



Ward Against Disaster

Melanie Card

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Ward de'Ath should be dead by now. Instead, he's chasing after a soul-eating creature—that he unleashed—and is bent on stopping her before she slaughters more innocents. Fortunately, Celia Carlyle remains by his side, a nobleman's gorgeous and deadly daughter, who is...well, dead.

Celia claims she'll champion Ward wherever he goes, even when she thinks his quest is hopeless. He can only hope her pledge comes from her heart, and not because she's bound to him through his magic.

When they enter Dulthyne, they stumble upon a dark power that threatens the entire town. Ward, with his unreliable necromancy, is determined to help but finds himself ensnared in the lure of white-hot magic...blood magic he struggles to resist. But if Celia's love is a lie, it might just doom his soul to the dark arts forever.

Ward Against Disaster Details

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Author : Melanie Card

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Fantasy

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From Reader Review Ward Against Disaster for online ebook

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Definitely liking this series more than I had anticipated that I would and it's a nice change in the YA genre. Not quite your usual setting nor premises. Full review to come.

Angie says

Picking up four days after the previous book, *Ward Against Disaster* finds Ward, Celia, and Nazarius tracking Ward's latest disaster: Annette. They think they've picked up on her trail, and after finding a gruesome scene in a farm house, they have an idea of where she went next. The trio heads into the closest city where they suspect Annette will find her next victims, but something feels off. Of course, there's an evil in town which Ward must remove before he can continue his mission of destroying Annette.

I didn't like *Ward Against Disaster* as much as the previous books, but it was still a fun, thrilling read with plenty of action! Ward is really struggling to fight the pull of blood magic, and it's not helping matters that someone is trying to lure him. He's still convinced that his own magic isn't strong enough, so Ward does dabble in blood magic when he needs a boost, making his struggle harder. But he's fighting something really strong in this city and he may not be able to do it by himself. And in fact, he doesn't, since Celia never leaves his side!

Speaking of Celia, there is a bit more romance in *Ward Against Disaster*! Not saying that Ward and Celia finally end this silliness and get to kissing, but there is some progress. The two of them still think that the other knows how they feel, but doesn't feel the same way, so they're tiptoeing around them to avoid things getting awkward, which just makes things more awkward! But then there's a twist! A twist that Ward needs to know! It'll change things forever! But that ending?! What?!

Ward Against Disaster doesn't end on a terrible cliffhanger, but it does end while some crazy stuff is happening! I must know what comes next! And there better be kissing!

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

Stevie Carroll says

Previously reviewed on The Good, The Bad, and The Unread:

In my quest to find new-to-me authors across the full range of genres I read, I've found myself jumping into the middle of a few series recently. Fortunately, although I'd no knowledge of either of the two preceding stories, this book worked well for me as an introduction to the characters and their world. Equally fortunately, I found that the setting felt fresh and original, which is a difficult accomplishment in the world of Young Adult fantasy at the moment. Sadly, I did find the characters a little too angsty for my tastes at times, although I'm sure the reasons behind their dilemmas will appeal to many readers of the genre.

Ward's world is one in which necromancy and raising the dead – or some forms of it, at least – is legal, while all forms of surgery are banned. This is all rather unfortunate, since Ward lacks confidence in his necromantic abilities, in spite of being descended from very important and powerful necromancers, while he is fascinated by all forms of surgery and has successfully operated on a number of people already. On the other hand, he has managed to raise one person from the dead: the aristocratic assassin Celia, who seems quite unlike the other undead women that Ward comes across on his travels.

Ward and Celia, along with their companion Nazarius, are hunting after a murderous undead woman, whom Ward unwittingly freed from an evil necromancer only to find that she was at least as dangerous as her former master. They have almost caught up with their quarry, when they find themselves mixed up in the political wrangling taking place in a city that seems to be cursed. Although some of the politics, particularly relating to Nazarius' status, would have made more sense to me if I'd read the previous books, I find it reasonably easy to follow what was going on. I also find the action scenes riveting and am really not certain who, if any, of the main characters would survive some of the main fights.

