

## **A Torch Against the Night**

**Sabaa Tahir**

**Reviewed by: Anagha Kondury, 14**

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

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Laia and Elias' faces are on every wanted poster as they run away from Serra. Laia's goal is to save her brother, Darin, from the Empire's most dangerous prison, Kauf. Elias will do anything and everything to help Laia, he and she both know Darin is the only one who will give the Scholar's a chance against the oppressive Martials. Together, they will fight everyone who comes their way from the Commandant, to the prison Warden, to the new Emperor Marcus and his Blood Shrike. Helene, the Blood Shrike and Elias's ex-best friend, has pledged herself to execute the Emperor's every will. Her mission is to find her friend turned traitor, Elias, and the girl who helped him, Laia, and give them what the Emperor wants, their deaths.

A Torch Against the Night is the second installment in the Ember in the Ashes Quartet. I really enjoyed reading this book. Sabaa adds Helene's perspective along with Laia and Elias so we get a deeper understanding of her character and the struggles she faces as the Blood Shrike of the Empire. The characters are well developed as is the plot of the story. Sabaa adds so many twists and turns throughout the story and I couldn't put the book down, I had to know what comes next and you never know what to expect. I really like where the series is going because it is unique and different from most other books I have read.

This book is for grades 9-12. The book contains graphic violence and best suits those ages 13 and up. This is definitely a book I would buy and read again. It is so captivating and interesting that reading it again would be as good as reading it for the first time.

### **Recommended titles:**

A Reaper at the Gates by Sabaa Tahir

The Young Elites By Marie Lu

Six of Crows By Leigh Bardugo

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi