



Watercolour Smile

Jane Washington

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“Maybe I was stupid to have agreed to this, but when all of the options that you have in life are dangerous ones, you can only choose to do something reckless, or turn a blind eye and allow the cards to fall as they may... and I was sick of being blind.”

Seraph Black has endured a vicious stalker, a change of schools, a bonding, a triple-murder, and more than her fair share of uncomfortable situations; but it seems like the world isn't done with her yet. The messenger is back with a systematic vengeance that knocks her flat, and not even her self-proclaimed secret-keepers are prepared for how far he is willing to go to get what he wants.

She is walking on eggshells, trying to keep everyone at a distance. Especially those that are closest to her. Unfortunately, there is one person who keeps slipping through the cracks: Silas Quillan, the gift in her life that keeps on taking. Every time she turns around, he's taking something else from her: her choices, her privacy, her freedom, her sanity... and if she's not careful, the the next victim might just be her heart.

Warning: While this book is intended for a young adult audience, it is not recommended for persons younger than 15 years, due to some disturbing themes.

Watercolour Smile Details

Date : Published (first published February 29th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Jane Washington

Format :

Genre : Polyamorous, Reverse Harem, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, New Adult

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From Reader Review Watercolour Smile for online ebook

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

FIRST READ NOVEMBER 2017: ★★★★★

SECOND READ JULY 2018: ★★★★★

I don't really have any new thoughts except I loved it just as much! This one has the ~~hot~~ infamous hotel scene with Silas. SWOON! And the beach inlet scene. SWOON! And the love bites. SWOON! lol

Still a fangirl. In the Seraph Black bubble.

Previous review:

Book two of a series actually didn't suck! SCORE! SO, I view this one as the New Moon of the series. You know, when the author throws some angst in there, tries to take away the romantic lead Edward, separate the hero and heroine, the heroine Bella meets new people and spends a lot of time with them over the romantic leads, etc. You know the score. That happens here. But we all know how it's gonna end up, so don't let the angst bother you. Embrace it! It's wonderfully over the top and like a soap opera. I can dig drama like that.

It's fabulous!

There's ex drama, kidnapping drama, secret stalker drama, boyfriend drama, bonding drama, mean girl at school drama, amnesia drama, practically the whole spectrum is represented!

Seraph is trying to prolong the bond and is questioning it. The boys made a pact not to kiss her, she tries to get them to "date" other girls (LOL). It's all futile, and we know where it's going to end up, but we have to see the drama unfold, otherwise, there is no growth or realizations going on.

THAT SCENE with Silas at the hotel, though.

No, there is no sex, but still. It was pretty hot, if you ask me. I'm still a huge Silas fan. But I love all my boys still.

I am digging this drama fest so much! But, I am also completely engaged in the world-building. There is more with Evil Daddy, his henchmen, and *the messenger*. That messenger shizz is REALLY being dragged out. Seraph's nemesis!

Book 1, Charcoal Tears - ★★★★★

Sharon says

The sequel to Charcoal Tears is quite possibly even more fantastical as Seraph grows in her confidence and strange super powers.

Along for the ride are some hilarious support characters including Poison and Clarin who provide some comic relief in an otherwise intense story.

Meanwhile the mysterious stalker continues to threaten Seraph's new life, and even the four guys fated as her "pairs" are unable to protect her.

Kriss says

Watercolor Smile picks up right where Charcoal Tears ends and behaves much like another installment of a serial instead of a separate arc of the same tale, expanding upon the things we were teased about in book #1 and revealing some bigger pieces of the puzzle surrounding the antagonizing factors of the story and how all these things are connected.

It's actually kind of hard to write a review about this one without any spoilers, since the book doesn't want to reveal major plot points even in its description, but I'll do my best since the style of this series relies so much on keeping readers in the dark and slowly revealing the puzzle piece by piece by piece and keeping everyone guessing.

