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Chantress Alchemy



Synopsis

Lucy races against time and magic in this "compelling sequel" (>) to the "richly and thoughtfully written" (Publishers Weekly) Chantress. Lucy is the last Chantress, the only remaining girl who can sing magic into the world. Since she defeated the evil Lord Scargrave, England has changed "and not for the better. With crops failing and the people rebelling, Lucy is called urgently back to King Henry's court. His Inner Council is convinced that making gold through alchemy will save England. But a critical element to the alchemical process has been stolen. Lucy is tasked with finding it with her magic or else. And until she succeeds, the castle is on lockdown. Court too has changed. Scargrave's brutal Chantress Hunter has become King Henry's closest advisor. Lucy's beloved Nat has fallen out of favor and is shunned by his colleagues. Worst of all, Lucy's magic has deserted her. She can no longer hear the song spells at court, and must find a way to access her powers soon or be accused of treason. Amy Butler Greenfield returns to the volatile world of Chantress for an exciting tale that weaves together courtly intrigue, mystery, romance, magic, and music.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL610L (What's this?)

Series: Chantress

Paperback: 368 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,734,133 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Teens >

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Historical Fiction > Renaissance #961 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

4 StarsCHANTRESS ALCHEMY was a beautifully crafted, and a utterly amazing read, that I was

absolutely pleased with on so many angles. Amy Butler Greenfield breathes a breath of fresh air in this brilliantly original historical high fantasy world, of magic, music, power, lies, deception, and a sweet romance that is sure to leave you craving more! THE PLOT... Lucy is the last Chantress left, and with it comes the heavy burden she must bear in order to save England with her magic within. Lucy's newly developed power pulses and releases through her songs, aiming towards the hidden evil threatening to overtake what she once saved with her magic through her singing. But what she faces may prove to be far greater than any power she possesses... It's been almost a year since Lucy battled and defeated Lord Scargrave. Lucy thought the worst was over, but how wrong she was. It was just the beginning, and it's about to get worse! There's an evil hiding within the shadows, biding their time, and striking where it hurts worse, Lucy's magic... Lucy has been filling her days with becoming one with her magic. Trying to understand the full depth in which her magic flows, when she gets the disturbing news. England has fallen under chaos and despair. Problems are arising around every turn. The king and the council has ideas on how to fix their ongoing problems in England. Their plan is to create gold from The Philosopher's Stone and the Gold Crucible. But just when they thought it couldn't get any worse, they realize the unthinkable, the crucible has been stolen, and Lucy is the only one that can get it back. Lucy once again is needed to use her magic. She is charged with locating the Crucible and discovering who was behind it.

Let me just start off by saying that this book is one of the most action filled books I've read in a long time. With the first book, Lucy was just discovering herself and what it truly means to be a Chantress. The first book in the story was filled with such slow sweet character development and world building. But in the second book, everything that needed to be set up was done, and the story just took up beautifully. I feel like this is the first series, where I actually enjoyed the second book better than the first! Usually the second books flop in my opinion. But the way the author set everything up was brilliant. I'm not going to go too much into the overall synopsis of this story, only because I don't want to spoil any of you. I will however talk about some of my favorite aspects of this story. First off let me just say that in this book, we have a new cast of characters. And the way that they are woven into the story is done so in a way that up until the end of the book, you don't really know who you can trust and who Lucy should stay far away from. At the same time characters that we met in the first book, ones we thought we could trust are starting to act kind of fishy! I really enjoyed the whole alchemy aspect of this book. The quest for knowledge was such a big aspect of the time period and I thought it was beautifully portrayed in the book. And yes the science geek in me was truly wondering if some of the experiments that they were performing were actually possible

(Side-Note: I suggest reading the author's note in the back as it tells you more about the actual history of Alchemy!). And Nat and Lucy's relationship in this book is once again tested. But they do have some sweet scenes that I truly cherished.

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog
Chantress Alchemy by Amy Butler Greenfield
Book Two of the Chantress series
Publisher: Margaret K McElderry Books
Publication Date: May 6, 2014
Rating: 4 stars
Source: eARC from Edelweiss
Summary (from Goodreads):
Lucy is the last Chantress, the only remaining girl who can sing magic into the world. Since she defeated the evil Lord Scargrave, England has changed—and not for the better. With crops failing and the people rebelling, Lucy is called urgently back to King Henry's court. His Inner Council is convinced that making gold through alchemy will save England. But a critical element to the alchemical process has been stolen. Lucy is tasked with finding it with her magic—or else. And until she succeeds, the castle is on lockdown. Court too has changed. Scargrave's brutal Chantress-hunter has become King Henry's closest advisor. Lucy's beloved Nat has fallen out of favor and is shunned by his colleagues; their romance means trouble for both of them. Worst of all, something goes wrong with Lucy's magic. The palace is a labyrinth, and there's a monster at its heart—a monster who may have the power to defeat Lucy once and for all.
Amy Butler Greenfield returns to the beguiling world of Chantress for a suspenseful tale of courtly intrigue, music, and magic in Chantress Alchemy.
What I Liked: Oh, how I love historical fantasy! It's seriously one of my favorite subgenres ever (I think my favorite is medieval fantasy), and I love the fresh voice of Amy Butler Greenfield. I think maybe because she is a writer from the UK (i.e. not in the USA), she has a different and distinct voice and writing style. It's subtle but noticeable, if you read carefully.

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