



# The Vengeful Half

*Jaclyn Dolamore*

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## **The Vengeful Half** Jaclyn Dolamore

This novel contains interior comics and art by the author.

Olivia might look human, but she's grown up with a heavy secret: her mother is a potion-maker who fled her home in a parallel world, the Hidden Lands.

Alfred is the blind, charismatic young heir to the illegal potions trade. When Olivia's mother is kidnapped by the magic dealers with whom she once made a bad bargain, she has no choice but to trust Alfred's offer of help. They travel to a strange new world of bootlegged American pop culture, lifelike doll people, and reincarnation. Alfred finds himself putting his position on the line to defend Olivia against his family's conniving plans. Maybe he has morals...or maybe he's just falling in love.

When Olivia escapes from an attack by a curiously familiar sorceress, she learns that potion dealers weren't the only thing Mom was hiding from. Dark secrets lurk in Olivia's past, and now Olivia must kill or be killed by the girl with whom she once shared everything...

## **The Vengeful Half Details**

Date : Published 2016 by Catlord Press

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Author : Jaclyn Dolamore

Format : Paperback 316 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult

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# From Reader Review The Vengeful Half for online ebook

## Zippergirl says

The Vengeful Half is a fairy tale with no fairies; less grim than the Brothers Grimm. Pointy ears and portals to Atlantis and nothing here to scare fraidy-cats or violate pubescent minds. If you enjoy stories with 'Rodents of Unusual Size' and 'Pits of Eternal Stench,' you've come to the right place.

The illustrations are cute/funny sketches by the author, who also drew the cover art. I thought all the characters pretty much looked the same, like mini-Vulcans. I did love when Jaclyn (the author and artist) popped in, à la Alfred Hitchcock, and explained how the Hidden Lands came to her twenty years ago after watching a particular Tim Burton movie, with drawings of some of earliest incarnations of several main characters. The second book in the series is coming this summer.

The Vengeful Half is fantasy-lite, not a lot of real highs or lows, but a congenial little diversion.

I received this book from net galley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## Katy says

\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest and fair review.

I have to admit, it took me a while to really get into this book. Not that it wasn't interesting, I was just so confused. Miralem! Fanarlem! Daramons! The first half of the book kind of see-sawed between not enough information and too much. By the second half of the book, it really took off.

I found myself much less annoyed with the Hidden Lands' constant history lessons and lengthy descriptions when I realized this was going to be a series. The author did a fantastic job with world building and including even the smallest details, making it seem all the more believable and real. (I want to try a can of B-Bite.)

I really enjoyed that the romance remained on the back burner throughout, enough so that I was always wondering whether they were going to get together at all. (At least in the first book. It seemed obvious that at some point they would get together.) Olivia was an awesome heroine, one of my favorites in a while. She was strong, kind, and completely non-whiny. I hate whiny, self-pitying heroines. And Alfred, adorable Alfred. I really liked him. There were a few moments when I found his complacency annoying, but by the end of the book, that aspect of him was gone. I love watching characters grow, and grow he did.

Now, for the best part, the drawings! I loved them so much. I wish more books had illustrations.

I have to admit, I was not a fan of the couple of little chapters interspersed throughout the book on how the book came about. I love reading about the author's process and getting inside an author's head, just not in the middle of the book. It kind of jerked me out of the story. In my opinion, that kind of thing is best left for an intro or at the end.

All in all, a really fun read, one I truly enjoyed.

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## Devyn says

I received this book from Goodreads.

It has been so long since I have read a fantasy that actually *felt* like fantasy.

It was like I was asphyxiating and suddenly someone pumped the room full of oxygen.

The Vengeful Half has all the wonder and strange curiosities my wonder-lusting heart could ask for. I could feel all the thought that went into this book- all those hours of imagining and dreaming sunk into the ink on every page.

It is truly a one of a kind unique book all on its own. Add some art, including brief comic strips, and -boom! One helluva tale!

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## Cherry (\_forevermint) says

I'm not a difficult reader to please, so if you give me a cool new fantasy world with interesting characters and laugh out loud moments? I'm beyond happy. The Vengeful Half was enjoyable in so many ways. It was a great book to read just before bed to wind down after a long and exhausting day. Despite the seriousness of the events and the high stakes, Jaclyn Dolamore entertains with her witty sense of humor and unique brand of comics. The story could have been read without the comics, but the experience is so much more fun with them added to the story. It's probably why I enjoyed reading about the characters so much.

The world building was well thought out and embedded throughout the story which was great. There are three races in the Hidden Lands, the Miarlems with telepathic abilities, the Daramons who are the superior sorcerers, then there are the Fanarlem-dolls with souls inside of them. But it's not all unfamiliar because there's a lot of American pop culture thrown into the mix. In a kind of crazy way it made everything more believable.

Overall, the characters are well-developed and interesting to read about. Olivia and Alfred are the main stars of this novel and it's no secret the two begin to develop feelings for each other. What I enjoyed was how the whole romance aspect didn't drown out the main plot of the story but helped it in some ways. Olivia is a fresh new face in the sea of young adult heroines. Her greatest weakness is that she "enjoys being boring". When I read that, I kind of loved her already. She's also sensible and resourceful, handling situations responsibly despite all that's going on in her life. Alfred on the other hand, might as well be a prince, being an heir to a wealthy family and all. Even if that wealth is built on illegal potions trade. Despite what his family does for a living, Alfred is kind, thoughtful and reliable. Beware of this one though, he's a sweet talker. Once you meet him, "bellora" might become your favorite word. There are tons of other awesome characters in this story that I would love to go on about but this review would never end. Just know that even the side characters are fun and lovable (i.e. George & the Alamonts).

When the author, Jaclyn Dolamore, contacted me saying she was looking for reviewers who enjoy anime & manga, I was thrilled to be getting her book before it came out. In case you didn't know, I've loved anime ever since I was a little girl thanks to shows like Sailor Moon and Pokemon. The Vengeful Half was humorous and charming in a way that was reminiscent of my favorite mangas/anime. If you like manga/anime, this is an epic blend of young adult fiction and entertaining illustrations that's a must read!

And even if you're not familiar with anime or manga, I would still recommend The Vengeful Half because it's full of hilarious comics, unpredictable twists and charming characters.

\*this is a variation of the review posted on my blog

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### **Nic says**

Great worldbuilding! I've enjoyed all of Dolamore's books that I've read. I did wish that this book - like some of her others - were paced a little slower. Some of the powerful moments are over so fast that I don't think they have the strength they could. Still, the book did make me cry. There's some mighty emotional impact in there.

Per usual, I adore Dolamore's characters, especially her male romantic leads. (Aww, Alfie!) They feel so real and nuanced. It's easy to sympathize with their motivations and concerns. I'd love to see more characters like these.

One thing bothered me (spoilers ahead). There's a part where the highly-dangerous Yiret shows up at Olivia's father's house in the guise of an abused Fanarlem girl who needs help. Olivia learns who she is and is scared to say anything for fear that Yiret would harm her parents. Olivia's father, who rescues abused Fanarlem, sends Yiret off to what sounds like a safehouse. Still, Olivia says nothing. Why not? Especially since Yiret is heading off to meet Olivia's dad's friends - aren't they now in terrible danger? By saying nothing, Olivia could be compromising the entire Underground Railroad setup that her dad has set up for Fanarlem! I mean, this world has cell phones. She could tell her dad, and her dad could call the people who were going to meet Yiret and tell them not to show!

So that bothers/confuses me, but otherwise, I'm impressed. Great characters, intriguing plot, awesome fantasy world.

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### **Eve (Functioning Insanity Reviews) says**

<http://functioninginsanity.blogspot.c...>

I was provided a copy for an honest review.

Rating: 4 Stars

This book is a fantasy story about two worlds, our normal world, and the Hidden Lands, a parallel world. Olivia has grown up knowing about the Hidden Lands and magic and such, her mom has always told her about it but she has never seen the other world or done magic aside from some light telepathy with her mom. She yearns to see where she is from and not to live on the run constantly moving around, but her mom is a much desired potion-maker who fled before her birth. Alfred is a blind young heir to the family business, and who is looking for Olivia's mom. When her mother is kidnapped by the people she's been running from, Olivia has no choice but to trust Alfred in helping her. As they get to know one another we see if Alfred is as cruel and conniving as her father or if he will risk it all to do the right thing and help Olivia as she uncovers secrets about her family and herself. In a world full of magic, living dolls, reincarnation, and much more

there is more to the story than first it seems.

So something interesting about this book and it seeming to happen more and more I'm finding, there is art in the books. I hope it's a trend that continues, it's rather fun. This book has little snippets of things the artist drew and inserted in, which was kind of a fun aspect and knowing the author did them herself added to the book. From what I hear she also did her own cover art which was pretty awesome!

The story moves along pretty quickly and the plot itself was interesting to be sure. The world that seems similar in so many ways but vastly different in others, making the world building with different races and such fit easily. Just enough of what we know to be familiar but enough new and magical stuff to be different. The Fanarlem for one were fascinating. Living dolls almost, brought into being or souls moved into them, how crazy right. Seeing the different levels and how they are looked upon in society kept me intrigued.

The main characters we focus on are Olivia and Alfred. We get the most development out of them, of course, but I found I rather enjoyed the other as well including George, Lester, Thessia and the parents. Olivia seems to go into this a mix of apprehension and determination. She's always wanted to see where she is from and while the circumstances aren't ideal she is still in awe of it all both good and bad. Alfred is someone ruled by who has been bread to be, never show weakness always look for the advantage. His life was set out on a certain path even if he has qualms about it. Both strong contenders it's easy to see the connection and the conflict their situations place them in.

Overall I enjoyed *The Vengeful Half* and thought it was something different that stood out for me. I know the copy I had, originally an ARC, only had half the art in it and I look forward to getting the full copy from Amazon soon enough (aka payday) to see the rest of the art.

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## **Rivalie (Le Petit Photograph) says**

(I received a copy from YA Bound Book Tours for review. All opinions are 100% my own.)

3.5 out of 5 stars

The author drew illustrations! I have to admit, that was the driving factor for me with this story. *The Vengeful Half* is a fun fantasy novel with a fascinating story line and illustrations that add a bit of wit and humor. Olivia is a normal teenager until a blind heir to an illegal potion empire comes asking for help from her mother to lift the curse she placed on his grandfather. His arrival turns her world upside with her mother being kidnapped and her being thrust into a world out of a fantasy movie with political intrigue and social injustice.

Like I mentioned before, the illustrations were a huge thing for me. They added a lot of inside dialogue and jokes along with some character profiles that made the story a lot of fun to read. I didn't know what to expect with the illustrations but I'm kind of in love with them. They're not super simple but they're not elaborate either. It's like the author decided to sketch some scenes throughout the story to see how things would play out if the novel turned into a comic.

Okay, beside the illustrations, I loved how the author included so much history and world building. It's always fascinating to see the foundations of fantasy worlds and we get to learn about all the critical events through Olivia as she tries to understand the world that she is truly from. Everything from the history lessons

to the flashbacks. The society from the high elite to the poor working class is introduced with so much history that it was just so exciting.

As for characters, I was so afraid there would be some sort of love triangle but everything turned out okay. Since this is the first book in a series, I'm glad to see how the relationships were established and I can't wait to see them grow. There are some questions I have about a couple of details and I have a certain ship in mind but I'll just have to wait to see how things unfold.

The plot is riveting and definitely keeps you engaged however it might be the fact that I'm fighting jetlag right now or I just got too caught up in the history to pay attention to current detail, but I found myself getting confused throughout the story in terms of what was going on. Despite that, it's definitely worth the read and I'm definitely keeping an eye out on the future books!

Originally Posted on Forever Obsession

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## **Kristen Burns says**

### **3 Stars**

#### **Full Review:**

\*I received a free ecopy of this book via YA Bound Book Tours in exchange for an honest review.\*

This book was well-written enough I think, but the problem for me was that it wasn't at all what I was expecting from the blurb. I was expecting a kidnapped mother, a girl whisked away to some other realm, lots of action and adventure and maybe some semi-dark and emotional scenes as she searched for her mother and pieced together clues, ran from and/or battled the villains, and got to know the mysterious guy she had no choice but to trust if she ever wanted to see her mother again... but it wasn't like that. Yeah her mother was kidnapped and she went to another realm, but her mother was just taken to a cushy prison where Olivia stayed in the apartment with her, so there was no searching or action or adventure, and then the whole book ended up being about politics. A small fraction of the story involved Olivia's telepathic powers and a villain, but it was mostly about the families who controlled Atlantis and manipulated and schemed to get what they wanted. I *can* enjoy politics depending on the book, even though it's not generally my thing, but I'm sorry to say I didn't find the manipulating and scheming in this one to be very exciting.

There were also a couple chapters in the middle that I found strange in which the author interrupted the story to talk about her inspiration and the like. Honestly I was never very into the story to begin with, but, if I had been, it would have completely thrown me out of it.

