



## Amulet of Elusion

*Katie Lynn Johnson*

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**Amulet of Elusion** Katie Lynn Johnson

Alexa Costa has a life-altering secret...only she doesn't know it yet.

Confined by law to the kingdom of Alvair until the age of eighteen, Alexa Costa has lived a sheltered existence under the watchful eye of her sword-wielding guardian, Ivy. Her love interest, Caleb Whitman, is exactly the opposite. A merchant sailor and seeker of rare artifacts, Caleb has lived a life of adventure in nearby San Lucero, the long-time rival of Alvair.

After her eighteenth birthday, Alexa's quiet existence becomes tumultuous, and she realizes she does not need to seek to find adventure. Myths become real, legend becomes fact, and Alexa discovers that she possesses rare abilities which make her a target for both sides in a centuries-old struggle for power. She must use every resource available to her—including her talents with the supernatural Amulets—to help her friends, rekindle her romance with Caleb, and save her island home from destruction.

## Amulet of Elusion Details

Date : Published 2013 by Lilyfly Press

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Author : Katie Lynn Johnson

Format : ebook

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult

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# From Reader Review Amulet of Elusion for online ebook

## Lisa Arrington says

**\*\*I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review\*\***

I cannot tell you how in love I am with this story. It had it all, action, adventure, love, suspense. I really hated it when I had to put it down and do things like sleep and work. I truly enjoyed how Katie was able to create a world that was vivid and easily imaginable. And the connection between the main characters, Alexa and Caleb, was equally heartwarming and red hot without being too much. If you like a little bit of everything in your books, then this is the one for you.

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## Jennifer Ochoa says

Two stars for "it was ok" (read: not bad, just not my cup of tea). I think I would have enjoyed it more if I were a little younger and more inclined toward romance. I enjoy YA fiction usually, but I think this one was a little too sweet for me. I would have liked to see more tension in the love story because it just felt a little too easy for the young lovers and thus, I was not really invested in their relationship. The idea of the amulets was pretty interesting, but it felt like it took a backseat to the love story and I would have liked to read more about them and their history and less conversation about the love interest. I think this would be a good read for teen or pre-teen girls who enjoy a romantic story.

I received a copy of this novel as a Goodreads giveaway.

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## Carrie says

**\*Author provided a copy for an honest review.\***

Alexa is on the verge of turning eighteen. Her whole life up until then has been a series of lessons, from books to self defense, she's been trained. She loves learning, but the over-protectiveness of her guardian, is starting to get to her. Fate intervenes and suddenly she finds herself swept away in secrets and danger. When her past catches up with her, she learns a truth that changes everything, and leaves her future in question.

Amulet of Elusion follows Alexa on her journey. The story starts a little slow, but it quickly picks up as we learn more and more about our characters and their world. From the summary, I was expecting some romance, but I do not quite think I was expecting them to be already in love. I thought I would get more of their courting, and use that to get to know them better, but they already had a relationship of sorts established. Once I got over that expectation, I was able to better enjoy their relationship. Caleb's point of view complemented hers while providing us with a source of information and added intrigue to the story.

I liked learning about the amulets and their powers. The world the author built was intriguing. I won't say much here because of potential spoilers, but the author did a nice job of weaving the mythology around the amulets with the history of the countries. This was probably my favorite part of the book, but then again, I was always a fan of great settings.

Alexa was an interesting character. I adore books where the heroine is able to accept help from others, yet still kick butt on her own. I loved watching her interact with her friend, they had a great friendship. Too often the best friend role is played by someone who is either bitchy or sleazy or so perfect that the main character always feels "poor and ugly" in comparison. So it was nice to find a book where friends are loyal and true. And Caleb? He had the proper blend of danger and recklessness, combined with loyalty and a heart full of compassion.

As the story drew towards the climax, I couldn't put the book down. There was one thing that happened, that while it was believable for the character, wasn't mentioned recently enough in my opinion to make it not feel like someone was making a stupid decision. But other than that one point, I rather enjoyed how the ending played out. And the last little bit of the book? Makes you want to read the next one right away.

If you enjoy fantasy novels, you may enjoy this one.

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### **E.L. says**

I was given this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

I enjoyed the story very much, though it started slow for me. Once it got going though it was hard for me to put down. I love books that have sword play in them and if it's a woman doing the sword play you can bet I'm in.

