

**Title: Blood Heir**

**Author: Amélie Wen Zhao**

**Reviewed by: Ria Chhabra, 13**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Inspired by the story Anastasia, Blood Heir was a captivating, fantasy and adventure novel! Anastacya Mikhailov (Ana) is the crown princess with a deadly Affinity or a gift to manipulate blood. In a kingdom where those with an Affinity are feared and forced into slavery, Ana has hidden her ability, locked away in her family's palace for most of her life. When the emperor is murdered, Ana is accused and flees far from home to escape her execution. But, now almost a year later, Ana continues to search for her father's killer, following endless clues... until she meets Ramson. Ramson Quicktongue is an expert criminal and con artist with a shady past, but he and Ana quickly make a deal to help one another. Together they embark on a journey to unveil layers of corruption throughout the empire and discover the truth about the emperor's murder.

I loved how Blood Heir expressed such a powerful, positive message of self-love and acceptance. Throughout the story Ana was haunted by her blood Affinity, believing that part of her was a monster, a demon that spiraled her power out of control. Every adventure and experience was clouded by memories of her past - her father never wholly loving her after he learned of her Affinity or the bloody death of each life she'd never meant to take. But, somewhere near the end of the book, Ana realized that she must forgive herself for her past mistakes and embrace both sides of who she was to truly move forward.

I especially loved how the romance in this novel did not overpower the entire storyline. From stunning scenes of Ana and Ramson in the falling snow to picturesque places of them by a raging river, these beautiful, romantic moments were delicately scattered throughout the book. Not only did they deepen the relationship between Ana and Ramson, but provided a perfect break from all the heavy, seemingly - insurmountable obstacles. Amongst all the darkness of Affinity trafficking, graphic deaths and thrilling battles, the romantics were the perfect breaths of lightness. Blood heir was a powerful, epic, fantasy novel and I would highly recommend this book for fans of mystery and adventure who are 13+.

Recommended Books:

Serpent & Dove by Shelby Mahurin

Forest of Souls (Shamanborn #1) by Lori M. Lee

Havenfall (Havenfall #1) by Sara Holla

Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson