



A Sorrow Fierce and Falling

Jessica Cluess

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It's time for war.

After suffering terrible losses, Henrietta and Lord Blackwood have led their warriors to Sorrow-Fell, a vast estate where only those invited by a Blackwood may enter—and the ideal place to plan a final assault against the Ancients.

It's time for a wedding.

Henrietta nervously awaits her marriage to Blackwood, but when the ritual to become his bride reveals a dark secret, she realizes that Sorrow-Fell is not a safe haven; it's a trap. Convincing the sorcerers of this, however, is not easy. So with Maria, the true chosen one, and Magnus, the young man who once stole her heart, at her side, Henrietta plots a dangerous journey straight into the enemy's lair. Some will live. Some will die. All will be tested.

In this stunning conclusion to the Kingdom on Fire series, Henrietta must choose between the love from her past, the love from her present, and a love that could define her future. While battles rage, the fate of the kingdom rests on her decision: Will she fall or rise up to become the woman who saves the realm?

It's time for Henrietta to make her stand.

A Sorrow Fierce and Falling Details

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Author : Jessica Cluess

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From Reader Review A Sorrow Fierce and Falling for online ebook

Ines Valenzuela says

This book broke my heart.

It had soooo much potential, and although the first two books were not excellent, I saw something in them that made me continue reading. I was hoping that the books would improve as Cluess got more experience (she has GREAT ideas, but somehow misses landing them nicely), but this was unfortunately not the case.

I found the ending tacky, disorganized, and with no real storyline behind it, other than the overarching theme of the series. It seemed as though Cluess would write down random scenes that ultimately "culminated" in a terribly cheesy and boring finale.

I found Henrietta's multiple romances completely unnecessary. Some books can pull it off, with great character development and with a lot more depth. Instead, it felt like Cluess was not able to convince herself with whom Henrietta should stay, so she ended up swinging back and forth between love interests.

This has been the lowest rating I've given in a while, and I am being particularly harsh because it's so disappointing to see a book with so much potential go to waste.

Sara (A Gingerly Review) says

The best part of this story was, and forever will be, Magnus. His snark, wit, and banter will be one thing I won't ever grow tired of.

Stacee says

I had enjoyed the other books in this series and was eager to see how it all played out, sadly this was wildly disappointing.

I like Henrietta's arc and the bit of growth with the first two; however it seemed like she was an entirely different character. She's wishy washy and sort of whiny and I struggled to care about what she was doing. I have serious issues with what happened with a couple of characters because they deserved a lot more than what they got. I'm being vague because spoilers.

Plot wise, it was confusing. I will admit to not remembering much of the other books before starting this one, yet this felt like a bunch of random ideas mashed together. I couldn't settle into the rhythm of the story. And I firmly believe people are either going to love or hate the ending.

Overall, I'm not entirely sure why I kept reading this because I could have easily set it down and not finished. I guess I kept hoping for a spark that would turn things around. I loved the idea of this series, but the execution of this book did not work for me.

Huge thanks to Random House BFYR for providing the arc free of charge

Cocktails and Books says

That didn't end the way I thought it would. Full review to come.

Jessica (a GREAT read) says

I received this ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest and voluntary review. I was in no way compensated for this review.

A Sorrow Fierce and Falling is Jessica Cluess' conclusion to the epic Kingdom on Fire trilogy! This series took me by surprise when I first picked it up but it drew me in in a way I never expected! It's pure magic and just an overall amazingness that left me kind of speechless each and every time! It happens every so often that a book just leaves me stunned and I cannot think of a single adjective to do it justice, and Jessica Cluess' books are the perfect example!

We pick up quickly where we left off, in some ways. Henrietta and the sorcerers have taken refuge at Sorrow-Fell which is Blackwood's property. There they will gather and think of the perfect plan to putting a stop to the world-ending plans of Henrietta's father, R'hlem. Prior to that though, a wedding must be planned between Henrietta and Blackwood!

Though the wedding does prove to be a point of interest, needing to stop the Ancients is a bigger problem and it seems that every time Henrietta and Blackwood get close to saying the "I dos" something catastrophic happens. Then Henrietta makes a startling discover, the entrance to the Ancients' home is on Blackwood property and when she thinks of a plan to put it all to use, Blackwood is against the idea. Then a whirlwind of chaos ensues and Henrietta finds herself on the outside of the protection spell placed on Sorrow-Fell.

Since this is the final book in the series, I have to say, a LOT happens in it! It was pretty much a book filled with nonstop action and excitement! I was turning through the pages as fast as my eyes and time would allow because the story just sucks you into it and demands to be read! So much happens, so many emotions get toyed with and it's just one of those reads where I am seriously left speechless because I know if I open my mouth to talk a jet stream of garble will come out that cannot be understood until I let loose a spoiler without intending to! Lol! So yeah, I find myself in one of those states of reviewing mode!