The characters are very likable and easy to follow and believe. Just enough romance to keep my girly side interested and enough action to keep my tomboy side hooked.

I would definitely recommend (and have already) this book to my friends and look forward to reading what happens next.

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### **Rashika (is tired) says**

#### **BBA ALERT**

**(I am leaving my review up since... it cannot really get any worse than this but ALERT EVERYONE)**

*\*\*\*This review has also been posted on **The Social Potato***

#### **Actual Rating 1.5**

Amulet of Elusion is more of a skeleton than an actual book. Reading it was.. not fun. This book had an interesting premise which was the only reason I could actually tolerate reading on. Had this been a first draft, I would have been impressed, as it is, it wasn't.

The only thing working for this book is the concept. The characters are iffy, the romance is weird and the plot is rushed and the world building? Well I have no idea about the world building. It's just the idea of amulets and how they work that really intrigues me, even now.

Caleb is basically the perfect guy. He is hot, modest, smart, kind of rich and oh he likes helping people. Except he is horrible. He is self-centered from what I see. When he helps a kid and realizes how bad the situation was, his first thought was, "This kid really does need my help". I am sure that is supposed to be a good thing but no. Hell no. The kid needed help, not YOUR help. And any guy who chains a girl up so that she doesn't get herself killed while he goes off to fight, especially when she is actually powerful and could help, is not a wonderful guy. He is a fucking nightmare. He is also the kind of guy who emphasizes someone's beauty above everything else. When he is telling everyone about 'his girl' he emphasizes her beauty because that is what is most important. Yes, you're DEFINITELY the kind of guy I want as a life partner (they get married). Let's not forget his policy about not fighting with women. Even when it's to train him so that he doesn't fucking die. Nope, not going to take this shit seriously. He is way too cool for this. I wanted to bitch slap him right then. Your chivalry is going to get you fucking killed, sure respecting women is important, showing them courtesy is a good thing but have some limits dude.

Our wonderful female lead, ~~what's her face~~ Alexa is no better than her lover. For starters

"Caleb is my husband. It's his job to protect me now."

That was what she said to her foster parent when she tried to be 'overprotective'. She is incapable of making smart decisions and rushes into danger without thinking things through. She is TSTL. When she learns that she is a speshul snowflake, she barely questions anything after the initial shock. Let's not forget someone always needs to save her pathetic ass.

Both these characters feel like checklists or just lists of characteristics. They don't feel like real characters. Just a bundle of characteristics. Their backstories don't feel like stories, they feel like facts. There is no emotion involved, or if it is, it's more rational than emotional. Her parents died and she is supposed to be sad about that, she is, but I don't feel it. I don't feel anything. I have no real connection to her. I feel a mild annoyance towards her but that's about it. The same goes for Caleb, I cannot even bring myself to hate him because I just don't care. I am annoyed, pissed, but at his actions not his character. His character does NOTHING for me.

The secondary characters were just... there. Like her best friend tagged along but she has a beau back home and what about her father? What? They all seem to fade into the background when it comes to Alexa and Caleb for they are the center of this stories. The secondary characters serve no other purpose than plot devices.

The romance though. Oh dear. \*shudders\* I was so excited about the fact that a relationship already existed but that theory was shot to hell pretty soon. Sure they were in a relationship but they knew NOTHING about each other. Not their middle names, not where they came from, not about their families, NOTHING. Yet in spite of this, they claim to be in love. How do you love someone you know nothing about? Oh and then moving on to getting married. That took everything a step too far. That's just moving way too fast. You can love each other and still be in a dangerous situation, marriage won't change anything. Seriously. Now I have nothing against marriage, but really they should have waited before taking such a huge leap.. I mean they JUST declared their love for one another. I cannot even. \*storms out\*

The plot is just.. bland. Things happen, more things happen, one after another. Like some sort of to-do list. This happened? Check. Next thing. Check. Check Check Check Check. \*cricket noises in the background\* At one point, I felt like I was reading some sort of ultra-dramatic soap opera. Everyone has seen this story a

gazillion times. Orphaned girl, secrets being kept, girl super special complete with a prophecy that declares her so. Let's not forget she is supposed to save everyone. Did I mention she was speshul?

The world building made no sense to me. Ivy (the overprotective guardian) mentioned that she searched the whole kingdom for Alexa when Alexa decided to 'screw it'. Is the kingdom small? Big? What? Everyone is confined inside for their own good until they become adults? Again ... what? I have no idea what was going on with the world building and after a while I no longer cared to figure that tangled mess out.

