

Title: *There Will Come a Darkness*

Author: Katy Rose Pool

Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: August 23, 2020

This book takes place in a made up world of the author. The energy of the world is called *esha* and it is the living source of all people. Most of the book takes place in a city called Pallas Athos, also known as the City of Faith, but the story also takes you to Kerameikos Fort, Nazirah, and Medea. Kerameikos Fort is the stronghold of the Order of the Last Light, Nazirah is the capital of the Kingdom of Herat, and Medea is a ghost town. The world was once guided by the Seven Prophets but they disappeared a hundred years ago. All they left was the Graced who are people with special powers. There are people with the Grace of Blood who can heal or harm, the Grace of Heart who get enhanced abilities, the Grace of Mind who can create unique objects, and the Grace of Sight who can find any living being.

Ephyra has only one care in the world. Her sister Beru. She will do anything to keep her alive even if it means killing. Using her Grace of Blood, Ephyra takes the *esha* from people and gives it to her ill sister. She becomes known as the Pale Hand because every life she takes, the skin of the victim is marked with a pale hand. She's in Pallos Athos to look for a person who she was told could find the thing she needed, the Eleazar's Chalice. Beru has been ill for a long time. She survives off other people's *esha* and has been the reason for 14 deaths. She wants to live but is scared one day an innocent life will be taken because of her. Hassan is the prince of the Kingdom of Herat. Or he was. Anti-graces known as the Witnesses have taken over his capital and driven him into hiding. He's currently staying with his aunt in Pallos Athos. Hassan isn't allowed to roam the city but he feels like he should be doing more for his country and people. On a visit to the Herat refugee camp, he gets caught in a Witness attack on the Temple of Pallas and gets drawn to the refugees. Especially one girl by the name of Khepri. There, he spends most of his free time under the incognito name of Cirion. Anton has been on the run for half his life trying to escape the thing that scares him the most. That thing is his brother Illiya. When they were younger, Anton developed the Grace of Sight and Illiya became super jealous. One day when they were playing on a frozen lake, the ice cracked and Anton went under. What happened next changed his life forever and has been the reason why he can't use his grace. He has been on the move and staying low ever since, eventually ending up in Pallas Athos. He makes his money by gambling and is the person Ephyra is looking for. Jude is the Keeper of the Word, the leader of the Order of the Last Light. His one job is to follow the prophecies of the Seven Prophets and do whatever he has to do to complete them. He's not supposed to have feelings for anyone else but he likes a boy named Hector Navarro. This isn't a problem for him yet but his father disapproves of it. When he gets news that the last Prophet has been found, he heads to Pallas Athos with his team to complete the last prophecy.

The last prophecy tells of an age of darkness brought by three things. A deceiver, death by a pale hand, and a person who rose from the dead. However, it also tells of a new Prophet who could save the world. The Order of the Last Light believes that the leader of the Witnesses is the deceiver and that prince Hassan is the Last Prophet. They know that the Pale Hand is out there so they believe the final prophecy is unfolding. All five characters are about to get tangled in with the prophecy. One of them or maybe all of them working together may be able to save the world and stop the darkness.

Now, I will answer some questions about the book:

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot definitely kept me interested. The first scene of the book was a murder and the second scene was a fight. The plot follows the stories of five different characters so there is no shortage of action. There are also a lot of plot twists that constantly keep you wondering what would happen next.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this book was just right. This book had a lot of action and each character's story was filled with fights, escapes, betrayal, running, and captures. The pace was on the faster side but everything was clear and the pace just made the book more exciting.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for? - I think this book is appropriate for kids in grades 6-12. There's nothing inappropriate about this book but it would be too difficult for younger kids to read. There is a lot to keep track of and the book is pretty long. However, older kids will understand the story and will enjoy the plot.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to? - I would recommend this book to readers who like a suspenseful novel with a lot of action and plot twists. I would not recommend this book to readers who like non-fiction or realistic fiction because most of the things in this book is made up and non-existent in today's world.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book - The leader of the Witnesses is a man known as the Hierophant and he preaches about purifying the world of the Graced.

I would rate this book *5 stars*. This book really pulled me in and kept me interested the entire time. The plot was really good and the characters were easy to follow. Everything was well explained and written.

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Yujay A., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: September 25, 2020

There Will Come A Darkness takes place in a fantasy world, and the time period is similar to the medieval age, with no modern technology, and weapons being swords and bows and arrows. The world has an energy called esha that fuels life. Some people are Graced, which means they are enhanced with special powers. There are four graces, Heart, with increased strength and speed, Blood, with the ability to heal and take esha, Sight, who can sense and find any living being, and Mind, with the ability to create special objects. There is one last type of person with mystical abilities, the Prophets. The prophets brought peace and prosperity to the region, and have the ability to see the future through visions. However, for some mysterious reason, 100 years ago, the Prophets disappeared. At the beginning of the story, we learn about

Ephyra, also known as the Pale Hand, with the Grace of Blood. Ephyra murders corrupt leaders and steals their esha with her Grace, leaving a pale mark on the body in the shape of a hand. We learn she not only does this to take down corrupt leaders but to heal her sister Beru, who is sick for an unknown reason. Next, we meet Hassan, who is a Prince in hiding from the radical group of Witnesses who follow the Hierophant. The Hierophant is a masked leader who is worshipped by his Witnesses. The Witnesses believe the Graced are the reason for the prophets leaving and they attack cities and kill Graced, growing larger and more powerful in the process. Hassan managed to escape to Pallas Althos, the city of Faith, and against his aunt's wishes, goes to the city to help refugees from his country. We are then introduced to Anton, with the Grace of Sight, who is on the run from his brother, who tried to kill him. Whenever Anton is asked about his path, he freezes up, and whenever he tries to use his Grace, he is unable to because he sees memories of his brother attempting to kill him. The final protagonist we meet is Jude, who is next in line to become Keeper of the Word, the leader of the Order of the Last Light, a group of paladins who disappeared when the Prophets disappeared. The Order of the Last Light protected the Prophets before they disappeared, but after they disappeared, they protected a secret last prophecy. This prophecy tells of the Age of Darkness, where the Graced are all killed. The Age of Darkness will be brought upon by a deceiver, death by a pale hand, and one risen from the dead. However, if the Last Prophet is found, the Age of Darkness can be stopped, so the Order was looking for the Last Prophet for the past 100 years. Jude's job is to find and protect the Last Prophet. As the Order looks to stop the Age of Darkness, all five of the main characters become a crucial part to stopping the Age of Darkness, and if they all work together they may be able to stop the Age of Darkness.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for non-fiction) keep you interested?

The plot of the novel definitely kept me interested, as there was a lot of action and suspense, such as the fight scenes, and when finding out who the Last Prophet was.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was sometimes too fast, and it occasionally became difficult to follow with the story. There was a lot going on at some points in the story, and you had to go back and reread parts of the book to not be confused.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

The book is appropriate for grade levels 7 and up, as there is some violence and language, and the book is very lengthy and difficult to read.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

The book is part of a trilogy, and the second book is not released yet.

I would rate *There Will Come A Darkness* 4 stars, and would definitely recommend it to anybody who likes fantasy novels. The book was full of action, as there were many fights and murders. The book also ends on a big cliffhanger, and throughout the story, there is a lot of suspense. I really liked how everything came together in the end and the book's ending felt natural. Overall, I really enjoyed reading this book, and would definitely recommend reading it.