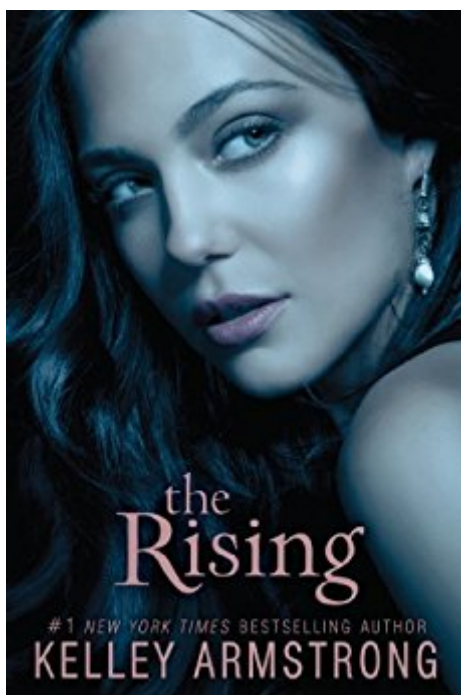


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The Rising (Darkness Rising Book 3)



Synopsis

The race for survival comes to a thrilling conclusion in the heart-stopping finale to the Darkness Rising trilogy, from #1 New York Times bestselling author Kelley Armstrong. Things are getting desperate for Maya and her friends. Hunted by the powerful St. Clouds and now a rival Cabal as well, they're quickly running out of places to hide. All they have is the name and number of someone who might be able to give them a few answers. Answers to why they're so valuable, and why their supernatural powers are getting more and more out of control. But Maya is unprepared for the truths that await her. And like it or not, she'll have to face down some demons from her past if she ever hopes to move on with her life. Because Maya can't keep running forever. With all the twists, thrills, and romance that have made Kelley Armstrong an international bestseller, plus the surprising return of some fan-favorite characters, The Rising will hold you under its spell long after its breathtaking end.

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Customer Reviews

This series has always been interesting to me. Don't read further if you dislike SPOILERS in

reviews. I found a plot hole. When Nadia is kidnapped by Roland and she cuts herself in the trunk there was an awful lot of blood. That blood would be left behind in the trunk to connect her to the car wreck. Even if they setup looked like a crash there would also be the shot out tire from Jack/John. Nothing was clean in that one. Otherwise, I enjoyed the story and I'm glad Nadia got closure of a sort for her past. The game they played with Koss at the end was too pat but still satisfying, although I don't know how Koss or anyone in the vigilante organization could be tagged without their knowledge... It sounds like I'm being nit picky but they're just things I notice in the story while I read. I like Jack, I like Nadia. Quinn is a jerk. Evelyn is cagey. The moral compass is a little shady for everyone but their quick verbal exchanges and wit are fun. All told, it's a good romp.

Nadia 'Dee' Stafford is a hitman. After a disastrous career move as a cop, that saw her shoot an unarmed criminal and get kicked off the force, Nadia took herself into the wilds of Canada where she bought a lodge and started a B&B. But to keep her new life afloat she started taking jobs as a gun for hire. Early in her side-career she was taken under the wing of veteran hitman, 'Jack', and the two of them have been through a few near-misses and gruelling assignments together. But never far from Nadia's mind is the truth of why she became a cop in the first place, and maybe why killing comes so naturally to her . . . when she was just 13-years-old, Nadia and her cousin Amy were kidnapped. Nadia got away, Amy didn't. After a botched trial, her murderer walked free. Drew Aldrich and the memory of Amy's death have haunted Nadia ever since, but when Aldrich resurfaces (under a new alias) finding him sets off a chain-reaction in the murky underworld of hired assassins and puts Nadia in grave danger. 'Wild Justice' is the third and (long overdue) final book in Kelley Armstrong's 'Nadia Stafford' thriller trilogy. The first book in this series was 'Exit Strategy', released back in 2007. Armstrong introduced readers to disgraced but gutsy Nadia Stafford; gun for hire and ex-cop whose name and reputation had been dragged through the mud after she shot an unarmed criminal. That was a few years ago, and when we first meet Nadia she's a lodge-owner moonlighting as a hitman. In that first book, Nadia joined forces with her older hitman mentor, Jack, to hunt down a serial killer by using herself as bait. Teaming up with Nadia and Jack were his own mentor, Evelyn, and US Marshall with a vigilante gig on the side, Quinn. The second book came out in 2009, 'Made to be Broken' teamed the foursome up again, this time to look for a vanished teenage girl and her baby. The second book teased out the relationships which were hinted at in 'Exit Strategy' - mainly a flirtation between Nadia and Quinn, a deep dislike between the two men and the realization that Nadia would like something more with her mentor, Jack . . . And then came the long, long, long wait for the final book. For a while it seemed that Kelley Armstrong was either too busy with

