



## Reign of Mist

*Helen Scheuerer*

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The realm's darkest secret is out.

The cruelty of the capital and the power-hungry King Arden have scattered Bleak and her companions across the continents.

On the run in a foreign land, Bleak finds herself tied to some unexpected strangers. When the answers she yearns for are finally within reach, she must face the hard truths of her past, and take her fate into her own hands before it's too late.

Meanwhile, secrets and magic unravel as a dark power corrupts the realm. Bleak's friends are forced to decide where their loyalties lie, and who, if anyone, they can trust.

But one thing is certain: war is coming, and they must all be ready when it does.

Intriguing and action-packed, *Reign of Mist* is the second instalment in Helen Scheuerer's epic YA fantasy series, *The Oremere Chronicles*.

## **Reign of Mist Details**

Date : Published September 13th 2018 by Talem Press (first published September 9th 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Helen Scheuerer

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic, Young Adult Fantasy



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## From Reader Review Reign of Mist for online ebook

### Morgan » 'Mashleas Reads' says

I was lucky enough to be part of the fantastic blog tour celebrating the release of Reign of Mist. To see the full post visit my blog.

Reign of Mist by Helen Scheuerer is another sensational fantasy novel in the Oremere Chronicles. I absolutely devoured this book. It was addictive, fast paced and so full of action I was completely enthralled. You know that feeling when you read a fantastic book, you get hooked right away and all you want to do is keep reading to see what happens? I had this feeling about 3 pages into Reign of Mist. From the very beginning I could not put this book down. Sometimes the second book in a series isn't as good as the first, but Reign of Mist stepped up and was just as good, if not better than Heart of Mist. Helen's writing is truly enchanting and that cover is one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen! All my favourite characters were back and there was so many twists and unexpected surprises. There is nothing better than a really well written fantasy with fantastic characters. I was amazed at how well written this book was, with many story/character lines coming together in such a smooth fantasy, packed with action.

Many of the characters we met in Book 1 are back and we learn more about them. I loved this, as the characters really came to life and you could feel their motivations and emotions coming right off the page. I loved seeing Bleak's journey in this book, while still struggling with her addiction she works hard to overcome her weaknesses and help her friends in any way she can. She is so strong, and to read about a character such as her, with her issues and her differences, is really enjoyable. Her relationships with Henri and the others was a treat to read. There are a few characters I want to shake with my hands and slap them for being so silly and many characters that make me laugh out loud. This is what good writing is all about, making the reader feel many different emotions, and Reign of Mist certainly does that. I was happy, sad, shocked and I laughed many times throughout this book.

The book is spread over many different character storylines, and we get more detail about the world and its key players. We are also introduced to a few new characters, who I loved to read about as well. The ending was powerful and engaging and I absolutely cannot wait for book 3!! Overall Reign of Mist was a strong second book in an amazing YA fantasy series. If you haven't read the first book, Heart of Mist, I strongly recommend you do so! And Reign of Mist is out September 13th.

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### Beth says

#### 5 STARS!

I don't know what it is about this series, but I am hooked, there isn't another book to add to my goodreads shelf and not to be dramatic or anything but I NEED ANSWERS!

*"Bravery is doing something despite being scared."*

I finished Heart of Mist and I knew that I needed to pick up the second instalment ASAP, the story picks off exactly where it left off. The majority of the characters had gone off in different directions for multiple

reasons and I was worried about what was going to happen and how the story would progress, I am so happy that it didn't disappoint me!

Once again the story is building and building, and we get a lot more information in this and on some occasions I was completely *shook* in particular those last few pages, I couldn't believe it, literally my jaw was on the floor and I was left screaming at my book that it couldn't end like that (in all of the best possible ways).

What I enjoy so much about this series is the Characters, some in particular really stand out, even though I hate some of the choices they make, but the depth of them really does make me so happy, not only that but new characters are thrown into the mix and some of the older characters from Heart of Mist developed so much and I loved every moment of it.

If you haven't read Heart of Mist and are planning on reading the series, you may not want to read below as there will be some form of spoilers from that book.

*"Scars are proof that you survived something. That's why they looked. They were impressed that you'd overcome something so horrific."*

### Characters

Going into this I was so worried about **Bleak**. I didn't know where we'd end up. We see a complete shit storm unfold in Heart of Mist and that's a lot to come back from. We see her go from strength to strength which I didn't even think could happen. We see her bond with new people and her relationship with **Rion** had be GAGGED! I loved it. It was interesting to see her come into her own and I'm weary once again of what's to come!

Then we have *Henri and Sahara*, now going into this I just knew there was more to this than what met the eye. There was no body it just couldn't be. I enjoyed seeing these two, they're both strong characters but at the same time it was nice to see interactions with bleak and other characters. There's an interesting conflict going on with Athene and I like that Henri can sense something going on. We see their similarities and differences and them finally reuniting which I was low key scared about!

