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Meira just wants her people to be safe. When Cordellan debt forces the Winterians to dig their mines for payment, they unearth something powerful and possibly dangerous: Primoria's lost chasm of magic. Theron sees this find as an opportunity—with this much magic, the world can finally stand against threats like Angra. But Meira fears the danger the chasm poses—the last time the world had access to so much magic, it spawned the Decay. So when the king of Cordell orders the two on a mission across the kingdoms of Primoria to discover the chasm's secrets, Meira plans to use the trip to garner support to keep the chasm shut and Winter safe—even if it means clashing with Theron. But can she do so without endangering the people she loves?

Mather just wants to be free. The horrors inflicted on the Winterians hang fresh and raw in Januari—leaving Winter vulnerable to Cordell's growing oppression. When Meira leaves to search for allies, he decides to take Winter's security into his own hands. Can he rebuild his broken kingdom and protect them from new threats?

As the web of power and deception weaves tighter, Theron fights for magic, Mather fights for freedom—and Meira starts to wonder if she should be fighting not just for Winter, but for the world.

Ice Like Fire Details

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From Reader Review Ice Like Fire for online ebook

Cait • A Page with a View says

THAT ENDING, THOUGH. Oh my goodness. The next book is going to be *so good*.

I've seen some people who have a problem with the slower pace of this book, but I liked being able to get a stronger sense of the world and characters when the plot spent more time in each area. I loved having Mather's POV thrown in to strengthen his character, too! He's definitely one of my favorites right now. And I also appreciated that the romance wasn't the central part of this book.

One of my favorite parts of this story was watching Meira deal with questions like "don't the good people deserve to be powerful" and whether everyone deserves the same thing. And I LOVE the idea that Meria's very existence kept her people from safety and what she might have to do in the next book. It just gave the story a lot more depth to have those kind of debates woven into an already strong fantasy world. So I thought everything worked pretty well here and am excited for the final book!

Sana says

?FULL REVIEW IS UP, FINALLY.?

THIS REVIEW WILL CONTAIN MAJOR SPOILERS FROM BOOK 1, and maybe some minor one's from this book AND WILL ALSO CONTAIN AN OVERUSE OF THE WORD 'BORED' AND 'SHITTY'. It will also contain repetitive sentences like, "BORING ASS SHIT." You've been warned!

Imagine my disappointment when the sequel to a book, *I loved* turns out so fucking shitty and boring. Imagine the way I threw the book across the room in anger and screamed so freaking loud in frustration because *this book* WAS THE WORST SEQUEL I COULD ASK FOR. Like, FUCK YOU SO MUCH BOOK, YOU SUCKED, SO MUCH.

?Where the fuck was badass Meira who cut bitches with her awesome Chakram??? In this book I get a boring ass queen who's trying to make alliances with other kingdoms and having political arguments and IS SIMPLY NOT KICKING SOME FUCKING BUTT??? I get it she's the queen now and she's having this war with herself, with who to be, but like, the whole entire reason why I loved her was because she was badass, mature, a kickass soldier. She was not a boring character in the first book. But in this one, ugh, so not badass and excruciatingly boring.

?The plot:

Holy fucking shit. DUDE WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON WITH THE PLOT??? In the previous book, the plot was filled with action, but *this* was absolute **shit**. All I read about was some fucked up alliances and arguments over the magic chasm and blah blah blah. Guess what? **I don't give a fuck about that shit**. I wanted some more badass action and fighting, but instead I get some boring ass shit. The book was stretched out and so fucking long and petty and I was honestly so annoyed and *bored!* ARGH!!!!

?Mather:

You know what. I really loved this guy in book 1 and wanted to Meira to be with him, but **this book changed that**. He became another useless petty piece of shit to continue this EXTREMELY FUCKING ANNOYING LOVE TRIANGLE THAT MAKES ME SCREAM. He was so so useless and boring and

bland and I HATED IT. This book made it *really* hard to love this guy. Honestly I'm rooting for Theron now. ~~Okay that might be a lie. I love Mather, but he was way too boring in this book.~~ MATHER PLEASE BECOME SPICIER IN THE NEXT BOOK, THANKS.

So, overall, this book made me hate everything I loved in book 1 and love everything I hated in book 1. Yes, I love Theron and Angra, fite me. But I don't love Theron enough to shit him with Miera. Mather all the way fuckers.

Kiki says

My first words when I finished this book were, "So annoyed. What a shit show. Two stars."

I loved *Snow Like Ashes*. I frickin' loved it. Meira was an awesome heroine, Angra was a scary villain, the world-building was cool, the writing was smooth, the story was daring. And I had a huge, stupid, embarrassing crush on Theron. Like, it's just as huge and embarrassing as my crush on Paul from *A Thousand Pieces of You*. Just as huge and embarrassing as my crush on this Russian girl I used to work with.

So imagine my disdain when this book took the story and Meira and Theron and the fantasy raucousness that was *Snow Like Ashes* and dumped some sort of, I don't know, turgid inner-city refuse all over it and then laughed in my face. I got blood on this book because my finger has a big cut on it that won't heal, and that blood has not turned brown like dried blood does, but has stayed red like my broken heart. I think the fact that I bled on this book says a lot about my relationship with it.

