



Illusion

S.M. Boyce

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The final chapter in the war for Ourea ends with blood.

Kara Magari is an icon. A hero. The people love her. The royalty tolerates her. She has everything—an army, allies, and a close circle of chosen family. They believe she will end the war, and they shouldn't. She's as scared as they are. She just can't show it.

The war she accidentally started ends with a final battle that will either save or enslave her people. She will do anything to win—until she learns the cost of victory.

Braeden Drakonin is afraid of what he'll become when he takes over his father's kingdom—that much authority can change a man. But his father has already tried to kill him more than once, and it's time to end his reign. Braeden's armies are ready. His strategy is foolproof. His generals are waiting for the order to attack. It's only in the final seconds before the battle begins that he realizes he missed one crucial detail—the traitor.

Novels in the Grimoire Saga:

Lichgates (#1)

Treason (#2)

Heritage (#3)

Illusion (#4)

Illusion Details

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Author : S.M. Boyce

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From Reader Review Illusion for online ebook

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

I absolutely loved this series!!

The first book is a bit difficult to get into since there is a bunch of build up and learning who all the characters are but by the time the second book comes along....damn, I couldn't put this series down!

Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says

Review also posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

What started as accidental friendship on twitter turned into my love for this series. I have first entered Ourea 2 years ago and now sadly I'm leaving this world behind. It's been a hell of a ride and for that it will always remain in my memories and I'll get back there one day.

In the previous three book Lichgates, Treason and Heritage we have seen Kara's trip from first entering Ourea till the final battle that was scheduled for Illusion. From the first time she realized that she has a great power till the full blast of it. We have seen her grow. Not only Kara, but all characters in this saga. There is Braeden who learned how to embrace his past and live with it and as far as I'm concerned he will always be on of my book boyfriends. With all that a great villains, that make you scared even though your life is not endangered. That all lead to this final battle which was all but predictable.

I'm not going to tell you much about the plot here as it'd spoil a lot, but trust me when I tell you that each page was built with suspense, where I continued to read while biting my nails. Not to mention that I was so afraid because of that last sentence in the blurb as the traitor could be anyone.

Another thing I loved about this one is that finally all pieces fell into place and it all made a round and extremely complicated plot which you get to reveal piece by piece but at the end you have the whole puzzle without missing pieces. With all that the story never wavers, it's always on track.

All that with the amazing writing and lots of feelings. It's all I could ever ask for and then some. For that it'll have a special place in my heart. Forever.

Nevada says

It took me a while to really start this book because I didn't really want to commit to this series being over, and I knew that once I started it would be the beginning of the end. (Cliches are true for a reason.) Once I started though this book just pulled me along. You know how sometimes you go to the movies, and you're either running late or simply forget, but for some reason you don't go potty before it starts, and realize as soon as the movie starts that uh-oh you forgot to go potty and resolve to go as soon as the movie slows down, but the movie is so good that you don't ever get up because you don't want to miss anything so that by the end of the movie your bladder is about to explode? That is exactly how this book was. Sleep? Who needs

sleep when they have a kick-ass book to read? Work? Isn't that just another place to discreetly set-up my iphone and keep reading my ebook? One set of totally dry contacts, burning eyes, and a day of blowing off work and I'm done with all the requisite bittersweet feelings that accompany the end of a great book series.

I usually start my reviews with a quick synopsis of what the author did "wrong", or the things that bugged me, so that I can provide a balanced review but after 10 minutes of staring at my screen trying to come up with something and then moving on to the "good" things section, I'm still drawing a blank. So, dear readers, please forgive the gushing nature of this review, I promise it doesn't happen often.

After three books' worth of *burning* questions, such as (only spoilers if you haven't read the first three books, I promise): (view spoiler) I finally get my questions/concerns answered, and everything gets resolved in a way that is totally logical and makes perfect sense. No easy, convenient resolutions here, you gotta work for that conclusion! However, in true Boyce fashion, even her resolutions foster a raging curiosity and hope that the story and characters might live on in another few books down the road.

As this book is the conclusion to a four book series, I will quickly comment that when I read a series, I usually know who the good/bad guys are, who I like and dislike, by half-way through book 1 and then that's the way it stays for the rest of the series, but Boyce was an adept at creating new perceptions and characteristics of these characters.