Needless to say that when a book leaves me with these kinds of feelings, you know it was an epically amazing read! This series from the beginning held me so enchanted that I was always left desperate for more! The characters were so deep and colorful. They were all complicated and messy and I just loved them to pieces! There was so much to love about this series! And this final installment, I have to say, takes the cake!

This was one of those rare books where I never knew who I wanted the heroine to wind up with, romantic wise! She had three contenders for her heart, there was her beloved best friend, Rook, though he was turned into an Ancient himself, she hopes to save him from himself and return him to his former glory, then there was Magnus, the sorcerer she fell for so early on and always went back and forth with in a game of flirting, and then of course there was Blackwood himself, the man she agrees to marry. All different sorts of guys and yet, I never could really decide who I liked best. Of course, it wasn't long before I did make my choice in this series and I was happy to see who Henrietta ended up with.

That being said, I will say that this book also killed me over and over again! Being a series finale, you can expect the turmoil of emotions, but oh my god, I wasn't expecting my heart to break several times! I think it was around 7 times maybe? Lol. Yes, it wasn't a pretty read that's for sure as my heart was constantly being ripped to shreds only to mend again a few chapters later before the next tearing. But in a way, you start to expect that as a reader! Lol. Perhaps I am just starting to realize how authors think and what they delight in doing to their readers' emotions and feelings!

But through it all, you always know how the story will end...in some way. It may not be in the way you imagined or hoped for, but the ending is always the same. Truly, I hope to never find a book that ends in the opposite way, I don't think my fragile mind could take that! Lol.

A Sorrow Fierce and Falling was a positively beautiful read that all fantasy readers will come to adore! Though I do recommend reading the first two books, because spoilers! Lol. The Kingdom on Fire trilogy was an exquisite series to read and I am happy to have taken that leap in picking up the first book ever so long ago. And one last comment, how gorgeous have these covers been?! I swear that they got more beautiful as the series went on!

Overall Rating 5/5 stars

A Sorrow Fierce and Falling releases October 16, 2018

Sara Saif says

It's astonishing how you love reading a book but when you sit down and think about it for a second you realize that it sucked a lot. Like W-O-W. I loved reading this but it also angered, annoyed and disgusted me, none of the three are positive feelings. How then could I have possibly enjoyed reading it? IDK.

I do not mark spoilers.

I can give this series credit for its consistency at least. I've felt the same way about all three books as all three had the same quirks and problems.

- The writing was delicious and mesmerizing.
- The concept and ideas were fascinating.
- The execution of those ideas always fell short and I was stuck between admiration and exasperation.
- The books were always several degrees shy of being truly spectacular. The story had potential but I ended up being disappointed all the time.
- Love interests were thrown around like options in multiple choice questions.

The first two books were better than this last one though they all had the same problems. The first one was great because it was the beginning of the story and it was thrilling and fun. The second was good too because it raised the stakes, added melodrama and some incredibly exciting new pieces of backstory and information plus a hint of what was to come. This last one failed to live up to those promises of grand and magnificent battles and revelations. The lameness of it all hurt my soul.

'The Kindly Emperor and His Smile' was something I was looking forward to. What I got left me with my

customary wtf face. The final encounter with R'helm and the Ancients was supposed to be a thing of greatness and glory. I believe it was over in under 10 minutes. The big and bad R'helm, the dude they've been fighting against all this time, had a 'change of heart' at the last moment and it was so cringe-ly done. I actually liked R'helm as a villain, he was the most interesting character in the whole series, but like, no, dude. You tried to pull a Darth Vader but yours wasn't as neat.

Then there's our Henrietta and the horde of hot bois drooling in her wake since the first book. Consistency, homies. One love interest is boring. Two is great, two means options, drama, angst and feels. But THREE? Three is greedy, bitch. Especially since you insist on loving all of them AT THE SAME TIME because oh *each kind of love is different*. WHAT?

She legit stumbled into the hard, lean and muscled chest of one man after another and they all knew it. THEY ALL KNEW IT. Blackwood because Blackwood and she shared a dark, intertwined, inescapable destiny. Magnus because he had a great personality and red curly hair. Rook because childhood friend, yo. SWEET. Where can I find me some of these? Just point me in that general direction.

Rook had been useless as a love interest from the beginning, he should have just been a best friend. Magnus was the one and he should have been left as such. But nooo, drama had to ensue. Blackwood was carefully left out of the menu until the end of the second book. Henrietta was in so madly in love with him in this book I was FINE with that. But nooo, drama had to ensue. AGAIN. It's funny how the men were rotated. One, then two, then one again, then two, then one again, then ALL THREE.

