



A Searing Wind

W. Michael Gear , Kathleen O'Neal Gear

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“An irresistibly intriguing story line that brings the past vividly to life. . . . Nobody does Native Americana better than the Gears.” —Booklist

In the eagerly awaited third installment of the Contact: Battle for America saga, *New York Times* bestselling authors W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear richly portray a clash of cultures and a native peoples' struggle to protect their world. Set against the tragic war sparked by Hernando de Soto's brutal invasion of the American South, *A Searing Wind* heightens the historical action in this series hailed as “magnificent” (Andrew M. Greeley) and “exciting, skillfully crafted, and fast-paced” (*Publishers Weekly*).

Black Shell is an exile, banished by his people for his cowardice in battle. To his fearsome patron spirit, Horned Serpent, however, he is imbued with the courage and keenness to stop the *Kristiano* onslaught. He and his beautiful wife Pearl Hand have fought them from the Florida Peninsula through the very heart of native America. A trader by profession, Black Shell now dedicates his soul to destroying the invaders, with their impenetrable armor, their swift, enormous *cabayos*, and their flashing, razor-sharp swords.

Black Shell and Pearl Hand have seen the shackled, naked, starving slaves, heard the broken promises—and learned de Soto's plans. While the battle of Mabila cost many *Kristianos* life and limb, the marauder does not retreat. Now he heads for Chicaza and the people from which Black Shell was once exiled.

Wounded and pursued by memories and visions, Black Shell is obsessed with setting the perfect trap. To do so, he must use the Chicaza and their stockpiles of food and supplies. And he must gamble everything on his people's pride, traditions, and failings. As winter sets in, new dangers abound for the pair—that of a family's shame, a woman's anger, and a betrayal that may force Black Shell to forfeit his last chance to save their world from utter destruction. But, worst of all, he and Pearl Hand must walk boldly into de Soto's camp and engage the cunning monster in a desperate game of wits that will decide the fate of a continent.

Powerful and pulsing with authenticity, *A Searing Wind* is an unforgettable tale of humanity and cruelty, passion and ignorance—and of historical events burned into America's history and soul.

A Searing Wind Details

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From Reader Review A Searing Wind for online ebook

Mara Call says

This is a very well researched fiction book of the Mississippian tribes, mainly the Chicaza, and their hard fought defeat of DeSoto's men. It was an eye opener of the atrocities the Native American nations had to endure under the banner of the Christian faith. Reading about the inhumane way they were treated, made me often have to put the book down, it was so disturbing.

The author's clearly have a side they stand on, and they paint a very good picture of what monster's the Europeans were towards the Native American's. They also explain how each side would have viewed each other and why. I like how they detailed the Native American culture-their religion, way of life, interactions with other tribes, how important keeping ones honor was, how interactions were based on respect for the other. I also could see some similarities with other ancient cultures. I found the Chicaza nation to be very similar to the Spartans in their societal structure, ideologies and manner of fighting.

I had a love/hate relationship with this story. There were times I could get into it and times I couldn't. Even though the writing was good and the storyline compelling, there were moments when it dragged. It wasn't a story that left me feeling awesome either. All in all I liked the way the book ended in that they did get the win, having forced the remainder of DeSoto's men to leave, although at a great cost. But of course you know that there will be others, and we all know how the Native people's have been relegated to reservations (often not the best land or land of their choosing), and how poorly other groups of people and our national government have treated them. It's amazing how tenacious they are. Survivors.

Evie says

*****Originally published to: Bookish Blog | YA&Adult Reviews, Author Interviews, Guest Posts, News and Giveaways! @_@~**

A Searing Wing is the third and final installment of the Contact: Battle For America series by the phenomenal writing duo, W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear. Providing an excellent and unique look at the Spanish conquest of American southeast, this book is nothing short of masterful. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the previous two books - they were sensational, emotional, intense and absolutely fascinating, but the third book surprised me with even more ground-shaking action, heartbreaking events, and immensely satisfying conclusion. I'm really sad to part with the magnificent world the Gears created and can't wait to read more of their marvellous works.

Because this is the third book in a trilogy, I will refrain from talking about the plot and focus entirely on my thoughts and impressions.

