



Five Dark Fates

Written by Kendare Blake

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Five â€‹Dark Fates

By Kendare Blake

Five Dark Fates

After the battle with Katharine, the rebellion lies in tatters. Julesâ€™s legion curse has been unbound, leaving her out of her mind and unfit to rule. Arsinoe must find a cure, even as the responsibility of stopping the ravaging mist rests heavy on her shoulders, and her shoulders alone. Mirabella has disappeared.

Five Dark Fates Summary

Queen Katharineâ€™s rule over Fennbirn remains intactâ€”for now. But her attack on the rebellion exacted a high price: her beloved Pietyr. Without him, who can she rely upon when Mirabella arrives, seemingly under a banner of truce? As oldest and youngest circle each other, and Katharine begins to yearn for the closeness that Mirabella and Arsinoe share, the dead queens hiss cautionâ€”Mirabella is not to be trusted.

Five Dark Fates Release Date

In this conclusion to the Three Dark Crowns series, three dark sisters will rise to fight as the secrets of Fennbirnâ€™s history are laid bare. Allegiances will shift. Bonds will be tested, and some broken forever.

Five Dark Fates Epub

The fate of the island lies in the hands of its queens.

Five Dark Fates Spoilers

I really hope this does not end up being One Fat Disappointment!

3 stars.

Since Five Dark Fates was announced a year ago, a lot of my people, including myself, were anticipating the finale while wanting to know who will be the one true queen.

With the book finally released, does Five Dark Fates give us a great finale, or does it suffer from being a dull finale?

Sadly, for me, it's the latter.

Five Dark Fates sets up the story and characters to conclude the ongoing threat against Katherine, the rebels, and the Mist surrounding Fennbrin. Major obstacles are in the way. 3 stars.

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Sadly, for me, it's the latter.

Five Dark Fates sets up the story and characters to conclude the ongoing threat against Katherine, the rebels, and the Mist surrounding Fennbrin. Major obstacles are in the way of our queens and each one has a responsibility to quell said obstacles. But with a myriad of characters, a plot that seems to drag on, and slow pacing, Five Dark Fates does not make an excellent finale. I was not disappointed as there were parts I did like, but there were parts I did not like. I would say that I thought it was an OK finale.

Where I think this series excels at is the world-building and lore. Since the first book, I have been in love with the world of Three Dark Crowns. An island surrounded by mist inhabited by people with magic powers and with its religion and myth, the island of Fennbrin is a world I could get lost in for days. Especially in the novella about the Oracle Queen (titled The Oracle Queen) where we get to know what happened all those years ago adds to the world. With the talk of powers and the Goddess they worship, the island of Fennbrin is a unique world. It may be outshined by other fantasy settings, but it's a world I still enjoy nonetheless.

But while the world-building is something I like, the characters and pacing are what holds the series back.

The pacing has always been an issue with the series as I've seen lots of people complain about it. The issue with the pacing is that the story takes a lot of build-up to certain plot points and while that isn't a bad thing overall if the build-up is slow and doesn't add much to the plot, it can be a dull experience and makes the reading time slow. Five Dark Fates suffers this as do the other books. 300 pages of talking, planning, and a few moments of fast-paced scenes, the last 100 pages are when things do start to pick up and that does not make for a good story, let alone a finale. Build up is important, especially if there is a lot to unpack, but having the last 100 pages be the point where the plot quickens, it does not sit well with me.

And because this is a quartet, the build-up can be very slow. I will give credit where credit is due and say that Kendare Blake does know when to move around scenes that highlight important plot points.

For the characters, I'm very mixed about a few. As many of you know, Mirabella is my favorite out of the three because she's the most level-headed queen and is not afraid to show her true emotions, especially around her sisters. Then there's Katharine, my other favorite, who is very morally gray in her decisions that I came to like her a lot for her brutal honesty.

