



The Alchemy of Forever

Avery Williams

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In the first novel of the Incarnation series, the immortal Seraphina grapples with a wrenching truth: Falling in love might mean succumbing to death. People say “love never dies”...but love might be the death of Seraphina.

Seraphina has been alive since the Middle Ages, when her boyfriend, Cyrus, managed to perfect a method of alchemy that lets them swap bodies with any human being. Sera ran away from Cyrus years ago, when she realized that what they were doing—taking the lives of innocent people—was wrong. Yet she doesn't want to die, so she finds young people who are on the brink of death, and inhabits their bodies.

Sera has just landed in the body of a girl named Kailey who was about to die in a car accident. For the first time, Sera falls in love with the life of the person she's inhabiting. Sera also falls for the boy next door, Noah. And soon it's clear the feelings are returned. But she can never kiss Noah, because for her to touch lips with a human would mean the human's death. And she has even more to worry about: Cyrus is chasing her. If she stays in one place for long, she puts herself—and the people she's grown to care for—in great danger. Will Sera have to give up the one thing that's eluded her for centuries: true love?

The Alchemy of Forever Details

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From Reader Review *The Alchemy of Forever* for online ebook

Jennifer says

In the prologue the year is 1349 and Seraphina is fourteen years old, dancing the night away with a masked stranger. She heads outside for some fresh air, where the masked stranger reveals himself to be the alchemist's son, Cyrus. He says he has always noticed Seraphina. Then out of nowhere, a man and a woman come to rob them. The woman stabs Seraphina in the back and she is about to die. Cyrus uses his father's immortality elixir to separate the cord of Seraphina's soul from her body and put her soul into the woman who stabbed her's body. Seraphina wakes up in the other woman's body and she runs off to spend the rest of eternity with Cyrus.

It starts off feeling like it will be a beautiful love story, but fast forward about 650 years to present day and Cyrus is now a psycho. The way the immortality elixir works is that the soul has to over take another body about every ten years. So over Seraphina's lifetime she has killed about 65 people in order to survive. The soul can transfer into a damaged body and it will heal the body but the soul sucks the body dry of energy over the course of ten years. Seraphina tries to choose bodies that belong to people that are self destructive and don't want to live but she can't do it anymore. She doesn't want to be responsible for another death. Except Cyrus refuses to let her go. He has become controlling, manipulative, and heartless. Seraphina comes up with a plan to escape Cyrus and allow her current body to wear out and die.

When Seraphina does finally escape Cyrus she ends up finding a car accident victim and tries to give her CPR. The need to survive overtakes her and she accidentally transfers her soul into the car accident victim's body. She ends up taking over her Kailey's life, attending her school, falling for her the boy next door, enjoying her friends and family. She normally just gets a new identity but Cyrus never taught her how to do that or how to survive on her own. She lucked out with all the technology the world now has to offer because she uses facebook, google, photo albums, and all the clues around the girls room to try to blend into her life. But Seraphina is afraid Cyrus will catch up with her. He is smart and knows her well and if he finds out about the car accident he might come to take her away from the new life and people she loves.

I read the book all in one night and it held my attention well. The immortality concept was unique and original. The soul having to travel to a new body was an interesting twist. It was a bit short and I did want a little more development. I loved Noah but I was hoping for a little more between them. It seemed like he had always been into Kailey but when Seraphina took over her body he seemed to all of a sudden really fall for her but I didn't totally feel it. I definitely saw why Seraphina would fall for Noah though. His character was sweet and considerate. I also didn't really fully understand why Cyrus was so obsessed with Seraphina other than he was just a psycho. They apparently loved each other at one time but at the beginning of the book they didn't seem like a couple. It felt like they were already broken up so I guess he just liked to control her. I would think he would just assume she died but he goes to a lot of trouble to try to track her down. There was a big cliffhanger so I definitely need to see what happens next.

Dear Cyrus,

I loved you once, with all my heart, and I stayed alive, in one form or another, for centuries because I could not bear to be apart from you. But the years have changed us, and not for the better. Every death we've caused has killed our love, bit by bit. I cannot kill another human in order to live. When my current body is lost, I will be too.

Until the next life,

Seraphina

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

The ending of this book quite possibly made me giddy. 3.5 stars.