I loved every aspect of this book. The plot moved swiftly along, jumping from one adventure to another. The historical background was extensively researched, rich in flavour and abundant in fascinating information. I found it amazing to read about the history, culture, spiritual beliefs and customs of Native American tribes. It was definitely a precious, eye-opening experience for me, and one that I will never forget. The character building was one of the strongest and most thorough ones I have ever seen, making it easy to get emotionally

attached to the protagonists and really care for them. The narration switched back and forth between Black Shell and Pearl Hand, adding a whole new layer to the already complex plot and giving the reader a better insight into the story. Above all, despite it being quite a hefty book, *A Searing Wind* was very evenly paced, well-balanced, and gripping all the way to the end. I honestly can't recall a single boring passage - no matter how you slice it, this is a book to devour! A powerful, beautifully written historical novel that is both entertaining and thematically poignant.

Frankly, this book - this **WHOLE** series - is too amazing for words. There's no way to convey the amount of historical details the authors managed to include. No way to tell you how readable, enjoyable, gripping and moving it was. No words can ever be enough to praise their exceptional storytelling, and the way they skilfully weaved adventure and drama into the vividly depicted tapestry of Native Americana. Reading this book was a one-of-a-kind experience. Enriching, entertaining and very informative. Unforgettable.

Thanks to their archeological background, the Gears managed to craft something that is not only captivating and fun to read, but also - or, perhaps, most of all - astoundingly authentic. This novel is historically accurate, but at the same time not heavy with dry facts and dates. Quite the opposite - despite the serious subject matter and profoundly meaningful messages it carries, *A Searing Wind* is a page-turner that will keep you glued to its pages for long hours. It reads like a good adventure book, but also gives you something to think about. Essentially, it's a terrific read, and one that I will definitely be recommending to all my friends!

Sue says

Fantastic finale to the Gear trilogy--*Contact: The Battle for America*. The Gears are great at combining a thrilling story with historical information on the Native Americans who lived during the era that they are writing about. It was very interesting to read about how the natives felt about and reacted to the Spaniard De Soto, his soldiers and the new animals--cabayos (horses) and puercos (pigs). I think this could be read as a stand alone book and still enjoyed but to really get the terror, and the bravery of the people the whole trilogy should be read.

Theresa says

A Searing Wind Review (spoilers)

Theresa Hulongbayan:

A searing wind is a dynamic and thrilling end to a trilogy that will take you into a world of understanding, commitment and daring. The book begins as the last ends with the fires of Mabila. Our heroes, Black Shell and Pearl Hand, two Native Americans from different tribes, traders by nature have come to the realization that their plans have not stopped "the Monster". They must again try to convince another tribe the danger they are in, the strength of their enemy and the ingenuity and violence of their opposition. Antonito de Soto, "the Monster", has been given La Florida as governor by the king of Spain. He believes his men outfitted with the finest weapons and armor that money could buy he would easily control La Florida. Arriving on the shores with supplies of every kind, talented cobblers, secretaries, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors....everything conceivable tradesmen. The de Soto's army ranks including cobayeros and soldaos with twenty years of experience fighting indios, from Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, and Peru. Lead by the grandest nobles of Spain. But the opposition they encounter in Apalachee, Cafakke, Coosa and Mabila are nothing to the battle and strength of the warring tribe of Chicaza. The Chicaza tribe of war likes people, whose dynamic

and aggressive nature gave rise to the trader Black Shell. Black Shell who had been trained as a child to gain the panther throne as High Minko of the Chicaza. Reading this book I was drawn into a world of violence, and death interlaced with the hope that my favorite heroes will overcome their Monster and save their world from continued devastation by the Conquistadores. In the end hoping that they would not find their people devastated by the New World governed by the brutal, fanatical Spanish soldiers. My heart was in my mouth again and again hoping the characters I have grown to love in the series would survive. Only to fear in the next few pages that more violent and devastating events were ahead of them. I mourned with them the loss of the dogs, friends and comrades as they continued to bring the battle to the malignant forces of the Spanish soldiers and their converts. Open the book and share the triumphs, losses and love of Black Shell and Pearl Hand. Kathleen and Mike, you have gotten better over time, your characters have more humor, and dynamic emotional pull that the early books lacked... I think this is such a great story, especially because I studied the events of this story from the other side of history, from a descendant of de Vaca who takes pride in his ancestor's role in these events... Wow still shaking from the ending now I know why Kathleen had to drag herself down the stairs as she finished the final chapter of the book.