I did like, however, that there was a blind character. Some of the impact of his blindness was diminished by his telepathic ability that allowed him to kind of "see" a room and the things around him in a different sort of way, but the telepathy only worked for short periods of time, and it wasn't perfect. He still tripped and ran into things sometimes, he still needed to take someone's arm sometimes, he used a text-to-speech program for text messages on his phone, he read in braille, he couldn't drive, etc. So there was at least *some* acknowledgement of his struggles. And it was also nice that he didn't really see it as a disability. Rather, he saw as just a part of who he was, and that was why he didn't want to get rid of it even when he had the chance.

So overall, this wasn't a book that sucked me in, but I appreciated getting to experience the POV of a somewhat blind character, and it might be more a more enjoyable story to readers who do like reading about politics.

**Recommended For:**

Anyone looking for a YA fantasy story with a focus on politics rather than action. Anyone who wants to read about a blind POV character.

**Original Review @ Metaphors and Moonlight**

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**abi says**

The Vengeful Half focuses on Olivia Winter, an atypical teenage girl with a slightly overprotective mother, who escaped from a parallel world called The Hidden Lands. After Olivia's mother is kidnapped for her skills as a potion-maker, Olivia is thrust into the world which her mother sacrificed everything to protect her from, which leads her on a whirlwind journey of self-discovery.

I loved the characterisation of every single character in The Vengeful Half. I enjoyed that we got to see the switch in Olivia being both determined and scared, and how realistic it felt for her to go between the two when she unearthed new information about herself and the ones closest to her. I love the strong character we got to see in both Thessia and Adelise, although I wish we got to see more of both of them. The subtle language change between the races (Miralems, Daramons and Fanarlem) was also appreciated, and allows us a better sense of the history of each of these races, and helps give the characters we see more of an identity. I hope for The Stolen Heart (The Hidden Lands #2) we get to see more of Lester (as well as Thessia – she is definitely my favourite character), and then we will have three main characters for each of the three races.

The illustrations were whimsical and a nice touch. Sometimes however, the drawings highlighted the fun and little things about a chapter (which is playful and enjoyable, don't get me wrong) when they could have focused more on the heavier dialogue or topics being touched upon.

The chapters also seemed incredibly short to me, sometimes unnaturally so (The Vengeful Half is 300 pages long with 53 chapters – the shortest chapter being a single page). Whilst there definitely was a call for a break where each chapter ended, it didn't necessarily have to mean the end of the chapter, however this is totally the author's choice.

I enjoyed the explanations of the timeline of the writing of the book, however these felt slightly out of place, as they were placed at what seemed like random intervals in the book. It was interesting to get the author's insight and a bit of backstory to these characters, but I may have changed the placement of them.

Whilst there were what I would consider multiple arcs in this story (i.e. waves of Olivia gaining different knowledge about her past), sometimes the pacing seemed a little off with this. I understand that this was to lead up to a big ending, and to establish characters in the start and middle of the book, but I would have liked to see a little more action during the middle. I also felt that the last chapter was a little anti-climactic compared to the chapters before it, yet it was also nice to see Olivia end the book with a small piece of happiness.

This is absolutely by no means a bad book, and I did sincerely enjoy it. I just think that some things could



have been improved upon. With the second installment planned for the summer, some of these things might change, and I am looking forward to see where exactly the story is going to go next. I absolutely love the world that Jocelyn Dolamore has created and I would urge any fan of YA books to read this as it is truly a spectacular idea with loveable characters.

One of the main things I love is that whilst this book definitely has fantasy elements, it definitely boils down to a tale about both identity and family, which is something every reader, especially teen readers, will be able to relate to.

I really hope The Hidden Lands takes off and becomes a huge franchise because both the work and Jocelyn Dolamore truly deserve it.

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### **Kirsten Tattersall says**

4.25/5 stars. I received this book from the author through LibraryThing in exchange for an honest review. This was not a serious book, almost in the sense that it didn't take itself seriously. Not at all, and I think that's the reason I was able to like it as much as I did. There were a few "serious" bits, but not so much that it can't be considered a light read. One of the coolest bits of this book were that one of the POV characters is blind, and to him and the other POV character, it wasn't a huge thing. It was just a thing.