2012 - The year of the villain? One could only hope. Real villains are due for a comeback. Not the *good boy turned bad* type of character. I'm talking *rotten to the core* villains. The kind we love to hate. The kind we all hope have no redemption, other than the sort which involves a shallow grave.

If the ending of book 1 is any indication, I do believe we have the possibility of getting to read about one extremely disturbed villain in book 2. Again, I repeat...one could only hope.

Alchemy starts off seemingly innocent in tone. We're several hundred years in the past. A cute girl (Sera) meets a charming boy (Cyrus). After an "incident," he offers her the chance to live again. She ponders the notion that she is destined or fated, or some other swoony term which would imply that she might enjoy being linked to this wonderful young man.

Fast forward a few centuries. Sera's life is now a life of torture and imprisonment. Apparently, her fairy tale didn't come true. Now she has to make a choice - does she live in captivity, or die to gain freedom?

No book like this would be complete without a wrench in the game plan, of course. Through a twist of fate (or just bad luck), she ends up in the body of a teen. *But her ties to Cyrus will not be so easily broken...*

The Alchemy of Forever had some great starter ideas for a story. I wasn't quite sure how everything was going to be played out. Was the author going to take the obvious pnr route and play up to the "love conquers all" theme? Would stereotypes abound, leave me feeling like I'd read this someplace else, just wrapped up in a different pretty package?

Fortunately, a lot of the dilemmas plaguing the YA market were not present in this book. No instalove, no triangles, no bouts of pining. If I had only one complaint, it might be that the age of the character and her potential love interest were so young (16 and 17). I might have preferred the story just a little bit more if the characters were a year or two older. Maybe if "Kailey" (the girl whose body was snatched) was just turning 18 and about to graduate high school, and Noah was in college or something. It's not a huge complaint, but it's very hard to grab on to the notion that a 600ish year old person would be crushing on the underage boy next door.

On the one hand, the transformation from Sera to Kailey was a bit too tidy for my liking. On the other hand, I sort of understood why it might not be as big of a deal as I was making it out to be. When "Sera" was originally turned, she was an innocent 14 year old. As the years progressed, she was taught book smarts, but never street smarts. She had always been under Cyrus' thumb to the point of never learning how to take care of herself. In this aspect, she was still a child, and she might have had an easier time coping if thrown into a family situation with rules and boundaries, where she could learn the outside world a little bit at a time. If that's how we want to look at it, then everything starts to make more sense.

Even with my brain struggling to process the idea of Sera being okay with the teenage life, I still found the story itself to be one that I wanted to follow. I *want* to know what havoc Cyrus is going to cause for her in her new life as Kailey. The man is twisted. After the end made me fear for one person's life, I'm going to be anxious to know what happened to that person.

Bring on book 2. I need answers!

Amber at Fall Into Books says

I really do not know what is going on in the YA universe lately, but the quality of writing from debut authors is dropping drastically. This book was just ridiculous. It was completely unbelievable in every way, and the underdeveloped characters were all idiots. I should have known not to read this book when it said for fans of the Immortals series, but noooooo I wanted to give a new author a chance. Yea. Big mistake.

Let's start with the characters. Seraphina is supposed to be this unselfish, caring person, but she's not. She's been killing people for SIX HUNDRED YEARS so that she could stay alive, and she just now started feeling bad enough about it to, oh I don't know, STOP?! Yea, she's real caring. Sure, she waits the full ten years before she switches bodies, but seriously, that's over 60,000 murders she's committed. I just couldn't buy into her being a kind character.

The rest of the characters are so under-developed, it's laughable. I didn't feel like I knew the characters any better at the end of the book than I did at the beginning. I kept reading, hoping for some big explosion of character development, but none came.

Now, let's talk about the plot. My consensus of this is W.T.F?!?! It made no sense, unless Sera is a big freaking liar, which she probably is. The prologue indicates that one must suck the life force out of another human before inhabiting the body. Okay, cool, I'll go with it right? Well, she just kisses the first woman to inhabit her body. Unless I've been doing it wrong all these years, you don't suck on someone's face like they're a straw when you're kissing them. Just sayin'!