Hands down my two favourite characters of this series are **Fiore and Swinton**. I can hold my hands up and say that Swinton is not a nice character. He does morally horrible things, however he has SO many layers! There's a purpose for why he does what he does, but you can sense his despair at times. It's difficult to explain, but at times Swinton really made me feel so angry, but I'd rather have a character bring some of emotion out of me than them being meh. Then we have Fi, he's just so lovable and likeable. There's a lot to his character that we still don't know yet, and that makes him even more appealing. It's as though he's got lots of connections and how he got them we don't know (but I'm hoping we get to find out) the way he talks to people, and interacts I could just gush all day about Fi, he's just so loyal! Even though Swinton is awful he still trusts his friend and tries to show him and steer him on the right path!

We have the sweet sweet *Olena and Nazuri*. In such chaos it's always good to have just "nice" characters. Lena has been sent to marry Prince Nazuri, I was so worried for Olena because I didn't want things to happen to her, but Nazuri clearly cares (or so I hope) about her! Things happen and Nazuri is always there for her and I just didn't expect it, but I was low key thrilled at this pairing!

A character that I was really looking forward to was **Dash** and his story did not disappointed. Something

happened that I kind of guessed, but only because of something that happened, but nevertheless I still enjoyed it. To say he has the biggest transformation in this book is an understatement to say the least. Out of all of the characters, I'm very interested to see what's going to happen with his character! Along with dash we're introduced to **Eydis** who is the Queen. I loved her connection with Bear that I want to know more about, she's strong and courageous. She is also a seer but her magic isn't as strong as others. I'm looking forward to what's to come!

Then we have the villains **Ines and Langdon**. I still don't know that much about them, but what I do, my GOD! Ones is a character that I want to know more of, her magic is by far the one that stands out because she has so much power, but we haven't seen a lot of it just yet. Then Langdon enjoys torture, once again we didn't see a lot of this, but what we did he was just pure evil and a character that you will just hate!

I'm not going to say too much about *The Tailor*, but he's such an intriguing character, there's going to be so much to come and I am SO excited to see what's to come, but I literally couldn't talk about characters and not include him, please please tell me more!

### What I liked?

- We get to see Oremere! We'd heard snippets of it previously so it was enjoyable to actually see what had become of it
- Lots of little links, it was interesting to see because things I'd picked up before I was wondering if/how they'd link up
- Teerah Panthers! yes yes yes
- Olenas smarts! She knew who she should and shouldn't trust and the fact that Nazuri wanted to be friends I was just like THANK GOD, I mean if there is romance I'm not mad at it
- Casimir and his powers! I didn't mention him above because he isn't mentioned for the first 100 pages so this is a just in case. There are so many unknown things, however we see some vulnerable moments and there's a connection to him and Bleak that I need more of!
- The unraveling throughout, there was so much, it was BAM BAM BAM. So good
- All of the premonitions from the characters, I'm worried!
- Fi and Swinton finally having *that* talk, I had been waiting and waiting, and to see Swinton let down a barrier, I could of cried with happiness
- Not to praise Fi any more but he took a stand and was like, nope not today. I was cheering!
- **The Tailor** is EVERYTHING, he's mysterious, and I'm still left hanging want to know everything, he pops up at unexpected times and I just love it!
- *That letter, I literally can't*
- A certain chapter that involved the Valians, Bleak and Fi uniting and it was greattttt
- Fi calling everyone "Old friend" **my heart**
- Eydis being kind to Dash, it was just such a sweet moment after everything he'd been through

### What I didn't like?

- My only gripe is I really missed Bren, and it just felt like such a long time before we actually got to see him again, and when we did I was so sad at them reuniting, because the way that I pictured Bren and his character I thought he'd of given Bleak the time to at least explain what had happened.

Overall I'm so happy that I've picked up this series, I'm eagerly anticipating the third book, there's nothing on Goodreads to tell me when this will be, but I'm just going to sit here impatiently and hope it comes sooner rather than later because I have a lot of questions an I need answers.

### **Sofia Casanova says**

If you didn't know already, Heart of Mist is one of my favourite YA fantasies of all time. The second instalment, Reign of Mist, definitely did not disappoint. Helen's writing is addictive and fantastic in its own right; she deserves so much more recognition as her craft is on par to Laini Taylor and Leigh Bardugo. It's like she plucks magic from the sky and breathes life into new worlds and systems. She fleshes out a diverse cast of characters and makes us fall in love with them. What's so exciting about Reign of Mist is it brings Oremere to the forefront, and we remember the fevered need to erase this land from history. What really happened on the forgotten continent? Reign of Mist answers those questions for us.

Told through multiple perspectives, our favourites return to a crumbling world diseased by the mist, and struggling to find a solution. What's brilliant is Helen puts these characters to the test, challenging them to adapt and compromise despite what they want in their hearts. Bleak is once again our heroine, thrust into yet another situation where her life is on the line and her past has caught up with her. Henri, the Valian queen, has to make tough decisions for the sake of her people and her heart. Dimitri Swinton, commander under the cruel and corrupt King Arden, is torn between serving his sovereign and being loyal to his best friend. Sweet and daring Dash, a stable boy and Princess Olena's best friend, faces his hidden power and the consequences of his father's actions. And a special mention to Fiore, who stole my heart in Heart of Mist and hasn't returned it yet.

