



Against a Brightening Sky

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A ghost princess and a woman with nothing but a name to her fortune might change the course of history.

By 1919 the Great War has ended, peace talks are under way in Paris, and the world has been forever changed. Delia Martin, apprentice practitioner of magical arts, and her husband, Police Captain Gabriel Ryan, face the greatest challenge of their lives when fragments from the war descend on San Francisco.

As Delia prepares to meet friends at a St. Patrick's Day parade, the strange ghost of a European princess appears in her mirror. Her pleasant outing becomes a nightmare as the ghost reappears moments after a riot starts, warning her as a rooftop gunman begins shooting into the crowd. Delia rushes to get her friends to safety, and Gabe struggles to stop the killing—and to save himself.

Delia and Gabe realize all the chaos and bloodshed had one purpose—to flush Alina from hiding, a young woman with no memory of anything but her name.

As Delia works to discover how the princess ghost's secrets connect to this mysterious young woman, and Gabe tracks a ruthless killer around his city, they find all the answers hinge on two questions: Who is Alina...and why can't she remember?

Against a Brightening Sky is the thrilling conclusion to Moyer's glittering historical fantasy series.

Against a Brightening Sky Details

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Author : Jaime Lee Moyer

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From Reader Review Against a Brightening Sky for online ebook

? Kimberly says

Against the Brightening Sky takes place in the early spring of 1919. Delia awakens to find the spirit of a young princess in her bedroom, but she and Gabe have plans with their friends Jack and Stella, so she decides to deal with her later. The group of them along with Jack and Sadie's children are attending the San Francisco St Patrick's parade. Things quickly turn into a nightmare when a riot breaks out and gunmen began shooting. After the dust settles, Gabe soon realizes the intended target was a young woman names Alina. Together with the aid of their friends, they must stop a killer and protected a young woman's future.

Moyer writes delicious murder mysteries wrapped in paranormal woo-woo. Against a Brightening Sky weaved in elements of the BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION: 1917. Those events tie into an increase in murders involving Russian immigrants in the city and surrounding areas. These directly tie to the princess spirit and Alina. I love when authors weave in historical events and people into their fictional tales. Moyers' paranormal spin had me flipping the pages and increased the suspense through the telling of this story. I am well versed in their history and find this period both dark and fascinating. Darker paranormal entities, possessions and necromancy are all a part of the supernatural presence surrounding the story.

While Gabe is working the case, Delia and Isadora are dealing with the supernatural elements. I absolutely loved the growth in Delia. She may still have more to learn from Isadora, but she has transformed from frightened student to practitioner. We see growth in Dora (Isadora) and even with Gabe. Gabe is really beginning to understand his supernatural intuition and has learned to trust these feelings.

Moyer weaved a tight case giving us plenty of suspects, murders, procedural details and lots of eerie paranormal woo-woo. We learn about the princess ghost and her tie to Alina through Delia's dreams. It was clever and I craved them almost as much as the rest of the story. A unique and rare entity aided Delia. Descriptions of the creature and its purpose as protector were fascinating. I of course wanted more details. I felt the wrap up of the case was a little rushed, and naturally, I wanted more time with these characters.

Side threads about characters, a budding romance and new characters like Chicago Police officer Jordan Lynch all added depth and familiarity to the story. Honestly I am so sadden this is the last Delia Martin book. I would have been perfectly content to continue solving mysteries and exploring paranormal elements with these characters. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Heidi says

Four stars: A ghostly blend of paranormal and history.

Delia, her husband, Gabe, along with her best friend, Stella, and her family are all headed to downtown San Francisco for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Everyone is looking forward to the event as spring has brought the end of the war and peace. Quickly, the lovely afternoon takes a deadly turn when a nightmarish riot breaks out. Two gunmen begin shooting innocent bystanders, and then an explosion knocks everyone off their feet. Luckily, Delia is able to get her friends to safety, where they later reunite with their husbands. After the dust settles, Delia and Gabe learn that the deadly riot and shooting appeared to have a specific target. They were aimed at a young lady, Alina. On the morning of the shooting, a new ghost appeared to Delia, a princess

ghost, and she seems to be connected to the mysterious Alina. Who is Alina and why does someone want her dead? Can the ghost help Delia uncover the truth?

What I Liked:

*Once again, I was delighted to be transported back to San Francisco in the early twentieth century. Ms. Moyer takes the reader back to a bygone era where she adds paranormal to history. I love the historical setting as well as all the ghosts. If you are a fan of paranormal/ historical mysteries, this is a must read series.