Overall, this was a good next step in the series. The reveal is slow, careful, tantalizing readers. But this also makes 70% of the book feel a little slow and mundane. It's not unenjoyable or hard to read—don't get me wrong, I read this pretty quickly and easily—but I kept thinking to myself “some of this could have been cut away with zero consequences.” The last 30% of the book is where things really start to happen and we get several major reveals. Luckily, Lead Heart and A Portrait of Pain are both out at the time that I'm writing this review, so the nature of the cliffhanger we get isn't too hard to stomach.

I'm still enjoying the prose, the characters, and the story development. Though I'll never be totally at peace with the fact that Seraph is 17 and Silas and Miro are both 25 and keep this intense tension that you know is always a few threads from blowing up into something physically intimate. There's much more focus on Seraph's physical interactions with Noah and Cabe—the ones who are her age—but there's definitely some romantic/sexual undertones to what's happening with Silas especially, and Miro a little. Are any lines crossed? Not especially; there's a scene where Silas and Seraph embrace and do some... intimate touching? Like lips touching necks and cheeks. Anyway, from how it's going I'm assuming the author is waiting for Seraph to have her 18th birthday before all hell breaks loose, which is better than like going after her now, but it's still kind of really creepy because they've known her since she was really small and it just feels wrong/weird and the legality portion doesn't make it seem less wrong honestly.

Though on this note, there's a bit of a warning I wish to issue! It's revealed later on that Seraph is a victim of childhood sexual abuse too. We experience a flashback wherein Gerald made a young Seraph give him hand jobs and uses it frequently as a abuse tactic, and once attempted to rape her. It's not especially graphic and

it's only there for a page or two of the novel, but it's still there and I want to let any potential readers know in case.

We also are told that the messenger—aka Seraph's crazy stalker that's like possessively obsessed with her—is likely her twin brother whom she was separated from as a young child; he sees her naked and you know does general creepy things but there's not a detailed scene of anything severe like rape happening in this book. So there's a little bit of a theme of incest, and also since Noah and Cabe pretend to be Seraph's siblings in the book there are some references/jokes made in the story by classmates and such, so the topic is definitely there, but it's not like... super explored or anything, just mentioned in passing a few times.

But as for the plot and the choices the author has been making, I'm enjoying it! Not too much has been given away, so there's still an air of "what's going to happen?" that permeates the book's tone. So much is left in the air and unsaid that this honestly isn't a story I feel like I can make many predictions of. It's possible that things could go several ways and I like that; a very predictable feeling story can be nice, but gets boring, so having this uncertainty is kind of thrilling and keeps me interested in continuing on, even during the slowest or least interesting parts (which aren't many, but there are a few for me). I also am appreciating that this book mixes unique ideas with familiar ones, so the story feels fresh but isn't so new that there's trouble understanding or relating to it. Overall, I applaud Jane Washington for being able to dive off from the beaten trail into new territory, but in a way that doesn't get us all lost and caught in a field of thorn bushes.

I don't have much else to say beyond this; I like this book very much, enjoyed it, got through it easily, and I'll be beginning book #3 shortly! Oh, there are also a few errors I noticed, like writing "from" instead of "form" and some missing quotations, but this is an indie published book so that's to be expected.

Unlike book #1, I didn't get this book from Net Galley in exchange for a review, but it was free randomly on Amazon one day last December and it's on Kindle Unlimited, so there's definitely a way to read this book and its series for free without paying like \$15 USD for all four books!

Ree says

Great book!

??KasiaTopia?? says

THAT LAST CHAPTER JUST MADE ME SO SAD

Rhema Philip says

Holy shit. I cannot believe that just happened. When I started reading this book I was honestly trying to figure out how this would go. I thought the storyline would be easy enough, typically bad guy/protect the girl stuff and it sort of started that way at first, easy enough with scenes from every girl's not so serious pervy fantasy and the background plot. but noooo it turned out to be a complete and utter mind fuck, especially if

your half way through. it'll get you utterly frustrated (especially in moments that screamed "kiss her you dog"!!), probably annoyed at some of Seraphs decisions or lack of, you'd get confused and really shocked and will probably have to re-read chapters to fully understand some parts, and then lest we forget the despised cliffhanger at the end....overall it's not a normal or typical story. It's interesting and yeah, Jane really does know how to make us desperate for the next book.