`Women of the Otherworld' and its spin-offs to ever feasibly write Nadia's conclusion, or none was ever planned. This, despite `Made to be Broken' having ended on an emotional cliffhanger that left fans reeling. Well, it's been four long years but finally we have `Wild Justice' - the third and final book in Nadia Stafford's story that addresses a traumatic and defining event from her childhood, and provides fans with some satisfying closure in our favourite hitman's private life. When the book begins Nadia is reeling after an assignment goes horribly wrong. Coming to pull her out of a guilt-spiral, Jack arrives with more than just words of wisdom to comfort his young protégé . . . he has something more, better - Jack's located the man who murdered Nadia's cousin, and got away with murder. But finding Drew Aldrich sets off a chain-reaction in the criminal underworld, and Nadia finds herself needing protection and help from Jack, Evelyn and Quinn once again. This book snuck up on me, I've got to admit. I'd wanted it for so long that when it finally arrived, I was totally blindsided because I'd long ago convinced myself the day would never come and Nadia's story would forever be open-ended. But from the very first page it was easy to slip back into this story alongside Nadia Stafford - once again picking up the thread of her traumatised childhood and searing vengeance that so determined her initial career as a cop, and then her decision to keep on killing as a hitman. Something that really shone for me in this book (and was a big reason I fell in love with the series to begin with) was how many tropes Armstrong avoids. Much like loyal and strong Elena in `Women of the Otherworld', Nadia Stafford is not your typical heroine - and she's definitely not like the female assassins of Hollywood. Forget Angelina Jolie, stiletto chases and cocktail murders - Nadia Stafford has girl-next-door looks and a down-to-earth disposition. She's self-determined and clever, lets very few people get close to her and prefers her quiet life in the Canadian wilds. She's a great dichotomy of perfectly ordinary woman leading a quietly extraordinary and deadly double-life. I was so grateful that Armstrong addresses Nadia's love life in this book, and gives readers a most satisfying conclusion. I won't give anything away, but Armstrong beautifully balances the heat and built-up tension with the furiously paced whodunit. And the mystery at the heart of `Wild Justice' is a doozy. Armstrong planted this way back in `Exit Strategy' - setting up Nadia's childhood trauma and survivor's guilt over her cousin's death. That long arc story really pays off in this book, as it's intricately linked to Nadia's personal barriers and killer instinct. `Wild Justice' may have been a long four years in coming, but it was well worth the wait. Here is a fine farewell for everyone's favourite hitman, Nadia Stafford, in a conclusion that has far-reaching reaches to the beginning of the series and roots in our heroines' psyche. A brilliantly plotted and satisfying farewell to one of my favourite thriller series.

This series was pretty damn good. The ex-cop gone Hitman provided for an interesting and fascinating tale. Nadia is a bad-ass and classy woman. She has spine and wits. She doesn't come across as a heroine in this tale, more like a person who had to adapt her morals in order to survive. The struggles she faces with herself and others, her numerous attempts to not stray from the path and go completely rogue are well depicted, you struggle with her. When people propose things to her, you want to scream in her head, don't take it! Jack is the silent guardian type. He's strong, he's protective but he knows and trusts Nadia. Though he can be overbearing, he evolves and respects the room Nadia needs to grow. You literally see him soften and open up to Nadia. The dynamics are a great read. In short this story was satisfying both, romantically and psychologically. The plots and twists added momentum and provided the needed suspense. All in all good read.

Kelley Armstrong is one of my favorite authors. I have read every one of her Otherworld books, so I was a little leery when I saw this trilogy (this is book 3) contained no supernatural elements. However great writing is just that, and I don't believe Ms. Armstrong is capable of bad writing. The characters are compelling and even though they are theoretically "bad guys" Nadia and Jack are two of my favorite characters in fiction. My only regret is that the trilogy is done, but she did wrap it up nice and neat with no loose ends. So I imagine we will not be seeing any more books about hit men with a conscience. What a shame.

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