Reign of Mist is a thrilling fantasy adventure, packed with action, magic, heartache and friendship. It's about the dark desire for power, glory and the world at your knees. It's about wanting the simple life and being torn from your loved ones. It's about corrupt minds and looking for your soft heart, only to find it stone cold. And you know that feeling you get when a series has you in for the long haul? That's how I feel about the Oremere Chronicles. Oh, and there's panthers. Yes, big cats. I'm 100% down for this.

Don't sit on this series. Pick it up. You won't regret it.

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### **Stéphanie -is reading her life away- says**

Meilleure que heart of mist

Les personnages s'enchaînent pour donner un sens et un but à l'histoire j'ai vraiment aimer

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### **Megan says**

3.5 stars.

rtc.

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Can we just appreciate how beautiful this cover is fjkladfsklfadijofew ??

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## Tamar says

**4.5 \***

There was not a dull moment in this book, new characters that added more depth to the story and interesting directions to where it may lead.

Actions, intrigues, great world building, amazing characters.

Can't wait to the next one!

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## Kirsty Hanson says

After absolutely LOVING the first book in this series: Heart of Mist, I couldn't wait to be able to read the second book. However, I had to wait a few months first. I had listened to Heart of Mist on audiobook, so I definitely wanted to carry that on and so I pre-ordered the audiobook for Reign of Mist. I had gotten so used to the narrator and the way that she voiced the different characters, that I couldn't think of the characters talk any other way.

*The realm's darkest secret is out.*

*The cruelty of the capital and the power-hungry King Arden have scattered Bleak and her companions across the continents.*

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*Meanwhile, secrets and magic unravel as a dark power corrupts the realm. Bleak's friends are forced to decide where their loyalties lie, and who, if anyone, they can trust.*

*But one thing is certain: war is coming, and they must all be ready when it does.*

If you read my review of Heart of Mist, you will know that I loved it so much and Reign of Mist was no different.

Helen Scheuerer has this brilliant way of writing. She captivated you with her descriptions of the world that she's created, and then pulls you in with the character dialogue to make you fall in love with each and every character (even if it's a love-to-hate them).

“Love and loss so intricately entwined. You cannot have one without the other, unfortunately.”

? Helen Scheuerer, Reign of Mist

Like Heart of Mist, the sequel is written from a handful of different points of view such as Bleak, Henri, Dash, and Swinton. I don't think that there is A SINGLE POV that I don't like, or one that I prefer to the other. All of them are written with such care, and it doesn't FEEL like Scheuerer has a favourite character, they are all written with such precision. Does that make sense? I normally find that when I'm writing a review of a book that have multiple perspectives, I find it really hard because there are normally some POV's that I'm not a massive fan of. However, that's not the case when it comes to The Oremere Chronicles. I love all of the perspectives and the only characters that I don't like are the ones that we are EXPECTED to dislike i.e. KING ARDEN BECAUSE HE'S CRUEL AND I REALLY WANT HIM TO DIE.

Another element of this book that I really can't get over is how wonderful Scheuerer's writing style is. I know that I already mentioned this in my review of Heart of Mist, but I'm going to mention it again because her descriptions of all the different places are beautiful. I especially loved her descriptions of Havennesse. I normally HATE feeling cold, but the way that Scheuerer described the cold of that part of the world, and then went on to describe the warm clothes and the fire that Bleak would use whilst there just made me feel so comfortable. Havennesse is definitely a place that I would want to go and visit (once they've sorted out all of that cult stuff though. I couldn't be dealing with that.)

“Bravery is doing something despite being scared.”

? Helen Scheuerer, Reign of Mist

I think that one of my favourite elements of this series are the lack of romance. There is a tiny bit of lesbian romance but nothing too major, and I really love how there isn't any because it just shows that you don't need romance to move a plot forward. Scheuerer manages to keep up the pace of an amazing plot without having any romance drama. Also... it doesn't make me feel lonely so there's that...

Instead of focusing of the aforementioned romance drama that plenty of fantasy novels have (I'm looking at you Throne of Glass!), Scheuerer tends to focus more on the friendship element of relationships. What makes two people become friends? What makes a friendship work? There are plenty of new friendships that are struck up in Reign of Mist and the new friendships are ones that I ADORE SO MUCH. They melt my heart and I just love them so much. The old friendships are also conveyed throughout this book as being strong but sometimes tested which I think is brilliant, because just like relationships, no friendship is smooth sailing.

“Someday soon, you are going to have to accept who and what you are.”

