



White Star

Elizabeth Vaughan

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There is no one more adored...

Everyone knows that the Lady High Priestess Evelyn is virtuous and noble, one of the leaders of the rebellion against the unjust usurper, as well as a gentle healer who channels the powers of the gods to help the sick and injured.

There is no one more despised...

Orrin Blackhart, the Scourge of Palins, is renowned as an evil man. As the war leader of one of the usurper's supporters, he has killed many and has stood by while the sorceress he served created an army of the undead.

And there is nothing more unexpected than passion...

When Orrin takes Evelyn prisoner during the war, each will uncover more to the other than they expected. And souls that should have clashed will be forged in desire, redemption, and glory...

White Star Details

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From Reader Review White Star for online ebook

Valerie says

DNF at about halfway through. This book is fantasy romance, which is exactly what I was in the mood for when I picked it up, but it suffered from several things for me:

1. Being a sequel, despite the fact that it didn't say so anywhere in the book--ugh! (That being said, no one looking this up on goodreads will have this problem, so it's a moot point.)
2. IMMEDIATE attraction that seemed to come out of nowhere. There was no sense of settling into the romance; it was just abruptly there.
3. The sense that all the action was happening somewhere else and you were somehow meant to know what was going on regardless (possibly related to point 1).

My investment in what the book *could* be kept me going for a while, and the bit of worldbuilding I experienced was enjoyable, hence 2 stars instead of 1. It wasn't bad--I just wish I could have cared. Definitely read this series in order, and probably don't read it if you prefer slow-burn romance.

mlady_rebecca says

For a loosely bound series, these books are fairly tightly coupled. The beginning of the second book involves the end of the first book told from a different perspective, and in greater detail. I imagine the same will be said with respect to the second and third books, as there was a lead in to the third book at the end of this book.

In other words, the timeline is fairly linear, we just move the focus to different characters. So, unlike most books I label loosely bound, I'd recommend that they be read in order.

Orrin was the man who kidnapped Evelyn at the end of the first book. From the first book, we only know that Evelyn is saved and Orrin sacrifices himself so that his men go free. The brief rewind in this book shows Evelyn's captivity. Even though he knew Elenore would torture and kill Evelyn when she returned, Orrin insisted that Evelyn was kept in more comfortable quarters until then.

When Orrin and his men find out Elenore is dead, and her odium (think zombies) are still animated, he makes the sacrifice to return Evelyn to safety and allow his men to scatter.

Back home, the situation reverses. Evelyn is offered a boon from the crown just before Orrin is sentenced. At Evelyn's Lady's insistence -- the Lady is the goddess she serves -- Evelyn uses that boon to free Orrin. He is given his horse and shown the door. With the promise of a pardon should he rid the Black Hills of the odium.

Not much else to say. I liked both Evelyn and Orrin. Both are flawed in their own ways, despite the outward appearance of Evelyn as pure and good and Orrin as evil.

Francesca Rock says

Well that was a disappointing synopsis of this book. And unfortunately, I already gave away the physical copy I had - so I can't give you a better one. Darn it! Anyway - I loved this book! I really liked the first one because of the somewhat feminist message. But I liked this one even more because it managed to be feminist and romantic. Hooray!

The characters were excellent together. You could tell immediately that they dug each other despite the whole complicated captive/captor relationship. And then she was the one that ended up saving him - how perfect. Oops - got swept away for a moment. They really were great characters - especially when they were working together. I just loved reading about them.

The story was fantastic too! I can hardly wait to read the conclusion in the next book. The plot moved quickly, just when you would get used to what the story would seem to be about it would all switch around on you. I love when that is pulled off well - and here it certainly was.

Elizabeth Vaughan, another terrific job, you nailed it again.

Check out more of my reviews at <http://whatabookbitch.blogspot.ca>

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

[because Bethral goes back to the Plains at the end on a wave of wild magic, with Ezren storyteller, after a wandering warrior Priest has a prophetic vision! (hide spoiler)]

Steven says

Like all of Ms. Vaughan's books, White Star is a cross-genre romance/fantasy story, and will easily appeal to both.

The romance elements are there, but are not so heavy-handed to turn off fans of fantasy; likewise, the fantasy elements do not intrude into the romance.

White Star is the second book in a series that started with Dagger-Star. Because this is not simply fluffy romance, you will most likely want to read Dagger-Star first so that you can quickly be up to speed. It is not strictly necessary, however, but will make the book more enjoyable.

