



Imprison the Sky

A.C. Gaughen

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Stolen from her family as a child, Aspasia has clawed her way up the ranks of Cyrus's black market empire to captain her own trading vessel--and she risks it all every time she uses her powerful magic to free as many women, children, and Elementae from slavery as she can.

But Cyrus is close to uncovering her secrets--not only that Aspasia is an air Elementa with the ability to sail her ship through the sky, but that she is also searching for her lost family. And if Aspasia can't find her younger siblings before Cyrus does, she will never be able to break free.

Armed with her loyal crew full of Elementae and a new recruit who controls an intriguing power, Aspasia finds herself in the center of a brewing war that spans every inch of the ocean, and her power alone may not be enough to save her friends, family, and freedom.

Imprison the Sky Details

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Author : A.C. Gaughen

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From Reader Review Imprison the Sky for online ebook

Sara (A Gingerly Review) says

4.5 stars

This was brilliant. I need the next book.

Full review can be found here: <https://aginglerlyreview.wordpress.com...>

If there was one new series that blew me away in 2018 it was The Elementae series. I am usually weary of fantasy books because I can get lost in everything but it surpassed my expectations. I was hooked! That also meant I could hardly wait to get my hands on the second book in the series. But there is always a slight fear with second books because they often fall flat. They can either be just a filler-type story or they can be outstanding. I am happy to say this was not just a filler book. This was not an empty nothing story that simply helped the reader pass time until the final book. This was breath-taking in every aspect.

Not only was this a strong character driven story, it required a strong world building – Gaughen knocked both of those out of the park. The actual plot and story cannot be overlooked either. This author is a master of her craft. I'm will always be in awe of her talent. Let me expand my comments.

While the first book focused on the raw and gritty tale of Shalia, this story focused on the story of Aspasia, a strong female that was stolen from her family when she was very young and forced into a horrific life. She learned from a young age to do what takes to survive. She has two things that she plays close to her vest: her private mission to find her siblings and to keep her Elementae gift a secret. Aspasia was so fierce and stunning that I could not get enough of her. I wanted wanted to jump into the story and fight the battle with her. Consider me the president of her fan club because I was here for her story.

I am not going to spoil anything by saying who the other characters are and how they all fit into the grand story. What I will tell you is that you will squeal with delight when you find out who has a major role.

As mentioned before, the world and setting were absolutely crucial to the story. It blew my mind how Gaughen made it seem that life aboard a ship was so natural. Not only was this set mainly aboard a ship, it gave major focus to how important family is to any character. And by "family" I mean those that are blood and those that are not. It was all brilliantly written and I soaked up every word like a sponge.

I am not able to finish this review without talking about the diversity found within the pages. I have read some books lately that talked about having diverse characters and they felt forced. That did not happen in this story. Everything felt just so natural and it was refreshing to read.

I guess you can tell by now how much I loved this book. It was everything I hoped it would be and more. I am extremely grateful to the publisher for sending me an ARC in exchange for my honest review. I screamed when I got the book and devoured it once I started reading. Here is my one complaint – I have to wait so long for the next book! If this is not already on your TBR it should be. You don't want to miss what happens next.

Phoebe Dyer says

This book is SO GOOD! I loved it even more than I loved *Reign the Earth*. The characters in this one are so layered and well-developed and the pacing is excellent! More people need to read this series because it's AMAZING and ORIGINAL and I LOVE IT!

Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at *It Starts at Midnight*

I liked **book one**, *Reign the Earth*, but I didn't really *love* it, so I went into this one with a little hesitation. So imagine my happiness when I really, *really* liked it!