To be honest though, I wasn't a huge fan of the main characters. They were a bit flat and this book did suffer from a bit of insta-love, although it was more along the lines of infectious infatuation. I would have rather had the book be about Lester or Anubis, or really any other Fanarlem in the book. I'd read the heck out of a book with a POV from one of them. They were just so lovable seemed more real than the actual POV characters.

Overall it was an enjoyable read and I will be picking up the second one when it comes out, because sometimes you just need a book that isn't serious.

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### **Yzabel Ginsberg says**

*(I got a copy through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.)*

This is one of those overdue reviews, since I've had this book on my tablet for quite a while. I remember requesting it partly because of its cover (the paperback one -- by comparison, the Kindle cover on Amazon is pretty bland), which seemed quite ominous to me. What can I say, I'm weak when faced with a certain type of cover.

The plot was intriguing, for sure. A hidden world full of family secrets, alliances to be had, strange magic (the doll people and the potions), ancient feuds, revelations aplenty, and a hidden enemy who's been bidding her time and is now bent on getting what she wants: possibly revenge... or something else? There's almost too much going on at times. At first I thought it would be more a quest-like story, with Olivia going after her mother and braving danger to save her. It didn't turn out like that, but that was alright, the kind of plot and intrigue it led to was pretty fine with me as well.

The characters: we have that girl, Olivia, who knows she's from another world/civilisation, without having been brought up in it, which leaves room for showing this land to the reader, without necessarily having to explain *\*all\** of it, since Olivia already knows part of it and we can dispense with. We have Alfred, rich heir and future boss to a crime family, who's blind almost since birth and goes his way without whining about this—he's used to it, he has trouble with some things but has found ways to cope. Alfred also has to constantly remind other people that he can do, not everything but a lot of things: a conundrum close, I think, to quite a few double standards going around disabled people (pitied and treated like children almost, or blamed for "not making enough efforts" by many, instead of being considered as human beings first and foremost...). There's also Thessia, Alfred's fiancée, who could have been a nasty bitch and/or a jealous whiner, especially since she fits the too-beautiful-to-be-true girl, and turns out to be an idealist, an activist, and, well, a fairly decent person to be around, even though she has her downside (Atlantean rich society seems to be hell-bent on having its girls marry rich heirs, and gods forbid they want to have a career of their own...).

So, all in all, a lot of interesting things here. Unfortunately, a lot more annoyed me, causing me not to enjoy this story in the end.

From the start, something kept nagging at me, and it took me a while to put my finger on it. At some point, the author mentioned when the story originated (more about that later), back when she was still a child or teenager; I think this was what I "felt" about it, for having gone myself through the same conundrum of taking a story I first created when I was 12 or so, and trying to trim it and make it something worth reading. This was something I found extremely hard to do, because what we perceive as wonderful plot twists and concepts when we're younger aren't necessarily good things to leave as is... yet "upgrading" them is easier said than done. And so, I had that strange feeling that I was reading something I might have written when I was younger, and my reaction to it was a little similar. It's hard to explain. I could sum it up with "this feels like a very early work, and it needs more editing."

Another thing that bothered me, when it comes to this theme of parallel/hidden worlds, is how close to ours the latter was, when a parallel world could pave the way to so many other things. Let me develop a bit more by giving a personal example: I grew up in France, with a lot of dubbed TV shows originating from the USA, and at the time I had that fascination for the USA. If I wrote a story, I set it in some imaginary US town. Not my home country, no, it wasn't "good enough": it had to be like the USA, feel like the USA, whatever. Obviously it didn't occur to me at the time that Stephen King, for instance, set his stories in his country because that's what he knew, and that I was under the impression everything was better there only because I hadn't been exposed to shows from other countries. (Bear with me, I was 12-something.) And somehow, the way Atlantis people lived reminded me of this: their world felt like it hadn't been so much evolving as trying to mimic Earth's, and more specifically, well, you guess it. "Everything's better if it looks like our world." Kind of like being promised a walk in quaint little streets with exotic market stalls, and finding yourself in a mall instead—Atlanteans driving Ferraris didn't exactly impress me. I'd stand with Olivia on that one, who was expecting a high fantasy world at first and found a place with chocolate and soda cans instead.

(To be fair, though, all this might still hold more appeal to a teenage audience than it did to me: I also remember thinking "those are plot devices/themes I would've used myself, since I loved them, when I was in my teens." I had that thing going for telepathy and psychic powers in general, and parallel worlds, and "aliens/people with powers coming from those worlds to live hidden on Earth". I seriously doubt I was the only one.)

