



Murder of Crows

Athena

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Fable Montgomery is the Muse of Story.

Fourteen years ago she gave up her home, her memories, and the man she loved, to prevent a new Dark Age. Yet when her beloved aunt is murdered, the fate of two worlds rests on Fable's ability to recover the memories she worked so hard to destroy.

Fable returns to the land of myth and magic, a place called Aria. A world that has been waiting fourteen long years for her to fulfill the promises she's forgotten she made.

In a surge of power she writes the Prophecy of Crows, a 240 page manuscript of the future arc. But before she can read it, all but thirteen of the pages are stolen. With only thirteen pages to guide her through the story, Fable must rediscover her power of inspiration, because the last page of prophecy foretells her death.

And if the Muse of Story dies...all stories die with her.

Murder of Crows Details

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Author : Athena

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From Reader Review Murder of Crows for online ebook

Larissa says

4.5 Stars.

I received this book from the author – who’s real name is actually Athena - at the Wordstock Festival a few months ago. The cover and synopsis struck me right away. I have read intriguing summaries that didn’t live up to my expectations, but this book really did. I read Murder of Crows in record time. I couldn’t put it down! I loved the writing, the world-building was great, the characters were fully fleshed out, and my first thought when I finished it is “when is the sequel coming out?” I also loved that it was set in my hometown of Portland because I could specifically visualize the places the main character, Fable, was. (When she was on Earth, of course).

I don’t really have anything negative to say about this book, I really enjoyed it. I would say though that in my book it is definitely more New Adult than Young Adult due to the characters’ ages and the content, so a younger reader might want to wait a few years, or have someone tell them what pages not to read etc. But it is not an “Adult” book, I think it is perfectly acceptable for high school age and up.

In short, I highly recommend this book, you should get your hands on it as soon as possible! If you are a fan of action, fantasy, or paranormal romance, this is the book for you! The ending left me begging for more, and I cannot wait for the sequel to come out!

Sondra says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book written by my good friend Athena! Other people have summarized the story better than I can, so I will skip that part.

I have been trying to write this review for some time, but struggling because it’s difficult to be at all objective. It’s impossible to categorize the book into “fantasy” or “action” or “romance”, because it IS all that - and so much more.

The “more” part is where I have a hard time with the objectivity: in addition to the fact that the book evokes so many memories of a general nature... Such as world-and magic-wise conversations with aunts of my own that changed the course of my life, strange experiences involving cats and kitchen disasters... It also brought back many of the most intense, meaningful conversations of my life I’ve had with the author, and transported me right back to the magical woods of Forest Park and Portland Oregon where I lived and hiked for several years. And I feel like the story itself mirrors the search for magic that I have chased in fits and starts my whole life.

I have a relatively monochrome, average imagination, but it’s so vividly written, I felt like the events on the page just came to life in front of my eyes. From snow angels in the flour to crows tearing apart a book - this all feels totally believable to me. I love/love/love how she captures the kind of symbolism that seems to subtly run through real life - a kind of Indian view of the world, where a Murder of Crows isn’t just a flock of dumpster chickens... It might actually be a sign from a partner Universe trying to tell you something!

So I feel like the story is my story, your story, etc., and maybe what I like best - it reminds me that I’m

paying too much attention to "real life" or walking too fast if I have not heard trees talking to me lately! I can't wait for the next book!

Titan says

Wow. The universe in this book is *complex*. It was nothing I expected it to be, but that's okay--I didn't expect much. I certainly didn't expect a world that flourished with seas of characters (and imagery!) I'd know and love by the end. Its very nature--a story about a muse--inspires. I hope there is more soon.

A full review of *Murder of Crows* can be found at Caps Lock Thinks along with many others.

Ripley Patton says

I am fan girling so hard right now over Athena and this book. If I could give it ten stars, I would.

If you love fantasy or urban fantasy, or just love an excellent story well-told, you HAVE to read this.

Why did I love it?

The characters: This book is jam-packed with strong, awesome, powerful, female characters of all varieties and ages. Yes, there are men, but the women rock this book (such a wonderful change from the norm) and that made me love it all the more.

The setting: It doesn't hurt that the parts of this book set on earth take place in Portland, Oregon, my hometown and stomping ground. It was so fun to read about places I know well and love myself. And then the parts set in Aria (ie the otherworld) were modeled after Alaska, the author's homeland and my second favorite place on earth. There wasn't a point in this book that I didn't feel absolutely at home.

The story: Rich and so full of heart and soul, there really isn't a part of this story that doesn't ring true even though much of it is pure fantasy. It feels real. Always. I honestly can't believe that this is Athena's debut novel. Her craft and skill are far beyond that of a beginner. I can only conclude she is a natural- a very Muse of story herself.

