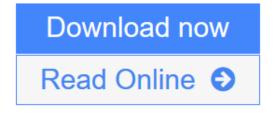


Soleil Jacqueline Garlick



Soleil

Jacqueline Garlick

Soleil Jacqueline Garlick Revised edition: This edition of Soleil includes editorial revisions.

Losing her would send him spiraling into darkness.

With Eyelet gasping in his arms and a toxic storm threatening to annihilate the Commonwealth, Urlick must find a way to save his beloved, and fast. Out of the mist appears an unusual man, claiming to possess the power to heal Eyelet. The townspeople immediately label him a sorcerer and call for his death, but Urlick trusts the stranger. He whisks him off to the Academy where it becomes clear Eyelet is running out of time. She must drink her father's antidote, or perish.

Together, Eyelet and Urlick brave the toxic woods to battle an Infirmed Flossie for the stolen necklace. In a race against time, they embark on a harrowing journey through the hellfires of Embers, where they meet up with the resurrected form of a familiar enemy—now the leader of the Dark World. Along the way, the pair unearth a sinister truth. Could the Vapours really be what they appear to be? Is this the end of the known world?

Soleil is the third and final installment of the long-awaited Illumination Paradox Series. A swashbuckling, nail-biting, romantic adventure, filled with mechanical beings and puzzling happenings, with a shocking, otherworldly conclusion.

NOTE: This book contains an homage to Lewis Carroll and his infamous characters, especially Alice, who visited me from Wonderland as a child and spurred me on. These scenes are an intended nod to Carroll's original works (now in the public domain) which I dearly love, continue to be for me, unyielding source of inspiration. To the creator, endless thanks. J

This file has been update.

Soleil Details

Date: Published July 31st 2016ISBN:Author: Jacqueline GarlickFormat: Kindle Edition 480 pagesGenre: Science Fiction, Steampunk, Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Fiction, Magic, Paranormal

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From Reader Review Soleil for online ebook

Laura says

I really wanted to like this last book, really I did. I loved the rest of the series, but this one, just seemed to drag. I had to force myself to finish it. It was a little bit past 1/2 half that I really struggled. Then it got really weird.

My advice, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. When you get to the white rabbit part during chapter 31 around 57%, just skip it and go to chapter 44 and begin from there. Save yourself the heartache.

I wish the author would have summed up those chapters and spent more time fleshing out the ending. I'm sure that she probably did so in the novella that I have not read. I found that world more interesting and almost what we had been waiting for through out the series, but it seemed so rushed.

Also, the grammatically mistakes were more noticeable in this book. I checked to see if I had an updated version, but I only bought it in August 2018, so I must have the "corrected" version.

I would still read more from this author, but I would be more hesitant to buy vs read.

Carrie says

This book dragged on so hard. I finished it only because it was book 3. There's a whole section where for some reason it becomes an Alice in wonderland plot line and then I'll admit I skimmed a battle sequence because i just couldn't make sense of it anymore. The ending also didn't make a lot of sense. It felt like an attempt at a happy ending but seriously, we're just abandoning the planet? What if not everyone got out? Oh that's right-dead. Probably. Maybe? Who knows. Maybe the alchemist will fix everything? He did an awful lot in the brief time he had at the beginning.

Marie - The Reading Otter says

<u>Review:</u> http://pagestoexplore.blogspot.com/20...

Amanda says

I feel bad giving two star ratings but this book just did in the entire series for me. It's almost like it was written by a completely different author. The first two are worth reading, unfortunately the second one ends in a cliff hanger that you need to continue with the third book to resolve. Maybe I should wait till the bitterness dies down a little before I finish this review. There's one more novella set in the universe but I'm not sure I want to read it at the moment. I can't imagine it being as enjoyable as the first two books considering the circumstances. Blah.

Felicity says

Read to complete the trilogy, but really didn't get on with this book. It seemed to be dark for the sake of rather than fitting into the story. The ending was rushed, and didn't work at all for me. I had be n going to recommend this series to my ten year old, but not after this book.

Kat says

I really wanted to love this book. I really enjoyed "lumiere" and "noir", but I just couldn't get behind this book. It seemed hastily written, there were a couple of times when the author contradicted herself. Examples of this are when she describes Eyelet's riding outfit as being pants, even saying that Eyelet wished she had skirts to fix Bertie Jay's wing. But then in her solo scenes in Embers, Eyelet is described several times as picking up her skirts. But then, during the final battle seen, Eyelet is described as wearing pants again. It was confusing. Also, CL described Masheck's hair as being flowing and curly. But, in "Noir" they shave his head to play the ringmaster. Very little time passes between the books from what I can tell, certainly not enough time for his hair to row back. I really wanted to love this book, but it felt rushed.

Matthew Nech says

Solid read

Really liked the entire series. It has comedy, suspense, romance, and tragedy all throughout. The protagonists are very likeable and the villains are easy to hate. Would recommend all three books of the series.