We have Meira travelling all over the kingdom for...some reason, maybe an alliance and maybe a treaty and maybe because Raasch wanted to "show us" some more world-building that wasn't necessary, and we have some intensely boring Mather chapters - seriously, who asked for a Mather POV? I most certainly did not. Anyone who followed my comments and status updates from *Snow Like Ashes* knows that Mather and I are like oil and water. He is so bland and so unbelievably convenient and irritating, and any other POV would have been preferable. Nessa could have stayed behind and kept track of Winter. Or maybe Conall, who ended up being one of my favourite characters in this book, despite his abysmal development. In fact, I even liked Conall in *Snow Like Ashes*. He felt real to me. He interested me. But Mather is the epitome of a character who's filling a slot and that no one asked for.

Even the writing is so much more melodramatic: "They reached Rintiero a few hours before sunset, the seven of them flying off the boat in a swirl of white hair and determination". *Are you kidding me?* Come on. I know that the author has better words than this in her. Honestly, I'm not surprised that the first words in the acknowledgements were "Sequels are hard". Therein lies the problem; this sequel was too hard. This book really shouldn't have existed - with a little more rounding off and a few tweaks, *Snow Like Ashes* could have been a bold, brilliant, clean standalone. It could have broken the YA fantasy mould and said, *yeah, one book is enough, and you don't need sequels to be great!* But I guess this one was obligatory, and that's why it exists? Okaaay.

But it's not just the muddying of the plot, which meanders here and there, unconfined to its own rules, which it breaks constantly (since when does magic fully possess people? What actually *is* the Decay? You'd think there would have been a concrete explanation for what it is and what it can actually do other than "it's dark". What?) and it's not just that that the thundering climax is a strange blurring of all of these mythological

elements that don't make sense, it's the characters, and that holes have been blown through them, so much that they're unrecognizable: Mather's entire existence suddenly revolves around Meira, Sir isn't the strong silent type that he was in SLA but an emotionally dead pushover, and the other refugees - Dendera, Henn, Finn and Allison - fade into the background, thin as a puff of smoke, only cropping up when Meira needs a shoulder to cry on or someone to pick her outfits for her. And then there's Theron. Don't even fucking get me started on Theron.

(view spoiler)

The whole Theron thing all ties back to this series' mythology and culture and how it has this weird obsession with blood and birthright; like, your blood determines whether or not you are totally evil or totally good, and there's no leeway with it, except if you're a special snowflake like Ceridwen. (view spoiler)

Meira's not a special snowflake because all of the Winterians are inherently good and their motives are never ever questionable. They're kind and blameless and they'll happily trudge down mineshafts and live in doorless shacks while their queen lives in a palace and cries on her eiderdown bed like a Disney princess. They're also a-okay while she throws away their resources on creating flimsy alliances, rather than investing them and using them as exports to build a treasury so that they can pay an actual Winterian army to guard Winter. (The only dude in the whole of Winter who questions this monarchical class divide gets his ass kicked and then changes his mind later even though he was right in the first place.) But if you're from Cordell or Spring you're automatically evil, and if you're from Summer (except special Ceridwen) then you're automatically a slob and if you're from Yakim then you're basically Erudite from *Divergent*. This book has taken a leaf out of that series anti-intellectual dogma and damned anyone who values education and intellect as shady and Slytherin.

(view spoiler)

What's hilarious is that when Meira arrives in Ventralli, she takes a look around and spits that there is no poor district, no slums or homeless, and everything looks clean and nice, and that this is apparently such a bad thing. She looks around and says that she sees Cordell everywhere, and I suppose that's meant to be an insult? Ventralli is apparently shite because it's not Winter, but I'd think that having a kingdom where all of the housing is in good repair, homelessness is pretty much non-existent, and cities are clean and habitable is...good?

I never understood why that was such a problem for her in SLA, when they arrived in Cordell and were all so angry that there were no beggars in the streets or filthy slums. I know that the whole point was that the Winterians were suffering while Cordell was so wealthy, but each kingdom's first priority has to be its interior. I guess it was a different kettle of fish with Cordell, because they were already invested in Season politics and were geographically and politically closer to the Winter-Spring-Autumn conflict, but it makes no sense why Meira would be so furious that the Rhythms all the way across the continent, with whom the Winter-Spring conflict has never had any contact, have not stepped in. It's not politically or financially sane for those uninvolved, separate kingdoms to jump into a costly war. That kind of nonsensical and culturally blind interference is part of what caused so much unrest in the Middle East - the West tangling itself up in problems that it doesn't have any business solving, and only making the situation a thousand times worse. Meira basically rolls up on the doorstep of kingdoms that are on the other side of the continent, that are traditionally nothing to do with any of the Seasons, and randomly asks them for an alliance, giving them

nothing at all in return. Someone should have sat her down on the day of her coronation and said, "Kid, the rule is that nobody gives you shit for free." It's a pretty simple rule.

Did I like this book? Meh. Not really. It pissed me off, and what's worse is that it tainted the joy of the first book, which I loved. I truly did love it. And I wanted to love this one too. But it was not to be, was it? Our names were not written in the stars.

Only stellar reviews will convince me to read the last book. As it stands right now? I'm done with this series. Unofficially done.

Sara Raasch says

I clearly can't be trusted.

Serena (The Book Comedian) says

Theron, I miss you.

And I would just like to say, in my dreams..

Anastasia says

3.5/5 stars

Ice Like Fire is the heated sequel to Snow Like Ashes.

It's been three months since the Winterians were freed and Spring's king, Angra, disappeared—thanks largely to the help of Cordell.