The idea: The idea of the Muses personified. Love it. The role the Nine Muses play on earth, in Aria, and through human history. Amazing. The intimate way Fable's inspiration and powers play on herself and those she loves. Brilliant. And then there the 13 page story within the story and the repeated reminder to "trust the story". How could a writer or lover of story not fall head over heels with this book?

The bottom line is I loved it. It is, without a doubt, my favorite book of 2013. I can't wait to read more by Athena and in this series.

cEe beE says

Wow. This book was amazing, confusing, sometimes frustrating, sensual but always fantastic. I've never read anything quite like it before. I don't think I can write a review for now that will do it justice. Murder of Crows will definitely stay in my mind for a long, long time.

I only hope the sequel will come out soon, because this was so beautiful.

Kelli says

I received this book free from the Goodreads First-Reads program.

Fable Montgomery is a Muse. She lives in two worlds, ours and a place called Aria, although the latter comes as a shock even to her. Aria is comprised of fantastical creatures, most an interesting combination of human and animal.

Fable writes a story while in a trance. As soon as she finishes writing it, the events of the story start to take place in the real world, beginning with the loss of the story with the exception of thirteen pages. So begins the real heart of the story, as Fable must find a way to cheat her death as foretold at the end of her story and learn who she really is.

I absolutely loved this book. It reminded me a lot of Charles de Lint, who is one of my favorite writers. It is an epic story that sucked me in from the very beginning. Honestly, I can't believe that this is the author's first published novel---evidence that she has honed her craft well. There were a few typos and grammatical errors, but they are negligible and do not hinder the story in any way.

I am looking forward to reading more from this author and I can't wait to see what happens next!

I highly recommend this novel to anyone, especially lovers of Charles de Lint and epic urban fantasy.

Stella_splendens says

A wonderful book, but i really hate it. Book one and i habe to wait for the other ones. I really love the story about all the mystical creatures, about muses, two different worlds, love and war. This book has everything to forget your own world and travel through Aria. Thanks for this amazing story.

Megan Cutler says

Murder of Crows is a beautiful, interesting story set in a rich, well-developed world. There's a little touch of everything fantasy in the story and the author has set it artfully alongside modern-day Earth. The characters are interesting and the story is well-paced; an overall satisfying read.

This is obviously the beginning of a series. The book works well on its own until the last few chapters which

almost seem to be a preview for the next book (though are still cleverly connected with the rest of the narrative).

I do think the author devoted a tad too much time to the lust between the two main characters (and I do mean lust). Also two important characters seem to vanish about 2/3rds of the way through the book leaving those particular plots dangling (though often hinted to through mention of the two characters in conversation). But these are minor gripes that didn't detract from my enjoyment of the story.

I'm looking forward to more from this author and I'm interested to see where the series goes.

Fantayssia says

I thoroughly enjoyed Murder of Crows (The Pillars of Dawn) and I can't wait for the next book in the series. I had a hard time putting down the Kindle once I started reading this book (but it was well worth the lack of sleep). The characters are well-developed, the storyline is engaging, and it flows smoothly. I will definitely be reading and re-reading this book and I'm excited to have a great new fantasy author to read.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys fantasy novels, and especially anyone who likes Laurell Hamilton.

Leah Webber says

I picked this up at Wordstock 2012 in Portland. Woo for local authors!

A really fun romp through the imagined world of Aria. Fable Montgomery has had kind of a crappy year. Her aunt was murdered, her fiance doesn't love her, and she can't write the novel she's always wanted. Her aunt left her a quirky house in Portland, so Fable decides to take up residence and reexamine her life. That's when things start getting a little...weird. Why does the fairy figurine keep moving? Who's is that weird old man who tries to get rid of the supposed rodent infestation...and what's with all the crows by the coffee house?

I hope there are more tales in this series. I thought it was good fun.

Jason Brown (Toastx2) says

Attacked by a cloud of crows intent on tearing holes in her and removing a prophetic manuscript pages from her person – Fable is tossed into a cross dimensional struggle that could throw two universes into a dark age at best, or apocalypse at worst.

Huh, hold on.. Lets roll this back a second...

Nondescript Fable is a mess. Her Aunt has been murdered, Her Fiance is kaput. Her job sent her packing. She crosses the country, leaving her life in New York City for rainy and dismal Portland Oregon in an effort to mourn and put her Aunt's affairs in order.

Greeted in PDX by the FBI, the Feds advise her she is on a short list as a potential next victim in a string of disappearances. They also fear that she is in danger by the same Killer who violently shuffled her Aunt from the mortal world. A shade of her Aunt Celeste passes cryptic messages to her in daydreams and fever visions. Fable enters a trance in which she describes the future in written detailed form.

Fable is a teenager in a thirty year old's body, slowly coming to terms with the lifetime of memories that she herself gave up to protect the world. As she learns more about her past and becomes more knowledgeable of the future, she herself becomes clearer (both mentally as well as the view of her that readers have) and more powerful. Born to be the inspiration that drives the world, this is the way of a Muse. Readers are brought into the story with zero knowledge and learn the details of a dual world history as the plot unfolds.

