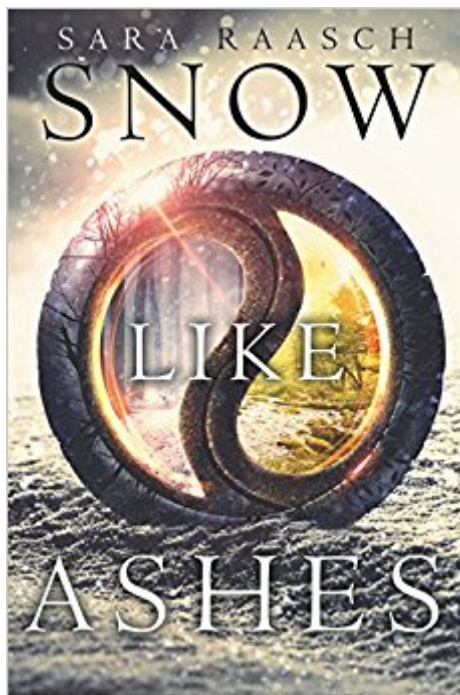


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Snow Like Ashes



Synopsis

A striking fantasy tale of dark magic, dangerous politics, and discovering your true self—perfect for fans of Game of Thrones, An Ember in the Ashes and A Court of Thorns and Roses. Sixteen years ago the Kingdom of Winter was conquered and its citizens enslaved, leaving them without magic or a monarch. Now the Winterians' only hope for freedom is the eight survivors who managed to escape, and who have been waiting for the opportunity to steal back Winter's magic and rebuild the kingdom ever since. Orphaned as an infant during Winter's defeat, Meira has lived her whole life as a refugee. Training to be a warrior—and desperately in love with her best friend, Winter's future king—she would do anything to help Winter rise to power again. So when scouts discover the location of the ancient locket that can restore Winter's magic, Meira decides to go after it herself—only to find herself thrust into a world of evil magic and dangerous politics—and ultimately comes to realize that her destiny is not, never has been, her own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Snow Like Ashes Quiz If your personality was matched to a season, which would you be? 1) You worked on a group project at school, and your team is given an award for exceptional work! How do you respond? a. Enthusiastically—I earned this reward! b. Suspiciously—not every group member deserves it as much as I do. c. With a small smile—I know I did well, and

that's enough for me. d. PARTY! 2) What is your favorite color? a. Blue. b. Green. c. Gold. d. Red. 3) A great evil has desecrated your kingdom, enslaving most of the population and leaving the rest as homeless refugees. What do you do? a. Fight back no matter the cost •that is my home, and no one will take it from me. b. Psh. There is no evil greater than me. c. Form an alliance with a stronger kingdom, then slowly fight back over years. d. Invite the enemy to party. 4) If you could have any magical object, what would it be a. A locket. b. A staff. c. A ring. d. A cuff. 5) You would describe your personality as: a. Quiet. b. Careful and compassionate. c. Easygoing. Some days I'm loud and outgoing, other days I need a break to chill out. d. Vivacious. 6) You've always wanted a pet, but your parents have strictly vetoed that plan. If you could have any animal in the world, what would you choose? a. An exotic bird. b. A cat. c. A lizard. d. A dog. 7) It is time to audition for the school play. You'll be trying out for the part of: a. The villain. b. Trying out? No thank you. You prefer to be behind-the-scenes. c. Supporting actor. d. The lead, of course! 8) Your favorite piece of clothing is your: a. Fuzzy beanie. b. Sundress. c. Plaid flannel shirt. d. Flip-flops. RESULTS: Mostly A's: Winter Winter is unassuming, gentle, yet can easily turn deadly and wicked if not respected. The most admirable trait of all Winterians is endurance •their conduit gave them the ability to dive deep beneath the earth, and magic makes them capable of surviving in the unrelenting chill of eternal cold. Winterians are, above all, survivors. Mostly B's: Spring When asked what they think of when they hear the word Spring, any other citizens of Primoria would say "control." • Spring's conduit has been used for centuries to enforce utter domination and demand loyalty of all its citizens. But through this dictatorship-like state, Spring has still retained its natural beauty •it is undeniably vivacious and remains a symbol of life. Mostly C's: Autumn Autumn is by far the most underestimated Season •but through that, Autumnians have managed to absorb every blow cast their way and rise not only whole, but stronger. They are the adaptable Season, the Season of change, as well as the Season of silent, steady growth. Humble and infallible, sure and gentle, Autumn may be passed over by most of Primoria, but they let this lack of recognition provide them with time to heal and mature. Mostly D's: Summer Summer has one talent that no other kingdom in Primoria possesses: the ability to have fun. Their conduit has been used to encourage utter bliss in every citizen, blanketing Summer with a reputation of parties, music, laughter, and endless enjoyment. With this unmatched ability to love life, though, comes a lack of responsibility. But no Summerian worries about this •not when there's wine to drink! --This text refers to the Digital edition.

