



## Rift

*Andrea Cremer*

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**Rift** Andrea Cremer

**Chronicling the rise of the Keepers, this is the stunning prequel to Andrea Cremer's internationally bestselling Nightshade trilogy!**

Sixteen-year-old Ember Morrow is promised to a group called Conatus after one of their healers saves her mother's life. Once she arrives, Ember finds joy in wielding swords, learning magic, and fighting the encroaching darkness loose in the world. She also finds herself falling in love with her mentor, the dashing, brooding, and powerful Barrow Hess. When the knights realize Eira, one of their leaders, is dabbling in dark magic, Ember and Barrow must choose whether to follow Eira into the nether realm or to pledge their lives to destroying her and her kind.

With action, adventure, magic, and tantalizing sensuality, this book is as fast-paced and breathtaking as the Nightshade novels.

## Rift Details

Date : Published August 7th 2012 by Philomel

ISBN : 9780399256134

Author : Andrea Cremer

Format : Hardcover 430 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Magic, Romance

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## From Reader Review Rift for online ebook

### Colleen Houck says

Loved this book! I was sort of expecting werewolves to come into play. They didn't but this is exceptional regardless. Loved Barrow. He's pretty darn dreamy. Love the weapons! Can't wait to move on to the next book! Warning, you're going to need the next one so you might as well just get it now.

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### Alice Liu says

For anyone who is worried that Rift is a derivative piece of work meant to capitalize on the success of Andrea Cremer's Nightshade series...No Worries! Rift stands alone as a book and the first in a what is hopefully a new series. Though it goes back into the deep history of the Keepers, Keepers aren't even mentioned. Instead it follows the adventures of Ember, a girl in the early fifteenth century Scottish Lowlands who struggles against the expectations of her class and sex to become a warrior in training against dark supernatural forces. This is made especially difficult as witch hunts are still common and women behaving out of social norms were still burned at the stake. What I liked most about Ember is that she is never reduced to self-pity or emotional outbursts that lead to rash action. She is willing to do the difficult work and make the necessary sacrifices. There is romance and fun romantic confusion, but Ember never allows it to sway her from her calling. I know it's tacky to compare books, but I couldn't help but be reminded of Rae Carson's Girl of Fire and Thorns, and Leigh Bardugo's Shadow and Bone. All three are historical paranormal fiction featuring strong female characters who are willing and able to make the hard choices that can lead them to a better life...even if that "better life" is merely being able to live with oneself and one's choices. There is a lot of action, and a lot of emotion running through Rift. Though fictional, there is a lot of truth to the times in which it is set. Rift ends on a different note by following another female character who makes a choice that changes the entire game, setting an entirely new adventure into motion.

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### Pete says

**Rift** is book 1 in the **Nightshade Prequel** , by **Andrea Cremer** who I truly liked in Nightshade series book 1.

A sword swinging and punching kick-ass gal main character is a **huge win** in my appreciation of Andrea Cremer. Oh, if only more authors would do this!

I loved Ember, who at birth was saved by a healer from Conatus, and subsequently was forced at the age of 16 to enter service to Conatus. She thwarted convention by doing this in face of her father's interest in how he could gain through an arranged marriage. A feminist before the times. ***These historic and current conventions are so irritating to me in gender inequality!*** Sorry, getting off soapbox. I don't blame the author.....

Other characters who were interesting are Barrow, Alistair, members of the Guard, The Circle, Keepers and Searchers. The world and character building was marvelous in this convoluted story of a spirited gal. Fans of historical fantasy, romance should definitely enjoy this prequel.

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## Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Well-rounded characters, a realistic history and culture, and writing like no other, Rift is a must-read for 2012.

Opening Sentence: Ember brought her sword down without warning and her aim was true.

The Review:

Andrea Cremer is back with Rift, the prequel to the Nightshade series. This time, she goes to the beginning of where it all started. Before the division of Guardians, Keepers, and the Searchers, there were the sisters Cian and Eira. In this historic world, only men fought the battles while women enriched their cultures at home. Young Ember Morrow has been promised to a group called the Conatus, fulfilling her father's vows from so long ago. But to Ember, it is not duty to be filled, but a calling to answer. For Ember, the call to become a warrior is strong, and becoming a Guard in Conatus is not tangible.