Meira just wants her people to be safe. When Cordellan debt forces the Winterians to dig their mines for payment, they unearth something powerful and possibly dangerous: Primoria's lost chasm of magic. Theron sees this find as an opportunity—with this much magic, the world can finally stand against threats like Angra. But Meira fears the danger the chasm poses—the last time the world had access to so much magic, it spawned the Decay. So when the king of Cordell orders the two on a mission across the kingdoms of Primoria to discover the chasm's secrets, Meira plans on using the trip to garner support to keep the chasm shut and Winter safe—even if it means clashing with Theron. But can she do so without endangering the people she loves?

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As the web of power and deception is woven tighter, Theron fights for magic, Mather fights for freedom—and Meira starts to wonder if she should be fighting not just for Winter but for the world.

I was a huge fan of Sara Raasch's first book, Snow Like Ashes. It was fast paced, packed cover to cover with

action, and had a lot of character development. This book was the complete opposite. The book lagged, there were only a couple of action scenes, and the characters were really lacking. I was expecting so much, more especially since I read amazing reviews and ratings.

“What’s rare is to have a good, strong man, as opposed to a good, weak man. Those are the ones who ruin the world. Men who mean well, but buckle under others’ opinions until their good intentions destroy an untold number of lives.”

The plot was...non existent? Present in the last half of the book? The main purpose of this book was to find three keys to open the magic chasm and you know when we realized this? A third of the way through the book. Then once we were on our way the really action packed and interesting scenes were cut down to a couple of pages. I found myself skimming over pages at a time because all they contained were more repeated descriptions or unimportant commentary. But, once we reached the last 1/4 of the book things started to pick up. The characters’ lives began to intersect and blood was shed.

The characters were average for most of the book. Meira was struggling between being her old soldier-like self and her new queen-like self. Theron and Mather were both struggling with their relationships with Meira because they either didn’t see her as queenly or they thought she was being too queenly. There was no middle ground and that’s as far as this whole *love triangle* relationship evolved. In *Snow Like Ashes* I thought Theron was the best choice for Meira but after reading 496 pages of Theron complaining, saying stupid things, etc. I’m more team Mather. But, then again Mather is very back and forth. He loves her, then he doesn’t love her, but then he realises he made a huge mistake and pines for her again. He’s like the old game little girls played with picking off the petals of flowers. *He loves her. He loves her not. He loves her. He loves her not. He.. *gasps* he loves her!* Wow, who knew.

“I’m tired of fighting myself—I have far too many enemies, far too many obstacles, to spend so much energy wrestling myself into submission. I have far too few friends to alienate those closest to me. I need to start trusting them. And if they break . . . We’ll just have to pick up the pieces together.”

My absolute favorite part were the supporting characters. They were the hilarious and thrilling glue that held this average book together. The *Children of the Thaw* made me remember how it felt to really want someone to succeed. They showed how even if all the odds are against you; you can still win. Nessa, Dendera, and the rest of Meira’s gang/entourage helped move the story along. Giving us some much needed tension, skepticism, laughter, and insight into the kingdoms we ventured into. Without these supporting characters and a select few main characters I probably would have dnfed this book around page 100.

The ending was really interesting. It wasn’t quite an ending, it was more of a beginning. If the book started, or the middle of this book, was this exciting I would have been extremely happy. The sad part about the ending, was that it was only 2 chapters long, that is 31 or so chapters too short. All in all I was very disappointed with how this book turned out. It had such great potential, but just fell flat. I will probably pick up the last book in the trilogy but if it doesn’t pick up after 100 or so pages I’ll probably just have to face the facts and dnf it.

Faye, la Patata says

Have you ever had one of those days where you feel like something was... incomplete? That things dragged on more than they should have had? Like the story could've been tighter, could've had the same essential elements and plot points, AND still give a sense of completeness, as if this small story arc of a bigger story

arc has been reached?

This is one of those days - those days where I felt nothing but underwhelmed.

You guys might be well-aware of my love for the first book. I flailed over it, gave it 5-fantastic-stars, and shoved the book (and its pretty cover!) pretty much to everyone's faces, *implo*ring them, *dem*anding them, that they read *Snow Like Ashes* as soon as they could, and that I wouldn't be accepting any flimsy excuses. It was a Young Adult fantasy with the Seasons as the theme for the four primary kingdoms out of eight, something I thought was pretty cool (and wished I had thought of before); it had a pretty kick-ass heroine who I thought was better than Celaena Sardothien; it had a premise that was, okay, unoriginal, but was written and executed in a way that made it a breath of fresh air.

So, as for the second book? I was all, *BRING IT ON! MY BODY IS READY!*

Only for me to end up as...

A VERY, VERY SAD PANDA.