I have truly enjoyed this series and would recommend it to anyone who likes well-planned plots, empathetic and relatable characters (including an actual heroine or 4), and a beautifully imagined and described world (I've heard talk of a pop-up book, and am super-excited about the rose cliffs, just sayin').

Malerie says

This book was amazing. I'm not going to give anything in my review, but I was more than satisfied with the ending. Like the rest of the series, I could not put this book down. The final development of the characters was fulfilling and the purposeful leaving some (minor) characters detail out was well balanced. The author is leaving room for these characters to develop elsewhere and I for one can not wait. If you've read the first three books, I have no idea how you could refrain from reading this. If you are on the fence about starting the series, you won't regret it.. personally, I envy you because you won't have to chew your fingernails off waiting to see what happens!!

Robert Zimmermann says

This might be the hardest review I've had to write so far in my reviewing "career". Illusion is book fourth of The Grimoire Saga, and I was both excited and sad to read this last book of the series. I've been following Kara, the main character, on her journey through the beautiful and dangerous world of Ourea since early 2012. After reading the first book, Lichgates, I knew I was hooked, but with each book that came out I was drawn in more and more. This is hands down my favorite book series, and S.M. Boyce will stay on my top authors list for years to come. I have no doubt about that.

I could do a close review of this, but I fear saying too much about the plot and outcome. So much happens in

this book to tie up the many loose ends that weave through this series. There is a long awaited epic battle, twists and turns, joy and dismay. This book has everything long time fans have felt the series building up to. To say that I'm pleased with the way the author ended things would be an understatement. It can't be easy to create a satisfying ending to an epic like The Grimoire Saga, but I felt it was the way it should all work out.

Boyce's writing continues to gain strength with each book, and Illusion is no exception. Her world of Ourea is just as complex and beautiful as when I first was thrown into it with Kara in the first book. Much of this book takes place in the Steleian Kingdom, a place we've only seen glimpses of before. I feel that even in the midst of the concluding battle, the kingdom was painted with a skill I've grown to admire. I also found it surprising when the story took on different character viewpoints. For most of this series, the chapters are from either Kara or Braeden's POV, with few exceptions. For reasons obvious to those reading the book, these two POVs would have limited a battle as big as what takes place in this book. What was the surprising part is that even with just a chapter or two from the POV of more minor characters (and more impressively from characters, the vagabonds, we know almost nothing about) the author was able to keep me in the story, develop that character in a short time, and get me invested in this part of the larger story. It was a change in style overall, but not a jarring or out-of-place change.

I could go on and on about how much I loved this book, and as a whole this series, but I'd rather leave it at what I've said already. I'm sad that the series is over. Happiness and sadness fell over me when I finished the last line, but isn't that what great books should do? There is a light at the end of the tunnel, as well. It's only about a year until fans of Ourea have to wait for a spin-off series The Ourean Chornicles. I'm looking forward to reading about some of my favorite characters in their own books.

Nikki Jefford says

Epic conclusion to the Grimoire Saga!

The characters are as beautiful and treacherous as Ourea itself.

Kara and Braeden break all fictional stereotypes. There's all the tension and attraction we love to experience when reading, but then there's something more. These two are true soul mates. It's shown in ways that transcends the everyday starry-eyed romantic couple. Their relationship represents real love with all its trials and tribulations.

The battle scenes were epic! I'd use another word so I don't repeat myself too much, but there simply isn't a decent substitute. This is the kind of fantasy I can't pull myself away from. The kind where the world is at stake and people must set aside their differences, work together and fight against all odds.

Boyce is the Queen of Scenes. Every moment of the book was masterfully executed.

The treachery. The intrigue. The insanely gorgeous imagery. The humor and romance!

I feel so much love for these characters – the good ones. The villains are pure evil and pure genius.

This is the kind of series I loved more with each book. If you haven't started it, I highly recommend starting at once—especially now that you can binge-read your way through the whole saga.

A grand achievement! I look forward to The Ourean Chronicles.

Daisey says

The Grimoire Saga is an incredible fantasy series, this final book included! Almost all of this final story revolves around the preparation for the final battle against the Stele and its allies, as well as the battle itself. There's plenty of drama, betrayal, and action, along with further development of the relationships between characters. There are characters you will love to hate and characters you will just love. I especially liked how the relationship between Kara and Braeden continued to change and grow. Yet again, as I got further into the story and the action, I found it nearly impossible to put the book down. In the end, I felt like this book provided a satisfying conclusion to the series that allowed me to know what happened to each of the major characters after the war and let me imagine how they will go on with their lives.

I highly recommend the Grimoire Saga (starting with Lichgates) for readers that enjoy creative world building in exciting fantasy stories.

* I received an electronic ARC of this book from the author for an honest review.

Becky says

First I need to let you know that I received an ARC. Having said that I want you to know that that had absolutely NO impact on my review. I am a Huge fan of S.M.Boyce and love her stories!

She really tied this end of the series book up in a wonderful bow. I was sad that this was the end but she did it so well that it just felt right. Boyce expertly included reminders of important happenings from the first three books, enough that I didn't need to go back and reread them to catch up. (Which was good because I was short on time.)

Her characters are loveable and hateable and believable and her scenes are very descriptive. The story flows along easily and is a pleasure to read. I have read books in the past that I have to force myself to keep reading, Not this one! When I got to the battles I was pleasantly surprised. (I'm not big on war scenes) They were so expertly written I couldn't put the book down, I had to get through them.

The end was well written also, nicely tied up and I loved the very last.

Well done Ms. Boyce, well done!!

Looking forward to your Ourean Chronicles Series!

Victoria says

Knowing me, this will probably be quite spoilery. So if you want to avoid spoilers, then scroll through it. This will probably be quite emotional, too, so prepare yourself for that.

I would like to start with the last sentence of my review about Heritage.

"Grimoire saga is asdfghjklöä. It´s an isen. It steals your soul, you live it, you breath it. It is a yakona trying

to survive it's Blood's commands. It is a vagabond bringing the readers peace and happiness. It is a dream with deforming a simple pages of writing into a masterpiece."

16.10

First three chapters

This is a special occasion, I feel like I am reading a gift, so it seems I should make my review just as special - or rather different.

So today I started thinking about the game capture the flag. I absolutely love this game. I use to play it when I was younger. I just really love, how this game is used in books, each and every author giving it their own touch

They played the game in Divergent by Veronica Roth, where they had some guns and stuff, of course in Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan, where there was a nice sword fighting. The game was mentioned in Akasha series by Terra Harmony. Each and every time some characters are having a competition of capture the flag I'm kind of on the edge of my seat. Who wins? What kind of game will it be? What, why, where...? I have to say this game in Illusion was the most interesting of them all to read. The fireballs flying, the let's-pretend-to-have-real-war seriousness. It was all just absolutely wonderfully perfect. And let's not forget Braeden's reaction to Kara losing her 'life'... (I said it will be spoilery, didn't I). Not to be too overly spoilive I will ONLY write out one quote from this interaction: "Almost all his happy memories involved her." Aaaaaah!!!! This sentence is so sad, so frustratingly cute and so pure. Braeden with his daru is not frightening to me - well, I sure as hell haven't experienced being near him when he has lost his calm, but I know what has gone through his mind at these moments. This time it was fear of losing her. All the males in J.R Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood get overprotective of their mates. This is not frightening. This is adorable. Braeden, I just wanted you to know, I am not afraid of you.

Anyway, this far, I am really enjoying the book. Kind of starting to become an emotional mess. I think we're not far from me starting to draw pictures depicting the scenes from the book again.

Ah right so moving on. Chapter 4 was absurdly cute. Not going to say any more about the ... cuteness of it. How could I express my opinions about this and not tell what THIS is about? I don't want to spoil everything. Oh, hell.

15.10

Chapter 5 - 6

"Even if we can never have children, I don't care."

Let's think about this for a sec, shall we? You are a Heir, quite certainly going to be a Blood. Your race depends on you to have a Heir someday. So if having children doesn't really matter . . . Maybe he hadn't thought about it. Maybe he didn't yet realise it. But how could Stelians survive without a Blood once Braeden, lets say dies from old age. So for him to say these words, even if he doesn't realize the debt of them, is huge. It's really huge. (Or will he use the same method that Aislynn did, giving the bloodline to someone else, when they can't have a child.....)

