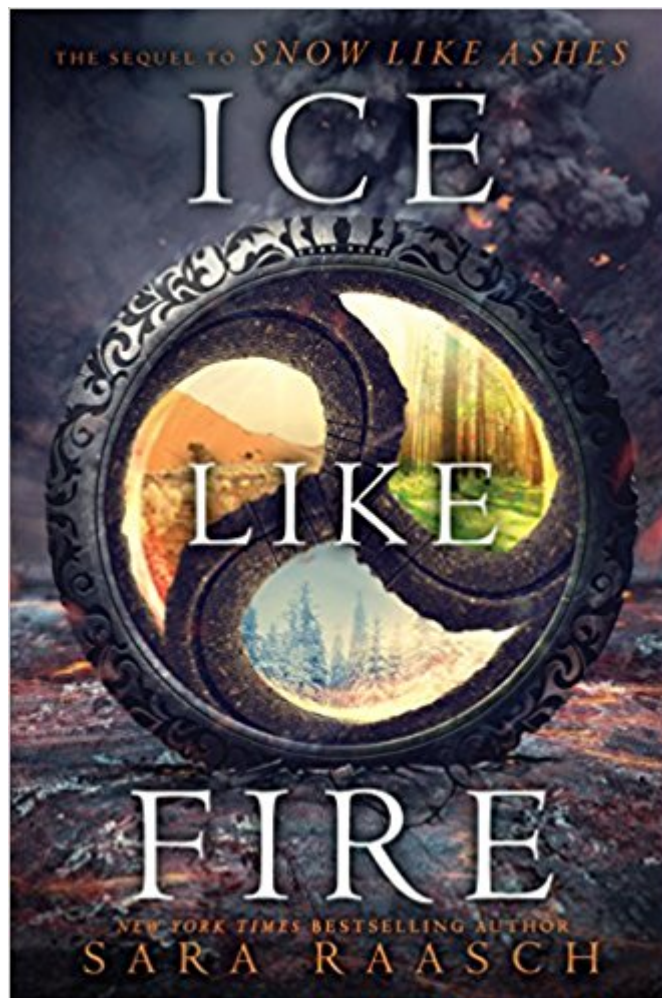


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# Ice Like Fire (Snow Like Ashes)



## Synopsis

Game of Thrones meets Graceling in this thrilling fantasy, the heart-pounding sequel to New York Times bestseller *Snow Like Ashes*. This action-packed series is perfect for fans of *An Ember in the Ashes* and *A Court of Thorns and Roses*. It's been three months since the Winterians were freed and Spring's king, Angra, disappeared—thanks largely to the help of Cordell. Meira just wants her people to be safe. When Cordell's debt forces the Winterians to dig their mines for payment, they unearth something powerful and possibly dangerous: Primoria's lost chasm of magic. The last time the world had access to so much magic, it spawned the Decay. So when the king of Cordell orders Meira and Theron on a mission to discover the chasm's secrets, Meira plans on using the trip to garner support to keep the chasm shut and Winter safe—even if it means clashing with Theron. But can she do so without endangering the people she loves? Mather just wants to be free. The horrors inflicted on the Winterians hang fresh and raw in Januari—leaving Winter vulnerable to Cordell's growing oppression. When Meira leaves to search for allies, Mather decides to take Winter's security into his own hands. Can he rebuild his broken Kingdom and protect his people from new threats? As the web of power and deception is woven tighter, Theron fights for magic, Mather fights for freedom—and Meira starts to wonder if she should be fighting not just for Winter but for the world.