? Helen Scheuerer, Reign of Mist

One of the only qualms that I have with this book is one that is very similar to how I feel about the ending of The Remnant Chronicles... The ending of Reign of Mist is so fast paced, which I can definitely understand because it's a battle and battles aren't really slow going. However, the entirety of the second book and some of the first book have been building up to this battle, so to only have the last 50 pages of Reign of Mist this world-changing battle doesn't seem to be enough. I also know that from an editor's point of view, you don't want too much of the book to be battle scenes because the description can get samey and could potentially bore the reader. But there has to be some way to make the two work together, right? Don't look to me for answers because I have no idea... I'm just putting the suggestion out there.

Overall, this was an absolutely fantastic book and I can't believe that I have to wait A WHOLE YEAR for the third (and final?) book. However, there are prequels that I can read in the mean time which I will definitely do. I really don't understand how more people aren't reading this series. It's stunning.

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### **Belle Ellrich says**

**\*I WAS PROVIDED AN E-ARC IN RETURN FOR AN HONEST REVIEW\***

Firstly, I'd like to give a big thank you to Helen for putting me on her ARC list and for extending my review date. This book has been a highly anticipated read for me, and I'm so glad I was given this amazing opportunity.

Now, onto the review.

Something that stuck out throughout the entirety of the book was the female role. Unlike the usual “guy saves girl” novel that we often find ourselves reading in all genres, we find a sequel that—much like the first novel—focuses on the strength of women and the power they hold over men.

Helen did a very good job switching and equalizing the roles in this book. Not only did she do that, but she also put in a segment where women were placed in front of men as something to play with, only to be utterly surprised with what was held underneath.

“Despite my blindness, and my youth, I know that trust needs to be earned, from princes and commanders alike.”

In this book, multiple POVs are given. Usually, that can be found really confusing and hard to follow, but Helen made it a point to write the necessity of multiple POVs in each chapter.

Princess Olena didn't have many parts in this book, but what I found in her few parts was actually pretty

important. This quote, for one, should apply to everyone and everything. Like my favorite quote from one of the worst movies I've ever seen (aka *Transformers: Age of Extinction*) "Trust is but a flower in the wind." What that means, is that it is hard to gain but worth the effort.

The princess made this very apparent, especially with Prince Nazuri—a new character that readers are introduced to. She made it well known that she didn't put her trust into anyone easily, even pointing it out to Commander Swinton—someone she's known for a very long time.

The reason trust is even being pointed out in this review is because it was a key factor of this book. Though not outwardly thrown out in some of the situations, it was apparent that the characters were all going through multiple adjustments to the new relationships and situations they found themselves in. Because of this, they had to put their trust into who they were with and what they were doing.

"Your secrets have kept you company far too long."

Another key element in this book: secrets. There are LOTS of secrets.

Some of these secrets are made apparent before they're revealed. Readers might find themselves on the edge of their sitting surfaces, screaming at their screens or book pages for the characters to figure it out faster.

But when I mention secrets, I must warn to caution yourselves. Some of these are real plot twisties. A lot of surprises came out of the secrets revealed, and I love how Helen handled them.

The plot of this book was well thought out and planned, the characters underwent the development to progress the story along, and I was thoroughly shocked wordless by this story. For all of this, I give this book 5/5 stars. I cannot wait for the conclusion novel, and I am waiting ever so impatiently for it.

P.S. I really want to smack Swinton and kiss poor Dash.

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### **Kate (beautifulbookland) says**

You know a book is good when it has your heart racing, your palms sweating, and you fighting the urge to read ahead because you just *need to know* what's going to happen.

*Reign of Mist* is one of those books. I finished it and just sort of stared at my kindle, trying to digest everything that happened.

(Warning: this review is gonna contain a shit load of gushing.)

### **What Happens?**

We pick up right where *Heart of Mist* left off, with Bleak arriving in a land that holds the key to her forgotten past. But the land hides more than just Bleak's secrets; it hides a false queen who resides in a forgotten castle, and an underground rebel movement, determined to save their prince from the queen's clutches.

While Bleak is trying to figure out her place in the upcoming war, we also follow Henri, Swinton and Dash

as they all move into their roles in the war.

**Henri** journeys to the winter land of Havennesse, where she employs the help of the Queen Eydis, after King Arden's threat against Henri's kindred.

**Swinton** journeys with Princess Olena to Battalon, where she is to marry Prince Nazuri, who is ten years her senior. Swinton has been tasked with gaining the prince's confidence and getting him on the King's side.

**Dash** is still at Heathon, learning to live with Olena's absence. He still writes letters to the princess, still helps his dad around the stables, but Heathon is thrown into panic when a plague hits the capital.

### Characters Old and New

I loved these characters in *Heart of Mist*, but I love them even more now! The chapter POVs are the same, but we get to find out lots more about Bleak and Swinton's pasts, as well as being able to see different sides to all of the characters.

I particularly love Bleak's addiction battle; while in the first book she was doing everything possible get her hands on some alcohol, to quiet the voices in her head, in this book she embraces her magic, and fights her addiction. I love the way that Bleak decides that she wants to stop drinking, but she still struggles a lot with her cravings.