Character list of the Battle for America

Black Shell: of the chief clan of the Hickory Moiety, of the Chicaza nation. A trader, and our hero, he is an honest man, with interest in adventure, an undeniable curiosity, and a secret. He was raised to rule the Chicaza as Minko, but because of a cowardice act as a young warrior, he was ashamed, he ran away became a trader. It's his sense of adventure that get him into trouble, his courage that gets him out, and his love that he pays the highest price.

Five Pack dogs

Squirm: he liked to wiggle out of his packs and had made a study of how to do it without Black shell noticing. His long hair is dark brown and sleek, serving to accent the white blaze on his face and the milky bib on his chest.

Bark: his name says it all, charcoal black with a thick head decorated by old scars. When it came to a dog fight, he was terror unleashed.

Skipper: was named for his curious sideways gait. He was a light brown with short hair and oddly blue left eye.

Fetch: his most beloved dog, having a partly human soul, his greatest joy in life came from retrieving thrown sticks and hide balls, or even rocks. Was killed by the Kristianos, when he tried to protect Black Shell.

Gnaw: as a puppy several times he almost ended up as stew after chewing off sections of pack leather. He was the fastest and strongest of the dogs, carried the heaviest pack. A huge gray monster of a dog, the image only sullied with a cute white tip on his tail.

Pearl Hand: a Chicora, Irriparacoxi's bound woman, traded from one person to the next. She is a survivor that is able to use her intelligence, abilities, and body to achieve her goals. She is the daughter of a native woman, and a long lost Spanish Kristianos who impregnated her mother, who escaped them only to begin looking for the father. Her interest in him caused her to travel, search the ends of the world for her father, but has also taught her his language, which is the best of her abilities but the least of her value. She tries to warn Black Shell of the danger he would face in seeking the White Ghosts, but only finds herself saving him from them. Legends and Heroes of the various tribes,

Corn woman: the daughter of Woman-who-never-dies, brought corn and beans to the people and gave birth the Hero Twins; Morning star and the Orphan. Woman who never dies: first woman, a legend of the Chiaza people who gave birth to First man and Corn woman

Water Panther: Piasa, a mythological beast/god that prowled the depths, attacking the people in the swamps and water ways.

Horned Serpent: his voice is sibilant and terrible; Sunlight glistened in tiny rainbows from the scales that armored his skull. The horns that jutted from his head were forked and might have been made to translucent red jasper that almost glowed. Awesome crystalline eyes stared down at me in glittering splendor, like

faceted quartz. And in their gaze resonated a Power that sent it waves through my souls. Chevrons dots and dark centered circles decorated the length of his hug body. Each consisted of a symbol of the first days drawn upon his hide by breath giver during the creation. Those mighty wings rose from the center of back and spread above in large patterned feathers almost transparent in the sunlight. Breathe Giver: a powerful god in the pantheon of many tribes, a religious central power.

Timucua Irriparacoxi: High war councilor or combat chief, newly risen leader among the disorganized Southern Timucua villages.

Red Wing: first councilor to White Bird Lake town. An Anacotima can be thought of as something like a combination orator, councilor, palace overseer, and supervisor.

Stalks the Mist: "Ears" a painted warrior of the Timucua, had a string of dried human ears hung around his neck. He is an arrogant and slightly bitter subchief (Iniha), who reeked of ambition and thought himself superior to everyone but the high chief. Is captured by the Kristainos and uses his ability to translate languages to his advantage.

Chief Uzahile: from the town of Cholupaha ordered the people to flee before the invasion. he was one of the most powerful of the Tumucuan chieftain in the north who had fought against his enemies to the west and north.

Mocoso

Chief Mocoso: Chief of the Mocoso clan, betrayed by the Kristanos

Muskrat: a warrior who finds Black Shell and Pearl Hand after their escape.

Old Man Crawfish: head elder of the Musselshell Clan.

Caramaba: Chief (Holota)

Spotted wing: a healer an old woman past her bearing years.