I'd say something about the only good thing about this book, the concept of amulets but at this point I don't care. The intriguing concept of amulets does not make up for everything else that didn't work. I may have read this fairly quickly but I simply don't care about this book. I was surprised when it ended.. and when I say surprised, I mean in the best way possible because I was miserable and really did not want to continue reading.

In the end this book is just not something I would recommend. It did not do anything for me and didn't read like a story but instead like a fact book, a fictional fact book at that but still. There was no emotion rolling off the pages, I didn't immerse myself within the world. A text book would have been more interesting.

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### **Chelsey Nichols says**

Katie Lynn Johnson's *Amulet Of Elusion* is a coming of age tale set against the backdrop of war between two rival cities. Alexa is almost eighteen—the age of adulthood in Alvair—and is excited to finally get the chance to explore her oncoming freedom. This freedom, of course, means that she'll be able to spend more time with Caleb, a merchant and a sailor whom she's fallen in love with from the rival town of San Lucero.

At first, the story starts out with Alexa under the ever watchful eye of her guardian, Ivy, who has a very hard time letting Alexa have any sort of freedom—with good reason as Alexa is a lot more important than she seems to be. Throughout the course of the story, we find out exactly how important Alexa is and why Ivy has been so strict, and that Alexa has the power within her (and through her decisions) to change the course of the entire kingdom's history.

I really enjoyed the strong female presence of this story—Ivy in particular. These women are fighters—Alexa has been trained by Ivy since she came into her care at eleven years old—and are more than capable at defending themselves, which is a nice change of pace from other stories where women are coddled and protected. Ivy and Alexa can and do take care of themselves—even if that means it puts them at odds with each other on more than one occasion.

I also enjoyed the romance of this story. I feel like it did a really great job at portraying the overwhelming way new love can be for two individuals, without seeming too stilted or unrealistic. The only thing that bothered me about Alexa and Caleb's relationship was that there were more than a few instances where they were heavy-handed with each other—making decisions that they think are best for the other person, regardless of the other's opinions on the matter. But, as with any relationship, it's possible that this is something that they'll be able to work out throughout the course of the coming series.

It was also nice to see the “normal” characters struggle with the “abilities” of the characters who are able to manipulate the amulets and use their powers. Often, “magics” are just treated as something that is normal, with little thought about how they would actually impact a person without those particular abilities. This was

a nice touch and something that I wish more authors would explore.

It was also great to see Alexa struggle with her place in the world. You get a really strong sense of connection with her and what she's going through. At the heart of it, she's still a young woman in an increasingly violent and dangerous world; watching her struggle with her abilities and responsibilities was entertaining and believable and really solidified the connection I felt to her.

Though I'm a little tired of "prophecy" themed stories, I felt that *Amulet of Elusion* was original enough that the plot point didn't take away from the overall pull of the story. It was definitely a different take on the "chosen one" story type. That being said, I had a hard time getting into this story in the beginning. The pacing was a little slow, but it picks up nicely about halfway through—and the stakes get much, much higher for Alexa and her friends.

I would have liked to have seen stronger antagonists. I felt a little like the main antagonists were just evil with not much substance—though I am interested in seeing how Queen Jada turns out in the subsequent novels, as she was definitely the most interesting of all the "bad" characters.

This was a very good start to a series and I think that it will only get stronger with time. There is plenty of action and violence, so I'd definitely recommend this for older teens who are looking for a magically themed, coming of age tale. I am excited, especially given the nature of the ending, to see how this story resolves itself in the next book.

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## Terri says

Thank you to the author for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review!  
My Review of *Amulet of Elusion*:

The description is a tad vague, so I'll elaborate: Sheltered girl living with her guardian gets closer to a cute boy who works as a rare artifacts merchant sailor, finds out that the local myths about amulets of power and magic are real, and that she not only possesses the ability to work the amulets, but that her lineage is one of great power. Of course, bad people want the amulets and her great power puts her in danger and the cute boy, best friend, guardian and teacher all have parts to play in the action. This was a fun young adult fantasy with some good writing, good characters, and a fast-moving plot. It's the kind of story that appeals to anyone who ever imagined themselves discovering their own secret powers, and if that was you, you'll probably enjoy Alexa's journey from childish ignorance to complicated adulthood.

*Amulet of Elusion* was very well paced, particularly knowing this was a self-published work, and kept my interest from page one. Most of the time, it read like it had professional editing (and I dunno, maybe it did. Either way, first bump to Katie Lynn Johnson.) except for a few minor issues, which I'll describe later. The perspective switches between Alexa and Caleb, but Alexa is the more important POV because *Amulet* is really her story. Alexa has been trained for years in lost languages, sword play, and other skills by her fiercely overprotective guardian Rose. Alexa has somehow managed to meet Caleb before the start of the book, though it's really only a minor crush on a guy whom she's met two or three times. When in Caleb's POV, he thinks about Alexa and misses her, pleasantly surprising me since I was expecting a player type for some reason. Their connection blossomed a little too quickly, particularly since they don't spend that much time together, and I wasn't thrilled with some of the romantic resolutions at the end, but I still like them as a

couple. Plot wise, Johnson managed to throw me for a major loop in the middle of the story, and I was surprised to see how the situation with Governor Hadley eventually played out.

Governor Hadley Spoiler: (view spoiler)

Romance Spoiler:(view spoiler)

Some of the world-building was a little shaky. The two kingdoms on the island have been separate for years: no one from San Lucero is allowed into the city of Alvair and Alvairans aren't allowed out of the city until they turn 18. Citizens of each kingdom distrust the other, and Alvair is oddly secretive about anything regarding their city, especially the amulets, even though no one really knows much about them. Early in the story, before we really understand the relationship between the two kingdoms, we're told that this guy wrote a book about Alvair and amulets and published it, but we have no idea why that is so scandalous. Nobody seems to know much about the amulets, and once Alexa learns a very little bit, she's suddenly an expert. So the amulets are both a secret kept by the general populace and one about which they don't know much. Also, since most of the amulet-related magic happened to Alexa rather than because of her "expert" knowledge, I'm not feeling very confident about her skills. The amulets were the focal point of the world-building but I really didn't think the lore or the details were as well-developed as I would have liked.

The writing was pretty good, and Johnson did a great job at keeping her dialogue moving. Through the narrative and dialogues, you get enough back story and personality depth to form a great sense of the characters, but not so much that it's info-dumping or just pointless. There were some repetitive phrases that needed tighter editing: Caleb and his grin were always "devilishly handsome" and anytime anyone bled, there were "copious amounts of blood." Some scenes I would have moved around for a better fit inside the main story, but on the whole, I found the writing very good and impressive.

Amulet of Elusion was a strong start to the series. I'm interested to keep going and see what happens with the crazy ending!

This review for "Amulet of Elusion" first appeared on [StarlightBookReviews.com](http://StarlightBookReviews.com).

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## **Jessi (Novel Heartbeat) says**

Lawl, the fact that my original note for this has been deleted by Goodreads (HOW DARE ANY OF US HAVE AN OPINION?!) doesn't change the fact that I STILL wouldn't touch this book with a 10 foot pole. Kthxbai.

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## **Nay Denise says**

*\*\*Received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review\*\**

Amulet of Elusion is great ya fantasy novel. I was totally impressed with how Katie Lynn Johnson went about writing this. It was a fun read with a lot of action and enough romance. The world building was



outstanding! I absolutely loved the world from start to finish. The character development was great too. Each character had their own personality that bought the story to life.

Alexa Costa, the protagonist, is a feisty 17 year old living with Ivy Delgado (*her guardian*) in Alvair. Alexa grew up sheltered because of her past life in San Lucero. Now that she is turning 18 years old she is allowed to beyond the city limits of Alvair and go to San Lucero. Her entire life she spent days learning about Triads, Amulets and how to sparr. She used to think it was all useless until she was captured by the governor of San Lucero and then Alvairians came to rescue her. War broke out between the two cities.

Alexa's best friend Novella Harris is an extremely outgoing young lady. I loved her spunky attitude, especially when it came to reading and learning history. Alexa has a "beau" named Caleb Whitman. The forbidden romance that brews between the two of them is lovely. I admire how Caleb even took Sam, a 15 year old, under his wing to "train" him.

Ivy was an amazing guardian. I think she should have told Alexa the truth about her family and life, but the fact that she prepared her throughout the years was great.

The fight between the queen and king against Alexa was stunning. How the king died was hilarious, but the ending is such a cliff hanger!!!!!!! Why!?

Overall, this book was awesome and the sneak peak of Amulet of Power definitely has me interested in what happens next!

