



Winter Omens

Trisha Leigh

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Althea and Lucas barely escaped the Others' clutches in the autumn, and were separated in the process. Alone and on the run from the cruel alien race determined to exterminate her, Althea struggles to adapt and survive in a world she never imagined.

When a boy named Pax appears out of nowhere, he quickly recognizes Althea for what she is – a human/Other hybrid just like him. Althea begs him to help her find Lucas, but Pax refuses, intent on following his own mysterious agenda.

The Others' presence continues to devour the planet's resources, and if history is an indication, they won't leave until Earth is destroyed beyond repair. Althea and Pax sense the only way to save themselves – and maybe their home – is to understand the powers simmering inside them.

Together they push the limits of their capabilities in the quiet Wilds, but are soon confronted with a terrifying fact: no place is safe from the relentless pursuit of the Others.

Least of all their own minds.

Winter Omens Details

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From Reader Review Winter Omens for online ebook

Lady Flo says

Even if I knew Pax was coming into the series in this book, I thought he was a she. That was new) Overall it was interesting and looking forward to the next ones.

Jilly says

Why love triangles, why???? Are teenage girls really getting this many gorgeous teen boys to fall in love with them immediately that love triangles are a natural occurrence? (never happened to me!) Because, according to most of the books these days, this is what every young lady should expect in their life! (Lesson to you girls out there: maybe you aren't pretty, thin or special enough!)

The second thing I really had a problem with in this book was how much time was "down time", where the characters are just having the same argument over and over again. (I could go to my parents house if I want to hear that). Or, how many pages are spent with them talking about other books! (seriously? book club while you are running for your life? where's the wine?)

But, I do like the idea of the story and the characters are strong. I just wish the pace was better. Will I drag myself through the last two books? Probably, because I am a glutton for finishing a story, and these books end in cliffhangers.

Jaime Arkin says

The Last Year Series is quickly moving up my list of favorite series of all time. If you haven't started this one then run out and pick up book 1! I promise you are going to love it.

Winter Omens picks up where Whispers in Autumn ends. Althea is alone again in Winter and on the run from The Others. The only thing that holds back her worry about Lucas is the note left for her stating he is safe. But she's not sure how long that statement will hold true so she is in a hurry to get back to him.

While in the Wilds, Althea encounters two important characters. First - Wolf. She's reluctant at first to encourage the animal to stay with her but because while making her escape to the Wilds she injured herself, he takes care of her in the only way he knows how and their bond begins to form. Wolf isn't really a wolf, but not having pets Althea has no idea that this isn't true.

The other person is Pax. Pax is another dissident... Autumn and he shows up smelling of apples, cinnamon and burning leaves and he knows who and what she is. We don't know Pax's full story immediately, he keeps bits and pieces of what happened to him and his history to himself as does Althea, but you know they have an immediate connection.

Pax has his own agenda ... to get back to Portland to see how his 'brother' is doing... to make sure he's okay. He doesn't care if Althea joins him or not, but Althea's desire to find Lucas is thwarted by Pax because until

he can get back to Portland he won't travel with her.

I really liked the addition of Pax in this story. It's easy to tell early on that he makes up the third in a love triangle, but just to be clear, I didn't hate it. Normally triangles just make me angry, but the connection between Pax and Althea was believable and unforced and it made sense. They are helping each other through some pretty intense and major things and the result is something more than friendship.

While they travel to Portland, Althea realizes that her mother can connect to her via her sinum while she's sleeping which means that the Others in the Hive can also find her there if they desire and so this added complication adds to their desperation.

I really thought this was a perfect second book to the series. There was a ton of action and the plot was executed wonderfully. The flow of the story totally worked and I found myself loving Althea even more by the end.

Not only do we get to know more about the Dissidents, Pax, Althea, Lucas and Deshi, but we get more information on The Others. We get to see how cruel they truly are and learn a bit more about what they want and why. We also get to meet Griffin who is full of surprises!

There are obviously things I can't and won't tell you... I won't ruin this series for anyone. But I can tell you this, if you like edge of your seat action, wonderful world building and a story that will have you turning page after page this is the one for you.

As soon as I finished this book, I immediately picked up book 3 and book 4 (the last) is out in mid February so you don't have long to wait to have the full series in your hands.

Definitely run out and read these - The covers are lovely and these are definitely books I've got on my 'must have actual copies of' list!!

This review can be found on my blog, Fic Fare:

Denise Grover Swank says

This sophomore book doesn't disappoint with the introduction of a new Dissident. The writing is gorgeous and the story fast paced. Winter Omens promises a series readers won't soon forget.