While Bleak is definitely my favourite character, I absolutely *adore* her relationship with Henri! Their relationship has grown so, so much and it's absolutely beautiful. There's a scene where Henri and the kindred stand with Bleak, drinking water instead of wine during a meal, because they say they're stronger in numbers and it gave me *so many chills!* I love how Bleak has gradually wormed her way into the kindred's lives, how they support her - I live for strong female friendships, and Helen's books have them by the bucketload.

Swinton and Fiore's friendship is still going strong too, and Swinton *finally* opens up to Fiore about his past; about his son, about his lost love, and about his magic.

While I do love Dash, I'm not really gonna comment too much on him because his storyline is something that I totally didn't see coming, so I don't want to spoil anything for anyone. I will say, however, that I'm desperate to see where his character will go to in book three.

And we have **new characters!** Queen Eydis is one, who is an absolutely fantastic character, and there are a few who I'm not going to name because I don't want to spoil anything but rest assured; they're awesome.

Helen's female characters are incredible; a lot of authors seem to think that in order to be a strong character, they just need to be able to kick somebody in the face, but that's definitely not the case here. They have so many qualities, they're so *realistic*; they argue and they clash and they have their faults, but that just makes them all the more charming.

*"Not all wars were fought with blades and shields. Not all courage was found in the heart of a battle."*

### The Writing

So I warned you at the beginning of the review that I was gonna be gushing a hell of a lot through this

review, and this section is gonna be no different because I *love* Helen's writing. It's completely enchanting; it's so vivid and colourful. I usually have a difficult time imagining all these different fantasy lands, and they often all blend together, but that didn't happen with *Reign of Mist* at all. The pictures I had of the settings were detailed and vivid, but still easy to conjure.

Often when I'm reading a book on my kindle, I'll end up checking the time and what percentage of the book I've read, which is why I always prefer reading a physical book. But every now and then I'll find a book that's so gripping that I don't care how much I've read, because I don't want it to end, and this is one of those books. Helen's writing is addictive, and so clever; she weaves little hints (hints that seem insignificant at the time) about the plot and character identities into the story, and allows them to build up before bringing them to the forefront in a way that makes you want to go back and reread passages. It's marvellous, but we're still waiting for a few answers; like whether or not there has been a betrayal within the kindred, whether she has manipulated her way to the top.

What I also find refreshing is the lack of romance. Don't get me wrong, I love romance in books, and I would love it book three did have romance, but I also know that I wouldn't be disappointed if there wasn't any in the next book, because the characters are brilliant characters are brilliant by themselves.

Does that make sense? I don't know anymore.

### **The Verdict**

So it's pretty obvious that I love this book, and I'm absolutely *desperate* for book three! There are a few things that I really need answers to, like the betrayal I mentioned earlier and also more about that ending.

But if you haven't read this series yet, then I highly recommend it; fabulous characters, brilliant world-building and gorgeous writing. What's not to love?

\*thank you to Helen Scheuerer, who was lovely enough to send me an e-arc of this book!\*

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### **Jen T says**

5/5 \*'s! Thank you to Helen for sending me an e-arc in exchange for an honest review!

*Reign of Mist* is full of whirlwind adventure, strong friendships, beautiful landscapes, lots of plot twists, with dogs, horses and panthers...oh my. It lures you in and you won't be able to put it down.

The same POVs in *HoM* transfer over to this one. Bleak, Henri, Dash and Swinton. I loved seeing what everyone was up to and how we got more insight into what was going on in the different realms.

The book starts off exactly where it left off in *HoM*, where Bleak has entered the mist. We get to meet new characters as she navigates this lost continent and finds answers for the questions she had in the first book. She really grows into her own and you get to watch as she works to stand her own. Bleak becomes more accustomed to her magic and it was amazing to watch as she formed new friendships and bonds with them.

nd speaking of complex, wow...holy plot twists!! So much is revealed about Oremere, the rulers of this kingdom, and the mist. The world building is so beautiful and little things began to click together from the

first book that almost seemed out of place but it wasn't. Everything comes together so well and it flows throughout the entire story. As the pages turn, it doesn't even feel like you've read 500 pages. All of your suspicions get confirmed and there were many times that I questioned a few of the characters for reasons I can't say, because spoilers but you will have suspicions.

Full Review at: [https://abookishpeach.wordpress.com/2...](https://abookishpeach.wordpress.com/2020/08/10/reign-of-mist-by-sophie-scheuerer/)

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## **Stacy says**

*I received an e-ARC of this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

No spoilers in this rapid review of *Reign of Mist*. **I really liked it! I give it 4.5 stars.** The first thought I posted about *Reign* here on Goodreads was: "Guys, this is really good fantasy." After finishing the novel, I stand by my initial thought. I was excited to be back in this world, and Scheuerer didn't disappoint. She built on her well-developed and distinct characters; the climate, geography, and culture of her various continents; and the storylines and mysteries from book 1, *Heart of Mist*.

As *Reign* opens, Bleak finds herself in a new world after sailing off into mist at the end of *Heart*. She discovers the inhabitants have as much to offer as she does, but will she want to (or be able to) befriend them? Henri journeys to the winter kingdom of her childhood friend Eydis. Both women are rulers now, but has their friendship held up enough to become allies?

