



## Samara's Peril

*Jaye L. Knight*

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## **Samara's Peril** Jaye L. Knight

When news arrives that Emperor Daican has been in contact with his chief war strategist, it signals potential doom for the country of Samara. Determined to intervene, the resistance in Landale, headed by Lady Anne, embark on a covert mission in hopes of unearthing further information. However, a shocking discovery leads to complications no one could have foreseen.

Armed with their newfound knowledge, they set out for Samara to warn the king. War is inevitable, and they must face two desperate battles—one on the walls of Samara's great stronghold, and the other on the battlefield of Jace's heart, where victory might only be achievable through great sacrifice.

## **Samara's Peril Details**

Date : Published May 13th 2016 by Living Sword Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Jaye L. Knight

Format : Kindle Edition 382 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Christian, Christian Fiction, Christian Fantasy, Fiction, Romance, Adventure

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## **From Reader Review Samara's Peril for online ebook**

### **Leah Good says**

Jace is tired of always struggling. His crippling nightmares are back and they leave him fighting for sleep, fighting for peace, fighting his growing love for Kyrin, and desperately longing for the eternal security he can't believe is his to claim. His pain is not the only difficulty facing the small resistance camp. After a long winter, Emperor Daican is eager to continue his mission for power. Innocent lives are in danger, and Elom's people--the inhabitants of Samara--are his next target.

I loved this book! One particular part had me stumbling around, grinning like an idiot for a solid thirty minutes. For the next day, I'd grin every time I thought about the scene. It was a roller coaster of pure joy and heartbreaking struggle. I absolutely adore these characters (okay, let's be honest, I adore Jace and Kyrin and the others happy to be pretty cool too). ;)

After Narnia, the Ilyon Chronicles might be worming their way into being my second favorite fantasy series. (I'm trying to decide if Ilyon can trump the movie version of Lord of the Rings ... I really do love these books!) Can't wait for the next piece of the story.

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### **Kendra Ardnek says**

Ilyon. Have I talked about my love of Ilyon before?

Jaye has just released the third volume of her exciting series, so of course I signed up to review. And let me say up front: If you're not reading this series, what are you doing with your life????

The book begins with a ceremony based on the Jewish holidays, the Day of Atonement and Passover ... and with a return of Jace's insecurity over his soul. It doesn't help that one of the newcomers to their settlement lost his wife in a ryrik attack, and sees Jace as the epitome of everything he hates.

If you haven't read the previous books - ryriks are an extremely cruel and violent race, rumored to have been the first to rebel against Elom, and to not have souls, hence Jace's uncertainty.

Of course, in a world of persecution and political warfare, one doesn't have much time to sit around wondering if they have a soul or not, because war is brewing, and if they could just get their hands on the letters that the emperor has been sending... which sends our party to the home of Dacian's chief strategist in hopes that Kyrin might be able to get a good look at them - if only for a moment. Kyrin has a perfect memory and even a moment would be enough to implant the contents in her mind forever.

Of course, things never go as expected when it's a book, and when a Highly Anticipated Big Reveal occurs, we end up spending half the book at the knight's home.

The second half of the book is the trip to Samara, a meeting with New Character who is Very Important, and then a bunch of battle scenes.

I loved the first half of the book. As in, completely and utterly adored it. So much fangirly squealling

occurred, and I could NOT put it down. Unfortunately, I didn't enjoy the second part quite as much, as it frequently felt like I was just rereading Truth and Courage - the first two books of her Makilien Trilogy she wrote as Molly Evangeline.

I can't say much because most of what disappointed me were spoilers, but basically, there were a lot of action sequences ... and call me a strange reader, but I don't like action scenes. Setting up for the action - fun and glorious. Reading the action - tedious. Also, there was a huge element involving the New Character who is Very Important that I'd hoped would be handled differently. Not that it was handled badly, and it was powerful for what it was, but I was hoping to see something different.

Still, there was also a TON of character development, and relationship development, and tension packed conversations, and awesome new characters in the second half (King Balam!!!!!!!!!!!!!!), so I still loved the book.

Jace grew so much in this book. Sure, at times I was utterly frustrated with the rut he'd allowed himself to fall into (especially when he'd been doing so well in the previous book!), and his refusal to admit to himself that he liked Kyrin (seriously, he would have spared himself so much trouble if he'd just admitted it to her). Yet though it all he remained so sweet, devoted, and protective of those he loved.

Kyrin didn't grow much in this book, but I loved seeing her interacting with her brothers. Seriously, you can tell that the author grew up as an only girl in a household of boys. It was awesome. Kaden did some growing up, though, when he was given command over Landale's fleet of dragon riders, and it was awesome. Marcus and Liam got some development too, and I think I may have swapped my fictional crush from Kaden to Marcus.

Also, Holden. I don't remember him much from the previous books, but he was awesome in this one. Seriously awesome.

As for new characters, there were many awesome ones. Like Samara's young king, who's a sort of a David/Aragorn character. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Jaye does with his character in future books. Lady Rachel had such a tragic backstory, but she emerged such a beautiful, graceful woman because of it. And there were many other characters that you're just going to love to meet ... and some characters you probably will regret meeting, such as our new villain. Let me just say, I'm willing to see almost every other Ilyon character repent and be redeemed, but this fellow has to die.

There were so many great lines and popping dialogue, some of which tore at my heart, other's had me fangirling so wildly.

Why are you still here reading this review? Go buy the book! Unless, of course, you haven't read the previous books yet, in which case, buy them first, read them, and then read this one. You won't regret it.

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## **A.L. Buehrer says**

Still not under 3 stars, but I have to say I didn't like this installment as much as the first couple of books. Oddly for a book that features war, I felt like there was really very little action in this story. Disclaimer: I'm not very emotional. In my childhood, I recognized that I didn't relish books that were about "people's lives and how they feel about them." Unfortunately for me, a good portion of this book was just that.

### Things I Liked:

- Dragon combat. There was a lot of it when we finally got around to open warfare. That also means we got to spend some time with Kaden, which is always good with me.
- Jace's character development. He's starting to shape up. That's quite welcome. There are actually some times in this book where he's happy and clear-headed and not all snarled up in his angst. It happens kind of abruptly, but I guess that's understandable under the circumstances. (He's still kinda driving me nuts in the first half of the book.)
- Here's an odd one. I like Marcus. This is weird because I don't usually go for the character who's on top of it and duty-driven. Marcus is probably a Myers-Briggs type ESTJ, which typically doesn't do well with my type, but anything can happen. Marcus feels very real and solid to me.
- The scene where Kyrin (and good old Aaron) are conducting their secret raid on X's office. That's actually pretty exciting. It's great that Aaron showed up to help her out (the window.) This scene might have especially stood out to me because it was in the midst of the whole Ashwood sequence, which otherwise, I found a little trying. This scene was a good break.

### Things I Didn't like:

- Almost the whole first half of the book, to be brutally honest. There is literally crying in every chapter, and the action is very slow. Also, I didn't like all the time we had to spend worrying about Sir Rothas and his son and their habit of "preying on" apparently any woman who comes under their roof. (And I personally wonder why Lady Rachel didn't leave him long ago. He's obviously completely evil.)
- The Elon subplot. That in itself should tell you enough about how I feel about it. That should not have been such a minor detail of the plot. I mean, aside from one or two scenes, Elon barely played any part in the story at all. It felt like background noise. I might sum this story up as a fantasy-romance with a Jesus-saving-the-universe subplot. Hopefully this is just me.
- Another disappointment is that I lost all connection with Kyrin over the course of this book. The long and short of it is, she became a love-interest and lost a lot of personality.
- Along those lines I...I just don't like...I really don't like romance. We've all seen Jacrin coming—most with a bit more anticipation than I have, so I know I shouldn't complain. But let me say something else most will probably disagree with: I do not ship Leetra and Timothy. I just don't. They have no legitimate reason to fall in love. Apparently she doesn't even like him, (which I find strangely relatable) and all we get from Timothy is how beautiful her lavender eyes are and that one time he caught her crying. Look, everybody cries. It doesn't even necessarily make you a goodhearted person, or a deep person, or a soft person—and by no logic does it make you a marriageable person to anyone who sees it happen. Period. (#sorry #rantover)

### Things I Thought Were Weird:

- Aelos and Riyel. These guys intrigue me. All I know about them is they seem to be Elon's eerily identity-less bodyguards who don't actually protect him. Angels?

Note: My proposed alternatives to Leetrathy, or Timtra, or whatever. I might ship Leetra with Kaden, maybe he could bring out a secret fun-loving side of her through their shared love of dragons. If not, depending on

how old he actually is, and whether or not he's married (I don't know), I would also sooner ship her with Verus Darq. Hey, people overlook his awesomeness, and he's a high-status dragon-riding full-Crete. ("But, but, does he appreciate the entrancing beauty of her lavender eyes?" "Tim, I don't care.")

