



Storm Fall

Tracy Banghart

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In the action-packed sequel to Rebel Wing, Aris battles for life and love . . . and not everyone will survive.

Aris Haan gave up everything to join the Atalantan Military: her family, her boyfriend, even her identity. In the end, though, it didn't matter that she was a war hero. When the all-male Military discovered that she was actually a woman, she was sent home and erased from history.

Now she has a chance to go back to the battlefield—as herself. But as hard as it was to be a soldier in disguise, it's even more difficult now. The men in her unit undermine her at every turn. The Safaran army has spies everywhere, perhaps even on Aris's stationpoint. And she's falling for her mysterious superior officer, Milek. But their relationship is forbidden, just stolen moments between training sessions and missions. There's no room for love in war.

Then Aris discovers that Safara's leaders have set their sights on her, Atalanta's hero. And she must find them before they find her . . .

Storm Fall Details

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Author : Tracy Banghart

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From Reader Review Storm Fall for online ebook

Jennifer Walkup says

Absolutely LOVED this book. It was so great to be back with the characters from Rebel Wing. Follow up books and the second in a trilogy especially are always tricky for me as a reader. I'm often let down with a second book to a book I loved as much as I loved Rebel Wing.

This was so not the case with STORM FALL!

As Aris would say, "Oh Holy!" That was pretty much my reaction throughout the whole book. I don't want to give too much away, but to say the action is NON STOP would not be an exaggeration. This book veers into areas and plots I would never have expected, but it also has some really great quiet, emotional scenes running deep throughout it all, too. Reading this book is like being strapped into the passenger seat of Aris's wingjet, with all the ups and downs and dips and rises and fun and fear. Emotions galore!

Plus, of course, Milek . . . Ooh la la! (Aside: Looking forward to even more of him in book 3 - fingers crossed!) And it was nice to see a bit more of the Calix storyline too. There were also some wonderful moments of friendship and honor and just overall Aris's badass-ness that just made Storm Fall every bit as amazing as book 1. If you thought Aris was awesome in Rebel Wing, just wait until you see her now.

Ayah says

Most of the times, sequels tend to be disappointing. Whether it is because of the high expectations that readers build, or the slowed down pace of story telling. Fortunately, Storm Fall doesn't fall under that category.

The Book begins with a new law being added, which is (Women can volunteer to enter the Military). Of course, Aris volunteers because the Military is now her life. Getting to see Milek daily is a bonus, but he is not the reason why she is going back to the Military Life. She loves the fact that she can save people. Returning there as a women won't be easy, though. Almost every man looks down at her, or even worse, harass her.

The Plot thickens as Sadara's leaders feel that they are threatened by Aris; they would stop at nothing to bring her and Atlanta down.

One thing I didn't like was how the ending of a specific character was executed in way , so the conflict that is ingoing with him/her and another character would be resolved.

As if the action was not enough, the relationship between several characters develops. This adds new conflicts, and more flavor to the story. We also get more Ariek (Aris + Milek), which is awesome.

I really enjoyed Storm Fall as much as I loved Rebel Wings; perhaps even more.

I received an ARC of Storm Fall in exchange with an honest review.

Ana says

(Review thanks to a free digital ARC from NetGalley)

The sequel to *Rebel Wing*, this book starts off a couple of months after the resolution of the previous installment of the series. Aris deals with even more struggles within the military and her country than ever before. Her skills will be tested and she risks her life even more trying to protect her loved ones and her country.

This review will be kept short and sweet since I don't want to give out too many spoilers of the previous novel. Like I mentioned before, this book starts off a couple of months after the events in the first novel are resolved. Sequels tend to not be as good as its predecessor and this was definitely not the case.

Very fast-paced, this book keeps you on your toes for its entirety. You don't really know what is going to happen because anything can go wrong and you just don't know what to expect. This book builds on the events that happened in the first novel, so it adds more to the world that we are introduced to.

