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Lindsay Buroker

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Professor Tikaya Komitopis knew that bringing Admiral Rias Starcrest home to meet her family wouldn't be easy, not when he led the fleet that decimated her nation during the war. She isn't surprised when people believe she's been brainwashed, that Rias is still loyal to the empire, and that he has nefarious plans for her homeland. She is, however, surprised when Rias's designs to build a submarine lead them to stumble across an ancient secret shrouded in mystery, time, and lies.

If revealed, this secret could mean devastation for Tikaya's entire nation. It could also mean choosing between her people... and the man she loves.

Decrypted is the sequel to Encrypted and is loosely tied in with the author's "Emperor's Edge" series.

Decrypted Details

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From Reader Review Decrypted for online ebook

Diane Lang says

Set in the Emperor's Edge universe, Decrypted follows the further adventures of Rias and Tikaya after they return to Tikaya's home on Kyatt. As usual, the pace is fast with plenty of unusual twists and turns to keep the reader engaged. It is fascinating to watch how these two handle the prevailing prejudices against Rias and Tikaya's relationship as well as an ancient mystery involving Tikaya's family.

We learn more about the history of the three nations - Turgonia, Kyatt and Nuria - and how what happened centuries ago affects the current situation. And why Tikaya's people are so disturbed by Rias's plans to build a submersible.

Now I'm really looking forward to the next installment in the Emperor's Edge series where threads from all the books set in this world begin to come together. Will we find out if Rias and Tikaya had children? What will happen when these two geniuses combine forces with Amaranthe and Sicarius? How will Sespian deal with all these powerful personalities? The mind reels at the thought . . . :-)

I am a huge fan of Lindsay Buroker's writing and will read anything she writes. Her ability to tell an exciting story with humor and great characters reminds me of another favorite author of mine, Lois McMaster Bujold. Both of them make me laugh out loud when reading their stories . . . causing my family to wonder about my sanity.

A says

Do you know the rule, "you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince"? Lately I've been thinking that the rule applies to buying self-published e-books too; I feel like I've recently been kissing a lot of e-book frogs. So you can imagine my relief and satisfaction when I found that Buroker's Decrypted is a prince. If you've enjoyed any of her other stories, you'll find this to be of pretty much of the same caliber. I confidently recommend it.

This book is about Rias and Tikaya. Rias was formerly an admiral of the Turgonian Empire who was considered a hero and a brilliant naval strategist. Although he still quietly has many "fans" back home in Turgonia and certainly has a fearsome reputation among his enemies, he has been disgraced and stripped of his family name and honours by the emperor after the Turgonian Empire lost the recent war. Turgonia lost the war because Tikaya, an academic philologist of the Kyattese Islands nation, decoded Rias's encrypted wartime messages and helped Rias's enemy to defeat Turgonia's navy. That all occurred before Tikaya and Rias first met.

In Lindsay Buroker's first novel of this set, Encrypted, Tikaya and Rias met for the first time, fought side-by-side to overcome their captors, protected each other while they adventured through hostile environments and pooled their expertise to solve puzzles and mysteries. In this novel, Decrypted, Tikaya has brought Rias home to the Kyatt Islands to meet her family. This time they have to struggle against the Kyattese authority's and Tikaya's family's prejudices against Rias (and against Turgonians in general). Tikaya delves into her family's attic and mines the Polytechnic library's archives to research a mysterious Turgonian legend. Rias uses his talent for innovative engineering to weave a way through social obstacles and overcome

technological limitations to pursue their dream of searching for legendary colonies and ancient shipwrecks.

Decrypted's adventure does not cover as much ground as Encrypted. Neither the characters' relationship development nor the central conflict of the story is as large as the preceding novel. Nonetheless, I was impressed that I did feel like I was in a different country, surrounded by a different culture. Despite that difference, the story flowed consistently and logically from the last novel and it was fun and unpredictable. I am a hard marker: I reserve my 5 stars ratings for books that rock my world a bit (or a lot). I don't think this story is as much fun as Encrypted but I still really liked it a lot. Getting a 4 star from me is not a luke-warm recommendation.

