



Dreams of Gods & Monsters

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Two worlds are poised on the brink of a vicious war. By way of a staggering deception, Karou has taken control of the chimaera's rebellion and is intent on steering its course away from dead-end vengeance. The future rests on her.

When the brutal angel emperor brings his army to the human world, Karou and Akiva are finally reunited - not in love, but in a tentative alliance against their common enemy. It is a twisted version of their long-ago dream, and they begin to hope that it might forge a way forward for their people. And, perhaps, for themselves.

But with even bigger threats on the horizon, are Karou and Akiva strong enough to stand among the gods and monsters?

The *New York Times* bestselling Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy comes to a stunning conclusion as - from the streets of Rome to the caves of the Kirin and beyond - humans, chimaera, and seraphim strive, love, and die in an epic theater that transcends good and evil, right and wrong, friend and enemy.

Dreams of Gods & Monsters Details

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Author : Laini Taylor

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From Reader Review Dreams of Gods & Monsters for online ebook

Regan says

4.25

Really enjoyed it but I should have completed this series sooner!

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I'm so happy with this ending ♥

Karou and Akiva must find a way to bring the beasts and angels together to fight against the evil angels. It's hard work but they manage to get it done with a few rough starts and stops. They have some help with a secret Karou is carrying.

What a brilliant author Laini Taylor is to come up with the worlds that she does.

There is also another character that has a very interesting (to put it mildly) part in the book. Her name is Eliza. I enjoyed her character quite a bit.

Karou's best friends, Zuzana and Mik are in the middle of it all. Just two small humans in an unhuman world. I love them so much and they were great through the whole thing. They also brought many comedic moments.

Liraz is there and hating stuff as much as always but she is there for her brother Akiva. BUT, she does show a sweet side when no one is looking and she gets a crush that will turn to love. I was so happy and it was lovely how sweet they were together. NO, I'm not saying who it is.

Ziri is there, another one of Karou's best friends but he was a monster like her. I don't like calling them monsters because they were the good monsters but that's how we keep them separate. Ziri rising above and beyond the call of duty to help both the seraphim and chimaera! I loved him so much. He put himself in a very precarious situation and he rocked it. And, oh the outcome, he was perfect and he finally got what he wanted in life. Not what he thought in the beginning, but even more. ♥

I loved the books in this trilogy. I loved all of the creatures and I WISH there was a graphic novel or some kind of artwork book of all the creatures. They were just so awesome sounding. Actually, I would like to see this trilogy as a movie too, as long as they didn't mess it up. It's a very serious book and not something you could cartoon up.

Anyway, I'm happy and that is all that matters =)

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

Natalie Monroe says

Cynical Natalie: Since no one else in this goddamn city has the guts to say this, I will: Why the fuck is the Daughter of Smoke & Bone series so popular?

Nice Natalie: Hush! Do you want to alienate everyone in the YA community before this review has even started?

Cynical Natalie: Someone has to be the voice of reason.

Nice Natalie: Oh, get off your high horse. I remember a certain someone ignoring the cute guy in class because she couldn't stop reading The Dreams of Gods & Monsters.

Cynical Natalie: That was only because I was in the middle of a tense part.

Nice Natalie: Please, you thought the *entire* thing was the bees' knees. The plot was beautiful and managed to include characters we'd originally written off as one-book placeholders from The Daughter of Smoke & Bone. Laini clearly had a long-term plot in mind from book one and she executed it flawlessly.

Cynical Natalie: I wouldn't say *flawlessly*. The beginning and ending was a slog to get through. It nearly put me to sleep.

And don't get me started on the romance.

Nice Natalie: Oh, boy, here we go.

Cynical Natalie: Karou and Akiva's epic romance is insta-love. Insta. Love. There is no foundation for their romance from day one! Karou took one look at the feathery bastard and went, "Dayum, that boy is hot. Gotta get me some of that."

Even the so-called connection from her past life can't help. Because, guess what? Madrigal and Akiva were Red String lovers too! She comes across him in a battlefield, doesn't murder his ass like she's supposed to, and Akiva tracks her down to a ball and makes her a shawl of moths. Bam, that's it. Never-ending lurve despite them knowing each other for like what—two minutes and a dance?

