



Descendant of the Crane

Written by Joan He

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Descendant of the Crane

By Joan He

Descendant Of The Crane

Princess Hesina of Yan has always been eager to shirk the responsibilities of the crown, dreaming of an unremarkable life. But when her beloved father is found dead, she's thrust into power, suddenly the queen of a surprisingly unstable kingdom. What's more, Hesina believes that her father was murdered—and that the killer is someone close to her.

Descendant Of The Sun

Hesina's court is packed full of dissemblers and deceivers eager to use the king's death for political gain, each as plausibly guilty as the next. Her advisers would like her to blame the neighboring kingdom of Kendi, whose ruler has been mustering for war. Determined to find her father's actual killer, Hesina does something desperate: she enlists the aid of a soothsayer—a treasonous act, punishable by

death, since magic was outlawed centuries ago.

Descendant Of The Sun Ost

Using the information provided by the sooth, and uncertain if she can trust her family, Hesina turns to Akira—a brilliant investigator who’s also a convicted criminal with secrets of his own. With the future of Yan at stake, can Hesina find justice for her father? Or will the cost be too high?

Descendant Of The Sun Netflix

“Tonight, we fell victim to fear. We let it blind us. We thought we were hunting monsters.”
She stared out into the sea of flame-washed faces. It took all her strength not to look away. But we were monsters.

Descendant of the Crane was a really pleasant surprise. It's actually one of the better, more creative YA fantasies I've read, taking influence from Chinese culture and exploring morally grey areas in a story full of political machinations and twists. I hope this book doesn't get buried under

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It's a quieter book than I had first imagined. The promise of a kingdom in turmoil and a ban on the magic once practiced by soothsayers sounds familiar in this genre, not unlike other action-packed fantasies. However, it is much more focused on political maneuvering and a young woman's bildungsroman as she discovers that not everything is black and white, and sometimes you are forced to choose between the lesser of two evils.

Oh, and there's also a compelling murder mystery and courtroom drama.

Joan He avoids dropping characters into "good" or "evil" boxes, allowing the villains (both the obvious ones and the not so obvious) to be multilayered and have realistic motivations for their actions that go beyond "Muahaha, I'm evil". As Hesina adjusts to her new power as queen, she finds herself relating to her enemies and questioning the purely benevolent view she always held of her father. I like how the author doesn't stop at the surface, but instead explores complex emotions.

If you want to understand a person, peer at his heart through the window of his prejudices and assumptions.

The story begins with Hesina illegally visiting a soothsayer for information about her father's - the former king's - death. She knows there was foul play and wants to find out who was responsible. The soothsayer cannot tell her the culprit, but she can point her in the direction of someone who will help her find out. Enter sexy ex-convict-turned-lawyer: Akira.

What follows is Hesina's attempt to get justice for her father and prevent war at the same time. Along the way, she uncovers secrets and betrayals. The murder mystery aspect - plus the thrilling courtroom scenes - were done so well here. So much better than the recent Four Dead Queens.

I really enjoyed it when Hesina was forced to play a role as queen. Part of her story arc is learning how

Descendant of the Crane

sometimes, unfortunately, it is necessary to lie or do "bad" for the greater good. It's a hard pill for her to swallow.

I have a couple of minor quibbles. The first is that sometimes the pacing needed work. Overall, I appreciated the slower, more political plot, but there were parts of the book that went on too long and felt dragged out, but truthfully this could be said for about 95% of YA fantasy debuts.

The second is that this is one of those books that I think would have been better as an adult novel. There is something a bit off by all these rulers and military leaders being around 16 or 17 years old. As it is, the novel is mostly chaste, despite the inclusion of such as brothels. It feels almost deliberately cleaned up for a younger audience, and I think it is a shame that a sexy character like Akira is wasted on a romance lacking in steam.

I still enjoyed it a lot, though. I have to point out that this is NOT a standalone and is left set up for a sequel. You can bet I'll be reading it.

Who isn't powerless against the will of the cosmos? But who doesn't try all the same?

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Me, while sipping apple juice out of a champagne glass and gazing dramatically into the distance: I've had enough of cliffhangers...

What an ending! Such a succession of shattering revelations that sent a wave through my room so strong that I felt its ripple and was rocked on its mooring. Such was the churn and whirl of my thoughts and feelings that I was genuinely incapable of putting two ideas in a row, let alone come into any kind of conclusion—other than that I desperately need a sequel.