It's the other two characters, Arsinoe and Jules that I have an issue with. From the beginning, Jules was a character I did not understand. Why is she here? And why does she get more time than Arsinoe, one of the queens? Her involvement is later revealed as the series progresses but that did not make me like her. Rather, I found her to be a redundant character whose only sole purpose is to be a conflict between the sisters and the poisoners. Then there's Arsinoe and I found her to be quite dull compared to Mirabella and Katharine. She fits the archetype of the tomboy princess which isn't bad but you've seen them once, you've seen them all.

The biggest issue with Five Dark Fates is how it ended in the last 150 pages. I will go into detail about that in a spoiler section, but everything that had happened leading up to the ending could've been solved in many different ways. The conflict between the four characters is that to them, there is only one way to solve a problem when in reality, there could've been more solutions but relies heavily on one solution that results in even more conflict. The answers are right there in front of the characters but they choose to make things more difficult.

By the end of it all, I could not understand many of their reasonings and decisions.

But here are my biggest issues with Five Dark Fates: (view spoiler)[As you can guess, I was not too happy when Mirabella was killed. Not only was I mad because my favorite character was killed, but I was also mad because her death was completely unnecessary. Granted, it was kind of her fault for inviting Katharine with her to a temple knowing the dead queens were still inside her. But still, her death did not have to happen. It only added fuel to a fire that did not need to be brighter.

Finally, there's the issue of how undermined the Mist was in the last book. The Mist is presented as a

Five ←Dark Fates

terrifying force of nature that slaughters people without hesitation. A threat that could wipe out the inhabitants of Fennbirn and possibly the other countries should it spread. Here, the Mist is mentioned at the beginning and at the end with no further explanation as to why the mist returned or if it can even be stopped if Mirabella sacrificed herself. This, in turn, makes Daphne's and Iliana's story seem almost pointless as the Mist does nothing to further their story, let alone offers closure. (hide spoiler)]

As a whole, the Three Dark Crown series is an interesting series of triplets competing in a fight to the death for the crown, but the many issues it has dampens any enjoyment of the story. I don't think it's a bad series overall, and I still love the world and lore, its flaws are what prevents me from enjoying it even more. ...more

Five Dark Fates Book Box

05 Sep. '19

My other reviews for:

Three Dark Crowns | One Dark Throne | Two Dark Reigns

This book in a nutshell:

confused? read 1 | 2 | 3

Hoboy. Where do we even begin with this?

I thought I'd be nice and start with the positives. Most of them had to do with the expectations, predictions, and questions [[which you can read at the end of this review]] that I had for this book. Unfortunately, even the positive points came with an execution that I found lacking, making it difficult for me to count them

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I will go into some detail, so be warned of HUGE untagged spoilers. If you have not finished the book, I advise you not to read this review further--unless you don't mind knowing major plot developments and character deaths.

First positive is in terms of pulling punches. I predicted that Katharine would die, preferably in an attempt to redeem herself--which happens to also be the only ending I would deem acceptable for her. On this front, the author did not disappoint. What was, in the previous book, an abhorrent and utterly unsympathetic character (for me, at least), was a little easier to swallow in Five Dark Fates. However, the character went through a complete 180 change--yes, even when the dead queens were

still inside her. She was supposed to be all dark, merciless ... but all of that completely disappeared in this series finale.

In the previous books, we were led to believe that it was the dead queens who had control over Katharine; that she acted under their malice and only sometimes bits of the "true" Katharine would pop to the surface. Here, it seemed the complete opposite. In fact, Katharine was often arguing and internally fighting with the dead queens herself. Why could she not do this before? Save herself and Pietyr the trouble of that whole "low magic" bullshit?

Still related to major deaths, yes, I did say that in order to remain consistent, Mirabella must die. However, the meaning of her death, the true meaning of sacrifice, was completely undermined by her death being nothing more than a force of hand.

Instead of our characters having to make an important decision--i.e. let the mist kill everyone on the island, or let their beloved sister die--Katharine was literally forced to kill her so that the dead queens wouldn't use her as their next avatar.

source

What it sums down to is that the author needed and wanted to pull all these punches, but not at the expense of our main protagonists' morality. She wanted our three sisters to remain pure, even when it would have been far more logical (and be much more interesting) to the plot if they were morally ambiguous.

