



A Veil of Secrets

Hailey Edwards

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Some secrets are best forgotten.

"Araneae Nation, Book 5"

Fresh from the battlefields of Erania, Marne rides south with Edan, headed for the city of Beltania. Among the Mimetidae guards accompanying them is Asher, who's been a thorn in her side since the day they met. He's rude and abrasive yet he was the first to volunteer as escort.

Marne dreams of a fresh start where no one knows who or what she is. But first, they must cross the veil. Rumor has it spirits haunt that grim stretch of road, and unwary travelers who enter are never heard from again.

Veil or no veil, Asher is honor bound to see Marne safely to her new home. Though truth be told, Marne leaving Erania is the last thing he wants. This journey is his final chance to convince her distance will only make his heart grow fonder.

When Edan is lost to the mists, Marne is trapped in a strange land with no allies with a man who draws her closer every day. Closer to her heart, and her secrets. Secrets she must reveal if they are to save the one man bent on tearing them apart.

Warning: This book contains one heroine willing to fly into the face of danger and the hero who gives her heart wings. This adventure is BYOM, Bring Your Own Meal. Trust me, where we're going, takeout is to die for. Literally."

A Veil of Secrets Details

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Author : Hailey Edwards

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From Reader Review A Veil of Secrets for online ebook

D.C. says

Hmm I feel like this is the end of the series but there are still questions I have and other characters' journeys I'd hoped to see.

Jess F. (From Me to You ... Book Reviews) says

"4 out of 5 stars!! All of Marne's life it has been her and her brother against the world. Then not long after they both escape their life of slavery, Marne got turned into a harbinger (a thing of death) yet her brother sorta saves her now years later while still running away from Marne's "marker" she finds herself moving into another life changing situation that could either make or break her. Will she be able to overcome everything while creating a future for herself that she never dared to dream of before?

This enthralling novel hooked me from the beginning. Even though..."

Read more of this review and THREE TEASERS here:

<http://frommetoyouvideophoto.blogspot.com/2017/01/feasted-on-araneae-nation-series-book-5.html>

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Edwards continues to enchant readers with the fifth installment in her Araneae series. This well-plotted fantasy continues to engage the reader with its intriguing characters, heart-pounding action, suspenseful intrigue and subtle romance. Dynamic worldbuilding continues to evolve while Edwards further develops the ongoing arc. Though each installment focuses on one hero and heroine, the arc is long-reaching and Edwards is not prone to recapping. -

Read the rest of my review at RT Review Magazine <http://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-rev...>

Jaclyn says

Veil of Secrets is the latest installment in Edwards' *Araneae Nation* series. While each book focuses on different characters, I think this is a series that is best read in order. The overarching plot with the plague and its cause is something that is developed in each subsequent book. In *Veil of Secrets* readers focus on a character that has been directly affected by the plague, she's been infected and turned into a harbinger, but still surviving.

It was true that I could sense harbingers. After all, I was one. A fledgling, not fully transformed, but I was a harbinger all the same. I was not a mindless, bloodthirsty monster like others of my kind (p. 8).

Marne was attacked and infected by the plague, which transformed her. She now craves flesh and has grown

wings. But what's different about Marne is that she has kept her independence; she has never succumbed to the hive mind the way she should have thanks to her brother. Marne's brother, Edan, has always protected her, but it seems it will be Marne that will have to do the protecting when her brother is attacked and taken by her creator.

Assisting Marne in her quest is Asher, a man who was once manipulated by one of the creators' children. As a result Asher is somewhat hesitant in his mission to protect Marne; after all, couldn't she control him just like her "sisters". This hesitation soon fades into attraction, only to be stalled by Marne's untruths (like she's not really a widow...).

I've enjoyed the previous books in the series, but in each one, including *A Veil of Secrets*, I have had the same problem. The narrative point of view always excludes the "hero". Only in the romance genre do I find this singular point of view a problem. Personally, I think that a romance is always stronger when it includes both the hero *and* heroine's perspective as it's essential in demonstrating how their relationship develops into a romantic one. With a singular point of view readers only understand half the story. Considering Asher's past with creatures of Marne's like, I would have really liked to have seen how he came to terms with falling in love with someone he should revile.

