her paranormal heritage), from Jai, also lonely, being a pariah amongst his family, to Charlie, a boy blaming himself for something that was out of his control. Furthermore, I loved the change in perspectives as it allowed us to gain an even better understanding of each character- I think it would be near impossible to not feel for these characters and come to befriend them.

All in all, this is a book that I know I will be rereading time and time again. Not only can I not wait to read the next next book in this series, but I cannot wait to start reading Samantha's other series including her "The Tale of Lunarmorte" series, her "Warriors of Ankh" series, and her "Chronicles of the Fade" series!

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## **Hillary Hunt says**

I took a gamble on this 99cents kindle read because the concept sounded unique. YA novels about vampires, faeries, and werewolves are a dime a dozen. But Jinn? I didn't even know what a Jinn was. (They're basically like genies; "supernatural creatures in Arab folklore and Islamic teachings that occupy a parallel world to that of mankind." -from wikipedia.)

So yeah, that seemed like a really fresh concept to me, and I was excited to delve into some world building that I haven't seen done anywhere else.

As with most self published works, I noticed several mistakes and awkward grammar. It's rough around the edges. But I just unabashedly liked the concept/story, so the rough edges didn't phase me.

The language used and the amount of adult content (none of which ever gets graphic), sets this book apart from its watered down and sanitized YA paranormal cousins. And I think that may be part of why I liked it so much!

I felt the characters were nicely developed. AND, this is the first love triangle I've read that didn't feel completely contrived (Ok, well maybe the second after Hunger Games). But, I will disagree with other reviewers and say it's obvious this is going to be a Team Jai adventure, but I'm still interested to see what happens to Charlie and how she overcomes her emotional attachment to him.

The ending was rather abrupt. Made it feel like a short pilot of a tv show. You know there's got to be way more to the story than what was given in this first book. I would've preferred more of a solid climax/resolution, because I like a book that can stand on its own, even in a series.

My only other major gripe is that this book is heavy on the dudes. Everybody who is a God, or just a strong authority figure, is a dude. The women are treated as pawns in the men's scheming, or were evil with a capital E. What up with that Samantha Young? My feminist side bristles at your treatment of gender.

Still a fun read though.

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## **Yasmeen (semi-hiatus) says**

DNF @ 46%

i'm dnfin this for now for several reasons:

1- THIS BOOK DESPERATELY NEEDS AN EDITOR.

2- THE WRITING WAS ONE OF A 12 YEAR OLD

3-THE AUTHOR WAS TRYING *SO* HARD NOT TO MAKE THE ROMANCE AN 'INSTA-LOVE' ONE BUT FAILED -MISERABLY-

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## Shelly Crane says

Oh, boy. I want to feel sorry for Charlie. People do some pretty stupid things when they hurt like he does. But I'm thinking something sinister is going on here with him...

I really enjoyed the book.

I'm really looking forward to book two in hopes that Ari kicks Charlie out of her heart and makes Jai realize that they'd be super, duper hot together.

I can't wait for there to be some real love and action between Jai and Ari ;) I enjoyed the flow of Samantha's writing and will definitely pick up another Samantha Young book. Can't wait for book 2!

5 solid stars from me!

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## Rachel says

Ari Johnson had no idea that her life could get more complicated than it already was.

Her childhood best friend Charlie, the boy she had a secret crush on for years, had completely fallen apart when his brother was killed. And try as she might, she could not save him from the downward spiral he was in.

Her father was more absentee than anything. And every time she tried to let him know just how much she really needed him, he made her feel ungrateful and selfish and spoiled.

She was supposed to graduate and go to college just like all her friends. She was supposed to be excited about it. But all she could think about was how much she didn't want to go.

Of course, after everything she learned about who and what she was, who her parents really were and just what was expected of her, she'd gladly take those complications any day.

Finding out she was a Jinn, a legendary being with magical abilities was bad enough. But finding out the man who raised her, the man she thought was her father, wasn't actually her dad, was a shock she didn't think she could get over any time soon.

And to make matters even worse, she wasn't just any old Jinn, but one that was being sought after to choose sides in the War of the Flames, putting everyone she knew in danger.