## Book Information

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Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • This sequel picks up right where *Snow Like Ashes* (Harper, 2014) left off. Indeed, the novel makes no effort to refresh background from the first book. The world we are in (a map is included) is divided into provinces, which are categorized as Seasons or Rhythms. Meira, the protagonist, has been placed in an arranged marriage unifying her seasonal province, Winter, with a Rhythm province. Despite the romantic sparks between the couple in the previous volume, the embers here are neglected, as the two teens work against each other to recapture the magic in the kingdoms. The magic for each province is housed in a conduit (necklace, crown, etc.). If the item is destroyed, then the sovereign becomes the conduit. Meanwhile, there is additional untapped magic housed in secret chasms, which are tricky to find and trickier to open. Magic can be used for ill, like duping all the slaves in a province to think they are content. In the first installment, Meira is presented as a tough chakrum-master. In this entry, she struggles with trying to act like a proper sovereign. However, readers who hang in there will be treated to an epic showdown as the tough girl returns. This sequel is ambitious and assumes a great deal of background knowledge; even the characters are difficult to keep straight. That being said, hard-core fantasy fans will eat this up and clamor for the conclusion. VERDICT A required purchase anywhere the first was popular.

• Leah Krippner, Harlem High School, Machesney Park, IL

“Will have readers awaiting the third book and hoping that it brings Meira and her people peace at long last.” (Kirkus Reviews) “Hard-core fantasy fans will eat this up and clamor for the conclusion.” (School Library Journal) “Lush and poetic” (Booklist) “Will have readers needing the next one, now.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) Praise for *SNOW LIKE ASHES*: “Snow Like Ashes is a thrilling story with unforgettable characters set in a stunning fantasy world that had me quickly turning pages. I want more!” (Morgan Rhodes, New York Times bestselling author of *Falling Kingdoms*) Praise for *SNOW LIKE ASHES*: “The plot and writing are superlative... Highly recommended.” (School Library Journal) Praise for *SNOW LIKE ASHES*: “A satisfying read.” (Kirkus Reviews) Praise for *SNOW LIKE ASHES*: “An enjoyable adventure-romance.” (Publishers Weekly) Praise for *SNOW LIKE ASHES*: “A new society, a grand adventure, and a first romance, all rolled into one big fantasy epic.” (Booklist)

What a sequel! With less action, more politics, new characters, and some shocking twists, this sequel was a fantastic read. Yes, I said less action, but that doesn't mean the level of danger was

any less. I felt like the first book was more physical, and this book was more about strategy, and learning to outsmart the very man who threatens to take WINTER away from Meira. Readers can definitely expect more surprises as well as some expected growth and changes with the characters in this book. I loved the introduction to new characters into the story, seeing more of their seasons, and how they fit into Meira's story. Out of the characters, I continue to admire Meira, and the character she becomes. She has so many strengths, and her weaknesses help shape her into the person she becomes. Being Queen means she makes a lot of sacrifices, and receives a lot of advice, whether she wants it or not. She struggles with being true to herself, while fulfilling her duty/role as Queen. She struggles to find herself, and who she's expected to be, while remaining true to the person she's becoming. I admired her strength in learning to shape the girl she once was into the woman she has become, while fulfilling her role as Queen. I felt like I understood she struggles in finding her way, and her thought process through it all. Meira is not the only one who makes some changes. Theron changes in ways that really surprised to see. Though looking back from the first book to now, I shouldn't have been as shocked. I think his changes were more heartbreaking, yet at the same time they made sense to the Prince/man he has grown to become. Then there's Mather. Like Meira, he has grown a lot. He's figured out who he is, and knows what he has to do. He's learned and grown a lot. I really liked getting to see him man up more in this book. I also loved getting to understand his choices previously, and what he's learned from them. I am really looking forward to seeing more of his story in the next book. I think it's safe to say that I'm liking Mather more and more. I loved understanding the struggle both Meira and Mather share with trying to figure where they stand, with their shared history, and the roles they both have now. The world building continues to fascinate me. Raasch gives readers an in-depth look into the world of Primoria, the various seasons, and the monarchs who rule them. Raasch does more than just vividly describe these seasons. She allows her readers to visit them along side Meira, and I loved having that feeling have really getting to see these places. This added a whole new element to the story. I loved getting to meet the new characters, as much as I enjoyed getting a detailed look into the lands, and how they live there. My favorite was definitely Princess Ceridwen, from Summer. She proves she's just as fiery and witty as Meira and a fantastic friend to the Queen. This book definitely does not suffer from middle book syndrome. It was just as fascinating as the first book. Sure, it may not have as many action scenes or all the romance (don't worry there's the subtle touches a kissy scene or two, or more), I loved about the first book, but it's still great. I enjoyed all this story gave, and then some. After that killer of an ending, I'm looking forward to diving right into FROST LIKE NIGHT. My word, those last few characters really picked up and then the ending left me hanging. I can only imagine

what Meira's about to do. If you loved SNOW LIKES ASHES, be sure to pick up a copy of this book!

While SLA was a bit take it or leave it to me (only 3 stars), this book was wonderful. It builds upon the development in SLA, and we see much more of Primoria, becoming world travelers. The people Meira meets are not simply "good" or "bad" but much more likely a mixture. The stakes are higher, for when before the Winterians had nothing to lose and everything to gain, now they have a tenuous freedom to try to retain. Still, their freedom is not all they expected. ILF includes more characters, more development, and more emotional conflict for Meira. This sequel was just \*more\* in so many ways. Now that Meira knows she is queen she feels an enormous amount of pressure, which makes sense. She struggles to make the best choices, but often is not aware of her options. This book is as much a journey of Meira's personal rediscovery as it is a journey to save Winter and find knowledge. Thankfully, the twists in this book are not as easy to predict as in SLA. ILF hints enough at things to come without giving an undue amount away. There's a lot to love in this book. I look forward to reading the final installment of the series.

I bought the first book in the series because recommended it to me on the home page, and fell in love. I finished the first one in less than two days and bought the rest of the series right away. The books feel fresh, like a completely new idea rather than a barely concealed spin off of another series. The main character is at times a bit annoying in how stubborn she is, but at the same time it is a key part of who she is and it's nice to have a character with obvious flaws that eventually make her stronger. The books do at times use convenient plot points to get the characters out of bad situations, but it's not hard to get past that and get back into the story. The books are written for middle or high school students, so don't expect anything incredibly complex, but they're a good read if you are looking for a new fantasy world you can sink into.

Wow! That's literally all I can say! This book is wonderful! It was so good I managed to read both of the first two books in less than a week! I'm completely speechless! I need to know what else happens like NOW!! September is way too far away to wait for the third book to tell me what else happens! Anyone searching for a new, good book to read that will keep you on the edge of your seat has found the perfect book! I highly recommend this book for all ages! You will not be disappointed!!

My best friend and I decided to read her books, which I enjoyed, but I felt like her writing was quite

dry and always seemed like it was lacking something to it. Although, her story-line was pretty catchy and most of the characters were quite interesting. I wouldn't read it again, but I would recommend it to certain people who would enjoy more than I would.

OMG! September 20th, hurry up! (My review doesn't consist of any spoilers, you should be safe!) I was on edge when I bought this book, due to the fact that many people stated that this book suffered from being the 'middle book' in the series. I have to say, this book did get off to a slow start, but it was totally worth it! When I read the last page of the book, 478, you could tell the last book in the series, Frost Like Night, is going to be great! Sara Raasch is an amazing author, I will continue to wait for the release date (September, 20th) of the last book, Frost Like Night. But I must state, I will be counting the days.....

A great sequel for sure. I really like that this book has its own story and doesn't have that sophomore slump like most second books. The author does a very good job at hinting at things that are happening without giving the whole story away. The new characters that are introduced also add quite a bit to this world that reader is going through. Overall, I think it was a good read and it was entertaining. It did not suck me in, like so many other books have, where I'm compelled to read the entire book in one evening. It didn't capture me to the point of not being able to put it down.

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