Another thing that I loved about this series, and it definitely shows more in this book, it is how feminist it is. It goes women joining the military and dealing with the harassment of men not being accepting of this new law that is implemented. However, the women in this novel continue to push for their right to be able to make their own decisions, which in can also include being part of the military. It shows how women can be so much more than just housewives. But if they want to do that, that is also fine. I forgot to mention this in my other review but this feminist aspect of the series is seen more in this novel.

I highly recommend this series. Trust me, it gets even better. I know the author is currently writing a third novel for the series, which is set to be released in 2015. As far as I know, there isn't any release date or even a title or book cover. Just another book to add to my expected releases of 2015.

Pamela says

I don't get why there isn't more hype about this series o.o

The book picks up two months after Ari saves Ward Vadim, and now, the women that had been serving in the army in disguise, can now do so freely.

You can imagine that not everyone is happy about that.

I loved that.

Men's status as the only ones who can fight has been set aside. Say hi to a great cast of strong women who have, and will continue to show their worth.

Storm Fall weaves the stories of Ari, Dysis, and Galena into one book that is packed with just enough

romance to make me happy, action to have me smiling like crazy, and surprises that I'll just mentally fangirl about.

That's the awesome thing about this novel. The 'Wow' effect doesn't come just from one aspect. It's the whole that makes it very complete and satisfying.

I usually don't feel comfortable reading books written in the Present tense, but I enjoyed this one because it was done skillfully. I barely noticed I was even reading, and that's definitely a bonus.

Again, I have to praise this idea because lately, the trend in YA books have been that it's so awfully romantic that the hero saves the heroine, and then at the end, the heroine is so all-powerful and emotionally strong she no longer needs saving.

In this series, even in the beginning, Aris has always been trying to save everyone, even though her personality then, needed a lot of work. War toughened her up. As someone who is writing a character that goes through more or less the same process, I was awed by this. Aris really doesn't need her love interest. But she's in love, so why not?

ARIS CAN LIVE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE WITHOUT LOVE INTEREST, but she chooses not to, and they both enjoy their moments together.

Neither of them are so dependent of one another that they'd kill themselves if they don't have each other, which is what authors that write romance novels for teens should promote.

People die. Things happen, and everyone thinks all is okay.

But, the truth is nothing but.

Hee hee.

See you in the third book!

Find this review, and others at [A Writer's Tales](#)

Jessica (Goldenfurpro) says

This and other reviews can be found on [The Psychotic Nerd](#)

I received an ecopy of this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

NOTICE: THIS IS A SEQUEL FOR ANOTHER BOOK. THERE MAY BE SPOILERS FOR THE PREVIOUS BOOK.

MY THOUGHTS

When I first started this book, I was a bit upset. Because this book is only around 200 pages. I loved Rebel Wing and wanted more than 200 pages for a sequel! I quickly got over that and dived into another amazing book!

This book takes place months after the events of the last book. Aria is given the chance to come back to the Military as herself, not a man. The laws have been changed to allow women in the Military, but many are not accepting the fact that women can fight. Along with that, Aria, now Lieutenant Haan, is considered one of Atalanta's heroes, but her status is also known to the Safaran's. Aria is in even more danger.

I felt that the last book focused more on Aria and how much stronger she becomes. She becomes stronger in this book, but that's not the main focus. This book gives us more info on the actual war, up front. Though, not from an Atalantan perspective. We get a lot more information about the Safaran's and how the war is affecting them. This is very interesting, as they are considered the enemy and most books do not give insight on the otherside.

The characters continue to be great and 3-dimensional, but what I really want to talk about is the romance. There is much more romance in this book and I loved it! The romance did not distract from the plot, the romance was obviously more slow-going and realistic, and I absolutely love the love interest! I ship it! I ship it so hard!

IN CONCLUSION

This is, honestly, becoming one of my favorite series! It's so absolutely brilliant! If you loved the first book, you will definitely love this one! It is thrilling, we get so much more information, and the characters are great!

I am definitely anticipating the next book!

Jen ♥Star-Crossed Book Blog♥ says

*****4.5/5 Stars*****

Spoilers for Rebel Wing #1

Storm Fall was an action packed, fast-paced sequel that had me flying through the story. Again, **we find ourselves in a world that is easy to visualize, with characters that pop off of the pages.** And all of that is surrounded by war, love, fighting, friendships, sacrifice and hope. This sequel was so much fun, and I can't wait to see how this series ends.

“I’d rather die fighting for my dominion than sit at home watching it burn.”

With Aris back at her parent's home, she is trying to work through the courage to fly again. Flying was once something she loved with her whole heart, yet now it's shrouded by the horrors she faced while at war. But after a visit from Major Milek Vadim, that was just the push she needed. But upon rejoining her unit, **military life has become vastly different since she is now herself, as a female.** She is sexually harassed and so many times I wanted to reach my hands into the book and punch the asshole that was tormenting her. Yet there's many reasons why I love Aris, and one of them is that she is tough as nails. **She tried her hardest to rise above their sexism and hatred and show them that she deserved to be there just as much, if not more, than they did!** Her first flight into a war scene was epic!

“I keep trying to remind myself you’re my superior officer, that nothing could ever happen between us, and then you *look* at me like . . . like you care, too. And you *talk* to me, all gentle understanding, and I . . . I—”

Milek pulled free of her grip, grabbed her face with both hands, and kissed her.

Definitely one of my favorite aspects about this series is the relationships that unfold. Especially the one between Aris and Milek. Both are so deserving of something good in their lives, when so many things around them are tragic. And I am so happy that I can finally talk about how **I fell madly in love with Milek in the Rebel Wing!** Especially the cave scene, **he's so sexy, tough and charming without even trying. And in Storm Fall, he becomes a force to be reckoned with!** I respected how he treated everyone, especially when he put people in their place. But most importantly, I respected how he treated Aris. He has such a huge heart and the decisions he made were admirable and warmed my heart.

Specialist Contas's eyes wandered along her body, his hands clenched at his sides. "The kind of dress you can rip right off."

Aris stood, drawing herself to her full height, aware of Dysis moving behind her. "You need to walk away. Now, Specialist."

"Or what? I'm on a transjet out of here tomorrow, thanks to you." His handsome face twisted. "You can't touch me, bitch."

Dysis stepped forward. "You're right. She's too polite." She grinned, adding, "But I'm not" as she punched him in the face.

Another one of my favorite relationships in this book was between Aris and Dysis. Dysis was Aris' bunkmate who also disguised herself as a man in Rebel Wing. So I am beyond ecstatic that we get to see this true friendship again. **This is how female relationships should be written! Dysis and Aris' friendship was strong, honest, and they loved and protected each other.** It warmed my heart seeing it flow throughout the pages.

Like Rebel Wing, we find ourselves following many different people throughout the story, where Aris is still the main lead. And while it makes a well-rounded story, there were some situations where it made me pause. For example, **there were moments that I also wanted to be with Aris and Milek, when instead we were with Dysis. And here is where I get a little lost because I still wanted that scene with Dysis. Yet I wanted a little bit more of Aris during those times too.** A few of those situations flitted throughout the story, and while I was happy to be reading what I was, I also wanted to be elsewhere at the same time, which left me a little confused with my feelings.

Against his lips, against her better judgment, she whispered, "Is this allowed?"

"I don't care." Milek stroked her cheek with his thumb and kissed her harder.

But thankfully this time around, I never had an issue with names. Even when old faces made a reappearance. And I was happily surprised with how much action Aris and her fellow friends found themselves in. It made for a thrilling ride again and again. **I love when a book finds the perfect harmony of mixing smiles with sweaty palms, and Storm Fall definitely hit it!** So now I'm off to read the final installment, and I can't wait to see how this group will fare. Keeping my fingers crossed for enemies defeated and some happily ever afters. I know it's war, but a girl can still wish.

