



Ruin of Stars

Linsey Miller

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The thrilling conclusion to the Mask of Shadows duology that weaves a tale of magic, shadows, and most importantly, revenge.

As one of the Queen's elite assassins, Sal finally has the power, prestige, and permission to hunt down the lords who killed their family. But Sal still has to figure out who the culprits are. They must enlist the help of some old friends and enemies while ignoring a growing distaste for the queen and that the charming Elise is being held prisoner by her father.

But there's something terribly wrong in the north. Talk of the return of shadows, missing children, and magic abounds. As Sal takes out the people responsible for their ruined homeland, Sal learns secrets and truths that can't be forgotten.

Ruin of Stars Details

Date : Published August 28th 2018 by Sourcebooks Fire

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Author : Linsey Miller

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From Reader Review Ruin of Stars for online ebook

Avery (Book Deviant) says

is...is there a possible way to give this MORE than 5 stars? because 5 stars certainly isnt enough.

i literally just finished and i still cant believe what i just read. im still so RAW from this book. so much of it just ruined me that im having trouble putting my love for these books into words.

i am 100% going to be rereading this, and then a review will be up.

thank you to the team @ sourcebooks fire for sending the arc to me. it means the world to me.

reread 7/28/18: GODDAMNIT WHY DO I DO THIS TO MYSELF

Lili Marcus says

Got an ARC from the publishers in exchange for an honest review. :) Thanks...

| Bookstagram | Instagram | Facebook | Twitter | Goodreads | Blog |

Clare T. says

Thank you NetGalley for giving me a free, electronic ARC to review. All opinions are my own and not influenced in any way.

DNF at 60%

I wanted to like this book, but I just could NOT get into this. The first book, Mask of Shadows, was amazing! I was pretty excited to get this sequel, but I was pretty let down.

The story itself isn't that bad. It's a continuation of the previous book and explains a lot of backstory. Unfortunately, the writing is not amazing this time around. Many scenes have been too wordy, in the sense that I have to read them a few times to fully grasp what's going on. There were a lot of grammar mistakes (which will most likely be corrected once the final copy is released, but still).

I did not connect with Sal anymore. While it's important that Sal was gender-fluid because **representation matters**, it just became Excessive. I swear Sal mentions that they are gender-fluid in every chapter even when it's irrelevant to the plot. It gets mentions at the most random times, like the author's just sort of saying it to remind the reader of how ~unique~ this book is to others.

It'd be like

>fight scene

>no one cares about Sal's identity

>"I have no gender, no one understands here :("
>end fight scene

Obviously I'm exaggerating, but honestly not by much.

By all means, read this sequel if you love the story. It just wasn't for me.

Monique says

This is the second and last book in the Masks of Shadows series by Linsey Miller. It starts right off where the previous book ended, so it is a good idea to read them together. I did, and it made it more enjoyable since the last book ended with a bit of a cliffhanger.

In this book I finally made sense of what happened at the end exactly. That is my major issue with this book, both books really: the action scenes are really confusing. It's hard to keep track of what happens and who's involved, and I often have to read pages twice just to understand what's happening. That really puts me out of the reading flow. The first book we were introduced to many different and wonderful characters but in this book they really shine. I love how we get to know more of the Left Hand: their fears, dreams and quirks. And other surprising characters as well. Also there is more background and worldbuilding that the first book lacked.

But the character development of Sal is even better. They really grow up in this book and realise the world is not so black and white as they make it out to be - and they're willing to learn a lot, even on subjects they hated like magic. Revenge might be a bit empty after all. They also struggle with their conscience and killing and wonder what it does to your soul. I loved that internal struggle and the realisations. And Elise&Sal's relationship is awe inspiring. I never met a couple so understanding and I love how they let each other be free and respect their choices and ask what the other wants. Relationship goals! And the LGBTQ+ rep was amazing, it is what sets this book apart. I especially loved the aro/ace rep since it's so rare! And the ending is great too. There were twists and turns, some I saw coming and some I didn't, and it was a very satisfying end to a series.

This copy has been given to me by Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

Luth Tate says

I couldn't finish this book. And I really wanted to like it, because the last sequel in a book I read didn't do so well, either.

I'll start by stating that the whole "relation between chara and surroundings" def improved. I could better visualize where Sallot was in different scenes.

That being said, I only stuck around for less than 30 chapters.

The gender-fluidity is nice and all, but then it starts getting beat over your head. Sallot constantly mentions it, and as another review states, it'd be nice if the mentions were relevant.

An earlier issue in the book: Sallot introduces a non-binary character. Okay. Cool. But then, the character uses the term "binary", and it really jottles with your mind, because up to this point, you're pretty sure this book takes place in medieval-ish times. And I doubt anyone during that time used the term "binary". In those times, you were a man or a woman. There was no "binary" to speak of. Thus, having that word being used really threw me off.

Maybe this book just wasn't for me. It felt too slow-paced, not including the constant mentions of gender and how Sallot would be treated in the opposing country (not gonna say the name because spoiler-worthy).