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### **Cindy says**

This was given to me in exchange for an honest review

This is a story that I normally don't read but as I started and could not put it down. It was filled with adventure, action, suspense, heartbreak and of course love. Alexa lost her family and was raised by Ivy, who was not family but a friend of the family. She taught her how to protect herself and also taught her what the future holds for her. Powerful people were after Alexa and the amulets because she could access the power it had. When Caleb enters the story at first I didn't trust him. Did he want Alexa for the right reasons? Over time I realized they completed each other. He wanted to protect Alexa for all the evil and so he did something that could have destroyed their relationship. Has he destroyed what they were building? Or will Alexa forgive him?

FOUR MAGICAL ANGLES

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### **Katie Johnson says**

Yes, I rated my own book. Tacky? Maybe. But I've seen authors with 300+ reviews rate their own books and no one chastises them about it. And, honestly, if any book deserves a five-star rating from the author, it's this one. It took 15 years to write! True story.

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## **Tiffany Loves Books says**

**This review can also be found on [TiffanyLovesBooks](#)**

I think it was pretty interesting for my family- me reading this book. I spent the entire time speaking to it and myself. It was a pretty extensive monologue that ranged from 'oh my goshes' to frustrated exclamations. This novel had an amazing premise and it also starts off really strong, with a great array of characters. I was honestly pretty excited about reading this novel. However, I feel that the momentum did not last long. After the beginning it was mostly a frustrating affair for me where it felt I was torturing myself by continuing to read it.

### **What I Liked**

- \* The overall premise of the book- did you read the blurb? Or this awesome synopsis: Kings and Queens, hidden pasts, superpowers, and war brewing that requires a hero.
- \* At the beginning I loved that Alexa had all the makings to be a helluva strong heroine.

### **What I Didn't Like**

- \* Caleb- Alexa's love interest seems pretty swoon worthy in the beginning but the swoon worthy part doesn't last long. In many novels I read, love makes a person better and is often their only redeeming quality. This novel on the other hand, love makes him overprotective, controlling, a liar... There are plenty of ways I can explain all of this away- you know, he feels out of his depth, he's desperate to find a way to keep her safe, yada yada yada. But truth be told after his first betrayal I really came to detest him. I think his approach should have been different and he should have adopted the idea of the "If you can't beat them, join them" idiom. His way of protecting her was pretty warped but had they joined forces and worked together they could have been their own version of Bonnie and Clyde or something.
- \* Dual POV- This story is told from both Caleb and Alexa's point of view. In the beginning it helped us to better get to know Caleb but after that, my belief is that it failed to contribute anything to the story. Or I just came to dislike him so much that I dreaded reading his side of the story. Maybe.
- \* Their Relationship- From the get-go the pace of their relationship was off. It moved just a little too fast. But then it gets all the worse by their lack of trust in each other, their stubbornness, and continuous betrayal. There were too many things wrong with this relationship for me to enjoy reading about it. Although I will say that it did have its rare moments where I did enjoy aspects of their romance.
- \* Alexa- remember when I said that she had all the makings to be a bad-ass heroine? Well imagine my disappointment when all of her power and training and personality, are worth naught because she never takes up the role of heroine. Caleb is always stepping in to fight her fights, despite her powers and training she is always making blunders that require her to be rescued. Although she mostly handled things well she was more a victim of circumstances. I hated that she did not take everything that made her unique and let it make her into something phenomenal.
- \* Sequence of Events- There were one too many scenes where things would happen that didn't make sense. It truthfully felt that maybe in the editing, scenes that provided explanations were removed and then left me as a reader floundering. I was constantly wondering how certain things came to be or why things were the way they were.

Truth be told, I think I would have enjoyed this book a lot more if it hadn't started off so strong. It set my expectations and then failed to meet them. I did enjoy small aspects of the novel but overall it was a total fail for me. If the things mentioned in my list of dislikes aren't a turn-off to you in novels, read this one. You'll love it. But it really just wasn't my cup of tea.

*\*I received a free copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review*

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## **A.Z. Green says**

Full review at Bit'N Book Promoters: [http://bitnbookpromoters.blogspot.co....](http://bitnbookpromoters.blogspot.co...)

I didn't want to say that I didn't finish this book. Because it doesn't mean that the book was crap. It was good. But it didn't make me want to invest in another two hundred pages (I was over 400 pages in) because frankly, it was just way too long. I've read books that were 500+ pages long with ease. This is almost 700! And I felt it just didn't need to be that long.

