



Requiem for the Sun

Elizabeth Haydon

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It all began with the nationally bestselling Elizabeth Haydon's *Rhapsody Trilogy*. A fellowship of three had been forged, companions brought together by fate, driven by prophecy: Rhapsody, a Singer of great talent and beauty; Achmed, an assassin with unearthly talents; and Grunthor, a giant of jolly disposition and lethal skill with weapons. The three overcame great adversity in defeating the F'dor--an ancient evil being intent on destroying the world--their battle culminating in *Destiny*, a thundering crescendo of tragedy, love, and triumph of the human spirit over world-shattering cataclysm.

Now comes...

Requiem for the Sun, Sequel to the *USA Today* bestselling *Rhapsody Trilogy*

It has been three years since their devastating battle, and peace has settled across their land. But to the south an empire lies ready to crumble. When the Dowager Empress dies, along with her successor, a great war breaks out, threatening to overwhelm the known world.

And an old nemesis of Rhapsody's--presumed dead for centuries--resurfaces, forcing her to choose between facing his depravity or sacrificing her own life . . . and that of her unborn child.

Requiem for the Sun Details

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Author : Elizabeth Haydon

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From Reader Review Requiem for the Sun for online ebook

Taryn says

After those atrocious dragon books, I was very eager to read this one and continue on with the Symphony of Ages series. It did not disappoint. I love the story-telling of these books. Very fast-paced, lots of action, plenty of plot, never a dull moment. Though I will say the last 25 pages or so were the best and very nail-biting. Several jaw-dropping moments, one of which was highly satisfying as a hated foe met a rather sudden and unexpected demise.

Jeremy Preacher says

Man, I didn't care about the Waste of Breath in the first book, and I sure as shit don't care about him now. His motivations are completely and utterly uninteresting - not baffling, I'm totally willing to believe he's not very bright and thinks entirely with his dick; I've certainly met enough men like that, including in positions of power. They're just *boring*. I don't care how good Rhapsody is in bed, and I don't believe him anyway.

Rhapsody also gets entirely sidelined throughout the book - she spends most of it hiding in a cave - and while I actually enjoy Achmed and Ashe more, most of the time, it means *the entire book* is about self-involved sexist douchebags, and that's not my favorite way to spend my time. There's also just flat not enough story to make this book move - the entire Lightcatcher sequence is a short story at best, padded out with a metric ton of worldbuilding, because that's how this series rolls. I like the worldbuilding, I really do, but it needs to be in service to the story, and it's not and never has been.

Gaijinmama says

This is fantasy at its best.

Dragons, humor, adventure, magic, all the good stuff.

Rhapsody, our butt-kicking protagonist, gets to deal with the challenges of fighting off the Stalker From Hell (and I kinda mean that literally) while also fighting off the worst case of morning sickness you've ever heard of.

Her nonhuman best buddies, Achmed and Grunthor, are a wonderful snarky mix of Monty Python and Hugh Laurie's Dr. House. We also get the pleasure of becoming better acquainted with Esten, one of those utterly dark and evil ladies we just love to hate.

Another wonderful aspect of this story is that Haydon tells us even more about dragons. Rhapsody's Dragon Dude has the ultimate in birth control. He cannot procreate until he makes a conscious decision to do so. When he does, their happily-married love scene is one of the most romantic passages I've read in a very long time.

On the down side, he also informs Rhapsody that her pregnancy with their part-dragon child could last as long as three years. Having had a few bouts of morning sickness myself, that bit truly made me wince.

This book is the fourth in Haydon's Symphony of Ages.

It would certainly be possible to start the series here, as Haydon is very good about reminding readers of

important details that came before, but I recommend reading the first three (Rhapsody, Prophecy, and Destiny).

Rhyson says

I read the whole series, but I started with this book.

It made one terrible introduction.

There was this guy talking with some people. I thought there were ten guys in the room, Guy #1, Guy #2, the bolg, the bolg king, Achmed, the Dhracian, the Dhracian king, the firbolg, and the firbolg king. Guy #1 and #2 leave. Then it was just Achmed in the room. It took me two pages to figure out that the bolg, the bolg king, Achmed, the Dhracian, the Dhracian king, the firbolg, and the firbolg king were all the same person.

Wheeh.

I eventually pieced it together. The author uses bolg and firbolg interchangeably for some unknown reason. Achmed is half Dhracian and half bolg. He also became a king somewhere along the way. So once I had that sorted out, the story flowed better.

There was some woman named Rhapsody. I didn't like her. She was too melodramatic. But then she spent the remainder of the book stuck in a cave, so it wasn't too bad.

Same with Ashe, though he was tolerable. Achmed, for the whole book, was like, "I'm big, I'm bad, I'm tough, and whoopsie, I just let the bad guy into my castle. Tee hee." So that left me scratching my head, because he seemed to be capable of making basic life decisions. But then he invited the villain into his castle, told his subjects to let her do whatever she wanted, and then left, leaving her free to murder the entire population of said castle. And for being such a tough, capable character, he sure spent a lot of time drowning.

After reading the first three books, the fourth made more sense, and yes, Achmed spent the first three books being over-qualified. And it turns out, the author needed him to overdose on stupid pills, because otherwise, the book would have been a third shorter. And his inability to deal with large amounts of water was addressed in the earlier books.

