



Prophecy: Child of Earth

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In *Rhapsody*, a fellowship was forged-- three companions who, through great adversity, became a force to be reckoned with: Rhapsody the Singer; Achmed the assassin-king; and Grunthor, the giant Sergeant-Major. *Prophecy* continues their powerful epic. Driven by a prophetic vision, Rhapsody races to rescue a religious leader while Achmed and Grunthor seek the F'dor-- an ancient and powerful demon. These companions may be destined to fulfill The Prophecy of the Three, but their time is running short. They must find their elusive enemy before his darkness consumes them all.

Prophecy: Child of Earth Details

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From Reader Review Prophecy: Child of Earth for online ebook

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

This series just keeps getting better and better. I am absolutely in love with this author and how her words captivate me as I turn each page.

This is a book where you will get lost in the story and everything around you will cease to exist!

Can't wait to see how this pans out!

Jenn Cotton says

The heroine is frequently called intelligent, but never proves this. Despite her intelligence, she's completely unaware of the effect her utter physical perfection has on everyone that meets her. She is called fair and compassionate despite being haughty and judgmental.

However, the absolute worst of it is any interaction that involves Ashe. Aside from the fact that he comes off as a player character someone rolled up for a d&d campaign (see, I'm this half-dragon...), his presence turns any chapter into something out of a bad romance novel.

Stephen says

4.0 stars. Excellent sequel to the superb *Rhapsody: Child of Blood*. This is one of those "under the radar" fantasy series that really are worth-while reads. Good characters, strong world building and an interesting plot. Recommended!!

Monica says

If you don't like romantic plot lines, then this is definitely not the series for you. The romance between Ash and *Rhapsody* is what really drives this story, but it is all the secondary characters that kept me coming back for more. The main character can be so perfect at some times that its a bit annoying, but I really love this book. I live the world, and it's very easy to become immersed in it.

Maya says

This will be shorter than my review of *Rhapsody*, really. REALLY.

The thing about this series is I love the plot. I love the world and the set-up and the mythos and I really, really love Achmed and his dry sense of humor and Grunthor and his violent nursery rhymes. But. But but but.

I HATE RHAPSODY'S HAIR.

NOW THAT WE'RE GETTING TO SEE ASHE WITHOUT HIS CAPE, I HATE HIS HAIR TOO.

MAY THEY HAVE BALD CHILDREN, OH GOD, PLEASE.

The sex is also... overwhelmingly unnecessary, just as I feared. And yet despite that I had a great time reading this book and I am working on the third in the trilogy. It is also quite likely that I will pick up the next set of books after this one because again, the world is great.

But that said, I need to read something without quite so much obsessive description of HAIR before I tackle *Destiny* - maybe a Roberts romance novel.

No, I'm really not kidding.

Jeremy Preacher says

Signed in recognition of my honorable mention in the Firbolg songwriting contest. It was probably horrible, like all of my other "poetry" from that era, but I still look on the inscription fondly.

It's unfortunately the only part of the book that really holds up, because while the worldbuilding remains seriously cool, every third conversation is a pages-long infodump and the actual plot, such as it is, manages to be exceedingly slow-paced (in large part because of the aforementioned infodumps) and at the same time bewilderingly, pointlessly convoluted. This is not one of the few, rare occasions where an amnesia plot works, and it's kind of pointless anyway since no one in the book actually shares information with anyone else, ever. I don't know how these people manage to eat - they must just sigh pointedly and stomp around until it occurs to someone to offer them food.

Argh. It's more frustrating than most bad books because the cool parts are *really cool*. And then someone opens their damn mouth and spoils it with more unnecessarily coy, overwrought scheming.

Kelly says

This book is well written, and the world building is fairly intricate. Unfortunately, the author is painfully in love with her characters. This book would be half its size if we eliminated all the tantalizing descriptions of how gorgeous and intoxicating the hero and heroine are. Her unhealthy admiration of her characters prevents her from taking risks that would further their development or create even create some sort of attachment for the reader. It's fun brain candy, though.

Arielle says

I had to find out if Ashe and Rhapsody ever figure out their situation, so I kept reading this trilogy even though I disliked the first novel. This book was more rewarding in its storytelling. At least it's set in the same time period, so I could enjoy the moment without so many info dumps. I have to admit that I want resolution, and this book always pairs a good with a bad, feeling like every step forward is actually a step backward. I'll

need to read the third book to find out what happens.