Amber says

Not bad but not terribly exciting. It wasn't exactly predictable, but there wasn't really anything new or surprising in this book. The meeting with Takaya's parents goes about how you would expect and the ending was... nice?

When they finally got to the "big secret" I was hoping for something a bit more exciting. It wasn't disappointing, but it did fall flat for me.

Deanna Stanley says

Sometimes you wonder if an author can keep their track record going -- surely at some point they have to burn out, or just settle for a less than perfect story. But not Lindsay Buroker! Decrypted is her usual mix of laughter and adventure with just enough romance thrown in to keep it interesting.

This is the sequel to Encrypted - read that first to truly appreciate this novel. Tikaya and Rias finally make it to the Kyatt Islands and quickly fall into trouble... Some is to be expected - Rias IS known as the Black Scourge after all, but is quickly becomes apparent that something more is going on than just anti-Turgonian sentiment.

I don't want to give anything away, but spellunking is mentioned. And there is a giant octopus attack. And explosions. And encrypted messages for Tikaya to puzzle out. And fabulous engineering feats performed by Rias...

All in all, a very satisfying and enjoyable read. Lindsay Buroker never disappoints..

Mara says

I loved Encrypted and Emperor's Edge. But it seems I'm not that fond of their sequels. I liked Decrypted much more than the second book in the Emperor's Edge series, mostly because it had a story of its own (while EE2 seemed a repetition of the previous book).

Still, I had the feeling that the book wasn't really sure of its plot. The Kyattanese couldn't decide whether they were peaceful people or not. Tykaya couldn't decide if she was a woman or a teenager girl. The only

one who was himself was Rias.

My main nit (and it wasn't small) was Tykaya. She doesn't really seem the same woman. Yes, she was naive and bookish, but here, with the exception of a couple of scenes, she reverts to teen. My eyebrow started to raise when she allowed her family to treat her as an underage and I mean literally. They control and check on her. We are told the kyattanese are the "modern" people (in social mores) compared to the rest of the Universe, but you can't really see it. I perfectly understand her family's reaction, he IS an enemy, after all. I do NOT understand why she stands it. The way she is treated is unbelievable, from child to liar to brainwashed.

Clearly if you come back from being a prisoner, people may fear you have been turned. Even your family. But family should be blood, people who stand by you. I honestly never saw anyone from her family standing by her. Even her mother who, we are lead to believe, supports her. I would get iced to the bone if after what happened at the peer I got that reaction from my mom.

Moreover, after some time fears should get settled. People that lives with you should realize you're in love and not brainwashed. Above all should trust you with the truth. But again, I get her family...her not so much.

Sure as hell I did not understand why she didn't try to kill her own father or beat some truth from him at the peer(view spoiler). I'm not even sure I understand her constant nagging to avoid killing her people. I get some of her reasoning. She does want to live there and they should be peaceful people. But here we skirt the TSTL, it seems she refused to defend her and Rias with her decisions.

I was very, very happy to have this sequel and high expectations can mar an experience. It seems it happened to me. :) But I love this couple and I'll probably buy the last in the Emperor's Edge books so to meet them again.

Maria says

Summary: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner meets Captain Nemo, plus explosions.

I will preface this by saying, Yes, I am a big fan of Lindsay's, but I do not rate a book by its author or its series. My affections lie strongly with the EE crew, and while it is the same world, it is 20 years prior and those characters are not actually in the book. The Tikaya and Rias books (if you haven't read Encrypted* you really should start there) truly are a separate series. *Short summary: They bonded while being held captive and forced to solve the mysteries of a brutal weapon, figuring out a way to escape without letting it fall into even more brutal hands.

We rejoin our unlikely pair as they reach Tikaya's home and are almost immediately faced with aggressive opposition. Rias is considered a war criminal, wanted in chains by the government and the islands at large, but never mind that - they still have to introduce him to her parents. Someone has made it home ahead of them and started giving a somewhat different version of what the events in Encrypted, leading most of her friends and family to believe Tikaya has been brainwashed by the enemy.