The Things I Liked:

- **Aspasia and her crew are awesome.** I was worried when I realized that this was from Aspasia's POV, because the characters were my favorite part of the first book. But I needn't have! Aspasia is a fabulous character, and her story was one I loved reading. Her story and her life circumstances are quite different from Saskia's in *Reign the Earth*, but both women are passionate and care deeply about the people around them without being *too* similar. And while Saskia has a deep love for her blood-related family, Aspasia has created her own family on her ship (and yes, still is deeply concerned for her blood-family). I loved the nuances of all the relationships of the crew, too. Felt incredibly authentic for them to have such different and deep bonds. Also, none of them is perfect. Including (especially?) Aspasia. Which only makes her more interesting, as flaws can.

- There is romance, and yes I love it. **A ship on a ship, YAY, I love when puns work out.** Even telling you who the ship involves would be a spoiler, so that's all I'll say. But I am here for every last bit of it, and I think you'll see why.

- **The plot just seemed so much more engaging!** I mean, you're dealing with some really tough issues here- Aspasia has to balance out her survival with capturing (and in some cases, freeing) *slaves* for goodness sake. It's... a lot. But it also provides for a lot of really compelling scenes and a *lot* of gray morality. I mean- I think we can all agree that capturing slaves is awful, but when the motives are an attempt to free at least *some* of them... well, you see what I am saying, there's a lot of thought provoking stuff to ponder.

- **Obviously, there are feels!** Lots of them, as you can imagine! Which is why I love when a book really makes you think, makes you wonder what you'd do, etc. It just pulls at the heartstrings.

The Things I Didn't:

- **Maybe this is a little picky, but I did want to know what happened (in more detail!) to book one's group!** I mean, we did get a *some* update, but since I was pretty invested in them, I'd have liked to gotten a bit more closure in that respect. Though I have seen some reviews mentioning a third book? So Idk maybe I am confused and it's a trilogy, in which case... guess you can go ahead and disregard this point, but at the time of reviewing, this is listed as a two book series, so.

- **I did see some of the plot points coming.** It didn't totally mess up my enjoyment of the book, but it's worth noting that I guessed some of the stuff pretty quickly.

Bottom Line: A very strong sequel, with a group of characters that somehow beats out their (very formidable) predecessors, all while amping up the action tenfold.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

I am really enjoying this series!

Tova says

DO I SEE MY HUSBAND KAIROS'S NAME IS THYNE SYNOPSIS???? *SCREAMS* I NEED THIS BOOK SO BADLYYYYYY.

rachel says

#1) Reign the Earth ★★★★★?

Sheila Goicea says

See this full review along with others on my blog at: foalsfictionandfiligree.com

1) Reign The Earth: ★★★★★

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review via Netgalley. Thank you!

DNF at 40%

Content Warning: Slavery, Oppression

"Hope is a cruel thing," I told him honestly. Hope gave me power, but it was also to blame for every pain I'd ever felt.

After loving the first installment in this series, Reign The Earth, I was very disappointed to call this a DNF. While DNFing more for personal preference, I also had a really difficult time *liking* the characters. If anything, this book has made me realize how much I don't like the "squad" stuff that's so popular right now.

Obviously, this book is it's own book. I didn't like how disconnected it felt from Reign The Earth. I've read in others reviews that the two books don't really come together until the end. Either way, my journey ends here as I would rather follow Shalia's character than the very different Aspasia.

Since this is a DNF read, I will not be assigning a star-review.

My Blog | Bookstagram | Twitter | Pinterest | Facebook

David says

This book came to me through Book Expo. Solid writing, like the first story. This story introduces new character with a new narrator with different goals and challenges elsewhere in Orbis Elementa. A terrific sequel to Reign The Earth. Would recommend.

Lauren says

4.5 Stars rounded up

These books are just so well written. Filled with wonderfully complex characters, emotions and a building brutal war that will span nations. I was a little sad at first to miss Shalia, as this is a companion/sequel. But I quickly grew to love this new narrator and how she fits into the overall series.

IMPRISON THE SKY introduces new narrator Aspasia (she and her floating ship were briefly introduced in the last book), a powerful wind elementae who is the captain of a ship of children. They travel the seas and skies collecting goods for trade for a powerful dealer named Cyrus. On their missions, Asp and her crew do some things that are very good but also complex morally, and I enjoyed the questions this book asks about right and wrong and what it means for someone when lines get blurred and one cannot come without the other. I loved the found family Asp has created out of her crew and the ways she's fought to ensure they and their loved ones are cared for and safe.