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## **Morgan says**

Recommended for: Ages 14 to Adult

Rating: PG-13 (for violence and references to rape; one woman was attacked by a ryrik in the past and a young man tries to drag off a young woman. He is prevented from doing anything, but later accuses another of the same act. All very well handled.)

Samara's Peril. Book three of the amazing Ilyon Chronicles. Each book in Ilyon just gets better. I loved this book, every bit of it. It's intense and heartbreaking, but has such happy moments as well. There were parts where my whole body was tense, and there were parts where I'm pretty sure I was probably grinning like a silly idiot. Parts that I've reread many times, parts that make me very happy, parts that make me sad, parts that fill me with hope. I'm just going to go ahead and say that I highly recommend it.

Writing: 5/5

Yep, the writing is just as good as in previous installments. I really felt the intensity and sorrow, the happiness and hope. Jaye really gets into her characters' heads. I felt all of Jace's struggles, experienced his trials and successes, resonated with Kyrin's emotions. I look at the way Jaye does things to figure out how to write deep character point of view.

Setting: 5/5

And the new stuff. Because the old settings are consistent with previous books. We visit Ashwood, the home of Sir Rothas. It's kind of like a clean version of Downton Abbey, but it fits perfectly within the Arcacian worldbuilding. We also visit the country of Samara in this book. It's got a different feel from Arcacia, but it works very well. And the Biblical parallels. One after another stood out to me as I was reading. I don't want to give too much away, but the allegorical side of the story is very powerful, in my opinion. I thought it was very well done.

Plot: 5/5

The storyline includes finding out Jace's backstory as well as significant progress in Jace and Kyrin's relationship. Of course it's amazing. :) Jace finds out his backstory and it has both positive and negative effects. That part of the story is definitely packed with conflict, and is kind of stressful, but never dull. Then they go to Samara as Jace is on a downward spiral. Battles ensue, both on a spiritual level and on a physical level. I thought the plot was well constructed, flowed well, and made sense. There was a perfect balance of external conflict, internal turmoil, and sweet squeal-worthy moments. Loved it all.

Character Development: 5/5

Jace and Kyrin. <3 I love those two. Their relationship does take some stress in this book, but they come out

better than they were before. I just love how three dimensional the characters are. I met my most hated Ilyon villain in this book. I cannot stand Rothas. I want him to die. Please, Jaye? ;) But Elanor is so sweet, Charles is awesome, and so is Rachel, James needs a good mentor, Balen is a great king...all the new characters add so much to the story. We get plenty of Kyrin's family, we see Rayad, some of Trask...oh, and Anne was fantastic in this book. Definitely some "Go, Anne!" moments. Leetra is softening ever so slightly, Timothy and Aaron have some roles. And there's Elon. I wasn't exactly expecting it in this book, but I can't see it happening any other way. He was exactly what Jace needed, and it was powerful.

So good. Because of some Ashwood details, I'd recommend it for mid teens and up, but definitely recommended.

I received a free ARC in exchange for an honest review. I was under no obligation to write a positive review. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Gabriellyn says**

I was so elated to get to read this book, I had been anxiously awaiting it for a long time now, but on top of all that my sister was one of the beta readers making it the time seem even longer. But it was worth the wait!

The plot was wonderfully orchestrated and there was definite middle book feeling to it-not a bad thing. Resistance and The King's Scrolls both felt like the beginning chapters, but I felt like this was a good transition over to the middle of the series. Beside that, this book belonged more to Jace-something I was very, very happy with-and for that reason had a different feeling to it. It was somewhat similar in format to Resistance, which was sort of a debut book for Kyrin, in that things in her life begin to move crazy fast, it is the same for Jace in Samara's Peril.

The progression in Jace's heart and mind is refreshing, he grows much in this book and his character arc is done well. I loved how much more of Jace's feelings we got to see, he was much, much more open in this book. In this book it all gets laid on the table, the rawest, harshest, most horrid places in Jace are there for us to see, but it is beautiful. He is beautiful, he is a person who has done many violent, bad things and yet in his brokenness is great redemption.

Now I would just like to say, Holden is a darling! Since Jace is already Kyrin's, I call dibs on Holden. His friendship to Jace in this book was much needed, yet again showing her writing prowess Jaye has taken a character you disliked and turned him to one you adored.

Jace's new family-for the most part-is wonderful. This book was the turning point for him and I cannot wait to see him in the next three books. Also the progress in Jace and Kyrin's relationship left me very, very happy.

Elon, the Son Elom. I know that there were some people who felt there wasn't enough prefacing for Him but I disagree. I felt that Jaye spoke of Him enough that when you met him it was smooth. His sacrifice, though I did not feel especially emotionally involved, was written well. It was personal, which is sometimes a better way to bring one's emotions into it.