Henriatta and Blackwood, in a nutshell.

One might wonder then, why I gave it four stars. That's what I've been agonizing about since the start of this review. Wonder away.

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

2/7/18

The cover is beautiful! But I'm sad they changed the font to match the paperback editions rather than the previous hardcover editions.

1/30/18

Finally getting to read the synopsis and I'm just like:

My shipping heart is so worried

The love from her past: Magnus

The love from her present: Blackwood?

A love that could define her future: ???

We have a title! ? But why, oh why, does it sound so sad? Ugh, I pray my shipper's heart isn't broken after this one.

Catherine says

3.5 Stars

Thank you Netgalley for the ARC I was dying for in exchange for an honest review. And with that honesty I'll say, I did not expect to write this type of review.

I have a lot of thoughts and feeling about this novel. While I enjoyed it, I didn't love it, which was disappointing because I almost cried tears of joy when I was approved for an ARC. It was my least favorite of the three Kingdom on Fire books. It took me almost a month to read it. At first I blamed that on work but, as I slowly realized I was turning on Netflix in my free time rather than picking up this book, I had to face the reality that my heart wasn't into reading it. Overall, the plot line kept me interested even though it was quite choppy—especially once the final battle began. Even though the beginning of the book didn't hold my interest as the others did, the last 30% has me on the edge of my seat. For much of the novel though, it's like Jessica Cluess had all these ideas for how to end the series but did not have a fully laid out plan on how to write them so that they flowed as one book. A lot of the book felt more like fleeting moments and they left me wanting more because of how much I love the world Cluess created.

The romance in this novel—which I previously enjoyed very much—was really frustrating and emotionally exhausting. Love triangles (or in this case, squares) are overrated and often times I find that it makes the strong female lead seem like a silly little girl who flits between a group of men. While I agree with the notion of loving more than one person and in different ways, I am tired of books depicting that as happening all at once. This was the same issue I had with *The Infernal Devices*. I'd be more on board with an author doing that if their story took place over a longer period of time. I also find that death and/or a sudden change in personality is an easy out for convoluted love stories with multiple characters.

The character development throughout the whole series has been great—especially for Blackwood and Magnus— but Blackwood's change during this book was EXTREMELY irritating. He went from being a Darcy like figure, the typical brooding man who actually has a soft heart to being a power hunger dictator then back to being a kind hearted selfless man. To me, it just didn't fit and seemed forced in the same way her sudden passionate interest in Magnus seemed forced. I never a huge fan of Rook because I always felt that he was somehow in the way but he deserved better than what he got in this book. His storyline in this novel and subsequent death was very rushed. I would have liked to see him as an Ancient fleshed out more. In the end though, I had a lot of respect for him even if I wasn't the biggest fan of his throughout the other two books.

I really liked Magnus as the comic relief in the first novel but I also really enjoyed seeing him come into his own and become a strong leader. I personally never viewed him as anything more than an older brother type figure for Henrietta. Magnus had the character development I wish Blackwood had gotten in this novel. I wanted to see Blackwood become a fair, selfless leader and he ended up going in the entirely opposite direction for most of the book. Blackwood's death crushed me. I wanted more for him and I felt he deserved better. He and Henrietta balanced each other out and were good for each other. I never saw them as being only intertwined because of destiny. They had chosen each other because of the balance they created for the other. They brought out the best qualities in each other and—I felt—made each other whole. When you've gone through the hardships the two of them have gone through and hid the parts of themselves they had to, you need someone who understands you and grounds you. Magnus might be able to relate, but he will never be the twin flame Blackwood was to Henrietta—at least in my opinion. So, yeah, a big chunk of my grievances

with this book come from the fact that Henrietta didn't end up with Blackwood. The romance was never the sole plot line of the book but it was a part of it that I had really been enjoying until now.

The more I digest the ending, the more I realize I didn't like it. It was one of those endings where you'll either be ecstatic with it or feel ambivalent towards it. I was definitely in the latter category. It just didn't seem to fit with where I saw the series going. Although, as I write that, I realize I don't know where I saw the series going. All I know is, this wasn't it. The only part of it that felt as if it belonged was when The Order is diminished and three magical consortiums are built to create equality amongst the magical communities. Everything else about the epilogue was just....meh. I can't think of the right word to describe it. It was cute but it was meh. I think I wanted more politics for the ending. I wanted to see more of what Queen Victoria did with her new magical parties. I wanted to learn more about what England was like after the war was over. What did the non magical people think? How were others rebuilding? We never quite got enough of the world around the magical community.

Thus, I've come to the 3.5 star rating. ASFAF was page turning at times and drroll other times. Even though the ending wasn't my cup of tea, it didn't take away from how much I liked the series. Some character get the ending you might expect, others will surprise you. Whether that is a good or bad surprise all depends on the reader.

