

# **Dissemble**

Sarah Addison-Fox

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Once you're in, you're in for life.

Plunged into the heart of the country she fled, with one chance to unlock her past, Celeste must employ every skill she has to protect the unsuspecting family she's grown to love.

With her future, and that of the Haynes family, dependent on her success, a newly trained Celeste is sent undercover to the capital city of Kyraenea.

Celeste's new handler Torrance Kyle has plans that don't involve doing his job or playing by the rules. Can she trust Torrance with her life, or is he hiding as many secrets as she is?

Will a disillusioned Mick risk everything to find Celeste, or settle for guarding the home front in Etraea?

Can Celeste find the truth in a world built on deceit, or will her mission lead her straight to the place she fears the most?

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#### **Dissemble Details**

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Genre: Fantasy, Romance, Young Adult, Christian





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## From Reader Review Dissemble for online ebook

## Shantelle says

#### **3.5** stars

I was excited to get reading *Dissemble* after finishing the first book in this series! It's an exciting new fantasy world with some great characters, lots of action, romance, and a faith thread.

*Dissemble* was pretty fast-paced and definitely kept me reading once I got started. I was happy to see more of Mitch, Celeste, Ethan, and the rest. And also explore the lives and backstories of some newer characters. Overall, this book was a great adventure - though it got a little gritty.

I look forward to finishing the series! Wish Book Three was out already! \*grins\*

## Abigail McKenna says

First thing I have to say: This series is quickly becoming one of my all-time favorites. Seriously.

series playlist: https://open.spotify.com/user/mylittl...

This book. was so good. the reason I haven't written this review before now is because I didn't know how to word it. I'm not entirely sure that I know how to now.

What is it about this book that catapulted it up on my favorites list?

Maybe it's the characters. Maybe it's Celeste, who is trying to protect a family that has chosen her when she didn't believe she could be chosen, or Mick, who is haunted by horrors he didn't deserve, or Torrance, whose coarse words hide a melted heart, or Amaya, who carries a secret that is burden and joy in one.

Or maybe it's the world. Or maybe it's the plot. Or maybe it's the message.

It could be any of those things.

All I know is that this series has come to mean something special to me. I get a warm fuzzy feeling when I think about it, I didn't want this one to end, and I can't wait for the next one.

Five shining stars from me.

#### **Gray Cox says**

#### This was brilliant.

When I read the first book to this series, I liked it but wasn't hooked.

#### This book hooked me.

The first book of this series pales as just an introduction to the characters and to the world when put beside

this book. Dissemble is an action-packed, suspenseful adventure, and I enjoyed every minute of the ride.

I'm looking forward to the next book!

## Nicki Chapelway says

Such a fun story filled with intrigue, romance, and several scenes that had me chuckling.

I am extremely invested in all of these characters. Somehow I ship all of them. I don't know who is my favorite character anymore, though my least favorite is probably Maggie. I don't know, I just didn't like her saying that her daughter couldn't learn sword fighting while her son could.

The story was filled with twists and turns, at some points I didn't fully understand what the characters were doing or why, but on a whole this story was extremely interesting and kept me on my toes. There was one point in this book where I actually said, "I did not see that one coming!" out loud. My sister laughed at me.

I loved the way this book ended. \*sigh\* and frankly I'm terrified to see where this series will go...

Many thanks to the author for the copy which she provided. I received a complimentary copy of this novel. I was not required to post a positive review and all views and opinions are my own.

## Karis says

This book is great, okay? Just read it—that is what I am tempted to just leave my review at because it would sum it all up. However, you might not be convinced you have to drop everything to read it yet, so I'll do my best to persuade you. I've had the honor of first handedly seeing this book grow into the book that it is now since its first draft, and it is incredible to see the finished result.

*Dissemble*, book two of the Allegiance series by Sarah Addison-Fox, picks up plot-wise just after the ending of the previous book *Disowned*. But the setting is very different as the war between Etraea and Kyraenea has completely changed the dynamics in Macetown toward Celeste, a former Kyraenean slave, and the Haynes family who have taken her under wing.

