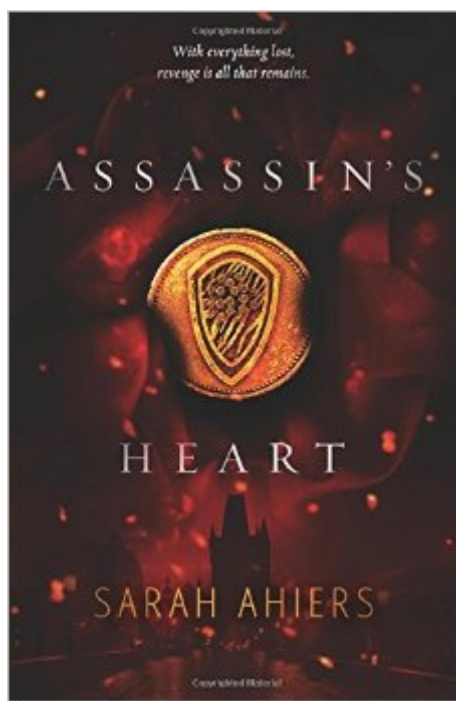


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# Assassin's Heart



## Synopsis

With shades of Game of Thrones and Romeo and Juliet, this richly imagined fantasy from debut author Sarah Ahiers is a tale of love, lies, and vengeance. Fans of Kristin Cashore and Rae Carson will devour the flawlessly crafted action and inventive world building. Seventeen-year-old Lea Saldana is a trained assassin. She was born into one of the nine clipper Families in the kingdom of Lovero who lawfully take lives for a price. As a member of the highest-ranking clan, loyalty to Family is valued above all, but that doesn't stop Lea from getting into a secret relationship with Val Da Via, a boy from a rival clan. Despite her better judgment, Lea has fallen in love with him; but she's confident she can anticipate any threat a mile away. Then she awakens one night to a house full of smoke. Although she narrowly escapes, she isn't able to save her Family as their home is consumed by flames. With horror, she realizes that Val and his Family are the only ones who could be responsible. Devastated over his betrayal and the loss of her clan, there's just one thing on her mind: making the Da Vias pay. The heart of this assassin craves revenge.

## Book Information

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We are The Unofficial Addiction Book Fan Club, to know more about this book, go to the post in our website. RATE: 4 stars REVIEW: Lately some amazing YA stories have been published and I am always looking for novels that blow my mind just like An Ember in The Ashes or Red Queen did, for

example. *Assassin's Heart* is an enjoyable YA read in a world where murders are permitted as long as one of the nine assassins' families commits them. I can say that I was not disappointed at all by this novel. In fact, I had a great time while reading it, always not knowing what the author had planned for her characters. I have to admit that the premise made me doubt a bit. I didn't know if I would enjoy the story due to the whole thing of the nine rival families murdering people as a job and that everything was pretty normal in the kingdom of Lovero. I found it a bit strange, to be completely honest, because I wouldn't go out of my house if I lived there. But when the story was presented to me in the first chapters and you accept the fact that we're dealing with assassins who murder people and who want to murder each other everything has a new perspective and you start truly enjoying the story. The fact that Sarah Ahiers knew how to build her kingdom, not trying to evoke any other kingdoms that we already know, and trying to be original, but at the same time reminding us to other stories such as *Romeo and Juliet* but more murderous, was what made this story so enjoyable in the first place. Plus, her writing is also a bonus. I did not give my five gorjuss dolls to this book mainly because I felt a bit disconnected from the story from time to time. Like there are some parts in the story where it catches the reader's interest and it's nearly impossible to even take a breath and some parts where you are just going through the motions and trying to get back to those mind-blowing scenes I mentioned before. In spite of this, the story was a good one and Sarah Ahiers had a great story to tell us. I am just beyond thankful that HaperTeen let me read it. And... I would recommend this book? YES! Why not? To me, it felt that it was on the line of other YA books published in 2015 that blew our minds and even though the story is not quite on the same level as those other books, it's nearly there. So if you love a good story about love, assassins, betrayal and crimes, this is your kind of story. I will definitely keep an eye on the next book!

I feel like the description I read when I requested this book was a bit different than the one that Amazon's listed now. That sometimes happens. Or more likely, I'm just not remembering what I did read correctly. That description I thought I read was really misleading. I read it and thought "Romeo & Juliet meets assassins! YES PLEASE!" And even still it's no wonder I thought that because this description says "Romeo & Juliet meets *The Godfather*." But *Romeo & Juliet* is not at all what this book is about. Well it kind of starts off that way, but it takes a significant turn. Perhaps the author was trying to make sure she didn't do a retelling so much as a reimagining or something, but I didn't like the turn of events. Lea and Val have a secret relationship. I've noticed that anytime a couple has an established relationship at the beginning of the book, it's pretty much doomed. But I was

hoping for different with Lea and Val. They have a relationship where they admire each other's talents in their jobs as assassins. They often play games together trying to outwit the other by lifting an object off the other or racing to a specific location or sneaking up on one another. I really enjoyed their dynamic. But of course, things go south. Lea and Val's families are at odds with one another. They both live in the same territory and therefore are in competition. When Val's family murders Lea's, Lea is the only one to escape and she must run for her life. Without giving too much away, I feel it necessary to say that Assassin's Heart has a love triangle kind of. And this is where things went off for me. I had been hoping that Val wasn't a part of the murders and he and Lea would be able to work things out. Regardless of whether that's the case or not, I wasn't feeling the chemistry between Lea and Les. The two didn't really seem to go together for me. I didn't feel any sparks with the flirting or any of that. Also, Lea is supposed to be this awesome assassin, right? She and Val were always testing the other and even Lea's mother often tested her abilities even to the lengths of poisoning her to see if she could give herself the right antidote in the right amount of time. But when it was convenient for plot purposes Lea all of a sudden became really clumsy often making huge mistakes. I just found this to be a bit inconsistent in character. Sure, I imagine that she's a bit off kilter with her entire family being murdered recently and all, but still. I would expect instincts to take over when you've been taught nothing but this your entire life. While at the same time, Lea also does exceptionally well considering the physical injuries that she receives throughout the book. A bit unbelievable. I had higher hopes for Assassin's Heart than panned out. I hate that because I was really enjoying it at first. Midway through things started to fall apart for me. Lea's character was often inconsistent given the description of how talented she is. Also, I wasn't buying the romance as I felt no sparks or chemistry between the two of the characters within the love triangle. In the end, Assassin's Heart was just an okay book for me. I'm giving it 3 Stars. Have you read Assassin's Heart? What did you think? Let me know!

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