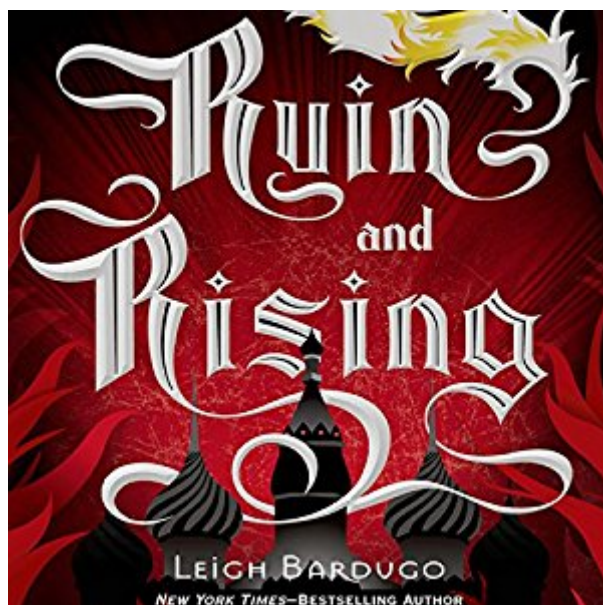


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Ruin And Rising



Synopsis

The capital has fallen. The Darkling rules Ravka from his shadow throne. Now the nation's fate rests with a broken Sun Summoner, a disgraced tracker, and the shattered remnants of a once-great magical army. Deep in an ancient network of tunnels and caverns, a weakened Alina must submit to the dubious protection of the Apparatus and the zealots who worship her as a Saint. Yet her plans lie elsewhere, with the hunt for the elusive firebird and the hope that an outlaw prince still survives. Alina will have to forge new alliances and put aside old rivalries as she and Mal race to find the last of Morozova's amplifiers. But as she begins to unravel the Darkling's secrets, she reveals a past that will forever alter her understanding of the bond they share and the power she wields. The firebird is the one thing that stands between Ravka and destruction - and claiming it could cost Alina the very future she's fighting for. *Ruin and Rising* is the thrilling final installment in Leigh Bardugo's Grisha Trilogy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Grisha #3
Publisher: Henry Holt and Co.
Publication Date: June 17th, 2014
Rating: 5

Stars: 5
Source: Purchase
Pages: 422
Add it on Goodreads!
Summary (from Goodreads):
The capital has fallen. The Darkling rules Ravka from his shadow throne. Now the nation's fate rests with a broken Sun Summoner, a disgraced tracker, and the shattered remnants of a once-great magical army. Deep in an ancient network of tunnels and caverns, a weakened Alina must submit to the dubious protection of the Apparatus and the zealots who worship her as a Saint. Yet her plans lie elsewhere, with the hunt for the elusive firebird and the hope that an outlaw prince still

survives. Alina will have to forge new alliances and put aside old rivalries as she and Mal race to find the last of Morozova's amplifiers. But as she begins to unravel the Darkling's secrets, she reveals a past that will forever alter her understanding of the bond they share and the power she wields. The firebird is the one thing that stands between Ravka and destruction and claiming it could cost Alina the very future she's fighting for. Okay, I think that this was easily my favorite of the three books in this trilogy. It was so good and mostly satisfying! Also, I'm not even going to pretend there aren't spoilers in this, if you're one who is late to the Grisha party. The beginning of this book takes place about three months after the battle at Os Alta where most of the Second Army was slaughtered by the Darkling and his shadow army! Alina is weak and the Apparatus has her under lock and key, deep underground, trying to advance his little sun summoner cult. She won't let her near her friends or basically anyone but him and his weird guards. Then her friends come up with an elaborate plan to get her strength and power back and she basically puts the Apparatus in his place. Which is good because he needed to be knocked down a few pegs, creep. I hate that guy. I was angry for the whole beginning of this book because of him and his creepiness. So they break out of the Apparatus's clutches and go back on the hunt for the final amplifier, the firebird. I loooove Alina still! She handles being forced into Sainthood a lot better than I would because I'd pry whoop that Apparatus's ass. I couldn't handle all those people being all grabby hands at me all the time. She definitely has the patience of a Saint, if anything. Anyway, I don't really know what to say about Alina that I haven't already said in my reviews for the other two books. She learns to hone her powers in new ways, perfecting more of the things that the Darkling had previously only been able to do. She has to make the ULTIMATE hard decision in this book and she somehow manages to do it. She is just really kick ass. She's smarter, she's braver, she's just a little bit better than she was before. I love her. Possibly she could be my new favorite YA heroine. I don't know. Top three, definitely. The romance in this book made me both happy and sad. Sad because for most of this book Alina and Mal just basically glance longingly at each other and avoid contact and conversation. And Alina is being pushed in other directions by everyone around her. Pushed to possibly marry Nikolai and become the Queen of Ravka, even though I don't think she ever really acts like she wants it. It's just what could be best for Ravka. But throughout it all, she only ever wants Mal. It's always been Mal, it will always be Mal. I did appreciate that, while the romance was kinda just cold for a lot of this book, Mal wasn't just absent through the whole book til he was needed. I really liked that he was present throughout the whole book. And I really love, love, love their happily ever after! I decided in this book that I really like David. He really reminds me of Sheldon from the Big Bang Theory because he's insanely smart and he doesn't seem to understand

sarcasm. I really liked his relationship with Genya. They're so cute together! His little speech about how he understands metal and she's made of steel was SO CUTE! I still love Genya, too. She surprised me because she's totally got a nerdy side too! She is such a good friend to Alina, I'm glad that she didn't really get made out to be a bad guy in this series like I thought she was going to for awhile. And as for the Darkling, I just really liked him as a character. Definitely still not as a love interest. I was sad at the ending that he got, even though it was necessary. He was never going to give up his cause and if he kept using his power, it didn't seem he ever had plans to die, so something had to be done. I don't think that he actually had bad intentions, I think that his methods of getting what he wanted were what was wrong with him. I liked that you got to see his more human side in this book. He wasn't always so perfectly put together. Alina surprised him and threw him off guard. He was actually capable of real human feelings! I love that Alina thought she needed the aid of all three amplifiers to face him, but in the end, Alina faced him and defeated him without anything to help her. I wish he could have been redeemed and gotten a happy ending, but not with Alina. The one and only thing that I can think of that I didn't love about this book was Harshaw's death! Maybe it's the crazy cat lady in me talking, but I was SO SAD that he and Oncat didn't get to be reunited after the battle in the Fold. I loved the relationship between him and his feline friend. I also loved his semi craziness and I was sad to see him go. I definitely saw it coming though. What else can I even say about this book? The plot sped right along. The writing was fantastic. I really don't think that my brain is caught up enough yet to even be writing this review, but if I wait, I'll definitely forget things. More than I'm sure I've already forgotten. This was just an overall really excellent series and I would highly recommend this book to basically anyone.

"Please tell me you plan to dress up as a volcra and jump out of a cake." Blinding Light The best part of this one by far was the beginning. I loved seeing Nikolai take charge and the rescue missions by him are always a blast to read. Truly, I wish this series was about him as he is an amazing character but unfortunately he's not in this story much. I enjoyed learning more about the Darkling's past and the history of this world. I thought getting more information about the amplifiers was a great touch to the story. Again, the side characters are always fun to read about. There is a large group of very different people that all add their own quirks to the story. Darkness Reigns So this one was good in the beginning, progressively got boring, and then just flat made me angry. There are so many amazing powers in this story, and the heroine has this huge power that could've had such astonishing potential, and she hardly ever uses it. I am just astounded by how much her power is 'talked' up and then she barely delivers. Back to our heroine, she makes some incredibly outrageous

choices in this one. In the first one she was lacking in self esteem, in the second one she actually wanted to die in parts, and in this one she is greedy and self-serving. Yes, everyone has faults, but this is supposed to be the mobad heroine that the whole world is rallying behind and frankly she doesn't deserve the support. The way everything was 'resolved' just leaves me shaking my head. I cannot fathom the choices that were made. It was all very unbelievable to me. Bound Together The romance I enjoyed in this one until a crazy choice by Alina. Then I'm just trying to figure out how on earth Mal can stand to be around her. Pyres Burning in the Distance The series as a whole started out good and slowly got worse. I was expecting much more out of the story because the concept is so wonderful. The powers that the characters have could truly have gone somewhere fantastic. This one was a let down. The side characters are great and definitely carry the story.

I've been reading a lot of series lately but this is the most fun I've had in a series since the Lunar Chronicles. The plot was well thought out but still simple enough to follow and the pacing is insane! The ending was a bit of a shock at first, but it's the right way to close off, even if I wanted more for A&M. My only gripe is that I thought Nicolai's storyline just kind of fizzled out and I lost my connection to his character. Possibly this was intentional on the authors part, but after playing such a larger-than-life personality, I really felt his absence and it affected how I experienced the final book. All in all, a fabulous series that I'd recommend to anybody!

Quite enjoyed the series altogether. The conclusion was brilliant and not what I expected. Everything wrapped up nicely in the end. Good, original series, great fantasy writing, and few complaints. One thing for sure that bothered me - or bothers me in any story/novel - is the overuse of certain phrases or words. In the case of the Grisha trilogy, it was the overuse of "The Cut." Every time I read it, I grew more annoyed. Once it's established that it's the major move, great, you don't need to keep repeating it over and over. It's tiresome and implies the reader can't pick up on the nuances without the words slapping you in the face every time. Just my opinion. Otherwise, it was a great read.

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