Mick is faced with memories from fighting at the front line, and little Sadie and Jude are facing bullies taunting Celeste and calling their older brother a coward. As always, Celeste seems to find herself caught up in events that play a far larger role than she could ever imagine. Do read the back blurb; it sets up the conflicts beautifully.

I was fangirling with a friend tonight about this book, and she was in anguish because she had to leave the book in an especially suspenseful moment. A lot is going on within a short time, and the author barely gives her characters (or readers) a moment to recover sometimes in between. This is a book you won't want to set down.

There are two main spotlights in this book, although both are connected—one following Celeste and the other focusing on the conflict in Macetown revolving around the Haynes family life and the corrupted

Intelligence Agency of a certain Charles Smyth. I loved seeing both sides. Sarah Addison-Fox is exceptional in realistically depicting interactions and relationships among her characters in a way that really makes the reader be able to relate with the characters in such a cool way. In just a few short words sometimes within a scene, a whole new level to a character would be revealed and causing my jaw to drop. It's still hanging.

So, if you love Christian fantasy and like reading books that demand to be read in one sitting, then do read this one. I'd recommend it for at least 15+ because of certain topics in the book and the action, but the writing of the book in no way glorifies evil and is written from a Christian worldview.

#### Sarah Grace Grzy says

Wow! So I just read 70% of this in only a few hours. \*pats self on back\*

RTC after publication.

## Angela R. Watts says

[ Celeste will do whatever it takes to find her dad, who.

#### S.G. Willoughby says

[ I didn't like her husband very much (especially in the beginning and middle), (hide spoiler)]

## **Grace Morris says**

#### 4.5 Stars! =D

Special thanks to the author who gave me a copy in exchange for a review. The author did not pay me for a review and all the thoughts here are my own honest opinion.

The first book was more on the peaceful side as it built up the plot for this book. And this book, wow. Everything is brought up a few more notches. There's spies, and action, and this bad guy that was interesting, to say the least. Everything was like really tense.

And Torrance! I just loved him! So, I was unsure about him for like three seconds or something, but then I was like, okay, there has to be something more going on here. Somehow he was able to make me laugh at times, and then be totally serious the next minute. When it comes to people's lives, he doesn't play games, and I admire him for that.

Mick.... You need to plan things a little more before you go off running into a situation you know nothing about. It made sense why he did what he did, and frankly it made the outcome turn out better, I just thought a little more planning could've been beneficial. But, honestly? Mick doing this really showed his personality

and his love for Celeste, and it just made me love him so much more. And what Mick did at the battle lines.... I just want to give him a hug. It was hurtful for him, but he made a decision that was still terrible to hear but better than the alternative. Mick, you're literary a hero!

Celeste! What you were about to do was, umm, a little shocking.... Especially because of your past. Seriously though, that scene of what she was going to do with that disgusting man was a little too much for me, I did not like it one bit. Though I was happy how much she wanted to keep the Haynes family safe and together. And the skills she learned.... Man, she does make a pretty good spy if you asked me, she learns fast.

Sandi, why Maggie didn't want you to learn the skills of swords is beyond me. Sandi was a natural! I love this little girl's kind heart, how she would go to someone else to make them feel welcome, and even to be kind to someone who previously hurt her. That takes guts. She just has this heart that makes everyone feel at ease. I wasn't sure about her crush with Jude, I mean she is so young, like only ten.

Amaya.... Umm, I liked Torrance a little more than her. But learning more about her, I see why she is the way she is.

Smyth.... How did he even get in office? He makes a wonderful bad guy. That's all I will say.

And where did Asher go!!! I missed him so much in this story, I wished he had more of a role, he would have been great!!!

Now the main reason why I removed a 0.5 star from my rating is because of the content. I loved how we get to see the culture of Kyraenean. Like the hot food was great. The slaves were just sad. But the stuff that I really had a hard time reading was the prostitutes. It never really explained anything with sexual scenes, thank goodness. Actually, there wasn't any scenes like that anywhere in this book. Mostly it just implied what has been going on in Kyraenean. There were also a few scenes of Celeste and Torrance kissing that I didn't like, and what Celeste was supposed to do with a man.