Blodeuedd Finland says

dnf

Flint says

If you read the first book, "Rhapsody: Child of Blood," and felt it was a bit slow and uneventful, then you should stay clear of the sequel, because this one expands on all the things you didn't like about the first book. There is absolutely no action or suspense whatsoever, nor do you get any sense of urgency with the so called impending threat of the evil F'dor, who shows up at the end of the book. Haydon instead devotes her entire novel to writing as many crying scenes as she can for Rhapsody. This character is literally weeping and sobbing throughout this entire book! When Rhapsody isn't crying, Haydon is writing romantic subplots for her and Ashe falling in love and having lots of sex. What happened to going on adventures, exploring the world, finding allies and making enemies, introducing some new characters, getting into battles and sword fights, learning new magic tricks, fighting new foes, etc? This book really had no direction at all which was actually my criticism of the last book, but at least that one had a lot more going on in it; this one was just plain dead.

Lynzie says

All right, I give up. This is going to come off as if I'm a horrible, bitter person, and I don't care. This book was one of the worst I've ever read, and I really regret making myself finish it. Take this review with a grain of salt.

If 50% of the words in this book had been cut none of the plot would have been lost. I shudder to think what the manuscript looked like before she sent it to her agent, and then again before her editor saw it.

Rhapsody has got to be the most infuriating heroine I've ever come across. Mary Sue does not even begin to describe her. She's perfect in every way, but especially in her "exquisite" beauty. She's supposedly incredibly intelligent, yet she shows her ignorance constantly. She's supposedly incredibly compassionate, yet she comes off as as haughty and condescending the moment someone disagrees with her - and especially when they're correct. She's supposedly selfless, but when she makes a decision the world has to move for her to change her mind.

On top of that, she's practically invincible. Anyone she needs help from willingly gives it to her the moment she needs it, but it's rare that she needs help because the author has given her so many powers - most of which are vague enough that the reader can't possibly know their limits - that we can't even be biting our nails when she gets into trouble, because we know she's going to come up with SOMETHING to get herself out of it. Why do we care about her plight when we know it isn't even a plight to begin with?

There were so many things that could have been awesome here, yet weren't. For example, her dragon ally refuses to call her by name but instead calls her "Pretty," yet another way to show how beautiful our heroine is. As if we needed another reason. Apparently this is supposed to be endearing - it comes off as patronizing

to me. Despite the warnings against the dragon and how dangerous she could be, at no time do you fear for the character. There is no tension whatsoever; it just ends up boring.

I couldn't help thinking, "Infodump!" every few pages. There is no possible reason that the reader needs to know even a third of the crap that Haydon piles onto us. I know that after I hit the halfway mark in the book I gave up on wading through the tripe and had not trouble understanding the actual plot. No reader wants to be bogged down by too much backstory or history, yet it's forced upon us anyway.

And could the relationship between Rhapsody and Ashe be any more sickeningly sweet? No one talks like that, and even if they did the reader doesn't need to know every sweet thought that comes through the lovers' minds. But let's pretend that isn't an issue. What about the F'dor? It's a horrific demon that's supposed to be hell-bent on destroying the world, yet our heroes just decide to take a few months and live in bliss together and THEN go seek it out? What kind of sense could that possibly make? The tension in this could have been awesome, but instead I found it hard to care what the F'dor was up to because it couldn't be THAT bad if the characters could wait it out for a few months.

The sex scenes were way over the top, too. Again, I found myself skipping them. If I wanted to read a romance novel, I'd have been reading one. I don't have a problem with sex scenes if they serve to further the plot, but these most definitely did not.

On top of that, the entire time that Rhapsody was avoiding reality with Ashe she neglected her friends, including her "adoptive sister," Jo. I found Jo's death scene to be unmoving and Rhapsody's grief over it unbelievable. Nowhere did it ever show that Rhapsody really cared about Jo. We were TOLD that she cared, but the first rule of writing is to show, not tell, and it should definitely have been applied here.

I won't even get into how annoyed I was with the several chapters that won't even matter in the next book because Rhapsody doesn't even remember them, because if I did I'd be writing a novel myself.

The plot itself was good, but the tension was not there and the characters were so flat that they may as well have been pancakes. I didn't care what happened to them or to their world. This book could not have fallen further than it did.

wishforagiraffe says

Strong middle book that answers a lot of questions from the first book but sets up the concluding volume very well. The political situation gets much more interesting, and the mystery deepens. I really enjoyed this book.

