



Resistance

Laura Josephsen

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All Alphonse wants is a quiet summer at home before his final months at university. What he gets is a half-dead man on his doorstep. The stranger insists that the country is in danger and asks Alphonse to carry out his task of delivering a package to the leader of the country.

Alphonse thinks the man might be a little delusional from his injury, but he reluctantly takes the package and boards a train toward the capital. When he's attacked by knights, elite soldiers of the neighboring king, he realizes he's in way over his head.

He's rescued from the knights by Mairwyn, a mechanic traveling for work. Alphonse clashes with her instantly. She thinks he's a clueless bookworm, and he finds her rude and cynical. He's less than pleased when she decides to join him on his journey to the capital, but the longer Alphonse travels with Mairwyn, the more he learns about the haunted past she's been running from for so long.

It's a past that she'll have to confront if she and Alphonse stand any chance of protecting themselves and countless others from the terrible plans of the neighboring king—plans that bring horrific death and lead the country to the brink of war.

(Book 1 of 2)

Resistance Details

Date : Published February 9th 2012

ISBN : 9781469904351

Author : Laura Josephsen

Format : Paperback 282 pages

Genre : Fantasy

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Angie says

This is one of those books that I have a hard time reviewing. I liked everything about it and its hard for me to pin point exactly what it was about the book that made me like it so much. The book is full of intrigue, pain, love and so much more.

Alphonse was by far my favorite character. He was just so nerdy, and they way he was so clueless to a lot of things was amusing. The banter between him and Mairwyn was a good way to lighten up an other wise serious story line.

Mairwyn's story was, for lack of a better word, intense. It was given to you in increments and that work great, it made you start to slowly care for her and continue to read to see why she is so broken. And when you finally do find out its heart breaking.

I liked how part 1 was told from Alphonse's point a view and part 2 from Mairwyn's. It was a good way for you to get to know them both and to care about them. I really liked how everyone's story intersected with everyone else's. Laura had to put a lot of thought into each character to make this work.

The plot of the story was great in itself. Traveling across the country to try and stop a horrible war. Filled with meeting new people along the way and the development of a sweet romance. Seriously there is nothing in this book not to love.

I'm looking forward to reading the second book. From what I can tell its told from different point of views, but that works great because it gives me a chance to learn more about other characters that I liked but didn't get a chance to really know.

Would I recommend this book? Yup, its going on my favorites lists. . .and I believe that everyone should have to read the books I have on that list.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for a honest review.

<http://zephyrbookreviews.blogspot.com/>

Rachel Morgan says

RESISTANCE has two things I really enjoy: a quest, and a relationship that develops naturally over time (yeah, I'm not a fan of insta-love!).

It doesn't take long for the quest to get underway. Circumstance throws Alphonse and Mairwyn together, and they end up fleeing from knights who are after a package that Alphonse is required to deliver. They believe they'll soon be able to return to their normal lives, but tragedy strikes and the only way to prevent an even greater horror is if they continue on what has become a much greater quest.

I love that Alphonse and Mairwyn don't get along initially! They're so different that of course they would

"rub each other the wrong way"! They are well-defined characters, making it easy to imagine them as real people. I was very curious about Mairwyn's past, and I was rewarded when I reached the second half of the book and the point of view switched from Alphonse's to Mairwyn's.

I love the fantasy world the author has created. Names fit people from different areas, and the descriptions of mecha and crystal-powered technology are weaved subtly throughout the story, not distracting the reader with a large info-dump.

In a review I came across before I started reading *RESISTANCE*, the reviewer hinted that the second book continues the story with two of the secondary characters from this book. Toward the end of *RESISTANCE* I had picked out my two favourite secondary characters and was hoping madly that the next book would be about them. I've since discovered that it is! Yay, I'm so looking forward to it now!

Christine Rains says

Alphonse Redding's relaxing summer vacation is stolen away when he's sent on an urgent errand and suddenly becomes a fugitive. He's nearly captured by two men with strange weapons just after leaving home, but is rescued by a wily young woman who seems to know more of what's going on than he does. Mairwyn's a mechanic with a dark past that's slowly closing in on her. They must deliver vital information to prevent another war from ravaging the land and save a people who only want to be left in peace.

Resistance nabbed me right from the beginning. Alphonse has a funny incident in a field and a warm homecoming, but it quickly turns into something darker and much bigger than a summer spent in a little farming town. Strangers, knights, frightening mecha, and mysteries. I wasn't sure who to trust or what was going to happen next. Alphonse is immediately likable with his awkward and academic ways. He's not your typical hero, but that makes this book stand out all the more. Mairwyn stands in wonderful contrast to him. She's feisty, clever, and out-spoken. Their relationship grows slowly and naturally. The organic nature of it lends to fantastic characterization which doesn't overshadow the plot.