There are so many things in this book that simply didn't click with me. I'll just put them in list form, lest I go on a dragging rant (and I know for sure I've had enough of that today

1.) **Two POVS, two different perspectives and tenses? ME NO LIKEY.** I really didn't understand the need to do this. There are two POVs in this book - Meira's and Mather's. Meira is in 1st person present tense, and Mather is in 3rd person past tense and that not only confused the heck out of me, but bugged me so much that there were times I had to take a break because it was frustrating me. I get the use of this if both characters were in different timelines - like Meira was talking about things in the present, and Mather's POVs were flashbacks, but that wasn't the case at all. **They were all in the same timeline so why use past tense in one POV?** Maybe this is some sort of literary trick that I am not aware of, and that there is actually a need for it that only writers are aware of, but I just couldn't get it... **nevertheless, I know that a book is more than its verb tenses, so I tried my best to overlook it, but make no mistake, that I may or may not have rubbed my temples a dozen times because of this.**

2.) **What happened to the kick-ass Meira?** In *Snow like Ashes*, this girl was my hero. She wanted to help in every way she can in order to retrieve their kingdom back. She fought and followed her heart and whatever she *felt* was the right thing to do, and it was so easy to stand by her and root for her and sympathize with her and her plight. Meira here is very, very different - she is overly-cautious and is very conflicted by what she wants to do and what she feels she must do. **Even though she is 'careful' with the paths she chooses, she keeps making foolish decisions that bite her in the ass, and after these, gets conflicted again and we're treated to her internal narrations that seem to repeat themselves over and over and over.** I was just over it, really. I'm all for character development and such, but hers took its bloody damn time that by the last third of the book, I was just rolling my eyes at her inefficiency. It felt like this development of hers stalled for a long time in the middle of the book, and it just lost its magic on me. Gone were the intricate world-building that I loved in the next book, and it was filled with almost-monotonous self-loathing and self-pitying that I wanted to just bang my head onto a wall. **I even skipped pages of this self-wallowing of hers and even went back to reading when the story finally moved from its periodical hibernation.** Her "redemption" at the end happened far too late and at that point, I just wanted the story to get a move on already.

3.) **Such a long book, but nothing was achieved, merely becoming a build-up to the third book.** This is what I hate the most in this book - the fact that we were given a short-term goal in order to fulfill a long-term

one, and the **book ends in the middle of finishing short-term goal**. This is why I am so particularly nitpicky with many trilogies/series, because there is a formula that **I prefer them to follow: that every installment has a story and goals for itself, and when you put every book together, there is an even larger story in the background**. This specific point is the number one reason why I feel so damn disappointed in this story, the fact that there this book is so long, and yet, it feels like it doesn't achieve anything. They find two "keys" to a puzzle they need to solve (which they solve easily and without any difficulty, mind you), Meira spends 80% of the time wallowing in endless conflict, and then near the end, she goes back to being the Meira in the first book, we get some pretty anti-climactic revelations, and then that's it. **Did they achieve the goal they set out to do in the beginning of the second book? No, they did not. In fact, it could be said they were about to just start it at end of the book, so now I'm raging. I feel pretty cheated, to be honest, because I get that this is the sequel, but I want the sequel to feel complete, not half-assed.**

Basically, me:

Am I still going to read the third book? Yes, but I wouldn't be anticipating it as much. Take my opinion as one of many, though. If the things above don't bother you, then I'm sure you'd end up liking this.

Emily May says

Maybe this is a case of middle book syndrome; maybe Raasch should have wrapped this story up in Snow Like Ashes; but, whatever the reason, **Ice Like Fire just didn't pull me along like the previous book did**.

Firstly - and most unforgivably - this book is slow, lacking in any new achievements or significant events. It truly feels like a middle book, bridging the gap between the first part of the story and the last, but never really standing on its own.

I constantly felt like Snow Like Ashes was moving towards something - conflict, discovery, excitement - whereas this book never seemed to have any direction or purpose. I was reading it to get to the end, not out of a need to know what happens. There was a lot of repeated introspective examination - Meira and Mather pondering the same feelings again and again.

Lots of wallowing in self-pity and angst. I like it when a book explores characters' thoughts and emotions, but not when it goes over and over the same things and **very little else happens**.

Secondly, **I have absolutely no interest in Mather's perspective**. I didn't dislike him in the first book, but I never found him that interesting either. Here, the story jumps from Meira's first-person narrative to Mather's third-person narrative, a risky choice anyway, but even more so because Mather cannot hold my attention.

Surprisingly, though, I also found Meira less interesting in this book. Maybe because she was more proactive (and therefore more badass) in Snow Like Ashes. This book is more about her mentally adjusting to the new changes introduced at the end of the previous book and processing her feelings for Mather. When she does act, she seems to make a lot of foolish decisions.

I will read the last book in hopes that this was "middle book syndrome", but I was really disappointed with this book. Nearly 500 pages long and very little to show for it.

Aly's Bookish Wonderland says

Standing in the courtyard of the palace, arms to the sky, cold numbing all other senses and wind deadening all other noises, I closed my eyes. I had never, in all my life, felt so remarkably alone. But it was a perfect kind of alone, a delicate, dreamlike peace.

Unfortunately, having read and loved every moment of *Snow Like Ashes*, I can't help but compare *Ice Like Fire* to it. The first book in the series introduced Meira, Mather, Sir and Alysson and their quest to hunt the second half of the locket -- a conduit of magic that would not work if it wasn't whole -- and to then, with it, free the Kingdom of Winter from the grasps of Angra, the king of Spring.

It was action-packed, filled to the brim with heart-stopping moments and will-they-won't-they scenes. I'd devoured it in six hours and had to write a review immediately after, because I had to talk to people who had read it too. It was **fantastic!**

Ice Like Fire? Not so much. It definitely suffers with a bad case of **Middle Book Syndrome**. The plot is flimsy yet interesting, but it didn't deliver (at least not in the first 70% of the book, which is a long time to wait for something to happen) and the characters, mostly Meira and Mather, were so out of sorts. It was hard to see the kickass, brave, reckless characters from *Snow Like Ashes* turned into soft, useless ones that just didn't do anything, really.

