



Alliance Forged

Kylie Griffin

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There is no mercy in the demon realm. No escape. In this place of desperation and conflict, anyone who is not purebred is virtually powerless. Until a blind priestess lays claim to a half-breed warrior, body and soul...

Hunted and marked for death by Na'Reish demons for their half-blood heritage, the Na'Chi are searching for a new home—something an alliance offered by the human leader could provide. With both races divided by prejudice, when Light Blade rebels brutally attack the Na'Chi, the alliance seems doomed to fail.

Varian, leader of the Na'Chi, a hybrid race of gifted warriors, is cursed with the darker impulses of his demon heritage. Controlling the part of himself that craves the high of the battle is a struggle he's afraid he'll lose—until he meets Kymora Tayn, a priestess driven to serve her deity. While he's unwilling to trust anyone outside his people, he finds himself drawn to Kymora's strength and passionate nature, and discovers she has the power to calm the darkness inside him.

When the Na'Reish raid human territory for blood-slaves and kickstart the war, the key to the survival of both races—Na'Chi and human—is an alliance. However when Kymora is kidnapped, pitting human against human, Varian realizes he must embrace his darker half, not only to save the alliance...but also the woman he loves.

Alliance Forged Details

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Christine says

Just as I enjoyed Vengeance Born, I found I couldn't put this one down either. Kylie, I love how you can get your readers to identify, empathise and sympathise with your characters. You even brought me to tears at one point - the mark of a good writer!

I love how the relationship between Kymora and Varian develops before finally blossoming into something special. The action sequences make the reader want to sit on the edge of their seat, eyes scanning the pages madly to see what will happen next.

I can't wait to see what happens with Arek in your next book!!

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

3.5*

The biggest issue I had with this book was the pacing. The first half is slow and it was way too easy to get distracted and put it down. The last half was much better.

I was very frustrated with Varian and how long it took him to fully trust and accept Kymora. I do like the underlying story and will see where this goes in book 3, Allegiance Sworn.

Story_girl says

I enjoyed this book even more than the first in the series and I have to say I really liked what the author did with this book. The book continues with the same world and events continue to unfold from book 1 but this time the focus is on Varian and Kymora as a couple. I've read plenty of PNR books where different books in the series focus on different couples while being set in the same world. But this is the first time I'm reading it in high fantasy.

It was really enjoyable reading about? Varian and Kymora... The strong, solitary leader of the Na'Chi and Kymora, the generous and giving Temple Elect. Both Varian and Kymora were people I really liked. I kept hoping that the two of them would grow to trust and love each other. I also kept hoping the humans would see past their fears and hatred and accept the Na'Chi among them. Things are far from resolved at the end of this book and I look forward to reading more about this world in the next one.

Crazy4more says

4.5 stars

The challenge and fortitude for the alliance between human and Na'Chi continued as struggles from all directions bombarded. Tested at every facet, from who to trust, who to fight and who to love...and was one worthy of such devotion.

The aching truth of prejudice embedded and shunned throughout Varian's life. Leader he was but loved and self-worth were unfathomable. And so life was cold, schematic and uninspired...until Kymora forced her way into his life and she didn't take no for an answer. I loved the colorful characters full of life, wit, emotion and heart.

The plot kept me on the edge of my seat...or more like kept me up all night until finished so I can start the 3rd book of this exciting series. As with any second read, the foundation and complexity of the storyline were established but Ms. Griffin's storytelling compelled and poured such vivid emotion to every scenarios, you couldn't help but be enthralled and pulled into her world.

Congrats on another beautiful novel!

The Window Seat says

Ah... back to the Light Blade world... What a pleasure. In this latest installment of Kylie Griffin's Light Blade series, we get the story that was greatly hinted at in the first book, *Vengeance Born*. This is the story of the Na'Chi warrior Varian and the human priestess Kymora. This is one of the more unique stories I've read in a while. Throughout the book, typical romance story troupes are avoided left and right. For that, it gets a big plus!

Kymora is the blind head priestess of the human religion. When her brother falls in love with the Na'Chi woman Annika, Kymora gets a message from the Lady that she must do her best to forge the alliance between the Na'Chi and the humans. Into this atmosphere enters Varian. He is the leader of the Na'Chi, the half human, half demon outcasts from the demon world. After having spent his life in hiding or on the run, he and his people are wary and untrusting. It will be up to Kymora to bridge the gap between the two groups.