*At the heart of the series is Delia Ryan. Delia has grown dramatically over the last three books. This installment finds Delia much more capable of dealing with ghosts. No longer does she shirk in fear at the appearance of ghostly visages. Thanks to the lessons she received from her good friend, Isadora Bobbet, Delia has become skilled at dealing with the paranormal, and in fact in this book, she shows extreme courage and fortitude in tackling all the paranormal that is thrown in her path. I am pleased with Delia's growth, and I am liking watching her deal with the ghosts.

*Speaking of Isadora, she is evolving as well. She remains one of the most fascinating characters of the series. Dora is glitz and glamour, as well as being extremely versed in all things supernatural. I love seeing Dora handle the ghosts, and I am pleased with how she is changing.

*Gabe is also transforming. He has supernatural inklings, and I am liking the way he is opening up and starting to sharpen and trust his paranormal instincts.

*I enjoyed Jordan Lynch, an African American, Chicago policeman, who comes to San Francisco and ends up aiding Gabe with the case. I am hoping that he will continue to be in the series as I enjoyed his character.

*The mystery in this one is taken from actual events that occurred in Russia during this time period. I won't go into too much detail here as I don't want to spoil it, but I was excited to uncover the truth about the princess ghosts and see how everything fit together. I admit, though, that I don't know too much about the Bolshevik Revolution that occurred in Russia in 1918, so after reading this, I did some research. I loved how Ms. Moyer provided her own paranormal spin on history.

*What makes this series stand out is the era and the setting. I love the San Francisco setting. San Francisco is always bustling with ghosts, especially since the Great Earthquake. With its eerie fog and history, it is the perfect backdrop for the series. I also like the time frame. With each and every book, I learn more about the events of the era, and I love how Ms. Moyer manages to blend history with the paranormal.

*The ending, though a bit fast, brings the book to a nice, neat resolution. All the main story lines are brought to a close, and there aren't any nagging questions. I like that this series refrains from cliffhangers and open endings. I am more than eager, though, for the next book.

And The Not So Much:

*The main mystery of this book centers around the Bolshevik Revolution that occurred in Russia during 1918. If you are like me, and you have little knowledge on the actual historical events, you might be a bit lost. I wish that the author had taken a bit more time to include details about the Revolution, especially regarding the family that the book focuses on. I would even go so far as to put in an author's note at the end discussing her inspiration for using the family and so forth, because once I started digging, there was some interesting and fascinating facts, and I could see why Ms. Moyer decided to go with the sister that she did instead of the more popular choice. I highly recommend doing your own research on the Bolshevik Revolution while reading this one.

*The ending was fast and a bit abrupt in comparison to the rest of the story. I wish that the author had taken a bit more time on those final pages after the confrontation. A lot happens in those last three pages, and it felt a bit too hurried for my taste. I also thought the big final show down with the necromancer was a bit anti climactic. I was expecting more, it seemed almost too easy.

*Without giving away spoilers, there was a supernatural creature involved that ended up aiding Delia. I was left wanting to know so much more about this entity. How it came to be a protector, where it lived, how it communicated with Delia and so forth. This part of the story could use a bit more depth and detail.

*I was left uncertain how the necromancer was able to take the face of living humans? Furthermore, there were several things about the necromancer that weren't clear, such as how he came into his powers, and how

long he had been around.

Against a Brightening Sky is a terrific entry into the Delia Martin Series. I loved the way Ms. Moyer took a famous case from history and gave it her own supernatural twist. It made for a fascinating and entertaining read. I love the setting, the era, the ghosts and the characters in this series. This is a unique series that blends history with ghosts. I highly recommend The Delia Martin Series to anyone who enjoys paranormal historical fiction. I am a big fan of this series, and I am very much looking forward to the next book.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review, all opinions are my own and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

Chrissy says

Love these historical, supernatural mysteries.

Beth Cato says

I'm sad that this is the final book of this series, which artfully blends historical mystery with ghosts and magic. Moyers captured a pivotal time of history against a backdrop of the scarred, haunted city of San Francisco. Delia is a smart, savvy heroine who sees ghosts. Her husband is a police captain. Their two perspectives intertwine nicely--they make excellent partners as they solve mysteries. In this case, San Francisco is plagued by supernaturally-flavored mayhem and murders that are clearly connected to Russian refugees fleeing the bloody revolution overseas. Delia deals with a very regal ghost who says a great deal while saying nothing. The novel confronts darkness without getting too mired in it; this is a fast, cozy read, perfect to accompany tea and cat cuddles at bedtime. At least, that's what I did.

