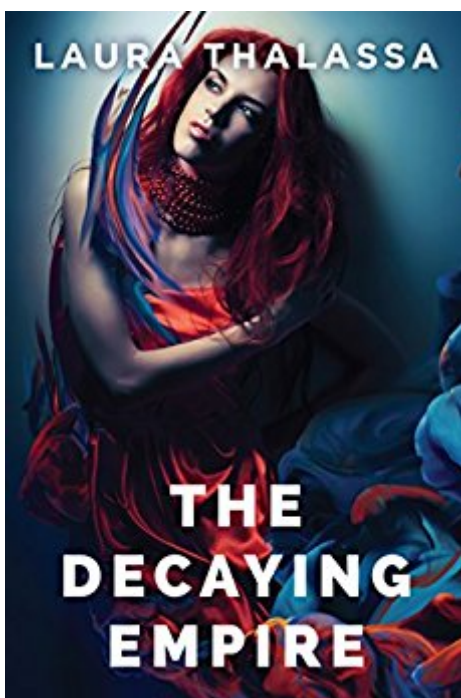


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The Decaying Empire (The Vanishing Girl Series Book 2)



Synopsis

When eighteen-year-old teleporter Ember Pierce wakes up in a Los Angeles hospital, she remembers only the basics: she's been trained by the government as a spy, she's sent on dangerous missions, and her last assignment—the one that landed her in the hospital—was a setup. Caden Hawthorne has spent the past ten months of his life grieving Ember's death. So when she shows up in his room like an apparition, he can't believe his eyes. But this Ember is different. Her hair is longer, her skin is paler, her gaze is haunted. She tells him what he's already begun to suspect: someone he trusted betrayed her. Now, uncertain who is friend and who is foe, Ember and Caden face the toughest mission of their lives—to stay together and survive, as they run from danger toward an unknown future.

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Customer Reviews

There is so much happening in this sequel! We hit the ground running right where we left off in The Vanishing Girl and it's a full out action pact sprint to the end. I have to say that Laura Thalassa might

be one of the best at pacing and writing action packed scenes. Our hearts are pounding throughout this sequel and I loved that. No sophomore slump here! Ember is almost completely different than the Ember we met in book one, but I would hope that everyone would expect her to be. She's a lot stronger, but at the same time her weaknesses are more apparent making her a hell of a lot more combative. Animal trapped in the corner analogy works great here. But she has many, many more reasons to fight beyond herself. Her relationship with Caden is very intense, but then it's reflective of their life and situation. Not that I'm complaining here. I do think it's kind of sad we said goodbye to the jovial Caden. I guess when you find out Oz is just some dude moving a machine it tends to disillusion you. He remains Ember's solid ground and she needs it. I will say the heat is turned all the way up in this one. And! AND! We get some scenes from Caden's POV!!! Very illuminating stuff, my fellow readers. YEEEEEP!!! Now it's strange because there is a lot of things happening in this story...A LOT...but at the same time the truth is a slow drip throughout. And it isn't until the very, very, very (did I say very?) end that the veil is lifted and my Kindle went sailing across the room. I don't want to give too much away because there are a lot of twist and turns in this installment. Many of which will piss people off (in a frustrated, when the hell is book 3 coming out kinda way), but it's worth the ride! Laura Thalassa is one of my favorite authors, she world-builds her ass off and has such a talent of characterization. Go read, people!!

SWOOOON!!! I have so many highlights of awesomeness in Caden *cough* I mean in this novel!! I adore this series. So much. It is beautifully written, and the complexity of the characters, the world they live in, makes my heart beat faster. I'm not actually a book boyfriend sort of person. Until now, I've only ever picked up one, and that is SC Stephens' Kellan Kyle. But toward the end of this novel, I felt this enormous grin spread on my face, because Caden - CADEN is freaking up there!!!! I adore his sexy, hardcore ways. How protective he is of Ember. His clever comebacks. How, no matter the absurdity of their lives and the temptations around them, Ember is the only one he'll ever love. Even when they're in the same room, he longs for her: "Caden stared at me across the fire, the smoke and flames making his features sharper and more dangerous-looking. He watched me like a man mesmerized. I had to stop myself from reaching up and self-consciously tucking a strand of hair behind my ear. (...) 'He wants you to go over to him,' Marissa said, leaning into me. 'He looks like he's having separation anxiety.' We both knew that wasn't the look he was giving me." This is suspense. It's dystopian. Science fiction. Seriously action-filled romance. Passion. And it is definitely, definitely New Adult. I love that this series is for grown-ups. Laura Thalassa doesn't moderate her characters' language, and even so it is far from over the top; it is just enough to make

you feel like you're not reading a book created for 13-year-olds. Now, I can't wait for book three. Ember and Caden's story continues, and the way *The Decaying Empire* ends made me squirm with delight. It is absolutely perfect!!! So let me finish my review with a small part from the end of the book. It will not ruin your fun and the suspense (which is brimming over throughout the entire book), but it might show you why I ended up with goosebumps. "Caden winked at her, then he too played his part. He pressed into the group, clapping a man on the shoulder, shaking hands, being the chummy f-ing charmer he always was. New enemies to add to the old? Bring'em. They'd been trained for violence. And in this field, the prodigies had surpassed their masters."

Still not sure if there will be more in the series, not quite a neat little ending. There was a lot more action and sexuality in this book. The sexuality may be monotonous to some. I felt more credibility should have been made about Ember's and Caden's assassin abilities, through intensity during training scenes or more training scenes earlier on. The romance was very YA/ NA, but sweet, plus the main characters are in their 20s, so I suppose it was appropriate. I like the twists towards the end as well. To sum up, if you liked Book 1, you'll love Book 2, just don't look for a neat ending.

I am desperately hoping for a third. While waiting for the next JP Women's Murder Club to be released, I came across this author. I downloaded the sample of the first book and was hooked by the third page. After finishing the two, I started another of her series, and am enjoying it just as much as James P. Make no mistake, although these series contain the female heroine, that's where the similarity ends concerning the plots. The style of L. Thalassa (to me) as far as fluidity and entertainment is second to none.

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