My issues with the romance aside, I do like the world that has been created with this series. The concept of how this plague was created and continues to spread is really interesting. I also find how this world is created and the veil that still exists as an in-between place to be equally compelling:

The veil separated the frigid northlands from the humid southlands. It was a mythical barrier that ran the length of the entire world. Thomisidae elders had told the story of how two gods, Kokyangwuti and her husband, Tawa, had forged this world from clay and bone. They had created a world before this one, First World, and it had been consumed by fire and greed. This world was their second, and to balance the elements, they capped the world with a sheet of ice. In this way, when the sun rose in the east and followed the length of the veil to set in the western skies, its flames might leap onto the southland's grasses and set fire to their harvests. But even if the southlands were consumed, even if the blaze crossed the veil, the heat would only melt the northland until its cooling waters extinguished the flame. Thus the Second World would be spared a grisly death from sun fire (p. 18).

I love that the author has created a mythology for why her world is the way it is; why the seasons govern different territories. And it's the world that keeps me coming back to the series rather than the romance perspective. The world is richer than I would have expected in the romance genre, but it simply makes this a stronger tale. That said, I do like the romance genre, and I don't feel that this series stands out in that genre. The romance is okay, but I found it underwhelming for the reasons that I've outlined above. Ultimately, this is a decent romance series, but it's strongest element lies in it's creative world building.

Review originally published at the The Book Adventures.

*Review copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

Sydney Cooper says

One of the things I love about Edwards' work - the reason I easily blast through each installment of the series

- is that she has a talent for grabbing the reader immediately. She accomplishes this beautifully in *A Veil of Secrets*, perhaps moreso than in any of her other books. From page one we are plunged into the world of Marne, the female protagonist with a rather unfortunate secret, Edan, her aggressive and super-protective brother, and Asher, a guard who is accompanying Marne and Edan on a journey through the dangerous veil, a sort of metaphysical barrier between where they are and the city of Beltania. Marne and her brother are trying desperately to survive after Marne was turned into a harbringer, a dangerous creature best known for flying around killing and eating people, a reputation of which makes it difficult for Marne to exist freely as who she really is. The difference between Marne and your typical harbringer is that she didn't make the full transition into paranormal killing machine - she instead walks the earth dependent on injections to keep her alive and sane. She and Edan are seeking refuge in Beltania with the hopes that they will be able to have some kind of fresh start in life, away from their unpleasant pasts.

The romance in *Veil* is absolutely adorable. Edwards likes to write romance with a central plot, so the physical romance is towards the end, but well worth it. Marne is a woman with a great deal of strength who demonstrates a clear arc from relative dependence on her brother to a new-found comfort with her abilities and independence, which I find very appealing. Marne is no damsel; she easily stands beside her warrior male counterparts. Several characters make re-appearances from prior books to good effect; I particularly enjoyed seeing Pascale with Lleu, two side characters who offer bits of comic relief and witty banter throughout.

Douglas Meeks says

Well I totally loved this story, it had a bit of everything. I must add one thing though, it has been a bit over a year since the last release of an actually novel in this series and a LOT of things are referenced back to book 4 "A Breath of Winter" so unless you have a much better memory than I do I would recommend a quick reread before starting this novel.

Asher and Marne make a great couple in terms of depth and confusion. It takes awhile before you are not sure that they hate each other (there are reasons for that), but thing work out along the way to lessen such things but there are a LOT of roadblocks in the way of any romance.

I had forgotten how much I enjoy this series and this novel was no exception to that but I am a bit concerned about the future of this series since it seemed like they wrapped up almost all of the things from previous books so I am wondering if this was a finale for the series or not. Guess that will become clear over the next few weeks.

Bottom Line: 5 Stars, I could round it and say 4.5 but I would still round it to 5 so there ya go. If you have not started this series I strongly urge you to do so, book 1 *A Hint of Frost* is free on Amazon for the month of December so give yourself a Christmas present you will enjoy.

Juliet says

Better than I expected and not what I expected at all. Nice surprise, though once you got the twist it was a bit predictable but not in a boring way.