The book opens up a couple months after *Snow Like Ashes*. The Kingdom of Winter is free, with Meira having taken up the crown and her place as its queen; Mather is working closely with Sir and Alysson and the Cordellan soldiers; Noam, King of Cordell, and his son, Theron, are opening up the mines to get to the magic chasm.

And they find it.

I step closer, my boots tapping against the stone floor.
A beam of light hitting a mountaintop. Where have I seen that before?
And who is the Order of the Lustrate?
Theron hisses. "Golden leaves." He slides forward a step. "Are those... keyholes?"

But the chasm cannot be accessed -- not without three keys. Three keys that are hidden in the different kingdoms of Primoria, in two Rhythms and a Season, and it's up to Meira to find them... before Theron does.

There is a rift between the couple, one that might end up breaking them: Meira wants the chasm for her reasons, and Theron wants it because his father needs it.

And... this is where it started to slide downhill for this reader. Unfortunately, even though the beginning practically spelled "future conflicts that will blow. Your. Mind" it just didn't do anything for me. The travelling (and I'm one of those people who loves reading about the journeys in fantasy almost as much as

the arrival) was too quick and the finding of the keys far too easy for my liking. That is, quite literally, the first fifty percent of the book right there. Travelling and finding the keys. Nothing much else happens, which I found worrying, considering Cordell is in charge of Winter in Meira's absence -- and that, on its own, does not bode well, considering King Noam's reaction to Meira in the first book and vice versa -- and royalty was travelling from one kingdom to the other. You'd think there'd be some sort of conflict or fighting on the way, but there wasn't. Absolutely nothing happened.

So when the conflict did come, and all those juicy dramatic scenes started to happen, I found myself thinking it was too little, too late. After waiting for over 70% of the story, the end didn't do much to make up for the entirety of the book and, in my opinion, it felt too much like it was grasping at straws to leave us on a cliffhanger, and thus leaving us wanting more.

Full review to come on 100% Rock!

Full review now live on 100% Rock!

After reading: 2.5 stars

EDIT: Rounded it down because... I can't.

If you've been following my updates, my rating might come as a surprise, considering I stated numerous times that I was not enjoying it. And I wasn't -- it lacked the magic that had been a given in SNOW LIKE ASHES, and it lacked, most importantly, the spirit and action of the first book. **ICE LIKE FIRE definitely suffers with a dangerous, deadly case of Middle Book Syndrome.**

And I don't mean that lightly. Meira isn't kickass (and doesn't even have her chakram anymore!), Mather is a whiny ass and the plot is flimsy at best. Things didn't start seriously turning round until the 70% which is a LOOOOOONG time to wait. Even when things did start picking up, I was constantly seething at Meira's myriad of stupid decisions and Mather's painful of point of view. Seriously, there's only so many times he can talk about Meira's perfection without sounding like a broken record.

For the record -- what is UP with Mather's sudden realisation that "Meira is The One"? I loved the romance in SLA because even though there was the hint of a triangle (what with Meira crushing on Mather) it was quickly resolved with Theron's appearance. I thought they'd decided that Theron was perfect for her? **WHY HAS EVERYTHING CHANGED AGAIN?!**

FRTC.

EDIT: 12/2/2015

Meep. The cover is so so so gorgeous!

EDIT: 21/12/2014

IT HAS A TITLE.

Ice Like Fire.

fangirls

Only have to wait a billion more days for this baby to come out.

sighs

Wherefore art thou, my Theron?

I cannot wait for this book.

As I write this, I am constructing a time machine to fling me into the future so I can devour it in one sitting just like *Snow Like Ashes*, then fling me back so I can, somehow, live until the release date.

grabby hands

Andreea Pop says

Unavoidable spoilers from the first book.

Dear book,

You started on the wrong foot from the very beginning when you chose to go with the magic chasm route. You see, as Meira herself pointed out countless times, the possibility of finding it when for centuries no one did is truly laughable. But somehow it was found during your first pages. Go figure.

From there on, your entire plot was centered on this back-and-forth idea that the magic chasm needs to stay shut, yet it should open. The only good thing that came out of that Order and keys mess was that we got to visit the rest of the kingdoms. Summer was a waste of pages, besides the introduction with Ceridwen, who was a bit too superior even for my tastes. Yakim was intriguing, but stuck-up nonetheless. And Ventralli was magical, but a touch too many of craziness, though I loved the romantic drama (kudos for the juiciness).

In terms of pace, you truly lack equilibrium. The first three quarters were filled with boredom-inducing blabbering and the continuous tiring dynamic between Meira and Theron. Gods, they don't know the meaning of the word "communication". And then when the shit hit the fan, it was all kinds of awesome but it was too late to make up for the previous dull atmosphere. Ah, well... At least you tried.

I have to say that I do not like your Queen Meira. The spunk, fierceness and snark of the heroine we were

sold in your prequel pretty much disintegrated and left us with an indecisive and overwhelmed teenager set on the goal to save everyone. Well, next time you see her, please tell her to wake up from dreaming with her eyes wide open and focus for now on the fate of her fellow Winterians, because they're basically screwed. And I almost forgot: she transformed into quite the Sherlock Holmes with her treasure hunt going surprisingly smooth -- two keys found on the first go. Impressive, really. **cocks eyebrow**

Also, I did not break under your pressure aka I did not change teams although you tried to sway me. I mean, when you pretty much implement a personality-swap for Theron and have chapters from Mather's POV, one can see where you're standing in this whole love triangle.