It is definitely time to go on a journey, somewhere Far, Dark and Dangerous, there are too many cute moments pushed together, we need a little more danger and heartbreak. Some excitement... Not that I mind the lovely Kara-Braeden moments... Karaeden moments... (OH!) Just that they are all too close to each other and there is no change, no development. It's a perfect static bliss, which writers usually don't write about - they are more intrigued about the itinerary into this state.

18.10

Chapters 7 - 17

I like Andor. First he refuses Deidre and then he agrees with the right side. I like that Stone likes him, too. That old isen is so unreadable, mysterious even, but he is never wrong. So if he thinks Andor should be left alive, then so be it. His wish is my command. I would probably follow him anywhere... Of course once it is established that he won't treat me as food. It's just that he has so much wisdom hidden in this rigid manner of his. Stone is like a grandfather, who has lived through a lot, has knowledge of everything and has had no one to share it with, which has turned him into somewhat a recluse. And now he doesn't know how to socialize correctly, so he is withdrawn and closed. But deep down I think he feels fondness to Kara and just doesn't want to or know how to show it. And he says he can't help her in the isen guild and is forced to look how she fights with much older and experienced isen. It can't be easy on him, either... At least I hope so! ("He leaned against the wall, one hand on his cheek as if the whole fight bored him.") I really damn hope he feels some kind of kind emotions towards her and is just really confident she can handle what is thrown at her, because if this facade of his isn't really a facade but a reality then I would personally slaughter him for putting Kara through this hell.

Kara is a little like Hulk. I'm really sorry for that assertion. But the way Hulk loses his control is similar to the way Agneon did and now Kara does without her wrist guard on. And well, there is also that green glow. Why is the green color associated with evil or bad (Slytherin house color was also green, just saying).

"An isen family protects its members. Once you're turned, you will always have someone watching your back. You will always have someone to avenge you."

Okay, going back to the calculations about Stone. If what Andor says about isen family is true, then I was right calling Stone grandfatherly, because well, they are a family now and he is much older and he is watching her back. "Stone once said she was like a daughter to him"

I like that sort of view on isen. At the beginning of the series they were such evil beings, hated by everyone, and now we can see the lighter side of them. Some of the family life came to light in Agneon's memories in Heritage, but that was just one family. Here there are thousands on isen who look after each other... Deidre is really bad example for that race. Niccoli was too.

"We are a threat because we are totally free."

Oh, wow, now I understand everything clearly. It is freedom they took away from people in Delirium by Lauren Oliver when they established their rules. It is freedom they took away in The Giver by Lois Lowry in the same method. It is freedom they took away in Shatter Me by Tahereh Mafi, and in the Hunger Games... Manipulations of the Big and Strong and Powerful. Because free people are a threat. They can think what they want, do what they want, be who they want to. And you can't control them. I absolutely love that sentence.

There is this talk about a traitor and I had a foggy memory from Heritage about Evelyn communicating with Carden., so I flipped through my book to find this part... And holy hell, if Evelyn is the traitor then everything is going to go downhill. At least there's a vagabond to watch her actions, though what could one girl do, when something goes seriously wrong. (later note: we did find out, didn't we?)

There were mentionings of Garret before, but I still wondered what happened to the drenowith... and Adele, because I really liked them, but I haven't "seen" neither of them basically since the incident with Aislynn. Anyway, the war is starting and at least one of them is showing himself. (later note: And the other one did too showed up, eventually)

19.10

Chapters 18 - Epilogue

Woah, this war is going to be tricky with Stelians being able to change forms and all....

Holy hell, holy hell, holy hellll.... And no spoilers coming, because I cannot do this to you guys. I need to calm down. Everything's going to be okay, it has to. Huh.

I like how the volunteering vagabonds have their own chapters in the book, so we could see what happens all over the Ourea. It also brings in more tension.

I just thought... What a perfect idea it was to use Ayavelian army as Stelians in the war game at the

beginning of the book... Because of... things.