Tim kaskes says

Name interesting enjoyable

I really enjoyed the whole series very fascinating a great read their romantic and interesting The characters were well written and the adventures that they achieved are interesting and exciting

Carlos Emilio says

I know it was nearly a year since I started, but I found it awfully hard to get on with this book. That said, I'm no quitter.

I went through the book as fast as I could hoping my own boredom would not make me drop it and it was a sucess.

Noir and Lumiere were books I would invest my time in with joy due to how the world seemed consistent and it had the tinges of magic I could forgive it. Soleil on the other hand grabs all the other books have managed to build, tears it down, by filling it with incoherent story changes and kills the remains by filling itself with hat tricks to give us a happy and frustrating ending. I would urge readers to simply look for a short version of soleil's story and avoid the overall frustration of seeing a well built world torn down for , what to me was, an absent reason.

Victoria says

I really wish I enjoyed this one more than I did. Grammatical errors and spelling mistakes aside, the story itself just felt like it lacked the special something the first two had.

The beginning of the book wasn't that bad, I enjoyed the plot line and seeing what was going on with each of the characters. It was probably around 60% where the book really started to lose what felt like the world the books started in. It didn't feel original anymore with the Alice in Wonderland components. Yes it had some of its own things in it too, but it felt like I wasn't really reading a story in the world that was created in the first two books anymore. The writing at the end was more tedious than I would have liked, and I found myself skimming to get to the end rather than spending time to really delve into the story and the world. Overall I think if the Alice direction wasn't so prominent and the writing was edited some, the book has some potential, and I'm glad I read it so I could see how the story ended, but I wasn't left satisfied like I had hoped I would be.

Lisa says

I wanted to love this book so much more than I did. I absolutely adored Lumiere (#1) and Noir (#2), so I was super excited when this book was finally delivered to my Kindle. To say that Soleil didn't meet my (maybe unreasonably) high expectations is to be blunt about it. Soleil did provide all the action I'd become accustomed to. It also provided a bit of romance as well, although not as much as we saw in Noir. But the entire story seemed really rushed and just plowed through to bring us to a conclusion that I didn't find all that satisfying. I had previously enjoyed reading about all the machinery and all things "steampunk-y" because it is not a genre I typically read from. However, it seemed like about half of what I read was descriptions of machinery, weapons, automatons, etc. But where my heart really fell was when the author took a dive down the rabbit hole – literally – and brought her version of "Alice in Wonderland" to the story. Until this point I couldn't put the book down; then when this story borrowed "AinW" and incorporated it, I was super disappointed with the lack of originality and it became a lot easier to take breaks from it. I feel like the author could've figured a different way to address this part of the plot/conflict without ripping off another story. And although there is a H.E.A. of sorts, it is still bittersweet. I wonder about Eyelet and Urlick's future considering where they're at in the end.

I know the author has been participating in writing a book a month kind of challenge, and unfortunately I think that was the problem with Soleil. I think having to finish this book in a month did not do it any favors. I think plot ideas and details could have been better developed had the author put more time and effort into it. I liked Soleil, but didn't love it like I wanted to. I'm sad I couldn't have better feelings about it considering this is the last of the series. The author mentioned in the notes towards the end of the book that there would be spin-offs/novellas based on this world. I only hope those are better.

Star Bookworm says

I was so stoked for this book. "The Illumination Paradox" started as an incredible series. The world was a new kind of apocalyptic dystopia. The diseases were unique with a slight touch of steampunk, and the characters had an air of disturbing that is just on the correct level of creepy. I honestly felt like this series had something special to it. I was eagerly awaiting the third book. My super nerd reached critical mass when the author announced that book three would be in our hands on Harry Potter's birthday!

Then, Soleil published. Then, my heart broke. The first chapter was an editing nightmare. I have learned from previous novels this does not get better, but I wanted the conclusion to the adventures of Eyelet and Urlick so I steamed ahead. My heart broke a second time. Not only was the text grammatically butchered, the flow had lost all it's spunk. The story line had skipped into full throttle bull rush passed all the wit and sass that made this series start strong. And then... Yes, and then, we literally (nerd bonus for actually getting to use this word correctly) fell down the rabbit hole.

Really? This wonderfully unique series had to fall down a flipping rabbit hole! Don't get me wrong, I love Alice in Wonderland, but I really do not love the over abundance of authors using it as a crutch. Write something original! But, back to the review. After we escape that hell, we are reintroduced to Eyelet and Urlick bumbling through their story. The ending was something I had so looked forward to, and I was crushed. I would have dedicated all that time in wonderland wannabe to Limpidious (the world you created author!), the world I wanted to know about because that was the unique story that brought be back to each book.