THEN, Sera "accidentally" kills Kailey in an effort to save her. Riiiiight. She was giving her mouth to mouth, and then she just accidentally SUCKED the life force out of Kailey instead of BLOWING AIR into her lungs? Sure, that's believable. But still, I kept reading... I hoped it'd start to be more logical, but it got even worse. Then Sera makes about 2349872398 stupid mistakes, constantly blaming Cyrus because he made it to where she had to always depend on him. Well, maybe he realized that she was too stupid to live and kept her on a tight leash. And, of course, no one bothers to question why Kailey's entire personality has changed. Sure, they ask if she's okay, but past that, even her parents don't mention it. They know she had a concussion, yet they ignore the fact that she's acting weird. That's totally believable. AND her parents kept telling her things like, "We always allowed you to do what you want..." um hello?! Who would do that? If that is your child, she was there for her entire life, so she KNOWS what you did and didn't do. The telling

her stuff like that was just too convenient. And another thing, why on earth did no one question why Kailey's blood was all over the pavement after the accident, but she had no injuries minus a concussion when she got to the hospital? She totaled a car and would have probably been dead. Looking at the car, one would assume there would be more injuries than just a concussion. Which leads me to yet ANOTHER plot hole... how did she keep the accident a secret from everyone in school? Her brother told one person, yet no one else ever found out. I mean did Williams even GO to high school? People would have known, and people would have talked about it. A lot.

The ending was a terrible cliffhanger that was about as illogical as the rest of the book. Needless to say, I won't be continuing this series. The writing itself wasn't horrible, but the overly convenient events in the ill-conceived plot with the under-developed characters made me want to gouge my eyes out. Do yourself a favor and avoid this one.

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

I didn't expect much from *The Alchemy of Forever*. I've been putting the book on hold for the longest time possible because I simply assumed it's going to be the same old fantasy/sci-fi yawn inducing read but I started it yesterday and finished it the same day. I was quite surprised to find it an entertaining read about a girl named Sera who has lived for more than 600 years because Cyrus (an alchemist who discovered a concoction that will allow a soul to inhabit a human body it chooses) saved her from death sometime during the 1300s.

Sera, after six centuries of life, hasn't seem to discover its true meaning and finally decides it's time to give up immortality but in a twist of fate, she finds herself in a different path altogether where she could possibly have this one chance at a normal, happy life with a family and friends of her own and this is where the plot thickens. The premise really intrigued me and I thought the plot took a really interesting turn and if it weren't for the lack of better characterizations and more substantial background, I would have rated it higher. But it was a fast-paced and enjoyable read and I'm jumping right to the sequel like now! ;)

Jessie (Ageless Pages Reviews) says

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Short but sweet, *The Alchemy of Forever* is deceptively simple and remarkably engaging. The plot may not be entirely the most original, nor the writing the most striking, though it certainly has its moments of sparkle, but this was an unputdownable read. Finished in under three hours, my first experience with the series of the Incarnates was like the perfect sugary snack between actual meals: filling while eating and left no feelings of guilt or shame when I was finished. With both a great title and a new spin on teen immortality that isn't vampires or even vampire-adjacent in its immediate favor, I obviously found *The Alchemy of Forever* to be a very entertaining novel.

Seraphina and her story are instantly energetic; her story begins on a night of death but it is far from the end

of Sera's existence. Alchemy, an ancient (and real) fruitless search for gold/youth and immortality among others, is successful in this alternative world of Williams's imagining, and wonderfully so. In this fantastical London, science and magic are indistinguishable, and fit in wonderfully with Sera's tale of escape and redemption. Sera and Cyrus have a core, selected group with which they share fellowship: Charlotte, Sera's BFF for 200 years; Jared, a pirate from the 1660's and a sort of enforcer for Cyrus; Sebastien, a reticent and largely unseen and mysterious member of the coven; and lastly, Amelia, an icy blonde that seems to harbor ill will toward both Charlotte and Sera. With each member needing a new body roughly every ten years, this is a group with many ghosts in the closet, though only Seraphina is shown to have any remorse for the killing left in their wake. While this seems to be set in an alternative world to ours, different only in the successful alchemy, I thought I caught a reference to Bram Stoker's *Dracula* - a dog named Harker that doesn't seem to take to Kailey/Sera... As I've mentioned I find the Incarnates condition and *modus operandi* (stalking/killing victim to replenish own lifeforce) and vampires to be very similar, I wonder if it is an intentional mention. There's not enough evidence to be sure yet, but I will be on the lookout for more clues/conspiracies in the sequel.