All major deaths, even during battles (what little there was of it), were at the hands of tertiary characters or, as the case of Katharine-Mirabella, under such extreme conditions that they were forced into it and had no agency or choice in the matter. Don't do that. Don't strip your character off of agency, not for major developments such as this.

The second positive ... I guess almost all my predictions came true? Only that Arsinoe did not take the crown--Jules did, because despite my giving the benefit of the doubt, it turns out Jules is indeed the Authorial Golden Child.

So that brings me to all the complaints I have for this book.

Most of them are still the same as my complaints for the previous books. Inconsistent characters, inconsistent world-building and internal logic, the story progressing solely through one plot device after another ... so I won't go into all that again. You can read my previous reviews if you're really curious.

Let me instead gripe to you about the individual plot devices that I . just . couldn't . with this book in particular, and the series in general.

First of all ...

The Mist.

Questions as to its origins were answered in the previous book, but THIS book was a huge disappointment in that it contributed nothing in terms of further answers or insights. There was a theory in regards to why it came back (i.e. it wanted the dead queens inside of Katharine) ... but this theory was left hanging; neither confirmed nor denied.

The thing with this series is that every answer provided to explain any plot point were so poorly thought-out, or poorly executed, that they only came with more questions and inconsistencies .

How did the mist return? If it did come for the dead queens, why on earth did it not actually do anything about them? And more importantly, why would it attack civilians?!

None of the above was addressed at all. All the mist did was hang around, sometimes coming, sometimes going ... mainly coming only when the author needed some external factor to propel the plot further or add tension/danger when required. Just one poor plot device in a world of plot devices.

So.

Plot device number two.

Daphne/Illian.

I said it before: The blue queen side-plot was the only thing that kept me going in Two Dark Reigns. You can tell it was only a plot device, because this entire storyline WENT ALL THE WAY TO ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE in this book. And if you can't tell, yes, that enrages me.

It wasn't wrapped up, wasn't explained, was not anything! We were given perhaps half a chapter where Arsinoe tries to find Daphne again in that cave to enlist her help, and it turns out she was just gone. Where? How? When? Why? No idea!

Give me a break. You cannot expect your readers to just brush it aside with a shrug. Oh well. Guess we don't need that plot device anymore. Girl, bye.

And speaking of plot devices we no longer need ...

Correct. It wasn't a curse; it was a plot device.

The Legion Curse.

I honestly don't even know how to start with this one. Like I said, I gave the author the benefit of the doubt, so I'm immensely disappointed at just how much of a Golden Child Jules turned out to be. The author didn't dare put any of her characters through any moral trials; she wanted them all to remain pure and untainted for us readers to like (guess what, it didn't work) -- but Jules takes the cake. The only times Jules does anything "bad" is when she is literally insane due to her "curse".

The "Legion Curse" is not only the bowl of water for Jules to wash her hands clean, but also when it could have been used as the perfect opportunity for the author to present any significant character sacrifices, she takes the easy route and suddenly drops it like it was the entire Blue Queen subplot. And no, breaking her leg at the very end of the novel and forced to walk with a limp for perhaps the rest of her (off-screen) life is not considered a "significant sacrifice" in terms of character arc.

Now that Madrigal is dead, Jules has digressed into a beast, ready to strike at anyone and anything. A large part of the beginning of this book was therefore spent on Arsinoe "binding" Jules' Legion Curse, effectively tethering it to Emilia. In order to win the final battle, Jules untethers herself and unleashes the full extent of her power. And afterwards ... well, you saw the screenshot of the quote above. It has fulfilled its purpose in plot-progression, and so must magically disappear for lack of a better conclusion.

But since I've mentioned Arsinoe ...

Low Magic.

I will let Arsinoe explain, in her own words, how low magic works:

"It's not about thinking. (...) It's about feeling. About instinct."