The angst surrounding Ward's relationship with Celia – both because his world's laws forbid him from any sort of romance with the undead and because he believes the bad guys when they tell him his magic is weak – feels rather too forced and overblown to me – especially since Celia becomes aware of facts that could set Ward's mind at rest on both issues. I am also a little confused over Nazarius' conflicting loyalties, although that might have made more sense to me if I'd read previous books in the series.

Overall, this book promises maybe a little more than it delivers, but I'd recommend it to readers with a higher tolerance for angst than I have, but who also enjoy a good fight scene.

Cait says

I received an e-book ARC from Entangled Teen (Thanks!)

Since this was an Advanced Reader Copy, I had no idea that this was part of a series until I got to the "Other books by this author" page at the end. Honestly, the fact that this book is part of a series does cancel out a lot of complaints I had about not exactly understanding what was going on. I mean, if this is your third book amount necromancers you're less likely to use a filler chapter to explain what they are or what they do.

Personally, I haven't read about necromancers since The Abhorsen Series that I read when I was 13.

Knowing that it's part of a series makes the pacing seem less rushed and more reasonable. Clearly, I should have done a bit more research (this is completely a problem on the reader's end and had nothing to do with the writer or her abilities as a storyteller).

This book was a lot darker than I expected. I mean, I know they're raising the dead, and everything is basically morbid. I look for a certain level of humor to kind of dissipate the darkness for a bit, but I didn't find a lot of that in this book. I like my darker books to be a little more Richelle Mead and a little less Stephen King. I was out of my reading comfort zone and that doesn't always go the way you might expect for it to go. I'm certainly not going to deter people who like darker stories from reading the book. I am certainly not any kind of definitive voice on this genre or any genre for that matter. Read it if you want to; don't let my opinion change yours. I'm certain that people who've read the rest of the series are probably very much looking forward to this latest installment.

Jess the Romanceaholic says

pterodactyl noises That was bloody (heh) AMAZING! When's the next one??? *dies from the wait*

(5/5 stars, full review to follow)

Maghon Thomas says

So, I haven't read the first two books of the series, but I will remedy that soon! This is a great fantasy read and I loved everything about it! Maybe say Maria V Snyder like. Celia is a talented though young assassin, who is resurrected by Ward. Ward is a necromancer. And Naz- I shortened the name myself because I'm not sure how to spell or say it LOL- a tracker, is also resurrected and they need to deal with Allette, the monster that was unleashed in the previous book. I'll have to get back to you on that part because I need to read that book to know exactly what happened LOL but I caught on to all of that with no trouble. But the monster is leaving bodies left and right and something needs to be done. But then, someone kinda takes over Naz because they are also trying to find out what's going on with the crazy. These three must find a way to save everyone and themselves.

I loved the action. It's definitely a page turner, because I couldn't put it down. I know I'm missing things from the first two books, but it's not that I couldn't catch on, which say a lot about the writing. And I loved the depth of the characters, they are complex without being unbelievable. Ward is like our nerd, but he'll do what needs to be done. Celia is well an assassin, so she does her job, really well, and sometimes a little too well. LOL Naz is the in between, he is like the wise old man, who brings the glue that holds everyone together. I also would like to see even more romance- gasp I just said that-- between Celia and Ward. It's coming, I can feel it LOL

I look forward to not only seeing what I missed in the previous, but going forward. I am a new fan and I want more! 5 PAWS!!

Shelley says

I received this book for free from (Entangled Teen) via (NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Genre Fantasy, Magic, Romance

Rating 4.0

My Thoughts

Ward Against Disaster, the third installment in the Chronicles of a Reluctant Necromancer, takes necromancer/physician Ward De'Ath, Quayestri Tracker Nazarius de'Serra, and assassin Celia Carlyle to yet another city where they hope to track down one of Ward's mistakes before she terrorizes innocents. Card

uses all three characters to tell her story, and often times switches points of view (third) after each chapter. Disaster is an action packed, grab you by the throat novel, that pushes our heroes to the ultimate test of survival against a villain that has all the advantages.