Perceptions of the group are unsure for outsiders, but for Ember and the rest of the Guard, it is an honor to cherish the secret. In a time where societal norms are ruled by males, and where expectations of sex and class are not only followed but adhered by, becoming a female warrior in training is unheard of. But Ember not only learns to keep this secret, but she also learns of new ones. There are dark and evil forces amidst the townspeople, some from another world and some unfathomable. But with the help of her mentor and the Guard, she becomes the warrior she has set out to be.

Ember Morrow is a strong and courageous heroine, someone who I quickly admired. From the first few pages, I loved her whole being and self-esteem. She has a set of values true to herself, knows her principles, she stands up for what she believes in. Ember has been called a warrior with a lot of talent and promise, and after reading Rift, I believe in her strength.

The Guard has several characters that you will love to hate and hate to love. Alistair is her childhood friend. He joins in her journey with the Guard and Conatus. Alistair loves Ember in a way that Ember doesn't. It brings complications and an overprotectiveness that is unwelcome. Lord Barrow Hart is a knight with all the glory that the title beholds. He becomes Ember's mentor, training her in the ways of the Guard and refining her natural talent and skills. Barrow earns Ember's trust and loyalty, paving way to an unbreakable friendship. The Guard, individually and collectively, act as a great supporting character. Individually, they provide ease and hardships to Ember's journey. Collectively, they provide a strength and companionship for Ember, who is so far away from the comforts of home.

Cian and Eira are the sisters who started it all. We finally see their story, the beginnings of the end. Together they rose from a hard life, and together they gathered their strength. Now a part of The Circle, they are seen as leaders. A difference in opinion causes a rift between the two sisters. One views a path of peace, while the other seeks retribution.

Set in the early fifteenth century, and taken place in the Scottish lowlands, Rift truly starts where the Nightshade series ended. Cremer has done a fantastic job weaving history and folklore within the pages of

Rift, something that she has always excelled at. The pages bleed with cultural details, so believable that their world could be true and real. Neither one knows what they are fighting, for the darkness and evils that attack are from a different world.

Cremer definitely brings the dark and mysterious with Rift. She brings a more aggressive tone in her writing and in her characters. It's very interesting to learn and understand more about the world and how everything started. Rift is definitely about a journey to a distant land and into a new place altogether. With well-rounded characters, a realistic history and culture, and writing like no other, Rift is a must-read for 2012.

Notable Scene:

Propping himself on one elbow, he reached out to brush a strand of auburn hair from her face. For a moment his fingers rested against her cheekbone.

“I’ll take that as a compliment,” she murmured, trying to catch her breath. She’d made an honest attempt to free herself, but now she couldn’t focus on anything but the length of Barrow’s body pressed against her. His face was very close to hers. She could see dark stubble beginning to peek out on his chin and jaw.

“It was meant to be one,” he said quietly, and went very still. Without warning he pushed himself up and stepped away from her. “I think that’s enough for today.”

Ember sat up, surprised by his sudden change in mood. He offered his hand to help her up but released her fingers the moment she was on her feet.

“I’ve kept something from you and I can’t continue to do so,” he said.

“What is it?” Ember asked warily.

“I wanted you to fight so you knew your strength, your inherent skills,” he said. “You are a warrior, Ember, don’t doubt that.”

FTC Advisory: Philomel/Penguin provided me with a copy of Rift. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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### **Giselle says**

A finished copy was provided by the publisher for review.

When Ember was being born, her life was about to be finished when someone from the Conatus helped her mother and her newborn self to live. In exchange for their life, Ember would be in debt to serve them on her sixteenth birthday. There she meets Barrow and finds herself being attracted to him. Her childhood friend Allistair is also a guard and seeks to help her in any way he can. Together they battle the evil that is leashed upon the world.

Barrow is your typical mysterious dark knight, and boy is he sexy. I don’t read many books that star a knight in shining armor, but I guess he’s the first one. He has this air of mystery and Ember never knows what he’s thinking which always frustrates her. I like Ember too. Strong-willed, smart, fast learner, stubborn, yet

beautiful, she's the girl next door with a kick-butt attitude.

I love these type of books where the girl can bring a guy down twice her size. It's empowering and it feels great to know that not every girl is a damsel in distress. Can I also say how much I enjoyed the world building? Set in Scotland, in a time where there's no technology, and ladies wore dresses, and men were gentleman, it was refreshing.