Third annoying bit: the somewhat sexist, somewhat dismissive way a few characters tended to act. Alfred

disappointed me towards the end when it came to Thessia (pretty asshole move to make if you ask me, and then she's left to go away with the equivalent of "kthxbye see ya later, ah women, they always need some time to calm down huh"). Or what I mentioned above regarding heiresses only good enough to marry—any female character with a position/job of her own seemed to be either a villain or a reject/castaway/fugitive, as if no "proper woman" could hold her own. Although was pointed as backwards thinking, I felt a dichotomy, a certain hypocrisy in how it was mentioned, yet the people mentioning it still kept buying into the patriarchal model nonetheless.

Fourth: so many tropes. So, so many. You've got it all: pretty boy with a beautiful fiancée against which the main character feels so plain (but still becomes a love interest fairly quickly); people who were supposed to be dead but aren't; telepathy/psychic powers being used and thrown in in vague descriptions, solving things a little too easily at times; mandatory love triangle; elite school in which talking to The Wrong Person will turn you into a black sheep, instantly, just add water. It felt like a soap opera at times, and since I'm not particularly keen on those, it didn't help.

On the fence: the drawings, comic strips and short inserts. I didn't care about the style, but I can certainly understand the appeal, and who would fault an author for including those and being enthusiastic about it? Not me! However, I think they disrupted the flow of the story in some cases, either by revealing too much about the characters at that specific point or by just being there in the middle (did we really need pictures of the various soda brands?). More annoying though were the written inserts: in between two chapters, we get a bit (twice!) about how the story was born. Not uninteresting, yet... this could and should be put at the end, otherwise it's either disruptive or meant to be skipped, which would defeat the whole point.

Conclusion: could've been for me, but... nope, sorry.

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### **Jaclyn says**

My new novel is out today and I feel fully justified in giving it 5 stars because I reread this book three more times just for fun before I started sending out review copies...the last time it was just mine.

I've had a hard time letting this go. I am consumed with feelings. I've spent a long, looong time with these characters and this world.

This is the first book I've released that is 100% me. I had a blast drawing comics and illustrations that are peppered throughout the book. All of my passions and interests have contributed to the world. It has humor and my favorite romance I've written and doll people and so many quirky pop culture references and complicated magical organized crime families. I loved every minute of writing it and I hope you'll love it too. =)

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### **Maranda @ Melange of Reviews says**

**"How terrifying it would be, if even death wasn't an escape from our past sins and suffering."**

Olivia grew up in America and knows little of the Hidden Lands. After her mother is abducted she is forced to trust two strangers to help her. They take Olivia to the Hidden Lands to find her mother. Atlantis, a city in

the Hidden Lands, isn't quite the fantasy world Olivia always pictured. There are cell phones, airplanes, and a surprising amount of American pop culture.

I quite enjoyed the technologically advanced magical world. I enjoyed most of what I saw of the Hidden Lands actually. I was surprised by how a book touching on issues of racism and mind control could be such a light read. The second you hear three warring races or slavery you expect a book to be heavier. The hilarious comics and dialogue made a read full of substance somehow feel like a fluff read. Yes, there is a plot, it's a great plot, but it's never mentally taxing.

Jaclyn Dolamore talked about first inventing the Hidden Lands in 1993. The world was so well built that I actually wondered if it was based in some mythology I didn't know much about. (Seriously, I googled Miralem expecting mythology and got some Bosnian dude instead.) There was so much thought put into the past of both the characters and the history of the Hidden Lands that you can't help but be impressed. I complained early on about giant info dumps but there isn't another way to present this much lore.

I really enjoyed the cast of characters, they all had varying personalities that seemed to leap off the page. The characters each had quirks and strengths that made them feel real to me. Olivia is a home schooled, antique-loving girl who longs for family and a sense of belonging. Alfred is a prideful, blind, history buff who's only wish is to take over his fathers potion-making industry. They have a bit of a budding romance which was well done in my opinion. Too often the romance overshadows the plot, I would just read romance if I wanted a romantic focus. It also didn't fall into either hate turns to love or love at first sight, these are both annoyingly overdone, again in my opinion. The non-main characters were just a fully thought out. George is a pop culture loving sanarune who is just the best friend a guy could ever have. Thessia is a beautiful, equal rights activist with more going on than there seems on the surface.