We once again debate the merits of calling this series Young Adult. I consider young adult to be between the ages of 12 to 18, but this series is being released by Entangled TEEN. Lately, I've heard some categorize YA as 14 to 21, which would put Ward into this category since he's 20. Logically, in terms of human development, Young Adult goes up to age 40, but since publishers have created an entire new genre called New Adult, Ward Against Disaster and its leading man, Ward De'Ath could also fall into the NA category. Call me confused.

FULL REVIEW POSTED @ GIZMOS REVIEWS

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

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Ambra says

Sorry...had to balance the two star prereading rating with a five star one...I never did this before but I kinda liked a lot the first two books and it irked me...that said...WHEN is it coming out?? And what's the title? ;)

01/20/2015

I just finished reading...wow...just wow!! This one was epic! I declare it my favorite in the series for now (although I loved the first two too)...there was a lot of magic (and Ward finally realized his potential, or began to, at least...) and a lot of action. I devoured this one and now I just can't wait to read the next book!

Bri says

What I liked: Dulthyne is a name of a town that seems to spell bad news, it just sounds like a place dark things happen and since this series just seems to get darker it was a very good name for this city. I loved the history to it too, it was interesting to read and see how Dulthyne came to be as it is by the time Ward and Celia reach it. Ward and Celia develop a bit more in this book, though not as much as they did in Ward Against Darkness. That said, I felt the romance between them (while it has taken a very long time to even become what it is now), still has complications to it though we finally to see some changes to how they act about it. It takes a long while in this book to happen though.

What I didn't like: There are questions that we still don't have answers to that I've had since book one, so that they haven't been answered just yet it a bit..frustrating to say the least. I was hoping for some resolve and hopefully we'll have answers in the next book, and I really hope there are answers before this series finishes to tie up these loose ends. Not to mention, the side characters felt a little less relevant to this story and they lacked since having three main characters narrate the story is a lot more to keep up with than just two.

Overall Review: With the ending this book has it leaves plenty of questions for the readers to try and figure out while waiting for the next book (which based off the release dates for the first three so far will likely be mid-2017 maybe?). That said, the this book is packed full of action and wondering what is going to happen to them next through the chapters. While we do see the resolve to Ward and Celia realizing they have mutual feelings, it took most of the book before we reached that point but with the ending it's kinda...still up in the air I guess?

Recommend?: A good third book with good world building, I'm interested in seeing how this series continues with its next book.

Megan says

Full review available: MoonBird Book Reviews

Card's an excellent crafts(wo)man when it comes to world-building and I'm not ashamed to admit one of my favorite parts of this book was the city-with-an-attitude Dulthyne. It's a city of BADNESS, and, for our little band of heroes which now includes the tracker Nazarius de'Serra, it holds answers, dangers, and a dark force Ward unleashed that now needs to be contained--quickly.

This third installment is a keeper and by no means does it wrap up all of our characters' issues--in fact, it leaves it wide open for a fourth book that we'll just have to be patient and wait for. (Harrumph!)

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley.)

“Bloody Necromancers,” Nazarius chuckled. A smile pulled Jotham’s lips. “literally.”

This was an okay story, but it left us with one heck of a huge cliff-hanger ending!

I liked Ward in this story. He was really struggling with his magic, but still managed to stay strong and stop the dark magic from taking him over. I thought this really showed his strength of character, as the magic really did want to force him to do wrong.

“I gave you the perfect gift, two souls to sacrifice. But you didn’t take it.”

“And I never will.”

The storyline in this was okay, but I didn't like it as much as the storyline in book 2. My attention just kept lapsing, and the pace really dragged in places. The best part of the storyline was Ward battling the dark magic, because the rest of the story just didn't interest me. I have to say that this book did have some good lines though.