Ocale: Holota Chief

Two panthers: son of the chief and warrior, helped Black Shell and Pearl Hand to the north to warn the northern tribes.

Sabal: mother of Two Panthers, wife of the Ocale Holota.

Uzita Blood Thorn: iniah (subchief) of the fish clan of the Uzachile nation. The first son of Bit woman, wife of

Paracusi Eagle fighter: war leader of Ahocalaquen. Helps plan and attack the Kristainos that were holding his people's leaders hostage.

Holota

Ahocalaquen : surrendered himself to protect his people and his niece from the invasion. He was a stout man thickly muscled through the shoulders. He had a broad and pleasant face.

Eagle fighter: paracuis of the Ahocalaquen

Bit Woman: of the fish clan daughter of White fruit, cousin of Holata Ahocalaquen.

Blue Sun Stone: a delegate from Holata Uzachile, their paramount chief.

Holata Uriutina: a representative of the Great Holata of the Napetuca.

Paracusi Rattlesnake: helped plan the retaliation of the Native tribes against the Kristainos.

Kristianos

Juan Ortiz: bearded Spaniard, translator, and slave instructor. Was chief Mocoso's captive for ten years after a ship wreck brought him on shore. He speaks only a little Timucua, a smattering of Calusa, and knows even less of your laws of Power. He barely understands the ways of own Uzita.

Antonio: prisoner of Black Shell and Pearl Hand, a Kristaino soldier, becomes their greatest enemy.

Don Luis Riz: a subchief of Adelantado, father of Antonio. Grey haired and bearded.

Adelantado De Soto: a conquistador of the Inca, who took the gold and silver from the Inca. A high minko Gobernado de la Florida , called el rey Carlos His high catholic Majesty Carlos, and a hold leader called Papa, who gave him La Florida as his own.

Dios: created the world, god of the Kristainos

Shawn Spjut says

Battle for America: A Searing Wind; W. Michael Gear & Kathleen O'Neal Gear, 2010; Gallery Books

Book #1: The Coming Storm

Book #2: Fire the Sky

Book #3 in Contact: Battle for America brings the story of Pearl Hand and Black Shell to a unresolved ending. Why do I say that? Because no matter how well Michael and Kathleen Gear tell the story about the battle of Native Americans to save their land, and the failed attempt of Hernandez de Soto to conquer and subjugate its citizens, the sad fact remains that he was one man in a long line of megalomaniacs who would continue to believe it was their appointed destiny to bring the 'barbaric savages' of the Americas under the rule and reign of whatever nation and god these demonized conquerors claimed to represent.

And we who call ourselves 'Americans', are living proof of that fact.

Frequently in a series of books, there will invariably be one or two I like better than the rest. Take "The Lord of the Rings" series for instance; I like "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Return of the King", but didn't care too much for the "The Two Towers". Not that the second novel wasn't important to the over all story, only that J. J. Tolkien didn't make me feel as emotionally invested in the second, as he did in the first and third.

But I can't say that about "Contact: Battle for America". In each book Gear and Gear captured my mind, will, and emotions, then compelled me to be as invested in the one as I was in the other. Truth to tell, it is the developing intimacy between the main characters that allowed me to hitch a ride on their journey and experience first hand the hopes, disappointments, outrage, fear, and sorrow of the books many heroes.

If I had any criticism about the overall story, it would have been that I might have enjoyed them even more (if that were possible) had the POV been divided between the two heroes, rather than predominately Black Shell. Several times I felt like a particular scene or battle could have been experienced better through the eyes of a woman versus those of a man. But as I said, doing so would have only heightened my enjoyment of an already well told story, not defined it.

On my readers review of one to five stars, I'm giving "A Searing Wind" 4 stars for overall story, and 3 stars for making me cry.

KelticKat says

As always these sweeping sagas from the Gears never fail to entertain my inner history geek as well as that my drama queen who demands intrigue and action.

This is the third book in this trilogy and I highly recommend you read them in order. They are big meaty books that will leave you satisfied.

In this story we see the story of Black Shell and Pearl Hand come to its conclusion. We also see the battles with DeSoto and his army.

In the end the clans seem to break the spirit of the invaders - but as we know it was only a reprieve and more will surely come.

I would highly recommend this book to those who love history as well as those who love a well told story.

