



Central

Raine Thomas

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For avid student Olivia Murdoch, life on the Estilorian plane is filled with wondrous adventure. Every lesson about her new existence is both exciting and challenging. Along with her sisters, she embraces this non-human half of herself.

Helping with her lessons is her Gloresti, James. Teacher, scholar and distractingly attractive, James takes on his roles of Olivia's guide and protector with equal dedication. As he learns the human emotions that Estilorians no longer experience, he starts to see Olivia as much more than just an assigned pairing.

The physically weakest of her sisters, Olivia trains hard to learn things that no typical human classroom can impart. When they travel to "Central," the Estilorian base, she comes to understand why she must become strong enough to defend herself. She and her sisters are targets.

Not all Estilorians welcome them. In fact, more than one would see them dead.

Central Details

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Author : Raine Thomas

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From Reader Review Central for online ebook

Rachael Boyd says

This series just stole me away into a vivid and magical world. Strong characters who you get to know so well. This is on my must read list for people who love an epic adventure with strong characters and a gorgeous love story. I love love love this series!!!

Candace says

So happy right now! This seriously.....oh gosh!

I loved the first book, I thought it was "cute" but this...holy crap! MARVELOUS!

Olivia and James' story is so romantic and sweet! The whole time I was just like "AWWW!!!" I just couldn't quit smiling!

"I now have the most beautiful wife in the world, who, for reasons that escape me, is in love with me." He tilted his head to catch her gaze. "I keep having to convince myself that I really do get to spend the rest of my existence with you now. It's going to take me a long while to feel worthy of such a gift."

HOLY CRAP! <3! *Swoons* I'm so in love!

Seriously, I loved James and Olivia because they were both so honest and always said what they felt and the result was so romantic! <3

LOVED this! Getting into the next book NOW! And I can't wait because it's Skye and Caleb, so this should be funny =P

Jo Rose says

Totally love this book!

Aydrea says

I enjoyed this book just as much as the first one! Poor Olivia, she sure has some trying times in this book. I was so glad to see her build her confidence and become a pretty awesome fighter. The Mercesti are so creepy and I am nervous for what they have planned for the next book. I liked learning more about the Estilorians, they are fascinating and they have cool powers. As with the first book this one had some interesting twists and turns in it and I found myself racing through the story. Also seeing the changes in the Estilorians is kind of amazing and I imagine will be important!

Olivia is a very likable character and it is easy to relate to her. She is very self conscious, but very smart. It was nice to see the changes she went through in this book because she is such a strong person. The bond between the 3 sisters is awesome and I love seeing them interact. Then there is James, he is so clueless!

Getting to see things through his perspective was intriguing and I really enjoyed getting to see things from both sides. I did want to smack a little for being so stupid when it came to Olivia though. They had some very cute moments though! Gabriel was adorable as ever and he and Amber are so cute. It was fun to see them through other people's eyes. I can't wait to see what happens with Skye & Caleb.

Now on to the next book, can't wait to see what happens!

Maggie says

The second in the trilogy series. Parts of it were a little slow that I skimmed over to get to the meat of the story. Looking forward to the last one in the series.

Mel says

I really liked this book. I thought it was a lot better than the first book because the stakes were raised and we get to learn more about the girls and their new lives on the Estorilian Plane.

I really liked that the story was mostly from the POVs of Olivia and her Gloresti, James. Olivia was a character that I was interested in from the first book and I liked getting to know her better. She was very sweet and sensitive but she wasn't a push-over, she was definitely able to hold her own when she had to. James was a great character as well. He was very protective and sweet and being an Estilorian, he was very unfamiliar with human emotions and to see him come to terms with his attachment to Olivia was very cute. What I liked about their relationship is that it evolved slowly, in that at first James was only concerned with doing his job, which was keeping Olivia safe and the more time they spent together the more they realized that their feelings for each other were changing, I thought their love was so innocent and lighthearted.

The book didn't center entirely on Olivia and James though, there was plenty more of Gabriel and Amber who both had large roles in the story as well as an interesting plot twist of their own. There also was a bit of Skye and her Gloresti, Caleb. They were the comic relief of the book with Skye's fun, over-the-top personality combining with Caleb's stoic snarkiness. Their interactions were fun and set the tone for the next book.

I liked how there was more action in this book and the conflict wasn't solved as easily as in the first book and even though the main villain, Grolkinei was a little weak, I was still on the edge of my seat wanting to know what would happen once he started to wreak havoc on the girls' lives.

Overall, this was a great sequel that was a marked improvement over the previous installment and I can't wait to read what happens next.

Lenore Kosinski says

<https://celebrityreaders.wordpress.co...>

4.5 stars -- I must admit, that I had this feeling that this was going to be one of those series that got better as

it went along. Part of the reason is that there is so much world-building and new terms, that I figured once we got that out of the way in the first book, it would settle in a bit easier in the next books. And while there were times I was still confused about which class certain Commanders were from (which one was Ailfrid again?), I did get used to the names of the classes and wasn't quite as confused and overwhelmed as I was in the first book (it helps to notice patterns, like how they all end in esti).