Jami Leigh says

Plot: 4 1/2 stars

Characters: 5 stars

Style: 4 1/2 stars

Pace: 4 1/2 stars

I'm seriously loving this series. Again, high quality, and I love the tension! The world building especially gets points from me. I love that the aliens are complex, not just the usual predictable "We're here to help and destroying you at the same time". The relationships developing between Althea, Lucas, and Pax keeps even the sections where there's not much external action moving.

All in all, I'm VERY glad I started reading this series, and glad that I don't have to wait years to finish it hopefully!! (seriously, I'm now wishing the next one would come out already!) Keep up the amazing work!

Ivana says

This review will be rather short because I don't want to spoil anything from the first book, but also because I don't want to repeat myself. I love this series, period.

I admit that this installment didn't grab me like Whispers in Autumn did. The first half is quite slow; Althea is laying low trying to come up with a plan to find Lucas. Winter Omens has an Ashes feel to it; survive in the wild and walk indefinitely hoping to find what you're looking for while avoiding the Others. I was apprehensive about a possible love triangle, but I loved meeting Pax. He is quite different from Lucas, someone whom Althea might need just as much as Lucas. Althea and Pax are faced with tough moral choices concerning their role in the world. I love it how Trisha Leigh's love for animals shines through in both books. The scenes including the skunk and deer in Whispers In Autumn, and Wolf in Winter Omens warmed my heart.

I mentioned that this one was rather slow for me, but holy smokes, when the action starts...there's one moment that I'm eagerly looking forward to, and that is when Althea, Lucas, Pax and Dash will stand together. (Imagine me flailing my arms and hyperventilating.)

I enjoyed both the first and second book in the series and there's no doubt whether or not I'll buy and read the rest. It's an exciting series with a fresh concept, well-thought out and well-written. Bring on Betrayals in Spring!

Lisazj1 says

I still loved the story but the dreaded *for me* damn love triangle, of a sort, took the edge off my enjoyment. I'm glad that Lucas is finally back, and I'm really curious to see how they will get Deshi from the Others....and what will Deshi be when he finally makes it to them?

Looking forward to the next!

Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says

Review also at Ja ?itam, a ti?

Winter Omens continues where Whispers in Autumn stopped. After all those complications Althea is left alone to figure things out. She has to find the way to survive in one place she always run away from - wilds.

But soon enough she meets someone new. His name is Pax and he is just like her. He doesn't fit in those two types of people. He is not an Other but he is also not like everybody else. Together they have to find a way to discover what lays behind. They travel and discover the world how it used to be, before Others came and took control. But are their golds the same and how would they sort their priorities is another thing.

I really like this book, more than Whispers in Autumn. This relationship between Pax and Althea was more dynamic and more interesting to follow. Her relationship with Lucas was sweet and nice, but slow and at some point boring. Pax is different therefore the relationship is too.

To rate this one was hard. It's actually **4.5 stars**.

Regardless on the ratings I cannot wait to read the next book in this series and somehow I believe that it'll blow my mind. We'll see in December.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis as part of the 'The Last Year' blog tour. Thanks to Trisha Leigh and AToMR blog tours.)

This is the second book in the 'The Last Year' series, and picks up where the first book 'Whispers in Autumn' left off.

Althea finds herself in Iowa in her winter family's home. Her note from Cadi explains her situation, and she quickly gets her things together and leaves her home for the wilds.

Alone and stranded, Althea isn't sure where Lucas is or what she should be doing, until a boy stumbles upon her who smells like apples and cinnamon, and shows her that he can control the wind.

Althea recognises the boy – Pax, as a dissident, son of the air elemental, and joins him as he journeys towards Portland, desperate to not be alone anymore and knowing that the dissidents are stronger together than apart.

Can Althea and Pax find Lucas though, especially as they are now in winter, a season that Lucas has never seen? Can they ever hope to find out what the 'Others' need from the humans, and before the earth is destroyed? And where is Deshi, the fourth dissident, and what have the 'Others' done to him?

I really enjoyed this book, it picked up right where book 1 left off and the tension continued to mount as the story progressed. Pax was a great addition to the team, and the feelings between Pax and Althea although confusing for her added that little extra something to the story (even though I hate love triangles, this didn't have that sort of feel to it at all.)

I love the intriguing world that the author has created here, and I love the storyline with the ties between the different seasons and elements. The introduction of other species into the story was unexpected and added an interesting twist to the story.

I can't wait to find out what happens next, I'm so excited to hopefully finally meet the real Deshi, and to maybe see if Althea will ever see summer!

Overall; I loved this book, and if you like dystopians you'll probably love it too.

9 out of 10.

Betty Jo Pritchett says

I hate cliffhanger endings! But that seems to be one of my only complaints about the second book in this series. I also had a hard time with the character Pax. All of his actions don't necessarily seem consistent with his character. But I like Althea and the supporting characters that we meet.

