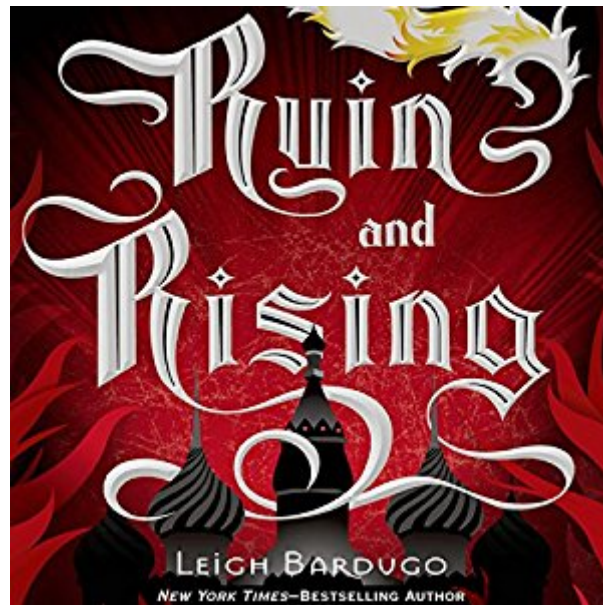


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# Ruin And Rising



## Synopsis

The capital has fallen. The Darkling rules Ravka from his shadow throne. Now the nation's fate rests with a broken Sun Summoner, a disgraced tracker, and the shattered remnants of a once-great magical army. Deep in an ancient network of tunnels and caverns, a weakened Alina must submit to the dubious protection of the Apparatus and the zealots who worship her as a Saint. Yet her plans lie elsewhere, with the hunt for the elusive firebird and the hope that an outlaw prince still survives. Alina will have to forge new alliances and put aside old rivalries as she and Mal race to find the last of Morozova's amplifiers. But as she begins to unravel the Darkling's secrets, she reveals a past that will forever alter her understanding of the bond they share and the power she wields. The firebird is the one thing that stands between Ravka and destruction - and claiming it could cost Alina the very future she's fighting for. *Ruin and Rising* is the thrilling final installment in Leigh Bardugo's Grisha Trilogy.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: June 17, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00KAG8STY

Best Sellers Rank: #16 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fairytales &

Folklore #157 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy

#254 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

## Customer Reviews

RUIN AND RISING was everything I could have hoped for and more! It had a phenomenal ending that left me utterly satisfied!! I was pleased with every angle this book took. Though I have to admit that I found myself a little shocked at the direction that this book did take. But in the end, I was left feeling complete and at peace with the series as a whole. But I will mourn the route that it didn't take, and the ones that didn't make it. But to say I'm happy with the way it ended would be an understatement, I'm ELATED!!! THE PLOT.. Alina is left all but shattered after her last battle with

The Darkling in the Little Palace. She has failed to defeat him once again, and lost countless of lives in the process. She was not strong enough to defeat The Darkling, and she's paying for it now. Hiding in the vast underground tunnels and caverns, a weakened Alina finds herself at her worst. With all her power dried up and gone, Alina and her remaining group are at the mercy of the Apparatus and his followers. The Zealots who worship Alina as a Saint, but are under command of the Apparatus. With Alina and her group weakened and highly outnumbered, they group will have to work together and use every bit of wits and strength they have to find a way out of the tunnels and away from the power-hungry Apparatus. Because Alina is getting stronger everyday, and she's not ready to give up just yet. She wants out of hiding and to search for the only thing that's standing in her way of defeating The Darkling, the Firebird!!! Alina and her group set out on their final journey to find the Firebird, and hopefully the charismatic, strategizing lost prince, that took a piece of her heart with him.

\*\*\*FYI\*\*\* there are some serious spoilers in the comments of this review, so please don't read them if you haven't finished R&R. There aren't (as best as I can tell) spoilers in this review, although there are references to some of the book's contents. I finished this book with an intense amount of ambivalence for its conclusion. I found the ending extraordinarily painful BUT I also felt it inevitable; the way *Ruin and Rising* was written gave few, if any, alternatives. Without trying to spoil, the status of Alina's relationships were clarified while others were found irredeemable. With the options Bardugo gives us, it seemed clear that certain things (as one reviewer put it) needed to be sacrificed. We can certainly debate the this necessity of this sacrifice as well as our satisfaction (or lack thereof) with the Last Relationship Standing, but the reason I've given *Ruin and Rising* three stars isn't because I'm angry over the ending; I'm disappointed with its execution. My plan is to reread, but in order of my initial pet peeves: 1 - I felt as if Bardugo was impatiently going through a check list: reunite people, reveal Darkling's history, resolve amplifier issue, final stand off, conclusion. There are really beautiful and emotional passages within *Ruin and Rising*, but they almost seem to come only when story is given room to breath. 2 - The resolution of the final amplifier, just as Mal's saving in the Fold in the first book, is as *deus ex machina* as you come. The so-called "signs" that this was foreshadowed in the previous book are, in my opinion, next to none and certainly not enough to foreshadow THIS.

I have no idea where to begin with this review. I learned a few things early on about R&R, stuff I wasn't exactly liking, but I've been anticipating it for two years now and I was going to read it

anyway. I had absolute faith in the last installment of the Grisha trilogy. Shadow & Bone was probably my favorite read of 2012. I would love to say R&R was great. Five stars, a stunning conclusion and all that. Sadly, I cannot say it honestly. This book has left me feeling confused, annoyed and empty. **WARNING:** Spoilers will be present here. I advise you to shoo if you haven't read it yet. Let's start with the good things: as always, the writing rocked. The Grisha world is as vivid and beautiful as ever. Above all else, this is what sets these books apart: how wonderfully they're told. I wasn't really expecting Mal to be the third amplifier. I figured if the first two were supposedly mythical, mighty beasts, why wouldn't the third one be as well? (And maybe I got excited for a second because that meant he would have to die.) The side characters are also wonderful. There are so many series out there with great heroes, but the secondary people fade into the background. Not here. Zoya was developed marvelously, and she had me laughing most of the time. So did Harshaw and his cat; though he was around a very short period of time, I found myself very sad when he died. Genya and David finally got together! That was one of the best scenes; that and her confrontation with the King. Baghra was great. Her hard life has really shaped her; she's so bitter and rough around the edges, but in the end I think she helped Alina out quite a bit. She really did love her son, and she felt horrible about making him into the Darkling by the way she raised him.

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