Larua Josephsen's writing is on par with novels printed by the big publishers. It reads with a clean and harmonic flow. This is a fantasy world with technology powered by crystals. It's light on the steampunk aspect, but it's still present for fans of the genre. What's more important is the complex and fascinating plot that Laura has created. She takes you on twists and turns, drawing the reader on to greater heights of awe. It's hard to surprise me, but she managed to do so. I love the political intrigue, the demented king, and the little girl who can sneak better than the most skilled of thieves!

If you're a fan of *The Hunger Games*, you'll love *Resistance*. Hold on, it will take you for the ride of your life.

Holly says

Gripping from the very beginning, this story seamlessly weaves humor and unforgettable characters into a

rather dark plot. I am a fan of Laura's ability to make the characters--main and supporting--so tangible. The dialogue is believable and not weighed down by unnatural vocabulary. This is one of my 'repeat reads'.

Laura Cochran says

Within a few moments of picking up this wonderful gem, I was completely drawn in to the story. The characters are fully realized and thoroughly compelling, and I very quickly found myself deeply invested in their lives and their quest. It is difficult to neatly categorize this book, but it definitely has elements of fantasy (hint: it doesn't take place in our world). *Rising*: Book 1 has all the necessary components of an enduring story - danger, mystery, conspiracy, friendship, romance, political intrigue, looming war, underground resistance....if it's a trait of a great story, then you'll find it in this book. The author manages to find the perfect balance between levity and gravity in her telling of the story. I never once felt like it was too dark or oppressive, but I also never forgot the gravity of what was at stake, for the hero/heroine and the world itself. Once I got a glimpse of where the story was going, I honestly found it hard to tear myself away from reading, even for a moment. If I had to compare it to something, I would say *Rising* is every bit as gripping as *The Hunger Games*, but, in my opinion, it's better than *The Hunger Games* because it never loses its undercurrent of hope, even when the situation is dire and seemingly insurmountable. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. And I can't wait to read Book 2!

Tywyll says

Resistance has a perilous plot and interesting world species. I love those aspects of the book as well as the unique settings. I enjoyed getting to know Mairwyn, Alphonse, Reynold, and the others. However, the suspense, the sense of urgency feels lacking. Since every detail of their journey is focused on - every time they bathe or who drives to get to their destination, even though nothing of real significance happens in these moments, or such things could be integrated into other scenes - it gets a bit monotonous and drags the whole plot down. It just needs a little tightening. Still, I did enjoy their story.

I received a free copy from the author for a fair and honest review.

Colleen Bratley says

Resistance is pertinent to freedom, and that word brings the reader to not only identify with the characters but actually live and breathe their steps, and then almost chant for more. How precious freedom is, and how quickly, quietly and stealthily it can be taken away.

This story starts out with an innocent laid back, lacadazical feeling. It is quite the understatement really. I actually thought it was going to be a quaint relaxing, and moderately moving story. I knew the characters would move you emotionally, but I didn't expect them the story to shake you up.

Laura has woven her characters with emotions, plot twists, and suspense to drive the page turn with gale force winds. Even if you think you know what happened or what will happen, you just might be surprised. I think Laura took the expression 'things aren't always what they seem' to heart. She wrapped those words around the characters like a shield, creating a puzzle that you have to put together piece by piece, page by page. Well done.

The story centers around two people but doesn't short change the others involved. You don't pass them by

anxious to get back to what the leads are doing because each one is driving the plot in some way, making the story whole and complete. You begin to realize that everything has a purpose, an exposé, or clue to who a character is, or why or what is going on. Sometimes you have to wonder who someone really is against what they seem to be. It keeps you guessing and that makes it fun.

If you like to read artfully crafted stories that move you on a continuously emotional and creative path, then you will really enjoy this tale. If you like suspense, mystery and innovative tales, then you must read this one.

Alphonse is a kind of literary geek who had no clue to anything about his father other than his academia record, and he had no desire to know more or venture outside of his own academia. He was content and secure right where he was. Secure is the operative word here.

When Alphonse was pushed into action out of necessity, or more like a feeling of responsibility, his world turned upside down. He didn't have street smarts, and secure was a word he could no longer even pronounce let alone feel. But he soon found out that things could be worse and fortunately, some things happen for a reason. What that reason is, he would go through a venture to find out, but even when he thinks he has found the answers, reality will slap him back into a new mind twisting quest.

Get the book and live the venture with Alphonse. I am sure as I did, you will enjoy the journey.

Ariane says

I loved this intense, character-driven, action-packed, romantic adventure!

All of the characters are richly developed, multi-faceted people you want to get to know. I found Mairwyn, the female protagonist, particularly compelling. She is strong and capable, with a difficult past that does not stop her from being brave and compassionate. She's easy to root for and inspiring without being unrealistic, making her a rare heroine in today's literary scene.

Her counterpart, Alphonse, is also unique. He starts as a bit of a wet blanket to Mairwyn's brazen courage and practicality, but develops dramatically as the novel progresses. One of the best parts of the book is watching the relationship between Alphonse and Mairwyn develop from begrudging traveling companions to love built on deep friendship and understanding of one another.