Nice Natalie: Akiva knows that. And acknowledges it. That's why he wants to know her better.

Cynical Natalie: Doesn't change the fact that this trilogy is built on a lie. And it's not only them and their stupid goo-goo eyes. Liraz and Ziri stank of convenience. We have to solve the Karou-Ziri-Akiva love triangle somehow, even though Ziri never had a fishfinger's chance in hell of getting the girl, so let's slap him with the battle-hardened angel. This way, Karou doesn't have to hurt anyone's feelings and Ziri can replace her the way Jacob replaced Bella with Reneesme. Is it too much to ask that a character get over a love through time and space, instead of another person? What kind of message does that send out?

Nice Natalie: You're completely misinterpreting the point. It's to create a parallel: Karou, a female chimera is with Akiva, a male angel; and Ziri, a male chimera is with Liraz, a female angel.

Cynical Natalie: Blah, blah, blah. Save it for literature class.

Actually, no, I got another allusion to Twilight. Karou, like Bella, only ever thinks about kissing Akiva. That's the extent of her sexy thoughts. No petting the kitty, no stroking the sword, no target practice.

Nice Natalie: Er, are you talking about sexy times?

Cynical Natalie: Just trying to keep it clean. Much like this book. I could polish my silver on it. Give me the hormone-charged, repeated safe sex of *Opposition* any day.

Nice Natalie: Laini's writing is so lyrical and poetic, talking about blow jobs would ruin it. Even the occasional everyday slang used within sound out of place.

Cynical Natalie: Then maybe she should tone it down a little. Her prose is suffocating in its beauty.

We know you're the Jane Austen of the decade, babe. Now let's try for a little simplicity. And humor. You can never go wrong with humor.

Nice Natalie: Zuzana is snarky.

Cynical Natalie: Eh, she's alright. She was one of the few characters I gave a fuck about. Too bad she (view spoiler)

Back to the character I really don't give a fuck about, how did Akiva pull a *deux ex machina* out of his ass and have the would-be fatal knife pass through him?

Nice Natalie: It's magic, remember? Akiva learned to tap into cosmic energy.

Cynical Natalie: Cosmic energy...

Nice Natalie: It was done with proper foreshadowing.

Cynical Natalie: I'm not even going to get into that ludicrous shit. Let's make it 2.5 stars and call it day.

Nice Natalie: You were hooked on it!

Cynical Natalie: Until the confusing ending. Everything's dandy, then some mystic dudes turn up with a new mission. It's like freaking fanfiction.

Nice Natalie: She's leaving it open for a spin-off.

Cynical Natalie: Hear that sound in the distance? It's ka-ching of cash registers everywhere.

Nice Natalie: Must you nitpick everything?

Cynical Natalie: I'm a hater. Haters gonna nitpick, nitpick, nitpick.

Nice Natalie: Really? You're going to bring Taylor Swift into this?

Cynical Natalie: I have a arsenal of Taylor gifs at my disposal. Stand down, sir.

Nice Natalie: At least make it a 3.5.

Cynical Natalie: Counting down... three

Nice Natalie: Look at those glowing 5-star reviews!

Cynical Natalie: That's why I exist. Two...

Nice Natalie: Everyone will hate us.

Cynical Natalie: This is the Internet. What else is new? One...

Nice Natalie: THREE STARS AND THAT'S MY FINAL OFFER.

Cynical Natalie: Fine.

FYI, if Laini writes a spin-off, we'd probably have to come back and do this all over again.

Nice Natalie: Oh, God...

Pre-review: I will read this just for the sake of finishing this series.

Come on, Laini Taylor, hit me with your best shot.

Other Nice Natalie/Cynical Natalie ~~brawls~~ reviews:

The Fault in Our Stars

Warcross

If I Stay

A Girl Like You

The Martian

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

Catching Fire

All The Rage

An Ember In The Ashes

Harry Potter & the Cursed Child
The Hammer of Thor
Caraval

Samantha says

3.75 stars! I still really enjoyed this book but I felt this could have been a 4 book series, so the last half in particular felt a bit disjointed. Review to come on my channel!

Emily May says

OMGHGYGLFTDTESERSHGVCFDRESGFCBVBNV GHVGKFK....