Caroline says

2nd in the fantasy series about children who discover they aren't human, but aren't quite fully Others either. They have powers they've learned to harness, but there's one among them who has yet to be found, and only with him can they save the Earth from annihilation by the Others.

Erin Arkin says

This was a great second book to the series and I am looking forward to the next book.

This story picks up where book one left off - Althea and Lucas have traveled and are now separated. Althea is in Winter now and makes the decision to pack up some things to head out to the wilds. She ends up meeting two new, and very important characters - Wolf and Pax. Wolf turns up at the shelter she ends up staying in and they come to sort of an agreement - he catches food and she cooks it. They eventually become pretty close.

Pax turns up out of nowhere and it turns out he is another dissident. He just happens to be "Autumn" and initially Althea isn't sure what to think about him. She knows he has some secrets but she can't necessarily hold it against him as she has some secrets as well.

I won't go into all of the detail of what happens but there continues to be a lot of action - it doesn't appear that Althea ever gets a break in this story. She and Pax continue to run from the Others and are on a mission to find Lucas (eventually) but also hike from Iowa to Portland as that is where Pax wants to go. On top of all of the action, Althea continues to explore her powers and abilities as a part human/part other and finds some things out about what she, Lucas, and Pax are capable of. It was also interesting to see them interact more with the Others (mainly Chief and Prime Other).

I wasn't super excited about the fact that a love triangle ensues almost immediately - despite the fact that Lucas isn't in the majority of the book, Althea clearly has feelings for both Pax and Lucas. I was happy to see Lucas come back at the end and I'm not sure I'm ready to forgive Pax for what he did at the end - no spoiler here...just know that I was pretty annoyed with him and was thinking that there is no way she should have a hard time deciding which boy to like better....just saying.

Looking forward to reading the next book and will be diving into that as soon as I wrap up this review. Recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a lot of action, aliens and a great story.

Nalana says

The story continues - and it's a good one! I loved meeting "Autumn"! Can't wait to see how book three goes.

Caroline says

[Even though he is just a dog. He's one of the best developed characters in this series and one of the only ones I feel gen

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

After reading Whispers in Autumn, which I liked, I was a little bit wary of picking up the sequel. The sequel could really go any number of directions, some of which I really would not have been happy with. Thankfully, Leigh quickly assuaged my fears. From the very beginning, I found myself even more engaged in Winter Omens than I was with Whispers in Autumn. Also, I'm warning you know that the rest of this review will have spoilers for Whispers in Autumn.

Where Whispers in Autumn focused a lot on establishing the world, Leigh now really fleshes out the characters, adding real depth and emotion to the story. Althea and Lucas escaped at the end of the first book, but were separated. This is the best thing that could have happened for me as a reader, and, I think, for Althea as a character. Thus far, I really don't like Lucas a love interest; he runs a bit too much to the overprotective, boring side of the hero spectrum. Some time away from him gives both Althea and the reader a chance to get to know Althea as an individual.

Trisha Leigh also introduces a couple of new characters, both of whom I love to pieces, to journey with Althea. The first one is another Dissident, like Althea and Lucas, named Pax. I love how much Pax is all about his own survival. He's not easily trusting, he's grumpy, and he's a bit of a coward sometimes. While he's more obviously flawed than Lucas, I took to him immediately. Also, I'm adding this series to my list of awesome love triangles, because Althea has very different kinds of chemistry with both boys and I have no clue at this point which one she's going to end up with down the road, though you know which one I'm hoping it will be.

The best character BY FAR, though, is Wolf. He just steals the show and has my heart forever. Wolf is in fact a dog, but Althea, unfamiliar with animals, couldn't initially tell the difference and the moniker stuck. I'm slightly more of a cat person, but, you guys, I want a dog so much right now. If you are a dog lover, you are going to be all over this book. Like all over. Also, Wolf is just about the most useful dog ever. Trisha Leigh obviously loves animals, which means she is super cool in my book.

Some of the elements of the world building that I was previously confused on get a bit more clarified in Winter Omens, though I am still a bit confused about exactly what the Elements are. Hopefully that will be explained down the road. There's some really awesome mental battling that takes place and it gets pretty seriously creepy. Winter Omens actually gets quite disturbing at some points, and I want to know so much more about all of these powers the Others have. The four Dissidents are supposed to take out the Others, and

I really do not see how that is possible, but I must know!

With Winter Omens, I am officially hooked and pretty much have to read the last two books in the series. I am now fully engaged in the characters and very curious to discover how the plot will resolve, since the odds these four teens are facing are monumental. This is a great read, and the quality does not suffer at all from having not been traditionally published.