#### **Content in Book:**

- 1. Houses for prostitutes.
- 2. Prostitutes. Implied content but nonsexual.
- 3. Violence. (Killing a man with a gun, mentions of blood, implied violence of threats to kill people. With guns. With knives. War related. Hand-to-hand combat.)
- 4. Slaves. And young kids being disowned by their parents and sold into slavery.
- 5. Mentions of worshiping other gods.
- 6. Mentions of a war.
- 7. Tattoos and a mark to brand a slave on their arm.
- 8. Smoking.
- 9. Alcohol.

- 10. Abuse. (hitting a child, and other implied abuse.)
- 11. Some mentions of injuries, including gunshot injuries and knife stabs.

#### Who Would I Recommend This Book To:

Those who love dystopians. Those who like strong stories about families. Those who like books about spies.

#### Will I Read The Next Book:

Of course!!!! I LOVE THIS SERIES!!!! Actually I have already read and LOVED Dissociate and I should have a review up for it within the next ten minutes.

## **Shannon Hiner says**

Ready to dive back in?

You only think you are.

Whereas Disowned was a sweet-talking mild-mannered introduction to the Allegiance series, Dissemble strides through the door of the tavern, half-doors swinging wide, spurs glistening, and a devilish tilt to its cowboy hat--ready to take on the world.

Prepared? In your dreams.

This novel knows what its talking about, and isn't afraid to tell you the story. Come what may.

The pacing is a lot faster here, the characters developed and ready to spring off the page and--please excuse the cliche--the plot thickens.

The things we love continue, Celeste with her damaged naivety, Mick with his brash, but well-meaning temperament, the beautiful, loving family back home...oh yes, \*back\* home.

We aren't in Texas (Etra) anymore, kids. We are in the thick of things; Kyraenea.

What I loved:
World-building greatly expanded on.
Torrance (need I say more)
Spies! Undercover!

**INTRIGUE** 

#### What I didn't love:

.... Nothing to see here folks, please move right along.

#### Notes:

This is a fantasy novel written from the perspective of a Christian. That doesn't mean it shies away from what is real, what is out there. It means that the author sees these things, acknowledges there is darkness in

the world, and then shows you the light. Guides you to what is good and true.

It's Christian fiction done right.

You can't hide in the light, not in this world. You need to go out, out into the darkness, and FIGHT IT.

Sarah Addison-Fox is doing that. She's doing it well.

Read this novel if you dare, but I'm warning you: You'll have to read the rest of the series too.

P.S. I honestly have no idea where all the Cowboy/Western references came from. I probably had way too much caffeine today. I apologize for nothing.

## R.J. Rodda says

Loved that beach ending! No spoilers, but finally!!!

This is the second book in the series (read the first book first!) and has amusing banter, spy-action, sweet romance, evil villains and some great plot-twists. And even an intact loving family where the wife listens to her husband and respects him (you don't read that much these days).

Torrance injected a bit of welcome humor into the plot. I liked the way I was uncertain about him at the start but then he grew on me. He did deserve to be punched though! Mick was a very nice contrast to him. Amaya also added some fun edginess to the story.

I also really liked the following quotes on anger:

"There is a purpose for your anger"

"Etra gave us emotions for a reason"

"Don't let your anger guide you. Try to think before you act"

And also this on the slums Celeste sees:

This wasn't poverty; this was contempt for human life. The people living here were discarded as if they were no better than animals. Forced to fight for food like dogs, with no clean water, and surrounded by filth.

This is a well-written, well-paced, clean, non-magical fantasy with a romantic core. In many ways it felt like this book had a real ending, so I am curious about where this series will head next.

## Lila Kims says

4.5 stars

What an awesome sequel! I got to delve even deeper into characters I'm already attached to, from *Disowned*. But then I also got to meet and become attached to some new characters - like Torrance Kyle, who annoyed

me to no end at first but grew on me, and Amaya, who is SUPER COOL, let's face it. XD

The story is fast-paced, which I appreciated! Every scene was a game-changer and kept me endlessly turning pages.