Gaele says

Each installment in this series gives me another new ‘ooh I love that element’ moment, and usually several. From the excellent world-building to characters that are alive on the pages, tension and action that never ends and the ability to combine ‘spider-like’ qualities into a book and not completely turn me off, Hailey Edwards has done it all for me with this series.

Humor and sharp wit in the placement of ‘moments’ between her characters and their interactions, emotional elements that are plausible and honest, and several different storylines that braid together in different patterns to bring back familiar characters while building to the final battles, this is a series best read in order: I took a weekend.

In this installment we have characters still reeling from the last book, where some answers left hanging there are finally starting to become apparent here. Marne is a half-turned harbringer, surviving the plague but able to control her lust for flying about and eating people. Her brother, Edan is over-protective, determined and has a not-to-be-denied attitude. These two are so supportive of one another, and Edan is determined to help Marne keep her deadly secret safe, despite the ever-encroaching danger. But, when you add Asher into the mix, a guard that is going to help them on their journey, and his fear of being controlled and manipulated by Marne as he has been by other women in his past, the interplay between these three, and especially between Marne and Asher is wonderful

And this is where and why I love Edward’s characters: her heroines are not wishy-washy. They don’t resort to tricks and feminine wiles, or manipulative devices to ‘win’, they are strong, determined and courageous –and if the man they like is amenable, so be it. Such a wholesale change from the push-pull of difficult relationships, or overly angst ridden reads, the angst is from the overriding story of the plague and the dangers resulting from it – the romances are solidly built with insecurities and questions clearly delineated.

The fifth full-length book in the series and it just keeps getting better and richer. With laughs, steam and multiple quests for information, solutions and safety, I can’t wait for the answers.

I purchased a copy of this title for my own library. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility

T. says

Good wrap up of the main, overall Araneae Nation theme. I liked the characters Marne and Asher, and their story was both interesting and fun to watch unfold. I’ve enjoyed the whole series and recommend reading them in order due to the progression of the main theme-- the plague and the probability of war.

Amy says

So I enjoyed this series, but I wish the author had taken more time to plot out the long term vision, develop

the characters a bit better, and move away from the romance-a-novel trope. The concept - the human-ish creatures that make up this world, the pending doom, all that - is very unique and interesting. The plague, the politics, the culture, the skeleton of that is excellent but it doesn't quite live up to what it *could* be. And as much as I love my fantasy-romance novels, this series is weakened by the same old romance plot every single book (and it is the same, and it does get old).

It would have been a stronger series if the author had woven all these story lines together from book one and focused on all the main characters throughout, not just the romantic couple de jour. Keep the romance, but make the pending plague/world building/characters/pending war the star of the show instead. Worth the read. An author I'd read again, but one that has way more potential than she's living up to in the execution.

Maura says

Marne, a fledgling harbinger who still retains aspects of her humanity is heading to Beltania, accompanied by Edan (her brother who is posing as her husband) and a Mimetidae guard, Asher, who is strangely hostile, yet protective of her. When crossing through the veil, Edan is taken by Idra, the queen harbinger who wants Marne back. Asher agrees to help Marne try to rescue Edan - they are helped by Pascale and Lleu, who clearly have something going on as well. On this journey, Marne begins to realize that she is strong and capable and doesn't need a man to help her, though she does enjoy having Asher along for the journey. She also learns of her origins and those of the harbingers.

As always, pretty awesome world building here. As far as the series plot goes - with the harbingers and the yellow death, it felt like the main focus of the story. And it was definitely the best part. This is pretty much straight action, as Marne and Asher are always dealing with either the plague, risers or other harbingers and are almost always on the move. I enjoyed what I learned about the Necrita and the plague and its causes, but it kind of felt like there wasn't really any closure on that chapter (view spoiler). I mean, there's an entire colony of Necrita living within the veil and all of this plague tragedy could start up again because of it. Sure, the message was sent that the Araenadie have the means and the will to fight against them, but that's not likely to stop them... As it was with the last 3 stories in the series, the romance is very underwhelming in comparison to the rest of the story. Marne and Asher had a very subtle attraction, almost no chemistry and Asher was almost puppy-dog devoted to Marne. It's not what I expected from a Mimetidae...not when I think about Vaughn and how alpha he was. They did clearly love one another, but it was very subdued, which I found somewhat disappointed. I also wondered at the author setting up Pascale and Lleu (or even Edan) as a pairing and sort of alluding to something going on with them and not finishing it. Was there supposed to be another story in this series?