By virtue of becoming 'Incarnates' aka basically "body snatchers" with original souls in tact with her first love Cyrus, Sera endures centuries of life - but not real love, nor true happiness despite all the exotic experiences had and places she has been. Cyrus emerges as controlling, insane, volatile type of man - but happily, instead of mistaking this psychotic behavior as the danger it is and not misconstruing it as love, Sera attempts to free herself from his clutches. Even the act of hiding petty change gives her a thrill, to "have something that was mine." From the moment I realized Sera's plans, I liked her. For the first time in centuries, Sera dares to make her own decisions, dare to dream for herself instead of fearing what Cyrus will do to her as punishment. Her naivete at 14 haunts her for the most part of her endless centuries of life, and her maturation from selfish, thoughtless girl into an actual woman takes longer than eighteen years. Sera is a **very** introspective woman, as can be expected from someone downtrodden and controlled for so long, and that means much of this book is not action. As I adjusted to Sera and her style, I appreciated more the inwards-bent of her thinking - this is another of those characters that sneak up in your affections.

The Alchemy of Forever is a very engaging if all too brief, novel both in terms of character, and the unique, entirely welcome new spin on immortality. But this is also slightly disquieting book. The notion of "body snatching" is itself pretty creepy - the actual person **is dead** but the shell remains, with another inside, *unbeknownst to anyone else*. How is that **not** the height of creepitude? There are no less than three movies since 1945 devoted to just how horrific this concept is to us. Sera herself seems very aware of this, commenting internally and often that "the daughter they knew was dead and they had no idea" in several different reiterations, with just *Sera wearing her skin* around them. And the fact that there is an entire coven of immortal-body-snatching-murderers-with-permanent-wanderlust out there adds another level of menace to the novel it otherwise lacks. Cyrus certainly makes for an adequate villain and foil for Sera - more than adequate when he's actually present on the page instead of a ghost or memory- but the threat of him doesn't inspire as much tension as it could otherwise.

While I can't say the "relationship" between Sera/Kailey and Noah the black-haired neighbor-boy with a heart of gold smacks of the long-sought-after and advertised "true love" from above, there is a clear chemistry and sweetness between the two. I think I found Noah a bit *too* wide-eyed and perfect to entirely believe in him - or his continued attraction to Kailey after it emerges how shoddily she treated him for years - but overall I liked his character and could see the appeal even if I stood outside of it. From what is alluded to about Kailey pre-Sera she seems like a hard-to-like girl as well, so I wonder why Noah didn't remark upon the abrupt and 180 degree attitude changes that "Kailey" experienced in the novel...? I also wonder at how this thing between the two will develop - how will Sera reconcile Noah to the fact that the Kailey he knew is gone but the "Kailey" he loves is an immortal murderess hundreds of years older than himself? But while I

found the 'love' between the 'teens' to be somewhat lacking, the home relationship and dynamic of the Morgans is refreshing and warm, and real. They present a stark and very bleak comparison to the 'love and family' that Sera has known for centuries with the coven, and it's nice to read a non dysfunctional family once in a while.

The ending is **abrupt**, let's just say that. It comes to a screaming and ominous cliffhanger right at the very moment you most wish to keep reading. While I can understand the cutoff as an incentive to read the next novel it left me somewhat dissatisfied with this first in the series. Unfortunately, many, many threads are left wide-open ~~after that bastard of a cliffhanger~~ for an ending and no main conflict is resolved - the book just **ends**. What happened to the magical book Sera had the night she switched bodies? What happened to Taryn, who might know all of Sera's secrets? What was Kailey doing the night she died? The questions are endless and enough to ensure, above all doubt and frustration with this finale, I will be continuing this series.

Calzedonka says

Já tedy rozhodně ano! Chci vyzkoušet všechny ty úžasné věci, co jsou na Zemi. Chci navštívit všechna ta nádherná místa na Zemi. Chci vystudovat všechny ty zajímavé obory na všech těch zajímavých univerzitách. Ale především, chci přečíst všechny ty báječné knížky, které každým dnem přibývají a přibývají, že nakonec po nějakých těch šesti set let budu mít víc plnější to-read list než dnes :-D.