For the full review, please go to <http://thewindowseat13.blogspot.com/2...>

Book Chatter-Cath says

Let me start by saying the wait for this book has been torturous!

Ever since I read the first installment of The Light Blade series - *Vengeance Born* back in February, I have had *Alliance Forged* on my need-to-get list and not just because the cover is HOT!

Kylie Griffin has a talent for sucking the reader in.

By page 3, I was engrossed, and by page 13, I had informed my family that I was out of bounds for the rest of the night!

I was immediately pulled back into this unique and gripping world of humans (Light Blades), Na'Reish (demons), and Na'Chi (half human/half demon hybrids), and greedily devoured *Varian Alliance Forged* in one sitting.

Awesome story, great characters that easily worm their way into your heart, sweet and sexy romance that will leave you breathless, and enough prejudice between the races to spark a revolt; setting the scene for a war that you know is going to go off!

I can honestly say that this book is another for the keeper shelf, and I already have a spot reserved for book 3 - Allegiance Sworn, although its another long wait with the publication date set for April 2nd 2013 *oh the pain of waiting!*

Kylie Griffin has again presented a solidly written, intensely emotional story that I am happy to say I loved, a lot!

Another 5 Star read from one of my favourite authors ~<:]

♥ Rebecca ♥ says

This review can also be found on my blog: A Match Made in Heaven

I enjoyed this book as much as the first one, if not more. I love a tortured hero. I just can't resist them. And Varian is so tortured! :(Poor guy.

It really pisses me off how the Na'Chi are obsessed with physical perfection and socially shun Varian because of his scar, even though he is their leader. Its so not fair. But thank goodness for Kymora! And not just because she is blind. She wouldn't have cared about his scar even if she could see it. She just loved him so much. She is just one of those people who can see the best in someone and never gives up on them no matter what.

And Varian is the same. He thinks only of his people. He would do anything for them, and nothing for himself. He always thinks of them first to the point of it being damaging to his health. Only when he realizes that he might hurt them if he continues neglecting his own well-being does he do something about it. But to be fair, it is only then that he finds out there is something he *can* do for himself. They are really a power couple. The leader of the Na'Chi and the spiritual leader of the humans. Varian's strength and leadership and Kymora's altruism and faith. I think together they could accomplish anything. I just wish we could have seen more of what they could become.

I also love the world that this book is set in. It has interesting dynamics and I am anxious to see what will happen next. Will they be able to find peace with the rebels and the Na'Reish? The comfort they have found in Sacred Lake is so delicate and there are so many hurdles left to jump before they can completely relax and be able to live their lives.

I also actually really like their deity . She seems nice. :P I love the scenes when she actually speaks to Kymora, and I am so glad that Kymora decided to go for it, and follow her heart and her Lady's path. Its very brave and I am excited to find out how this series will tie up. I really look forward to read Allegiance Sworn and what new things it will bring us. It should be a completely new and exciting experience to see things from a Na'Reishi's POV and I am really looking forward to it.

Dragana says

Why did I read this book?

I'm participating in fun game for Bookworms hosted by SOS group. The game si called '*Fantasyland*' and I'm part of team #2 called: 2 Read or Not 2 Read. Task for this week was to read a book with green cover. I picked *Alliance Forged* since I was in a mood for light fantasy with a dash of romance (also the cover is green lol).

My thoughts:

I read first book in 'The Light Blades' series last year and the best thing about *Vengeance Born* was beautiful cover. Before abandoning 'The Light Blades' series, I decided to give it another chance by reading *Alliance Forged*. So here is my second attempt to visit the world of The Light Blades (human warriors) and Na'Reish (vampires blood-drinking evil demons).

Sadly, the problems from the first book are all still here. No world building whatsoever. Focus of the story is romance between Varian (half-human half-demon) and Kymora (Temple elect - kind of main temple priestess). And that romance advances so slowly... Frankly, first 60% of the book are simply boring with Varian thinking and obsessing about his problems and reasons why they should not be together and Kymora trying to advance their relationship. To make it even worse, Kymora is prone to religious statements about hope, belief etc. This sounds inspirational the first time, but by the tenth time she says 'Let the Lady guide you' or something similar I just wanted to DNF this book.