For more of my reviews, please visit:

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Yzabel Ginsberg says

[I received a copy of this novel through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.]

Sequel to “Rebel Wing” (which I read back when its title was “Shattered Veil”), this novel sheds light on Aris Haan’s life after she escaped Elom and helped free the Ward of Ruslana: on her fears at first (her love of flying tainted by her harsh experience), on her decision to go back to the Military, on the daily fight to be accepted in a sector where women are just newly accepted—even though quite a few, disguised as men, already proved that girls can do it just as well as boys.

Like its predecessor, “Storm Fall” deals with this issue of acceptance, in a different way since the whole “women in the army” is now in the open, but still as something worth fighting for, and difficult to accept for some. Aris and others are faced with insubordination, snide remarks, sexual harassment, and it’s painfully obvious that even proving their worth as flyers and fighters isn’t enough for some. And it’s not only the men being reluctant: other women outside of the Military aren’t so keen about this new opening. Aris still has to fight, still has to assert herself, and she does it with conviction and with open eyes: she knows she has to fend for herself if she doesn’t want to be seen as a damsel in distress—and yes, it’s something she definitely doesn’t want. She counts on other people’s help in circumstances where anyone would expect and need help, but not because she’s a woman in need of males to save her: because she’s a soldier in trouble, who needs the help of her fellow soldiers, period.

This was definitely a part of the story I enjoyed, because it was portrayed in quite a believable (if depressing) way. However, I wish it had been more a focus: I found it more interesting than the romance—but then, anyone who’s read my reviews must know by now that I’m not a huge fan of romantic subplots for the sake of romantic subplots only. No surprise here.

Calix here turned out to be a pretty decent guy, who did the right thing(s) and showed he had learnt to respect other people’s choices. He genuinely likes Aris, and I think that having him as a friend rather than a potential remaining love interest is a good move here. Also, very loyal guy, to the point of risking demotion or worse in order to help the ones he cares about: not only Aris, but her family as well. While at first, I wondered if this didn’t send the wrong kind of message (“women are men’s downfall”), it still seems to lean much more towards themes of friendship and loyalty, all the more because Calix cares about Aris’s parents and their grief—it’s not just about the girl, so to speak.

In general, there were good plot point and ideas, that would have deserved more spotlight: Elom’s role, the women’s struggles in the military (maybe seeing more of them “in action”, to find out the various range of possible reactions there)... The three romantic arcs were too heavy handed, and detracted from the really interesting parts.

Also, the relationship between Dysis and Daakon wasn’t always handled well. In the first book, the tension was understandable because Daakon thought she was a guy, and he was interested in guys, and Dysis actually being a woman made things complicated. But here, they ran around in odd circles. I’m thinking of one specific turning point here (spoilerish, so I don’t want to explain it too much), where something happened that doesn’t make much sense if Daakon’s not interested in women at all... but reaching that point, seeing it through the end, and then still being torn about loving a woman was kind of... illogical. Whether he was torn about finding himself bi, having to reconsider where it stood (hey, it happens), or torn about liking

Dysis in a platonic way but not in a physical one, both were handled poorly.

Ultimately, I still liked this story, and may check the third book in this series, all the more because 1) the last chapter opens up on an even more dangerous situation, and 2) I keep expecting a twist when it comes to Elom, and would like to know whether I'm right or not. But I would welcome less romance, especially the thorny part about Milek and Aris, since it could very well undermine the latter's efforts as a woman in the military.

2.5 stars (because of the romance), 3.5 or 4 otherwise.

Tracy Banghart says

I love writing these characters and this series so much. Excited to see what y'all think about STORM FALL...and hard at work on book 3 in the series, coming out in 2015!