There were some harder subjects handled in this book-Jace's beginning was a violent one, his mother not having a choice in the matter, and at one point Kyrin almost has the same thing happen to her-

however Jaye handled it very well, and did not dwell on it more than necessary. I thought those parts were done nicely.

The dragon vs. firedrake fighting sequences were really good. I appreciated how much Kaden stepped up in this book, as well as Liam and Marcus. The dragon fighting scenes and the few on the wall really left me hoping for a large battle in the upcoming future of Ilyon.

Well, once again Jaye has done marvelously! I have no doubt all Ilyon fans will love this book! Total 5 stars! Look for it on May 13th! It is worth the buy!

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### **Gabriela Paige says**

I don't know if I can convey to you how great this book, this series, is. It is absolutely amazing. I have loved every moment of reading this book, and I can not wait to see how this story progresses.

Finding out that Daican is planning something big against the country Samara, a group from the resistance led by Lady Anne goes on a undercover mission to get more specific information. There they discover something shocking that complicates things. But with the gathered information, they hope to head out to warn the king of Samara. There they will face a bigger battle than they've ever known, but maybe even more important, another battle is being fought in Jace's own heart. One that could lose his life.

One of the best things about these books is the characters. There is such a great amount of amazing characters. Though a few may be similar, none of them are exactly the same. In this particular book there was so so so much character development with Jace. He has to fight so much darkness and heartbreaking fears. Kyrin is so amazing. She has this inner strength and bravery that is beautiful to see. I loved how Jace and Kyrin's friendship is developing into something more. Anne had more of a part in this book, and it was fantastic. I love how she can give a harsh or scolding remark without sounding mean. She knows how to bring down people too full of themselves. Holden plays such a vital part in this book that I never expected. It has made me come to love him so much more. The brothers, Timothy and Aaron, I need more of them! Rachel, Elanor, and Charles were all great, new characters. I absolutely must know more about Elian and Balen. The Altair family is so fun and just enjoyable to see them all interacting together. Rayad, Warin, Trask, Aric, and Trev are all other characters that I love so much.

Let's just talk more about Jace for a moment. He's pretty much the central character in this book which I am absolutely happy with because he is my favorite character. Oh my goodness! In this book Jace stressed me out more than any of the earlier books. He is so broken and torn up inside. He has never been so lost before. His struggles were so real and frightening for him, I got very worried. He is going to be the death of me.

This felt so real. I connected with with the characters as soon as I began to read and I was just swept away into an amazing world where my heart was broken again and again.

The plot was exciting, intense, and totally not what I was expecting. The shocking reveal was very shocking. I literally screamed into pillow for like a minute. The battles were real, exciting, and so stressful. I mean with dragons and firedrakes and your favorite characters' lives threatened with death, how could it not be?

It was surprising how allegorical this book was from its predecessors. It was something altogether neat and beautiful to see. I loved the parallels to Christianity, but it never really seemed like too much. It was



smoothly blended into the story. This is not at all preachy like some books can be. The religion compliments the story and helps the characters answer some questions that many in our own world ask. It strengthens it without sounding unnatural.

I love this world. It's fantasy, but not too much. The characters are so precious. The writing is amazing. And this series is going to kill me. Just go read it, alright? You shouldn't need anymore convincing.

You can check out this review on my blog too (Along with a interview with the author!), at:  
<https://aheartredeemed.wordpress.com/...> Thanks!

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## **Tricia Mingerink says**

It's the Ilyon Chronicles! Of course I spent most of this book as a puddle of fangirl mushiness!

The beginning of this book was my favorite. I loved seeing the whole Altair clan together. Minus one important character. \*sniff\* I still can't read that part in The King's Scrolls without bawling. I guessed the big reveal in the beginning of this book before it happened, but that didn't stop me from squealing and walking around with a dazed grin on my face for hours afterwards.

There are some darker themes in the book, such as abusive marriage, a past rape, and a young man following in the abusive ways of his father. It is all handled very well, and highlights the manner a Christian deals with the consequences of those things rather than focusing too much on the darkness itself.

\*edited\* Just as lovely and awesome during my third re-read as my first. :) :)

And just saying, Rothas has to die. Somehow. Once you read the book, you'll understand.

This is a book that definitely has a switch in plotline and tone partway through. The two halves work together, but I'll admit, I didn't love the second half nearly as much as the first. It was still really, really good, and the twist at the end totally caught me off guard.