You know I thought this would happen. In Heritage, when Braeden was almost dying and stuff and Deidre killed Carden, it was the perfect moment for it to happen... and then there's somewhat of a confirmation

And here comes the end. Which is satisfying. Even though it seems like a new beginning, not really an end and I want to know what happens next, but if John Green thought me something, it's not to grumble at unfinished endings. There isn't really a way to end good series. Something will always be left hanging in the air. (Like did Gavin ever forgive Evelyn, and did the girl change, and Garret and Adele, and all the vagabonds, and and and you know the little blossom on the tree) Will we ever now? Probably not and that's just the cruel truth of it.

Anyway, I really loved this book. Truth be told I have never really written such a long review before. Oh, and sorry about the spoilers.

Judi Easley says

My Disclaimer: I purchased this book for full price at Kindle Books. I am providing an honest review for which I am receiving no compensation of any kind. All opinions are fully my own.

~ Judi E. Easley for Blue Cat Review

My Review:

Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. I don't know who said that, but they were right. And in this series you see it happen over and over again. Ms. Boyce has done a wonderful job of showing it time and time again. In so many of the characters, the power has done terrible things to them. Destroyed them. Even the best of them have had to battle against the pull of the power. Look at what Braedon has gone through to overcome the pull of his power just while he is a prince. Imagine what being a Blood will be like for him. And for Kara with her grandfather's legacy awoken, she has to wear the wrist guard just to keep it in check. Even then she is incredibly powerful. If she weren't also incredibly good, she could be as awful as some of the monsters in Ourea.

We've come down to the last book. The days before the big battle. Braedon and Kara are desperate for some time alone. They want to cement their relationship before events can possibly tear them apart. Things never go quite the same when you mix a human into yakona rites. But Kara has something that's uniquely their own that will make up for it.

The allies know they have a traitor, but they've been so busy they have sort of forgotten about that as they draw near to battle time. Now, as they march off to meet the enemy it occurs to Braedon, who is it and how will they interfere? Well, of course, they find out in a big way.

Each Blood has been assigned one of Kara's people for communications. All the armies are in place. Timing

has been worked out for each to move. One by one the armies make their moves until the traitor makes a move that brings chaos to coordination. Can Kara, Braeden, and their forces counter the traitor's move? Will Braeden face his father and fight? And what comes after the war? Will there be peace? Who will be in charge?

Read this book, *Illusion*, Grimoire Saga #4, to find out the final answers.

This completes my requirement for the COYER Can You Read A Series In A Month Challenge June 2017

Amber says

My initial reaction to reading *Illusion* is that it was absolutely brilliant and exquisitely perfect! I can't tell you how long I have been waiting to go back to Ourea to find out what happens next to Kara, Braeden, and their allies. This story delivered exactly what I wanted and so much more! It was an intense and spell-binding journey that was laced with intrigue and filled with wonderful twists and surprising revelations. Nothing was missing from this incredible adventure, and it carried within it the heart and soul of a truly amazing writer that I have come to deeply cherish and greatly admire.

Kara and Braeden have come a long way in their pursuit of bringing a well-earned and hard fought peace to Ourea. They have won over a small band of allies as well as key rulers along the way. Throughout this heart-wrenching quest nothing was as it seemed. Long-standing alliances proved to be nothing more than smoke and mirrors and shocking revelations and sinister plots worked tirelessly to stop their every move. Yet throughout all of this, Kara and Braeden refused to back down from their ultimate goal of peace and freedom. However, trusting in the fragile alliances that they worked so hard to build may prove to be their greatest downfall. What they least expect could destroy everything that they have sacrificed and suffered for. All it takes is one traitor in their midst to destroy their house of cards and watch it fall helplessly around them.

The stunning characters found within these pages never ceased to amaze me. Just when you think you know them is about the time that they surprise you in a way that you would never have seen coming. This story flowed seamlessly and beautifully and the characters seemed to come alive at every turn. I suffered with their every heartache, shared in every joyous moment, and was shocked as each twist and turn rocked the foundations of their world. Kara and Braeden never ceased to amaze me at their resilience and determination in the face of stubborn pride, unthinkable treachery, and blatant hatred. Their long suffering in the name of love for their world, their friends, and each other never seemed to have an end. In their heart they knew that what they wanted to accomplish was dangerous, nearly impossible, and might cost them everything, but what sustained them was the knowledge that what they fought for was true, right, and pure. They would either accomplish their goal or die trying.