"You're supposed to be dead."

He cocked his head to the side. "And so are you."

There was some romance, and it was once again Ward lusting after Celia, even though he knew she was dead. There were some interesting revelations with regards to Celia's 'undead' status though, which could certainly alter this relationship.

"She gave him her wicked smile.

He thought his heart would stop altogether. She was stunning – she was always stunning – and he ached with a desire he wasn't supposed to have."

The ending to this did drag a bit, but then we got a very unexpected event right at the end, which is going to totally throw this whole story upside-down, and back-to-front. Talk about crazy!

Overall; okay story, with one heck of a crazy, unexpected ending!

6.5 out of 10

"Freedom doesn't give you permission to murder people."

"Is it murder when survival is involved?"

Deniz says

Gosh, this was a roller coaster ride. In every sense.

The plot is a never ending string of event, loads of actions and a gazillion twists. A continuous up and down, fast paced until right to the end of the book. Where it suddenly stops after a huge twist of events- one that left me shocked, giddy with excitement and full of despair. AND loads of questions.

First and foremost: when is the next book coming out??

Sadly I couldn't find out neither the answer to that nor how many books the series will entail. In fact I found ZIP, zilch, zero - which is right at this moment my biggest issue about the book.

Ward Against Disaster jumps in right where Ward Against Darkness left off. One gets right thrown into action. Just like in the first two books, the character building is great. I really love the crew: Ward, Celia and Nazarius. It was like revisiting friends. But Card didn't rest on her laurels. She dug even deeper. Each of them, change and grow through the events and complications that they face. Their friendships seem to strengthen- even if some of them are reluctant towards it. I am looking forward to the next book, simply because I got my own hunches to where some friendships will lead. While the three MCs are complicated, intricate and intriguing, I found most other characters a bit lacking in compare. In compare to the three of

them, everyone else seem simple. The villains only one sided. Which is something that made me pause. The worst moment was Ingrith confession to Ward. It was a bit - well, simplistic. I just thought, oh goodie now that over and done with can we please move on with the REAL STORY. I shall come back to this in a wee bit....

My absolute favorite part about this was seeing Ward struggle against his desire of power, his innate wish to do the right thing still strong but the only thing that keeps him grounded is his love.

Talking of love. The romance is SLOOOOOOOW. I mean this. Trust me. Their continuous - I don't know how I feel, I am not sure if the other returns my feelings- made me wanna smack them both on their head. Now the good news: there is some resolve to that... 94% into the book. Though after that little cliffy Card threw in the end- which is kinda quite big- I am wondering if it will be. Yep, questions! I got lots of them!

The writing style is beautiful. I said that, for the previous two books, the same is true for this one. I love Card's prose. It's descriptive- deliciously gory at time- insightful and well beautiful.

The world building was the best of all three books, in my opinion. I really like the idea of the necromancers, blood magic, rith, the history of Dulthyn.. it's amazing. But I still have loads of question. Again, still. Though in this instalment some answers are given, most of them are just hinted at...It's getting a tad bit frustrating, but I am hopeful for more in the next book.

All in all this is a good fantasy series.

Despite that, I took me a good third to get into the book. There are two reasons, after Ward against Darkness, I felt a bit weary that this might take a similar detour. And well, it kinda did, but didn't, thankfully. Still my probably biggest issue with the series is that I am dying, seriously; DYING!! for answers, which I still haven't been given. There has been no closure in any shape, way or form since book one. It's all so open ended and so many questions remain. The plot is a never ending string of twist and turns- so much so that in fact I was a bit exasperated at the end. I mean common!!! How long wound is the crazy never ending string of action going to be? It feels like one keeps getting side tracked by all this side stories, never getting to the real story, the main story- you know the one about Celia and Ward....BUT the writing, the world building and first and foremost the characters have me wanting more. So I will read the next one.

Which leads me back to my questions... Ok. I wanna just know the answer to one right now. When is the next book coming out?!