Now I know why Andrea Cremer's books are so beloved by all. She writes incredibly well. Detailed, and an intricate plot that makes you want more, I'm a fan all right. I can't wait for the second book. You'll know I'll be there at the store, buying it on release day, that's for sure.

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### **Anna says**

[ I predicted the Eira and Alistair thing. Just check my updates (hide spoiler)]

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### **Ceitidh says**

**Read more of my reviews at Dazzling Reads**

4.5 stars!! <33

### **Magic, Sword Fighting, Romance and Breathtaking Landscapes!**

As a fan of the Nightshade series, I was really excited for Andrea Cremer's new novel Rift. No need to mention that the fact that this is a prequel to one of my favorite paranormal series (even though the ending killed me) increased my excitement to a whole new level. Now, after turning the last page of Rift, I have to say that Andrea Cremer did it again! Rift is utterly fantastic and full of sword fighting, mythology, romance and a breathtaking setting that will leave readers highly satisfied and dying for the sequel!

Rift is about the ancient facts behind the Nightshade series. Facts that certainly deserved to be told on its own. This prequel is about the origin of the Keepers and how and why the ancient war that is spoken in the Nightshade series, happened. Rift is set on 1404 (A.D.) in the breathtaking Scottish highlands. Andrea Cremer couldn't have chosen a better and more fascinating place and time period to tell the story of the Keepers. The mythology, magic and breathtaking landscapes are just the tip of the iceberg of the wondrous world Cremer's created. In fact, Rift is full of action, romance, danger, and so much more!

Ember Morrow, the lead and kickass female character, is in training with the tall, strong and totally gorgeous Barrow Hess in order to become a female warrior. However, this female training is strictly secret, specially from the eyes of the church. Yet, Ember Morrow's blood runs with bravery and she is willing to face demons and death while walking the path of the warrior. Barrow Hess, as I previously mentioned, is training Amber in the arts of fighting, and then in the art of kissing. So readers should rest assured that there is a heart-racing romance in this novel. This is Andrea Cremer after all, and she knows extremely well how to write delicious and highly enticing love stories without overpowering the rest of the plot. This book is perfect!

Contrary to Nightshade's first person narration, Rift is told in third person and I loved it! I think this works

wonderfully and I felt it enhanced the atmosphere and feeling of this novel. The third person narration definitely gives a wider perspective of the story by providing insightful chapters about different characters and situations that happen at the same time as Ember's. The Warrior Sisters' chapters, for example, are highly important part of the story and history of the Keepers and I was absolutely intrigued by the story of these two powerful woman who play a major role in the ancient war.

With exhilarating adventures, swoon-worthy romance, sword fighting, magic and mythology, *Rift* is an fantastic prequel and addition to the international bestselling *Nightshade* series! Yet, it is very different and unique from the popular werewolves/wolves series. In fact, *Rift* shines with a bright, powerful and scorching hot flame on its own! Highly recommended!

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### **Alison says**

August 7 2012 *RIFT* (Nightshade Prequel 1)  
January 8 2013 *RISE* (Nightshade Prequel 2)

Wow! This was so much better than *Bloodrose*!

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### **Donna {Book Passion for Life} says**

I've followed Andrea Cremer's *Nightshade* Series from the beginning, so when I first hear about *Rift* – the prequel to *Nightshade*, I knew I wanted to read it. I adore everything about Andrea's work, her style of writing, her unique storyline's and I love that she's not afraid to take risks with her stories too. And if I had to sum *Rift* up into one word, it would be FANTASTIC!

Ember Morrows is a sixteen-year old girl who is suffocated by her father's rules to be married off at a young age. So when she's called to fulfil a family obligation to join the Conatus Guard, she is more than thrilled to be away from her father's strict rules. Once there, Ember is trained as a guard to help fight the evil in the world, but when one of her leaders starts dabbling in dark magic Ember must choose which side she's on.