As much as she had wanted her life to be different, she never wanted this. And if she could be granted one wish, she'd wish to have her old life back.

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Smokeless Fire is the enchanting and incredibly exciting first book in the new Fire Spirits series by author Samantha Young. This story, which introduces readers to the ancient, magical and legendary world of the Jinn, is a captivating and refreshingly unique addition to the current offerings for young and not-so-young adult readers.

Stories of genies and their power and magic go way back, but this author adds her own spin and creativity, weaving in new ideas and breathing new life into these age-old tales.

Smokeless Fire is the story of a girl, Ari Johnson, who at eighteen discovers that she is not human as she had always believed, but is the daughter of two Jinn who left her in the mortal world to be raised by a man she had thought was her father.

She is forced to learn about her history and about who and what she is, because living in ignorance has put not only her, but her friends, in danger. And those who are looking to have her on their side will stop at nothing until she embraces her magic and her powers and chooses to join them.

Even with a protector at her side around the clock, Ari will have to decide whether she can live with putting everyone's life at risk by refusing to accept that she is Jinn and ignoring the tremendous power and magic that exists within her or whether she's willing to risk her own life if she does.

The Jinn rulers in this story are cold and calculating, master manipulators and exceptional game players, with incredible power and little regard for who gets hurt. Even if it's one of their own.

And while all Jinn are not evil, most have a dark side. With the amount of power at their command, it's very easy for the darkness to take hold, and hopefully Ari won't succumb to its lure.

Smokeless Fire is an utterly riveting must read with characters who have intriguing abilities, and hidden motives and agendas that remain shrouded in secrecy at the story's end, leaving readers anxiously awaiting the next installment in the series.

On a personal note:

I have read enough of Samantha Young's writing to know that she is madly, insanely, ridiculously talented and that I will love basically anything she has to write. But I will admit that I thought based on the subject matter alone that this would be my least favorite of her books. I was wrong.

Completely and totally wrong. I cannot believe how much I love this new series by one of my favorite authors. I never would have thought I could fall in love with a story about Genies or Djinn (or Jinn as they're called in this book). I was never lured in by their powers or the world in which these legendary beings existed. Until now.

Now I can't wait until the next book in the series is released. Especially after the way things ended, which makes me want to jump on a plane to Scotland to beg the author to reveal what she has in store for Ari, Jai, Charlie, The Red King...and The Glass King.

Although I had taken a sneak peek at the first chapter on the author's blog some time ago, so I knew that the story intrigued me, I wasn't sure just how much I'd love this story when the point of view switched from Ari to Jai in the second chapter. As a Jinn, I just wasn't sure how much of a connection I could possibly make with him, and when he was first introduced I wasn't sure just what part he'd play in the story. I remained wary.

Until the very next chapter. Once it switched back to Ari's perspective I was immediately sucked right back into the story. Ari was a totally sympathetic character. I couldn't help but ache for her and the loneliness she felt after basically losing her best friend Charlie after the death of his brother.



And she just seemed so unbelievably lost. She had a father who seemed callous and distant and friends who seemed more fair-weather than anything. I kept hoping that Charlie would come around. I was rooting for the two of them. For awhile.

So of course when she discovered what she was – and you may think you know from the description, but you don't – even with the all the problems and drama that comes with it, I couldn't wait to see just what powers she had and how she planned on using them.

I have got to say that the author created some seriously awesome abilities for her characters. And not just Ari. The bad guys have some pretty wicked powers too. I am fascinated by Azazil and all his sons, the Kings.

But it's Jai that won my heart. I did not expect that at all. I thought I'd be a member of Team Charlie, but nope, my allegiance is firmly with Jai. He's all sorts of sexy. He's strong and caring – even when he doesn't want to be – and just a little bit broken like Ari is. They are so unbelievably perfect together.

I am a brand new fan of the world of the Jinn. Samantha Young created one that is unique and alluring and filled with all kinds of secrets that I want answers to. In my wildest imagination I had no idea there could be quite so many types of beings that had the cruelty and coldness of the Fae but with a whole different set of rules and such seriously bad-a\*\* abilities.