Eileen Souza says

This was the finale of the Contact: Battle for America series. The premise of the story, told in three parts, was of Hernando de Soto's arrival in the new world, and his attempts to take ownership of the southeastern part of the the US.

The third book continued the story of Black Shell and Pearl Hand, two of my favorites in the pantheon of characters that the Gears have created over the years. The story is told from Black Shell's perspective, which is unusual for People books, but he had a witty and winning personality, and was able to pull it off.

Tough to talk about the story line itself, but the bottom line is that Black Shell and Pearl Hand are trying to eradicate de Soto's forces, and need the power of Black Shell's nation's support - the problem being that he was banished as a coward more than 10 years before.

Some random thoughts:

Black Shell's mother is a horribly b*, and I wouldn't have behaved as well as Pearl Hand did in her presence.

You know that it's a good story when the fishbowls are overflowing because a dog died.

The authors did an excellent job making a world come alive - they were able to weave clan politics, relationships with other peoples, explain how they organized themselves, while still creating unique and diverse characters. That is no easy feat.

I was glad Antonio received his just desserts.

I would recommend the series to anyone who likes historical fiction, and would like to know more about the initial contact between the native and Spanish peoples in Florida.

Pamela says

This third book in a trilogy by two of my favorite authors is so well done! Not that I expected to be disappointed.

Reasons for my admiration:

-a story of great depth that does more than illustrate the experience of first contact. It gives it the textures, tastes and smells of its reality.

-the Indigenous peoples, their tribes, and their cultures are the main characters. They are whole people with

vivid mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual lives.

-the spirituality is addressed: differences between the People's spirituality and that of the Christianos are explored. How these experiences affected decisions makes sense. The authors are able to capture the huge transition that was taking place, at a meta-level.

-a story with love and hatred and undying loyalty.

It is a story about the inherent blindness of a culture-centric perspective, and the oft times horrific consequences. It expresses the incredible difficulty of any attempt to influence or change, or even appreciate, another culture's perspective.

With great action and interaction, this book does justice to the complexity of its subject and characters. It is a satisfying, and sometimes heart-breaking finale to the story Black Shell and Pearl Hand. It is an authentic expression of history.

All in all, a great read.

Theresa says

Review cross-posted at my blog

A Searing Wind is the third and final installment of the Contact: Battle for America series, which chronicles the native peoples battle with Hernando de Soto during his brutal march through the Southeastern US from 1539-1542. This is the story of Black Shell, a trader, chosen by "power" and his beautiful wife Pearl Hand and their mission to destroy the brutal invaders. They have seen, firsthand, the destruction, enslavement, and degradation that the Kristiano's cause everywhere they go. They have fought them from the Florida Peninsula all the way into the heart of America, in what is present day Arkansas. At Mabila, where the Europeans suffered grave losses, they learn of de Soto's plans. They rush to the Chicaza nation, to Black Shell's own people, the ones that banished him as a young man, in an attempt to set a trap that will finish off the invaders.

I have to confess to you, before reading this book, I had very little knowledge of Hernando de Soto and his 3 year reign of terror across the Southeastern United States in the 1500's. Honestly, when I was in school, learning about History I found it quite boring. So boring, that I promptly forgot it, as soon as I didn't need to remember it. If only I could have learned about this country's great history by reading a novel based on historical fact. Anyway, after finishing this book, I went online and did a quick search for de Soto, trying to refresh my memory about him. Of course, what I found, was portrayed quite accurately, and in much more detail in this book, than in the information I found online. I love it when a story interests me so much that it drives me to research it and learn more about it.

What I remember from school and what I found in this book were far and away very different things. I realize that much of what I learned in school was whitewashed and toned down, and only showed the European, white man's side of things. More often than not, most accounts of de Soto's contact and exploits were propagandized and published in Europe as a way to draw settlers to the New World. What the Gears do, is to tell the story from the perspective of the native people. As with every book I have read, written by the Gears, I found A Searing Wind to be a quick, engrossing and very interesting read, that even though it is the third book in the series, can most definitely be read as a stand alone book. When I have more time, I will be reading this fascinating account of the brutal first contact between de Soto and the native people of the Southeastern US from the first book through A Searing Wind.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free through the Publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Patty says

A Searing Wind is the third and final book in the Contact: Battle for America series. I read it without reading the first two books and it was excellent as a stand alone book. I can only imagine what it is going to be like when I get the time to go back and read all three of them back to back. This is one powerful and engrossing novel and I suspect that when I do read the entirety of the story I will want to go back and read it again. A Searing Wind was that good.