A few of my favorite things:

- Ethan and Maggie, the amazing parent figures <3 <3
- Celeste is still wonderful and I'm still rooting for her with every fiber of my being.
- Mick, you are so charming, but this is getting frustrating. (view spoiler) XD
- reeeaaallllly liked the allegorical aspect of it
- such a complex antagonist. Just... yes!!
- OH, RITA, YOU POOR THING. MY HEART.
- (view spoiler)

I can't WAIT to read Dissociate!

## Victoria Lynn says

This book. . .

If you were like me and left wondering what on earth was going on in book 1, you will be very pleased to know that this book is better, bigger and more exciting in every way!

My favorite part about this book by far was the action! There was so much! And as a fan of action/adventure, this book really fit the bill and had me on the edge of my seat numerous times. This book really brought back a love of reading for me. I was so intrigued and the book never lost my interest.

Characters were great and excited me! Torrance. . . Amaya, the secondary characters that were added this book were so deep and intriguing.

Did I mention I loved the action? :D Huge thumbs up from me!

Content: (view spoiler)

## Abigail says

This book was even better then book 1 and so was amazing!! The chracters, plot, everything made me keep flipping pages.

Okay can we all agree that Mick is just a sweet, sometimes violent, cinnamon roll that we need to protect with all our might. \*sighs\* He is so sweet and innocent and is cute with his lack knowledge when it comes to romance. XD

We also can agree that Smyth is annoying and needs to go away. My blood was boiling anytime I read in his perspective. He is so wicked and evil. \*shudders\*

One last thing about characters, as much as I really disliked Torrance and Amara in the beginning. The grew on me, especially after I found out the plot twist about them. They are just too cute.

The plot in the book was so excited and made my heart pound with adrenaline.

Also that ending had me in fangirl heaven!!!!

I highly recommend this book because it is amazing and gah! Y'all just need to read it for yourself!!!

#### **Katelyn Buxton says**

~ I received a free ARC in exchange for an honest review ~

*Dissemble* takes the world that we were introduced to in *Disowned* and builds upon it in a realistic and familiar way. We're reintroduced to Celeste and Mick, as well as the rest of the Haynes family, plus a whole new cast of characters that add brand-new intrigue to the storyline.

Along the way Celeste is forced to confront her past, and her relationship with a certain \*cough\* corporal blossoms. Honestly, this was a book that I found hard to put down! There was always a new "loop" opening to keep me going. We also get in Mick's head a little more with this one, (which I loved), and watch some serious character development happen. In the beginning he'll do anything he can to keep the one he loves safe, but by the end he realizes that he can't. He's only human. The best he can do is face life by her side—together.

Maggie doesn't perform as large a role as she did in *Disowned*, but she's still the same lovable mother figure. Ditto with Ethan as a father figure, but Sadie and Joe get a little more "screen time," especially Sadie. She's just learning to step out and stand up for herself, and her good-intentioned attempts to befriend a lonely new girl were heart-warming (even when the girl rebuffed her efforts and hurt our precious Sadie's feelings)! We also get to learn more about Sir Lewis, which was awesome. He was introduced as an important character in *Disowned*, so I liked getting to know him a little better in this one.

And the new characters! Amaya is a tail-kicking strong female character that still has feelings (#yasss), and Torrance is someone that went through several evolutions in my mind as his many layers were revealed. Plus, there's a twist at the end concerning him that took me totally by surprise!

The reason I docked a star from *Dissemble* despite the fact that all the characters were life-like and unique, and the writing seemed even more streamlined and impactful than in *Disowned*, was because there was quite a bit of mature content involving sexual innuendo. Now, a most of it was pretty understandable from a plot standpoint, because Celeste came out of a really awful situation, and most of the book takes place in her homeland, but it was still a little rough to read. That, and a very light smattering of language and some

drinking is the reason I gave it four stars.

*But*—that said, everything else about *Dissemble* expanded and improved upon the world introduced in *Disowned*, and I'm looking forward to the third installment in the Allegiance series, and seeing how Etra works in the characters' lives next.