“Snow Like Ashes is a thrilling story with unforgettable characters set in a stunning fantasy world that had me quickly turning pages. I want more!” (Morgan Rhodes, New York Times bestselling author of *Falling Kingdoms*)
“The plot and writing are superlative...Highly recommended.” (School Library Journal)
“A satisfying read.” (Kirkus Reviews)
“An enjoyable adventure-romance.” (Publishers Weekly)
“A new society, a grand adventure, and a first romance, all rolled into one big fantasy epic.”
(Booklist)

I have read two high fantasy books this year that were on an epic level of goodness which was *Stolen Songbird* by Danielle L. Jensen and *Heir of Fire* by Sarah J. Maas and now I can say there is a third to the list *Snow Like Ashes*. I had to wait a few days before I could write this review to make sure I sound sane when writing it instead of completely fangirling. Right off the bat I don't have anything negative to say about the book at all...not even a little bit. The world building, the characters even the secondary characters were all done so well. After I was done reading the book I was actually in a state of "I don't know what to do with myself" for a little while because I had immersed myself so much into the world Raasch created that I was sad to leave it. The world created is pretty huge, there isn't just one or two kingdoms, no there are eight and we learn bits and pieces about all of them along with the alliances between the kingdoms and who hates who etc so yes there is a bit of info to take in when you first start reading but it was explained in a way where I wasn't bored and it didn't feel like an info dump. When it came down to it though the story was mostly focused on two of the season kingdoms (Spring and Winter) and one of the Rhythm Kingdoms, Cordell. Then there was the magic this world had and it was so original the history behind it and how it was used I loved it and can't wait to learn more about it, because evidently what the people thought they knew about the magic isn't all true which Meira came to find out in her battle of trying to free her fellow Winterians from the grasps of the Spring King. I loved Meira, she is a soldier, strong, courageous and passionate and badass with that chakram of hers. She doesn't remember Winter, she was a baby when Winter was overthrown by Spring but she is determined to do whatever it takes to get her people out of slavery and back to Winter. She was just incredible I loved being in her head, she had flaws and doubts also which made her seem so real. There is also Mather and Theron. Both of these guys had some seriously amazing qualities although I'm loving Theron just a little bit more. Yes there is a love triangle and if you follow my blog you know how much I hate them and how very few authors I have ever read get them right. Well Raasch is now

added to the list the love triangle was done very well I was not annoyed by it all. At first Meira thinks she is in love with Mather, I mean after all they practically grew up together so naturally they developed feelings but then enters Theron the prince of Cordell and well he makes Meira feel things that she didn't even feel with Mather so honestly I can't wait to see who she ends up with because she has a very complex relationship with Mather and building one with Theron as well. There is an insanely awesome plot twist at the end that just blew me away as well. Overall Snow Like Ashes is a stunning addition to the high fantasy genre and I will be counting down the days until the next book in the series comes out.

Title: Snow Like Ashes Author: Sara Raasch Publication Date: October 2014 Genre : Fantasy My Rating: 5 Stars My Review: After finishing the last page of this book, I was left with one coherent thought : What is wrong with me? Why did I ask myself that? Because, I just don't know why it took me this freaking long to pick up this book. I'm serious here people. I'm baffled. I have no idea why I haven't devoured this book sooner, but, now that I have, consider me hooked. This story... My god, this story! I'm left speechless trying to sing its praises. I just don't know how to quite put into words just how amazing this book is. It's phenomenal. Epic. The reason that the fantasy genre exists. Mind blowingly fantastic. That is how I would describe this book. Not even for a second will you find yourself trudging through this book trying to get past a certain part. Instead, you will find yourself captivated with each chapter, paragraph, sentence, word. This is the absolute best example of the fantasy genre and the author is, by far, a stunning example to her peers. Grab this book, clear your schedule, and hold onto your seats as you drive into this richly woven tale of magic, adventure, love and above all, fighting for something greater than yourself.

"We are Winter." I've been waiting to get a hold of a copy of Snow Like Ashes for a while now. It took a little over a year but I finally made that happen. As such, I think it's the perfect book to review as a kick-off for 2016. This book is exactly what I crave in a YA fantasy novel. I've had it on my to-read list since before it was released. The synopsis alone was enough to catch my attention among the other fabulous young adult novels of the time. And what fantasy lover could resist this cover? You don't see chakrams very often as a weapon of choice, giving it that stand-out vibe. Sure, the cover shouldn't matter to the story but if I'm being perfectly honest, an intriguing cover is more likely to catch my attention in the store than a bland one. I think we all judge a book by its cover (quite literally) to an extent. Within the pretty picture, however, is an equally intriguing world: Primoria, the land of the four Season kindgoms, and the four Rhythm kingdoms. With country names like Winter,

Spring, Summer, and Autumn (and capital cities oddly similar to months), I expected a level of cheesiness. Instead, Raasch brought her A-game and provided a world steeped in history that we've only gotten a taste for in this first novel. There's magic afoot but not in the traditional sense of witches and wizards. I thought that giving it to only eight people was an interesting way to add the element to the story without making it a character in its own right, as magic can become. With great worldbuilding, I also have to hand it to Raasch on her writing. The pace moved a bit slow for my tastes but it soon didn't matter as I was swept away by the story and suddenly the slowness made all the more sense. Meira, a young orphan and member of the remaining refugees from Winter, had a level of feistiness I've come to love from YA heroines. She stood up for what she believed in, but also knew when to back down and do what was best for the situation (and not necessarily for her). That extra character trait endeared her to me throughout the whole novel. Her gang of fellow refugees helped set the stage of this fantasy by being as diverse as people generally are, something not always found in YA books, I've noticed. "Sir" acts as the leader, training and protecting what little remains of his former home. He always felt like the rock in their group, the glue holding everyone together and I think that's how Meira imagined him too. And then there's Mather, king-to-be and just about ready for his responsibilities as Meira is to be called a lady. His confusion read as, well, human and gave him that extra level of real-ness that I felt Meira had too. What I wasn't a fan of, however, was the insta-love. Okay, maybe not truly instant as it'd been brewing for years, but her Mather right from the get-go (only a few pages in and she's already commenting about him) was a bit too much. I like a good romance in my stories, don't get me wrong, but I also want time to crave two characters getting together before they do. That build typically entwines me into the story even more, as a reader, but this pushed me away initially. You'd think that she'd leave it at that, maybe let the two have their thing. But nope. Enter the dreaded love triangle. I was so disappointed by this. For all the great aspects of this book, this dropped it from 5 to 4 stars for me. I would've been okay if she and Theron had become friends because that's perfectly reasonable considering the situation they're placed in by the powers-that-be. And Meira's actions led me to believe that was the direction their relationship was heading, especially compared to how she acted around Mather. Up until the last fourth of the book, one heated encounter, and poof, Theron's in the game and even a little ahead of his competition. Where I get hung up on the whole matter is that I never got the impression that they were going to be a "thing" based on their interactions with each other. We get the Meira/Mather deal from the beginning but this goes from (almost forced) friendship into something much more. Despite this element of YA that plagues the genre, I truly enjoyed *Snow Like Ashes* and look forward to reading the sequel (fingers crossed that the library

gets it soon). Raasch provides an enchanting fantasy swirling with magic and war, with a hint of romance. I'm glad I finally got the chance to read it, and that it was the book to pull me from my most recent reading slump as an added bonus! Favorite Quotes "Don't you want more than this?" I breathe, finally looking up at him. [...] "Every day of my life." "Even the strongest blizzard starts with a single snowflake."

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