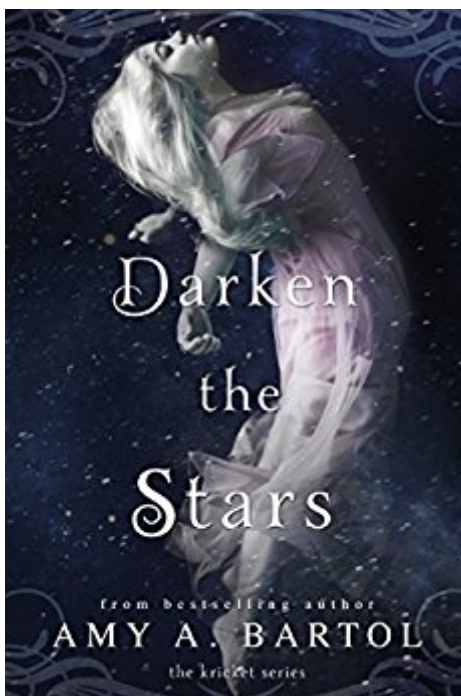


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Darken The Stars (The Kricket Series Book 3)



Synopsis

Kyon Ensin finally has what he's always wanted: possession of Cricket Hollowell, the priestess who foresees the future. Together, their combined power will be unrivaled. Cricket, however, doesn't crave the crown of Ethar—she has an unbreakable desire to live life on her own terms, a life that she desperately wants to share with her love, Trey Allairis. As conspiracies rage in the war for Ethar, Cricket's so-called allies want to use her as a spy. Even those held closest cannot be trusted—including Astrid, her sister, and Giffen, a member of a mysterious order with a hidden agenda. But Cricket's resolve will not allow her to be used as anyone's pawn, even as the Brotherhood sharpens its plans to cut out her heart. As the destiny prophesied by her mother approaches, Cricket will backtrack through her fiery future to reshape it. For she knows one thing above all else: the only person she can truly count on is herself.

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Customer Reviews

I have such mixed feelings about this book, I both loved and hated it; I wish I never read the series and it is one of my favorite books of this genre all at the same time. Why the confused feelings? This is not a book with a happy ending. In fact, Kiricket is one of the most mistreated main characters I have ever come across. I was so drawn into the story and felt so much for Kricket, but I was sobbing by the end. It's been a few weeks, and I am still upset by this story. I think the author wanted it to be a hopeful ending, but I don't think it makes it. So... if you really loved Kricket, brace yourselves because this is going to be a really bumpy ride with a bad end. If you don't like a sad ending, pass on this series.... unless we get a continuation of the story. And about that continuation, this book left me with so many questions and so many holes... it was really frustrating! I want to know more details - how does the story really end? What happens to everyone? What were the future options Kricket's mom foresaw? Spoilers!!! Love Triangle

In reading the reviews, many, many people are disappointed by the whole Kyon-Kricket-Trey triangle and outcome, but I have to say I completely got it. I was so disappointed by Trey, especially at the end I didn't think he came through for Kricket. Just imagine - she finally knows that her father has been alive all these years and left her behind to protect her sister. Ouch! Then, she finds out in one fell swoop that he orchestrated a difficult situation for her on Earth so that she would be poor and abused and even hoped that someone would kill her and save him the trouble. Heartbreak! And why? Because he considers her a world ender, a catalyst that could bring so much damage and loss of life to Ethar that he would rather see her dead than see what might happen with her alive. Yikes. Sure, Trey says all the right things - I'll protect her, I'll guide her etc., but he doesn't really refute the crazy stuff that her father is saying about her. C'mon, like she is really going to destroy the entire city of New Amster because her dad stinks. That's just not Kricket - doesn't Trey know that? He also says that he will help her and save her with anguish, rather than commitment. If Kricket felt that he was going to choose Ethar over the threat of her like everyone else in her life, well she would be right, because that's exactly what he winds up doing in the end. She finds this all out in one fell swoop and almost doesn't make it back to her body, but Kyon was there pulling her back. He warms her, puts her to bed, and agrees to help her with the impossible task she feels she is left with - killing excelsior Ensin, the most dangerous man in Ethar. The next day he dries her tears and she feels like this man who she is really attracted to sees her and cares about her (perhaps unlike Trey who considered she would destroy an entire city for revenge!). He has already told her that he doesn't care if she is empress of Ethar, she is his empress. If Kricket felt that he would put her first above everything, she would be right, because that's exactly what he does in the end. Trey asks Kricket to stay with a man he

considers a ruthless killer and kill the most dangerous man in their world, knowing it will likely mean her death in the end. She asks him to help save Kyon after she does her job, and his response is "Did you sleep with him?" No questions/comments like, how is he treating you... I am so sorry to ask this of you... or even, I love you more than my life. Come on!!! I can't help but compare the final week of Cricket's time in Ethar and how Trey and Kyon acted. Kyon gave up everything - his plans for empress Cricket, his safety, his life- for her. At the end, Trey sees her to safety, but lets her go back to Earth by herself, knowing she is going to be hunted and possibly killed. ?So he can stay behind and make sure his family is ok and rebuild Ethar? What would you think if the man you were days from marrying left you on one of the most dangerous journeys of your life to stay in his home and make sure his family was ok, the family you nearly died trying to save? The ones that are probably going to be fine because of your sacrifice. Trey - you are a big disappointment. I don't think Cricket could have left Kyon behind without knocking him out. I think he would have gone with her and helped her and I think he will be looking for her much sooner than Trey. Some other questions -What was the deal with Giffon? He used and beat Cricket, but seemed to really care about her. I am so confused...What were the future options that Kircket's mom saw, really? I was so confused about these futures. Why would Cricket's mom ask Kyon to protect her daughter when the two should never meet if Pan's plan went well? Excelsior Ensin was planning war long before Cricket got there - the whole deal with the troops in strategic places that came out when Cricket got to Rafe was already in place. How did Pan plan to deal with this threat/Excelsior Ensin when he couldn't even kill the man? Why would Pan want Cricket to have such a hard life (to help her on her quest?) and say that she was fated to kill Excelsior Ensin when he planned to keep her on Earth. Clearly, no one else could do the job. Sometimes, I think Cricket's mom died with one plan in mind and Pan, in his ruthlessness, changed it to the safest outcome for Ethar - one that left Cricket out in the cold. If you really planned for your daughter to never come to Ethar, why not leave her with a nice, loving family. I am sure they could have worked it out with the precognition. And if you really thought she was as terrible as Pan seemed to think, why expose her to such horrible circumstances that could really make a monster. I didn't understand the cruelty to Cricket - it seemed excessive and unnecessary. The ending was so sad and left so many questions. Cricket gave up one prison for another. How will she manage on earth, always having to look over her shoulder, always having to worry that the people she cares about could be hurt to manipulate her or simply because they were in the line of fire? What's it going to be like for her to have one friend she can tell her whole story to, to leave everyone else she cared about behind? Will she be able to have a husband and children? Not for a long, long while, if ever, I think. If she is ever able to really sort through far future options

like her Mom? So far she only sees things a few minutes to days before they happen and she is unable to see options - I don't think that will keep her safe for long. Didn't Trey tell her that being on Earth kept her from developing her abilities? Can she develop her skills on Earth? In the end, I think the author wanted the escape to earth to be hopeful, but I thought it was a lifetime of misery. I can't see how Cricket will be able to find long lasting happiness as a hunted immortal in a mortal world. And let's face it, college is great for a human, but an Etharian like Cricket will never be able to reach her full potential on Earth and that just stinks. I am just hoping for another book to bring me some closure.

I reviewed this book with mixed feelings, sad it is over and still thinking that there is so more story to be told. Cricket was thrust into a world as beautiful as it was deadly. She endured so much on Earth and then captured and dragged into a world where everyone had an agenda and Cricket did not know who to trust. War was coming and Cricket was a pawn in a game that she could not win. She still remained true to herself which was admirable never taking the easy way out. I was a huge fan of Trey from the beginning but I actually think that Kyon may have been the best man after all. He loved her in his own way and tried to keep her safe even putting himself in harm's way and if not for his crazy sociopathic tendencies it may have worked out. Sometimes family is not blood but the people we choose to have in our lives who fight for us because they understand who we are. I am a huge fan of the HEA and I would have liked a different ending but it made sense all things considered. I did feel that there was no conclusion and we need another book - So many things left unfinished. This series captured my imagination and I will be reading a lot more from this author in the future.

This book is a kaleidoscope of emotions, it made me feel so much and at times too much. It was like feeling every emotion imaginable. I just can't believe everything Cricket had to go through, I hate Pan, Astrid and Giffen, to me they hurt Cricket worse than her enemies, even Astrid by association. This book turned my world upside down, everything I believed to be true was suddenly wrong and to be doubted. Trey broke my heart and Kyon (surprisingly) mended it, he really stepped up and the way he treated Cricket was kinda endearing despite him being the anti-anti-hero. Amy really put me through the ringer, and even though the ending is what I had imagined or expected it was still true to who Cricket is and what she stands for, strength, independence, true friendship and love on her own terms without being controlled. It was an ending I could accept and just for the record, the book was absolute perfection. This review does not do much in helping readers, this is

purely for me. I need to get my feelings and thoughts out by ranting and raving. Thank you Amy Bartol for writing this incredible series and I do hope that there will be a fourth book written, but if not I do understand.

Kricket is an amazing heroine. In this book we kind of get to explore various realities. She had a turn with Trey in 1st 2 and now Kyon gets a turn. This is an amazing exploration of duty & destiny & trying to accept putting good of all over the individual especially if you know you are destined to not get the happy ever after & your whole life you've been treated as the unwanted, or used to guard the precious one. This has a love triangle, but it is done really well. Kricket has no easy decisions in her life & does amazing things with the crappy hand she's been dealt. I hope there is another book in this series--I'm not exactly sure what I'd expect to happen, but I am quite enamored with all this characters.

I know a lot of people were disappointed with this ending, but I thought it was a perfect end to the series, if it had to end here. This book was amazing from beginning to end. Amy managed to capture me and bring me into Kricket's world. So much, that when it ended, it felt strange to be in my real life again. I do hope we get a book 4, but if we don't, I'm happy with this story. It was true to Kricket. Well done, Amy. You are amazing.

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