Last 30-40% of book were less boring with a lot more action and finally some advance on romance level. But still, this was not enough for me to forget how this book almost bored me to death. And after such a slow start the ending seemed rushed when million things happened in last two chapters.

My rating: 2.5 stars

Will I be reading next book in series? No. This series is definitely not for me.

I recommend this book to fans of: paranormal romance fans who want to try out fantasy genre and like slow character-driven romance plots.

Kristen Kooistra says

Confession time, I don't like the paranormal genre, or the romance genre, so you can imagine how I feel about paranormal romance. I picked up the first book in this series thinking it was fantasy. At that point I had the book, so I might as well give it a go. I did, and enjoyed the storyline and the characters.

Take out the romance and paranormal aspects and this would be an A+ all the way!

I decided to go for book 2 here and my husband laughed when he saw the cover. I stuck a paper wrap on the front cover so I couldn't see it. I'm not even joking. I had full on self-loathing every time I saw it, and needed to hide it. My friends even laughed about it because this is SO NOT my type of book.

The plot is VERY interesting, and the characters are gritty, and real, and full of depth. Personal niggle, I wish the Na'Reish weren't called demons because the vampire factor is creepy enough without calling them demons since demons means a certain thing to me. I also wish the smut wasn't in here. I know people who

read PNR like it hot and steamy, but I don't really care for all of that.

This is definitely a character-driven book. The plot is good, but the characters and their battles are really the focus. The plot moves way too slow to carry the book by itself. I wish the focus had been on the romantic side of things for the two main characters and the healing process for the guy. Instead it felt like a sexual thing and that was so dominant the whole time it was hard to say what the characters were really attracted to at times.

Basically, if you like PNR, I think you'll love this. If you don't mind steamy and enjoy fantasy stories, you'll like this.

If you like things a bit cleaner or are not really into PNR, you'll probably not be into it or will come out with an okay feeling like I did. I'll read the next book, but I'm really not expecting anything different from what I've seen already. The plot and characters are interesting enough for me to skim the parts I'm not fond of.

Midalah Ballinger says

I haven't gotten so pulled into a series since I picked up my first Black Jewels book by Anne Bishop. Having to wait until 2013 for book three is going to be torment. I can't wait to read Arek's story.

Sara Reads (mostly) LOTS of Romance says

NOT AS GOOD AS THE FIRST ONE LOL I READ THIS SERIES IN ONE SITTING I COULDNT PUT IT DOWN. FULL REVIEW LATER WHEN I HAVE TIME

Bec McMaster says

One word: Varian.

Okay, maybe a few more words than that. This book is awesome. It's fantasy-romance with fascinating world building and a great pair of leads that have real chemistry with each other as well as a hefty dose of respect. Don't expect any alpha bullshit from the hero, he's tormented, but he honestly respects Kymora and I loved that so much. As for Kymora, she may be blind, but she's not going to let that stop her from doing anything. I loved her attitude and the fact that when Varian tried to be all noble and push her away for her own good that she called him on it.

It's romance, first and foremost, with a really interesting world-plot behind it. I can't wait to see what is going to happen in this world, with a build-up toward a potentially devastating war between races. I also can't wait for book three, Allegiance Sworn, which features possibly my fave hero out of the series.

One word: Arek.

Ronda says

I was eager and excited to read this 2nd installment of the Light Blades and their new allies the Na'Chi... I knew this time I would be reading about Kymora and Varian and I hoped that I'd be as captivated as I was with Vengeance.

I adore Kymora and Varian is just something else and although the story of the two was exciting and sometimes a little breath-taking, I did find that I was hoping it would hurry along. I became a little frustrated at times and it took me quite a while to read this book compared to others I have read...

...However, this book is still worthy of 4 stars, it may not join book 1 on my favourite shelf but it was well written, the characters came to life in their surroundings and I did feel part of their world on occasions...

I look forward to book 3.

PepperP0t says

Rebel Light Blades (gifted humans) attack the fledgling settlement the Na'Chi (human/demon hybrid) and humans are building at the behest of a disgraced council leader Davyn who is still grieving over his daughter. This entire review and others can be found at: <http://www.ireadthatbook.com>

Jaq says

A very enjoyable fantasy romance. This will be one series I will continue to follow. Griffin has constructed an intriguing world, and populated it with some great characters. I look forward to reading more in this series.