M.L. Brennan says

I love what Jaime Lee Moyer is doing in historical fantasy. Ghost-hunting mediums meet Russian princesses in hiding meet evil Bolshevik necromancers meet union organizers. There are the elements of a hard-bitten police procedural here, as well as a strong emotional core to characters. One thing that always impresses me about Moyer's work is how very adult her characters are -- both in relationships between friends and in romantic partners balancing trust in each other's competence with fear for the other's safety. This was a fantastic entry to the Delia Martin series.

Melody says

The Bolsheviks have come to America after The Great War to finish off any royalty or aristocrats who

escaped. They are killed by the dozens, perhaps by the hundreds. But one life is saved.

Helen says

Solid nice book. I felt that the author could use a little bit of work with her character growth and interactions between characters. However, I loved reading the little things about SF that I didn't know. The city is clearly well researched.

Sarah says

As another chapter in the saga of Delia Martin Ryan and family, this book excels. It's a gripping story that doesn't let you go. However, as a conclusion to the series? Dismal failure.

As usual, Moyer knows how to tell a gripping story. I loved all the new bits she included from the supernatural: how the ability to see ghosts manifested in a child, how the powers of a necromancer interacted with Delia's and Dora's abilities, and the strengthening of Delia overall in her abilities and confidence using them. Seeing her grow as a supernatural user and face off with a truly terrifying entity kept me enthralled.

I loved the historical background to the story as well as the crime fighting parts (though those were in lesser evidence than previous volumes). Using the Russian Revolution and the assassination of the tsar's family tied in very well with the overall aura of the time period with the bubbling fervent feelings of revolution, anarchy, and change. The author also incorporates fantastic period details to make her setting come to life like the eerie San Francisco fog, period speedster cars, and the era's fascination with Spiritualism.

Her characters also continue to shine. Delia's growing confidence and courage in facing ghosts and supernatural entities, both enemies and allies, is always a treat. I love her with Gabe. His strengths in observance of details and putting all the pieces together continue to be a joy to read. His growing awareness of his own supernatural inclinations was also a nice change.

I also enjoyed the secondary characters, especially the ones that were introduced in this volume. Jordan was a special favorite. I loved seeing how he didn't let prejudice influence his sense of dignity and justice; he did what the job required so that the victims of crime could have justice. I loved the window that his character provided into the world of police and how people of color were treated back then.

The only problem I have with this book was it being touted as a "conclusion". It in no way reads as such. This is just another chapter in the life of Delia and allies as they battle the evil supernatural influences that seem to gravitate to early 20th century San Francisco. There is no wrapping up of overall story threads; the author even introduces some such threads in this volume, the last book in the series.

So there is no real closure as we say goodbye to these characters. I'm going to be very sad to see Delia and company go. I enjoyed her adventures every October; it was one of the things I looked forward to for the past few years. I can only hope that maybe the author is going to pursue a series about Dora?? If that's the case, sign me up for that waitlist!!! I'd love a series about her.

A great addition to the series, this volume will keep you engaged with a gripping story, great characters, and

wonderful supernatural additions. While this doesn't read as a conclusion, it still stands as a great book under its own merits. I'll be sad to see this series go, but here's hoping the author intends to write one about Dora, 'cause I'll be there with bells on. Still a recommends volume for those who love historical supernatural mysteries.

C.P. Cabaniss says

It's been a while since I read the first two books in this trilogy, so I was a bit rusty on some of the details of past events and characters, but this was an extremely good book. It's a mix of historic fiction, fantasy, and detective story. And it's so much fun.

The characters here are great. I love how the story is told from both Delia and Gabe (one in first person and one in third) and the interactions with Dora, Sadie, Jack, Randy, Sam, and the rest of the cast of characters were excellent. I liked the addition of Jordan and how this added an extra touch about the time period.

Great read. A more thoughtful review will be up on my blog. This one is a bit scattered.

Jessica Strider says

Pros: interesting murder mystery, wonderful relationships

Cons:

The year is 1919 and a riot and explosions rock San Francisco's St Patrick's Day parade, the perpetrators targeting a young woman in the crowd. Captain Gabe Ryon tries to figure out the connection between the attack and the growing number of murdered Russian immigrants. Meanwhile his wife, Delia, is haunted by the ghost of a European princess.