Jenže pro Serafinu (bože to jméno se mi tak líbí!) to není lehké. Každých pár let musí mýt tlo a tím i někomu vzít život. Po šesti stech letech se tedy rozhodne, že už žádné převěťlování, už žádná smrt další nevinné dívky, jenom ta její. Opouští svého, kdysi milovaného, přítele Cyruse, který je mimochodem alchymistou a vlastně strýčkem toho všeho, a chce zjistit, co se s ní stane (s její duší) až zemře úplně. Ale osud tomu nechtěl a připravil si pro Serafinu ještě jeden život. Jenže Cyrus se jí nehodlá jen tak vzdát...

Poté, co jsem dočetla *Alchymii v?nosti*, se neustále ptám, proč je ta knížka tak krátká? Proč? Pro mě to byl velmi zajímavý a *originální příběh*. I na tak málo stránkách mě dokázal okouzlit. Ještě, že bude druhý díl :-))

Obálka se nakladatelství Cooboo rozhodně povedla, je přímo výstavní. A co jsem slyšela o té originální, tak se prý oblije na obálce mění dle úhlu pohledu, *páání!*

První kapitola je vstupem do děje - jak to všechno začalo v roce 1349. Druhá kapitola už začíná v dnešním světě o několik set let později. Je dobré, že autorka poznamenala charakter postavy v závislosti na jejich skutečném stáří. Za 600 let člověk nabere tolik zkušeností a vykoná tolik skutků (ať už dobrých nebo zlých), že nevěřím, že by zůstal někdo stejný, jako oheďdy.

Serafina se musí začlenit do "její" nové rodiny, která nemá ani potuchy, kdo doopravdy je a do nové školy (vlastně její první školy vůbec) mezi Kayleiny spolužáky. *Huh, poprvé ve škole?* Sera to zvládla bravurně! Já bych měla problém už jen se naučit rozvrh hodin. A to všechno s Cyrusem v patách, který může být kdekoli a v jakémkoli tle.

Další kniha, která mě opět nutila přemýšlet. Tentokrát ve stylu: „*Ten umělec na Art Murmur by určitě dobře mohl být i Cyrus.*” nebo „*Zašel by Cyrus tak daleko, že by se schoval v dívčím tle? Stala se z něj snad jedna z Kaileyiných spolužaček?*”.

D?j byl svižný a ani nachvilinku jsem se nenudila (bohužel to až moc rychle uteklo :-()) Z?ídka jsem dokázala odhadnout, co p?ijde, v?tšinou jsem se po?ádn? sekla a koukala jak to nakonec autorka vymyslela. Tuto knihu rozhodn? ne?adím mezi p?edvídatelné. Škoda jen, že je tak krátka. P?řb?h by si ur?it? zasloužil víc prostoru. První díl kon?í ve chvíli, kdybyste nejradši ?etli dál a to vám zaru?í, že si druhý díl budete chtít rozhodn? p?e?íst.

Líbily se mi tam drobnosti jako t?eba, když Noah hraje se Serou scrabble p?es mobil, kde každé vytvo?ené slovo m?lo v?tší/skrytý význam, nebo jak Serafina ob?as použila p?írovnání situace k šachové partii.

**„Je mi jako bych všude kolem sebe
m?la Cyruse, který o?ekává m?j další tah.
Tuhle hru nesmím prohrát.”**

Tuhle ~~krátkou~~ krásnou kníže?ku bych cht?la doporu?it každému, kdo má aspo? trochu rád toho magi?na a nadp?irozena. Ne?ekala jsem, že si ji tak zamiluju, ale stalo se a jsem za to ráda. Zase n?co nového a originálního do mé pestré knihovni?ky :-)

Aleixie says

The Alchemy of Forever.

I don't have much to say on the subject. It was one of those books that you absolutely have no opinion on, because you couldn't care less. Yes, this was a good book, yes, I would read the next one, and yes, I have nothing to say.

The plot was good, interesting, but could have been better. The idea behind it was good and the twists and turns kept me reading. I liked how not everything went the way it was supposed to be.