Sarah says

Blergh. You guys, I can't read high fantasy anymore. I don't know whether I've grown as a reader or I've just read too much, but high fantasy just seems really *tired* to me. And this particular book was a total Mary Sue fest. I probably would have enjoyed it more if Achmed was the main character and Rhapsody had disappeared from the story completely, though then we wouldn't have had Ashe, who I really enjoy.

A big irritation for me was the way the author uses twenty-five dollar words. She misuses them, but you can still see what she's aiming for. It was really irritating, because she used them in the sense of the meaning of

the word, but it's far enough outside the word's general use that it detracts from the flow of the writing. It's like I used "sky blue" to describe what color the sky is at night. I mean, it's the sky, so the color blue it is is arguably sky blue, except it's definitely not light blue. Unfortunately, I've already returned it to the library, so I can't give any specific examples.

Bob Milne says

It's funny what the years can do to your taste in books - and I'm talking about something deeper, something more profound than those books that just don't stand up to being revisited. Instead, I'm talking about those books that you appreciated back in the day, but somehow knew you weren't quite ready to enjoy. Books that linger somewhere in the back of your imagination, biding their time until you're ready to continue with the series.

Kushiel's Chosen, the second book of the Kushiel's Legacy series by Jacqueline Carey, was the first book to really open my eyes to this. I would have read Rhapsody around the same time as Kushiel's Dart, with that same 20-something mindset, and I had much the same reaction. That first book was a different sort of fantasy yet again, largely a character study of three people, with a prolonged quest through the heart of the world. It wasn't a game changer in quite the same way, but a book that stuck with me. It was a slow read, a slow journey, and a slow burn, but I never forgot the sense of wonder.

In looking for a good paperback fantasy to carry through hikes and vacations this summer, I finally decided it was time to continue with the series (prompted by a review copy of the final book). Despite the years in between, I immediately fell back into the world, with no introductions needed. At the heart of it all, this is a series about love, trust, and acceptance - not that far off, in fact, from Kushiel's Legacy. Where that had the BDSM-themed novelty to carry it forward, however, this is based on a far more traditional (fairy tale, almost) romance between Rhapsody and Ash. The difference is, a relationship that would have had me groaning in impatience back then had me nodding and smiling in appreciation now.

The emotional aspects here some of the strongest parts of this second book, and I was actually anxious to get back to the romance every time Achmed and Grunthor interrupted. That said, I found new meaning in the struggles and sacrifices of all three, and greater appreciation for Jo, the annoying coming-of-age sidekick. I refuse to age, so let's just say I matured enough to appreciate the personal conflicts driving the story across both countries and ages.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Gaijinmama says

This book is the second of the Symphony of Ages series. The series is still in progress, but so far this is my favorite, for two main reasons. Firstly, not to mince words.....our heroine Rhapsody finally Gets Some (nudge, nudge, wink, wink, know what I mean ?). Like every other aspect of her writing, Haydon gives us....ahem.... Good Parts that are really really good. In fact, go ahead and dog-ear pages 478 and 506 right now! Rhapsody had her sweet, romantic teenage encounter in the first book, but now she is a grown-up and...well, as I've said before, this series is for grown-ups. A warning....in addition to the grown-up love scene, there are a couple of truly horrific, violent scenes. I wouldn't recommend this series for anyone under age 15 or 16.

Aside from the Red Hot Whoopee-Making, which we've been anticipating for 1200 pages, I like this book best of the series because we finally get to meet and spend some quality time with Elynsynos the Dragon. Elynsynos is one of my favorite fictional dragons ever. She is big, golden, dangerous but surprisingly gentle with those she loves. She tells us about the history of her land in a multi-toned voice that really shows us the author's musical background. Rhapsody returns something that belongs to Elynsynos and offers her friendship. The dragon is pleased. Rhapsody has made an important ally here. She interests Elynsynos...and it's no mean feat to interest a nearly-immortal dragon whose hoard contains the most beautiful treasures in the world. However, as Elynsynos says, "You are wise to be afraid....You are perfect treasure, Pretty. There is music in you, and fire, and time. Any dragon would covet you for its own." (p. 117)

Haydon fills in enough background information that this book could be read on its own, but the story really does begin with **Rhapsody**, the first volume. I strongly suggest that you read Rhapsody first....and pick up a copy of Destiny, the third book, while you're at it.
