

Nightfall

Shannon Messenger

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Sophie and her friends face battles unlike anything they've seen before in this thrilling sixth book of the *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling Keeper of the Lost Cities series.

Sophie Foster is struggling. Grieving. Scrambling. But she knows one thing: she will not be defeated.

The Neverseen have had their victories—but the battle is far from over. It's time to change tactics. Make sacrifices. Reexamine everything. Maybe even time for Sophie to trust her enemies.

All paths lead to Nightfall—an ominous door to an even more ominous place—and Sophie and her friends strike a dangerous bargain to get there. But nothing can prepare them for what they discover. The problems they're facing stretch deep into their history. And with time running out, and mistakes catching up with them, Sophie and her allies must join forces in ways they never have before.

In this spectacular sixth book in the *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling Keeper of the Lost Cities series, Sophie must uncover the truth about the Lost Cities' insidious past, before it repeats itself and changes reality.

Nightfall Details

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Author: Shannon Messenger

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From Reader Review Nightfall for online ebook

Xylia says

They weren't friends. And they weren't actually sisters. They were just two different girls from two different worlds.

There are a lot of things I can say about Nightfall, but one thing I'm 100% sure of is that it was way better than Lodestar.

Nightfall picks up right after the last scene of the previous book, where Sophie meets her adoptive younger sister, Amy, and talks to her for the first time since Keeper of the Lost Cities, when Sophie leaves her adoptive family and sets off for a completely new life in the Lost Cities. I really liked how Shannon handled the whole situation about Amy, and I really like the relationship between Sophie and Amy in this book. It was nice to see an outside perspective of the Lost Cities from Amy and it felt sort of like a parallel with Book 1 when Sophie finds out about the Lost Cities for the first time. I also enjoyed how well written Sophie's thoughts about Amy were, and how conflicted she felt.

Three hands. No fourth for her. It was how it should be. How it would have to be. And Sophie could live with that. She could let them go again, to spare them that pain. But it would still hurt. It would always hurt.

The only complaint I have about Amy is that I felt that she could have played a bigger role in the book. She spends most of the book cooped up in her house in the Lost Cities, and while I understood that it was to keep her safe, I couldn't help wishing she could do more.

I enjoyed the plot in this book better than the previous book. The concept of Nightfall was alright, at most a little underwhelming, but it was still good. I loved the main climax of the book, which is the scene on the cover because my daughter Linh was actually doing something important for once. There were some new characters, such as the escaped prisoner in Lumeneria, whom I liked because she was an interesting villain to read about, and she was a fresh breeze after all the things we've read about Fintan, Brant, Gethen, Alvar, Lady Gisela and Ruy.

Also, I loved loved loved the part where Choralmere was featured—it's so pretty and I would love to live there. There was some extra insight into the Song family and the story behind their surname, which I appreciated very much. Not to mention how Tam kept burning Quan and Mai.

There were some plot twists that I called(view spoiler), and I had been planning to put (view spoiler) in my own story, but Shannon wrote it down before I could and if I write it in now, everyone would think I'm UnoriginalTM so I'm probably never going to finish that fic now. But that aside, I really liked what went down in the book. There was a lot of action and suspense that kept me turning the pages. (Or at least, tapping the side of my Kindle screen.)

With the introduction of Amy, I found Sophie's character to be more developed in this book, and I liked how ready she was to sacrifice something important to protect the people she loved, even if it meant giving in to

the enemy. Fitz... was okay, if you counted how supportive and sweet he was towards Sophie—I really liked that—but I would wish to see more from him. Biana was really brave in this book, and she went all the way to defend and protect her friends and family. That, I'm proud of. I loved Dex in this book, as usual, but in this book, he became even braver and smarter. I really liked how Shannon wrote him in this book and I hope to see more in Book 7 where I hope he would actually be on the cover for once. Keefe was much more enjoyable to read about compared to Book 5, where I found him quite annoying. He is brave and reckless and loyal and I can't wait to read more about him.

And needless to say, I loved Tam and Linh. I didn't know it was possible to love Tam even more, but now I know. I think Linh is the wisest out of the eight, and I really liked the dynamic in this book where she changed from a person who is afraid of the water, who cannot control the water, to a person who bonds with the water and is in complete control of the water. Though she didn't appear as much as I wanted her to, as most of the book she was in the background hanging out with Wylie. And I don't like her with Wylie. I don't ship her with anyone, actually. Speaking of Wylie, I wished he would play a bigger role in the book. I didn't really like Marella in this book as her personality is kind of annoying, but I suppose that's to be expected, considering what had happened to her. I think she'll grow onto me again soon though!

I don't really talk about shipping because it's subjective, but this book made me ship Sokeefe. I didn't really like them in Book 5. I thought the short story in the Barnes and Noble limited edition was really sweet, how Keefe had feelings for Sophie but chose not to act on them because he knew Sophie wasn't ready and might not like it. Also, I ship Tam and Biana, but there were little to no scenes in the book, which was kind of disappointing. I was also looking out for LGBT+ scenes. I hope there's more in the next book. (view spoiler)

The ending of the book was a cliffhanger (like always), but it's an overused plot device in many books, so it felt a little lackluster compared to the ending of Book 5. Nevertheless, I still look forward to what happens in Book 7! All in all, Nightfall was a very enjoyable read and it definitely deserves the five stars... or should I say six, since it's Book 6? That was a bad joke, so I'll leave now and Vanish off the face of the earth until Book 7 comes out. When that happens, I'll suddenly appear (view spoiler).

The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?Misericordia? ?????? **★♥ says

Love this! Why is this not on par in popularity with the Harry Potter books? The quality, the imagination, the worldbuilding, the imagery, the dark-and-light parts of the story, multifaceted protagonists and lots more... This is the memorable winner in all categories!

Can somebody please put me out of my misery? I won't be able to wait for the 7th book... Ughhhhhh!!! Q:

The path of ancient silver and gold stones shouldn't exist—and yet it had been there all along. Hidden in plain sight.

Buried under lies.

Wiped from memory.

But never truly gone. (c)

Q:

Time to stop believing the pretty stories they'd been fed all their lives.

Time to see their world for what it really was.

Time to take something back. (c)

Q:

"One of them said he was listening for nearby thoughts as he searched the house, so I thought about darkness

and silence just in case." (c) Q: Then their bubble burst and the light carried them away. (?) We wanted her to see that the shadows that scared her could be beautiful and powerful when we learn how to take control of them (c) Q: His idea of excitement is when he changes the way he parts his hair. (?) "You're not in your rock-dude disguise... Did you get sick of getting pebbles stuck in uncomfortable places?" (c) Q: I have no doubt the seven of you could find all kinds of impressive ways to create havoc ... (c) I suppose we had a touch too much fun ensuring that the legends about us stayed as convoluted as possible. (c) Q: Some creatures do not mix well with others (c) I just overshared, didn't I? (c) Probably better if we don't unleash that havoc upon the world. (c) Q: Space was good right now. They needed a cushion of air to hold all the angst swirling between them. (c) Q: Let's go see if you two can annoy King Dimitar into giving us what we need. (?) Like oh, look at us—we're elves, and we like light, so we make everything sparkly! (c) O: "I call them my gorgodons. Part flareadon, for their flame resistance. Part gorgonops for their fangs. Part argentavis for their wingspan. And part eurypterid, for their stinging tails. Equally at home on land, in the sea, or in the sky—" "Wouldn't that be a gorgentaveridon?" Fitz interrupted. "It seems like the argentavis and eurypterid should be in the name." Lady Gisela sighed. "Clearly this is why you get along so well with my son." Fitz shrugged. "Hey, it's not my fault you chose a stupid name—which also sounds too much like a gorgonops, by the way." (c) Q: "Not that we found anything." "Except proof that Keefe's dad is even more ridiculous than my father... Do you know he has an entire room dedicated to himself, complete with a life-size statue made of lumenite? It glows, guys. I'm going to have nightmares about it." (c) ... talking about crushes with your mom sounds as fun as being chewed on by a verminion... (c) Q: Someday, you'll be so sure of what you want that you won't care who knows. (c) You can't change who you are, or who your family is...Believe me—if I could, I would. All you can do is

make sure you're living by what you believe in. (c)

Q:

So they flew for hours and hours, until the sun was long gone and the blue-black sky twinkled with the flickers of early stars. (c)

Q:

Adults have more experience.