Dani says

**** This review is for the third book in a series. As such it will undoubtedly contain an element of spoilerishness, though I will try very hard to avoid it. ****

Following the grim events at the end of *Ward Against Darkness*, *Ward Against Disaster* picks up several days later with Ward, Celia and Nazarius hot on the trail of the angry, power-hungry vesperitti, an undead creature that feeds off of soul magic. Ward has unintentionally unleashed this creature into the world, and Ward (being Ward) is determined to right this mistake before any more people die. The vesperitti's bloody trail brings them to the city of Dulthyne, a city with a past steeped in dark magic; a city whose mounting tensions and unrest make it the perfect breeding ground for a new evil. When Ward's compulsion to help others lands the three of them in trouble, Ward & Celia must once again take on a whole new subterfuge as Nazarius's Quayestri apprentices to escape Dulthyne's dungeons. As is typical, complications abound as Ward and Celia are now tasked with finding the source of the city's disturbances, defeating the vesperitti,

maintaining their cover, avoiding their growing feelings for one another, all while Ward tries to stave off the mounting allure of blood magic.

Cover. I don't normally mention covers, but since this is literally the VERY beginning of the book, I'll start here. While I loved the slight campiness and gothic vibe of the original covers, I have to say I LOVE the series redesign. The colors, the fonts, the consistency — it all appears just a bit more put together. Fantastic job, Ms. Pelletier.

Ward. Though there are so many, many things that I love about this series, Ward definitely tops the list. His ongoing search for identity and self, his desire to do the right thing, his struggle to maintain his convictions in situations that make it increasingly hard to do so, his efforts to understand his magic (or lack thereof), the numerous emotional, spiritual and physical beatings he's endured since meeting Celia — all of these things just make him very compelling, relatable, and empathetic. He's just a good guy fighting to stay good in a world that would have him be otherwise. Card has done a fabulous job with Ward's journey over the course of all three books, and particularly in *Ward Against Disaster*. Very well done.

Celia. Celia has also undergone a lot of introspective soul-searching since meeting Ward. Her journey has been interesting in that it's almost the opposite of Ward's. While Ward fights off the growing allure of darkness and corruption, Celia, the former assassin, has been influenced by Ward's sense of morality, his willingness to do the right thing even when it costs. That doesn't mean she's totally reformed, not by a long shot. But she's been given a second chance, however short it might be, and she's becoming more self-aware, has grown something of a conscience, and has realized that maybe she wants different things out of this new, albeit undead, life. Her ongoing quest to find out exactly what Ward did to her when he brought her back is also interesting. And that's all I'll say about that.

Romance. Ms. Card, you are a master of the slow burn. Holy angst, Batman. The growing attraction and awareness between Ward and Celia as they try to deny/realize their feelings for each other is just so very, very frustratingly, agonizingly fantastic.

Nazarius. I haven't quite decided what I think about Nazarius just yet, but I do find him to be a very intriguing character.

Story & World. This series just keeps getting more and more exciting, the stakes going ever higher. *Ward Against Disaster* rarely has a calm moment. From the first page, Ward, Celia & Co. pretty much move from one danger directly to another. Their situation growing ever more tenuous and dire as they seek to maintain subterfuges, as they withhold truths and keep secrets, as they are uncertain of their allies, as they experience failure, discouragement and self-doubt, and as evil encroaches ever nearer. Card expertly weaves and

develops her story, connecting all of her new and ongoing points together, all the while maintaining the plot's rapid pace. It's compelling, it's engaging, it's good storytelling. And that ending... GAH! **clutches heart**

Card also expands this curious, fantastical world just a little more. Dulthyne, Brawenal, Brothers of Light, The Goddess, Quayestri, Necromancers, Innocroesti, Vesperitti, Dark and light magic, frequent references to histories and people and places — it all gives Ward & Celia's world a depth and believability without ever being too expository. It's a fascinating world that I'm dying to know more about. The only thing that would make it better would be a map. **hint hint**

Overall. *Ward Against Disaster* is a thrilling, heart-wrenching, horribly wonderful page-turner that's left me ABSOLUTELY DESPERATE for book #4.