So, how does she know what she needs to do to tether Jules's Legion Curse? How does she know what to do in order to wake Pietyr up? Plot device, that's how.

The same is also true for the seer and their gifts. They can see the future, except when they can't. Someone can read minds, except when he can't. It's all so convenient and does not follow any set of defined rules or limitations, the whole book is one giant *dei ex machina*.

Another thing about low magic is that they keep on harping on about how it "comes at a price", but to this day, there has been no price paid. They tried to brush it off as Madrigal's death was the price Madrigal had to pay for using low magic but what kind of lame-arse attempt of a justification is this? Everyone dies eventually, regardless. It's not much of a price if you have to pay it whether or not you use low magic. It's not as though she had to suffer, lose things during her lifetime.

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On the other hand, they also tried to pass off Mirabella's death as the price Arsinoe had to pay? Why is it that for one person, their own death is the price, but for another, it's someone close to them?

The whole explanation is so convoluted and forced, it only makes it ever more clear that the author only wanted a one-liner consequence to explain why nobody messes with low magic (because we can't have everyone practicing low magic, otherwise Arsinoe wouldn't be so speshul) ... but never clearly thought out or wanted to follow-through with said consequence for her special characters.

I briefly mentioned Pietyr above, now let me revisit that can of worms.

Pietyr.

If you read my "Expectations for this book", you would know that one of them was that I expect him to remain dead.

Spoiler alert: He did not.

What does this mean? This means his "sacrifice" at the end of Two Dark Reigns is rendered null and void. This means that the whole ending of the last book was just a cheap ploy to get fangirls all riled up and crying but, like everything else, the author didn't have the courage to stick with that sacrifice. What was even the purpose of his waking up again? Nothing. He served no purpose to the plot nor its progression.

He was comatose almost the entire time, Katharine's healers trying to wake him to no avail. When Katharine holds Billy hostage, Emilia retaliates by kidnapping Pietyr in return. Never mind how ridiculously simple it was for one person to kidnap someone from a supposedly heavily-guarded tower, Arsinoe manages to wake him up with her low magic, and when he wakes up ... Pietyr is suddenly on their side and just about ready to kill the entire queensguard.

I know I promised I wouldn't go into character inconsistencies again ... but I just wanted to get that out there.

The Plot.

At the end of the day, everything just reads so juvenile; as though written for children with little attention spans who would be happy to let go of this plot point and that plot point without asking any questions ... a story about young adult characters with the mental capacity of middle-graders; getting into schoolyard fights one day, but when they meet face-to-face the next day, all's forgotten and forgiven.

The pacing absolutely dragged. A lot of scenes were unnecessary, filled with idle dialogue about things

we already know. But since I only have 300 or so characters left in this review space, I'll need to wrap up. You can always read more of my thoughts on this book in my reading progress updates down below. I'll end by saying that I was immensely disappointed at the amount of potential this series had, and how little it actually pulled through.

21 Apr. '19

My other reviews for:

Three Dark Crowns | One Dark Throne | Two Dark Reigns

My expectations for this book:

1. Mirabella must die

It does not please me to say this, because if I had to choose One Sister to Rule Them All, it would be M. But, if the author wants to remain consistent with the "prophecy" the Blue Queen left behind; if she isn't afraid to pull any punches; if this series is to end with any depth or meaning, then Mirabella must die.

2. Jules needs to be a villain

By "villain", I mean her insanity must be fore- and front-most. It needs to be embraced, known, a driving point of the plot. A threat to Fennbirn's existence.

And not in the is-still-redeemable-at-the-end way, either. It was said that Legion-cursed people would lose their mind; this rule must also remain consistent with Jules, otherwise she is nothing more than an authorial Golden Child.

3. Pietyr must remain dead

Please do not undermine the gravitas of his sacrifice in the previous book by having him somehow returned to life.

My predictions for this book:

1. Mirabella tries to unite all her sisters. They probably end up trying to defeat Jules / save Fennbirn from her madness.

