



# Dark Tempest

*Annette Marie*

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## Dark Tempest Annette Marie

Emi has dedicated her life to becoming the perfect vessel for the goddess Amaterasu, but the insidious betrayal of another deity has changed everything. Now Amaterasu has charged Emi with an urgent mission: to find and free the earthly gods before mankind is brought to its knees beneath divine tyranny.

At her side is Shiro, the mysterious fox spirit. When she first saved his life, she could never have imagined that behind his cunning and confidence, he was lost—his power bound by a devastating curse and his memories obscured. His veiled history is somehow tied to the missing gods, but he can't remember how or why.

As their search leads them into the murky depths of the spirit realm, the shadows of Shiro's past begin to emerge. With each brief awakening of his true self, she loses a little more of him. The fate of the heavens and earth rest in her mortal hands, and she must find the missing gods before time runs out for her world—and for Shiro.

*DARK TEMPEST includes 10 full-page illustrations by award-winning artist Brittany Jackson.*

## Dark Tempest Details

Date : Published January 6th 2017 by Dark Owl Fantasy Inc.

ISBN :

Author : Annette Marie

Format : Kindle Edition 350 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Mythology, Magic

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# From Reader Review Dark Tempest for online ebook

## Aneta Bak says

Dark Tempest was addicting, beautiful and has the most unique characters. I honestly can't begin to tell you how amazed I am with this book.

Amaterasu has given Emi a mission. Find and free the kunitsukami so they can destroy Izanami before she destroys Earth. Emi, Shiro and Yumei are ready to get started on their mission, but without any leads they don't know where to begin. Emi ends up going back to the shrine to talk to her elders to tell them about her mission and see if they know anything. When Emi realizes that her elders have taken the mission upon themselves and plan to keep Emi locked away, Emi plans an escape with Shiro and Yumei, with a lead on where to find their first kunitsukami.

Everything I originally had a problem with in the first book, was magically fixed. Making this probably one of the best fantasy books I will read this year.

I did NOT like Emi at all in the beginning of the first book. Yet in this book, I have completely changed my mind about her, her character development was crazy and I honestly admire and respect her now. Emi went from being a fragile, weak human girl who is very proper, follows the rules and is afraid to do basically everything, to a strong female character that is not afraid to travel and fight with the big guys, and even though she's still human, she knows how to channel her powers and use that to her advantage to help the yokai when they need her help the most. Emi's character development has seriously left me speechless, I've read countless books and I've never seen character development like this before. Annette did such an amazing job with Emi.

Shiro!! My favourite character in this series. I was so happy picking this book up, because I really missed Shiro and his sassiness. What I loved about this book especially, was finding out bits and pieces of Shiro's past and how he was before the oneju beads were on him. I feel like it made his and Emi's relationship even stronger and it was so wonderful to read about.

The action in this book was to die for. The first book had a really long period of boringness in the beginning, but definitely not this book. There was action from the beginning of the book, and when you got about half way in, there was so much action that I could not put the book down. It truly was captivating and addicting.

Overall, I'm simply amazed how well this book turned out. If you haven't read the first book yet, I highly recommend starting this series, and if you've already read the first one, then I promise you that you will love this one even more.

Happy Reading,  
Aneta

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## Beatrice in Bookland says

*"I don't know how I'll feel about anything once my memories return." His arms tightened around her. "But I know I fear losing you more than anything that might befall me."*

## Yael Shalom says

PERFECTION !

I couldn't stop reading .

Loved every word , every chapter , every scene in this book .

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## Tweebs♥? says

*"I don't know how I'll feel about anything when my memories return." His arms tightened around her.  
"But I know I fear losing you more than anything that might befall me."*

Shoot me. Just shoot me. End my agony.

If you asked me to describe Hell then I'd say picking quotes from this book.

## I loved everything

My brains hurts and you may entirely lay the blame on Annette Marie . She has done it again. She has finally found the key to destroying my sanity. She ripped it into tiny little pieces by her **magnificent plot, A+++++ characters, marvelous world building, and "why can't this happen to me?"** romance.

*jdskfjdskfjdsklfjdsklsjdhsfhdjfdjfhdsjfdskfjdksfjkdjksfjskdf*

## Translation:

I feel like a Tasmanian devil came into my life, messed everything up and left.

Like this

*Yes, I'm that tree. I'm sooooo that Tree. #relatable*

How does one simply review this book?? Well, I'm facing the same dilemma I had with Red Winter. I don't know what to write BUT I'm going to force myself into forming words to create a somewhat accurate review. Before I begin, I just need to address a **MINOR** issue. Do you guys enjoy sleeping? Because I feel like this series is being slept on. This series is so under-rated. Trust me, you will not regret picking this up. This series is so satisfying to the soul and I advise you to go into this series with zero expectations. Makes the experience worthwhile and much better.