Navessa says

In my review for *Days of Blood and Starlight* I basically said that Laini Taylor could re-write the phone book and I'd give it ALL the stars. So she wrote me a phone book. And I found out I was mistaken.

If this had progressed like it opened, I would have fangirled over it as hard as I did for the first two installments. The characters we've come to love have formed a shaky alliance with those they've called enemies for all their lives (<--- plural, get it? BECAUSE RESURRECTION, HAHAHAHA). They're about to attempt the impossible, try to bring peace to their world. It's filled with dialog, action, suspense, etc. In short, it's filled with actual frigging scenes.

But then everything goes horribly wrong for our heroes and heroines, as it does, and we find ourselves back on earth, following the lives of new characters and trapped in chapters made up of huge blocks of narrative. The problem with this type of storytelling is that it drags. I, the reader, knew that shit was hitting the fan elsewhere and I lamented over being stuck inside the head of a person whom I'd just met and didn't give a shit about.

The further into the book I got, the worse things became. I didn't feel as though I were reading a book, I felt as though I were being lectured by the author, and I began to *really* notice it. So much so that it took away from the story progression.

Then repetition was introduced in that ~~every single time that Karou and Akiva were near each other~~ scratch that, every single time I found myself reading from their perspectives, I was subjected to their never-ending musings about each other. I find that sort of angst-filled repetition to not only be annoying, but patronizing. You've already told me three times that they pine for each other. I get it, really I do. I'm a semi-intelligent human being, I'm not going to forget this fact after taking a break from their internal monologue-filled narratives to read about Jim Whogivesafuck for thirty pages.

Between the long-winded pining, the info-dump expositions, and the repetition, I found myself starting to skim towards the end.

And then there was the never-ending Karou-Akiva-Contrivance. How many times are you going to have your main characters *almost* get together before pulling them apart again? You can only do this so much before it starts to feel forced and the reader becomes aware of the author's machinations. The last time was the final straw for me, and my skimming became full-page flipping for the last fifty or so pages, where I found out that three books of buildup led to a disappointing conclusion in their story arc.

In short, where the fuck was her editor?

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Steph Sinclair says

I enjoyed this finale much more than I did Days of Blood and Starlight. There's just something about seeing Karou and Akiva steal away precious moments in the midst of impending death. However, I wasn't completely satisfied with the ending. Taylor chose to introduce new characters and it felt a bit jarring for a final book. Out of nowhere, characters who I'd just met suddenly became extremely important to the plot when all I really wanted was more Karou and Akiva. The sexual tension and want between those two was through the roof and I JUST NEEDED THEM TO KISS ALREADY. What I find interesting is how with Daughter of Smoke and Bone I quickly labeled this series as PNR, but now that doesn't feel accurate. Sure, there is a love story at its root, but has become so much more than that. It feels more Fantasy and less PNR by the end, and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't left craving more of that romantic spark I felt in Daughter of Smoke and Bone. A part of me wants to read a straight PNR from Taylor just so my feels can burst into flames. Overall, I loved this book and this series still remains a favorite.

(There better be a spin-off planned, because I smell a spin-off.)

=====

This cover... This cover... oh my gosh!

karen says

[or isssss it??? i can has spinoff?? (hide spoiler)]

Hannah says

The perfect conclusion.

This trilogy is everything.

Elaine says

Laini Taylor is god, or well, a godstar and I will forever be sitting in awe of her genius imagination.

In all honesty, this trilogy hands down deserves a solid five glowing stars (or more really) but I just can't help but feel a little let down by the lack of a climax in this last book. The last was chock full of gorgeously amazing prose as per usual and Zuze's hilarious and impactful one-liners but I couldn't help but crave for more action. Perhaps the second just blew me away with its *epic-ness*. We also had some deus ex machina in play and info dumping which I was not expecting.

All in all, despite the little misgivings I had, Dreams and the entire trilogy was just an amazingly (cannot emphasize this enough) magical journey. One that I'm not ready to leave just yet. Now bring on that Zuzana and Mik quote book! I DEMAND IT.

COVER REVEAL!

I love the red of the second cover but THIS. Karou looks fierce as hell.
So much love.

Update 16/05/13

Guys, this book now has a *beautifully gorgeous title*.

APRIL 2014 COME TO ME.