.....

update(24/1/15): Finally!!! we have a release date, 29/2/16 and the good news is...well not sure if its actually good or if It'd just make you even more desperate for book: <http://janewashington.com/new-release....> I really hate having to wait so long for sequels especially that of books I really liked. So pleasess Jane, because am pretty sure I'll be thinking about what might happen all night and at random intervals during the week, hell I might even dream of this book, so please put me out of my misery and at least announce the date for the sequel.

Jessica-🐾Chatterbooks Book Blog🐾 says

I really enjoyed the first book in this series, and I couldn't wait to read this one. I liked the main characters and I was excited to see the relationships develop in the second book. Sadly, that is not what happened. If anything most of the relationships seemed stunted. It was extremely frustrating to read. Questions that you are hoping to get answers to in this book don't really get answered. You are just left with more questions for the most part. Despite that, I was mostly enjoying this book up until the last quarter. To say that it was confusing would be an understatement. It felt like I was reading a different book. Seriously, I started questioning if I missed something or it was late and maybe I was just really sleepy. I was beyond upset with the ending. I will be reading the next book, because I want to know what happens to the characters. I am hoping that the third book will be more like the first one.

Lburt says

So I enjoyed book one of this series but it left a lot of questions unanswered. So when this book came out I jumped at the chance to read it. I'm so frustrated with this book. First it just goes around in circles. She keeps pushing the boys away but I don't even understand why. Then between Weston and her Stalker with no real answers and just confusion. Nobody ever tells her anything. I'm So confused. Then with memory loss thing. Omg! Sure why don't we just start over again! I'm literally getting a headache trying to follow this story. There is no forward movement the plot doesn't develop at all. Almost 70% into this book and nothing new has happened. She's still refusing Caleb and Noah they have no leads with the bad guys, and still no one tells her anything. Sigh stick a fork in me I'm done.

K.S. Marsden says

Despite leaving her abusive father, and escaping her violent stalker, Seraph's life is only getting more dangerous. She has to hide her powers, and hide her growing connection to the four guys that would do anything to protect her.

I received a free copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

First of all, let me say that this all comes down to a matter of taste. The book itself is well-written, and I can see why it's popular. It just didn't do it for me.

The premise is interesting - Seraph is part of the Zhevghéri, a secret organisation of families with various powers. The most highly valued of which are those born with marks that show they will have two - for a better word "soulmates".

Seraph is special, as she is set to bond with two pairs, and the four guys just happen to be the equivalent of royalty.

Despite the growing connection between Seraph and the four guys, they have to hide it, for fear of the danger it will put them all in. (Their father, the Voda/leader is a complete control freak, and is not above torture and murder when it suits his needs).

The main thing that put me off in this story is the writing style. It is very poetic, and descriptive, and it can take a page to discuss the colour of Seraph's hair.

The constant attention to every detail made it very hard to follow the story, and stay invested. The tone of the book stayed the same throughout the book, and I felt that it sapped some of the excitement out of what should have been awesome scenes. But when Seraph is equally interested in the fact that she can do gymnastics, as when she is attacked by goons and her dad's house burnt down (plus some other *really* interesting stuff), I felt disappointed more than anything else.

The other thing is how much of an ongoing focus Seraph's abuse is. I don't like to read books about abuse. I know, you might argue that it is something that happens, and should be brought to light etc. I agree. But I am reading for enjoyment, and this just makes me feel horribly uncomfortable.

I think the worst thing - aside from how some major characters just gloss over and ignore the abuse, acting as though it doesn't even factor - was how Seraph is still the victim.

She has escaped her father's abuse, and has survived a violent stalker, and has four of the best bodyguards around. But she still lets the world treat her like shit. Whether it's high-school bitches and bullying; or guys constantly drooling over her, and their touch making her uncomfortable; Seraph just meekly accepts it all. She also accepts that people are hiding secrets from her; putting her life in danger; deciding her future without her... the only thing that she seems to get annoyed at, is when one of her guys might be getting involved with another woman.