The novel is split between Gabe and Delia's efforts to understand what's happening and stop the murders. It's great seeing how the investigation covers both procedural and spiritualist methods. The mystery is intense, with a lot of twists.

It's a real joy seeing a book that has several loving couples and deep friendships. While you can read this book independently of the previous two in the series (Delia's Shadow and A Barricade in Hell), you've definitely got a deeper sense of the relationships and how the characters have come to trust and rely on each other if you've read the other books.

Perhaps that's why the books, though dealing with disturbing subject matter, leave one with a feeling of positivity. There's a good amount of death and darkness, but the stories read more like cosy mysteries than hardboiled detective fiction.

It's a fast paced book that makes good use of an interesting time and setting. This is a series I highly recommend.

Cher Staite says

I didn't even get half way through this book because I found it infantile and insulting and full of misguided misinformation of the negative evil voodoo variety. Yes, I realize it is 'just a silly story' coming some young woman's distorted negative perspective but I refuse to cater to the "all spirits are evil and all magic is bad" garden variety bandwagon.

I know for a fact, that most spirits of those who have passed are perfectly lovely and loving and helpful angels looking after and over their loved ones from a different plane of consciousness. I know for a fact that 99% of all magic is not evil unless performed by the rare evil person and the vast majority of Wiccans are pure of heart and intention.

Beth Roberts says

True rating: 4.5 stars. This poor book and I have had quite an adventure together. It was a library eloan I was only about 20% through when my Kindle developed feet and walked away at work a month or so ago. Naturally, I was devastated.

Then, I had to wait until my turn came up again for a renewal. Fortunately, only one person was ahead of me, but it was still a 2 week wait.

Long enough to cause a rift in the storyline, to say the least, and to forget some of the finer details. I am a one-book-at-a-time girl and this has caused me to have three on the go at once. I hate that.

Anyway, it does not in ANY way detract from what I want to say about Jaime Lee Moyer's fine trilogy. The fact that she's a Texas girl only makes me admire her more.

The Delia Ryan series has been top-notch from the first book. The research has been extensive, the characters likeable and believable. The setting and place thorough. Usually, by the third and/or final book in a series, I'm pretty much done with it. Maybe I've enjoyed the journey, but by the end book, we're both pretty much done with each other.

No so in this case, and I am very sorry to see this series end. From the beginning, it has earned high marks from me, both in terms of writing and presentation. (Those covers are just gorgeous!) This last book is by far my favorite and that definitely is not usual with me.

What is there not to love about this book? The story parallels the Bolshevik Revolution and the missing princess Anastasia. So many ghosts! I have loved so many of the characters, not the least of which is the "watcher" dragon for the Russian empire, right down to the little Asian protector cat, Mai.

I don't want to reveal any spoilers. You should know I am not really a huge historical fiction fan, but these books are truly amazing. In order to get the full impact, you should read the trilogy from the beginning. I hope Jaime Lee Moyer has some ideas in the works, because I am very much looking forward to reading more from her!

Melissa says

This is a series that should be read in order for the characterization. You can skip the second book, but at least read the first book before diving into this one. I think you would be frustrated with not knowing as much about the characters as someone who has read in order.

This is said to be the last book, but when everything is over, it doesn't quite feel complete and that more could be explored in this world. There is so much life left to be explored for Delia and Gabe. I sincerely hope that this is not the last for this series. We also get a bit more of Dora, her best friend because the mystery also involves her past. It also involves the mystery of the Royal family during the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. It was an interesting inclusion to the mystery and it fit well with the paranormal abilities of Delia.

In the end we do get a full conclusion to a few of the introduced secondary characters stories. While that felt solid it also felt a bit too quickly wrapped up. In addition, I would have liked to know much more about the necromancer who was after the tsar and his whole family. Even though I felt these things were weaknesses, it also didn't take away from the larger mystery at hand for our characters.

I give this book 4 stars. While I enjoyed the mystery and our main characters we have followed from book one I also enjoyed the new introduction to some secondary characters. We don't get a definitive ending but that may be a good thing by holding the door open for future books. I recommend this series to those that enjoy historical, paranormal mysteries.

Stacee says

This series has easily been one of my favorites. I found it on accident and I'm beyond thrilled that I did.

