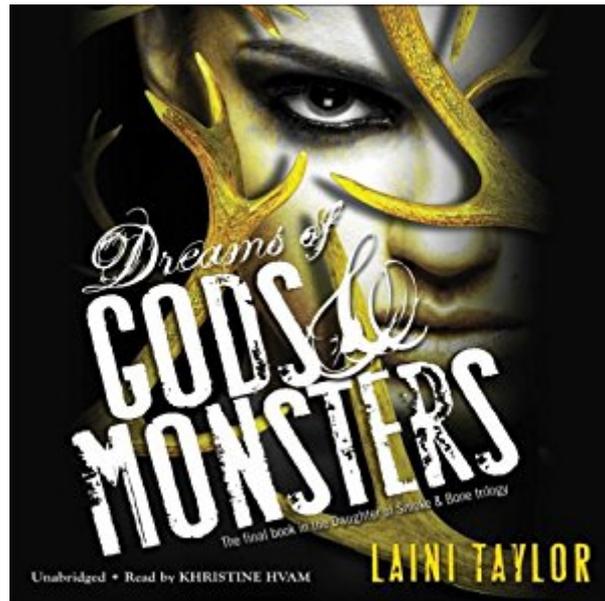


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Dreams Of Gods & Monsters: Daughter Of Smoke And Bone, Book 3



Synopsis

In this thrilling conclusion to the Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy, Karou is still not ready to forgive Akiva for killing the only family she's ever known. When a brutal angel army trespasses into the human world, Karou and Akiva must ally their enemy armies against the threat--and against larger dangers that loom on the horizon. They begin to hope that it might forge a way forward for their people. And, perhaps, for themselves--maybe even toward love. From the streets of Rome to the caves of the Kirin and beyond, humans, chimaera, and seraphim will fight, strive, love, and die in an epic theater that transcends good and evil, right and wrong, friend and enemy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I never throw around this word, but I will use it with capital letters right now: EPIC. DREAMS OF GODS AND MONSTERS by Laini Taylor, the conclusion to her Daughter of Smoke and Bone trilogy, is truly epic. Not to mention, it's poetic, incredible, stunning and one heck of a (perfectly solid) finale. Honestly, I will tell you right now: I am a hugely insane, forget everything you thought you knew about me because I am out of control, fan of Laini's writing. There was very little chance that this book wasn't going to blow my mind. I mean, yeah, there's always a chance, but no. Disappointment didn't happen at all here. Not even one iota of disappointment. I was in love with all 624 pages and most likely 150k+ words of this book. Will it be for everybody? I don't know and really, I don't care. I loved this book. The series. Everything. As a (basically rabid and salivating at the mouth) fan of the series, I can tell you that the conclusion will

not disappointed. From chapter one, there were fireworks between me and DREAMS OF GODS AND MONSTERS. Starting with the first chapter, I was reminded as to why I love Laini's writing so much. Even the simplest of passages, such as "Revenant soldiers and Misbegotten, together. At best, it would be miserable. At worst, devastating. But in spite of his misgivings, it was as if there was a brightness beckoning to him – the future, rich with light, calling him toward it. And "For just a moment, in spite of the burden of the weapons bag, and the thuribles, and her pack – not to mention the anvil weight of her duty and the deception and the future of two worlds – Karou felt almost light. Hopeful.

Dreams of Gods and Monsters is one of those books that inspires conflicting reactions upon finishing it, the overwhelming love of the previous two books predisposing us to adore this final book as well, but even with our desire to love at its highest, we find ourselves perhaps less enthused upon finishing than we might have hoped. Reading this final book is a bit like watching a chess match without a full understanding of the rules, well aware each move on the board is leading up to either victory or defeat, but our ignorance keeps us from emotionally engaging in the epic battle of strategy. Much the same way, Ms. Taylor spends nearly the entirety of this impressively substantial final installment moving pieces around her board, but where the first two books felt like an intimate game between she and us as readers, Gods and Monsters sees our single chessboard expanded to include so many more, and the sheer enormity of the expansion leaves us feeling slightly adrift. New players are introduced, and with them comes enormous implications for Karou, Akiva and the rest of their ragtag group. Suddenly, the final battle we were prepared to face in this last book is rendered nearly insignificant as the shadow of the new threat creeps into clarity. We're left then with an end that is in fact a beginning – unarguably fitting given Karou and Akiva have called themselves a beginning all along, but also a bit frustrating after everything the characters have been through in this series. All of that being said however, Dreams of Gods and Monsters is as gorgeous a story as its predecessors, Ms. Taylor's writing achingly beautiful and her characters the stuff of cherished memories.

Well, this was unexpected. It seriously never crossed my mind that I wouldn't enjoy Dreams of Gods and Monsters after absolutely loving the previous two books. Maybe my expectations were too high, or perhaps the book and I really just didn't mesh well. Either way, I'm saddened. I was beyond excited, but also nervous to find out how Karou and Akiva's story ends. This series has been heartbreaking and beautiful, but also full of hope and a little humor, but most of that was missing for

me from this finale. My biggest issue with *Dreams of Gods and Monsters* was that it felt long. It is long at just over 600 pages, but it felt never ending. There's a lot of detail, and many characters to follow, but it's also repetitive. Many scenes are repeated in adjacent chapters and this annoyed me to no end. It's not like I forgot what happened two pages ago and needed a reminder from another character's perspective. Then there's also repeats from earlier scenes that I don't think were needed. All of these things are short on their own, but they do add up and really messed with the pacing. Another element that I didn't care for--and which added to the substantial length--was the introduction of Eliza. I simply wasn't interested in her from the beginning. She felt like an addition just so we had a way to see what was happening in the human world while the Seraphim/Chimaera war was starting. She does wind up being important at the end, but all of her chapters bored me. Most of them are the same: her worrying about her dreams and anyone finding out who she really is. Then I was bothered by the fact that she had run away from home as a teenager, and wants nothing to do with her family at all, and yet her mother calls and texts her constantly.

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