I was also looking forward to Olivia's story, b/c I feel like I share some traits with her (love of animals, natural affinity for maths/sciences, physically weaker), and so I was drawn to her from the first book. And maybe because of that, I felt like I had a somewhat deeper connection to her than I did with Amber. It helps that while there were other POVs in this book (as in the first one), I felt like we got more time in just Olivia and James's heads. I LOVED how strong she could be mentally, how naturally inquisitive, and how she still had a wonderful lightness to her character that made others around her smile. She may not have had the leadership qualities of Amber, or the natural bubblyness and gregariousness of Skye, but she really brought a lot to the table, more than she realized.

And I honestly didn't know how James was going to compete with Gabriel, but he totally did. There was something just delightfully honest and forthright and sincere about him. I know we are told that from Olivia, but I really felt it in his actions and in the way he interacted with Olivia. You could really see how much he was learning from her, and I LOVED seeing his feelings develop and confuse him.

And the other standout of this book over the first one is that we got to watch them fall in love...we got to see their relationship develop, b/c we got to see it from it's very beginnings. I LOVE the slow fall. Seriously, it is so satisfying.

Combine that with the development of all the girls as they learn about their lives as Estilorians, and the growing tension with the bad guys (including an edge of your seat climax), and this book just delivered on all I was looking for. I can't wait to read Skye's story!!

Bayan Basri says

I just have to say: I loved this one even more than the first. It had the things I liked from the first book, but it also had other things that made it it's own.

I absolutely adored Olivia. Although I relate to Amber a lot, I discovered that I relate to Olivia just as much. Olivia is really clever and thoughtful. She thinks things through and knows how to react and what to do in certain situations. Plus, she acknowledged her strengths and weaknesses alike.

James!!! I fell in love with him, every time he showed signs of emotions and acted more humanely I fangirled (is that even a word) so hard, I thought my heart was going to explode! In the beginning he was all Elistorian. Seriousness, no smiling and all. But then he and Olivia got closer to each other he began to show *gasp* emotions! While transitioning from emotionless Estilorian to dreamy dude, he was so oblivious. It was really cute. He had to admit that her description of the beverage was intriguing, though why one would willingly want to drink something that popped and bubbled in your mouth and caused gaseous emissions in your gut was lost to him. He's completely honest, which makes everything he does and says more meaningful.

Amber really started to pen up in this book, fully assuming the eldest sister role. She also started to loosen up. It was great seeing her develop!

Gabriel! It was soooo good to see more of him! He's such a good husband to Amber and brother to Olivia, Skye, James and Caleb. Personally, I'd take him in either way. ;D

It was so much fun seeing the Sisters train together, and interact with other Estilorians and getting to see more of the Estilorian plane.

The thing is, I was led to believe that the Estilorians aren't capable of human emotions easily. I was wrong. If they had a good example-like the Sisters and Gabriel-they are easily capable of feeling. It feels foreign and weird at first, maybe frightening, but they do feel. And they like it.

Estilorians don't just feel the good emotions though, they can feel love and hate, friendliness and jealousy, etc. That makes it more realistic.

So, in answer to the question in my previous review: How do you teach someone how to feel?

The answer is: You don't.

Take James and Olivia for example. She smiles when she's happy, laughs when she finds something funny, cries when she's upset and he follows her example. Until he learned how to feel.

Skye and Caleb are the most puzzling couple. Their story is next! I can't wait to read it!

Full review on The Booklicker

Tiffany says

I really didn't care for Olivia in book one, but am extremely happy to say I love her now! What a great book! And I love how even though this is Olivia's book, the Characters we met in Becoming didn't take a back seat! We got to see everyone we loved on a regular basis! Loved it!

Emenyo says

i REALLY , REALLY enjoyed the book especially since it was written from Olivia AND James's POV. i liked how Olivia had sound judgement and was all calm and collected and James he's like the best guy ever !!!! i mean making tea for her in the morning? how SWEET is that?!! this book is amazing and its one i would definitely read over and over again!

Dola says

brilliant!!

BookHookup says

****4.5 stars****

Don't you love it when a series gets progressively better? Ya, me too!

Of all the sisters, Olivia is my favorite. Her logical, inquisitive, quietly intelligent manner makes her a perfect hero. She's like the Clark Kent of the sisters...mild mannered, physically weaker...but, with training and her keen mind, she turns into Superman (well, maybe Wonder Woman). The story picks up where we left off in the Estilorian plane as the sisters begin to learn more about who they are and what their futures might bring. Olivia comes into her own in this book...embracing her special talents and opening up her heart to James, her Gloresti. And, speaking of James, might I just say "sigh"!! His job is to protect Olivia but his desire is to know her better, to understand her on a personal level and, ultimately, to be worthy of her. Perfect! When Olivia comes face to face with the villain of the story, it's her hard work, determination and connection with James and her family that make this story an exciting journey...one that will make you want to keep reading long after bedtime and, may or may not even manage to make you misty at times! Loved it!