I'll grant that you might have changed my opinion about Mather for the better, but Theron proved to me in the end that his only flaws are naivety, idealism and a very good heart. I'm not going to be a Mather supporter all of a sudden just because Theron is too kind.

However, I realized that I won't be biting my nails over Meira's final romantic choice, because honestly? I don't particularly care about these characters anymore. Congratulations on this achievement.

The rest of your characters barely managed to keep me awake. William transformed into this petulant little thing, so at odds with the strong figure he'd been I almost wept. I did enjoy Conall and Garrigan though, but Nessa was so underdeveloped I shouldn't even mention her. Mather's Thaw reminded me of those cartoons called Titans and actually got some pity out of me because they think they're important. Sadly, that's false. But Allyson, for what it's worth, made me teary-eyed with one single appearance.

I really don't know what will happen next with your story, because this train-wreck is heading straight to an *Allegiant*-like finish line, a direction which I haven't yet made up my mind if I approve of or not. What's for sure is that your continuation will definitely have its own share of surprises (but I'm not so eager to get my hands on it as I did for you because I've been burnt one too many times).

So here we are. I'm sorry to say that you are deeply flawed and only your last quarter or so saved me from rating you with those nasty 2 stars. I'm sorry to see that you could've hit grandness, yet you settled for extremely ordinary. And I'm downright sorry that you suffered from the sequel syndrome when I wanted so much for you to succeed. But I think you should be sorry as well for ruining my overall giddiness and excitement at your potential.

Sincerely,

One of your initially excited readers, now caught in a bitter state of disappointment

P.S.: Don't worry, I'll still buy you for your kickass cover once you come out in October.

Cierra says

SEES RELEASE DATE

By the way, Prince Theron?

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

<http://melissa413readsalot.blogspot.c...>

GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

Where do I start! I wanted to smack so many people in this book that I lost count. This book is no where near as good as the first book, in my opinion. I think for me it was all of the politics that went on for most of the book and the going back and forth with poor Meira trying to figure out what was best for the people of Winter. I can tell you what is best... OFF WITH NOAM'S HEAD and take the rest out! Just do it! Do it!

Okay, we know that doesn't happen. I didn't like Theron until the end of the book when you find out why he was making dumb arse decisions. But.. we need to back track just a little, without spoilers!

Meira decides she needs to travel to the different places and try to get allies. I mean you have to have someone besides Noam, who is working your people to death in the mines to pay back all Winter owes to him... blah blah.. he's a jerk.. and then they find the chasm of magic and that opens up a whole other can of worms.

I still love Mather and Sir and a few others, but it seems like most of the time everyone is wandering around doing stupid stuff and you want to smack them too. I really liked Ceridwen in the book. She is from Summer and she is good but her brother is a jerk.

When they find the chasm of magic, Meira decides she needs to find these keys and keep Noam from opening the thing because she knows it's going to cause all kinds of trouble and she's right. So, while she's on this diplomatic travel to the different places, she has to find the keys there as well. It seems to not be as hard as it seems to find the keys if you have a good brain, but then someone does something stupid when they find the keys and I want to do some more smacking!

If your looking for a book like the first one that's full of action.. this..is..not..it. I don't have to have a lot of action going on in a book, but I like the story to be interesting. Parts of this one was interesting for me and other parts were not.

All of that being said... the end.. it's going to be a cluster of fighting in the next book. It's on and I can't tell you why, or who, or what. Just know that with the way it ended there is huge hopes of a battle to end all battles.

I'm so glad Winter are the good guys because I love Winter in real life

Let's do this!

Even though I didn't like this book as much as the first, I have learned from experience that I don't always like all of the books in a trilogy or series and not to give up just because you didn't like one more than the other. There is always more to read and they always bounce back. :) Plus, there are plenty that loved it and that's awesome! Fin

Ben Alderson says

Brilliant sequel!

I really enjoyed the relationship with Mather in this one.

I can not wait for the third novel.

The only issue I have is i still don't really understand the magic very much, MAYBE thats just me.

Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

Mather, my dear. Fans don't seem to like you as much as Theron, but that means more of you for me, right?

Anne says

In the last book, Meira discovered that she was the true Queen of Winter, kicked a villain in the nads, saved her kingdom, and found love.

So what's next for these characters?! And more importantly, did this book live up to the hype I had built up in my head, after stalking this book for half a year?

Ehhhh.

Not really.

I was pretty excited to read this, because I enjoyed the first book, Snow Like Ashes, quite a bit. Now, I couldn't *exactly* remember what all happened in that one, but I was confident that it would be ok. There was a love triangle that I thought was cool (<--you read that right), and I wanted to see how it all played out. So I jumped in, and assumed it would be just fine!

For the *most* part it was, but I think it would have been better if I had done a reread, because this isn't a book that had a whole lotta re-cap happening in it. Anyway, it took me a while to get my bearings.

That's my fault. Should have skimmed over the first book.

But. Even so, I thought the plot was pretty sloooooow and draggy.

Unfortunately, not a lot happens action-wise. It's mostly a bunch of Meira's inner dialogue, as she tries to figure out **what to do**. Which means there's a lot of wishy-washy *blah, blah, blah* stuff happening in her head, and not a lot of kickassery.

And the *Triangle* that I thought ~~wasn't~~ anymore I was so interested in? Bleh.