I will admit to a certain fuzziness when it comes to my knowledge of early explorations on the North American continent. I knew De Soto's name and I vaguely recalled his travels and conquests from long ago history lessons but I will also admit to a certain dislike of American history while in school. That has changed as I have aged and I know devour books on the history of my country at about the same pace I read my beloved European history novels.

This tale of De Soto's tale of destruction through the southern part of what is now the United States is gripping. The two main characters, Black Shell and Pearl Hand are fighting the battle of their life to save their people and their ways from the invading kristianos. The Spanish felt they were superior in every way to the indios and were there to conquer and enslave them. The various tribes felt that De Soto and his men had to be destroyed but they had superior armour, weapons and the dreaded cabayos (horses).

The Indians work together - even tribes that have previously warred with each other to rid themselves of the evil that is De Soto - the monster.

I cannot begin to tell you how powerful a book this was. For the first time in a very, very long time a book brought me to tears. I can't tell you why or over what or I will ruin the plot but I will tell you that I became that involved with the story. I finished the book over a week ago and yet I still find myself thinking about it at odd moments. The Gears have that special way with words that draw you so far into a book you forget you are reading and become part of the story. Their descriptive power was such that I was almost smelling, tasting, seeing what the characters did. In spite of the violent nature of a book about conquest I almost didn't want to leave....

My only complaint is about the cover. I would have walked right by A Searing Wind in a book store. And that is sad because I would then have missed out on one of the best books I have ever read. I will forever be grateful that it was sent to me for review because now I have it and its sisters in my library to enjoy over and over again.

Jeanette Adams says

I don't remember ever enjoying a series as much as this one. I did not want it to end! Often the books don't live up to the first one, but in this case the Gears were able to successfully build on each book and I developed such a connection with Black Shell and Pearl Hand as their characters moved forward.

In school De Soto was an "explorer" who was admired. These books were real eye openers as they revealed him to be an egomaniac who used religion as an excuse to murder, butcher and attempt to destroy an entire race of people. The courage of those who fought against him, risking their lives to preserve their way of life is truly inspiring.

I can't recommend this series enough! Read the three Contact: The Battle for America books. You will not regret it.

Cheryl says

A Searing Wind is the third and final book in the Battle for American trilogy. This is a not to be missed trilogy. If you enjoy history, Indians, or just reading a really good book, than you have to check this series out.

I got to meet Mr. and Mrs. Gear a long time ago. They were so nice. They are really knowable about their craft. You can tell that they have done their home work and have a passion for what they do. I tried them both as separate authors and together. While, I like them both, I have to say that I enjoy them as a team.

In this final book, Black Shell and his wife, Pearl Hand have barely survived the battle of Mabila. Now, Black Shell and Pearl Hand are their people's only last hope to stop Hernando de Soto. Soto and his troops are traveling farther and farther away. The final battle will have everyone fighting for their lives. My only minor complaint was that at times it was slow moving, otherwise a good read. Warning as this book will have you immersed in it and lost in history...in a good way!

A.L. DeLeon says

This 3rd book of this series did not disappoint and overall, I learned some things about our history while still being engrossed in an engaging story that will stick with me long after now. Once again the Gears demonstrate the importance and relevance of not only studying our past- but learning from it as well.

Kassilem says

This is the last book in this series. It's my first book series from these authors, and I'm happy with them. They are archaeologists who know their stuff. And they're good writers on top of it. I particularly like the history since I know some of it from school, but the best is the way the history comes alive with this storytelling. It's fictional and some things are made up to help create such a great story but most of it is based

on true events. This is the kind of series that makes you want to go find out more about the history. That is powerful. I am looking forward to reading more from these authors.

Matt D says

What an amazing book. I'm really sad to see the series come to a conclusion. It was remarkably well written, with every character brought to life with vivid detail. Despite knowing the outcome of these encounters, you can't help but sit there and wish for the happy ending that the book deserved.