Yeah, well, go be experienced in the kitchen (c)

Q:

I have access to an entire arsenal of weapons," she told them. "And I can restrain a woolly mammoth with one hand. (c) I like the badass version of Edaline!

O:

It's not about perfect plans. It's about believing you can handle whatever happens. (c)

Q:

Light creates the strongest illusions. Even for the mind. (c)

Kate Willis says

Eeek! My library has it now. But they are closed for the night...

Nicole says

UPDATE 05/08/17:

THE TITLE AND COVER IS OUT!!! And ofc it's absolutely beautiful. My darling Sophie is looking beautiful on the cover and Keefe is looking absolutely dashing <3. And Linh!!!! Her first cover!! This deserves some mallowmelt to celebrate!

Dear Shannon.

FIRST OFF, WHAT have you done to me and my heart?! I would like some of that potion! I hope I can make it in Alchemy.

SECOND, I sincerely hope my eyes are deceiving me because I see a Fall 2017 and a Fall 2018 as the release dates. My dear Shannon, I do hope you realize that these dates are VERY FAR AWAY, as in VERY FAR AWAY. I don't mean to pressure you but you've got to realize that my heart is failing and it can only be rescued by the one and only FITZ VACKER.

THIRD, my guesss for the title would be NIGHTFALL...Or maybe Lumenaria. I do hope that the title and cover come out soon. At least that will get some blood and life in my system for a little while.

Shannon, if you are reading this right now, please know that despite my pressuring, WE LOVE YOU AND THE WHOLE WORLD AND CHARACTERS YOU HAVE CREATED!

Sincerely,

Nicole

Bungee Dog says

This was soooooooo goooooood......Only problem? To much Foster-Keefe and not enough Sophitz!!!!!!! (Or Fitzphie)......It must be Fitz! Anyway great plotline and just an amazing series....so sad that I have to wait another year!

Lorien Rhys ~ Live for tomorrow says

sigh Counting the days until I can read this.

Countdown: Approximately, 3 months and 30 more days to go!

finally finishes the very last page after seven months later

Okay, um, that was... interesting.

Did anyone else feel like this was being rushed? Like Mrs. Messenger was trying to write Nightfall as quickly as possible so that her dear readers would have some new installment by November? The reason why I ask this is because throughout the book, it felt like everything was going by too fast or I just wasn't able to be up to speed with everything. And the missions they carried out? Yeah. Not my cup of tea, unfortunately. Why some KOTLC fans will say that this is the greatest book of THE ENTIRE SERIES, I will never understand. And here's something from you: (view spoiler) I'm sorry, but Nightfall isn't the greatest book of the series! It was bland through half of the book, and it kept recycling the story from previous books. And to add on to my rant, I was so sad to see that Dex was hardly mentioned. Sure, he had things to do with the Black Swan but... I was disappointed to see that the little muffin didn't get as much... spotlight? than everyone else. He received as much mentioned as Wylie, and that's not a whole lot. Now that we're going further into the series, you would expect to see changes with Sophie. Is she as bland as the previous books? Yes. Does she always believe she can do things by herself and is always easily persuaded with the help of her friends? Yes. See? NOTHING HAS CHANGED WITH SOPHIE!!! She hasn't PROGRESSED, and grown since the very beginning! I guess that was the most infuriating part about this. Sophie didn't seem to mature. I guarantee you. If you read Nightfall again (I know, how horrible of me to say) and read the first book, you will see NO change with Sophie from when she was twelve to however old she is now. She's not eighteen or sixteen, is she? I'm sorry, but the timeline is also super confusing. Yes, Mrs. Messenger DOES mention everyone's height and whatnot, but you never get a clear picture of how OLD they are. And what should they look like now that they are OLDER and MATURE. If it wasn't for Dex, Keefe, or Fitz, as well as the magnificent writing talent Mrs. Messenger has for this series, I would definitely turn this series over. I can only hope and pray that Flashback will be better and can actually PROGRESS further into the series.