I adore this cast of characters and the unique way they get things done. This plot line was my favorite of the three books and I was captivated from the very first page. The setting and period make for an interesting atmosphere and Jaime paints such a pretty picture with her words.

I will definitely be reading these books again.

Huge thanks to Jaime for sending me a copy of the book

Colleen says

I really like the setting and premise of this series. It gives the stories a different feel than I'm used to and puts the characters on the cusp of the modern age - so some 'Victorian' sensibilities along with things like motorcars seem commonplace.

The characters are likable, even if they're not all that deep or horribly fascinating. I found the brief mention of Gabe's former friendship with a local Madam to be more interesting than the marriages of the leading characters. Dora continues to be refreshing, although she's much less spunky than in previous books.

The writing is rather bland, but it moves along quickly enough.

Eddie says

sadly... as much as I enjoyed this series..

book 3 'finished things' way to suddenly.
huge let down...
oh well

Text Addict says

I don't know why it took me so long to get myself a copy of this book, when I like the series so much!

Okay, actually I do: so many books, so little time. But seriously, it's got a great historical setting, plotting, pleasant characters (not every book has to be full of snarky characters!) - it pretty much hits all my "like" buttons. I'm glad I finally got around to it, and sorry that it looks like the series is over already.

Shelley says

Source Library

Genre Historical, Paranormal, Fantasy

Rating 3.5-4

My Thoughts

Against a Brightening Sky is the third and final installment in the Delia Martin series by author Jamie Lee Moyer. The story opens in the Spring of 1919 with World War I, and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in the rear view mirror. Delia, her husband Police Captain Gabriel Ryan, and their friends Lieutenant Jack and Sadie Fitzgerald are out to watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade. What should have been a lovely spring day, turns into anything but after Delia is warned by a ghost that something bad is about to happen.

Full Review Posting @ Gizmos Reviews 12/22/2015 [Link to Follow](#)

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Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I enjoyed the series and it's true that I was curious about the further adventures of our beloved Delia. It must be said that the period of the history and the presence of the ghosts, as well as the investigations, are really attracting. While writing my review and by reading the summary, I realized that this was the last volume of the series, which is quite sad because I have not really had that feeling of a real conclusion, but it does not change the fact we still have once again a great time with the story.

Delia will face this time the ghosts of princesses, including one that is quite persistent. Her presence will be even more alive when our heroine discovers a young woman during a riot and a massacre that will leave her two guards for dead. Indeed, it seems that Alina knows nothing of her past and she only gives her name if indeed it is the real one. Delia will then ally with Dora and her husband Gabe to try to understand what is happening. Yes, because it seems that all the recent events are linked to the young woman and it is true that we're very intrigued by all that is happening. To this can be added a story in relation to Russia, the post-war period, missing princesses and an investigation of course full of danger.

I was quite curious to discover the identity of Alina and why she had lost her memory. It was interesting to discover the dreams of Delia and to understand the past of the unknown young woman. However, I admit that I dropped the story for a few passages at a moment but I took pleasure in following the set and to discover a new survey such as this one. Yes, because as always, we follow alternately the POVs of Delia and Gabe, realizing slowly that everything is finally bounded.

So it was a pleasant reading and I was happy to see all the characters again. If this is the last volume, it was a pleasant surprise but I might have liked a slightly wider conclusion.

PJ Who Once Was Peejay says

Back in 2012, I read the opening pages of a book called *Delia's Shadow* by Jaime Lee Moyer and immediately fell in love with the beautiful prose, the complex and rounded characters, the setting of turn-of-the-century San Francisco, and the magical blend of paranormal and crime thriller. Now I've finished the third book in that trilogy and I'm happy to say that everything I loved about the first book (and the second) is still there—and many wonderful new elements have been added.

Ms. Moyer has done another splendid job of coming up with a solid and riveting plot mixed with the urgent needs and half-understood messages of the ghosts haunting Delia Ryan. Ms. Moyer's villains are always haunting and harrowing, and this book is no exception, giving us a truly unique and shiver-inducing baddie. The confusion and turmoil of the world right after World War I is captured with striking immediacy. Desperate European refugees from the chaos of the war's conclusion seek to find new lives for themselves only to be ruthlessly—and supernaturally—hunted by those they left behind. But Ms. Moyer never loses the human dimension, making even minor characters memorable people the reader cares about.

It's been a joy to see the central characters grow, change, and deepen over the course of these three books, and I will miss them. I can only hope we meet again sometime. The Delia books have been a rich and satisfying read, first to last.