And one certain romance-y part at the end. \*swoony sigh\* Yes, I love impulsive kisses in books. Especially when it is two characters that I've been waiting forever for them to wake up and realize they liked each other.

This book also brings in the Christian parallels more distinctly than some of the other books. It is written more like Biblical fiction than allegory in some parts. It was handled very well, but it wasn't my favorite part of the book. Probably because Biblical fiction isn't my thing. So that is personal preference on my part.

Once again, this book delivers the emotional impact, hug-worthy and awesome characters, and adventure I've come to expect when I dive into the Ilyon Chronicles.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed above are my own.

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## Katie Hanna says

**Well THAT WAS AWESOME.**

This book is seriously *good*. I'm not sure if I liked it better than King's Scrolls, or if King's Scrolls is still my favorite; but either way, it was pretty darn impressive. It really was.

### What I liked:

-Jace's character arc. HOLY SMOKING FRENCH TOAST. This is what they call *epic*, people. I don't want to say anything more about it because #spoilers, but IT WAS EPIC OKAY. I love, love, love Jace; and everything he goes through in this book is all kinds of wonderful--and horrible--and glorious--all rolled into one. I'm so proud of my l'il cinnamon roll. \*sniffles\*

-JACE AND KYRIN FOREVER PLEASE THANK YOU AND AMEN. Just gonna leave that right here . . . :-P

-Kaden. Dragons. Air battles. Yes.

-Leetra!! She's amaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaazing in this book. (Although I honestly don't ship her with Timothy? I ship her a lot more with Kaden? Maybe it's just me; but being that I'm Catholic I really, really like for my religious-leader-figures to be celibate, so Timothy getting into a relationship just seems . . . weird . . . to me. But it's fine, I guess. Point is, I like Leetra a lot, no matter who she ends up with. \*nods\*)

-Everything about King Balen. He's the bomb. He really is. I need more of him in my life.

-THAT REDEMPTION ALLEGORY THOUGH. \*hyperventilates\* I know I sound like a ridiculous fangirl but *I can't get over how awe-inspiring it was*. It made me truly appreciate the weight of Christ's sacrifice all over again--and let me tell you, not many books can make me do that. You know that feeling you get when you read "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" for the very first time? When you watch Aslan submit to the White Witch's knife, and all of a sudden you're like, "wait . . . Jesus did *that*, for *me*?" Yeah. All these years later, that was exactly how I felt reading "Samara's Peril." And I may or may not have teared up a few times. It was beautiful. So, so beautiful. \*shakes head\*

-THE RYRIK QUESTION HAS BEEN ONCE AND FOREVER RESOLVED AND I REJOICE WITH A GREAT REJOICING. Ryriks *have* souls. Bam. Put that in your pipe and smoke it, Daican.

-Bonus: The fact that I understood aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa the battle-scene-stuff and didn't get lost anywhere! THANK YOU MS. KNIGHT. You have accomplished a feat few authors ever pull off, and you should feel justly proud.

### What I didn't like:

-Okay, so there were a few points in this book where I felt like the characters were being a little . . . unnecessarily foolish? Or lacking in foresight? Not planning far enough ahead, and relying a little *too* heavily on divine intervention to see them through? Maybe that's just me, though.

-The beginning dragged a little bit. Just a TINY bit. But the second half MORE than made up for it, so no complaints from me. At all.

### Conclusion:

If you haven't started this series yet . . . what are you waiting for?

And if you have, I think you'll fully sympathize with me when I say: I NEED BOOK 4 IN MY LIFE. NOW.

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## JonathanT says

Wow. Another fantastic edition to Ilyon with impactful messages and deep characters.

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## Sierra Faith says

Samara's Peril

Genre: Christian Fiction, Fantasy.

Age Range: 14+ for violence

Favorite Quote: "It's as if you are trying to hide yourself from Him, believing you're too broken and lost for Him to love. Oh, Jace, that just isn't true. He does love you."

Series: Third book in the Ilyon Chronicles.

Stars: 5 out 5

This will be a very gushy review. You've been warned!

When I pick up a book, the main thing I'm looking for is great characters, which is what draws me in. And that's exactly what Jaye L. Knight gives us! These characters are phenomenal! They've grown so much since the first book, Resistance. Jace is still my favorite! Most of the time I want to hug him, but other times I want to punch him and tell him he's worth it! Elom (God) loves him. He's probably one of my favorite fictional characters. We got quite a few Jace and Kyrin moments, which made me extremely happy.

Kyrin and Kaden have also done quite a bit of growing since the beginning. I love their faith and the direction Kaden's leadership went in Samara's Peril. Also, I love their relationship! They, as siblings, have gone through a lot of stuff, but they're still great friends and still trust in Elom.