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So, what's this book about?

Hesina finds herself thrust into a tale she hardly understands when news of the king's death—her father's death—burst wildly and messily into Yan. Then, too soon, it is neatened, pressed and cast away without a slight crease in it. But the truth of it had already sunk into the center of Hesina and broken open, flooding her with a new certainty: her father has been murdered and the need to seek justice for him sang bright in her. With the rage and terror in her heart, the limits of her knowledge and her experience so miserably evident, Hesina turns to a Soothsayer who puts her on the path of Akira, a

Descendant of the Crane

convicted criminal whose past and motivations are cloaked in secrecy.

But in doing so, Hesina risks treason. Some things, it seems, run too close to the bone to change no matter how much you want them to.

See, centuries before, the gnarled hand of oppression loosened its grip on Yan's throat when the relic emperors were overthrown by the Eleven—a legendary group of outlaw saviors. The Eleven, later, gathered their philosophies into a book they called the Tenets and etched them into permanence. By then, the fear of Soothsayers—the relic emperor's henchmen—and their magic had knitted itself into the bones of Yan and seeped through generations, and so the Eleven expunged everyone with Sooth magic in their blood from existence.

Now, one truth unleashes another and another and having torn open the vault of secrets her father took with him into the ground, the hope for a better Yan, that had leapt in Hesina's chest, crashes all at once. And all that is left is the plaintive specter of a child who had loved and trusted her father so wholeheartedly, her illusions now forever dashed and broken.

“A dead king,” said the convict. “A deceived populace. A truth seeker. Sounds like a story that could end very well or very poorly, and I want to spectate.”

The premise Joan He lays out in *Descendant of the Crane* isn't shockingly original, but the relatively familiar contours of the plot do not make it any less elaborate. I had hardened myself to wonder before I started this book, but my knee-jerk skepticism was quickly knuckled under by my admiration for the way He has craftily drawn on several familiar tropes and recast them into something altogether fresh and memorable.

Descendant of the Crane does flounder somewhat until it settles into a groove. I think the novel could have been better curated, as it sometimes feels less like a story and more like a haphazard sequence of things happening. The characters could also be more deeply realized—the purpose for existing in the story for some characters is merely the degree to which they advance Hesina's arc without settling into one of their own, and they barely have enough personality to make that existence worthwhile, others start with interesting arcs but are eventually reduced to cogs in a jarring plot twist that almost flattens them as characters.

Moreover, when it comes to Akira, the love interest, my list of likes decreases dramatically. There's something about him that doesn't quite synchronize with the rest of this world, like his character had been spliced in from a different story. Akira appears so infrequently that it feels like the novel is frustratingly adamant on keeping the reader at arms' length from him. His inclusion in the story scarcely makes sense, and Akira quickly loses the thin, undefinable edge that made him interesting to begin with. It made me want to poke at him until he gives me something more, something more exciting, something—at the very least—worth rooting for.

Descendant of the Crane

Nevertheless, the book successfully breezes past many of its flaws, and He's own boundless creativity eventually finds its footing. Once it does, *Descendant of the Crane* doesn't let go. As Hesina's investigation into her father's death deepens, so does the book's scope. I had not managed to organize my puzzlement into a question before the plot begun eddying around in a speedy, gasp-out-loud, page-flipping style—each new certainty leading not to the next steppingstone but into a quagmire. Revelations were so laden with dread and dismay that they fell into the novel like a rock into a quiet pond, and my astonishment quickly turned to horror. The climax was a virtuoso performance, leading to a poignant epilogue with just enough bread crumbs to set the ground for future installments.

I really liked Hesina's arc. I love how nothing in this story yields resignedly to her desires despite her many effortful attempts. The court is not some simple engine that applying pressure here, pressure there, could propel in the direction of her wishes. Hesina realizes that she can no longer grasp after the tail end of her father's memory, clinging doggedly to his teachings; she needs a lot more foundation stones before she can start building this tower. At the same time, Hesina must reconcile with the river of spilled blood between her forebearers and the downtrodden Sooths and find a way to lead her people out of their fear and hatred. Most of the time, the task feels like trying to run up the side of an avalanche, and the novel doesn't elude the reality of the weight residing on Hesina's shoulders.