She's constantly being carried, or curled in their laps, and just plain coddled. While growing forever closer to Silas - one of her four soulmates - who happens to be the most unstable and has fits of violence that can lead to him killing people. I actually liked the character, but I couldn't help thinking how she's drawn to unhealthy relationships, and it's all romanticised.

Overall, interesting premise, but not for me. I would recommend checking it out for yourselves, because I think a lot of this is just personal taste.

Helen 2.0 says

2.5 stars.

What a rare surprise for a YA series - book 2 was better than book 1! (ok, so I gave book 1 a single star... this still counts as an improvement.)

Some things haven't changed. Seph is still the special-est of special snowflakes, everybody still worships every cell in her perfect body, and the relationship dynamics are still iffy at best. Massively abusive at worst.

But now we have plenty of interesting story to balance the negatives.

Liiiiike:

-Silas

-Zevgheri intrigue & politics

-insights on the Messenger

-Silas, being Silas

-Tariq

-Scenes with Seraph making her own decisions, acting like she's a real person outside of the company of her men

-**SILAS**

I have more confidence in Jane Washington now so good thing I didn't give up after Charcoal Tears. She's laid off the insta-love trope in *Watercolor Smile* and let things develop a little more naturally. That leaves me excited to see Seph & the boys fall in love for real - without the fabricated drama. Hoping to see further improvements ahead.

Maria Dimitrova says

Why do I always like the sociopaths?

This was the question that haunted my mind throughout the series. Usually I like the reverse harem trope and I cheer for all the guys more or less equally. However, this time I have a major preference for one of the guys and of course it has to be the brooding mass murderer.

What surprised me most is that we get character growth. Most of these type of books have almost no character development, especially when it comes to the female lead. Once she falls in love with her guy/s that's it. She becomes an accessory frozen in time. A prize that needs to be guarded. And while the boys did try to put Seraph in that glass prison she manages to break out time and again. Add to this the new details about Zev's society and norms and *Watercolour Smile* managed to suck me in from the start.

Gwen says

****WARNING - Prepare for GIF overload ****

Hey look there, is that a bird, is it a plane or is it..... yes it is, it's that damn flock of flying pigs!!! this seriously not funny anymore - I think I am being stalked by Bacon...

Well where were we?- yes another 4 stars for a YA book, I know, I know, this is two in a row and it's starting to look like a Black Swan event and a sure sign of the end of the world, but let's not worry about that and concentrate on my review.

I must admit I didn't start well, the first two chapters was along the lines of..... WHAAAT?? I don't remember any of this but I got past it and the rest was A-MA-ZING.

Here follows my world famous synopsis without giving anything away, now in full color HD or not:
So we started with a bit of tap dancing and side stepping around emotions and bonds:

then we a had a little roll in the hay or two or not..

We met a bad guy or two or three or are they????

There was a moment.....

we met the... or is he?

And there was a and then it was broken and we nearly cried and...

But you know what, at the end of the day... when all's said and done ...

!!! ALL HAIL JANE WASHINGTON!!!!

What a great read and highly recommended to all - get the book NOW!!!!
P.s GO TEAM SILAS !!!!!

Jasmine says

After finishing this book I'm almost at a loss for words. Because it was everything I could have hoped for and more.

And also because it ripped my heart out a few times and, as if that wasn't enough, shoved it in an incinerator, sending me in a cycle of never ending pain.

You don't do that to someone's heart.

And now I have a Silas-size hole in said damaged heart, in my aching head, and in my wounded soul. It's a pretty big hole in case you're wondering.

Anyway.

