



Assassin's Heart

By Sarah Ahiers

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With shades of *Game of Thrones* and *Romeo and Juliet*, this richly imagined fantasy from debut author Sarah Ahiers is a tale of love, lies, and vengeance. Fans of Kristin Cashore and Rae Carson will devour the flawlessly crafted action and inventive world building.

Seventeen-year-old Lea Saldana is a trained assassin. She was born into one of the nine clipper Families in the kingdom of Lovero who lawfully take lives for a price. As a member of the highest-ranking clan, loyalty to Family is valued above all, but that doesn't stop Lea from getting into a secret relationship with Val Da Via, a boy from a rival clan. Despite her better judgment, Lea has fallen in love with him; but she's confident she can anticipate any threat a mile away.

Then she awakens one night to a house full of smoke. Although she narrowly escapes, she isn't able to save her Family as their home is consumed by flames. With horror, she realizes that Val and his Family are the only ones who could be responsible. Devastated over his betrayal and the loss of her clan, there's just one thing on her mind: making the Da Vias pay. The heart of this assassin craves revenge.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—In the kingdom of Lovero, Lea Saldana belongs to the First Family of assassins. The nine Families of "clippers" are hired throughout the kingdom to kill in the name of the goddess Safrælla. Lea keeps her relationship with Val, a member of the Da Vias Family, a secret. She knows her Family would not approve, but she can't seem to help herself. One night, she is betrayed and her Family is murdered. Lea must flee the only home she's ever known before the Da Vias realize they missed a Saldana. She discovers her estranged uncle is still alive and sets off to find him in order to avenge her Family and destroy the Da Vias. Along the way, she discovers a place and a mission all her own. The action and adventure packed into this first-person narrative will keep the pages turning, although the pace slows as Lea gets her bearings in a new city. The secondary characters are developed enough to be distinctive, and Lea's convictions and determination will keep fans of strong female leads rooting for her. The familiar elements of fantasy are all evident here.

VERDICT Recommend to those who enjoy fantasy, adventure, and love stories; a first purchase.—Natalie Struecker, Atlantic Public Library, IA

Review

“An electrifying debut that captivated me from the first nail-biting chapter. Spellbinding!” (Gennifer Albin, New York Times bestselling author)

“Love, death, family—and vengeance. This gripping fantasy thriller will keep you turning the pages all night long.” (Laura Ruby, author of the Printz Award-winning *Bone Gap*)

“A lavishly constructed fantasy world with an intricate society.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Equal parts adventure, romance, and politics, Ahiers’ first novel is astonishingly good. This is a unique twist on a love story, and the exciting Godfather-esque plotline adds layers of intrigue. Fans of Robin LaFevers’ *His Fair Assassins* series will snatch this one up in a heartbeat. (Booklist (starred review))

Ahiers’s Romeo and Juliet-inspired world of gods, angry ghosts, and assassins is darkly lush, and Lea’s voice is strong and pragmatic, making for a stylish and rich read. (Publishers Weekly)

About the Author

Sarah Ahiers spent her childhood running around outside with her siblings, drawing pictures, and writing stories. Now, as a grown-up, she has an MFA in writing for children and young adults, and while she does less running around outside, the writing has held fast.

Sarah lives in Minnesota with three dogs and a houseful of critters. She has a collection of steampunk hats, and when she’s not writing she fills her time with good games, good food, good friends, and good family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Drake:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write to the book. One of them is this Assassin's Heart.

Jose Shepard:

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