I think Raasch tried to be creative, but I can't say I'm all that intrigued anymore. The whole romance angle just felt *off* to me. I'm not saying I *hated* it, but there was definitely a *What-the-What?!* vibe to it. I don't want to spoil anything for those of you who haven't read this yet, but, I didn't like the switcheroo that the author pulled. It was very...**Gotcha!** And not in a good way, in my opinion.

I'm still planning on reading the next book, so it's not like this was torturous to read or anything. I suppose my reaction to this installment was more *mild disappointment* than anything else.

Hopefully, the Winter Queen will pull her head out of her ass for the next book. It's not fun (to me) to read about silly internal conflicts that seem to loop around like nonsense. Then again, maybe this is a transition novel, and she'll have it all figured out by book three?

Also reviewed for:

Neil (or bleed) says

"I want to live. I want to find a way to save everyone and LIVE."

I'm so happy with this sequel because it didn't disappoint. I know I've read this for several days but I think it has been alright since I've gotten enough time to absorb its complex story and appreciate its beauty.

Ice Like Fire is less action and more politics. If you've read the Snow Like Ashes, you know the details. Now, Meira isn't comfortable to their alliance with Cordell. She knows Noam, the king of Cordell, and his evil plan. So Meira is trying to form an alliance with the other kingdoms that has something to do with the magic chasm. And that's why the story revolved around more on politics and the role of Meira as the queen of Winter.

I admit, at first, I found the book boring. There's nothing to excite me. I can't get into it. I thought it was slow. But when I've realized the problem is me, I stopped reading the book and started a new one. Maybe, I'm stressed or something. Then, after finishing the short book, I got back reading Ice Like Fire and

WOAH!!!

Okay, I know I'm being exaggerated there haha but I am really compelled and intrigued with the political drama of this book. I never get to read a lot of high fantasy novels so the political dynamics fascinated me and learned alot about it. I, actually, can't describe well the politics in this book but I know that it did impress me in one way or another.

I like Meira more and Mather and Theron and every character in this book, even the new ones. They've grown a lot especially Meira who matured, not just as a warrior girl but as the Winter queen, too. She knows she needs to save Winter and her people but she isn't the kind who wants to die saving her people. She wants to save Winter and live and I love her about it. In fact, Meira is one of the female protagonists I truly admire now.

Mather has been great, too. He got emo and angsty but it is understandable. And along the way, he became the person he needs to be. And he got friends and comrades that was phenomenal or should I say the kind worth watching for.

Theron. I have four words to describe Theron. **He will surprise you.**

Among these main characters, every minor character were so interesting to read on, too. They have their own depths and fleshed out in a subtle way. I know there are more to come for them in the third book and I'm excited about it.

In Snow Like Ashes, Winter, Spring and Cordell had been explored and now Meira took me to the other kingdoms; Summer, Yakim and Ventralli. The description of every kingdom, I must say, has been very good. It is evident the major difference between kingdoms-- the lifestyle of people, the dresses, customs and values, jobs and works and people itself.

Lets go to the major twist that I didn't expect at all. The whole book is hinting about it but I didn't see it. Poor me. But I swear this twist is the best thing ever, for me. Because wow the shit just got realer and the intensity has gotten stronger.

I couldn't ask for more.

Lara says

"If stubbornness were all that was needed to be a good queen, I'd rule the world."

Holy Mother of Cliffhangers did it again!

Let's be honest, Ice Like Fire wasn't as good as Snow Like Ashes however, I still love this series! Meira may not be the greatest protogonist and love triangle that occurs in this book may make you roll your eyes more than 234567897656 times, BUT I just love the world that's written in this book! I really don't know why Primoria fascinates me this much but mate, isn't it amazing? Seasons,rhytms,conduits and more and more!

We see **Meira** as queen in this book, well she was better when she was just stubborn Meira who wanted to

save her kingdom. She had a huge character development and I'm still not sure if I liked it or not. Her dedication to her kingdom was applaudable though.

Mather was much more better in this book then in Snow Like Ashes! I didn't like him at all in the first book but both his actions and his POV's made me love him, he was flawed and imperfect but who isn't? I adored his choices and actions! And that last few chapters *stabs her eyes* Aghhh!

Theron.... THERON!! WHAT THE ACTUAL ** ! He was my favorite... He was my FAVORITE SARAH DID YOU HEAR ME!?**

I'm out of words about Theron so for the sake of my heart I'll just pass this one.

Nessa & Allyson were so good. (view spoiler).
Noam & Simon...

There were new characters! **Ceridwen** *heart eyes*. She was so cool! I knew I was going to love her right from the page one! I just need to read Frost Like Night to know what happens next!

This book tend to be boring and annoying at times, it did not have action and dynamism as much as Snow Like Ashes. However last two-three chapters were like an episode of Game of Thrones, after one certain point I lost the count of deaths (lol)

And now the wait begins for the third and last book... it better be good Sarah.

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

Wow I cannot wait for you guys to be able to read this book. So fantastic. Video review will be going up closer to release date!

Katerina says

To be honest, **giving Ice Like Fire 2 stars crossed my mind**. And I *don't* do 2 stars. This mere thought is enough proof that this book was extremely **infuriating**, so infuriating that even my sister's killer banoffee could not extinguish my anger.