Some characters were completely useless and a waste of words, and almost none of them went through any development. They stayed almost identical to the time that I met them. The heroin had some blond moments (no offence to blonds) and acted very stupid. I was like, "Come on, you know better than that." Yup, those moments I wished out heroin had a better developed brain.

Absolute plus in this book was that Seraphina was *running away* from the abusive relationship. The down side was that her heart still stoped when she saw him. Ahhh, that never changes.

The writing had way too many metaphors for my liking. I started skipping the parts where the stars were compared to a grassy field, or something like that. All those discriptions were completely un-nessesary. It didn't help with the imagry.

All in all, it wasn't my favorite but I am interested in finding out whats next.

I guess it was okay.

Giselle says

Reincarnation has always been an iffy subject for me. I'm not easily interested or impressed with it. I can happily say that the *Alchemy of Forever* is by far the best reincarnation story I have ever read (though I haven't read that many - but still it was awesome!). In *The Alchemy of Forever*, when Seraphina dies next to Cyrus, the man who was to take her hand, he gives her a drop of Alchemy potion he's discovered, that allows Seraphina to attach her soul to another body. She can now live forever jumping from body to body. How cool is that?

What would you do if one day, you were suddenly in someone else's body? Living someone else's life. Someone you have never met, with a family and friends, classes and hobbies. Well... fake it 'til you make it! And that's exactly what Sera did! This premise, to me, is extremely fascinating. We've all wondered what it would be like to live someone else's life at one point or another. It was very interesting, and often amusing, to watch Sera go through this. The girl has never even gone to school! And now she's supposed to act like a normal 16 year old!? It was great! I was completely engrossed in it from the very first page. Sera is a fabulous protagonist who is extremely brave. I loved everything about her: her personality, her voice, even her name - Seraphina - it's so chic, isn't it?

Trying to get Seraphina back, Cyrus will go to great lengths. He's the ultimate villain with the ultimate weapon: immortality. How can you escape someone who can not only live forever, but can LOOK like ANYONE? He can take any body he chooses. And he's the type who will do anything to get what he wants. He kills mercilessly, and forgives no one. No wonder Sera escaped him! But, as you can surely guess, she sees him again.

The writing is excellent, the pacing is perfect, the romance is wonderful, and the end is heartbreaking. There is nothing I disliked about this book. Even the killer cliffhanger is extremely interesting (and what's funny is I sort of expected it, but it still shocked me!). With most books you can often guess where the story is going to go after a cliffhanger, but this time I have absolutely no clue what Avery is planning for us. I'm positive that it will be gripping and surely full of emotions. However, I may not get to read it, because I may die waiting.

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Blythe says

Providing readers with a thoroughly interesting and unique perspective on incarnation, Avery Williams has great promise to offer with her Incarnation series, a good portion of which is executed in *The Alchemy of Forever*. Williams' take on the thought-provoking concept of incarnation is certainly a refreshing and alluring one, touching less on religion and life after death, as I had initially expected, and more on science, which I found to be exceptionally original and fascinating.

The characters in *The Alchemy of Forever*, however, I feel were not met with that same interesting and fascinating quality as the plot. While the characters that were supposed to be likable are entirely likable, and

the characters that aren't supposed to be likable are deliciously sinister, whether a character in *The Alchemy of Forever* was likable or not was some of the most insight we got into the characters, in my opinion. When I'm reading a novel, I try to connect to the characters as much as possible, but if I feel I don't know much about any of the characters, I find that pretty difficult to do. While I was entirely connected to the plot and what was occurring throughout the novel, with the exception of a rough patch in pacing around the halfway mark, I wasn't emotionally connected to most if any of the characters, and due to that, many of the events in *The Alchemy of Forever* didn't bear the amount of impact I'm sure Avery Williams had expected them to.

I do like the characters in this novel; I really like Sera, although I would have liked to see more depth and growth from her character, and I really like Noah, the love interest. But these characters are met with little development when separated from each other, that, while I care about what happens in their relationship, I can't muster up the same amount of attachment when concerning each of the characters when they're on their own. With a highly original concept, a strong writing style that reads briskly, and an even stronger central villain that is as nefarious as he is utterly captivating to read about, *The Alchemy of Forever* had a lot going for it, but the incredibly short page count got in the way of providing the protagonists with depth, and that is undoubtedly this novel's biggest downfall. Hopefully there will be more character development (and more villain appearances) in the next addition in the Incarnation trilogy, which I look forward to reading.