I also love how He mercilessly probes her characters' underlying motivation, and explores the lines between good and evil, who monsters are, and what makes them so. By the end, her antagonists' villainy illuminates the morality of each character, and the reader is still a long way from sundering villain from hero.

What is truth? Seek it. Write it. Good kings pay gold to hear it. But in trying times, truth is the first thing we betray.

Overall, *Descendant of the Crane* is a lovely, assured debut and a formidable addition to the growing body of diverse teen literature!

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...more

Descendant Of The Crane By Joan He

4/10/19 THE BOOK IS OUT NOW!!! Goodreads users, thank you so much for all your pre-release support. Thank you if you added the book. Thank you if you read and reviewed. Thank you if you've taken a moment to cross-post your review on Amazon. All these things have made a world of difference in getting my smaller-pub book into the hands of readers &3

FAQs

Is this book standalone?

Are the names Chinese?

How is mandarin terminology used in the text?

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Hopefully this is helpful! Please remember that some of these answers encompass my views only. Authors of colors are not a monolith, and like normal people we have a diversity of opinions. What matters is that the conversation--which is still sorely lacking--is on-going.

I also wanted to take a moment to say that it's hard to convey everything a book is through a synopsis alone and I want to apologize if the previous one for DESCENDANT is misleading. I understand how much it sucks if a story doesn't match expectations, and so in the interests of full disclosure:

DESCENDANT OF THE CRANE might be the book for you if you like political intrigue, twists, complex family dynamics, a roller-coaster type plot with a slow-build to the summit, and questions of morality in your fantasy. It may not be the book for you if you prefer more action, romance, and break-neck pacing from the get-go to your stories. I love a story of that type as much as anyone else, but DESCENDANT simply isn't that and neither do I want to pretend it is.

11.29.18: eARCs are available to request on NetGalley and Edelweiss! Pleaseeee forgive any typos/awkward phrasing/wonky sentences in the ARC!!! Love you all &3

8.29.18: We have a cover!! It's so very Chinese, and I'm really humbled that so many of you love it.

I also wanted to clarify something about the accuracy of the story. China has an incredibly epic history. It's also an epically misogynistic one. The only time women's rights was really a (side) agenda was during the Cultural Revolution. The book addresses this. It's a fantasy, of course, so it's not going to be 100% historically accurate, but I wanted to acknowledge the true, non-romanticized history, because so few books do.

That, however, is beside the point. My main point is that I wrote this book as a Chinese-American. Growing up over here meant that I was surrounded by narratives about strong women, women who got stories that were MORE than just fighting to survive in a world of men. I wanted to contribute to those narratives. That's why we have a Chinese-esque princess who becomes queen. Maybe it's not the norm to Chinese history, but it is the norm that I see (and hope to see more of) in the place I call home.

tldr; Stories about concubines, wives, and daughters fighting tooth and nail to be considered worthy in a sexist society are valid. They are the status quo. But they are not the ones I set out to write.

This book almost killed me and now I can finally share the pain and let it kill you.

But seriously, I've been working on this book since 2013 and I can't wait to share it with you . It's everything I love in Chinese dramas (sprawling families, complex relationships, double-meanings, betrayal-for-your-own-good, gray morality) minus all the "meh" bits (girl on girl hate, harems competing against each other). To stay up to date on book news, you can sign up for my newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/c5rvdL> ...more

I am so honored to be a part of Hesina's Imperial Court, to help boost this beautiful story!

Update: I actually won't be posting my review for this until MAY! But I am very excited to tell you why soon, and I implore you all to pick this beautiful debut up!

New Update: The cat is out of the bag! Make sure you're following Books With Friends for updates!

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Descendant Of Thieves

I've always thought of writing as like gardening.

The words take root, sometimes growing. Sometimes sprouting others and more—sentences and paragraphs blossoming together.

And sometimes not. Sometimes refusing to break through, through the grit of grammar and barrenness of diction, through the concrete blankness of my mind—as is the case now.

How do I put to words everything that was Descendant of the Crane? I feel as if anything I write would be a disservice to this novel. To all that it encompass

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How do I put to words everything that was Descendant of the Crane? I feel as if anything I write would be a disservice to this novel. To all that it encompassed and to all that it brought out.

The thing is, I like to nurture what I've written over time—tending to the words like a gardener tending to the garden. Always trimming. Always refining.

Unforgivingly brutal. Tragically beautiful.

And yet, those words are not enough for Descendant of the Crane.