Rachmi says

3.5 stars

ARC was provided by the author/publisher via NetGalley in exchange for honest review.

I think this sequel is much better than Rebel Wing. In Rebel Wing, half of it was boring, but here there isn't any single dull moment I can find. It's so engaging I read it in one sitting. It's fast-paced from the beginning to the end.

I have to admit that the idea that Aris has to struggle (again) in the military made me doubt the story. Although I have a high hope to this book, I also think that it can be repetitive as Aris has to do the similar things as in book 1, though for different case. She's indeed struggle for her position again, but the author write it well to avoid the similar things happen twice. And for that I'm so happy. It's so good reading her struggling and determination throughout the story, as well as her hide and seek relationship with Major Vadim.

However I still don't like reading Ward Neko and Ward Vadim relationship. In fact I couldn't care less of their romance. For me, as leaders, especially Ward Neko, they don't bring much contribution to the war their dominions have to face. I see him as a weak character. Maybe he's meant to be that way, but his regret over his past love doesn't give any good to his dominion. And reading it is so annoying. I rather read about Dysis relationship, or even Pallas story. So I think it is good they don't take much in the story.

This book is still action-packed. Not just from Aris' flying ability, but also from the nightmare that she has to face. It's like the tension is all over her and she doesn't have anything to avoid it.

On a side note, I think this book still has unclear things, just like in book 1. 1) I'm wondering where Theo goes? He's the one who recognize Aris flying talent but he still doesn't show up in the story. It's like the author forgets him. 2) The invisible wingjet. It is invisible not only from the outside, but also from the inside of the jet, as in the pilot cannot see its nose and all. Does it make sense? I mean if it is the case, doesn't it

dangerous for the pilots for not being able to see their own jet? I know there are these kinds of military jet in our world, stealth jet, if I'm not wrong that can invisible from the radar and all. But I don't think it's truly invisible as in there is nothing that can see it, including its pilots. 3) Similar case with Theo, where does Aero Contas go? He's an ass and is being station to another stationpoint, but I thought, well I assumed, to be honest, from his talk to Aris that he will appear again in the story. But until the last page, he doesn't show up anymore.

All in all I really liked this sequel. I'm enjoying it more than book 1 and is as good as I expected. It still has things I dislike, though. But it doesn't mean that I won't read book 3, in fact I cannot wait to get my hand on it!

Isabel says

LOVED THIS SO MUCH. SO MUCH.

Honestly, if you liked the first one, there's a 99.9% chance you'll like this one too... maybe even a little more than the first! It's got everything the first one had (action and adventure and the main character risking her life like, every ten seconds) and even more romance--which is, of course, always welcomed.

After finishing the first book I honestly thought I would pass out from waiting so impatiently for this one. Thankfully I got it soon enough and I put everything else on hold for about three-ish hours to start and finish this book. Totally worth it.

Seriously though, you guys gotta start on this series if you haven't already. There are some really, really important lessons in here. Like, morals and stuff. And they're still (unfortunately) completely relevant today. This author definitely understands the world we live in and I think she took some of those issues (sexism mostly) and smushed them into a book lots of young adults will/should read. I don't usually get super serious in my reviews but, yeah, honestly, if you get the chance to read these books, you should go for it.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publishers for providing me with this eBook.

Emily says

I received a free e-copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The Atalantan Army is beginning the slow process of integrating women into its ranks. No longer needing to hide behind the diatous veil, women soldiers find life among their male comrades even more difficult than it was before. Harassment is driving many of them away. That is, until a plan is hatched to make Aris Haan the face of female soldiers by making her efforts to save Ward Vadim public. Before Aris can be honored at a ceremony in Ruslana, though, her wingjet crashes in enemy territory. Injured, alone, and low on supplies, Aris must find her way to safety before the evil Elom catches up with her. Exciting battles, a young woman saving herself, and a dash of love makes for a brilliant second novel in a promising series.