mic drop

she has created such a vivid world that jumps right of the pages as I'm reading. it's hard to do that with middle grade books. definitely one of my favorite series that I've read. also SOFITZ
Keira says
I'm so ready for this book!!!!!!!!!!!
FOSTER-KEEFE FOREVER
I almost had a heart attack when you released the new title I was actually worried I was going to die
As I said, FOSTER-KEEFE FOREVER
Shannon Messenger says
Finally marking as "read" because it's DONE and heading to the printers to be ready for you guys on 11/7/17!
Ramya says
I CANNOT WAIT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THIS IS THE BEST SERIES EVER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
SOPHITZ FOREVER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
3/8/2017
I have seen the absolute gorgeousness of the cover!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
(Sorry for the overuse of exclamation marks, but they are much needed:)
7/21/2017
I cannot believe that I haven't died from the wait!

Eyeball Mcgigins says

A quick, more serious note about Sophitz: I think that Foster-Keefe may be somewhat cute, but Sophitz is just adorable! It's not the person they get shipped with for me (I do love Fitz though; we are very similar): it's how "compatible" and how "good" they are for each other. I just melt every time a Sophitz moment happens. Keefe just makes me burst into laughter all. The. Time! :)

The first draft has already been finished!!!!!!!! I'm sure we don't have to wait any longer!!!!!!!!!
Oh wait
We have to wait 45 more days until Nightfall comes out!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I absolutely love KOTLC, but c'mon Sophitz! You can do it! Don't let Keefe steal Sophie's heart! The main problem is that Sophie and Fitz don't have <i>any</i> alone time, but Keefe is practically is every. Page. Of. The. Book! *crosses fingers* Flashbackplease just pair Sophie with someoneI'm dying here!

On a more serious note: What the heck is going on with Alvar?

(view spoiler)

VGA says

GUYS WE HAVE A COVER AND IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND

AND JUST COMING BACK AGAIN TO SAY THAT LINH IS SO BEAUTIFUL!!!!! I mean, HER DRESS. THAT'S ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID.

ChocolateLover says

I have an announcement, I am in love. with......the KOLTC books. Here's the problem, I'm also dying. Because of......the KOLTC books. Every time I go to the library for a new KOLTC book, I swear my heart flutters, like Sophie's does around Fitz. Mrs. Messenger, you can definitely make me laugh, you can also make me cry, but right now you are just being brutal. I mean.....A CLIFFHANGER and A LONNNNG WAIT??????? So that's my first problem, and my second is about Keefe. I honestly like Fitz, he's a great guy....but..... he realllly rocks that platonic friendship with Sophie and I think Cognates is as deep as they should go. Yes,, I am a KEESTER/SOKEEFE shipper all the way!! But the problem I have with Keefe is that he doesn't actually exist, and neither does anyone like him....that I know at least. But Mrs. Messenger, no need to be bothered with anything other than writing the 6th book for now. And know that you have a lot of supporters out here!!

Mariam says

Can we stop pretending this is a dinner party and get back to why you have a drawing of the Nightfall symbol?

Please do.

WARNING: RANT AHEAD

So many characters and alter-egos and talking and the love triangle/square that ultimately makes me hate Keefe (I'm sorry! I don't want to!) and all of this *chaos*. There's only so much you can put in a series, Shannon Messenger. I'm sorry, but this is too much.

A List of My Issues:

1. Too Many Characters

I miss the old crew. They were well-defined characters that I treasured. But now? They hardly show up in the book! Dex is shoved into the background where he makes random gadgets appear to advance the plot, Fitz has officially earned the title of "Sophie's Energy Booster" and nothing more (MY POOR BABY WHY.) The two newer characters, Linh and Tam, aren't too bad, but the bodyguards and Black Swan members keep throwing me off because there are so many of them! That may be my fault, though, because I didn't get the chance to reread the previous book before reading this book.

2. No One Knows What the Hell is Going On

"I know you're still refusing to see me as anything more than a villain in this conflict, but like it or not, I'm the only one trying to build a solution."

That's code for "IDK." Please remind me what the bad guys are being bad for because I honestly don't remember. And it doesn't seem anyone in the book remembers either.

3. The WORST Love Triangle/Square I Have Ever Faced

Twilight's love triangle was bad. Red Queen's love triangle was bad. Heck, The Hunger Games' love triangle was bad because ALL love triangles are bad. But what makes Nightfall's love triangle/square/thing the worst?