There is just a hint of a love triangle, which I almost always tend to love and did very much so in this book, but for those who aren't huge fans, this one felt important to the story.

And there is definitely a lot left up in the air at the end – I know I have a million and a half questions – even if it doesn't quite feel completely like being left hanging off a cliff.

While I don't usually take much notice of chapter titles, I did in this book, and kept trying to figure out what they could possibly mean before I started reading each chapter.

And I still have questions about that prologue even after I read the story and went back to re-read it (which I highly recommend). I definitely knew more about the location but I'm still wondering just who the characters are.

This new series is a definite must read for me. I could not put it down and easily devoured it in one sitting. And with passages like the one below, how could I not?

Favorite passage:

He laughed, an unhappy sound that ripped at Ari. She wanted to reach for him. Take his hand. Do something to comfort this man who had come so suddenly into her life, pretending to be some untouchable, uncaring being when there was clearly so much more to him than that.

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## Nicole says

This is one of those books where I'm finding it difficult to write a review. Not because I didn't like it but because I liked it so much. I will try my best to write a meaningful review. When all I want to write is: This

novel is amazing go out and get it quickly. The main character Ari is about to turn 18 and has no idea what she wants to do with her life. I found it easy to identify with her since I felt the same way right after high school. Eventually the choice is made for Ari when she finds out she is Jinn. The drastic changes in her life freak her out but she's strong enough to deal with the changes and move forward. She learns how to use her Jinn abilities and is eager to protect the people she loves. One thing I didn't like about Ari was the way that she dealt with Charlie. He has changed drastically and is really into drugs. He hurts her time and time again and yet she keeps forgiving him and trying to get the old Charlie back. It was annoying, I wanted to yell at her and tell her to move on, but it also shows that she is unwilling to abandon someone that she cares about so deeply.

Along with learning she is Jinn, Ari gets a new bodyguard named Jai. What can I say about him, he's tall very hot with olive skin and bright green eyes. Jai can also be sarcastic, arrogant, and tries to keep everyone at a distance. I enjoyed the the few chapters that were from Jai's POV. It allowed me to not only see how he really felt about guarding Ari but about Ari herself. Jai has a rare ability thanks to his mixed blood that makes him very good at what he does.

I loved the originality of this novel. I have never read about Jinn before, have you? Samantha Young is able to create worlds that suck you in and make you want more. There is plenty of action and just enough romance to keep the reader turning pages as quickly as possible to see what is going to happen next. This isn't the first novel of hers that I completely devoured. The idea of the 7 Kings of the Jinn and their father Azazil was new and it was easy to follow along as things were explained. Plus there were tons of new creatures in Smokeless Fire and I loved learning about all of them. What fun would it be if there was not some kind of trouble. The Kings are at war and Ari is right in the middle of all the danger.

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## Kay says

### 1 very generous star.

This book got a lot of five stars and enthusiastic commendation. I delved in expecting to like the book. I mean, it's about Jinn—something that I haven't read about yet! So why such a low rating? What is wrong with me?

I know, I'm sorry. But I was so very annoyed with this book that only the catharsis of expelling my frustration into this review could give me some peace.

There were so many problems with this book. From the editing, the sluggish plot, lack of credible myth building, and character **un**-development, the book got worse and worse as I turned the pages.

### Synopsis

There are beings called Jinn in the world, and Ari, our protagonist, is *somehow* related to their existence. Of course, Ari does not know about Jinn until her 18th birthday, when she gets a surprise visit from one of the Jinn. The rest of the story revolves around Ari coming to terms with her own destiny while dealing with teenage problems typical to YA novels: estranged relationship with parents; dealing with a friend who's lost his path; and of course the irrevocable love triangle.

A fairly interesting concept, right?

But wait. Here are some of the **major problems** I encountered:

1. **Annoying protagonist** : When we are first introduced to Ari, she's portrayed as a lonely yet caring girl. She lives with a detached father whose business takes him away from his daughter months at a time. Ari's only solace is a close childhood friend who has spiraled down into a dark depression filled with drugs, alcohol, and sex after the death of his brother.