While Shalia's worldview was incredibly narrow at first, Asp has been sailing all over the world for years and in this book we are shown a much broader perspective on what is going on beyond the Trifectate, and how this brewing war with Calix and what is happening to Elementae is much bigger than what we saw in the last installment. I enjoyed getting to know the other nations in this world and beginning to see how they will play a role in future books.

I loved the way this story expands the world, though it does take quite a while to bring this particular tale back around to the one that Shalia began telling. As as I'd just read her story before this one, I was antsy at times to get back to what she and others were doing. That said, we do get to enjoy the presence of a favorite character from the last book, and I was thrilled when (view spoiler) appears here. I think those who read the first book can guess who the love interest here. It's a bit of a surprise when he showed up, and I loved watching him and Asp get to know each other and fall for each other. They are well matched, and I love that he knows exactly when to push her and when to back off. Although I never care so much about dwelling on past relationships, and this book was a little too angsty for my taste in a few parts (nothing current is happening with anyone else during the book, tho), it was clear to see the differences between Asp's relationship with this new person and anything she tried in the past.

This book is brutal and very emotional in places. What these characters are trying to accomplish is not easy or simple and there have been and will be many casualties along the way. They have a long way to go before their ultimate mission is complete and I'm eager for what's next (I believe 2 more books are planned). I'm also so curious about who will be the next heroine - and love interest - that we will follow. I have an idea of one of them at least.

Love Triangle Factor: None

Cliffhanger Scale: Low/Medium - another heroine's Story is complete but this story has a long way to go and a lot more danger to come.

Austine (NovelKnight) says

This book was provided by the publisher. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Is it possible to love a sequel more than the first book when you don't remember much of the first book?

Because, if so, **I LOVE THIS BOOK EVEN MORE!**

***Imprison the Sky* was just. . . well, amazing.** It's been long enough since I read *Reign the Earth* (and also read over 100 books in between) that I can't make a direct comparison to the first book but, really, I don't need to. **This sequel stands all on its own** and while the story connects with the first book in the last 25% or so, the rest of the book is its own entity.

Following Aspasia (Asp), ***Imprison the Sky* sets sail with her and her teenage crew of freed slaves trading goods and trying to fight the system in whatever way they can.** This book deals heavily with slavery and if that is a triggering topic for you, then this might not be the book for you as it's prominent throughout. Asp and her crew are charged with transporting slaves to Asp's "boss," **Cyrus, a true villainess if I ever saw one.** She holds Asp in her grip, threatening to find and hurt the one thing Asp wants more than anything else: her family.

Oh my goodness, the THEMES in this book. Gaughen really presses the idea of family and the lengths you'll go to in order to protect them. I loved that at the heart of it, Asp just wanted her family back. **This wasn't a high seas epic adventure,** though it had lots of action and seafaring fun. **It wasn't a romance** despite having one of my new favorite ships. **It was a story about Asp, a girl who had to grow up too fast trying to make it in a cruel world.**

Look, I just really liked Asp as a protagonist. I liked Shalia too in *Reign the Earth* but something about this book was just so engaging and so exciting to read. I think there was more action to start with but Gaughen didn't let the emotional growth of the characters sputter out for the sake of a sword battle. **Everything (and everyone) felt genuine, like I could meet these characters.** You know, if it weren't for the whole fantasy/fictional world bit.

And the SHIP. No, not the actual ship. **My new favorite ship. Asp and Kairos.** You might recall Kairos from the previous book, one of Shalia's brothers (which I had to initially look up because I did forget. . .). Both he and Asp are emotionally scarred and it shows. **Every action reflected their goals and current emotional state so well.** I never felt like I was being told anything, it was always shown through decisions and words and internal thoughts. That goes for all the characters, but with these two especially, I felt like this made their relationship really strong *and* believable.

