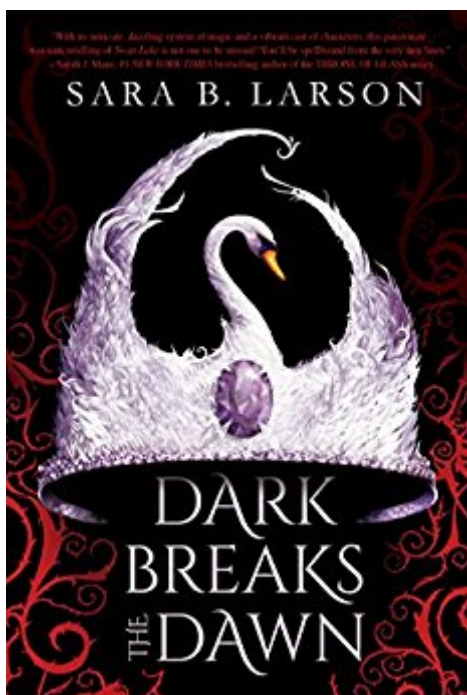


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Dark Breaks The Dawn



Synopsis

On her eighteenth birthday, Princess Evelayn of Eadrolan, the Light Kingdom, can finally access the full range of her magical powers. The light looks brighter, the air is sharper, and the energy she can draw when fighting feels almost limitless. But while her mother, the queen, remains busy at the war front, in the Dark Kingdom of Dorjhalon, the corrupt king is plotting. King Bain wants control of both kingdoms, and his plan will fling Evelayn into the throne much sooner than she expected. In order to defeat Bain and his sons, Evelayn will quickly have to come into her ability to shapeshift, and rely on the alluring Lord Tanvir. But not everyone is what they seem, and the balance between the Light and Dark comes at a steep price. In the first book of a remarkable duology, Sara B. Larson sets the stage for her reimagining of Swan Lake -- a lush romance packed with betrayal, intrigue, magic, and adventure.

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Customer Reviews

Dark Breaks the Dawn is a beautifully imagined Swan Lake origin story full of passion, political

intrigue, and dazzling magic. I simply cannot wait for book two in this stunning new duology. I adore Swan Lake, so I immediately fell in love with the premise of this book when I first heard about it, but the fascinating story and beautiful romance that I discovered within the pages actually surpassed any expectations I had going in. The book has a very classic fantasy plot line while still incorporating twists and turns that readers won't expect. We get to see the political climates in both warring nations of Eadrolan and Dorjhalon and really get an understanding of what is truly at stake for each. We also get to watch Evelayn struggle to gain control over her new power, both physical and political. And there are just no words to describe the ending that wouldn't include spoilers. Suffice it to say, that it was brilliantly executed and something that I never saw coming. The characters in this book were captivating. I fell in love with Evelayn. She was so relatable yet strong in every sense of the word. Watching her struggle with her own grief while having to put on a strong face and lead her nation was heartbreaking, and the lengths that she goes to in order to protect the Light Kingdom and all the people she loves within it was inspiring. I would also describe her as an underdog suddenly thrust into a position of leading her people in this great epic battle, which certainly had me rooting for her. Sara switches POVs through various characters in this book in a way that makes you fall in love with some of them and keeps you guessing at the motivations of the others throughout, and when all those characters come together in the final scene of the book, the results are pure magic. The romance in this book was oh so swoon-worthy, and Sara does a great job of sprinkling the lovely romantic scenes throughout the plot, so you get this great balance between the political drama, Evelayn's struggle to gain control over her power, and then this heart-pounding romance. There are also some fantastic villains in this story. I do love me some good villains! We get a bit of glimpse into their motivations in this book, and I'm guessing we'll get to see a lot more of some of them in the next book, which I am really looking forward to. I would definitely say that this story is a Swan Lake origin story, though I've heard a lot of people categorize it as a retelling. My guess is that we'll see more of the classic Swan Lake tale in book two, but we will just have to wait to see what Sara has in store for us! I personally can't wait!

DARK BREAKS THE DAWN is an enchanting and magical and riveting tale that introduces a princess who is just about to come into her abilities, a people who are divided by their powers of darkness and light, and two warring kingdoms kept embroiled in battle by a ruthless king who wants to rule them both. It is an exciting and suspenseful story that will keep readers guessing and will leave them anxiously awaiting the sequel. Evelayn spent years training in anticipation of the day she

would finally have access to her full powers. But nothing could have prepared her for what it would feel like to have them. And she never would have expected to have to master them as quickly as she needed to. But when, after ten years of fighting valiantly against King Bain's onslaughts, the Light Kingdom of Adrolan's defenses are breached, Evelayn will have to become the queen that her people need her to be and find a way to defeat the Dark Kingdom. Even if it means taking risks her mother never did. Because with no experience and no time to hone her skills, there are no safer options that could lead to victory. Sara B. Larson penned a captivating and imaginative story that goes well beyond the confines of Swan Lake. She delivers the beauty, romance, magic, tragedy and betrayal that readers will expect, but adds adventure and mystery, creates tension, offers a number of characters to adore and despise, and teases secrets that will be revealed in the next installment. DARK BREAKS THE DAWN is a mix of fairytale and fantasy. It is fascinating. It is thrilling. It is heartbreaking. It is bewitching. And with a beautiful princess, a handsome lord, two gorgeous but deadly princes, an evil king, a wicked queen, a dangerous quest, amazing abilities, and a killer cliffhanger ending, it promises to be a wonderfully gripping read.

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! The sequel isn't written yet??? I honestly didn't realize I was reading a "newly released" book. I saw it one day and remembered enjoying the Defy series. After finishing it, I immediately went to to order Book 2, only to discover this was a new release! While the book started slow for me, it picked up and I became smitten with the heroine and Tanvir. Their characterizations drew me in and I literally felt their chemistry and relationship. Bain was a sort of distant villain and I didn't really feel the threat of evil until we were introduced to Lorcan and his mother. Lorcan intrigued me in a Loki sort of way. The only way this felt like Swan Lake was in the bond Eve felt with the birds. This story stands on its own and is more of an origin story. Sometimes the shifting POV's felt a little clumsy, but I dealt with it. OMG - the ending... I will definitely read the next book; hopefully, I don't have to wait too long? I do have one complaint for the author: whatever happened to Lothar??? We follow Lothar, along with Lorcan and his mom until the climax; but Lothar just sort of disappears. Why? He was prominent in the penultimate scenes and then it seemed as if the author just dropped him. Which didn't make sense, given his "location" was the same as his Mom's at the last of the book.

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