



The Wraiths of War

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In the final volume of the thrilling dark fantasy trilogy, Alex Locke is transported to World War One London – will he finally discover the truth about the Obsidian Heart?

The Wraiths of War Details

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Author : Mark Morris

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From Reader Review The Wraiths of War for online ebook

Chip says

Don't let the 4 fool you. I actually loved this series. Once you get your head wrapped around the time-travel elements, this series was fantastic.

Miriam Joy says

Well, that was trippy. My brain feels melty. SO MANY PARADOXES. SO MANY FUTURE SELVES. AHHHH.

Lacer says

The Wraiths of War is the third part of the Wolves of London trilogy by Mark Morris. If you're tempted by the trilogy, definitely read the first one first because it's a bit of a long, convoluted story and you definitely need to start at the beginning! To summarise the general gist of the whole trilogy, it's about a man with an obsidian heart that can time travel. His life, as with anyone who can time travel probably, isn't that smooth, put it that way. In the final book, The Wraiths of War, there are a lot of loose ends being tied up. It has lengthy bits set around the First World War and I found those bits to be particularly good, definitely some of the most graphic and intense descriptions of life in the trenches that I've read in a while. There is a particularly gruesome bit involving a dead soldier in a shell hole, I will so no more about that for fear of spoilers. The bits away from the First World War weren't quite as gripping and like I say, there's a lot of ends to be tied up, so it's a bit bitty. I also guessed one of the reveals at the end, so a bit of an anti-climax there. But still, I'm glad that I read the series.

Richard Eyres says

The final book in the series - and it was great. All the questions that were brought up in the first 2 books are answered in this one. While i guessed a couple of the twists - they were just guesses. I liked how the author tried to throw me off a little, but it all still made sense.

The best bit for me was the World War 1. I loved how the author described what was happening and how Alex was coping with it.

All in all, i really enjoyed this book and it completed the series completely for me.

Aaron says

A good but not great end to the trilogy but it tries it's hardest to wrap almost all of it up.

Pamela Scott says

I WAS GIVEN AN ARC BY THE PUBLISHER AND VOLUNTARILY REVIEWED IT.

I loved The Wraiths of War. Before I ramble on about how much I loved the book, let's be clear. I've never read the other two books in the trilogy (The Wolves of London and The Society of Blood). I've also never read the author before so I had no idea what to expect. The Wraiths of War is one of my favourite genres – time travel. I love books that explore time travel or alternative history. Even though I haven't read the other books in the trilogy I never felt lost reading The Wraiths of War. Enough detail is given to fill any gasps and answer any questions about what's going on. There are references to events in the other two books that I didn't quite get and found myself wishing I knew the context but other than that I didn't struggle about with reading the final part of a trilogy. The love the way the author features time travel in this novel via a strange black heart, an object alive that can take you back and forth in time. I've never come across this method of time travel in other books. I really liked the characters. They are well-written and made of flesh and blood. I loved reading how Alex kept going back and forth in time, changing events to give himself and the people he loves a better life. I loved the revelation of the true identity of the mysterious Dark Man hunting Alex through time. I also loved the revelation about the true identity of Clover, the mysterious woman whose life he saves. Enough detail is given about events in The Wolves of London and The Society of Blood for me to follow what's going on. I'd highly recommend The Wraiths of War and plan to read the other two books in the trilogy.

mr se black says

If you've read the first 2 you'll need to read this but you'll be glad it's over boring

Easy to skip read 70% of this book get through get to the end know what happens and hope he doesn't write anymore about this long winded story that could have been one book

Francesco says

I knew this was the last of the trilogy but felt a gracefully departure. The end is a bit rushed to neat all the threads and loose ends and I thought it had potential to keep going on. Nonetheless is a very good ending

Lewis Marrow says

Loved this series and this last instalment wraps the story up, makes total sense and is a satisfying conclusion.....I think?

Ewan says

Really good. One complaint - it should be mandatory in trilogies to provide a "story so far" recap at the start. I will need to reread the entire trilogy at some point, as I struggled to remember events from earlier books,

which probably impaired my enjoyment a bit.

Sharon Bidwell says

This is the conclusion of Alex Locke's adventures through time. I've spent a good amount of my own time travelling with 'Alex' wondering if the trilogy would reach a satisfying conclusion. I'm delighted to say it does, or at least did so for me. Despite one or two loose ends -- much of which could be explained by the possibilities of time travel and simply not knowing what might be possible in the future -- I put the book down with a smile wanting to revisit Alex Locke's world again and re-read this at some point now knowing all that I guessed and all that I learned.