I'm not gonna lie-- underneath the excitement and anticipation I had for this book was an undercurrent of fear and slight apprehension. Why? Because sequels have a tendency of disappointing me and making me less excited for any upcoming books. But I shouldn't have worried. This book was better than I thought and hoped it would be. It had more action, more excitement, and more suspense than the last book, but more confusion too. Charcoal Tears left me with a lot of questions (and, I am not ashamed to admit, in a constant state of Silas withdrawal, leading me to listen to Protocol every day with an aching heart. True story.) And even though I hoped for some light to be shed on some of the events that occurred, only few of my questions were answered. A few. Possibly less. While that would normally irk me, it really works here. It creates an atmosphere of suspense and anticipation, and for once you're actually feeling what the main character is, you're not sitting there wanting to slap her upside the head for being clueless and dumb. When Seph is confused, we're confused too. We realize things when she does, and we feel the same things she does when she's with Silas. You all know the feelings I'm talking about.

Back to the point. This book was well written, captivating, and absolutely breathtaking. As in you're left gasping for breath because why, Jane Washington, would you do that to me. Honestly. But despite having

my heart ripped out, I can still acknowledge the genius that this book is (let's all take a second to appreciate the titles.)

Now trying to once again get back on track.

This book takes off right away and doesn't slow down. I love that there wasn't too much backtracking to the first book because info dump recaps are usually annoying and take up too much time. So if you don't remember much of Charcoal Tears then it'd be best to reread that before reading this one. Cuz you're just going to end up confused.

I love the friendship dynamics between Seph and the boys, even if their friendships aren't exactly clear or defined yet. And her interactions with Silas? They're honestly the most tension-filled interactions ever. (view spoiler) They're amazing. I like how other characters like Clarin and Poison are in the book more so we see how they fit into Seraph's life.

There are also some pretty shocking things that happen in this book so brace yourself. Before you know it you'll find yourself roaring in anger or drowning in tears. Or just sitting there with a terrified dear in headlights look frozen on your face, cuz I'm pretty sure that's what I look liked 52% of the time. As I said before, there's a lot more action that happens in this book, especially in the second half. So word of advice? Read slowly and carefully. Soak in every word because if you miss even a single one you'll be on the next page feeling like a few IQ points have dropped off because you don't understand what's going on. It can get a bit confusing at times but it's better than being spoon-fed every detail like we don't have brains of our own.

All in all, there are no disappointments here...well. Other than the fact that the third book isn't already out yet. I like suspense, but jeez, not THAT much suspense. I just finished this book and I'm already dying. It's not fair to end books with cliffhangers, cuz oh, did I forget to mention? It has a cliffhanger. A full on "to be continued."

Brace yourselves.

Rhea_Sways says

My thoughts about this book are similar to those of the first book.. refer to this

I believe this book was more heavily focused on developing the relationships and characters and roles of the individuals that the author had previously introduced to us.

I enjoyed the same writing style of the author however, I do believe this book included more dark matter as well as melancholy. The writing and world building was ever as confusing before..

Some of my questions were answered however I have new ones now and I am still questioning many turns and twists within the book. *I need a companion with me to discuss this!!*

The plot points and progress improved significantly towards the end. The beginning and middle of the book drifted from the original conflict. We had new characters introduced who weren't as fully developed as I would like.

To add to that the author added some shock measures.. (view spoiler).. mind you completely useless ones in my opinion.

We essentially saw the beginning of a pairing of Seraph with Cabe and Noah and it came to its bitter end just as quickly. I was severely mad/disappointed/offended to say the least!

I did feel that that the author has a knack for adding a certain dark element to her characters which was certainly brought forward within this book. I truly felt the darkness and volatility that surrounded Silas within this book and the height of his recklessness.

I felt as readers we had no idea why he reverted to the little child, I understand that abuse leads to dire consequences in each individual. However, I thought I saw strength within his character to rise above all.. we will see.

The biggest dilemma at this point is I want to read the next book but the book after that has not been published yet. So should I wait another week to for the 4th one to release so I can binge read the next two or not?

Princess J. Antoinette says

I'm not sure how I feel about this book... I mean the 1st installment of this series was good. The author held me captive with the main characters and the storyline that I was excited to read this book (the 2nd installment) but I don't know what happened in the middle of this book, it's like the author went totally left with the storyline, which I must say I'm quite disappointed about it.

Well since I've started this series I might as well continue reading unto the 3rd book of this series and hope for the best. ??

Overall rating:
3.5*~ Okay ?