Update 18/12/12:

So someone highlighted to me that the release date has been pushed back to **2014** and I was like

Then I was like

Cue emotional wailing and denial.

Oh, can I PLEASE have this book earlier?

Kat O'Keeffe says

A beautiful conclusion to an epic trilogy!

This series is officially one of my favorites of all time, if not my very favorite. I just love everything about it--the immense world, the wonderful cast of characters, the grand story that is woven together oh so well, and of course, the gorgeous, gorgeous prose. Not to mention all of the emotions! Books don't often make me cry, but this one sure did! Several times, actually. At one point I had to set the book down and take a break from reading because I couldn't make out the words through my tears. (view spoiler)

And while I am very happy and satisfied with this final book in the trilogy, I still can't help but want *more*. More Karou, more Akiva, more Zuze & Mik, more chimaera, more angels, more romance, more chaos. Godstars, just give me MORE! There's certainly enough story here for another book--or even a spinoff series! If only I could get my hands on a gavriel so I could wish said series into existence... oh who am I kidding, if I had a gavriel I'd totally wish for flight! XD

I'll be putting up a full review/discussion on my channel soon, but needless to say, I HIGHLY recommend this series. I know that it might not be for everyone (it does get pretty weird at times), but for me, this series is just about perfect, and I can't wait to get my hands on WHATEVER Laini Taylor writes next.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

my future wife: do you love me

me: yes

my future wife: are you ever going to love me as much as you love Liraz from those books you read five years ago

me: ...I'll get back to you on that

??

This series has moved so far beyond its roots in DoSaB. *Dreams of Gods and Monsters* is a **war epic**, not just the story of a demon and angel's forbidden love. **Everything lovely about the first book is simply one part of a whole story.** There's so much **nuance** to both the themes and the characters. This is a series you could analyze for hours.

The writing is still unspeakably beautiful, simple yet gorgeous. Laini Taylor's writing flows across the page to the point where instead of skipping across paragraphs as I usually do, I was hanging on her every word. I'd read her grocery lists.

In terms of plot, though, this disappointed me slightly. For the first 500 pages, the plot is near-perfect, with brilliant twists and reveals. Yet my largest issue lies in the final hundred pages. **The plot thread of the stelians needed far more buildup.** It's great to see worldbuilding get even more fleshed-out, but when the first two books were so vague about worldbuilding, the focus on multiple universes seems completely out of the blue. It's an extra hundred pages spent on a plotline that has nothing to do with anything else in the story.

The plotline should've been integrated more into the full story previously in the book, at the very least.

EXTENDED YELLING ABOUT THE CHARACTER WORK

Karou and Akiva's character arcs in this book were frankly a bit underwhelming. After the growth and change they went through in book two, much of this book is plot-driven. They're both compelling characters and I absolutely loved seeing them finally get together, but they didn't grow quite enough for me. Most of their growth comes through their relationship, so thank god that **Karou and Akiva are still a great couple.** Their scenes in the first half were few and far between, which served only to make them more tear-worthy. The touch of instalove from book one has become a complex relationship full of moments that touch my heart.

I'm going to dedicate an entire paragraph to my two favorite characters: Liraz and Ziri. **These two have each developed so much since book one.** Ziri's goodness and sense of duty towards Karou both saddened me and gave me hope for humanity. His new form allowed the narrative to explore his character even more. Liraz's brutality and desire to be more than a machine mix to form an extremely compelling character. And their relationship delighted me. I know Liraz and Ziri being in a relationship is slightly convenient, and I don't care because they *fit*. **Their personalities are so opposite yet so similar, and it's lovely.** I'm unspeakably happy about them.

Of course, Zuzana and Mik are delightful. The addition of Eliza's narrative voice surprisingly helped too. These three add **a touch of humor** to an otherwise disturbing story. Also LOVIN THE IMPLIED LESBIANS AT THE END. RIDIN OFF INTO THE SUNSET TOGETHER. LAINI I LOVE YOU.

Definitely recommend this trilogy for any fantasy fans. It's been a lovely ride.

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April says

"We haven't been introduced."

What a perfect ending to this fantastic series.