Any series, whether a trilogy or longer, can require patience, can require reading the whole before it's possible to give any sort of true critique. Time travel stories usually tie me up in knots, make me frustrated and the reading (or viewing) experience almost painful, all of which keeps me on tenterhooks more than any other type of story -- the dreadful need to correct a timeline and the possible disastrous consequences of failure. There were moments like that in this book, though I never felt a need to hurry when reading this. I was as happy to enjoy Alex's quieter periods in his life as well as the more exhausting ones. Perhaps the most suspenseful moments in the 3rd book are when Alex has to face trench warfare (as stated in the blurb, so this is not a spoiler). What Mark Morris has written...well, I'm sure almost any accounting of war tends to fall short of reality, but he's certainly tried to express the horrors.

I've read several of Mark Morris's books but the Obsidian Heart trilogy feels like something he was destined to write, I applaud the work that must have been involved tying all the timelines together, and the three books will be among my book collection for a good long time.

T. K. Elliott (Tiffany) says

I have to say, I saw the ending coming. But that didn't detract from the enjoyment, such was Morris' skill with the delivery.

I've read all three books in the trilogy; the first (The Wolves of London) - reflecting poor Alex's experiences - had an air of confused terror. Like Alex, the reader is bounced all over the place, not really knowing what's going on or how to deal with it.

Book two (The Society of Blood) was - for me - a bit of a hiatus, the way middle books in a series often are.

This one is a jigsaw puzzle.

I found the first third of the book pretty hard going; given the setting, I thought it could have done with a bit more feeling: the narrative was just a bit too detached. However, after that, it picked up. Alex is learning more about how the heart operates, and closer (he hopes) to finding his kidnapped daughter. On the one hand, this reduces the terror level: Alex is figuring things out, and he's more in control of events. On the other hand, what we lose in panic, we gain in pure intellectual pleasure.

Morris' vision of time travel ignores a lot of the conventions used by other authors to make things less confusing. Morris just dumps the whole plate of spaghetti into your lap, sauce and all, and expects you to

cope with the resulting mess. It must have taken a certain amount of authorly courage to do it. I have to say, I thoroughly enjoyed watching Alex figuring it out, and working alongside him, waiting to see if I turned out to be right. A bit like a whodunnit, the clues are all there, if you look for them.

And when you finally get to the end, there's that happy feeling of putting the last jigsaw piece in place.

Neil says

This is the third book in the series.

Book one was intriguing. An urban fantasy conspiracy horror thriller. A man is thrown around circumstance and being chased by a mysterious organisation. Book two, our protagonist starts becoming a lot more proactive, and we find out the rules of time travel, and the grandfather paradox.

This book starts off well. The cliff hanger from the previous book is dealt with a little too easily, but then we're back to Alex actually doing stuff, if not to get his daughter back, at least to make sure what has to happen happens. But then the whole grandfather paradox constrains things. It gives the impression that Alex might as well have simply sat and waited for whatever is destined to happen.

Some of the plot elements from the previous books are not satisfactorily explained. What was the nature of the apparitions of Lyn? How did the heart turn up when and where it did? But the main one is the inconsistency of time travel. Can time be changed? If not how did the alternative Alex go back and warn himself to hand over the to The Dark Man? Was there a timeline where he didn't? Why is that different from every other event in the series? If he can change time, couldn't he make things better than the horrors he saw? Save many of the people who were killed?

Chloe Smith says

Following on from *The Society of Blood*, *The Wraiths of War* is the third and final novel in the Obsidian Hearts series that sees the reader follow our main protagonist, Alex Locke, as he attempts to find his missing daughter, uncover the secrets behind the obsidian heart, and figure out why he has been chosen to travel back and forth in time. *The Wraiths of War* brings this series to its conclusion, answering all those questions you've been asking yourself since the beginning, and uncovering the truth behind the Dark Man and Alex Locke's involvement with the Wolves of London.

I have to admit that I found *The Wraiths of War* my favourite out of the three books. I found myself more drawn to this final novel as all of my questions were answered and everything finally made a lot of sense. This whole series can be a bit confusing at times with the time travelling and the many variations of Alex Locke turning up in different time periods at different ages. In this final novel, Locke continues to question his involvement and frequently comments on the consequences of his actions should he just let time continue without his involvement. It also brings into question the decision between what is right and wrong when he brings Frank into the future and away from his untimely death in World War One.

Yet again, Morris brings to this novel a lot of research though, in this case, with World War One. We are taken to prominent battlefields and made aware of the trench systems on both sides of the war, as well as given an insight into the overall morale on both sides. This is a key part of this series that I really enjoyed: the realism that is portrayed through Morris's research into these time periods. It also shows the naivety of

people, such as myself, who aren't aware of some of the specifics from these periods which he also instills into Alex Locke who also didn't fully understand the ways of living at those times.

I really loved the concept of this series and it is one I would recommend to fans of Mark A. Latham and his Apollonian Case Files series (and vice versa). I found many similarities between the two which gave me a nice sense of nostalgia for that series.

Zoe says

The series has got better with each book.