Though set in the same world that Warprize, Warsworn and Warlord took place in, it is not necessary to read those books before reading this one. You'll want to after you finish this one. Oh yes, you will. And that's all I'm saying on that. :)

Unlike Ms. Vaughan's first four books, this one takes a few chapters to really start moving - largely due to the need to re-set the stage after the end of Dagger-Star. (It's also these chapters that mean that you can pick this book up by itself to start out with and make it through without being too confused.) Once the stage is set, though, action and romance fly off the page.

It's a good, fun book to read, but unlike many romance - and fantasy! - novels, you can leave your brain on while reading it.

Obaid Haroon says

I read this before Red Gloves not after. And that raised a few questions for me during the book but they were few and far between. Didn't stop me from enjoying the book itself.

Call me a romantic. Or just pathetic, but I really enjoyed the cliché characters. The evil Orrin Blackheart and the priestess Evelyn. Falling in love? How dare they?!?

Almost at the first glance they got it bad. A kidnapping, release and divine intervention. Can't get much more 'meant to be' than that. And if you wanted proof that she's pure, this warrior is standing in the rain, naked as the day he was born. And she only wanted to get him clothed.

Off he goes to cut a swath through hordes of odium and she is demoted to sweeping floors. Yet fate, corrupt bloated priest and a crude map brings them back together.

Orrin and his crew plus a priestess. Sounds like a hell of a street gang. But they make do. Even though there isn't much obvious romance in this book, the pure...want...is enough to penetrate the densest of skulls.

"The sapphire blue of your eyes"

"Lock your door tonight"

Then there was him checking her ass out in her breeches. And pulling her into his lap in the privy. Not to mention Evelyn throwing herself at him.

But the story move on. Odium fall and the queen rules. And after a single night of joyful, passionate, sheet staining pleasure, Orrin keeps his word to his men and uses his single boon to get his people pardoned. And before the prideful sorrow has a chance to take root in his girl, The Blackheart requests her hand in marriage in front of the entire court. The most ballsy thing he's done in the entire book.

Then all hell breaks loose. The gassy head priest forbids it. The priestess renounces the church. The quickest wedding ever happens. The priest shits himself, most likely, and has a heart attack. And everyone lives happily ever after. But not just yet.

No there is a single trial before connubial bliss can be attained. Nice party, nice people, nice food. And all of a sudden Evelyn is nowhere to be found. Where is she, you ask? She's being held at knifepoint as bait. See Blackheart was named Blackheart for a reason. And the man with the knife lost his wife to the former blaggard. But after a touching scene of self sacrifice it's all over. Orrin walks out alive. Evelyn argues with him over the finer points of not being a suicidal idiot. And they continue on with the business of being newly wed.

While it can easily seem overkill it did answer a rather important question. What's gonna happen when his past catches up to him? Answer: not much.

Overall a simple book with an obvious plot line. Part 2 of 3 but still a nice read.

Charles Daniel says

One hypothesis scraped and an older hypothesis resurrected from the scrap heap.

It turns out that the first book of this trilogy, *_Daggerstar_*, and this novel are running parallel to the second trilogy, or books four and/or five of the *_Warlands_ Series*--depending on how one views those previous works. This novel focuses on Orrin Blackheart's and High Priestess Elizabeth's romance and trials. The story has Vaughan's signature deft kennings, character development and humor sprinkled throughout. A VERY satisfying read.

Her author's note at the end of the novel is one of the most amusing I've ever read and has me hoping that she displays more of the humor and wit in further works.

Paranormal Romance says

The general in an army of zombies led by an evil witch kidnaps the white witch before immediately having the tables flipped and the general becoming the prisoner. Though he's portrayed as evil, it's soon becomes clear that he's very far from being so--though that doesn't stop him from being outcast. It felt like the characters never really fell in love. From the jump it just seemed like they knew they loved each other. On one hand it was romantic and sweet but on the other I'd like to have seen some development as the story progressed. Orrin's physical appearance was never really described to the reading and I found it frustrating not to be able to visualize him as much as I could for Evie. Overall it was a very nice book

Paul Genesse says

Excellent book!

White Star by USA Today Bestselling author Elizabeth Vaughan is an excellent book. I was hooked from the very beginning and finished reading it at 4:18 AM. Ouch! The writing is fantastic the Vaughan got her hooks into me right away with tense scenes and snappy dialogue. She has so many great opening lines, and closing lines of chapters, which really impressed me.

Most importantly, the main characters: Lord Orrin and Lady Evelyn are very well done. Orrin is one of those bad guys who the girls fall for. He's dark, handsome, brooding and someone you do not want to make angry. Lady Evelyn, a High Priestess and a Mage, has serious power. She can throw down with the best of them and burn people to a crisp if need be. She's one of those really cool characters that you love to read about.

