



The Archer's Heart Book Three

Astrid Amara

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In the ancient kingdom of Marhavad, noblemen dominate the lower castes, wielding mystic weapons, known as shartas, against any who oppose them. For generations the rule of Marhavad's kings has been absolute. But now the line of succession is divided, and whispers of revolution are heard in even the royal palace.

Keshan Adaru, an outspoken man of unearthly charms, welcomes these changes. All his life he has foreseen an uprising that will shatter the castes and end the tyranny of the old laws. His visions have driven him but now, at the brink of their fulfillment, he finds himself obsessed with Prince Jandu Paran— a man whose entire family must be destroyed if the kingdom is to be freed.

Tarek Amia would gladly see Jandu Paran brought low. Born the son of a charioteer, Tarek has no love for the royal princes who have slighted and insulted him all his life. Only Keshan's philosophies have elevated him from the brutal ranks of common soldiers. Tarek owes Keshan his devotion, but he is a pragmatic man and when he discovers Keshan's reckless affair he realizes that Keshan may have to be sacrificed for the sake of his own revolution.

Young Prince Jandu Paran has never concerned himself with court intrigue. His life has been dedicated to the lordly art of archery and mastering the immense powers of the shartas. Handsome and arrogant, he is sure that no man can surpass him and yet Keshan Adaru's mere touch brings Jandu to his knees. But his desire for Keshan is more than forbidden; it threatens to destroy Jandu's pride, position and family. In the midst of this turmoil, an unspeakable event forces Jandu to redefine the meaning of honor and loyalty.

And now, as armies arise to war, each man must decide where his allegiance lies and what he will sacrifice in his heart and on the battlefield.

The Archer's Heart Book Three Details

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From Reader Review The Archer's Heart Book Three for online ebook

Aislinn says

This was a dramatic and sweeping conclusion to the trilogy. The books were not organized to be standalone; they really present as one long story. This last one effectively ties all of the threads together into a huge climax full of tragedy and hope. There are losses that were hard to take, but fit the story. Jandu and Keshan evolve significantly in this last part of the story, and that evolution is well supported by the events leading up to them.

The world building and supporting cast are rich and detailed, adding wonderful depth to the story. The culture presented through the tale, with its religious dogma, political intrigue, daily events, and magical components, wove together to draw me deep into this world and hold me there through the final words.

Mercedes says

Epic!

Seregil says

A bitter sweet conclusion to the story.

Anna C says

WOW. An epic showdown for the final book in the series (but I kinda doubt you'll feel the same with me if you know Mahabharata story). It's so intense and gripping from the start till the end.

This book really made all the rest of it especially book 1, worthwhile. I'm kinda regret for not reading the omnibus version instead, because I think I'll appreciate some parts better. The character development particularly, was truly done beautifully, the development progress was slow and gradual, but that's what made it believable. People's character, attitude, point of view and their belief are not that easy to change in a single night. And that's why all that had happened to Jandu in book 2 are really important. Anyway, if I have to rate this series as a whole, 5 solid stars indeed! :)

And the romance between Jandu and Keshan in this book, wow, it's BETTER than book 1 and 2. When you see what they had sacrificed for each other just to be together in this book, whose heart won't melt and move? XD It's really heartfelt at times to see Jandu kept proving his genuine love towards Keshan when Keshan had lost everything, but still no butterflies in my heart when I saw them together (now I really wonder what's wrong with me, lol). But at the very least I can finally enjoyed their romance better than previous books and it's a good thing because I wanted to love this series and in the end I can say I liked it, because of this final book. :)

So, unlike my previous read : The Song of Achilles, a retelling of Achilles in Iliad, this time I started this book without Wiki it first. Well, I was quite curious if I could enjoy it better if I don't have any clue about Mahabharata, turned out I could. :)

Later, I found out at Wiki that this series actually is not too closely followed the original version like **The Song of Achilles**. This series is an AU of Mahabharata, not a retelling, but inspired by it. Although some minor parts and casts are discarded by author, some big events and major casts in original version are still there but with different background, different name, and different ending (so if you've read the original and this one, you'll know this book has a different outcome, but it wasn't that hard to predict, what with Keshan's vision etc). And it's quite fun to Wiki Mahabharata to know who is who, and totally copied the original or not, lol.

Unoriginal for sure but try this series if you want to read the M/M version of it, and I encourage you to read the omnibus version. :)

And below is the result of me Wiki it, lol. CMIIW, I only did quick research about this, not too thoroughly as I had skimmed some unnecessary parts. So many confusing names actually.

I just wanted to put it in this review as my own reference in the future if I somehow want to reread the omnibus version, but I'm not quite sure about that though. :p

(view spoiler)

Jennifer says

Only a couple of issues stopped me from giving this series 5 stars. The first was the misleading summary. The amazon blurb indicated that one of the main characters, Tarvek, contemplated removing one of the other main characters, Keshan, because he was in the way of Tarvek's dream for the future of society. I didn't feel that Keshan was in danger from anyone in the book. His only trial came from his own impulsive nature. The second issue I had was with the character of Tarvek. His obsession with his chosen prince was believable in the first book but slowly slipped toward the tired stereotype of the gay man in love with the straight man. He became a caricature by the end of the series and I was more than a little disgusted by how his story line played out.