I really, really enjoyed a lot of the secondary characters in this book. I had fears going in that his amazing charisma would have Rias winning people over a bit too quickly, or potentially being so taken with him that

Tikaya would become resentful at a lack of recognition for the role she played. Rather than a crapload of such dramatic tripe, however, we meet concerned friends and family who are wary and suspicious (okay, most of them) but also some who are willing to give Tikaya's massive intelligence the benefit of the doubt rather than write her words off.

***** MINOR SPOILER *****

If I had one problem with the book, it WAS the fact that so many of her colleagues and friends, even her family, were willing to ignore Tikaya's reputation as an extremely intelligent woman in a society where women typically seem to be accepted as equals with the men (le GASP!). I was irritated by how many people to whom she told her story of kidnapping and captivity, of horror and brutality and escape, listened and then said, "Yeah, but obviously you're too stupid to realize that it was a trick and he doesn't really love you." Way to be supportive, guys.

***** END SPOILER *****

If there is one thing that Lindsay Buroker knows how to write, it is an entertaining thrill ride. There is action around every corner, including corners I didn't even know were in the room. You think you're in a sweet, about-to-be-kissed alcove and BOOM! Corner. Action. There are explosions (and Maldynado isn't even IN this book!), lies, mysteries, and a dangerous secret that has been kept for generations. I would love to say more about this, but since it just came out, I'm afraid of giving away too many spoilers.

It was also really interesting to learn about the history of the major nations in this world, and to see some of the groundwork laid out for the political and technological relations to come in the EE books. I'm already wondering when we're going to get a book from the Nurian perspective.

I would advise that, if you're coming across Lindsay's work for the first time, you would enjoy several "inside" jokes by reading Encrypted first, followed by the first 5 EE books (starting with The Emperor's Edge) and then Decrypted. It is certainly not required, but I think you'll get the most entertainment out of them that way. :)

this review is crossposted at Amazon

Lynxie says

Decrypted is the second novel in Lindsay's Encrypted series, there is also a novella that sits between the two novels, Enigma.

Lindsay does have a tendency for rehashing characters or series even when her readers think otherwise. I think this may happen with Rias and Tikaya. This book offers a rather nice close to their series. But it also leaves it open enough that more stories could be tacked onto the end.

I am a huge Emeror's Edge fan, and I love that there's some cross over between the two series. Alas, like a lot of fans, I just didn't like this as much as EE.

I did enjoy the mental stimulation that the two cerebral-esqué characters provided, I also enjoyed their

taunting and witty banter. The story just fell a little flat for me despite all those positives.

There was plenty of the usual hair-brained schemes that Lindsay's fans have attributed to her other herion, Amaranthe, but these hair-brained schemes are usually within the realm of reality. They're thought through and plausible.

I did enjoy exploring the Kyatt islands with Tikaya and Rias. Though I felt the ending was all a little too convenient. Not Lindsay's best work, but still an enjoyable and easy read.

If Lindsay Buroker is new to you, try her Emperor's Edge series first (they're totally awesome!), if you've already tried EE, but not read this series. Give it a try.

A few things I noticed:

5% - Un oh (should that be uh oh?)

36% - her hea(r)t sped up again.

50% - a letter clasped her in (transpose her and in) hand.

92% - ...have take(n) place over...

95% - a great number (of) wrecks...

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

That's it for me and this series. I love Buroker's Emperor's Edge series and really wanted to love this one but just couldn't get into it. Why? Because it's boring, no fun and downright not exciting. The writing isn't bad but the action is repetitive and little happens. I found myself skipping a lot of pages, waiting for something to happen, but nothing did...