The secondary characters are great too. Lord Orrin's men are very entertaining, especially Archer, who can't use his real name because of the things he's done. I especially liked the fact that he had certain proclivities . . . no spoiler here.

The plot of the book involves the fall of Lord Orrin's barony, and the repercussions of what the Baroness did—which involves undead zombie-like creatures—which Vaughan calls odium. Lady Evelyn, “Evie” is right in the middle of it all and Orrin can't help but fall for the beautiful woman with white hair and piercing blue eyes.

The world was well thought out and I really liked the magic, especially the portals, which allow people to travel far and wide. It all fits together in a realistic way that I truly appreciated, as I can always tell when writers don't do a thorough job on world-building.

This book is sort of a sequel to Dagger Star, but you don't need to have read Dagger Star to get White Star, which should be considered a stand-alone novel. There are quite a few characters who appeared in Dagger Star though, so readers of that book will enjoy seeing some of their favorite characters return.

The ending of White Star was satisfying, and another storyline was opened, involving different characters. I look forward to the next installment and I'm definitely hooked on Vaughan's writing. I loved her Warlands trilogy, War Prize is the first book.

Happy reading,

Paul Genesse
Author of The Dragon Hunters
www.paulgenesse.com

Darcy says

This was a fun book set in a very different world. I liked the set up of the world and what was happening. This book is a good addition to Dagger Star. Some of my favorite parts are the off beat side characters, like Orrin's band of soliders and the old man that helped Evelyn and Orrin out. Can't wait for the next book to see where it takes us.

Joanne says

I really did not like this book, and it does take a lot for me to not find something enjoyable about a book. The characters would have had more believable personality if they had been cut out from cardboard. I didn't buy into the insta-love. It was badly done. The plot idea was actually ok, but the writing was just boring. I didn't get any excited just one more page feeling. Overall, I thought it was as dull as ditchwater. I love fantasy and historical novels. I love romance and romance elements in other types of novel. I didn't love this novel at all, it takes all the elements of fantasy/ romance and made something rubbish. There are several other authors out there who can write this genre much better so won't be reading this one again in a hurry.

Ann York says

This book was very good and i couldn't put it down it is not what i would read but it is about a woman called evie and she is a high priestess who gets kidnapped and then she gets away from them because the bad guy lets her go but while he lets her go she has to go to this other place and then the bad guys find her again and they try to kill her but the guy that tried to kill her the first time helps her this time and he starts to fall in love with her but he tells they can't because they are so different and he was once bad but she saves him and he saves her they repay each other then they go on a quest to help each other to fight the evil that have taken

over the farms and the villages and in the end they do fall in love with each other and they become husband and wife sorry to spoil the end

Blodeuedd Finland says

White Star is the sequel to Dagger-star that came out last year. It's fantasy romance set in a world she described in an earlier trilogy.

The Lady High Priestess Evelyn is virtuous and loved. She is one of the leaders of the rebellion against the usurper who has claimed the throne. She is a healer who helps the injured and the sick.

Orrin Blackheart, the scourge of the Palins is despised and hated. He is known as an evil man who stands at his Duchess side against those who rebel. He has killed many, and he stood by his Duchess and Sorceress as she created an army of the dead. An army that plagues the countryside and claims more for their ranks.

Orrin takes Evelyn prisoner during the war and takes her to the castle at Black Hills. Here she knows what she will face, death and torture, but instead they both find something in each other that they didn't expect, passion, but can it withstand.

I liked this book, it was cute and I do love my fantasy so what better than romance and fantasy. And it had zombies, I am not a fan of zombies, they can give me nightmares. What more horrific than something that just keep coming at you. And yes these zombies keep coming.

This is then book 2, I didn't know that, and you can read the book without reading the first one. Of course where did elves come from? I did wonder about red gloves and queen Gloriana, and the obsession with a lord called Josiah. Still she explained vital things in the beginning and what I wondered about I got answers to in the end, well except where those 2 elves came from.

Early in Evelyn s capture Orrin learns that his Duchess is dead, and he lets Evelyn go, and negotiates a truce for his men. Then he must stand trial for the crimes he has committed. I will not say more, but their love doesn't have an easy road to take.

Evelyn seems to be a good hearted heroine, but she does have past too. There is nothing that makes me dislike her. Orrin, oh he has been wicked, truly evil, I have to like him. Because even though he has done horrific things in the past and he wants redemption, he wants to change, he wants his men to have their freedom. He is a good man who sure took the wrong way, but love makes fools of all of us. He wants her, but he don't wants to spoil her purity with his evil past and ways.