Saniya says

First of all, guys do check this out. I have made a fan-made cast for this book. :)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYIb65...>

Well, this book was **something**. And I mean it in a good way. ^_^

The cover was just okay for me, the blurb seemed nice but the trailer here made me read this book. Yes, I am a sucker for good trailers and even if the book has been rated one star, I would have read this simply because of the trailer.

The story seemed nice. It was good yet slow. This was like a developing story and since this is just the first book in the series written by this author, I approve it. It was really good for a start.

I was really interested in this book since it was about a girl who lived for 600 years. Alchemy was something new for me and I should say I liked it. The characters seemed nice, the situations were good, the ending was really, really good but the writing style gave it all away. It was a bit rushed. I read this book in just 2 hours and in the end I was like, "That's it?"

Overall, I liked it, I will rate this book 4/5 stars and I am really expecting the author to write the next book a little bit long. Well, I am waiting for the next book eagerly and that means yes, I am keeping a track of the author now. :D

Vi Vi says

"Centuries ago, her boyfriend, Cyrus, discovered a method of alchemy that allows them to swap bodies with other humans, jumping from one vessel to the next, taking the human's life in the process. "

MOTHERFUCKER. STOP STEALING FROM ANIME YA AUTHORS. MY GOD.

Lindsay Cummings says

This book is AWESOME.

That's really all I want to say, short and sweet. But because this is a review, and I want the world to read this book, I guess I will go into a bit more detail. :)

The book starts out with a rockin' setting, way back in the 1300's, where we first meet Sera. I love seeing that touch of otherworldly-ness. It's so different from what we know today.

Chapter two fast-forwards several hundred years later, to current day. It's great to see how much Sera has evolved. She's a wonderfully done character, who has no idea what life is going to hold for her still, even though she's lived for so long. In many ways, she's still just a young girl trying to figure everything out for the first time.

I really enjoyed the way the author did Cyrus' character. He was creepy and possessive, and everything a killer should be. He believed that everything could be explained by science, and that what matters most in the world, like love and living an honest life, were things that could fall by the wayside as long as he could control it.

I loved the plot. It was always giving me different twists, and was not predictable in any way. Especially the ending! I was a bit confused by it, but not in a bad way. It left me feeling like...what? Wait...what???

I'm super excited for book two. Can it please come out? Now?

I loved the creepy aspect of the fact that Kailey's family has NO idea that there's a stranger living inside of their daughter's body. How cool is that?! Poor family...they are so lovable, I just want to go into the book and let them know what's really going on.

The cover is awesome. When you turn it different angles, you see multiple faces. It's cool, because it fits the story so well!

Overall, if you love stories with a little creepy, a little funny, a little drama, and a lot of awesome, then I would totally recommend this one! It's a fast read, and different from what I've read before, so if you want something fast and fun, definitely go pick up a copy when it releases!

Dija says

The scariest thing about Incarnates is that we look just like everyone else.

Another YA with a brilliant premise that doesn't quite deliver, *The Alchemy of Forever* is bad when it could have *easily* been epic.

Sera is an immortal (or Incarnate, like they're called in this one) who has to steal other people's souls to take over their bodies as her's dies after about every 10 years. Cyrus is the one who turned her and her love for him died out a long time ago. Sera's decided that her current body will be her last, and she'd rather die than steal another soul. When the time to die comes though, her resolve weakens and she ends up in the body of Kailey Morgan.

All that makes this out to be the next great book since *Angelfall* or something. Unfortunately, all the awesomeness is simply hinted at, rather than being analyzed and explained. I had a number of issues with this book, made all the more irritating because of how effortlessly they could have been amended, had the author chosen to make this just a slightly longer book.

Even after reading *The Alchemy of Forever*, I still don't know anything about Sera's character that I didn't gather from the synopsis. This book is so annoyingly brief and abrupt, we don't get the chance to look at *anything* extensively. Not at the true origin of the Incarnates, not at Cyrus, not at Sera, and certainly not at Noah and Kailey.