One thing I admire about *Resistance* is Josephsen's treatment of genocide. While the novel does not pull any punches (and indeed, there are many scenes that made me flinch), the topic is treated with care and thoughtfulness, giving enormous weight to the plot and characters without it feeling like such a serious circumstance was being used for shock value.

Overall, the novel is a penetrating look at how people behave when pushed to their limits. The characters can choose between immense bravery or understandable passivity, and the choices they make are as human as they are laudable. I was completely drawn in (a warning: once you reach about half way through, you won't be able to stop reading until you finish! So suspenseful and exciting!) and eagerly await book 2!

Emily Duvall says

Loved this book. I'm a fan...

Donna Weaver says

WHAT MY STARS MEAN:

5 Stars--the book had a profound impact on me. It touched me on some special level and lingered with me long after I'd finished reading it.

4 Stars--I loved this book. If I don't own it, I will buy it so I can read it again and again.

3 Stars--I enjoyed the book but may have had an issue or two with it.

2 Stars--I had more than a few issues with it.

1 Stars--I hated it.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT:

All Alphonse wants is a quiet summer at home before his final months at university. What he gets is a half-dead stranger on his doorstep and the task of delivering a package to the leader of his home country. Not long after he boards a train toward the capital, he's attacked by knights, elite soldiers of the neighboring king.

Alphonse is temporarily rescued by Mairwyn, a mechanic with a haunted past and a deep hatred of knights. Together, they attempt to carry out Alphonse's urgent errand, only to learn that if they fail, countless people will die.

And even if they succeed, they may not be able to prevent the war that lurks on the horizon.

MY TAKE:

I guess I'm a sucker for geeky guys. Not that I'm suggesting my hubby is a geek--I can almost guarantee he'd be offended. But I do embrace my inner geek (Harry Potter helped me with that), so perhaps it's a bit of kindred spirit sort of thing.

In some ways Alphonse--who is so happy to be buried in a book--reminds me of Elend in Brandon Sanderson's Mistborn series. Elend was a bit more proactive than Laura Josephsen's character, but Alphonse finally quits kicking against the pricks, so to speak, and finally accepts that he's one of few people in a position to stop something terrible from happening.

Genocide.

I found the character of Mairwyn to be endearing and intriguing. She's so stubborn and impatient, yet you can tell there's something else going on with her. As her personal history slowly unfolds, you realize why she's the way she is, and your heart breaks for her.

There's plenty of intrigue, suspense, and action in this story. I can vouch for how vile the villains are. While this is the first in a two-part series, the second book will be from the point of view of different characters as they continue to fight the psycho bad guys.

Dilys says

Alphonse is home from university but instead of the quiet time he expected he is thrust into deadly intrigue.

Mairwyn rescues him & ends up as his companion. This was a really enjoyable novel to escape into, heartwrenching at times & funny at others, the two main characters work so well together. Looking forward to the next follow up.

Krista says

My first impressions of the book were the fact that I couldn't put it down! The main character, Alphonse starts out having a bad encounter with some angry cows at the start of his summer break and it only gets worse from there. A strange man showing up at his door, being chased by members of the "military" and making friends with Mairwyn - a secretive young woman that works as a mechanic. The book was incredibly well written! I couldn't stop reading it. All of the characters were full of secrets and captivating. At times, I wasn't really sure who to trust, but things kept changing and the book twisted right when I thought I could guess the next turn. The story was rich and exciting! The first part was written in Alphonse's POV and the second in Mairwyn's. I liked getting the chance to read both characters.

The love element in the story was subdued and wonderful. Alphonse and Mairwyn don't start out well and things are rocky between them. She really kinda hates him, but the way that the author writes the changes in their relationship and how they grow is inspiring. I won't ruin it for you, but these two characters... I loved them! :)

I am eagerly awaiting the continuation of this story! I was so sad when I reached the end of the book. Alphonse and Mairwyn grow so much throughout the novel and you just have to know more about them! I admit that one of my favorite minor characters was little Ellery - what a stinker and so cute! The plot kept me engaged and it was amazing! I definitely recommend this book to anyone! You will not regret it! The world that Laura wrote is simply beautiful and complex. I wish I had wings and lived in such a beautiful place, just not the war part. I haven't read a book so well-written in a long time. Please, you will seriously fall in love with Alphonse and Mairwyn! I can't wait to read the second book! :)

Barbara says

First of all, I LOVE Laura's writing. She always pulls you right into the story and makes you feel what her characters are feeling, experience what her characters are experiences, etc., and her book *Rising* does all of the above! It's such a unique blend of fantasy, sci-fi, and romance with characters you either love at first (the headstrong Mairwyn!) or grow to love (the initially awkward Alphonse.) The character development was rich and solid and intriguing - even sometimes difficult to read their tortured pasts - and the romance unfolded beautifully as Mairwyn and Alphonse discovered their love for each other while discovering more about themselves. Can't wait for the sequel!