We hadn't had a Jesus figure yet, and it was great to see him introduced! The salvation message was very prominent and well done. It made me really happy to see it woven throughout the story.

Dragons! Okay, I love dragons a lot! There is quite a few dragons in The King's Scrolls. the second book, and they stayed around.

There were a few things I didn't like about the book. I almost gave it four stars, but I loved the ending too much to do that! Towards the beginning of the story the writing felt a little stilted to me. The dialogue was done beautifully, but everything else felt weird. She did a lot of telling instead of showing. That smoothed out after the first 25%. There is something that happens in the beginning of the book that seems really cliché to me, and it was very unbelievable.

Overall:

I would suggest this series to teens who love fantasy and emotional connection to characters!

\*I received a copy of this book from the author, Jaye L Knight, in exchange for my honest review.\*

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### **Rebekah Rodda says**

This is a stunning third book in the Ilyon Chronicles series and Christian fantasy fiction at its best. Set in the midst of an adventure story with riveting plots twists and characters you really care about is the redemption story told in a powerful unforgettable way.

At the heart of this series is the character Jace, who is despised by society because he is half ryrik (a monster) and a slave who hooks up with followers of Elôm who are suffering persecution because of their beliefs. The trauma of his past continues to haunt Jace as he joins their resistance against an oppressive government that seeks to wipe them out.

This is a story filled with sword fights, betrayal, dragons, torture, conflicting loyalties and last, but certainly not least, a heart-warming romance. The allegory that has developed throughout this series came to head in this book and I initially was concerned about how it would effect the story, (the Jesus-character flying a dragon?!) but all I can say is wow, so glad I have read this.

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### **serena482\* says**

So were to start.....THIS BOOK IS AMAZING!!!!!! If you haven't read this series go pick it up and start reading. I read this book like really fast it was so good. I was so glad to get back into Ilyon, and read more about Jace, Kyrin, and Kaden and all the other amazing characters. With a few new ones. :D Epic battles, dangerous missions, and scary encounters, this book is just packed with awesomeness. The ending wasn't very satisfying for me so i'm over her dying waiting for Exiles. \*Flails then falls over dead\* (view spoiler) This book was definitely for a more older audience then the first one. I would recommend it to ages 13-up. So all in all it was an amazing book. And i can't WAIT till Exiles comes out. \*Still lying on the ground dead\*

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### **Serethiel says**

[LIKE JACE'S MOTHER. OH MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS WHO IN GALLIFREY SAW THAT COMING?!! (hide spoiler)]

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### **Micailah says**

"I've been waiting a long time for this." SO HAVE I RAYAD, SO HAVE I. KADLFKJSDFKJA;LKDFJ. EXILES CANNOT COME SOON ENOUGH.

My review:

"Uh Kaden?" I ask, tightening my grip around his waist.

"Yeah?" he glances over his shoulder at me as we soar upward.

"Isn't Exis flying just a little too high?"

Kaden grins one of his famous grins "flying a little too high for you maybe. But this is normal for us." He frowns when he sees my pale face. "I can take her down some if you want"

"No! No, that's okay thank you." Last time he had "taken her down" he had sent Exis into a nosedive that ended with her steadying at 600ft and me screaming at Kaden (haven't puked yet thankfully). There is no way I'm going through that again.

"Who's that?" Kaden asks as you fly over on your own dragon, pulling even with ours.

"Oh it's just my review reader(s) don't worry they love you." I smirk and Kaden rolls his eyes.

"Hello again! I see you've managed to follow me to Ilyon. How considerate of you. Have I really been gone that long? Only 3 years? Well that's not too bad. I'll come back in another 2 maybe. Oh you're here for my review on "Samara's Peril"? What a surprise."

"What's that?" Kaden interrupts.

"I'll tell you later. Now, please focus on keeping this beast steady."

"She's not a..."

"I know, I know just...please." Kaden shrugs and turns back to watching the sky.

"As I was saying. You want to hear my review? I honestly don't know why you keep wanting my opinion on this series when you KNOW how freaking amazing it is. But I guess I'll tell you anyways. First off this book focus mainly on Jace (WOO HOOO!!) so if you don't like Jace don't read this book and please leave my presence. Kidding! Kinda. I'm pretty sure it's IMPOSSIBLE for someone not to love Jace at least a little bit and if you didn't before, you sure will after you read this book. Ah, what can I say without spoiling anything? Well, let's just say that Jace's heart gets sewn together, torn apart, and sewn together (permanently) just in these 400 some pages. We see a internal battle as well as an external one. Good vs evil. Light vs dark. Guilt vs Grace. Love conquers all.