Kairos isn't Asp's first relationship and you meet some of her past significant others which only strengthens everything with Kairos. For those looking for rep, Asp is bi (based on the relationships presented, though nothing is officially stated in the story). (view spoiler)

Now, where does *Imprison the Sky* fit in with the rest of the series? I'm going to assume that we're getting

at least one more book, maybe 2 more (one for each element). This book falls after *Reign the Earth* but the two books don't connect plot-wise until the last quarter so you go for the bulk of this book without knowing what's really going on with Shalia. Which, after I got into *Imprison the Sky*, I was totally fine with, but it did feel a bit weird once the characters met because there was that disconnect. **It didn't lessen my enjoyment of the book by any means** and if you read them back to back I think it'll work a bit better, but just keep that in mind.

I'll be curious who leads the next book (assuming the trend continues) and which element will be the most prominent.

All in all, I think *Imprison the Sky* is a **smash hit** and just as good (if not better) than the first book. **If you haven't started the Elementae series, now is an EXCELLENT time** and if you have, I think you'll love this swashbuckling sequel!

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E L E A N O R (bookishcourtier) says

this is one of my most anticipated releases of 2019! i can't wait.

B. says

Full spoiler free review:

Second books in a series can be pretty hit or miss. I'm happy to say that this was a gem among seconds! I enjoyed *Reign the Earth*, but a few elements (hehe pun intended) fell a little flat for me. The characters definitely had my heart, and at first, I was a little confused when I realized the second book is written from the POV of a different female lead.

My confusion quickly turned to love, as Aspasia is one of my new favorite characters of all time. Often times, authors portray "strong female characters" as bland, sassy, and able to kill you with their pinky. While occasionally these characters can be enjoyable, Gaugen uses the "strong female character" title perfectly. Aspasia was powerful, but she was also emotional, deep, and conflicted. This was not annoying, but endearing. She made the hard calls and suffered for it. She is such a motivational, strong female lead.

Even though the POV shifts from books one to two, the characters aren't gone. I loved how the characters from books one and two interacted and came together to build a complete story.

I think my favorite thing about this book is the setting. Aspasia is the captain of a ship and a lover of the sea, and the setting is so heavily built on family and love. I adored the atmosphere of this story, and it was just so captivating.

Another beautiful thing about this book is the easy diversity it offers. Sometimes, diversity feels forced by an author. The diversity in this book is not like that, it is so easy and natural. It doesn't feel added in just to appeal to minorities, it just is. I LOVE that.

I am exceptionally grateful to have received a copy of this ARC at bookcon. A special shoutout to the sweet Bloomsbury worker who handed me this book. Thank you very much for putting up with my excited dance and uncontrollable excitement. I started the book five minutes later, and have been obsessed ever since.

This book comes out in January! So if you haven't already, read Reign the Earth, and get ready to unleash a storm.

Original short review after finishing Imprison the Sky:

Full review to come I promise. But right now it is 1 am and I need sleep. I really like reign the earth, but dang it this book blew the first out of the water. (pun intended)

So lucky to have gotten a copy of this at BookCon, and I highly recommend you read reign the earth to get prepared for this beauty.

Cassandra (Thebookishcrypt) says

ARC provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review

"Slaves no longer, here we became the masters."

Okay, I'm just going to go out and say it, A.C. kills it at writing a deliciously diverse fantasy world. Every single one of her characters intrigues me to no end and I wanted more, more, more of what they had to offer. I am still reeling from the first book so I was beyond terrified to pick this sequel up, which is why I'm cutting it so close to release day with this review. I wasn't even a page in when my stomachache was already unbearable. I didn't know what to expect so I guarded my heart as hard as I could.

Book 1 followed Shalia, who I miss dearly!!!!, while this one followed Aspasia, the captain to an amazing crew and ship. First thing's first, Aspasia is a complete badass and I look up to her. Watching her develop throughout the pages was so intriguing I rarely blinked.