Jen says

It's really hard to put into words how fabulous this book is, it really is. Central which is book two in the Daughters of Saraqael series is a rather perfect sequel in more ways than one. It is well-written, intelligent, imaginative, and it has just the right touch of romance. In Central we have a book that centers itself on it's characters overcoming their fears and learning how to trust not only themselves but those around them and I really loved every minute of it.

In Central we continue to learn more about the Estilorians which are beings that used to share the world with humans but had to leave because of their powers and the complexities those created in the human world. And in Central we have the daughters of Saraqael who are half human/half estilorian showing the Estilorians what human emotions are all about and it is rather interesting because through them Thomas gets to show the reader how the lack or excess of emotions can affect a person/being. Which leads me to our protagonists in Central: Olivia and James.

Olivia and James are such lovely main characters and so well developed. Which is, by the way, another talent of Raine Thomas. She knows how to make incredibly three dimensional and well rounded characters. Both primary and secondary characters in this book are complex and interesting. Doesn't matter if they are villains or heroes, everyone has a story to them which is given to the reader in small increments through clever plot twists and storylines. Olivia, the female lead in this book, is what you would say a more studious type of girl. She is intelligent and has a very good sense of what is right, and is of a very calm and sweet nature. In this book we get to follow her journey as she learns to become more assertive and confident in her abilities and judgement. James, the male lead in this book, is an amazing character as well. He is everything you would want in a male protagonist. He is strong, protective, respectful and always willing to learn and grow as a person. There is no pride with him, just a strong and quiet confidence and his main struggle in this book is about learning how to understand human emotion (as he is an estilorian) and it is rather interesting to

read about.

The romance in this book is just perfection. Like in *Becoming* there is no instantaneous love. There is no love triangles in this book and both Olivia and James are respectful of each other. James gives Olivia her space to grow and viceversa. There are no impositions here and it's just a breath of fresh air to read about the development of such a healthy love story.

What shined for me in this book above everything else has to be the the fantasy elements included in the story. The Estilorians themselves as beings are so uniquely created and their world is so rich, vivid, intricate and colorful that when you read about them it's as if a picture is painted in your mind and you feel that they are real. I would also say that animals, creatures and places of myth and legend make an astonishing appearance in the Estilorian world and I loved every minute of it. Fans of fantasy definitely have a winning book in *Central*. This book is fantasy at it's best. So creative and for me a definite must read for fans of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings who might be dying to read a fantasy book with a newly and uniquely created world.

My Rating: 5/5

Fafiliebe ♥ Warner ♥ Raffie ♥ says

I LOVED IT <3 <3 Sooooooooooooooooo sWeeT love story...
swoon worthy !!!! i loved every moment of the romance ..
i missed this kind of love stories..

adorable!
cute!
warm!
& totally lovable!!!!

The paranormal is another thing, it is well built and colorfully constructed.. it is a light hearted read that i loved every bit of it...
the book is written for young readers it is a clean book that u will enjoy, it shifts POVs btw characters but the biggest part of that is given to the 2 main characters Olivia and James..

the love story is a different type from the 1st book, although both weren't insta-love .. thanks GOD!!
the romance here is based on the fact that James an an Estilorian and like other Estilorians he doesn't comprehend the meaning of any kind of feelings, but he is willing to try and learn from olivia, they build a relation ship based on friendship and respect to grow to feelings deeper than that.. i loved it really really loved very minute of their relation.. and when he figured out that he loved her... OMG!!! *swoons**
it was the best part in the book.. (spoiler)

"His eyes widening, he again surged to his feet. "Don't know her well enough?" he repeated, feeling anger building behind the words.

He resumed his pacing to try and release some of his frustration. "I believe I know her better than anyone here. We have lived together for months—day and night. How could I not know her? I know that she loves to read, but her favorite subjects in school were math and science. I know that her favorite color is pink, but she tells everyone else it's red because it's less 'girly.' I know that she's frightened of spiders and bats,

though they fascinate her. I know that her favorite scent is fresh citrus and her favorite ice cream is cinnamon. I know she misses her human mother, Jean, and her friends from school. I know that she used to enjoy baking and attending events at the local theater and she participated in her school's choir. I know her favorite flowers are daisies because she thinks they look whimsical and sweet. I know she wishes that she was as strong as you and as graceful as Skye, and fails to recognize her own many strengths and talents. I know she's beautiful and perfect and..."

He again trailed off. He realized that Amber was staring at him calmly, as if waiting for him to finally make his point. And then he knew exactly what that point was. He sank back down onto the bench.

"And I know that I love her more than anything in this world.""

soooo Raine Thomas....

i totally completely recommend it ... i loved it better than the 1st book mostly bcz i LOVE this kind of LOVE!!!

alinathebookconqueror says

I enjoyed this even more than the first book. I was leery of reading about Olivia after I was attached to Amber, but the author did it in such a way that I still felt the connection to Amber and grew to love Olivia too.