2. Katharine dies maybe in an attempt to redeem herself. This would be the only ending I deem acceptable for her.

3. Arsinoe takes the crown.

4. The mist is destroyed / gone, and Fennbirn re-connects with the rest of the world. The tradition with the whole pitting-sisters-to-the-death thing will be put aside.

Questions that must be answered by the end of this series:

1. WTF is Braddock and why/how is he still tame despite Arsinoe no longer using low magic on him?! I cannot take this point seriously, since it only highlights what a special cookie Arsinoe is.
2. The side-point in either Book 1 or Book 2 that Mirabella kept having dreams about her sister (when she was supposed to have forgotten all about them) kind of went to nothing. I still want to know why the f*** she was having these memory-dreams. And no, I do not want to have to read a novella to find out.
3. Still wondering why, in Three Dark Crowns when Jack's rooster pecked/ingested Arsinoe's blood, and Madrigal who handled Arsinoe's blood several different times, didn't die. Arsinoe is clearly a powerful poisoner. If Katharine (who is not even a true Poisoner - only possessed by the spirits of some poisoners) kills men who simply has sex with her, then Arsinoe's bodily fluids should also prove just as lethal. ...more

perfection!

i canâ€™t believe this series is over. iâ€™m gonna miss it.

Five Dark Fates Ending

0,5) Queens of Fennbirn

1) Three Dark Crowns

2) One Dark Throne

3) Two Dark Reigns

I think this finale book will be very polarizing for every reader who liked the Three Dark Crowns series until then: either it was what you wanted or it wasn't. Yes, there will be 3 stars ratings like always, but I think that mostly we have the ones who will give it 4 stars: good finale, makes sense, it was what they expected from the conclusion and the ones like me giving it 2 stars: we really liked this book series and yes, some things from this ending were predictable so we're not shocked, but we still don't have to like it, plus some things aren't explained and we're left with a feeling of "all that for this".

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What disappointed me the most was that we were expecting to have know more about The Mist (yes, they began in the previous book, but I wanted to know more, to have explanations...) and the Blue Queen storyline from the previous book (for which we have no answer at all). In terms of world-building, this series wasn't the best, but I always loved every novel despite its flaws because there were other things to make up for it and because I expected the author to give us answers and explanations in the last book, which isn't the case at all. It's really disappointing, because many people gave up on this series because of its flaws, and when you still faithfully stay an enthusiastic fan of the books, you don't want to be let down in the end. The previous book was my favorite (I know it's not a popular opinion among every fan of the series) because it really showed how much potential this series had. The last book showed that said potential would go to waste.

Now, the rest is BIG spoilers, so don't click if you haven't read Five Dark Fates.

(view spoiler)[Katharine's death was predictable, but that doesn't mean I can't be bitter about MY QUEEN dying. She's my favorite character since the first book, so obviously I'm grieving. Mirabelle's death didn't really affect me - which is kind of a problem I think? I was supposed to care at least a little, even if her death was also predictable? Arsinoe is the sister who survives, which again was predictable, but for some reason Jules of all people becomes Queen instead of her. Enough about Jules, I'm so done

Five â€«Dark Fates

with this character. (hide spoiler)] ...more

I need this book like yesterday

Five Dark Fates Pdf

9th FEB 2019: WOW I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS RIGHT WITH THE FIVE.

Bring on Five Dark Fates! ☺

26TH OCT 2018: Okay, after having a think, Four Dark Queens is most likely to mirror the triplets and Jules. However, I could also see this being called Five Dark Queens. It wouldn't make sense with the title numbering, as there's been One, Two and Three already, so naturally Four would follow, BUT consider also that Illian will play a big part in #4, and that makes five queens.

Either way still H Y P E.

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9TH OCT 2018: Calling it now: this will be called Four Dark Queens. I am H Y P E.

1: THREE DARK CROWNS || 2: ONE DARK THRONE || 3: TWO DARK REIGNS ...more

02/10/19

How can it be just 320 pages long?!

