

The Traitor Prince

C.J. Redwine

Reviewed by: Sierra Irvine, 19

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Having spent the last ten years at an elite boarding school, Javan Najafai () is eager to return to his kingdom as crown prince of Akram. However, that excitement is cut short when he realizes an imposter has taken his place back home and no one is willing to believe him. Deemed a criminal, Javan is taken to Maqbara, the kingdom's most dangerous prison. The only hope for Javan to return home is to see his father, the king, however to see the king from Maqbara you must fight in the prison's yearly tournament. However, winning is not a simple task, especially with the other prisoners banded against him. Javan's only chance lies in Sajda, who has been enslaved in Maqbara since she was a child with a dangerous secret. With Sajda's help, Javan just may be able to escape the prison or the two of them could both crumble under the weight of the enemies and be stuck in Maqbara forever.

The Traitor Prince is the third book in the Ravenspire series, and remains up to the standards that the previous two books have set. Once again, Redwine manages to twist up a fairytale in this wonderful world she has created. The highlight of the story certainly lies in Javan, who is such a great character and makes you want to root for him the entire time. Though he has many likable traits, he never comes across as too perfect so you can find yourself relating to him and his struggles. I think Javan's strong development is in part by Sajda, who is also a great character in her own regard, being strong-willed without seeming too mean or degrading. I think the bond between the two characters is great and on par with Sebastian and Ari's dynamic in the previous book, *The Wish Granter*. The story is also super fast-paced and the chapters are short enough to keep you reading till you're finished.

Though there isn't much I would critique this book on, it has a similar issue to the series previous book, in which the ending doesn't feel quite as satisfying as you might expect. Given the strength of the book up until the end, I was expecting a strong finish as well but it falls a little short and given the things at stake almost seems too easy. While I certainly want a happy ending for the characters, I think a happy ending for the book doesn't mean everything has to go exactly as planned.

In conclusion, *The Traitor Prince* is a wonderful addition to C.J. Redwine's Ravenspire series and I am even more excited to see what fairytale she manages to tackle next. This book is perfect for a teen audience with its romantic elements and mature themes with the monsters and such. I would highly recommend this book as a gift, especially with the other novels, but it could also be gifted separately as the two books aren't particularly connected plotwise. In addition, I would recommend buying this book if you already have the other two, but if not then renting seems like the better option.

Recommended Titles:

Cinderella Is Dead by Kaylnn Bayron

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

Throne of Glass by Sarah J. Mass
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
Spin the Dawn by Elizabeth Lim