I have been utterly mesmerized by this truly mind-blowing series! S. M. Boyce has created an unforgettable story that is sure to sweep you off your feet and lay claim to your heart. You can't walk away from this series and not feel like you left a piece of yourself behind. The raw passion and heartfelt determination written into every word will slowly seep into your soul and bind you to these beautiful characters. The actions of one person can determine the course of an entire nation as is seen over and over in both Ourea as well as our own world. I hope that whatever you do and whatever you say will be done with careful thought, wrapped in love, and sealed with hope.

Sherry Hoernig says

Illusion

All I want to do is just type WOW!!! over, & over, & over. I don't know if I can find the words to do justice to this book. I know I said this in one of the previous reviews but Boyce has truly created a story for the ages. I rank her work right along side of Tolkien, or C.S Lewis, or if you would like a more recent author, JK Rowling, Christopher Panolini, Suzanne Collins, Stephanie Meyers...the list is endless. Her mind is so amazing, & I have absolutely loved the glimpse she has given us of the incredible worlds it has created. Illusion went way beyond my expectations, & completely satisfied the reader in me. And, believe me when I say that my expectations were very high!! The story was a wonderful culmination of all the books combined. It was full of action, adventure, betrayal, friendship, & romance. The characters in the book continued to grow & mature through each of their journeys. It was impossible to put the book down, & do the mundane things in life that needed doing. Even when I wasn't reading, my mind was caught up in the world of Ourea, it's people, & the struggles they faced as they worked to overcome the evil that inhabited Ourea, & make it a peaceful world. Boyce brought all the factors together beautifully, & gave us an ending that is wholly satisfying. As sad as I was to see the end of Kara & Braeden's story, I can't wait to explore future works by Boyce, and that includes the ones that aren't about Ourea.

If you haven't read any of the books in the Lichgates Series yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. I promise you will love them every bit as much as any other book you have read. Boyce, I thank you so very much for sharing this wonderful, incredible story w/us!!

Ada says

UM IS THIS THE BEST SERIES I HAVE EVER READ?

.....

UMMM I THINK IT IS!

This whole series was so amazing!

Let me just say that there was not a boring moment in this book!

My emotions would switch with every page I turned and I was like this the whole time:

And if anybody were to ask me if they should read this series here is my reaction:

"WHAT CHU WAITING FOR?"

Beverly Laude says

The final book in The Grimoire Saga is a bittersweet conclusion to a great series! I have been following this series through the 4 books & feel like I have lost a group of friends by having the Saga come to an end!

To fans of epic fantasy like Lord of the Rings, this is a great series! The world building, the characters, the story.....it is awesome! The author populates her world with wonderful creatures, great battle scenes & a little romance. You really love the good guys & really, really hate the bad guys (which is how it should be, right?)

This final book brings all the characters back for the big finale. All of the heroes, heroines & villains are back & the way the author ends this series is just great! I love the creatures that Ms. Boyce has created & wish that I had some as pets & others as transportation!

The narrator, Kara Kovacich Stewart, does an absolutely fantastic job! Her narration of this series adds a lot to an already wonderful story. Her variations in voices help you keep track of the many characters without being distracting. I love her voice & recommend her narrations to anybody who loves audiobooks.

All in all, I hate to see the series end....but I'm sure I will be visiting Ourea again someday!

Rose McGuire says

I received an e-book ARC of this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review.

The Grimoire Saga is a beautifully written story loaded with drama, betrayal, action, and romance. The fourth and last book in the series, Illusion, left off right where book 3, Heritage, ended. I'm not going to give anything away in this review. S.M. Boyce was a master at transporting this reader to the beautiful world of Ourea. It has been a great ride exploring the kingdoms and its people. Like the first three books I found it nearly impossible to put the book down to sleep. In the end, I felt like this book provided a very satisfying conclusion to the series. I love that she also left room for her characters to develop in other books. I can't wait to read what she has in store for us next!
