



## Ashes

*Laurie Halse Anderson*

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**Ashes** Laurie Halse Anderson

Return to the American Revolution in this blistering conclusion to the trilogy that began with the bestselling National Book Award Finalist *Chains* and continued with *Forge*, which *The New York Times* called “a return not only to the colonial era but to historical accuracy.”

As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon have narrowly escaped Valley Forge—but their relief is short-lived. Before long they are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down. With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel’s little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state—where bounty hunters are thick as flies.

Heroism and heartbreak pave their path, but Isabel and Curzon won’t stop until they reach Ruth, and then freedom, in this grand finale to the acclaimed Seeds of America trilogy from Laurie Halse Anderson.

## Ashes Details

Date : Published October 4th 2016 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9781416961468

Author : Laurie Halse Anderson

Format : Hardcover 298 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction

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## From Reader Review *Ashes* for online ebook

### **Sarah Gross says**

I've been waiting a long time for this book and, man oh man, it was worth the wait. The conclusion to the trilogy that began with *Chains*, *Ashes* takes the reader back to Isabelle and Curzon's story. I cried more than once while reading and could not put it down. I even snuck in a few pages while standing in line at the deli counter today!

I'm thrilled that this story has grown with its readers (Isabelle and Curzon are in their late teens now) while still maintaining its appeal to middle school and high school readers. And as a #hamilfan, I think I have an even deeper appreciation for the historical accuracy in the trilogy.

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### **Andralynn says**

I really enjoyed how this series and the stories of Isabel, Curzon, and Ruth wrapped up. Though I was a little sad that I didn't get to read more about what Isabel and Curzon experienced while trying to get to Ruth, I did appreciate that Ruth and Isabel's reunion happened early on in the book. It had been years since they had been separated, and there would inevitably be some bumps on the road to being reconciled, and I very much enjoyed reading about that process.

Isabel is such a strong, courageous character, and I loved having her voice back as the narrator. She isn't perfect, by any means, and it was touching to see her figure out her own foibles and missteps in trying to reconnect with her sister.

I also loved the viewpoint of the patriotism black people had at the time. They knew that they weren't likely to receive freedom from the Revolutionary War; they knew that the army would most likely recant on any promises of freedom that they had made. They also knew that once the war was over, whether freed legally or freed by their own means, they would be in constant danger of being kidnapped and sold back into slavery. Yet so many of these courageous men and women fought for the promise of freedom in a new land. They fought on the hope that one day, they would be included in the phrase "All men are created equal." They fought knowing that once the Revolutionary War ended, their war for equality would be far from over. Despite all of that, they still believed in the United States of America. Their stories are so often forgotten, which is a shame because they are so inspiring to read.

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### **Melissa says**

I have just received visual confirmation of *Ashes*!

New release date: October 4, 2016! Confirmed by the author!

And look at that beautiful cover:

Bold colors! Composition that draws the eye! I approve!

I was *not* one of the lucky ones to get my hands on the sampler, but I saw STACKS! It's happening!

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### **Fia-Sophia says**

When will this book come out? I am dying to read it! It was over a year and a half ago that I read Forge, so I'm getting really antsy for Ashes. Please come out soon!

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### **Laurie Anderson says**

Thanks to everyone for being so patient for ASHES!! I owe you an explanation!

The plan was for only two years to elapse between the publication of FORGE and ASHES, so it was originally supposed to be published in 2012.

Then life kicked me in the butt.

My mother's emphysema entered the last stages and she wanted to end her days at home, not in an institution. So I took care of her until she died, which set back the plans for several books, in addition to all the deeply emotional stuff. The opportunity to take care of her was incredible and it was the right thing to do. Then it was my turn to become ill (secondary adrenal insufficiency) and I lost a year of being able to concentrate enough to work. And then my father entered the last stages of his life, which required lots of love, care, and time. He died in 2014.

In between all these things I was researching and writing, but obviously, I wasn't doing it very fast.

I apologize.

I know how frustrated I get when I am waiting for an author [::coughGeorgeRRMartincough::](#) to bring out the next book in a series. I totally understand those of you who threw up your hands in frustration and may have muttered that I was an addledpated lackwit, or something to that effect. I'm very lucky that my editor and publishers were willing to give me the time and space I needed to take care of family and health, and then to do the deep research and intense writing that ASHES required.

I'm super proud of this book. I hope you like it. It will be published on October 4th, 2016.

Huzzah!

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## **Lara says**

Just a PSA, Halse said in a recent Goodreads interview that she got really ill for two years, and this badly affected her writing schedule. She's trying to get back on track now, so hopefully it will be out some time soon.

Edit: So I just got an update saying Halse herself liked this PSA! Checked the profile, and she's saying October 4th 2016! Exciting news guys, hope all is well now Laurie :) x

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## **Toph says**

[Aberdeen's death with Ruth's letters (hide spoiler)]

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## **Sara says**

Love, love, LOVE. I'm sad it's over. I read it slowly on purpose just for that reason.

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## **Skip says**

I enjoyed this last book more than its predecessor: *Forge*. Former slaves Curzon and Isabel are traveling south at great personal risk to find Isabel's younger sister, who was sent away to punish Isabel's rebellious nature. Her adoptive family sends her with them (in search of freedom), but tensions are high among all. Curzon eventually joins the patriot army and much of the story is centered around the battle of Yorktown as Isabel and her sister gravitate there too find work as their resources wane because of unexpected substantial, but essential costs.