Swinton and Fiore are on yet another continent for their newest assignment: to watch over and protect Princess Olena as she gets acquainted with her future husband, Prince Nazuri. The prince is nothing like the men expected. Is he a good match for the innocent yet perceptive princess? And everyone's favorite stable boy Dash ends up in dire straits. Only a drastic change can get him what he desperately needs. Is it worth the price he must pay, even if it alters the trajectory of his life?

War looms over the aforementioned characters. As we saw at the end of *Heart*, King Arden has joined forces with Queen Ines, so the other kingdoms must unite to have any hope of defeating their combined strength and resources. Yet Bleak and the gang soon discover it's difficult to align with people with different backgrounds, belief systems, and loyalties, especially when everyone seems to harbor a secret.

What a set-up, right? Scheuerer has developed a lush fantasy world that I never want to leave. I was fascinated by the forests of Valia and their warrior-women leaders in *Heart*, but I was perhaps even more entranced by the deserts of Battalon as well as the bitterly cold, icy world of Wildenhaven, particularly its mysterious, enchanting Valley of Twisted Trees. And the means of communication Scheuerer introduced between these nations was unique and fun.

Also, I love these characters! I was going to record my favorite but realized that was too hard a task. I would need to list nearly every single main character plus a few secondary ones, too. This is a testament to how real the characters feel and how each of their struggles tug on my heartstrings. I often appreciate a desperately conflicted character most of all, though, so that might land Swinton at the top of my list. I was excited to discover I'm not the only one who loves the complex captain; when Scheuerer asked her readers which character they wanted the next novella to be about, Swinton is the one readers chose!

There hasn't been much romance in the *Mist* books so far, but I haven't even missed it. (And that's saying

something! I always enjoy the angst of a good love story whether it's the primary or secondary part of the plot.) Scheuerer focuses on friendships instead. There are many strong female relationships, and the two new ones struck in *Reign* are even better than those in *Heart*. The primary male friendship is conflicted and full of secrets, but in the end it might just be the best of them all.

Scheuerer's writing talent continues to blossom. Her prose is appealing, and she's great at sprinkling hints here and there to be developed later in the story. These clues kept me guessing, and I only figured out one of the mysteries on my own. I like that none of them were too obvious, yet they made sense in retrospect. And Scheuerer's imagination seems infinite. The magical system she created dealt me my favorite surprise of the book: a healing unlike any I've ever read.

This indie reads like a blockbuster and a for-sure bestseller. I certainly hope it ends up being one! **If you love YA fantasy, pick up *Heart of Mist* now, and then grab a copy of *Reign of Mist* when it comes out on September 13th.**

Read all of our reviews [here](#).

Check out our full book recaps [here](#).

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### Justine says

“Your secrets have kept you company far too long.”

*Reign of Mist* is the sequel to the breathtaking *The Oremere Chronicles*, and god where do I start? *Heart of Mist*, the first book already had left me in massive awe! And having the sequel read was an even better experience. Downright from the beginning I fell in love and admire Scheuerer's writing. It is easy to dive into, being it a rich fantasy novel nonetheless. It mimics the world from pages to my mind so effortlessly. And the engrossing characters are highly addictive. I said it once and I say it again, I am in it for the long haul.

I have read the novellas too, may it be a book-length read and a short one it just as enchanting as ever! If you're interested in that too you can get free copies of it [here](#).

Okay, let's break it down.

The geography is building up bigger, the secret is out. Everyone knows what lurks in the mist. And *Bleak* goes on a journey discovering what exists or inhabits that place. The world building is richer than ever. I love it, we, the readers, got to explore more of this world. Which I really enjoy, it doesn't limit only in the same and only places but truly goes beyond what was only mentioned in the earlier book. Old and new places colliding, new territories are seen and felt too (weather-wise), due to the explicit writing of Ms. Helen...

Action-Sequencing. I love how everything is coming together, as I said I've read the novellas too. And dang, I can't help but nod-smirk at how clever Scheuerer has crafted it to where it is now and still to come. I am in absolute awe, (understatement of the year.) Novellas aside, the direction the story took was exhilarating! Answers were given leading up to another set. It unending and yet managed to surprise me every time.

Point-of-Views. Like the debut, it was multifaceted, Reign of Mist has not failed me to yawn over one point-of-view. I usually have a strong feeling of dislike reading over multifaceted books, it gives me that eager feeling on skipping one to know the continuation of that p-o-v goes. These p-o-vs flows as smooth as possible. I don't know how it just does. It all felt authentic and nothing forced or appear as trying too hard. The focus on luscious main plot and subplots merge on so bewitchingly delicate each time.

The development of each character has gone through a handful of challenges once again...

Bleak & Henri – oh my, how do I do this without spoiling? friendship, trust, secrets, watch out y'all. Princess Olena – she has to be one of my favourite person here. Her sharp tongue and clever ways, I need more.

Dash – I love how he became from that whiny kid from Heart of Mist to transforming into this new person. And how involved he is here in Reign of Mist.

Athene, Luka, Bren – this is really interesting. Things are intensifying, chapter by chapter.

Swinton & Fiore, I loved these two from Heart of Mist, Viper's Kiss, and The King's Tournament and it gets better and better. Especially Captain Murphadias.

Each individual goes on and faces their challenges once again, each character deals with different changes. The need to adapt for survival. The need to.

And good gods, obviously we're meeting new characters here! But damn I swear that last part caught me shook. I desperately am in need of the third book. I have a feeling that the agonizing wait for it will be all worth it.

Scheuerer had outdone herself with Reign of Mist! It clearly is something not to sleep on. I cannot recommend it enough. If you're into a rich fantasy filled with hold-my-frigging-purse-staggering twists, secrets, seriously non-stop action, eloquent characters, and lush world building. Say no more, for here it is.

Sophomore slump? No, not in here. It definitely lived up beyond from its predecessor, Heart of Mist.

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### Dianne says

A perfect, action-packed epic fantasy for young adults (of all ages)! Beware of the Mist, it's always out there, and it's corrupting the realm with its dark magic and bringing a war of epic proportions.

**REIGN OF MIST** by Helen Scheuerer is the second installment in her fabulous fantasy series and all bets are off as secrets are exposed, pasts are revealed and reconciled and the future lay shrouded in the hands of Fate.

From the day she lost everything for the second time, Bleak's life became an overwhelming load to carry, alone, on the run from both the King and a rebel warrior faction, her magic has been more of a curse than a gift. Now stronger, allied with others like herself, Bleak is on a mission to save the realm from the wicked machinations of an evil King who has chased her allies to all corners of the world.

Now part of an unlikely group of rebels struggling to survive, Bleak will discover secrets of her past, the evil of a false queen and that not every Ashai is playing on her team. Old characters and new will add to the

chaos of this troubled realm, as a father will do anything to keep his son safe, no matter how dishonorable, a blind princess understands more than those with sight around her and sisters will reunite in a tense meeting that will test the bonds of blood, loyalty and trust.

Non-stop action, brilliant character interactions and strong characters make this epic fantasy come alive as each story path leads toward another thunderous ending, or is it a powerful bridge into book three? Nothing is as it seems at first and nothing will be the same ever again, as good versus evil heads toward the final showdown in book three of this trilogy....And the wait is on...

Start to finish, I was hooked! I saw characters grow, friendships blossom and terrible truths revealed and still, this tale is NOT over, thanks to Helen Scheuerer's masterful storytelling and brilliant imagination!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Helen Scheuerer!

Series: The Oremere Chronicles - Book 2

Expected publication: September 13th 2018 by Talem Press

For Reviews, Giveaways, Fabulous Book News, follow: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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### **Shealea says**

In *Reign of Mist*, I was able to still experience all the things that had me falling in love with the first book, but with an added punch that just catapulted things into a higher level. I was immersed in the familiar atmospheric writing style, lyrically evocative prose, and masterful storytelling of the author, as well as a fantastical realm I am certainly no stranger to.

In essence, reading this book felt a lot like coming home. *Reign of Mist* is intimately familiar territory but with exponentially higher stakes, larger and more imminent threats, and grander adventures. Plus, much like the first book, it is intricately seasoned with plot twists, surprises, and shocking reveals that either kept me on my toes or made me feel totally blindsided!

For the most part, the journeying in *Heart of Mist* was confined to the kingdom of Ellest. In contrast, *Reign of Mist* is set all over the other regions of the Upper Realm: Battalon, a desert kingdom ridden with destructive firestorms; Havennesse, a deceptively beautiful, snowed region with an unforgiving icy climate; and, of course, the mysterious land that lies beyond the notoriously dangerous mist.

Just when I thought this series could not get any better, there's an addition of more fantastic, exceptional women to an already large cast of empowered and remarkable female characters!

In my opinion, reading *Reign of Mist* felt a lot like reading a female-led, female-driven *Game of Thrones*. Here, women were at the forefront of war, politics, and strategy, while men took a bit of a backseat (although that's not to say that they didn't hold important roles, too).

In essence, *Reign of Mist* not only largely drew from feminist themes, but also, and perhaps more

significantly, actively defied female stereotypes commonly found in the fantasy genre. In simpler words: women being strong without having to lose their femininity (i.e. women still being women, and not women trying to be and to act like men).

- ? Answers to questions that have long haunted me since the first book!
- ? Second Book Syndrome? I don't know her.
- ? A gripping exploration & a thrillingly paced adventure!
- ? Flawed characters written with empathy & character relationships that have death grips on my reader heart!
- ? More fighting & more ass-kicking!
- ? The groundbreaking YA feminist fantasy we all deserve (and should 110% stan).
- ? Themes, representations, & messages that are definitely worth commending.
- ? Much better the second time around!