In the Emperor's Edge series Buroker outdid herself in terms of characterization but here the main characters are completely lacklustre. There is little chemistry between Tikaya & Rias and definitely no sparks flying there! Tikaya's character felt more like a teenager than a thirty something woman. She constantly lets herself be controlled by her family and seems to think it's perfectly fine for them to treat her as a (choose all that apply) child/liar/traitor/brainwashed idiot. The scene when she returns home for the first time with Rias in tow bugged me to no end. Instead of welcoming her and being grateful that she is still alive and well, most members of her family spend the whole time insulting Rias. Does it bother her? Apparently not. Does she do anything about it? Nope. Does she think for even one second she should grab her man and get the hell away from them all? Definitely not! Let's stay here while my lovely family treats the man I love like crap! This girl seriously needs some pointers from either Amaranthe Lokdon or Kate Daniels.

Overall this was a huge disappointment and I definitely won't be reading the rest of the series.

Deanne says

It's never going to be easy to take the love of your life home, especially if he was an admiral in the navy of a recent opponent in a war which has just finished, but that's what are heroine does.

Jill says

Another enjoyable story, following Rias and Tikaya. The mystery was fun, and I gather it will affect later books in the Emperor's Edge series.

Like other books set in this world, this one pushes the action past the believable yet is still fun reading. To be honest, the romance between Rias and Tikaya isn't very interesting. I can understand her devotion to him, but his to her? More of a stretch. I have to agree with other readers that Tikaya just isn't that likable, and, for me, the constant innuendos and flirtation are annoying rather than appealing.

On to book 6 of E.E.

After I read a few other things to clear my palate.

Kendra says

I'm an admitted fan to the EE universe, but there's something about Tikaya and Rias's story that's uniquely appealing. If you haven't read the first book, Encrypted, it centers around Tikaya Komitopis, a languages professor who cracked the enemy's codes during the war and saved her people. She's kidnapped by those same enemies to solve the riddle of some ancient, and very dangerous, ruins with the help of exiled Admiral Shaska Federias Starcrest -- the man most reviled by her people because of his success against them during the war. I won't post spoilers, but Rias's story isn't what it seems either, and the two discover they make a very good team...in more ways than one.

So why read Encrypted/Decrypted? For me, it's awesome to see two "academics" getting into adventures and dangerous scrapes, using their intellect to solve problems and escape traps. Now, that's not to say they aren't good in a fight (they are), but it's refreshing for an adventure tale to be more "McGuyver meets Indiana Jones" than "The Expendables." There's also an amazing love story, overlaid with issues of racism/prejudice, family secrets, lies and governmental malfeasance. There are a lot of layers to this story, and each one builds on the other to create an engaging whole. Plus there's a great mystery to be solved.

But what I think what makes the story for me is Buroker's creativity in world-building. The customs of the Kyatt Islands feel very authentic and, at times, amusing. The way of life in Kyatt contrasts sharply with Turgonia--the empire at the heart of the EE novels. So while the books are related (Decrypted is set 18/19 years earlier than Emperor's Edge), there's a very different cultural environment, and it makes for some fun "fish out of water" situations for Rias.

If you are a fan of Buroker's EE series, you should definitely pick up Decrypted.

Mei says

I must say that Rias is a really, really fantastic hero!

I was melting while reading how he treated Tikaya! Soooo tender without being overbearing! Wonderful! For him only this books deserved 5 shining stars!

But there's Tikaya too! She's great and so very obviously in love with Rias!

And then there's the story! Even if it is a little over-the-top, for me it was delicious! I enjoy this kind of stories and I love this king of writing style, so I just devoured it!

Kati says

Fantastic book and fantastic narration! Ms. Buroker has a knack for writing great adventure yarn. Loved Rias, loved Tikaya, loved how they were with each other. This is the final book of a series of two books and a novella.

Bill Tillman says

Out of the park good! The dialogue fantastic, humor outstanding, edge of the seat excitement. Just a wonderful conclusion to a great series.

Allison says

I wanted to like this book more than I did. I spent the first half being annoyed with Tikaya for being really immature. The second half had great set-up, but the resolution of the conflict was really lackluster. The epilogue was enjoyable though. I think this book might have been better from Rias's perspective...