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## **Jen says**

My words will never justly express my love, adoration and appreciation of Ashes and the entire Seeds of America trilogy. I am said and satisfied I've read them. The historical research and attention to detail was worth the decade journey LHA took to write them. The best and most surprising part of this book is the relationship between Isabel and Curzon. Never have I ever read a YA piece that creates such a deliciously deep, complex and rich relationship between two characters. Even my middle school students wouldn't be bothered by the "mushy love stuff" because it wasn't about that. It was about trust, friendship, loyalty, values, friends as family...I could go on and on. I look forward to rereading again soon. Thank you LHA!

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## **David says**

5.0 I was so lucky to get my hands on an advance copy of Ashes thanks to the generosity of a few friends who knew how much I enjoyed the first two instalments in this series.

The conclusion of an anticipated trilogy is always filled with excitement, but also concern that it is not going to meet the lofty expectations of the previous titles. Ashes not only met my hopes for the third book, but exceeded them. Right from the start Laurie Halse Anderson threw me for a loop and took the story in a direction that I had not predicted at all. It created yet another wonderful layer of suspense that added immensely to my enjoyment of the story.

Even though this is a middle grade/young adult novel I found myself totally engrossed in the plot and not wanting to put the book down. Halse Anderson is a truly gifted writer and her ability to weave multiple complex issues into captivating, brilliant, simple and yet beautiful writing makes her easily one of my absolute favorites. It is so nice to have a young adult book that has complex themes that adults can enjoy without the trash that so many authors tend to feel the need to put in their books. It once again speaks to her skills as a storyteller and to her as a person. Her ability to embody human emotion between people is so sweet, so lovely and so refreshing. It is that authentic human element that she brings to her stories that really is so inspiring.

When you add to all of that her skill at weaving in wonderful historical facts that she relates to current issues it is truly the perfect combination. I definitely enjoyed the extra historical information at the end and I can't think of a better way to learn about the American Revolution, slavery, the creation of the United States and the legacy of all of that today. I can only hope that this is not her last foray into historical fiction. In conclusion this book ultimately made me feel as if I had frogs hopping around in my stomach!

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### **Libby says**

I give up - I will never read another Laurie Halse Anderson book. I have waited more than FIVE YEARS for her to wrap up this story, and Anderson has pushed the publication date on this book back at least EIGHT TIMES now - she constantly announces new dates and insists she is "finishing ASHES up right now!" but when the date arrives, there is a new publication date six months down the road again. It is clear that she has no clue how to finish this series, and didn't plan out the whole plot before she began writing. She's just stringing readers along at this point, and it is beyond irritating. I will give my time to authors who can actually finish the stories they create in the future.

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### **Leona Carstairs says**

The ending of this trilogy was great and I loved this trilogy overall! (sorry these reviews are so short, I read these books quite a while ago so I don't have that many specific thoughts on them).

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### **Sydney says**

WHY AREN'T YOU OUT YET???

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### **Kate Kerrane says**

Waaa! The audio version of this book is supposed to come out this week. Clearly Halse Anderson has finished it, but we must wait until January for the actual book to come out! Noooo! Chains and Forge, the first two books in this trilogy are among the best historical fiction books that I have ever read.

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### **Allison says**

According to a recent blog post made by the author in September 2012 it seems that Ashes is not finished (or perhaps even started). However, there have been no new posts since September 23rd, so it is possible things have changed. She writes:

"I am writing again like,.... well, like a madwoman. My health has been good this summer (last year it really sucked) and although I have have a bunch of tests and doctor visits later this month, I think it will be smooth sailing ahead. I'm hoping to give my new YA to my editor by Halloween and then, AND THEN I get to dive into the historical research for ASHES, which will be an absolute delight."

So according to this post, she has not started the research for Ashes (or the writing of it) and has another YA book to finish before she begins, so it's probably going to be a while. So, it seems like 2014 might be the year for Ashes. Maybe (it has been pushed back a few times). Amazon has set the Kindle version to March 2014- I think that's a reasonable deadline given the information available.

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### **MrsGartung says**

Worth the wait!

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### **Lisa Mandina says**

This series should be even more popular with the popularity of Hamilton right now. A great end to a great series. Full review to come on Lisa Loves Literature soon.

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### **Sara says**

Laurie Halse Anderson's brilliant conclusion to her Revolutionary War trilogy brings the war years of the struggling new nation to life in surprising ways. Our favorite characters: Isabel, Ruth, and Curzon are together again as they work towards the freedom of a nation that does not deem them free. I learn so much reading her books. For instance, I didn't know that Rhode Island offered freedom to any slaves who fought in the Revolutionary War and honored it. Meanwhile, our Founding Fathers rounded up their runaway slaves who were prisoners with the British and made them slaves again. Ten thousand escaped to New Foundland

and some from there to Sierra Leone. And up to 20% of the Patriot soldiers in our Revolutionary War were blacks! But the History is the bonus. Ashes is a great story with suspense, twists, turns, betrayals, discoveries, sacrifices, and love. And Laurie Halse Anderson is visiting O. Henry Middle School on October 24! Yea Book People!

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**Saru (Queen of Bookland) says**

Why does the release date keep getting pushed ahead? ERGH! I need to know what happens! How does everything turn out?

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