I loved the concept. The amulets, the cities, the magical atmosphere. It was enthralling and enjoyable to read. I liked the characters. The MC, Alexa, is admirable and sweet, even with a tragic past. She was a decent heroine, but not someone I truly connected with, or will remember until my old age.

Caleb, the other MC and the love interest of Alexa was a likeable character. I liked his personality, his business savvy manner and his almost mischievous pursuit of Alexa, despite Ivy's disapproval. Very little fazed him.

Which brings me to Ivy. Now, I really liked her. She's strong, smart, doesn't take crap and is mysterious. She's motherly, considerate, caring but she's also strict and unwavering. She was by far my favourite character. Though Novella was hilarious. She had the best lines. I guess they were on par with each other, but I feel Ivy had more substance.

The description of the scenery was lovely to read. I was sucked into it. The dialogue was good and realistic. It didn't make me roll my eyes at how awkwardly modern it sounded in what is supposed to be a historic setting. It sounded true to the time period of the novel.

I loved the magical, supernatural aspect of it. The betrayal and lust for power is always something that gets me interested if written well. And it was.

But not all of the book was written as well as it could have been, unfortunately.

The author has made the same mistake I did in my earlier writings. Overusing adverbs. Adverbs. Adverbs everywhere! Sometimes two or three of them in ONE sentence. And most of the time, they're not needed. Some authors will say they're not needed at all. EVER. I disagree. They can truly express an action to perfection but they're a tool that must be used wisely, and sparingly. It's just too many onions in a burger. It leaves a bitter taste in your mouth.

Next big mistake (which I was also guilty of until my editor hammered it out of me... I hope) is the overuse of dialogue tags. And the misuse of them. It irritated me how many times she wrote 'inquired' and top that off

with a very much unwanted adverb and it made for a very long-winded and clumsy read. The middle of the book got better, but when we're talking 300 pages being the middle, I'm guessing some people wouldn't have made it that far. Especially those severely allergic to adverbs and dialogue tags. Just put 'he said.' You don't have to say 'he stated casually' or use big words. Simple is better. We're smart enough to guess it's a casual statement. The same goes for 'he shouted angrily'. Really? Well if he's shouting, of course he's angry. Or an actual example I have at hand: *'Sorry, Sam,' Caleb told him apologetically.'* See what I mean? Don't need it. Cut them out. It'll look cleaner and not cause the dialogue flow to stutter.

And my last gripe is the novel could be reduced by at least 200 pages. I have no problem with lengthy books at all, but I think if the author chose to go back, remove the unnecessary dialogue tags and adverbs, that would be a good chunk reduction on its own.

So ignoring the above negatives, the book is decent. And I'm sure if I'd read the rest I'd think the same. But the reason I didn't continue was because I was waiting for it to end, and that's never a good thing. When reading long books before that I loved, I didn't want them to end, and when they did, I wished there was more. Even though they were almost the same length as this book.

I loved the idea of it, and I think it could truly be a fantastic novel if the above noted is considered.

The book cover is gorgeous. I love it and it's the reason I was excited to read the book. I'm an admirer of decent covers, as I create covers myself.

Overall it's a good read and for many it will be something they can read from beginning to end and love. I'm not one of those people but I really think the author has done a great job. I'm just picky because I couldn't read this novel and truly enjoy it when my editorial voice was rolling its eyes and sighing at almost every page.

I wouldn't let my opinion put you off. If you can handle what I couldn't, go for it. It's not a terrible story. It just needs a good edit.

Thank you for allowing me to read your book.

It's 3 out of 5 from me.

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## **Hilary Burton says**

At first, I was wondering when this book was going to pick up. There was so much description in the details and I was trying to wrap my mind around the time frame and the setting. However, after getting about one-third through the book, I really started to enjoy it. The development of the characters really helped me to relate and connect with them. I enjoyed how the relationship between Alexa and Caleb slowly developed, it seemed very realistic. I also appreciated the back story and the little details that helped to foreshadow major events. There was a lot of creativity involved in creating the setting and the rivalries of the cities. Overall, I really enjoyed the book and was waiting for more at the end! Definitely excited to read the next one.

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**Rose says**

It's really a shame because this book seemed like something I'd enjoy for genre and type. But sadly, not for me. For multiple reasons.

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