Can there be a HEA, and even if there is one, he will always be hated. They are such opposites and that shows too in how they look. Evelyn always in white with white hair. A beacon of light to his own darkness. I do want their happy ending, they both deserve to be that. And I have a soft spot for the bad guys.

I did wonder about those elves in the beginning and I do want to know more about this world, or at least give me a map. That would help to build it better. But the story is more focused on romance, and wiping out those zombies. The war behind them, and politics is not focused on. If the lands are rebuilt I do not know. But in the end I don't care, I get romance and action and can be happy with that.

Nessa says

WHILE I DID APPRECIATE THE WHOLE SCI-FI FICTIONAL SETTING, THE STORY DIDNT REEL ME IN AND THE ROMANCE WAS A ONE STAR AT BEST. BE WARNED THIS ISNT A FULL ROMANCE STORY, BUT MORE ON ADVENTURE AND ABIT OF SPACE SPIN OF A ZOMBIE HORDE.

OUR HERO is an infamous Lord who actually works for the bad guys, a woman to be exact and there isn't many who do NOT know his name and the misfortune he has wrought on others. When his men managed to capture a High Priestess which will prove useful to his mistress, he didn't expect to feel an attraction for the white haired, blue eyed lady. He also didn't expect his mistress to die and leave their territory open for an attack, especially when she rules over the undead she created with her power. Only the undead can be stopped once the wielder is dead. Left with no choice, in order to protect his men, he sacrifices himself and saves Evelyn too. The tables of fate turn when he becomes prisoner instead but for some reason, Evelyn saves his life and in return to claim his pardon, he has to clear up the mess he helped to make, cleansing the land of the undead.

OUR HEROINE is not a virgin, but she's pure, working as a High Priestess sworn to celibacy. That contradicting situation just leaves a bad taste in my mouth because it just didn't fit into the character persona. Anyway, she's wary and afraid of her destiny when someone had betrayed her to the enemy. Who knew that the man so many feared would treat her well despite her prisoner status and later returned her to her own kind. When the Lady she serves 'her Goddess' calls for her to save our hero from execution, she knows that their paths will not end there.

OVERALL this was more on ridding the world of the undead and how they did it. The romance was rushed to me because it was almost love at first sight...which leaves much to be wanting because there wasnt any thrill to it!

Heather says

You can also find this review on my blog: [Wings of Nephilim](#)

I had the strangest feeling I had read this before the whole time I was reading. Which is quite likely. Oh well. Either way I was less than impressed.

This is probably one of the worst cases of insta-love I've ever had the displeasure of reading. They meet in her cell. He moves her to a tower. He brings her food...once. He kisses her the next time and she's somehow ok with that. He frees her and becomes the prisoner instead. She brings him food...once. He is about to be executed and she saves him and helps him leave. Then she is banished to a temple, rescued by him and BAM--she's telling him she loves him. Just barely at 50% through. You have GOT to be kidding me. She sees him all of FIVE TIMES for probably less than 20 minutes and they're in love? Really?

Not to mention he was casually commenting about how he SHOULD HAVE RAPED HER in the first

chapters or so. Yeah. He's a gem. You go girl? He got a bit better I guess but he still had that "woe is me, I should leave you to protect you" nonsense going on. Ugh. Evelyn was alright. I liked Mage best I think.

The writing was mostly easy to read, the book went by pretty quickly. Some lines were just...bad.

EX:

"As before, an odium lunged from behind it, and grabbed for Reader's throat.

As before, Reader jerked back, and dropped to the ground.

As before, Timothy lunged over him, his spear plunging into the monster's chest."

...
...
...

Are you kidding me? You know how I know it was "as before"? Other than the fact that you just started THREE SENTENCES THE EXACT SAME WAY IN A ROW? Because I just read those lines...THREE PAGES AGO.

Her spells were lazy. They would shout "three words". Oh yeah? What words? She can read off lines to her goddess but can't come up with the three words that summon fire? Laziness. She would "gesture". In what way? Who knows. I didn't like it at all. It felt...cheap.

Overall it was decently paced but I felt it was done at about 80%. Then they added the part to get people to read the next book (I have no intentions of doing so) and then some random drama at the end that felt very out of place. I guess I've read worse. I've read much much better as well. I have nothing left to say I guess. I want to read something good now...well read something new and hope it's good. I should have just stopped after her Warprize book. It's the only one I've really liked.