I admit that after reading, I didn't know what to write. Because the truth is, Descendant of the Crane was not a novel to be contained in words.

In which case, I feel inclined to refrain from what I've always done. No more trimming. No more refining. Let the words nurture themselves. Wild. Untamed. Phrases snarling, sentences tangling.

In Chinese legends, cranes are said to bear the spirits of the departed to heaven. And that was what Descendant of the Crane was for me—the wings to my soul. I was carried aloft on its feathers, flown to transcendent heights.

And how to describe the writing? Perhaps it was a painting and each word a brushstroke, a vibrant dab of colour across the paper; or perhaps it was a tapestry, the words woven into a mosaic of mesmerising patterns—I'd like to continue waxing poetic, but what point would there be in that?

Imagine the acrid aromas of incense coiling through the air. The autumn wind as it whispers sweet secrets to the ginkgo leaves. The scarlet haze of paper lanterns smeared around the edges of silhouettes.

Descendant of the Crane was a story about human people in an inhuman world—it was a story about a kingdom which carried the wounds of centuries past, its hurts unhealed and cutting deep, its bitterness and hate festering together like rot.

It was a story about a queen who sought to stitch her kingdom back together, to sew its wounds shut and soothe its hurts—a queen who, in the end, rose from the mire of her insecurities and doubts, of her despair and pain, to bloom like a lotus flower from the mud: strong, resilient and beautiful.

Descendant of the Crane

It was a story that left me with no words.

And you know what?

To the Ten Courts of Hell with waxing poetic.

I loved it.

Beyond words.

5.0/5

note: this review reflects my honest thoughts! I'd like to thank Albert Whitman Company and Joan He for the ARC! I rarely give out five stars, which goes to show how much I loved this novel :) ...more

Actual Rating: 3.5 stars

full rtc...

This book is giving me trust issues!!

Descendant Of The Sun Season 2

I don't believe you if you say this isn't the most gorgeous, gloriously Asian cover you've seen

Plot: 5/5 Characters: 5/5 Writing: 5/5

The Descendant of the Crane was an intricate Chinese fantasy full of treachery and about a relentless hunt for the truth. I was constantly in suspense and it kept me guessing until the very last page.

The writing was exquisitely vivid, each word weaving a net that captured my attention and didn't let go. Sometimes, I even felt as if I were a part of the story. The first half of the book was quite slow-paced, gradually building up and setting the scene. However, Plot: 5/5 Characters: 5/5 Writing: 5/5

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The writing was exquisitely vivid, each word weaving a net that captured my attention and didn't let go. Sometimes, I even felt as if I were a part of the story. The first half of the book was quite slow-paced, gradually building up and setting the scene. However, the second half was a constant stream of mind-shattering revelations and plot twists- my poor heart didn't know what to do with itself!

The characters were all brilliant and multi-faceted. Hesina was the protagonist, a young woman convinced that her father, the king, was murdered despite the fact that everyone else believed it to be a natural death. Determined to deliver justice, she decided to start a trial to find the murderer and become the next queen. Even though she didn't always make the right decisions and she had many misconceptions about her kingdom, it was admirable how she believed in herself and had the courage to pursue the things she thought were right. There were times when she wavered but when she made up her mind to do something, she did it formidably.

I also thought the relationships in the novel were well crafted. There wasn't a heavy emphasis on romance (which I thought was good) but there was a lot about family. Hesina had a brother called Sanjing and although they loved each other they weren't very good at showing it and had a strained relationship. On the other hand, she was very close to Caiyan and Lilian, who were her adopted siblings. I thought the way these relationships were contrasted was very well done. Also, there was Akira, the convict that Hesina asked to help her in the trial. He generally remained shrouded in mystery but we do get to learn small things about him here and there in the novel. I'm interested to see what his role will be in the next book.

A really important detail of the book was the sooths. They were people with almost magical powers who could do amazing things like seeing into the future. Due to previous historical events, the sooths were generally despised and shunned from society and there were terrible punishments for them and those

Descendant of the Crane

who sympathised with them. Another reason I liked Hesina was that although everyone was telling her that the sooths were evil and deserved to be punished, she made up her own mind about them and wanted to bring equality to her society. Which is also something that we should all do today.

I adored this book, it's definitely a new favourite. Honestly, it's the kind of book that deserves to be a movie. If you like complex fantasies that constantly keep you guessing, then this book is for you!