I will say there are some adult themes in this book however they're not very detailed and being a teenager I was very impressed with how the author handled such situations. These books are geared towards "young adults" but I didn't even know that till after I read book one and was hooked. :P

Let me say to all you Ilyon Chronicles fans out there. You will fangirl/fanboy A LOT. You will squeal and laugh and giggle and say "awwwww!" numerous times and if you have a heart attack in the process Miss Knight will not be at fault. No, I don't know where to find "fangirl insurance" I'm still looking for "dragon-riding insurance". If you find either please let me know.

As for everything else well Kyrin, Kaden..." he straightens as I say his name, " Talas and everyone; they're all there just not as prominent as in the first 2 books. I really felt that this was a good thing though because we needed to see these things happen with Jace's character before things furthered with the world of Ilyon itself. Not to say stuff didn't happen, I just can't talk about that stuff. ;P Oh! But I will say it was nice to see Jace and Holden's friendship especially with how dynamically it's changed since book 1.

This book in many ways exceeded my expectations for it. I was up till 6am fangirling my heart out. I absolutely CANNOT WAIT for book 4. These books just keep getting better."

"Are you done?" Kaden asks, not looking at me.

"I think so. Why?"

"I saw Rayad signal it's dinnertime and I don't wanna be late." He nods at you. "Goodbye."

"Goodbye!" I barely say before Kaden sends us streaking towards camp. " Oh no, not...KADENNNNNNNNNNNNN!!!!!!!"

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## Shantelle says

A brilliant edition to the ILYON CHRONICLES by Jaye L. Knight, *Samara's Peril* sweeps us back into the land of Ilyon and to our favorite characters, Jace, Kyrin, Kaden, Trask, Anne, and the rest. As the third book in the series, I found it very well-done and was delighted that it delved significantly deeper into the story, exploring backstories and having special and pivotal moments come about. This book is incredible; I beta-read it in January, and advanced-read it in April, and loved it both times!

The outlaw camp of Landale is disrupted as disturbing rumors spread about the welfare of Samara. And Jace goes into a personal downhill spiral as a dark war rages in his heart. New, intimidating adventures and battles are on the horizon, and each person must decide who they trust. –And if they will choose the courageous way, even if it's the very hardest.

How to describe this tale? Heart-rending, yet beautiful. Poignant and soul-stirring. Intense. Humorous and endearing. Incredibly sweet. Emotional. So many moments for our beloved characters! I feel the first two books (and the prequel novella) built up wondrously to everything that happened in *Samara's Peril*. Such excitement! \*smothers fangirly squeals\* I'll try not to blurt out all the spoiler-y epic parts!

Undercover missions. Dragons. Torment. Secrets. Bitterness. Redemption. Love. Allegories. Relationships ...

The characters have become dear and familiar friends. Jace is perhaps the most prominent POV character. Then we have Kyrin, of course. Trask, Anne, Kaden, Marcus, Liam, and Timothy are also POV characters from time to time. And we get some new characters introduced! I love seeing the different storylines and relationships and experiences. Jaye L. Knight does a great job of making each of her many characters unique, intriguing, and lovable in their own way. I adore them! \*hugs them all\*

Ah. What can I say? I get so, so excited when a new book from the ILYON CHRONICLES series comes out. I loved *Samara's Peril* the first read. I loved it the second read. It wasn't dull or uninteresting even a bit during the second time; I cried, and squealed, and sighed, and raged, and rejoiced, and felt my soul was deeply touched just the same. These books, my friends, are such awesome Christian fantasy stories! I'm intrigued by this world and these people. The stories of faith, persecution, courage, personal struggle, love, redemption, friendship ...

Oh, Jayrin. Can I talk a bit about my favorite fictional couple, Jace and Kyrin? They are more adorable in each new book! \*grins\* I loved how their relationship was going in this book. So many moments make me start grinning like a fool because they're just so cute! Jace's internal struggle on this aspect was sometimes quite hard to read, but other times it just made me giggle. Oh, Jace! \*hugs him\* And then the particularly breathtaking scene ... (view spoiler)

The Christian allegory of this series has always been very deep and thought-provoking, but it really rose to new lengths in *Samara's Peril*. The story of Elon could perhaps feel brief, but was it ever powerful! I loved it so much. Elon's character was portrayed with such strength and majesty, yet also so much love and compassion! So poignant. Amazingly beautiful. It was deeply meaningful, and written in a careful, Biblical way. Very, very well done Christian allegory. It meant so much to me! The whole story surrounding Jace, and Elon, and everyone, struck a chord in my heart. I believe this is a story that can really impact readers. Such a powerful and touching message. –How Jesus saves the world. And how He loves and redeems you, personally.