Michelle says

****You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <http://bookbriefs.net>****

If you are new to the *Chronicles of a Reluctant Necromancer* series, check out my 5 star review of the first book, *Ward Against Death* [HERE](#)

Ward Against Disaster is the third book in the *Chronicles of a Reluctant Necromancer* series. I'm not sure how many books are going to be in this series, but it is definitely not done yet. There is at least one more book to come, and I for one, hope there are about 3 more or so. I really like how detailed this series is. It seems like we get to know each and every character even better in each subsequent book, which is no small feat.

This is a series that you must read in order. I read the second book, *Ward Against Darkness* in September of 2013, and I had a hard time remembering all the little details of things that had happened. Celia and Ward are forever in the middle of their long journey so it is really easy to forget some of the people they ran into and a couple of the more minor events along the way. While this book never dragged, and I think all of the character, places and things they did were necessary for story advancement, I couldn't help but feel like this quest of theirs was never going to end. They hit so many hurdles and roadblocks that a couple of times at the start of this book, I couldn't quite remember what their initial end goal even was. But after about 45 pages or so, I fell into the pace of the book, and I remembered everything that I loved about the first two. The action and pacing of the story will keep you on the edge of your seat. This book literally had my pulse racing multiple times. I dare say it was the most thrilling installment yet.

I love how strong and resilient Celia is. And how sweet and a little unsure Ward still is. The romance in this series is the very definition of a slow burn romance. I mean, really slow. It seems like Ward just dances around Celia for almost the first 80% of the book in each of the books, and then something happens, or gets resolved right at the very end. But I can't help but love these two. The dynamic between the two of them is still so unexpected and works surprisingly well. They are not your typical book couple at all.

Contrary to what it may sound like in this review, I really heart the heck out of this series. The Chronicles of a Reluctant Necromancer is such a well done series. Celia is so kick ass. And the bad guys are seriously bad. They even creeped me out. And they test the whole gang of characters. Melanie doesn't hold any punches with anyone, that is for sure. Melanie Card does such a fantastic job with scene setting and description, you can't help but get pulled into her dark world of necromancy and dangerous adventure.

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

Kara-karina says

4.5/5

First of all, Entangled Teen imprint and the covers that increasingly feature Celia in a dress do this series an injustice, peeps. I think everyone automatically assumes that this is a paranormal romance and skips the books altogether. Well, I urge you NOT to do that because I've been with this author from the very beginning, and Melanie Card writes excellent fantasy!

So, if you are a fan of Sarah J. Maas, Maria V. Snyder and Kristin Cashore, read it.

In book three, Ward, the physician necromancer, Celia, a young and very talented assassin resurrected by him, and Nazarius, a Quayestri Tracker in disguise sent to Ward by his Seer, follow Allette, the undead monster they accidentally freed in the previous book to a mountain city of Dulthyne where she continues to leave a trail of mutilated bodies.

However, a local Seer commandeers Nazarius' services to find out what is wrong with the city which stands on the brink of mutiny. There is darkness here, evil possessions and a very old curse at work, and it's up to our trio to save the day.

Ward Against Disaster is a very intense, action-packed read. The imagery is vivid, not bogged down by extra mythology and overexplanations, and thus reads very fast. It's also pretty gruesome and there are more battles than talk. All the hallmarks of a good book, eh? *winks*

I love that the characters are so different but work so well with each other. Ward is a scholar, but he is also fearless and tenacious, too much for his own good. Celia is cynical and abrupt and tends to go for a kill instead of a talk. And Nazarius balances the other two by bringing his experience, older age and more diplomacy to their actions.

The ending is explosive and leaves the reader reeling. I can not wait to find out what happens next, peeps, and certainly recommend this series to all fans of the genre.