I love Keefe, Fitz, and Dex. Since book one, I have learned to love them, and when it comes to choosing one of them for Sophie, it's only natural I have to cringe when the other two have a "moment" with her. Dex didn't suffer too badly, but poor, poor Keefe did. *Every time* he even gets close to Sophie I find myself hating him which makes me want to cry.

[&]quot;To what?" Sophie asked.

[&]quot;Problems you're still not ready to face.

4. The Plot

The series is going in circles. Repetition, repetition. Enough said. Specifically, though, *Nightfall's* plot was atrociously weak. There was a whole lot of sitting around a table and planning, and very little doing. And the lack of explanation really turned me off.

5. Fitz

Fitz has been my favorite character since book one so he deserves a category of his own. Not once in the entire book did he get to show off *his* skills and much of his personality was smothered by Sophie and Keefe. He is a delicate character, a character that I tucked under my wing and watched blossom from "Wonderboy" to a man that will stop at nothing to protect his friends. He deserves so much better and I adored every moment he made an appearance in *Nightfall*. Seriously, though, he's gotten so touchy-feely with Sophie. He's wearing *cologne* now. My little cinnamon roll is all grown up.

"Tell me about it," Fitz said, fanning the front of his red bramble jersey. "I was halfway through my morning run when Blur showed up—so now I'm all sweaty."

"And smelling awesome," Keefe added with a choked cough.

God, I miss the Fitz/Keefe friendship. And the Sophie/Biana friendship.

But most of all, I miss the old, simplistic plot. I love Shannon Messenger's writing, I really do, but not this book. Try again next time?

Kristen Kooistra says

I almost didn't write this review. I've thought about it a lot over the past couple of weeks... Basically the lack of caps and adding in a bunch of extra voooooooowels makes me wonder if it's worth my time. You see where I'm going with this? Read the top like 3 pages of reviews and you'll get it.

In short, I'm a bit snarky on the subject. I am, really. I know it. Why? Because this book, this series, is really really good. There's a lot of things amazing about it and it's a lot deeper than you'd guess. AND PEOPLE MISS IT. Oh hey, caps.

Why do people miss it? Because of something extremely stupid. It's called a love triangle. I'm not sure how far Shannon had originally met to take that but I'm sure at one point she was smart enough to realize that about 99% of her readership only cared about THAT. Now... you can call it a smart business move(it is) or you can call it a crutch(I am). It's smart because it really doesn't matter how good or bad these books are, the main readership only cares to plow through it and lap up the love triangle bits. (Don't worry about my safety. The lack of fangirling and squealing will bury this review and no one will ever know.)

It's a crutch because where this story COULD be leaning on the AMAZING description, plot, details, character development, and deeper messages, it instead makes sure the love triangle is every present and frequent enough where even if you want to forget it(I do), you can't.

Shannon... You. Don't. Need. This. You're a better author than this and your books are better than this. I know, I know, we're six in and it's too late and \$\$\$.

Honestly, the love triangle is the one thing killing this series for me. I hate love triangles and unlike everyone else that picks their favorite and hope he wins the magic prize called *girl*. I hope the best doesn't get her because he darn well deserves better. Which making me dislike your MC is probably never the author intention, but there it is.

Basically, I wish I could read reviews about what people actually thought of the book. Not ones that are prepublishing squealing, and post-reading squealing about who they want to win the girl. And with the decided lack, it really kills my motivation to want to write a review. I am, but is this a review? No. Not really. It doesn't talk about what I like or dislike. Let's face it, this is a big book. There's a lot of content to discuss. Heck, even some discussion on the romance angles would be nice but it just makes me ill because thank you I've had too much of THAT.

grumble grumble goes the old lady. And in summary, this is another great book in the series with a plot that forces you to keep reading, interesting characters, and those secret deeper moments that have really sold me on this series. There's also the annoying love triangle that will be dragged out for the entire series and I try to ignore it, but it does at least taint my love of KotLC.

Recommended for people who might actually want some decent content, people who are only here for more KEEFEFITZ baloney, and lovers of love triangles. (but seriously, if you haven't read this series you should and just ignore the lurveeee and enjoy the actual content. It's darn good.

Now to hide from the mob. Bwahahaha.

Hermit says