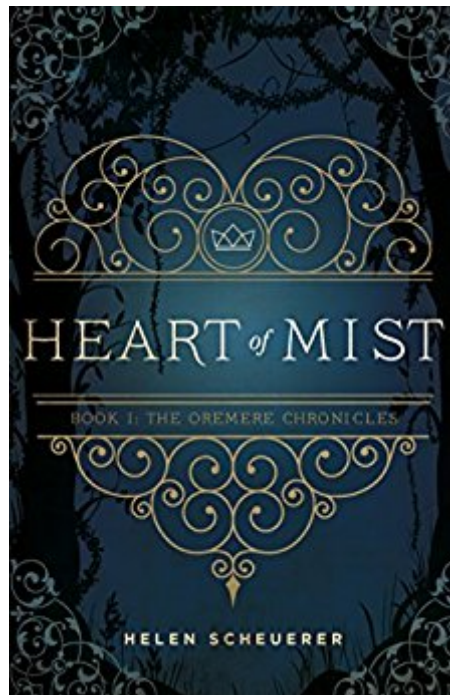




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Heart Of Mist: Book I: The Oremere Chronicles



Synopsis

In a realm where toxic mist sweeps the lands and magic is forbidden, all Bleak wants is a cure for her power. Still grieving the death of her guardian and dangerously self-medicating with alcohol, Bleak is snatched from her home by the Commander of the King's Army, and summoned to the capital. But the king isn't the only one interested in Bleak's powers. The leader of an infamous society of warriors, the Valia Kindred, lays claim to her as well, and Bleak finds herself in the middle of a much bigger battle than she anticipated. Heart of Mist is the gripping first book in The Oremere Chronicles, a fantasy series of epic proportions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The plot at its base has some familiar fantasy elements: a main character with unknown powers, a medieval high fantasy setting with kings and knights, political rivalries, forbidden magic, class tension, corrupt royalty, and of course rampant abuse towards women. As the story unfolds Heart of

Mist adds some refreshing twists to the classic hero's journey. The thing that made this book really stand out to me was how the plot tackles various social issues. Bleak copes with her magical powers by drowning herself in alcohol and her struggle with drinking opens up conversation about alcoholism in young adults, a topic not often brought up in YA novels. Bleak is a flawed heroine and her character had more depth than what I'm used to seeing. Then there are the Valians, kindred, a race of proud female warriors with their own strict way of life. I liked that even the Valians, which on the surface seems like an ideal feminist society in a world where women are second class, have their own issues with social hierarchies. The cast of characters was extremely diverse and there were very few that I disliked. Most of the characters were pretty well developed with distinct personalities, often falling into a sort of grey area between good and evil. The Bleak and Bren romance was the one piece of the story that I didn't care for all that much, mostly because it was the one plot point that felt weak and underdeveloped. His role in the story felt so small, his appearances were brief, and the conflict between them can be predicted immediately. If their relationship was better formed I might not have minded, but as it was it was just drama I could have done without. I'm hoping that the prequel novellas and the rest of the books can convince me of their relationship because as it is I just don't feel all that strongly about the pair. Besides my issues with the romance I found Heart of Mist to be a compelling read that I took my time to savor. I got drawn in more and more as the story developed and some of the sinister forces started coming to light. The revelations in the story blew me away and honestly have me excited to read the next book in the series. I want to know so much more about the other continents, particularly Battalon, and I'm dying to see more of the world expanded in the coming books. The Oremere Chronicles is definitely a series worth checking out and is one I'll be continuing in the future.

I received an e-ARC of this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts are my own. Where do I even begin with this review!? Heart of Mist completely blew away the expectations I had for this novel. On receiving the synopsis from Scheuerer, I thought - okay a fantasy novel, I'm most likely going to like it, it'll probably have some romantic plot line which will have me hooked and I'll sinker| but I was not prepared for how much I would fall in love and for how different it was to my initial expectations. This novel had me hooked from the very first page, which is completely surprising, as I can really struggle with novels that have minimal to no romance, and this novel only had hints "there was nothing else. I found myself forgetting the lack of romance, and it wasn't till I started writing the review that it hit me that I

was in love with a novel that had barely any, well, love (Gasps in shock)! Heart of Mist is an incredible fantasy novel: magic, hints of romance, friendship, betrayal, secrets and deeply rooted plot twists abound. It left me wanting more and in complete despair at turning the last page and realising I would have to wait for book two to be released to find out what will happen next to my beloved characters. The novel centres around our main protagonist Bleak, an alcoholic with a secret that could destroy her and anyone she holds dear. Seeing alcoholism portrayed in a YA novel was entirely new for me: I had not come across a novel where the main protagonist self-medicates with an addiction, and to me it was what made the novel unique, and had me crossing all my fingers that Bleak would overcome her addiction. The novel also has POV chapters from other characters throughout, which I loved and found very refreshing and intriguing. No character is the same, they're all different in their own way. The majority of the characters Scheuerer created harbour secrets and have dark pasts that keep you guessing throughout about who is linked to who, and if we are going to find out their mysteries. I'll admit I did guess one particular plot line throughout the novel, but I won't say which one, as this is a spoiler-free review! However, the story behind it has only been half-revealed or maybe even less! I will have to wait until book two is released, and it is going to kill me, but it will be absolutely worth it! The book itself was fast-paced and didn't leave me bored. I was constantly turning the pages trying to anticipate what was going to happen next, and whether or not the characters I was beginning to love would make it to the end of the novel. Scheuerer has created a unique fantasy series that I can see easily becoming one of my all-time favourite fantasy novels. I cannot wait till this beauty is released at the end of August. I want to purchase the novel and hold it in my hands!

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