Lastly I was happy to see that actions had effects all throughout the book. Not just on the character in question but those around them as well. All too often books have the mentality of all cause to further the plot but no effect ever. (For example, cheats on husband, gets caught, very little reaction, they stay together. That just doesn't happen!!) In The Vengeful Half effects were still taking place from actions years before, kind of a driving factor for the entire book. I respect and enjoy that. It takes a lot of effort to analyze what's being done at every step and what the ramifications will be. When the effort is taken you get a book that seems seamless, everything just flows and is.

Overall I found the book to have a great setup and characters. I think this series will be a blast to finish and things can only get more interesting from here. I will definitely be reading the second book in the series and can hardly wait! Thank you Jaclyn Dolamore for contacting me about reading this book, it was right up my alley and I had fun.

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## **Vish says**

UMM....INTERESTING!

(got this book in exchange for honest review.)

No spoiler review.

I am left with mixed feelings about this book.

I loved the cover and premise of the book and dived right into reading it.

The story was a little bit of everything; it was fun, its left me wondering at times, it had good humor. But i guess based on the description, I was waiting for some epic story which i didn't get and hence even though i loved the book , it did leave me a bit disappointed.

The story flow was awesome, and i wasn't bored but having said that if i am being honest i did skip over parts because at times I felt that it was predictable and even if i skip the paragraph I wouldn't be missing much and then there were parts which went into too much details which were not necessary at all. (but thats just what i felt, you may not :P)

The characters were really sweet...yes i am using the word sweet cause thats the feeling they gave to me. I also liked the diverse personality of all the characters.

The best part was the banter between Alfred and George. They were my fav characters!

Have you ever read a manga?.....well in terms of story this could have been a awesome manga. and if this book was completely in that format i would have definitely added it to my best manga list.

The sketches included by the author were nice and I quite enjoyed them and was looked forward to the next sketch to come.

But since this book was supposed to be a proper novel (atleast i think it was supposed to), I felt it was just a step short from being a really great novel.

I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is up for a quick fun read but not waning to invest much into the series.

Perfect read after a hectic day!

WOULD I READ THIS BOOK AGAIN SOMEDAY: UMM..DONT THINK SO.

WOULD I WANT TO READ ANOTHER BOOK BY SAME AUTHOR: YES

Happy reading :D

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## **Marguerite says**

3.5 Stars.

The Vengeful Half was a delightful, and often hilarious read, interspersed with cute, amusing drawings by the author. The fantasy world and magic system was unique, though as a reader, a little confusing to understand without having to flick back. The plot certainly travelled in directions I had not considered and the ending was bittersweet, but still promising future adventure.

Breaking it down even more, I found the MC, Oliver, very fascinating, though on another level, I feel like I don't know her at all, which I think might be the point as this series has another three books of character exploring to undertake. Alfred has to be my favourite character, followed by George - the banter between those two had me in laughter constantly. I really liked the diversity of Alfred being blind, which doesn't

happen often, and I felt that he was more awesome for his attitudes towards being blind than less. Estra, Anubis and Lester were very interesting and I wouldn't mind a book just on them as a family!! Seriously, Anubis as a 'cute' Grim Reaper had me laughing (especially with the drawings!).

The plot moves quickly and jumps from one action scene to another, which did feel a little choppy at times. As I mentioned earlier, I didn't know what to expect next and the story definitely took some unexpected and fascinating turns. Overall, the plot was fast and enjoyable.

I really liked the idea of the fantasy world, but even by the end, I just didn't feel like I understood it - I'm still super confused about how what relates to who, especially as Oliver (and the other characters) would go on like they know everything and expect the reader to know as well, but particularly early on, I had no clue at all - I little more background would have helped. I would just start thinking that I had the general idea, then another term would pop up and I'd be confused again. The world probably could use a tiny bit more fleshing out, in my opinion, as it just didn't feel immersive enough. This was the case very much at the beginning - when magical terms and cultures were being thrown around, I had no idea what was happening.

I LOVED the author's little comics and drawings - they were adorable and certainly add to the book (I was surprised that how I imagined stuff was often different from what the author had thought and depicted in her drawings)

Overall, The Vengeful Half was a unique fantasy book, with magical cultures, people and a world that I certainly haven't come across before. The characters were fun, and the tone of the novel, in general, was light-hearted. The drawings add to the book, and I am certainly keen to read on. Certainly a recommendation to anyone who enjoys a read with magic and lots of laughter!

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