Some of you might have read my review of Shattered Veil (now titled Rebel Wing) at the beginning of the

year. I mentioned then that I was astounded it was independently published--it was so good that it seemed impossible. I'm happy to report that the author was very deservedly picked up by Alloy Entertainment earlier in the year, thus the new title, new cover, and hopefully some extra marketing throwing new fans her way.

I'm happy to say that Storm Fall lived up to my expectations. It was as fast-paced as the first, and I *almost* finished it in one sitting before the silly need to sleep got in the way. That's how good it is! Well-written, the descriptions will immerse you in the world of Atalanta with the cool technology and glowing walkways and gorgeous buildings, and the action flows nicely--it really puts you in the middle of a busy battle scene without getting so technical that you can't follow it.

Aris was just as lovable as ever. She's really come into her own and knows what she wants and isn't afraid to go for it. Her love story is so believable and real--not like some books where it's plunked in for the sake of things. And I like how Aris handles herself at the end, too. Like I said, she isn't afraid to go for what she wants, even at the expense of romance.

I enjoyed exploring the other characters more thoroughly as well, and was particularly drawn in by Galena's POV. Let's just say I was really rooting for something to happen at the end, and when it got interrupted I couldn't help but laugh (in the saddest sort of way)... of course it got interrupted.

But enough of these almost-spoilers. I highly recommend this series to anyone who likes a fast-paced, well-written sci-fi book with a main character who isn't afraid to be herself. My only complaint is that it wasn't longer!

Victoria says

ARC by Netgalley

I still don't understand why this trilogy is not a best-seller. This first two book are my favorites of the year. It has everything a great series should have, and there's no second-book syndrome.

Two months after the events of the first book, Aris is struggling to belong. She's no longer a soldier, no longer has a veil and almost no one knows how much she contributed to the rescue of Ward Vadim. But now the women that had been serving in the army wearing a veil are allowed to serve as themselves. Obviously, no one is happy.

The book is so fast paced, packed with a lot of action scenes, girl power and politics. I've always loved Aris, but now? I admire her. She is such a strong character that grows up so damn much in this book.

She would make it over those blighted mountains because she had finally found the life she wanted. A calling, a job she loved, friends she respected, and a man who appreciated her strength.

Yes, she's a soldier. Yes, she can kick your ass. Yes, she has a love interest, Milek. She obviously doesn't need a man in her life, she is with him because she wants to.

He is a soldier too, he *understands* her.

Honestly, if they don't get married anytime soon, then I'll do it.

Milek turned toward her, searching for her face in the shadows. "You stay here. As soon as I've got Elom, I'll come back for you."

She laughed. "No chance."

To his credit, he didn't bother arguing. "It was worth a try."

With another fast, hard kiss they crept together into the sunlight.

Cora says

First of all thank you to Booksparks for giving me an eARC in exchange for an honest review.

Creating a sequel that lives up to the first book in the series can be tough but Tracy Banghart has done it spectacularly. After falling in love with Rebel Wing I couldn't wait to get my hands on Storm Fall and let me tell you it was worth the wait!

The authors incredible word building continues in the second book of this brilliant trilogy allowing the readers to learn much more about the different lands involved in the war. I particularly loved the map at the start of the book which is really helpful in understanding what is happening where. This imaginative and creative world building all adds up to the stories spectacular plot-line which was a great continuation from the first book answering questions that we desperately needed to know the answers to and leaving us begging for the next book (why do I have to wait!)

I still really love the way in which Tracy writes these books. Being able to see the book from different perspectives really gives great detail to readers about the book and its happenings as well immersing readers into the lives of the characters.

That leads me on to character development and relationship building. The character development in this book was very well done, I really liked learning more about Dysis and the way in which her story-line is progressing and cannot wait to learn more. Aris is the protagonist in this book and has underwent such a transformation and found such strength in herself from where she saw herself to where she is now that it is great to watch this development and the growth in her confidence.