This book is perhaps slightly more mature than the books before it. There's a little more of a romance theme; and also some mentions of rape and men with dishonorable and violent intentions. But there's nothing graphic in the least, and everything's written in an appropriate and tasteful way. There's some violence and intense battle moments as usual.

Overall? My friends, you are not going to want to miss the latest from Jaye L. Knight! *Samara's Peril* is absolutely amazing, from beginning to end. Christian, non-magical fantasy with the ability to please a wide variety of readers. I myself am a puddle of fangirly emotions! \*winks and grins\* And I can hardly wait to read Book 4!

*I received a copy of Samara's Peril from the author in exchange for my honest review.*

*Beta-read from January 23rd to 27th.*

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### **Sarah Allerdind says**

I think this is my favorite out of the Ilyon Chronicles so far. This book really goes into Jace's struggles. It was well written and kept me turning the pages. I was quite pleased with the ending although I wasn't quite sure what spiritual message the author intended to portray in the end. I won't say any more because it would contain spoilers. I would not recommend this book for younger kids because of some more difficult topics and scary scenes. In my opinion the author did handle them well and did not get into too much detail. This is a great book and I look forward to reading the next in the series.

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### **Alyssa says**

Right in the emotions!

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### **Victoria Lynn says**

My favorite book of the series.

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### **Firefly says**

ASDFGHJKL. askjdhskljfhldskjfhdg JACE. JACCCEEEEEEEEEEE. \*sobs and huggles him\* Oh my goodness. This book.

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## **Amanda Beguerie says**

A big problem I have with Christian fiction today is lack of reason for faith.

In many worlds, God is just “there.” There is no reason to believe in Him, it is just assumed to be truth, with no proof. Additionally, problems seem to always tie up neatly, with a little bow for decoration.

As much as I like happy-go-lucky stories, they’re so often shallow. That’s what bothers me about Christian fiction, and I believe it’s a major turnoff to potential readers – non-believability.

Not so with Samara’s Peril.

I’m not sure how it’s possible, but these five-star books keep getting better with every installment.

We all love Jace and Kyrin, Kaden, Rayad, Trask, and all the many others. Because we’ve already had two novels and a novella so far, we’ve learned a lot about all of the characters – their passions, their strengths, their weaknesses, and their struggles. The combinations of all those things endears us to them, and I believe that’s one reason I love this series so incredibly much.

The Ilyon Chronicles are clearly Jace’s books. Although Kyrin Altair has a major role, Jace’s personal struggles are brought to light and must be faced.

I found myself connecting with him the most in this book out of all the others so far – and let me just say, this book was powerful.

For certain things to progress, we needed resolution to some major things, things I knew had to happen and probably would – but Samara’s Peril keeps us on the edge of our seats anticipating, anxious, and always guessing.

This is a story about love. Sacrifice. Faith. Truth. Healing. And above all, trust in God, but never in a preachy way. For that, I appreciated it.

Some moments had me tormented, and others, grinning - and perhaps even audibly squealing - like a fool. With the discussion on multiple aspects of the book, there has been some controversy about the execution of the story, but personally, I greatly enjoyed the way the book was done.

I enjoyed the plotline. I enjoyed the allegorical aspect of it. I enjoyed the events that occurred in character development of our main characters, even though with so many side characters, it’s difficult to flesh out every one. Though some of the lesser-role characters may have seemed flat at times, because of the sheer number of them, it was appropriate. I find a strong focus on the lead characters is more important than too many developed characters; sometimes too much development of too many characters detracts from the focus of the story.

I always appreciate how Jaye handles mature elements and gracefully, purely, and suitably. Nothing that’s wrong is ever portrayed as right, and immorality is never glorified, if mentioned.

It was honest. It was poignant. It was powerful. It was absolutely enthralling to this fangirl, and though no book can ever be perfect, I don’t think I would know how to make it any more incredible than it is now.



Although considered NA (New Adult – aimed at people ages 18-25+), I'd recommend it for anyone, probably fourteen or fifteen and up. There's no inappropriate content, but mature themes are definitely addressed, more so in this book than the previous ones.

If you haven't read this series, I can't recommend the Ilyon Chronicles highly enough. Of course, start at the beginning and don't skip around – it'll be the most enjoyable that way!

Review to be posted at <http://scatteredjournalpages.com>.

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