Samm | Sassenach the Book Wizard says

OMG THAT COVER

Livy says

It breaks my heart to give this rating. The two stars are for Blackwood, Howel, Maria, and the writing. But I **cannot** forgive what happened in this book. My heart is wildly hurting, and not from a good pain, but the pain of shattering disappointment and betrayal. I know it's "just a book" but I'll be rewriting this ending in my head. To be vague, a lot of character actions/emotions felt jarringly inconsistent, overblown, or just out-of-the-blue. I might write out a fuller review once my emotions have time to settle. Hopefully some of you know what I'm referring to.

(view spoiler)

Shoshana says

Oh my god the crying and the laughing and I loved this!

Faster paced than the other two - definitely cramming in a lot more plot in the last book, but it works out pretty well. I anticipate people having issues with some of the romance stuff, but honestly I think it was done really beautifully, particularly this idea that you can genuinely love more than one person, in different ways, and that life sometimes makes you give up one happy ending for another. (Even if there really aren't any 100% happy endings.) Really this series, particularly this installment, is all about complexity of feelings and emotions and I love it.

Juliet Bernal says

I had received a copy of the digital arc from netgalley for an honest review, and truly it doesn't get more honest than this. The Kingdom on Fire trilogy has left me breathless with each book, with its finale truly hitting the hardest. I read this in one glorious sitting, and birds are chirping and the sun is rising outside my window as I manage to write this in the aftermath of finishing this story while tears stream down my face. Jessica Cluess has written an outstanding conclusion to her brilliant story, showing that happy endings come in many forms, and not all are absolutely painless. This trilogy has been an emotional roller coaster, with A Sorrow Fierce and Falling being the most intense yet thrilling part of the ride. I don't believe I've read a tale more enchanting and visceral, and I can truly say that I will remember it as one of my favorites of all time. This has been one of the best books I've read all year, and you certainly will not want to miss the extraordinary ending of this marvelous series.

LaRonda (Flying Paperbacks) says

You can see my full review here!

A Shadow Bright and Burning - ★★★★★

A Poison Dark and Drowning - ★★★

I received an eArc of this book from the Publishers through Netgalley in exchange of an honest review

I fought for my life not to DNF this and considering that I didn't, I need some kind of award... or *something*.

Cause this was bad. My emotions went from uncomfortable, to rage, to disappointment, to finally *a lack of caring*. The plot was everywhere, execution was lacking and I could care less about the characters... **especially the main character.**

Because she just... *refuses* to develop. Over the entire series, she constantly makes mistakes which is fine... **if she grew and thought things through.** I'm not asking her to be perfect, but it's the simple things that would

have prevented the majority of her mistakes.

And who decided to put her in an abusive relationship? It would have been okay if she realized she was in this toxic relationship and didn't continuously talk about fate and how their souls were destined and pity him for being lonely. Yet because of that, even with her finding new love, she never held him accountable for his actions.

If I'm honest? Since a major theme of this entire series is how you can love two people in different ways, I kind of was hoping for a polyamorous relationship... which didn't happen so.....

The only compliments I could give in here was the emphasis on female friendships, Lilly and Dee's side inconsequential plot, a few LGBTQIAP+ side relationships and Rook's resolution. Granted, looking back, it does seem a bit out of place, but I'm pulling for straws here. I'm just... disappointed.

09/27-- I hated this

02/09-- Wait... so we're still pushing this love... *enter complicated geometry shape here*?

Candace Robinson says

First off, I'm going to say this was a five star read even though what I have to say may not feel like it is! To start, anything that involve fire power, give it to me!

What I love about these books is the world—it has some pretty awesome and dark descriptions! I also love the historical type setting, even though it is a fantasy world. Also, I absolutely love Magnus! When I read book one, I probably wouldn't have said that, but since book two, my mind has been changed. Who would have thought?

Let's get to the nitty gritty—geez, Henrietta has been one character I've wanted to shake all along. The chemistry between her and Blackwood got real weird in book two and even worse here. Still not sure about the Rook situation either—she was all about putting him first before, but then barely thought of him in this book.

Cluess, though, has a way of keeping you immersed in the story and it's addicting words. Like I said above, her descriptions are fantastic. Besides wanting to strangle Henrietta a few times, I enjoyed this book much more than book two and felt it was on the same level as the first one! And that ending was perfection!

Suzanne says

Humor and action make for a fast paced finale. I really enjoyed this series because it is more of a series where readers are drawn to the characters than the plot. The plot is good but it is the quirkiness of the characters that I love. There are these gems of humor in these books that make it an even more enjoyable series to read.

My quick and simple overall: highly enjoyable series with a satisfying conclusion.