Shalia's story is still my favorite so far for so many reasons, one of them being that this novel felt slower in pace for me. Don't get me wrong, a lot of stuff happened that kept me intrigued but I felt like it didn't really get going until the last few chapters.

Also, I am a die hard fan of Shalia's romantic story line but it hurts to admit that I wasn't that invested in Aspasia's. It was adorable for sure, but I wasn't attached to their relationship. I loved the characters as individuals but I wouldn't have whatever outcome A.C. would've thrown their way. It lacked something for me but I still can't put my finger on it yet.

Circling back to the crew, I loved witnessing their dynamic and loyalty towards each other. Every single one of their interactions melted my heart and I wish I could catch a ride on their ship so I could meet them all in person and recruit them into my circle of friends!

What I love the most about these novels is that it really drives home how important families, siblings, are. Whenever an author writes about sibling bonds, they already own me. I'm super close to my siblings in a way I will never be with the rest of my family so novels like these are my weakness. It makes me relate to the characters in a deep, personal level so I enjoyed whenever scenes focused on that.

A big thing I had an issue with this time around was the fact that there were quite a few events being spoiled throughout the novel. It came to the point that once they came to fruition, I just shrugged them off. This forced me to detach from the story line when all I wanted was to get lost in it. I really wish the continuous foreshadowing would've been a lot more vague, or just cut out completely.

Not going to lie, I kind of expected it, but those last few pages packed an immense punch to the gut. It

brought tears to my eyes and I am still in denial about it all but I know it's all in vain. My heart aches... and it will continue to do so well after the next book releases.

All in all, I can't wait to find out whose POV we will be getting next!

I am anticipating book 3 so hard, I can barely breathe!

"I figured it was hard to speak when the person who understood you couldn't listen."

3.7/5 stars

Bethany says

I wasn't sure what to expect but while Imprison the Sky was a very different book from Reign the Earth, I absolutely loved it! This is a companion novel that follows some of the side characters that we met in book 1, eventually intersecting with Shalia's story from Reign the Earth. It could be read as a standalone, but you will get more from it if you read Reign first.

Imprison follows Aspasia, the salty (and bisexual!) young captain of a ship that trades in slaves and other valuables. Herself a slave of sorts, Aspasia is a complex character existing in the grays of morality with a surprising degree of self-awareness. Ultimately, this is a story about the power of hope, even in the face of great darkness.

I should say that I am not typically a fan of books set on ships. Often I find that they spend a lot of time describing the ship, the process of sailing, and battles at sea which I find to be quite dull. (and at the expense of character development and plot!) This book is decidedly NOT that way. Aspasia is a fully fleshed character, descriptions of the ship and seafaring are kept to a reasonable level, there is plenty of plot and political machinations, and we get further exploration of the magic system introduced in Reign. I thoroughly enjoyed this and look forward to reading on in the series.

Imprison also shows surprising depth in the way it handles romantic relationships- considering the different ways relationships can end and the value of relationships that were never meant to last. One source of conflict in the story is the deteriorating relationship between Aspasia and Bast (her former lover and current crewmate) as he struggles with heartbreak from a relationship where his love was unrequited. Meanwhile Kairos (a side character from Reign) comes onto the scene and I am totally here for his slowly developing relationship with Aspasia.

This book leans a little bit to the character-driven side (which I absolutely love) but I think it offers enough action and plot that it will appeal to a wide range of readers. I think this is one of the most underrated YA fantasy series right now and I hope more people pick it up! I received an early copy of this book for review. All opinions are my own.

Zoanne Jarrells says

Received at BookCon and binge read the day after. 4.5 stars

GUYS THIS BOOK DOES NOT DISAPPOINT!

Awesome magic system? Check.

Amazing characters + growth? Check

ANGSTY!?! Check. :)

I ADORED it and I'm actually disappointing that I've read it because now I have to wait until 2020 for the sequel.