Thank you to Albert Whitman Company and Joan He for providing me with an e-ARC via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review!

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Descendant Of The Crane Excerpt

oh my god the cover

Chinese-inspired Game of Thrones!! oh my god the cover

Chinese-inspired Game of Thrones!! ...more

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Reading this after THE GIRL KING turned out to be a really weird experience because they are both very similar stories. Dare I say that "Asian-inspired" fantasy novels in kingdoms where magic is forbidden seems to be the new trend? But, like, seriously, both are about royal siblings who must struggle to learn to manage their kingdoms in times of severe political upheaval. These kingdoms are also utterly opposed to magic - in THE GIRL KING,

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Hesina is forced to take up the royal mantle when her father dies under mysterious circumstances. Her mother, who dislikes her for unknown reasons, abdicates very reluctantly, leaving Hesina to manage the kingdom and lead the trial to find her father's murderer, all without her help.

Luckily, Hesina has several siblings to help her out. Caiyan and Lillian are twins, and her half-siblings; Sanjing is her full brother; and Rou is the son of her father's favored mistress. Despite knowing that it is high treason, she seeks out a sooth to help set her on her path, who tells her the path she should take to find her father's murderer. It points her towards a criminal imprisoned in the dungeons, a foreign man named Akira, who is brilliant, powerful, and mysterious.

I liked DESCENDANT OF THE CRANE a lot more than I liked THE GIRL KING, for several reasons. The world-building was more cohesive and there were many direct parallels to actual elements of Chinese culture (the writing/characters, the religion, historical allegories (I was thinking of the Cultural Revolution specifically, as the rebellion of the eleven and the persecution of the sooths reminded me of that), culture, and clothing). It did not feel quite as nebulous as THE GIRL KING did. The actual magic was a little vague; I'd like to learn more about sooths in the next book. Still, we did see some examples of sooth-saying and what I did see was compelling (blue fire, though).

This book's biggest weakness was its pacing. There were some elements that moved quickly, that I couldn't page through fast enough. This has one of the best "trial" scenes I've seen in a book, like Joan He was the John Grisham of YA fantasy authors. Then there are other parts that move very slowly and/or feel almost repetitive. It was frustrating for me because I initially thought that this was going to be a four-star read, but then it got too tedious and my enjoyment of it lessened over time.

The book's biggest strength are its twists. Several of the grand reveals in this book were excellently done. I found myself looking forward to seeing how the other mysteries in this book would be resolved and finding myself pleasantly surprised each time.

Hesina is a flawed but compelling character and it is interesting to see how the choices she makes in the book end up changing her. She is a very different person by the end of the story than she was in the beginning. I am curious about the names, and why some are Chinese but Hesina's is, I believe, an alternate spelling of a Muslim name, and Lillian is a very Western name. I'm also confused by the ending, which was very strange to me. The author had already proven she was very good at twists, but that one, for some reason, felt especially extra. Maybe it will make more sense in the sequel.

Hopefully this review helps you decide whether you want to read this book without giving too much away. I am totally in love with the cover and was surprised by how much I enjoyed DESCENDANT OF THE CRANE. Hoping the author continues the story on even stronger footing in the sequel.

Descendant of the Crane

Thanks to Netgalley/the publisher for the review copy!

3 to 3.5 stars ...more

Descendant Of The Crane Book

Initial Thoughts: Just been approved for an e-arc of one of my most anticipated 2019 releases!! This cover combined with the Chinese-inspired A Game of Thrones comparison has me anticipating great things from this one.

Review: Tyrants cut out hearts. Rulers sacrifice their own. From this very first line of the synopsis I knew this was going to be the book for me.

A well-conceived costume is a new identity. From this very first line of the actual book I knew I was going to be immersed in all the political scheming, court intrigue, and high-stakes action that I had been so highly anticipating. And I was not wrong.

Review: Tyrants cut out hearts. Rulers sacrifice their own. From this very first line of the synopsis I knew this was going to be the book for me.

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Fantasy books following the inner-workings of the royal court and with society's ruling members as their central characters are my favourite to read about. What this book did, inside this much-used outline, is deliver the reader something entirely new. The book begun with treason, was followed by murder, and the stakes were only ever raised from there. My trust was tested with each twist added to this deliciously dark tale and even as I bonded with the unforgettable cast of characters I knew I could never trust them, or the author, with what was going to be delivered next.