At first, I sympathized with Ari's constant efforts to get things back under control, especially since the two men in her life keep pushing her away. But here's the thing: despite all of Ari's efforts, they still hurt her purposely, and you know what? **She repeatedly takes their crap**. To top it off, she **lashes out at other people** and **emotionally hurts them** after suffering such numerous setbacks. My reaction towards Ari's reactions slipped very quickly from sympathy, to disbelief, to annoyance, and finally to wanting to pound her face in.

For example (one of many, really), Ari has a huge crush on Charlie and so deep in love is she that she keeps taking his crap after (1) dragging him out of his druggie friends' house only to have him crawl back for another high; (2) demanding that he get a medical exam to ensure he's STD free—yes, he is **THAT** much of a manwhore; and (3) catching him **having sex on her dad's bed during her birthday party**. That Ari not only opens her arms for the creep but also continues to be his **emotional crutch and whipping post** after all of that astounds me. Even worse, despite her complaints about how lonely she is, she basically abandons her friends again and again to be with Charlie.

2. **Hazy myth building** : Jinn are beings not dealt with much in paranormal YA, and while I could see veritable effort in creating a new Jinn mythos, there were too many gaping holes in it for me to be convinced. The *concept* of different classes of Jinn was interesting, especially since the Seven Kings hold dominion not over land, but over a day of the week. Talk about separation of power! But unlike our executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, the Jinn system does not allow for any interaction among the kings and conflict arises from the strict need to keep dominions separated.

However, the author's way of streamlining this Jinn myth into the real world was highly unoriginal and unrealistic. Mainly, the magic system is, well, omnipotent:

“Jai insisted that she use her magic for everyday things. He said there was no one muscle that needed to be worked, no inner power that had to be tapped into or explored. It was all about believing. It was as simple as that. Ari had to believe that if she wanted a glass of water that she could conjure it. Or a bag of chips.”

Wait, *what*? **All you have to do is believe and thou shalt receive**? No tradeoffs? No consequences? No going to school to hone your magical abilities? So, if you believe in a billion dollars, a private island, and an endless supply of pina coladas, it will happen? Granted, the money and the island must come from somewhere, but for one person to have such a power with little limitations is unbelievable.

Ari's own unique powers, which I won't spoil, reach even more preposterous heights. All I can say is, Ari, girl, just take over the freaking world already because you are more than capable of doing so.

3. **Sluggish plot** : After the birthday party, things slowed down considerably. While there were some minor developments, things came to a standstill until her jaunt to Roswell, New Mexico. (view spoiler)

4. **Quality control** : I realize that the author is independently published, but this book needs serious editing. The language was very colloquial. There are better ways to display your character's frustration than making them call someone an *asshat* or *douchebag*. Because, frankly, it sounds very juvenile. I understand teens say dumb shit, but seeing this in dialogue over and over again really made the characters unlikable.

Overall, I was frustrated with this novel. It has potential and an interesting premise. But the characters and plot were very under developed. Maybe this novel is intended for the younger audience, but I found everything overly simplistic and without substantial direction.

**1 star and not recommended at all.**

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## **Ana (Owl Always Be Reading) says**

Smokeless Fire a Fire Spirits novel  
Samantha Young  
5 Stars

The cover of Smokeless Fire is just gorgeous. Ari is beautiful and exactly the way I pictured her while reading Smokeless Fire. I have been a fan of Samantha Young since she released the Tale of Lunarmorte series and I will say that I will be a fan forever! I have read all of her books and I just can't get enough of her captivating books. Samantha has a way to bring a new light to old mythology and mix it with today's modern age.

Ari's father is always away on business trips and since Ari's mother dropped her off on her father's doorstep when she was just born, 18 year old Ari has been pretty much raising herself since she became a teenager. Soon she will graduate from high school and will have to go to college – something she is seriously having doubts about. Her best friend, Charlie, who she has known since she was a little girl, is going through a rough time with the guilt of his little brother's death. Then one day she goes to sleep and wakes up in this strange place called Mount Qaf in the house of a man who claims to be her real father. The only thing is that she isn't dreaming and the man in front of her IS her father and also known as The White King. Ari is lost and confused when she returns back home after telling The White King, her father that she didn't want anything to do with him. That's when Jai comes into the picture to protect her from her "father's plan. Jai is hired, by Ari's uncle, The Red King to protect Ari and follow her wherever she goes. Ari will discover the true plan her evil father has planned for her and she will find out that she is stronger than she thinks. Jai will help her awaken her powers and teach her how to use them in order to protect herself from the war her father has started.

Smokeless Fire is the beginning to an incredible series surely to capture everyone's hearts. The characters are unique and easy to fall in love with. I hate to say that I am team Jai all the way! I totally recommend reading Smokeless Fire and any book from Samantha Young. She is an incredible author with the gift of creating wonderful stories and memorable character that will be with you always.

Blog: <http://www.onceuponatwilight.com/2011...>

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## ★Ruth★ says

First off this has been on my kindle for over a year! WTH I am such an idiot!

I have to say it took me a good bit to get into this but once I did I was totally hooked.

The world building is what confused me the most. The concept was a new interesting one for me but trying to work out who everyone was & why they were had my head spinning for a little bit and stopped me from getting totally lost in it.

But I persevered and I am so glad I did. As with all of Young's character's the female leads are strong likeable girls who grow into their powers but have their vulnerable moments so that they are still relateable and Ari is no different.

I really wanted to kill some of the people in her life though especially her dad and that ass-hat Charlie.

And I love that Jai isn't this perfect guy, he has some major issue's which make him even more loveable!

So on that note I am gonna dive into Scorched Skies :)

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## Little Paper Rose Reviews says

- Review taken from my YA book blog Little Paper Rose

\*I will alert for start/end of spoilers.

Before 'Smokeless Fire' I had no knowledge about the Jinn mythology so this was all extremely new to me. Getting to learn about the story and the history of the Jinn very much from scratch has been interesting as well as exhausting. I experienced the first half of 'Smokeless Fire' to be jam-packed with information and explanation. At some point I felt like I was practically studying about Jinn, and that just gets tiring and boring. I was relieved once I got past all the explanations and whys.

I appreciated the original storyline and the maze-like plot with surprises along the way, but it wasn't believable. It didn't feel real or likely in the slightest, imaginable way - all coming down to how free of emotional conflict the story was.

A lot happens in 'Smokeless Fire' - threads were pulled and then left hanging without a purpose which made me wonder if the story would've turned out more intricate and personal if Young had solely stuck to the main plotline.

As for the characters (which there were several interesting of):

The Red King was truly hilarious at times. I liked him for his sarcasm and shockingly up-too-date way of speaking, but that was also the things that didn't fit in with the almighty Jinn King. For what he was

supposed to be he wasn't authentic and I failed to perceive him as powerful and intimidating.

Charlie was like a sidetrack but being there all the time to distract and put a barrier between Ari and Jai. I expected him to have much more depth since in the beginning Young hinted that Charlie was a big deal, but he turned fainter as the story went. As soon as the Jinn issue kicks in Charlie ends up being a third-friend-who-just-won't-give-up-and-go-home type of character.

My favorite of them all was Jai - mysterious and level-headed. He was the most real one. I appreciated (the few times) you got Jai's point-of-view because what he was really thinking and feeling would clash with how Ari interpreted it. Also, for Young to have Jai be a few years older was refreshing and suiting (I don't really understand why many authors make only a year or two sound so much older it's practically impossible in the world of YA).

Finally, Ari, our protagonist. I didn't gather much from her other than being mentally strong and solid. It's a nice change from the many protagonists who are on a crying-go-round; when Ari did finally give in and cry, it was for something real.

Though, to what mainly bothered me with 'Smokeless Fire': the lack of reactions. Nada, nothing. Ari's literally thrust into a world of Jinn, supernatural powers, strange creatures, another existing world.. and she takes it VERY WELL. She finds out she's not human.. and takes it VERY WELL. She's so accepting and understanding - zero emotional battle. It's time to be in a total, full-on freak out mode. Her reaction wasn't believable at all. Even how easily it was for Charlie to take it all in was ridiculous.

[Slight spoilers!] How Ari went from referring to The White King as her father so out of the blue and the only father she's known as her dad for 18 years, as Derek, was very bothersome and unlikely; as well as how she so very cooperatively agrees that it's for the best if she disconnects herself from family and friends and just leaves. I'd wished for it to be more overwhelming but it was barely significant enough to acknowledge. [Spoilers ended!]

'Smokeless Fire' is supposedly a YA Urban Fantasy Romance but truthfully, had I purchased the book expecting romance I would've been very disappointed. It's not a romance, I'm sure the relationships are further inspected in the later installments but this first book just didn't have any of it. Young would regularly hint on romance but it never came to that.

On a last note, the ending just left me hanging. Like, huh? It ended in such an unsatisfactory and abruptly manner. I won't be purchasing the second installment but I recommend anyone reading this if you're looking for a non-mainstream, fantasy read.

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## Angela says

**1 star for the cover and it's trickery.**

I disliked this *so much*.

Now, I usually read good reviews before I indulge in a book 'cause I don't like negative vibes when I read. Okay, maybe I read one or two but I don't take it in account as much as 4+ star reviews. Unfortunately, as much as I really tried to like Smokeless Fire, oh sweet baby Jesus, it even has a stupid name, I just *couldn't*.

Here are **my** reasons.

**Ari.** Ignorant, **slut-shaming to the 10th degree**, name calling, self centered, self-pitty, hates when people tell her what to do but loves to tell people off for their mistakes, thinks only of herself, blames people for not paying attention to her when she doesn't *talk* to them.

Here are some of her memorable, intelligent, 'witty' quotes that just stood out to me so much I just *had* to write them down.

**“Or we could do something you want to do.”**

**He laughed bitterly, slamming his hands into his jean pockets and hunching over a little as they continued walking. “I wouldn’t let you do what I want to do.”**

**OK, maybe it was too early for patience. “What... get high? Get wasted. Sleep around with a bunch of STD-infected skanks.”**

**“Ari,” he moaned. “It’s too early for this shit.”**

**“Yeah well it’s never too early to catch a disease,” she snapped.**

She has a best friend named Rachel who is only ever nice and seems to tolerate her extreme bitchiness. She looks out for Ari, is always trying to be there for Ari, but all Ari does is push her away and think she's sticking her nose in her business. Ari doesn't treat Rachel nicely- much less respect her. Rachel even decorates her house for Ari's b-day party, hires a 'Genie' for entertainment and 'wish-granting'. And what does Rachel get in return?

**Ari flopped down at her computer desk and logged into her Twitter account. She scrolled through her friend’s tweets, her eyes narrowing at a certain comment. "Sometimes friendships are a one-way system. Sad but true. A hard lesson I learned this week."**

**“Bitch,” Ari hissed, clicking the unfollow button on Rachel’s profile. One guess as to who the little anal, straight-A, genie-hiring suckass was talking about.**

It isn't nice reading a book when the main character keeps calling her 'best friend' anal. It isn't nice reading a book when the main character is so up her own ass that all she does is diss everyone around her that didn't do anything wrong.

**Rachel was this completely anal, bossy, know-it-all, bratty, self-important type-A pain in the ass a lot of the time.**

If I knew Ari in person, I wouldn't be afraid to slap her across her face and ram her dumb head against the wall. Yes, that is how much I am disgusted and irritated by her disgusting character. It isn't 'cool' to constantly call people asshat, bitch, idiot. She even dissed the guy she claimed she was 'in-love' with.

**It was so selfish but Ari was glad the stubborn idiot didn't want to leave her.**

That stubborn idiot being the one and only Charlie that she was constantly trying to 'change'.

Ari wasn't the only problem with this book. The writing was so **boring** I mean, it was meh, nothing special about it. I could tell that the Author tried desperately to make this sound so **AMAZING, FUN, INTERESTING, EXCITING, DANGEROUS**. I did not give even one ounce of a fuck. It wasn't convincing, the world building was shit.