While diving into *Rift* I have to admit, I knew it would be good but I didn't know what to expect. With story pre-dating *Nightshade*, it's based in the early fifteenth century so it did take a few chapters to get into this new world and the style of writing, but once I got past them first few chapters it became a great read. I really enjoyed that this was a historical paranormal read but there are only a hint of paranormal through-out the book, mainly because to start with, the story focuses on Ember's journey and her discovery of this new world. It was quite slow paced but that didn't stop me from enjoying it. The real excitement comes near the end because we start to see the paranormal aspect in full force and with the return of Bosque Mar; well you can only imagine what he's been getting up too.

The characters are completely different to those who are in *Nightshade* and as much as I loved them characters, it was nice for Andrea to create a whole new set of characters that were just as unique and made them stand out on their own.

Ember is a strong, determined and a courageous young girl, she wants to throw herself into the firing line and help stop the evil of the world. She isn't what her father wants her to be and her boyish qualities are frowned

upon by him. But with the guard, she can be who she wants to be and take charge of her future. Barrow - I love him. He's the strong silence type, broody and always tries to do right, he helps Ember become the guard she needs to be. He fights his attraction for her for many reasons, but love over rules all, and he's soon falling for her. I loved that he was willing to protect Ember from the start, even though she is capable of looking after herself, he still wants to be there for her. Their relationship isn't a key role in this book, it's not until the end that we see it so I'm hoping with *Rise*; book two, we will see more of it. The secondary characters were also great. There are many laughs with them which brings the humour into the story. Some of them like Sorcha and Lucasz quickly became my favourites.

Andrea Cremer has done a fantastic job creating a whole new setting for *Rift* and not only that but writing this book really shows the talent she has as an author. *Rift* is not a book without detail and Andrea really captures the setting well. I can't wait to see what she writes next.

**A big thank you to Atom for giving me the opportunity to review this book.**

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### **hayden says**

Can't wait for this! Just requested an ARC (although I'm probably not going to get it). But I can still hope, right?

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### **Liviania says**

Andrea Cremer is in a tricky position with *RIFT*. Those who read the original trilogy know exactly where things are going. But new readers, like protagonist Ember, are new to this world. Cremer must try to satisfy both sets of readers.

Ember is a noblewoman pledged to Conatus since one of their healers saved her and her mother during a difficult birth. She's perfectly happy to join the monastic order, but her father would prefer to marry her off in order to forge an alliance. But Conatus is not any old order. The members secretly fight against witches whose dark magic imperils the entire world. And one of the highest ranked members, Eira, is being tempted by that magic.

I enjoyed that there wasn't a love triangle in *RIFT*. There are two guys in Ember's life, but one she's actively pursuing and the other doesn't understand the word no. I don't consider that a love triangle, although some might. It's a scarily realistic part of the book, relevant to issues today despite being set in medieval times. Alistair is the ultimate Nice Guy.\* While there is nothing wrong with being nice, Nice Guys think that being a girl's friend entitles them to have sex with her. Since Ember tries to remain his friend after shooting him down, Alistair still thinks he has a chance and doesn't back off. It's classic creeper behavior and I wish it weren't so recognizable.

But I do wish we got a little less of Ember learning to use her weapons and hanging out with Barrow and Alistair. *Nightshade* trilogy readers might already know about Eira and her twin Cian, but they're still the most interesting figures in the story. They're the people who go down in history. But despite having a few

chapters through their points of view, they remain ciphers. Eira is motivated by power. Cian not so much, since she doesn't go along with her sister. I also wonder whether Ember's sister will show up in RISE. The beginning half of the book teases her secrets, but she disappears completely after leaving Ember with Conatus.

Cremer's fans will enjoy RIFT. Like NIGHTSHADE and its two sequels, it has a dynamic heroine, an intriguing and consistent world, and good action scenes. The medieval setting is well researched and provides a nice change. Most of the main characters are progressive thinkers, but the thoughts of the world outside of Conatus seem in line with the times. Ember is religious, as usual for a woman of her time, even if she does want to learn to be a warrior.

Cremer is in a tricky position, but RIFT is a pageturner that should satisfy both old and new fans.

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### **Mariya says**

*He drew a shuddering breath. "I thought myself strong, but discover I am weak as the next man. Perhaps weaker." "And if I wish to give what you ask," she whispered. "What then?" He bent down, brushing his lips over her forehead, the bridge of her nose.*

After the horrifying ending of *Andrea Cremer's Bloodrose*, I have been a bit terrified to even read another one of her books. Come release day of **RIFT** I didn't realize how excited I was for it. I thought I'd give her one more chance since she is one of the few YA authors that have the power of blowing me away! Well, guess what? She blew me away again! **RIFT** has got to be one of the best YA books of the year! I sat reading this baby for a day and a half unable to put it down. My butt was seriously glued to my bed!