The only real fault I have with this book is that it isn't long enough for me. I need more! But I guess I will just have to wait for the next book to be released.

Ashli says

This book is the second book in the Rebel Wing series by Tracy Banghart. The first book in the series is Rebel Wing. The first book of this series was action packed and had a lot more background information to it. In this book, there is even more action and you are really seeing what is happening with the War. Aris, at the beginning of this book, is struggling being at home after her secret time in the military. She doesn't feel like she quite fits in with her friends at home and has really lost part of her identity. She also is struggling with nightmares of Elom and coming to terms with what she saw on her missions. Milek finally comes to visit Aris after she rescued his mother. He offers her a way back in to the military without having to hide her identity. Eventually she agrees, but is unsure what Milek wants from her as a person. The war is getting more dangerous everyday. Everyone is trying to figure out where Elom is and what Ward Balias' end game really is. Not only is Aris having to deal with that, but she is also not being respected at her job. Even though women are allowed to serve in the military, it doesn't mean that they are very welcome by soldiers or people in general in the military. There are sightings of Elom at different places and Aris is sent on a mission to scout out an area. However, there is something faulty with her plane that eventually she is found out and shot down. I won't give anything away after that point, but we get to see quite a few view points of the aftereffects of her crash.

This book has a lot to it. It has great characters and a fun story to it. There is still an air of mystery to it with what is happening with Ward Balias. The female characters in this book are funny, strong and not afraid to be their true selves. I admired Aris and Dysis for different reasons. They are both strong in their own ways and I am a little jealous of that! This book shows you in multiple ways to seize your happiness while you have the chance. More than one character gets a shot of redemption through forgiveness that they never saw possible. It was great to see so many of the small characters from the first book in this series. I love the imagination of the structures of the territories and how some characters aren't exactly what they appear to be. I enjoyed the military and spy angles as well. I mean, who doesn't love spies???? All and all this is a great book in a great series and I am very anxious for the third book in order to find out to the answers to some very important questions!

I receive an advance copy of this book for an honest review!

Kerri (Book Hoarder) says

GUYS.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

THIS BOOK COMES OUT IN A MONTH.

ONE MONTH!! I am so excited. as;lkdjfas

~*~*~

Oh, I'm sad that nobody who I follow or have friended has read this one, as far as I can tell...

I quite enjoyed this second installment in the series! To be honest, I think I will need to reread it at some point, in part because of the mood that I was in when I went into it.

I didn't feel that this was *quite* as strong as the first book in this series, but I still really enjoyed it nonetheless. I love the world that Tracy Banghart has created, and the strength of her characters, especially the women. Issues of sexism, love, friendship, treachery and war are all taken on as they were in the first book and I love that. So many books don't really overtly challenge tropes, and while there's nothing wrong with that and those books are still quite powerful, I love it when books pretty much spell out what's going on.

Aris remains as strong and nuanced as she was in the first book, but what I especially loved about this sequel was the depth that was brought to the secondary characters. Some books tend to be quite insular and focus on just a couple of characters, here the author has really taken the time to get to know her own secondary characters and breathes new life into them and it's fascinating to read. For me it really added to my enjoyment.

I guess my one quibble with this volume was the romance... It felt a little bit too fast, too soon. It feels WEIRD saying that, because I ship the pairing! I have no problem with the pairing at all. But it just felt as though everything moved too fast and in some ways, I wondered why there wasn't more conflict or even consequences... But maybe that's in the third one. But like I said, I know it's a weird complaint :P

I also wish that the plot had been just a teensy bit tighter in this one. I didn't feel as though there was a whole lot that happened, to be honest, though that may be due to the stronger character focus I mentioned above. I guess I just wish that there'd been a tiny bit more action to move things along.

I really am looking forward to the conclusion to this series, though, and the good news is that it's coming out sometime this year!! :D