Yes, I've read this book twice, and quite frankly, my reading experience was better the second time around. Basically, what I'm really trying to say is: *Reign of Mist*, and The Oremere Chronicles as a whole, is a series I cannot get enough of. It's complex, compelling, and clearly brilliantly written. For me, Helen just successfully set the golden standard of what a phenomenally written feminist fantasy should be, and I am extremely excited for the thrilling conclusion of this trilogy.

#### **Content/Trigger warnings:**

War and violence; death; kidnapping; physical and mental torture; sickness and plague; alcohol addiction; allusions to sex (not explicit).

Quick disclosure: *I received a paperback copy of Reign of Mist from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

Actual rating: **5 stars**

- \* Read the rest of this review in my natural habitat!
- \* Read 10 reasons why you should pick this book up (and enter the giveaway).

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#### **Joyly Stevens says**

"Thus is the nature of life, is it not? Love and loss so intricately entwined. You cannot have one without the other, unfortunately."

"We're not all born equal in strength and agility, but a mind can be as sharp as any blade, if you know how to wield it."

"But beneath the shimmering fabrics and cosmetics, death smiled."

"The collision of both forces came in a roaring wave. The clang of steel, the first cries of the wounded and the tang of fresh death exploded as they struck their first blows."

"Not all wars were fought with blades and shields. Not all courage was found in the heart of battle"

Reign of Mist is the second book in the Oremere Chronicles by Helen Scheuerer, following the adventures of

our favorite warriors and rebels as they prepare for war. A fight against evil, a fight for freedom, a fight for justice.

Thank you, Helen, for sending me an ARC of this formidable book!

Holy shit. That's all I can think right now after finishing Reign of Mist. From start to finish, this book has you on the edge of your seat. There is no dull moment, no moment where you can calm your nerves for a little while. Chapter after chapter, thrilling action scenes come at you that will leave you shaking and breathless. Helen has a unique way with words, submerging you deep into the magical world she's created. Her books read so fast you feel like you're flying through the story, turning page after page. It's so good that you cannot help yourself from turning the next page because you have to know what's going to happen.

Where Heart of Mist was the opening to the magical world that is The Upper Realm, introducing the characters, the world and the politics, Reign of Mist focuses on character development and action. The world is built, the characters are created, now it's time for action. And boy do we get some. Trust me, you're not ready.

We are introduced to new characters, fierce rebel warriors with a strong mindset to match that of the character we already know. Bonds are forged, risks are taken, blood is spilled.

And if you, for even a second, think you are ready for this book and the ending it has in store for you, I advise you to think again. Because HOLY CRAP THAT ENDING LEFT ME SHAKING!

Below, I will talk a bit about some of the characters in more detail. This may contain spoilers so if you'd rather stay safe then best not read what is between the \*\*\* (You can keep reading all the way below after the next \*\*\*!)

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First of all, I want to talk about Bleak and how she has grown formidably as a character throughout this book! She starts off her journey as a weak girl, broken by grieve, struggling with alcoholism. She has no purpose in life, refuses to acknowledge her past and who she really is, and keeps pushing people away. And above all, she despises her magic. She's no fighter. But then things change, and we get to watch Bleak grow, become stronger, more confident. We watch as she slowly comes to love her magic, use it, hone it like the weapon it is. We watch her befriend some great Valian warriors. She becomes the leader she was born to be. People follow her now rather than the other way around.

Then we have Henri, our Valian queen, who never once strayed from the path that is the Valian way. But then we watch her open her mind more, realizing that the Valian way isn't the only possibility. It is great to see as she too, starts growing closer to people.

Then we have Commander Swinton. I'm not going to lie I was getting angry with him at the beginning of the book for choosing the coward's way. But part of me always knew that he was going to turn around and make the right choice eventually. What I love so much about his character is that Swinton is as flawed as they come. He makes mistakes, chooses wrong time and again, but in the end, he does what feels right. His character development is a slow but steady one, one needs more time than the other because of all that he stands to lose. It's only normal he cannot make such a big decision with a snap of his fingers.

Also, can we talk about the kitty cats that are the teerah panthers!! They are my favorites! I absolutely adore

cats and to see such cute felines being a part of this story just warmed my heart. The relationship between Bleak and Rion is one I have with all three of my cats. And it's even more fun when you know that one of them has a black fur, with a subtle grayish shine just like Rion!

Okay and now we need to discuss the end because I am still screaming about that. Somewhere deep inside I've always known (or hoped) that Ermias was still alive. But I never, in a million years, would have guessed who he was and that he's been part of the story all along. He was so cleverly hidden that I can only admire Helen for being so sneaky.

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If you're not yet convinced whether you should give this series a chance then let me break it down for you.

- Thrilling action and a unique world building
- LGBT romance
- Fierce warriors and badass Princesses and queens
- Great character development
- A fast-paced plot with dazzling twists and crazy cliffhangers
- Beautiful writing

Reign of Mist comes out September 13 so that's plenty enough time to catch up and start reading Heart of Mist if you haven't already because this dazzling, heart-racing, sequel is one you do not want to miss!

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