Other than that, the series is really well written, fast paced with good/great world building. The author's use of first names rather than using he/him was unusual but not distracting enough to cause me any problems.

Lilia Ford says

I stayed up until past 4am to finish this because I simply could not put it down. It's an intense, searing culmination of the suitably epic themes that Amara has been exploring: loyalty, family, tradition, revolution, love. Perhaps fitting then that the final battle sequence seemed to draw on the Iliad for inspiration. It's a bloody conclusion that will leave you exhausted like a good tragedy but hopeful for the new society that will rise from its ashes.

I left off a star because I had some issues with the destiny of one of the characters, but what follows qualifies as a Major Spoiler so be warned. (view spoiler)

Bottom line: fantasy is my favorite genre, especially M/M, and this is a terrific ride, with genre-worthy themes, amazing characters and world-building, great writing, and one hell of a concluding battle sequence. This is definitely as good or better than most high fantasy novels I've read, whether M/M or not. If you're an addict of the genre like myself, you'd be crazy to miss this.

nisie draws says

I like that the plot finally came to a head and the war between the various royal claimants happened. It was really fun how everyone rallied to Jandu even though Jandu didn't officially claim the throne for himself.

The only thing I didn't like about this book is what happened to Tarek. Tarek had been good and decent throughout the whole series and then suddenly he decides that loving a bad man like Darvad means that he must be bad too, and go down with Darvad, even though he loves Anant and Anant makes him happy. When Tarek regrets refusing Anant's offer to join Jandu's forces, I just don't understand why he didn't pack up and follow him?

It's so stupid and Tarek was my fav and HE DESERVED BETTER!!

Stephen Poltz says

What a terrific series! Book 3 lived up to its predecessors, Book 1 and Book 2, making a great ending to the trilogy. It is full of tragedy, war, betrayal, and of course, love. It's epic in scope and an exhausting read. I loved it. And as I mentioned in the last review, if you continue on with this review, there will be spoilers to the previous books.

Come visit my blog for the full review...

<https://itstartedwiththehugos.blogspot.com>

Julio Genao says

People living in pre-industrial societies do not "screw" one another. Neither can they be said to have "struck out" without the invention of baseball. Sloppy.

Chancey Knowles says

It did end with an HEA for our 2 main characters, but not before both sides suffered huge losses. There are many parallels that can be drawn with politics today. Many start with good intentions but become blinded by the mud slinging and so dogmatic that compromise becomes impossible with the other side. There is much tragedy but also a lot of hope. There were definitely some really hard decisions that had to be made and nothing came easy. The path to the ending was unique in many ways not always turning how our when I expected. I was most impressed with the fact that I never felt lost even with all the different characters etc... I found this trilogy ultimately satisfying despite not being all "Roses and Sunshine". The journey in Jandu alone is handled so well from where he started to where his beliefs ended up and how he handled himself. I personally cannot imagine the time and effort that must have gone into this endeavor. It will not be everyone's cup of tea, but I could not be more impressed with Astrid's efforts.

Rie says

5++++++*

Let me take a deep breath first from this book hangover!! GOSH I LOOOOVVVEEEE THIS!!

Isana says

I actually ended up not completely hating Jandu. He grew so much as a person and learned so much about not being a sexist idiot that I actually kinda liked him at the end???

This book was thus infinitely better than the first two. I understand that we had to watch his growth in order to get it but I disliked him so much throughout the series that I can't even go back and let go of the fact that he caused me so much pain through his horridness.

The writing of these stories is good though and the plot is interesting enough that I continued reading even though I wanted to burn Jandu. I would recommend them only read all three together and only with a heads up that Jandu actually literally does grow in a good way even if you have to wait until almost the end.

LD Durham says

What an amazing epic tale. I loved every moment of it. Every word, every sentence. The best way to describe this story would be to say this is the real story behind a myth. In a myth you get the exciting cliff notes, but not the behind the scenes. This was the making of the Tale of Jandu and Keshan. We see how they meet, how they come together, the trials they go through. But even more, we get a closer look at the people around them and even the heart behind the "bad guys."

The love story of Jandu and Keshan was so involving and beautiful. What they did for each other, what they gave up for each other was just beautiful.

A heartfelt epic story with solid characters and a grand and sweeping setting. Brava!

Arch Bala says

What happened with Tarek was real sad and ironic given that he came from the lower caste. I could still understand "using" his love for Darvad as his reason but unfortunately, he was already blinded by power and couldn't seem to escape the pull of his religious dogma.

Jandu's ascension to the throne sort of reminded me of John from the Rifter series, finally realizing he's the chosen one.

I loved that Jandu and Keshan finally got their happily-ever-after. What a fitting finale for a wonderfully written trilogy!

Paul says

4.5 STARS

Awesome fantasy series