All in all, I rate this a 2/5. If it'd been more fast-paced, might have been able to get behind it. It didn't have to be lightning speed, but similar to the pace of MoS. I'd recommend this for anyone who enjoyed the first book. There's nothing here, other than the constant reminder of how gender-fluidity is suggested to be unacceptable in the opposing country, that could ruin it.

K. Wolf says

My dudes, this book was absolutely amazing and fantastic, I would absolutely recommend.

Dianne says

Sal can finally seek vengeance and retribution behind the mask of Opal. The seek and destroy mission is now a thing of reality and Sal will make them pay. But will the greater price be paid by Sal's soul?

Enter the intriguing and dark world of Linsey Miller's **RUIN OF STARS** as one young assassin will enter a world filled with deceit, magic and love, with little hope of coming out emotionally intact, just the last person standing. Is the magic of the world really gone or has it been hidden away, coveted by others?

Will Sal finally find peace of mind and a true purpose to a life stained with hatred and blood? Linsey Miller brings this duology to a close with the same bold strokes of her pen, filling this tale with rapid-fire action, brutality and even tender moments of love and longing with a uniquely drawn character that allows each reader to decide how they interpret who Sal is as they travel through the intricate world at Sal's side.

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Sourcebooks Fire!

Duology - Mask of Shadows - Book 2

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Shenwei says

Ruin of Stars? more like Ruin of Shenners ???

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Book Grrrl ? says

Mask of Shadows: ★★★★★

Well, I seriously hate to do this and am very sad, but DNF at 20%. No rating. I wanted so very much to like this after loving the first book, but this is dreadfully boring and slow. Also, I feel like the criticism the author got not portraying "gender fluid" Sal "right" caused a whole lot of extra writing about gender fluidity and kind of ruined it for me. :/ Sal inner dialogued so much about their gender identity. I don't like being told things over and over. Why can't it just BE? The first book worked well for me BECAUSE you weren't beat over the head with it. In this one, you are. :(It felt like filler, rather than adding any dimension to Sal.

It also felt like absolutely nothing had happened in the 20% I read. It's just not for me, unfortunately. I tried to keep going, but kept finding reasons to put it down or read something else. I'm not going to force it anymore.

eARC provided by Edelweiss and publisher.

Crazy4Books says

Quick Summary:

The conclusion to the Mask of Shadows starts off not long after the first book ended. After winning the competition and becoming one of the Queen's elite assassins, Sal finally has the power, prestige, and permission to discover who killed their family and hunt them down. While enlisting the help of some old friends and even some enemies Sal realizes there's something terribly wrong in the north. Talk of the return of shadows, missing children, and magic abounds. As Sal takes out the people responsible for their ruined homeland, they learn some truths that just can't be forgotten or forgiven.

My Thoughts:

This was a thrilling tale of magic, assassins and revenge. I really liked our main character Sal, also known as the Honorable Opal. I thought their genderfluidity and PTSD were well represented. Sals struggle between getting revenge and deciding if that made them a bad person was endearing. I also found their righthous fury and ruthlessness compelling. While trying to prevent another war and learning the shadows who were sent to destroyed their country might be back Sals PTSD is at an all time high. Theres also more focus on Sals genderfluidity and the need to accept everyones identity.

Its like everything I enjoyed in the first book was amplified in this sequel. Besides more focus on the diversity representation we also get more magic and time with some favorite characters from Mask of Shadows. I love seeing more of Sals childhood friend Rath and Maud was still as amazing as ever. She isnt afraid to call Sal out and I just really liked their friendship. We also get to see more of a friendship develop

between Sal and Four. I liked getting to know the other queens assassins Emerald and Amethyst better. I also felt like the conflict with Sals love interest Elize was well done. Their relationship was realistic and it didnt over power the story.

When I first picked this up I had a difficult time remembering all the side characters, but I eventually got the hang of it. The world was pretty straight forward, but the magic and shadows were interesting. I really liked the importance of family and how I wasnt able to predict the plot. I loved how the author wasnt afraid to kill people off. For the most part the pace was gripping with a balance of both plot and characters. The writing was alright. We get just enough descriptions to get a picture of the setting, but the time line was a little vague. I thought the ending wrapped up nicely. Ill definitely keep an eye out for any future books by this author.

received for review consideration

Jennymort ? The Dark Lordette ? House of Slytheread says

Sequel to Mask of Shadows, about a gender fluid pickpocket. *cries*

I need this book. *Like right now.*

Ceillie Simkiss says

Holy baldy-eyed cats. So much love for this book. My heart aches.

Amanda (abookishinvasion) says

Can I have this book yet?! I need it!

Rosiee says

This is the sequel my soul needed!!! RUIN OF STARS has 100% more queers, stabbing, and sassy Maud, and I may never recover. Emerald is my everything. Sal deserves every hug in the world. My emotions are altered forever.

That epilogue. Is all I'm saying. *yodels into the night*

♠? Tabi = ?? ♠? says

oh hey this is actually coming out pretty soon so yay for that!