There are some characters I wanted to hold under water with my foot till they stop squirming. There was one or two I would drink a beer with and gladly play some shuffleboard. I even wanted to slap the hell out of the main character a couple of times, similar to that scene from Airplane where the entire plane occupancy lines up to slap sense into a hysterical woman... Fable needs some tough love, and I believe my take on this was the desired effect I believe was being pushed to readers...

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Readers should note that I am a friend of the Author, I read this book not only for my own amusement, but as a favor to her. This does not change my review of the novel however. I am hyper critical of every self published book I read, This one is no exception. As a self-published book, readers should take it in stride that occasional typos may exist. In reading the book, I also found a couple timeline issues which were minimally distracting but would be easy for the Author to address in future revisions. In other words, it is by no means perfect, but the plot line is strong and easily held my attention.

It should also be noted that this book has a teensy bit (read: a lot) of sexual tension. If you are uncomfortable with the description of a cock under taut stretched denim, you may not be down for this novel. From the other aspect, if you are interested in a solid fantasy story that will age well as the follow up novels are released, this could be a good match.

Athena, author of Murder of Crows is planning a large scale series detailing the Story, the driving force behind human (and Centaur, Lamia, Avian and other) existence. I look forward to the follow ups.

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xpost RawBlurb.com

Jamie Welch says

This book sorta found me as I find books tend to do and I wholly loved it so much I was sad that I was coming to an end finishing it but couldn't stop myself. I love the way that Athena writes and creates her story. Her writing is beautiful, you can see this magical world she created, smell the forest and feel the breeze running through your hair. The characters she creates are real people that you care for, feeling their pain and rejoicing in their triumphs.

The story of Fable, finding her life at a tragic crossroads, is opened to a world that she doesn't remember but is forced to jump head first into. This is the first in this series and I'm restless to read the next in the series. I hope Miss Athena continues to carry on these stories, this book is definiitly one of my favorites and I can't

wait for more!

Shannen says

I have read *Murder of Crows* twice since it published. The first time I finished reading it, I remember thinking 'No! It can't be over already! I love Fable, Liam and the Na Na's too much!' I just read it again last week - for the second time - and now I am missing the characters and their quirks and wit all over again. I am still eagerly waiting for the rest of the series to publish!

The first time I read it, I really didn't know what to expect regarding content, style, or genre for that matter. Young audiences should know that there is a heated sex scene, so if you are not okay with sexual references and tension, it may not be the best fit for you.

Otherwise, I found this book to be one of the best reads I've come across in a long time. It is engrossing, creative, witty, spattered with moments that can pull you in and feel so real that your heart hurts with the characters as if you're really friends. There are also those moments you'd like to slap the main character and yell 'Don't do it!! It's not safe!!' But of course, it's a gifted author who can reach the audience like that, making the development of the characters and their lives so convincing that you find yourself wondering how they're holding up while you're away...

While this is not typically the type of book I read, I can tell you that this is a creative story, and I love the idea of a Muse living in Portland, OR where I also live. The characters are engaging, the scenes feel like you're standing in the room with them, and it makes you feel real emotions like anticipation, compassion, relief, and victory. I also learned of mythical creatures and their abilities to change shapes, and loved the imagery of tattooed crows breaking through their master's skin and flying free.

Overall, I genuinely enjoyed this book and will be buying and reading all the future publications by Athena!

Kimberly says

Fable comes back to Portland because her Aunt Celeste has been murdered. And things get worse.....and stranger from there. Magic. Muses. Mythical creatures that only existed in her imaginary forest playland.

I loved this book. I'm not sure why I chose it out of the 200+ books on my Kindle but now I can't wait for the next one!!!!

Steve says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads. I do like a good urban fantasy novel and this book did not disappoint. *Murder of Crows* reminded me somewhat of Charles de Lint which is a good thing in my view. Athena, however, speaks with her own voice and imagination. I thoroughly enjoyed the settings and characters. Fable Montgomery is the protagonist and narrator of the story. This is Fable's story but her story affects and encompasses the stories of two worlds because she is a muse of story. Her story affects the fates of both worlds.

Fable's adventures in this world were full of action, suspense, mystery and romance. Her time in the world of Aria slowed the pace of the novel and I was glad when she returned to our world where the action picked up again. There is an element of romance (as in Romance Novel) in this book and it was well done (as far as I could tell as I'm not a Romance Novel reader) and not overdone. Athena weaved those elements into the story quite well.

As I was coming to the end of the novel and counting the remaining pages I wondered how the novel could be wrapped up and have all the questions (and there are many) answered. They were not answered as this is apparently the first in a series of books. The book ended rather abruptly as if some crows had stolen the remaining half of the book. That was fine with me because it left me wanting more and I will definitely be reading the next installment when the crows reappear.