Joan He made not one fault in this meticulously constructed story-line, this vivid world, and these entirely unique and authentic characters. I was enchanted by her words and immersed inside her world. This book lived up to every one of the crazy high expectations I placed upon it. I was in absolute adoration of the writing, throughout, and in utter denial over how shook the ending had me, as I turned the final page.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to the author, Joan He, and the publisher, AW Teen, for this opportunity. ...more

why am i crying in the club right now????? how dare you joan (i think this might be one of my favorites of 2019)

instead of a traditional review, here's reasons why you should just read this book

Descendant of the Crane

ðŸŒŒ, joan's writing is so, so gorgeous and it creeps into your soul

ðŸŒŒ, (it kind of reminds me of roshani chokshi's writing? but more practical)

ðŸŒŒ, this literally has the most twisty plot ever. listen, I came into this book expecting a murder mystery and came out feeling like I'd walked through a hailstorm

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ðŸŒŒ, it's not only a murder mystery!! it has a fantasy plotline and centers on Hesina trying to figure out how to manage ruling her kingdom

ðŸŒŒ, I love all of the characters so much.

ðŸŒŒ, especially Sanjing. I would die for Sanjing. I love him so much

ðŸŒŒ, seriously, I was not kidding. I love Sanjing even though he gets the least page time.

ðŸŒŒ, (oh I just realized I superimposed Li Shang onto Sanjing and it's kind of... fitting)

ðŸŒŒ, also yeah this novel has some flaws, like certain unnecessary plot twists and Lillian's lacking characterization but I've become too obsessed with this book to rate it objectively

ðŸŒŒ, by the way... the romance is kind of lackluster. I said it

ðŸŒŒ, I just don't completely see the appeal of Akira as a love interest. I'm sorry, y'all. I really tried. I just kept picturing his brown hair as a rat's nest

ðŸŒŒ, I also didn't really see any reception from Akira towards Hesina? he never really demonstrated his affection for her. I had so much hope for their ship but no

ðŸŒŒ, Sanjing tho... why was the brother more attractive than the actual love interest

ðŸŒŒ, Anyways. more importantly, Hesina's character was so well-done and I could feel her desperation and helplessness seeping through the pages

ðŸŒŒ, and her realizations that everyone's not who they appear to be are just... so relatable. I love Hesina so much and she Truly Feels Like A Flawed Teen Character to me

ðŸŒŒ, I would categorize this as kind of a coming-of-age fantasy

ðŸŒŒ, I really loved so much about this book. the worldbuilding was honestly flawless and the lore of the empire was one of my favorite things to read

ðŸŒŒ, I mean, this book also tackles institutionalized oppression and how it can be built-in so deep that it can never truly be removed

ðŸŒŒ, also the most wild existential themes are present, yo

ðŸŒŒ, like what the frick I came for an adventure and left with a hole in my soul and inescapable thoughts about legacy

ðŸŒŒ, THIS BOOK SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE NYT BESTSELLING LIST. truly the greatest injustice of our time

Trigger and content warnings for death by poison, slavery, drowning, blood, cutting oneself,

Descendant of the Crane

(institutionalized) oppression, parental neglect, and strangulation.

(view spoiler)[why did lillian die though :((hide spoiler)]

edit: ^^ this is a major spoiler btw

...

hi a physical arc of this appeared on my doorstep and i would like to say that i am a little emotional right now because i've wanted this so badly ...more

Descendant of the Crane

Descendant Of The Stars

My smol Asian heart is doing a happy dance, because Iâ€™m a Baroness at Hessinaâ€™s Imperial Court!!

Have you ever seen a book with a cover that so effortlessly transcends all human concepts of beauty, and, moreover, has a synopsis to match its outer beautyâ€™s magnificence with equal brilliance?

// buddy read with Tiffany ðŸŒ°

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3.5 stars

Thanks to Netgalley and Albert Whitman & Company for a digital galley in exchange for an honest review

This little gem may have escaped my notice if I hadn't seen a list of highly anticipated YA novels for 2019. Reeling from the death of a beloved father, the teen regent Hessina is hell bent on finding the person or persons who may be responsible. Plenty of twists and lots of back stabbing betrayals ensue and it isn't long before Hessina wonders- who can I trust?

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There is potential left here for a sequel and despite a little bit of a slow start in the beginning, I soon was swept away by this tale. ...more