Aelvana says

In the three years following the Moot, life has settled back into something approaching normal. Achmed and Grunthor are shaping the Bolg into a nation and rebuilding Ylorc, Rhapsody and Ashe have moved to Stephen Nanarve's estate to look after the young Gwydion and his sister, and even nations seem to be letting out a long breath as the F'dor's acts of violence fade from memory. But not all memories sleep quietly. The shadows of the Past have broken into the Present, once again imperiling the Future.

One of my favorite aspects of this series continues to be the rich depth of the world. The histories of landmarks, nations, and continents continues to be every bit as detailed as the histories of characters. So

much of the past shapes the present, from old friendships to old feuds; so much lore is present in pieces here and there, the different perspectives on the same events.

The characters, too, continue to surprise. Achmed, for all his skills, isn't above making mistakes. Ashe, for all his power, finds many things beyond his abilities. Particularly memorable was his comment to Achmed that in the end, all they really are is men: none of their powers or abilities put them beyond that.

Overall this is a solid follow-up to the first trilogy; the enemy isn't quite as ferocious, but is much more personal. I loved the different way revealed to kill the F'dor, as well as the fact that neither Ashe nor Achmed were able to use it. It will be worth reading the next book if only to see Achmed's reaction to finally getting home. I rate this book Recommended.

bookwormmama says

I'm having trouble deciding how to rate this one. 3.5 stars, I suppose. I have a couple complaints this time. First, I do not like the return of dead or otherwise finished characters. It's frustrating, anticlimactic, and lacks creativity. And second, there is a definite lurch in the writing to include darker things. I have little patience or tolerance for torture and depravity. While the particular purveyor of these over-detailed, gruesome, and nauseating evil acts hopefully will not reappear again, this more than anything else makes me question reading on. I love the fantasy genre, but have no interest whatsoever in horror.

I believe I've named Achmed my favorite already. Anborn is also still up there and Grunthor performs a rather stealthy and graceful decapitation. Ashe and Rhapsody are too busy to be apologizing all the time or to be too perfect to be believable; what a relief. My other new favorite is young Gwydion. He is the only character referred to by both first and last name every time, though. So many other ways to indicate which one is being referred to, but it seems it's not to be. Despite that, he was great the whole time and had a great, man-making moment himself.

As always, the story came to a good conclusion with more story still to tell. The setup has been made for a future villain and political drama, and there's even another is-he-actually-gone character I'm wondering whether we'll see again.

Sara says

I don't normally review books, but I just had to get a few things off of my chest about this one. I finished it last night & am still a bit angry at it.

Overall, I did not care for this book at all, especially after reading it directly after the first three. I came into it off of a "high" from those earlier books, and maybe it was because they were so fresh in my mind that Requiem for the Sun left me angry and frustrated. It felt stiff, padded, and pointless, without hope and without the personalities I had come to expect from the other books.

A few reasons & examples:

(Warning: SPOILERS!)

(view spoiler)

.....

And I feel better for having vented my anger at this story. :) I'm a bit leery of the next book, but will give it a go in the hopes that it's better than this one. If it's not, I won't bother with the 6th (even though Achmed is my favorite character, or was, until he got "watered" down a bit in this book---pun intended).

Manami says

Still such good plot lines. Still such a terrible heroine.

Melissa Forehand says

Not as good as the first 3 books but still a good read.

Laurel says

I am so happy to be back in this universe <3

Benedict says

Mixed feelings about this book. This felt like a weaker showing after the original trilogy. The characters seem to have flattened a bit into plot-driving heroes and villains. And while the first trilogy was, well, novel,

the second takes a while getting going. There are a few things that I didn't need from the new villain's plotline, sadly predictable as they were.

What remains good is the magical system. The elementally-based magical history of the world remains interesting, and seeing a few new powers and layers come out of that is worthwhile. It seems like it'd be fun to run a tabletop RPG in this world. I've continued on in the series and found it worthwhile as a bedtime read, but I'll probably look for something with more character depth next.

Katie says

I was pretty excited that there were more books after the original three, I didn't enjoy them quite as much, but they were still fun to read.

Wynne says

Here is the sequel to Elizabeth Haydon's Rhapsody Trilogy, the fourth novel in her magnificent cycle of the Symphony of Ages. As a whole, this series represents one of the masterpieces of epic fantasy, a powerful symphony of magic, intrigue, romance, and adventure with daring breadth and scope. Already "destined to be a classic," the Symphony of Ages is one of the land mark achievements of the imaginative fiction.

I enjoyed it and there were parts that kept me turning pages like mad, but over all I didn't think it was as good as the first three. But maybe it's just because the first three were a trio and this was a sequel to the trio so the story was different.

Sami says

I know it took me a lot longer to read this book than normal, but it has nothing to do with the quality of the story. I've been having vision problems but once my glasses come in I should be back full swing. Now onto the actual review....

With every new book (well new to me) I fall more and more in love with this series! I cannot say enough good things about this book or it's author. I absolutely adore the story with everything in me and am glad there are more books to continue with :) highly recommend this to any fantasy lover.

Laura says

Starts off a bit slow, but picks up. I was v. excited for this one after polishing off the original trilogy more than once. I remember checking out Haydon's website after reading *Destiny*; she had a poll asking whether her readers would prefer the Continued Adventures of Rhapsody & Co., or Past Adventures of Rhapsody & Co. Clearly, everyone preferred the former -- and with good reason, because The Three are a great team and

lots of fun to read about; separately, they are not nearly as compelling.