*She cupped the pendant in her hand. It was rimmed with gold, its surface delicately carved to reveal a rose crossed by two swords. Alistair leaned over her shoulders. "The Bloodrose it represents the love and sacrifice required of a true warrior."*

**RIFT** is a prequel about the origin of the Keepers in *Nightshade*. It takes place in 1404 A.D., which is one of my favorite times because it is the time of those yummy sexy hottie scotties! **RIFT** is the story of Ember Morrow in training to become a guard with, the sexy and desirable, Barrow Hess mentoring her. There is much evil and deception and betrayal in **RIFT** that makes you hold your breath. Oh, and a whole set of wonderful characters you fall in love with! I loved Ember! She was strong-willed and stubborn and eager to fight on the battle field! She is a natural warrior and look forward seeing her grow more as a character!

*Ember pulled his face to hers, kissing him again before she said, "Your strength gives me courage." He smiled gently. "No, Ember, that is all your strength and none of mine." She balked, but he kissed her, murmuring against her lips, "And that is why I love you."*

Barrow Hess. Nuff said. He reminds me of *Dimitri* from *Richelle Mead's Vampire Academy* in a way and I think that is one reason why I am so in love with him. Barrow is loyal, strong, sexy & hot, and my god. I love him! He doesn't quite turn into a love interest until almost the end and I really enjoyed Barrow and Ember's relationship just developing into something. No rush! But when it does turn into something. Oh. my. god. They have such sweet and tender moments that made me want to melt. I just needed more! I look forward to seeing their relationship develop more in the next book!

*Breathing hard, Ember looked up into his face. He wore that infuriating expression of being on the verge of laughter. "You're supposed to be teaching me," she said. "Not enjoying yourself." "I believe I can do both." He smiled.*

We have so many fun characters! Kael, Alistair, Lukasz, and Sorcha who are apart of the guard and I have a place in my heart for all of them! I would say that the evil that took place and who being responsible for bad stuff happening was predictable before it happened. Love triangle? We may have one in the next book. We'll see. And here is where I conclude my thoughts! I adored **RIFT** and I am both excited and terrified for the next book, *Rise*. And with *Andrea Cremer's* books you just can't help to be a little terrified, because you never know what she's going to do or who she's going to kill!

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## Marie says

### *Before:*

I've heard good things about this. And although **I HAVE IN NO WAY FORGIVEN MISS CREMER** I am willing to give this a shot.

If this however turns out anything like bloodrose in which she kills of one of the main and awesome characters- that really does signal the end of her in my world.

In this im hoping for a charachter exactly like Ren and where the heroin falls madly in love with him and they live happily ever after- yeah yeah, probably not how it's going to go, but I can dream right?

I just want this to be good because if bloodrose never existed I loved the nightshade series.

### *After:*

Honestly? It wasn't bad but I don't know what all the hype is about because it's not that good either. As I said before I have in no way forgiven Andrea for bloodrose and it was going to take a whole lot of impressing to do to win me round and this book did not do it. It didn't have me grovelling to find out what happened at the end, it didn't make me fall in love with the charachters because I did not bond or feel anything for them. Maybe I have trust issues now. I mean I loved Ren from nightshade and look what that got me.. A broken heart. I don't think I will ever be an Andrea Cremer fan. She lost me the moment I read bloodrose.

I don't know if I didn't like this because I don't like Cremer or maybe because I don't want to admit I like it because it's her book. But all I know is I found this boring and a lacking a whole lot.

Im not going to say don't read this because I may be biased in the fact that I will always resent her for what she did to Ren in the nightshade series.

But I did not like this and I will never. Ever. EVER. Read a book by her again.

I gave her a second chance to win me over and although that might have been near goddamned impossible I did try to have an open mind when reading this and this is my honest to god oppinion. This book just did not do it for me.

Ember is OK. But the story just wasn't captivating. The charachters bland. And the story too long.

Not worth the effort.