Sherry says

There are people who write books, and maybe those books are good enough to be published and keep our interest us well enough to call them entertaining. Then there are those like Hailey Edwards, who are Weavers of Tales! Like the story tellers of medieval time who traveled about making a living with their words or the Audiobook Narrator who brings the book to life by performing instead of reading, the words they wield keep us captive and transport us to far away worlds and feed our imaginations.

In this series, Ms. Edwards transports us to a world where the women are far from the typical romance novel female waiting to be rescued. Her heroines are strong, intelligent and capable. When they meet their mates

they form partnerships with equally strong and capable men who appreciate their strength. Instead of the typical overbearing male, her characters are protective without reducing the female character to a helpless weaklings.

I'm often disappointed when I read a well established author at the lack of depth in their writing. I quickly tire of the repeated he said, she said, they did.... I begin to yearn for them to exclaim or proclaim or, Heaven forbid, even yearn. Ms. Edwards prose are exactly the opposite, I am instantly captivated by the richness and depth as she uses the brush of her words to paint the world of her imaginings. I was addicted from her first book, and this one was equally impressive.

Do yourself a favor and get lost for a day. I know you will love Marne, Edan... and Ahser! You won't want to put it down.

Jen Davis says

I have been a fan of the Araneae Nation series since the beginning. It consistently delivers interesting and unique storylines, set in a fascinating fantasy construct that grows a little bit more with every installment. Each book has its own core couple to find love, but the romance is really secondary to the heroine's journey. Often, I feel like I would have liked just a little more in the love-department. It seems like every book waits until the very last chapter to seal the deal (not just sexually, but emotionally too.) I'm more than a little ready to break from the formula, but I keep coming back to these books because they are so different from other series out there. And I like them.

This story was a bit of a surprise for me because I thought Marne (the heroine) was already married to another man. When we met her in the last book, she was introduced as Edan's fledgling-harbinger wife. But as this book begins, we learn that their marriage was only a ruse. They are actually siblings, who pretended to be a couple in order to protect Marne. Our real hero is Asher, the guard who journeys with them as they travel from Erania to Beltania, to get the ingredients for the medication that keeps her alive in her half-changed state.

It's an arduous journey and the harbinger queen shows constantly that she still has her claws in Marne's mind. Marne really goes through the wringer here, struggling to find her place, wondering if she could ever really be free of the monster she was created to be. Asher is there every step of the way, and he's a pretty stalwart guy, but I didn't find a great deal of depth to his character. He was more the balm to Marne that she so desperately needed.

I like the twists and turns Hailey Edwards has taken with her harbinger storyline. It has definitely gone to places I never expected. I think the world-building is fantastic and plot, engaging. I just wish there was a little more depth to the romance. I miss the feels I got from book one.

This is the fifth installment in the Araneae Nation. I wouldn't suggest you jump into the series here. Start with *A Hint of Frost*.

Rating: B

**ARC provided by author for review*

Netanella says

A satisfying conclusion to the Spider Nation series, and one that leaves a very good taste in my mouth and a happy feeling in my heart. Edwards's world of the Araneaens is intricate and detailed and so very different from most fantasy works. I'm glad I stuck this series out till the end.

Linda says

Still feeling the effects from the ordeal in the last book, Marne and her brother Edan are sent from Erania to the clan who holds the key to Marne's survival. As a half harbinger, Marnie needs daily doses of antivenin, and the flower it's made of grows around Beltania. Now they just need to cross the Veil to get there. One of her guards is Asher. He's still standoff-ish after his own encounter with the full-fledged harbinger, and not too keen on keeping them company although he did volunteer to be there.

When Edan disappears in the Veil, Marne and Asher find their common enemy and join forces, and the unresolved tension between them gets stronger.

Can Marne stand up against her maker, and will they find a solution for her to survive in the end? After all, Harbingers are feared and killed on sight..

Paranormal romance, suspense, action and smutty fluff in an awesome combo.

Love this series and it's always a joy to return. Even if there's puss and sour blood =D

ARC is provided by author/publisher for an honest review.