Basically, we never get the chance to truly get to know the characters. Ergo, I didn't feel a thing for any of them, so even when *The Shocking Thing* at the end occurred, I was only mildly curious about what would happen next. Sure, I'd like to know what *really* went down that night, but I won't have any nightmares if I never find out. If only the author had taken a few chapters to get us better acquainted with Sera and who she is by herself, when she's not imitating the life she's taken, the book would have been a million times better and I wouldn't be so indifferent to her fate.

Williams also skimmed over scenes I would have really liked to read. The readers's simply told they happened and we're left to fill in the blanks. How does the relationship between Noah and Sera, Leyla and Sera, *everyone* and Sera develop? They don't notice anything odd in her behavior? Do they like Sera or is it just Kailey they're seeing in her? Sera goes from being suicidal to lively and from being ready to flee to loving her new life in seconds, and the sudden development isn't portrayed or conveyed that well at all.

Overall, *The Alchemy of Forever* represents an interesting and new concept, but that potential is never truly explored. I look forward to finding out what happens next, but this one most definitely did not leave an impact.

For more reviews, visit my blog.

?lkim says

Reenkarnasyonu konu edinen bir romandı?. Karakterimiz 600 y?ld?r beden de?i?tirerek ya?ayan Seraphina. Cyrus ise simyac?n?n o?lu, en ba?ta Sera ölürken ona ilk bedenini veren ve 600 y?ld?r onunla olan. En ba?ta birbirlerine a?k olsalar da zaman geçtikçe Sera Cyrus'tan nefret etmeye ba?lıyor, çünkü zamanla Cyrus ac?mas?z ve so?uk kanlı bir katile dönü?üyor. Sera da beden de?i?tirip insanlar? öldürmekten b?kt??ndan temelli ölmeye karar veriyor. Tam intihar etmek üzereyken bir araba kazası oluyor ve hemen oraya ko?turup sürücü genç k?z?n ölmek üzere oldu?unu görüyor. Tam olarak bunu planlamasa da ölmekte olan k?z?n bedenine giriyor ve onun ya?am?na dalmak zorunda kalıyor. En ba?larda kaçmaya çal??sa da bu ya?am onun ho?una gidiyor. Ama Cyrus'un ondan vazgeçmeyip bulmaya çal??acak, Sera da- ya da bedeninin ismi Kailey de- ondan kaç?nmaya çal??acak.

Kitap aslında gayet akıcı ilerliyor, sadece kurguda eksiklik var ya da yazar bilerek bozarak oralar?. Sonu tamam, bir merak unsuru bırakacak da, kitaba ve o Taryn adlı kızın ne oldu bir daha hiç değinmedi. Bilemiyorum belki ikinci kitaba bırakıp bütün diğer kışkımlar?. Seneye ikinci kitaba kavunca soruların cevabın alırız. Ama genel olarak kitabı beğendim ve ilginç bir konusu vardı. Zaten merakıma yenilip hemen okuyup bitirdim, merak ediyorsanız siz de, eminim sizi de saracaktır.

Inge says

That was really cool! Just when I thought I've read every type of YA book imaginable, *The Alchemy of Forever* takes me by surprise.

Seraphina is a 600-year-old Incarnation, an immortal who takes other people's bodies to continue living. But after six centuries, Sera is tired of living and killing other people just to extend her own life. She plans her own suicide in secret, desperate to get away from her controlling sorta-but-not-really-boyfriend, Cyrus. Only in the act, she accidentally takes another body. She won't go back to Cyrus, so she decides to live the life of the girl whose body she took, and finds she is surprised by how pleasant it is. Especially the boy next door, Noah. But she has to be careful, 'cause Cyrus is looking for her. And he is not happy.

I thought this book was really refreshing. The main character was pleasant to follow around. She was wise (as one ought to be after six centuries of living) and kind. The thought of her falling in love with a sixteen-year-old boy felt kind of weird, especially since she's not who Noah thinks she is. She's a completely different person in the body of his neighbour girl. It was never explained why Nicole is so bitchy to Kailey, other than "something must have happened". Let's just go with "teenage drama". I suppose that comes pretty close.

Cyrus was great. He was the arrogant, condescending asshole "boyfriend" who you just want to punch in the face. But he's scary too, because he's very charming and can worm his way into any situation. That's what makes him a great villain - I'd be scared shitless if he was coming after me, especially with a wrath like that.

I'm really looking forward to see what happens in the next book.