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### **Jana says**

Also on: <http://jana-thebookgoddess.blogspot.com>...

Most of you know how much I HATED the ending of the Nightshade series, Bloodrose. So now you're wondering why the hell I'm reading another one of Andrea's novels AND why I'm even bothering with the prequel. My answer - I loved the world Andrea's created in Nightshade, and I was more than interested to see how it all began in this prequel. In the end, the Nightshade series is still better, but this was a very enjoyable and unputdownable read.

What I really like about RIFT was the main character Ember. Thank God she wasn't some whiny snobby bitch like Calla (from Nightshade). Ember's brave, intelligent, and just downright awesome. She's a perfect example of a fierce heroine. And it's not just Ember. What makes me love Andrea's novels is that she always makes me feel for each and everyone of her characters. I laugh with them, I cry with them, I kinda want to slap some of them. Even the minor characters all triggered an emotional response from me. And can I just say how much I love Kael? He's just Ember's friend but he is by far my favourite; he's funny and charming. Anyway, Barrow (the love interest) reminded me so much of Dimitri from VA. Which isn't really a negative thing, just something that I noticed. So if you fell in love with Dimitri (well, who hasn't?), then I think you'll swoon over this knight.

At the start of the book, I thought there would be a love triangle. BUT. It's pretty obvious from the start who Ember likes. The other one was just there. And I kinda understand why he did what he did at the end (I won't say no more - spoilers). Though I still freaking hate him. Anyway, another one of Andrea's strongest points are her kissing/lovey scenes. She just knows how to write a good hot sexy scene. And I can't wait for RISE, just saying ;).

What brought down this to a four star rating was probably the language and writing. That's not to say the writing wasn't gorgeous (it is!) but I just found it too formal and people like me just get bored easily and lose interest. The way she described the setting was just so long and boring. But I did appreciate her world building and fighting scenes.

I wish authors would do prequel series more. I loved this prequel to Nightshade series and also the The Infernal Devices by Cassie Clare. It just makes the story far more special in my opinion. Though I do think that even if you haven't read the Nightshade series, you can and will be able to understand this.

Overall, RIFT is a highly creative sequel with bad ass characters that I'm sure you'll fall in love with just as much as Nightshade.

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### **Angela says**

***Strong protagonist, action, and romance combine for solid read, 3.5 stars***

In *Rift*, the prequel to Andrea Cremer's *Nightshade* series, readers get a glimpse into the origins of the Keepers and the Witches War of the 15th century. The daughter of a noble, Ember Morrow must leave her family after her 16th birthday to serve the mysterious order of Conatus. Though most fear the knights, Ember readily embraces the life of battle and purpose the order provides. Once training begins, she finds not only her skills tested, but also her wit and her heart. Dark powers soon start to infiltrate the group, and Ember must decide where and with whom her allegiances lie.

Though I had a rocky relationship with Cremer's other *Nightshade* books, I really enjoyed *Rift* once I got past some slow parts in the beginning. Ember was an able and spirited protagonist with a strong sense of self. Though a bit reckless at times, she doesn't complain or expect others to rescue her. Action scenes were well-described and plentiful, and the author's prose painted beautiful images of the Scottish highlands cloaked in gray fog. The slow-building romance was another highlight with its swoon-worthy love interest who was both strong and masculine but also considerate and effusive. Even though it's a prequel, *Rift* can also be read on its own as the satisfying start to a new series, and the story ends in a place where a reader can look forward to the next installment without being left on a terrible cliffhanger.

As mentioned, *Rift* was slow to start, however, and I felt bogged down during the first 100 pages by some character interactions and historical information that wasn't always clearly explained. Ember became too adept as a knight too quickly to be believable, and the romance blossomed from little sparks to full devotion in too short of a time near the end to feel truly natural. The story line about the split within Conatus also wasn't nearly as engaging as hoped, and I found myself rushing through those sections to get back to Ember's story. Overall, the story just felt a bit light on content where there could have been more development.

While I might have found a few stumbling points, *Rift* is the best thing I've read by Andrea Cremer, and I'm already looking forward to the sequel (*Rise*). In it, I hope Cremer develops the swoony romance even more and provides greater tension to the emerging story about the split that leads to the Witches War.

Note: This review refers to an advance review copy.

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