All right, that was brutal. Let's hit some positives. There were some truly emotional moments and a little bit of sap. I did not hate the book; I was just truly disappointed. Maybe writing one book a month is not a good goal to set yourself. Soleil sadly paid the price for this ambition. I kind of want my \$3 back. Maybe we'll get an updated copy some day that can at least redeem the plethora of grammatical errors.

Nancy Phy says

Wonderful fantasy

I love this series and the characters. It's mysteries kept me up because I had to know what happened. If you enjoy great fantasy then I would recommend this series to you.

Henriette says

I don't often give one-star reviews. If I finished the book then I will at least say it is okay. But the final volume of the illumination paradox was such a shamble that I couldn't find it in me to give it two stars.

By the second book, I started to notice how the practically non-existent worldbuilding on the author's part slowly started to leach the pleasure out of an otherwise enjoyable, fast-paced story. It is mostly set in a steampunk world that suffers in the aftermath of a nuclear explosion. But then there are also hints of

supernatural elements in there that basically come out of nowhere and therefore don't really mesh well with the rest of the setting. Each of these elements leaves a ton of questions in its wake that are either never or insufficiently answered.

The other thing that started bothering me was how callously the book handled death. This is especially surprising when you realize that how to deal with the death of a loved one is the main topic of the entire series. Starting with Urlick's would-be father trying to use the Illuminator to rip down the veil between the world of the living and the afterlife to find his dead wife again. Thus it is particularly irritating when Cordelia's death is dismissed after a few pages. Though in this book she fared better than in the last one, where her death was barely mentioned, while in this one she at least got a funeral and a speech by Eyelet. However, a death in a book/movie is given meaning by how the characters react to it. J.K. Rowling stumbled over this as well in the later books. Cedric Diggory's death was more meaningful than any death in the last book (with the exception of the Weasley twin), for the simple reason that no one seemed to give a damn. The characters died in such a quick succession that the reader couldn't even properly process their passing. And Garlick stumbles into the same trap.

These general things aside the story was an absolute shambles. I skimmed over most of it and I will admit that if this hadn't been the last book in a trilogy - if I had to look forward to three more books like this one - I never would have finished it. I'm going to elaborate why and this contains heavy spoilers, but since I writing this review on a computer instead of in the app, I will format it accordingly.

Like the two other books, this story begins moments after the last book's cliffhanger and is separated into three parts:

- 1. Saving Eyelet
- 2. Getting the amulet from Flossie
- 3. Limpidious

These parts are on a narrative downward spiral that starts badly and ends awfully. And here is why.

In the finale of the second book, Eyelet succumbed to her progressing radiation sickness, which was made worse by the vapors. Along comes an alchemist - as with the Valkyries you get the distinct impression that the author actually doesn't know the meaning of the term, but just likes the sound of it - who performs a mumbo-jumbo ritual and then gives her a potion to save her life. The most grating thing about this part was the reaction of the populace. They've been performing witch hunts, though as most of their problems can be traced back to science, it was always hard to understand where this mass hysteria against the supernatural came from. And at first they want to dip this sorcerer in wax, but they settle down rather quickly. Be that as it may, the alchemist tells Urlick that this ritual is only a band-aid and that they need the amulet with the cure from Flossie. I'm still unclear about why her father didn't just give Eyelet the cure instead of entrusting it to her mother for safe-keeping.

Which brings us the second part: the hunt for the amulet which is terrible on many levels. (view spoiler) The writing in this section is chaotic and the whole segment is really boring.

But the last part is even worse. (view spoiler) Which brings us back to the meaningful death argument. Of course, you can treat your characters' death casually, if you know that they will indeed all become meaningless in the end.

I'm still shocked that a series that started so well ended up so dreadfully. The third book is a mess. The

ending is artistic freedom. I didn't like it, but that is my subjective opinion. The entire middle, however, is terrible. At the beginning I wondered if the characters were maybe hallucinating, but they weren't. It reads as if the author were on drugs while writing it and you can't shake the feeling that the author needed to fill pages. If Eyelet had sat down during their wedding night and told Urlick she wanted to read him her favorite childhood story and the author had then copied in Alice in Wonderland in its entirety that would have made more sense and improved the book greatly. My copy also had a lot of formatting errors in it (changing page margins mostly). If ever there was a book badly in need of a good editor then this is it.

Tushmit says

Yes, I didn't actually read this because I lost all interest. But I was still curious about how this ended, and I could get the book for free. This book got a lot of criticism for the random Alice in Wonderland stuff, where the characters literally go to Wonderland and interact with the characters. I don't exactly know how that played out in the books, but it makes no sense. It sounds like the author was just doing random stuff with the plot at this point. However, the whole reason I decided to write a review and give a rating is because I read the ending... and OMG what the hell was that lazy cop-out ending?? The "tragedy" at the end was not earned at all, but even if it were, it would be completely negated by the completely cop-out ending (come to think of it, it was not unlike the underwhelming ending of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*). I'm glad I didn't waste my time on this book.