The story

Winter is finally free from slavery, but the ruthless king of Cordell's always present, fixed on finding the magic chasm, the source of pure magic. When the chasm is finally found, Meira and Theron set on a journey to find the keys that will unlock magic, while Mather tries to make himself useful to his people. But the phantom enemy lies in every corner, gathering power until evil will be unleashed and nothing will ever be the same.

*“Lay your head upon the snow
Lay your sorrow in the ice
For all that once was calm, sweet child,
will belong to you tonight.”*

Thoughts

I kept comparing Ice Like Fire to Snow Like Ashes and realized with dread that they had nothing in common. Snow Like Ashes proudly sits among my favorite books, but the second installment of the trilogy was **disappointing**. It kills me to admit that the only reason I kept reading was because I wanted to finish it, there was a point when I actually had to convince myself to turn the pages. This is the closest I've ever been to a reading slump and it does *not* feel good. The only redeeming qualities that made it sufferable were Sara's writing skills and the **spectacular world-building** that never ceased to amaze me. The plot, which mainly lacked action, had some bright moments that set me on edge and I rather enjoyed the last 100 pages, but something seemed a bit... off and I feel that some elements could be more well-developed. But my biggest issue was the characters.

The characters (censored version)

(the uncensored version contains a number of profanities, among which the f* bomb is the mildest)

Meira is the most **pathetic, weak, narrow-minded, stupid, whiney, immature** excuse of a leader I have ever encountered. The only parts of her narration I liked were the ones where she understood her stupidity. Pages after pages she wallowed in self pity, judging everyone and thinking she is the best to make world-changing decisions while she doomed her people with every reckless act of hers. Hey girl, I have some news for you, you don't deserve power nor magic, you are barely capable of deciding which will be your next meal without poisoning yourself!

Mather turned from an indifferent character to a needy child, an attention junkie with anger management issues who out of the blue claimed that Meira is the love of his life.

The biggest source of my frustration though is the way Sara treated Theron. Where is my loving, caring, loyal and gallant prince who was tired of being manipulated? **I WANT THE REAL THERON BACK, BRING MY THERON BACK!** At least there *is* a reason for his shitty behavior (I can't say the same about the rest of the characters), but I can't shake the feeling that he was treated so unfairly only to justify Meira picking Mather in the final book, which is more than possible to happen. And speaking of love triangles, here's a friendly advice to all writers: if you've known from the start who your heroine will end up with, don't include in the story another, *better in every way* love interest (~~yes Leigh Bardugo I'm looking at you~~) because hearts will be broken and the owners of those hearts will be as pleased as a Winterian in the Summer capital.

Feelings

Anger, frustration and **exasperation**. And more **eyerollings** than I can count.

I will read the last book, but I must admit it will be out of curiosity rather than enthusiasm, because I'm afraid the damage Ice Like Fire inflicted is irreparable.

Instagram | Twitter | Facebook | BookNest

♥Christina says

4.25 Sweet snow! ★'s

"I'm not just me anymore. I'm a whole kingdom, and I can't make mistakes."

"The most powerful magic of all is choice, and of that power, the strongest choice anyone can make is an act of sacrifice."

Reread <3

This is my second time reading "Ice Like Fire" and I must say, I still really, really, enjoyed it! I stayed up through the night, just so I could get it done. Because I want to get onto the 3rd book, I haven't read yet. I love all the different adventures and the new Seasons/Rhythm Kingdoms we got to experience. I love how completely different each one is and how well thought out this world Sara Raasch has developed truly is. I really had a lot of fun reading this story :D The story-line, the writing, the world itself and of course all the character growth is amazing. It's was a bit slower passed, there for, it dragged in spots. Meira was awesome as usual, but I missed the crazy, warrior side of her from the first book. I hated when she was trying to be who she thought, she and everyone else expected her to be. When the Meira they need is exactly who she already had been! I was so happy to have Mather POV. He was already one of my favorite character and this just made me love him all the more! Mather is doing all he can, in whatever way he can to help protect his queen and the people of Winter. He is just so refreshing and a swoon worthy Hero. I love me some Mather!! (Meira ♥&♥ Mather)*sigh... Kinda sucks the road Theron's character was taken down. He was never really a fav of mine but still he was a good guy. It was really sad that he got infected by the decay :(Ceridwen is awesome! I really enjoyed everything about her. That girl is a fighter and wants better for her people. Also I love Nessa, she's such a sweetheart and her brothers Conall and Garrigan are really great too! Anyways, I'm very excited to read "Frost Like Night" the last book. So i'm gonna end it here :)
Aughhh, that ending though!! Damn Cliffhangers lol!

I recommend this book to everyone!

"I close my eyes, back straight, face impassive. When I look, I will see someone capable and composed, a warrior and a leader all in one."

"I'm tired of fighting myself—I have far too many enemies, far too many obstacles, to spend so much energy wrestling myself into submission. I have far too few friends to alienate those closest to me. I need to start trusting them. And if they break . . . We'll just have to pick up the pieces together."

"Horrible things have happened to us, are still happening to us, will happen every day for the rest of our lives, probably. What defines us is not our ability to never let them break us— what defines us is not letting them own us."

"That's part of freedom too— getting to dream, and knowing it could happen if I want it to."

"What's rare is to have a good, strong man, as opposed to a good, weak man. Those are the ones who ruin the world. Men who mean well, but buckle under others' opinions until their good intentions destroy an untold number of lives."

"I want to look at someone and know that every need and wish and desire i have matches his, not that my every need and wish and desire clashes with his. Unification should be the overall theme of a relationship."