Now, let's move onto **Jai** the 'insta-sexual-interest'. Worst than 'insta-love' in my opinion.

Jai is assigned to 'guard' Ari because she's soooooooooo special for some fucking reason. She's not like ANY other girl. Ok guys?? She's an **IMPORTANT!** She's different!

Ari describes Jai as 'delicious' cause she lacks a better vocabulary. Ari is soooooooo attracted to him, like SOOOOO attracted to him, he's like freaking 23 years old and she just turned 18.

But because it is in Ari's nature, she manages to disrespect him as well!

**Ari shot him a hateful look. “What crawled up your butt? Did you find out you were the Seal of Solomon and the most sought after weapon in the history of the Jinn?” she mocked. “Oh no, wait, that was me.”**

But Jai thinks of her as someone SO SPECIAL.

**She smelled of the rich, exotic Dior perfume she wore all the time, a scent Jai would never be able to smell again without thinking about her. As he and Charlie followed her downstairs he noted the change in her gait. Ari was one of those rare girls who seemed to float from place to place when she walked, graceful and feminine.**

Good to know her nasty personality doesn't effect the way she walks Jai! Thanks for letting me in on *that!*

If those paragraphs didn't convince you not to read this wretched book, then maybe these remaining paragraphs would.

**“I’ve been freaking out for weeks about college, but I couldn’t even talk to my best friend about it because she would have turned her back on me the second I said I didn’t want to go.”**



**Rachel snapped her head back as if she'd been slapped. "Ari, that is so not true. I would have been there if you'd just talk to me. You blame it on me but you don't talk to us! You didn't even tell us your dad was in the hospital! What is wrong with you?" Her lips trembled and Ari had to hold herself back. Rachel was so close to crying. Ari couldn't stand to see anyone cry. She shrugged, remaining strong.**

HA! All Ari does in the beginning is assume Rachel wouldn't listen to her. Remain 'strong'? More like 'remain bitchy.'

**Ari shook her head, hating everyone and everything at that moment. "You're asshats."**

Now, I usually don't mind cursing in books AT ALL. I find it funny sometimes. But Ari is non stop, she has a sick attitude and thinks everyone is against her. It's just the way she constantly curses. Her other curse is 'Holy Macaroons!' What the fuck, she can't say 'shit' but she can call people anal? She's so messed up. I just can't.

**Rachel and Staci were gone from her life (and so easily – it was a little insulting)**

And why the fuck is she insulted when she pushed them away and called them names? WHO EVEN CALLS SOMEONE AN ANAL? That's just wrong and so humorless.

So yadadadada, apparently the reason why no one ever 'stay's with her is because she's special. She's an 'Important.' Goddamnit, it has nothing to do with her heritage why people don't stick around her, it's because she has a disgusting personality! Everyone in this book acted immature, and even their conversations were board scratching bad.

I am so done.

currently losing hope I'll find a good YA book.

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## **Kenya Wright says**

First of all my expectations were low.

Why?

Because I was dumb enough to read some of the lower star'ed reviews. Thankfully, I was smart enough to

check it out for myself.

This book is FUCKING AWESOME!

Sorry for cursing, but if you havn't read this yet.... then WHAT THE FUCK?

I loved it and frankly if you don't love it then you just aren't as cool as me... and that is okay... only a certain amount of people can be cool as me and walk this planet... (I'm so humble.)

Regardless...

THINGS I LOVED:

-New supernaturals

-Different type of female main character... some readers felt she took alot of crap from people... WHAT THE FUCK? She's a teenage girl that has been abandoned most of her life... You want her to be stabbing and arguing with everybody for minor offenses like "friends that only care about themselves"?

-I liked both love interests... and yes! There are two. What the fuck is wrong with everybody hating a love triangle... just go fuck yourselves! (sorry... that's pent-up anger)

Charles is really flawed. Loved it!

Jai is pretty battered. Awesopme!

Thing I disliked:

-The first two chapters took a minute to get through.... I had too trudge through all of the thoughts, emotions, into of friends.... thankfully once I got through that... it was great.

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