Nick says

It's been a while since I read "Days of blood and starlight". If you know me you would probably know that I am an ultimate fan of the this series. It's one of my all time favorites. I have saved this one for the winter break, but before I read this I wanted a feedback from you. Have you read it and if so, what did you think?

Jay Z says

Outside, the moon hung low. It sang of tremulous shadows and evenings past, of urban gunpowder and decay. In trembling hands, the reader held it. Alas, not the moon but something better. The solid weight of the book, after months of yearning and patient waiting. A creep of color in her cheeks, an imperceptible shiver of anticipation. Finally. She held it, not daring to believe -- but unable to stem the tide of hope and eagerness. It felt heavy. Six hundred and thirteen pages. *An ending. A beginning. A dream.* Of God and Monsters. The uncommon love story held within the desperately thick hardcover beckoned. She unfurled in her couch and began reading beside a steaming cup of decaffeinated tea that hinted of cinnamon and apples, of autumn long past. *Would there ever again be such an autumn*, she wondered absently, for a moment, before the tide of language pulled her under.

On and on she read. Akiva was manly but also beautiful. She was reminded repeatedly that his eyes were fire. Godstars and silverdust, *they were fire*. And Karou was a woman independent, strong, and brave. She led an army of revenants but she burned in the flames of Akiva's eyes and his devotion to her, which knew no bounds. Karou stood fast, gulped, and joined her eyes with Akiva's. In the known universe, there was nothing like these two sets of eyeballs, the same yet different. *The eyeballs of Akiva and Karou.* Each contained such intensity, grief, and resplendence, that the universe was destroyed and reborn each time their gazes locked. It was a thing indescribable in language. But the author tried anyway, over three books that sung with grief and hope. Across the nation, readers held their faces to the glimmering night sky and wept. They wept tears of moonshine and starlight. And they read.

After the universe reconstituted itself in the wake of Akiva and Karou's soul-shattering look, the nature of their gazes ... shifted. Karou's was vivid, hopeful, searching. Akiva's was troubled, unsure, and angry at the devastation he had caused her people. In a voice that was low and sweet and rough with love, he spoke: "hello." Her hair was a shimmer of blue and her cream-colored face flushed and he thought, *Gods, she was so beautiful.* "Hi," she said, and the word was a wisp and it brushed against his skin, soft as the caresses they had once shared before their worlds were torn asunder by a knowledge neither of them could ever unknow. As they looked on at each other, it seemed as though all the words in all the languages in all the worlds had been extinguished in the bright blaze of their love. What was there to say? But the ugly shadow of Thiago and his attempted brutalization of Karou hung low in the air between them, even lower than the moon outside the reader's window. A very masculine rage tore through Akiva's chest and threatened to blind him. *I should have been there to protect you*, he said, his voice choked with sorrow. The emotion in his voice seared its way through his body, and his chest rippled, slightly and gently as the leaves of a summer tree. Karou, strong and self-sufficient, said shortly, "I protected myself," but her eyes were bright with tears. Outside, clouds were gathering. Clouds of hope and heartache.

But then the unthinkable happened. At the corner of the reader's eye, a vibration. She turned and saw her iphone blinking the way it did only when someone was calling her. It was like a kick to her heartbeat, that burning light. The screen shone yellow-green, then sparked and blazed like a star calling out to the heavens. It was mom. Dear gods and stardust. She felt...exposed. Torn. An age-old conflict churned inside her: answer the call of duty or continue being caressed by the firelit words of the moonheavy book. Moments passed but seemed like years, like an eternity. She made her decision. She reached over and with the sly cunning of a fox, pressed a button that would silence the ring and as she did, revealed a smile like a lovechild of a shark and scimitar.

She drowned again. The author's tortured prose opened its arms, and the reader fell into that lunatic embrace, an unwilling captive, and the world fell away around her. *Oh, Akiva. Oh, Karou. Oh, two halves of one soul,*

their destiny written in war and blood. Oh, tears. The reader was dimly aware that plot and pacing were pitch-perfect, that occasional characters were well-drawn, and that the setting was still interesting. But in the end, these things were known and buried under prose that shone unbearably purple in the starlight, growing brighter and brighter like a wounded star in the night sky until there was nothing left of the dream of god and monsters, and of the reader's patience which lay in pieces on the desolate wasteland of her bedroom floor.