I don't want this to end so fast!~ž

Five Dark Fates Goodreads

Buddy Read with Natalie & Misha ðŸ˜•

I'm so excited for the end of the Three Dark Crowns series! It has been so much fun to read and discuss with my friends. Here's hoping the end is as amazing as I hope it will be! ðŸŸ¥,

Originally published on The Nerd Daily | Review by Tasha Leigh

So I will start out by saying, if you haven't read the first three novels in the Three Dark Crowns series, you should probably choose a different article to read (but definitely come back to this one once you have). Unless of course you don't mind getting a brief overview of the plot of the last 1300ish pages of narrative that doesn't give away the fine intricacies of the novels. Even then, you should still read the previous novels!

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So Five Dark Fates is the fourth and final primary novel in the Three Dark Crowns series and it was AMAZING. Basic rundown for those who have forgotten parts? Three sibling queens are destined to battle it out for a single crown in order to rule and keep Fennbirn (the island they live on) happy. Things happens, someone should be dead, but instead she is inhabited by the souls of all the queens who lived before her. The other two refuse to die/kill their siblings and so the island gets angry. There's also naturalist Jules who also has a war affinity and should have been drowned/killed at birth because in previous experiences, the legion cursed go crazy and mass murder everyone around them. And at the start of Five Dark Fates, everyone is out to settle the score once and for all. Now, what did I think?

At the start of the novel, it was a little ho hum. No one seemed to be doing much and everyone was feeling a little antsy because, well, everyone wants everyone else dead! But crossing the half way point, things started happening so quickly that this reader had to go back and reread certain parts of the previous few chapters in order to gain a better understanding of where everyone was. Now, if you have read previous novels, all the Crowns books are like shortened versions of Game of Thrones whereby everyone moves around the tiny land expanse so quickly that sometimes you can miss things. But that's what maps are for and when reading this one, I actually pulled out my well worn copy of Three Dark Crowns so as to track everyone's movements. Also, the map changes between the first and second novels and I'm all for it because cartography is kind of my jam.

But enough about the maps. Going into this final instalment, both myself and many people who I have not so gracefully thrown these novels at, were worried as to how it would be concluded. Let me assure you, Blake has outdone herself with tying up all the loose ends in this one. Pretty much every character has a fitting ending, from the most beloved queen to that priestess that barely has a part. As a warning though, the final victor was not who you would expect. Nor do they take the throne in a manner which is conducive to the normal rules of succession.

Being the series that it is, and having a minimal amount of fighting/death (poisoning ~traitors~™ aside), the sheer volume of conflict and gore in this conclusion is guaranteed to take you aback just a little. However, the scenes are so well coordinated that the fighting and murder do not feel over the top or out of place, instead feeling like a logical culmination to the conflict of the Fennbirn Queens. Also, if you are expecting nice deaths like Katherine poisoning people and them semi-peacefully meeting their end, you may need to change your expectations a little because that is not how this one goes. As a sidenote, I really loved that the island itself set out to take its revenge because there is nothing better than a chunk of land gaining sentience and inflicting its own punishment on those that have wronged it.

Also, there is a massive revelation contained within the pages of FDF that was hinted to in Two Dark Reigns but it really blew the expected out of the water. To elicit an audible gasp from me is a hard task, but throughout the span of 450 pages, Blake shows her writing chops as she caused me to be surprised more than once. The final twists in the story are both surprising and heartwarming, guaranteed to satisfy even the most discerning audience.

So I guess what I want to say is well done to Kendare Blake for bringing this epic series of novels to a close that was not only entertaining but also follows a sensical progression. This is a rare occurrence in the current climate of fantastical novels frequently utilising a deus ex machina for their final resolution. Characters who seemed to go by the wayside finally had a purpose, all the plotting and scheming culminated in an epic fashion and it was an all round enjoyable read. My one main criticism of the whole thing was what happened with a certain newborn because they seemed to just disappear and now I™m confused as to their purpose! ...more