**Alright.**

Let's hope I do this book some justice. I'm warning you that this review would seem like someone dropped a vase made out of glass and tried to put it back together.

**In other words:**

*This is going to be to a hot mess.*

Dark Tempest, picks up right after the ending of Red Winter. The only problem I had with Red Winter, is that its a bit slow in the beginning but as I progressed through the story; that problem disappeared. The thing about, Dark Tempest is that it followed its predecessors footsteps **BUT ITS OKAY BECAUSE AFTER A FEW CHAPTERS, THE PROBLEM GETS CLEARED UP.** I assure you, I understand why the pacing was slow because it was just filling you with essential info to understand everything and I despise info dump but trust me, y'all would be *soooooo* appreciative because :

*? You would be so lost because the author throws Japanese terminology everywhere like confetti and makes you constantly think, "okay what is that??"*

*? Just bare with it because once you understand then*

*? everything*

*? gets*

*? good*

*? Really really good.*

Truthfully, I wanted to write this review for the characters because I'm absolutely in awe of them. My love for them increased immensely within this book. *Why?* Because of the character development.

? **Emi** - She's pretty much the same in Red Winter but I felt like she grew a loooooooooot and is finally beginning to spread her wings. I found myself liking her way way WAY better in this book. She is fearless, selfless, understanding, loyal, kick ass, and caring. She came a long way. \*wipes tears\*

*(This is an Illustration of Emi from the book!!!!)*

It was amazing to see how her character was able to adapt and flourish despite her circumstances. I just loved how she wasn't phased by anything and told everyone, "*Screw you, humans aren't weak.*", She proves them wrong. She crushes everyone's expectations of human beings. She stepped out of her comfort zone and stuck up for herself. She doesn't allow her weaknesses to be a barrier. I can go on forever about why I adore her so much.

? **Shiro** - \*swoons\* This dude is such a flirt and I'm not one to complain. Please carry on, my dear Shiro \*bats eyelashes\* I absolutely loved him because he never failed to crack me up. He can make a joke in the most serious situation. Seriously, I dare you to resist his charms because it's hard. Very hard. I loved how we get to find out more about his unknown past. I feel like there was more of a connection I had with him than I did in Red Winter. You can feel that he's lost, afraid, and exposed. He's trying to find himself. Even though, I claimed Shiro as one of my book husbands, sadly, I'm not the only one who wants him. \*cough\* Emi \*cough\* Well, it's okay. I can take a step back because I already ship them so hard. You honestly can't help but adore them. I love the fact that they have each other's backs and is able to tackle their own barriers

together.

It's been confirmed. They are my OTP \*sigh\*

*(This is an Illustration of Shiro and Emi in the book!!!)*

? **Yumei** - He is mysterious and I'm so intrigued by him. I want to know more about him. I look forward to his parts especially the interactions between him and Shiro. I just love how he is sarcastic, rude, and straightforward. Also, his insults are the real deal.

*(This is an Illustration of Yumei in the book!!!)*

**Alright.**

If you read my review of Red Winter then you'd know that this book also contains illustrations. I swear, this idea of having illustrations is fabulous. Now, I wouldn't post them all for you. I need some leverage okay. There is *a looooooot* more within the book and y'all need to read it to see it :-p

**Anyway**

This book will make you go through a roller coaster of endless feels. Although, a lot of things happen within this book but I won't go into it because I don't want to spoil anything. **All I can give you is :** You will put this book down several times to just breathe. The action scenes will keep you on edge like I found myself forever gripping my couch.

**Hope y'all get the chance to read this. You won't be let down. I promise.**

**You can find this review and my other reviews at Booksprens**

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**Sana says**

**THIS ISN'T A FUCKING REVIEW, LEAVE ME BE WITH MY SCREAMING THOUGHTS**

*Do you love pain?*

*Don't you just love the sweet smell of suffering?*

*Don't you love the salty taste of human tears??*

*DON'T YOU JUST LOVE EVERYTHING BAD AND PAINFUL????*

Well dial **1-800-READ-THE-FUCKING-RED-WINTER-TRILOGY** today for the best way to suffer and die!!!

I'm 150% sure that shooting a bullet through my heart, or fucking executing me on the guillotine would be less painful than *this* fucking !!!! BOOK !!!!! Like, I know for a fact if you search up the meaning of pain on Google, *Dark Tempest* would be the definition. I BET YOU \$\$\$\$.

If I thought the previous book was pain, this book is 100000000 times worse and I loved every moment of it.

Ok seriously, I'm so angry I'm not a kunitsukami or a powerful Tengu like Yumei because what the fuck!!!! I want to fight eight headed dragons with some fiery, shapeshifting power, and ancient powerful swords that are meant to kill EVIL DRAGONS!!!

#### WHY THIS BOOK IS AWESOME:

●The romance oh my god. Why can't this happen to me??? Hello universe, deliver a Shiro to my doorstep asap, please and thank you.

They're romance is so developed and real. Oh my god. I'm trying not to type gibberish, I'm just???  
akldfndjgfbfucvklfuckasbdjsaffuck Their romance is forbidden and Emi knows it's going to end tragically, but ???????????? shkcbSVAGJKFAGBLDFVBDTRGO my god FUCK OFF AND READ IT FOR THE ROMANCE. IT'S SO FUCKING HOT AND EMOTIONAL AND PAINFUL AND FILLED WITH EMOTION AND HONESTLY, FUCK OFF OH MY GOD LET ME LIVE PLS. Every fucking scene with Emi and Shiro makes me cry??? oh my fucking god, BYE I CAN NO LONGER FUNCTION.

●This book is filled with twists and turns, such cool and badass action, a ROMANCE I WISH HAPPENED TO ME, A+++++++ world building, with the most flawed, loveable characters ever.

●Yumei?? Is a hardcore bitch from the outside, but his insides are like a stuffed teddy bear. Don't let his "fuck off before I end you" attitude fool you. He's the most emotional character and I love him. He's a big softie. Love my son.

●and bitch, the art is gorgeous. :\*

also a small con, the first 30% is SLOW, but you gotta have some patience if you want the shit to go down okay??

Book song for Shiro and Emi's romance is definitely Wildfire. Please listen to it and I'm totally not shamelessly promoting my newest favorite song by queen Demi. Okay seriously though, this song is perfect AND SO IRONIC LMAO BECAUSE (view spoiler)

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**MAJOR SPOILER from the first book IN THIS PARAGRAPH so if you haven't read that one (which you should, I mean cmon dude) DON'T read on because you'll be spoiled???** I'll let you know when the spoiler ends. But if you want to read my review of the first book, you can click on the sentence you're reading right now.

#### What this amazing book is about:

After finding out about that bitch ass goddess's betrayal to fuck shit up on earth, Emi has to stop her, but she can't do that on her own. So, she joins up with Shiro and Yumei and they go on cool ass rescue missions and cut some bitches along the way and honestly??? why can't that happen to me, the universe is so unfair.

Seriously, is there any way I can become a yokai because fuck, they're some powerful, badass bitches with cool ass magic powers and get all the fun action.

●I'm honestly 150% willing to sell all my siblings just to have a moment with Shiro??? This guy is honestly so sweet, playful, flirty and going through emotional shit, that I just want to wrap this precious little cinnamon roll in a blanket and feed him chewy chocolate chip cookies all day. He's lost his memories and is someone he realized he doesn't want to be. Someone who is brutal, cunning, dangerous and completely different from the person who Emi fell in love with!! And what seriously made me cry is that??? he's just scared he'll forget Emi if regains his memories. He fuckign held her tightly to him and WAS SO SCARED OF LOSING HER??? oh my fucking god!!!

Can someone just fucking shoot me?? It would be less painful than watching my precious Shiro suffer.

**I'M**

**S C R E A M I N G**

●Emi is fucking queen. I'm so in love with her character, god she's such a flawed, but strong character. Literally fucking goals. She's been through so much, questioning everything, sacrificing her life to become a human vessel and leaving everything and everyone she loves. She's so fucking strong??? She helped powerful yokai fight an eight headed dragon, helped save lost gods (I FORGOT WHAT THEY ARE CALLED FUCK), and is trying to stop an evil goddess from destroying her world. She never backs down without a fight. Yes, sometimes she's weak and helpless but whatever the situation is, she always survives!!!!

She want from a naive, gullible person to someone stronger, kind, loving and so so brave.

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**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!SPOILERS END!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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So like, pls read this underrated trilogy it deserves all the love and hype!!!

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*inhales*

WHAT THE FUCK WHAT THE FUCK WHAT THE FUCK WHAT THE FUCK WHAT THE FUCK  
WHAT THE FUCK

WHAT  
THE  
FUCK

FUCK

STOP

FUCK YOU ANNETTE MARIE YOU FUCKING DEVIL AKDJSKDNSKSBSKDB IM SCREAMING



## Vanessa ?Queen Alchemy ? Novel Nerd Faction? says

09/12/2018: Read again for the second time!

I am so glad that I decided to read this series again! These characters are just what I needed right now. There is a certain comfort in rereading books that you love.

Reading this again only solidifies my awe of Annette Marie's genius. I praise her for her creativity and how she crafts her stories using it. I love the cultural and mythological elements of this story and how they are woven with fantasy to create something truly unique. Annette Marie is just as skilled with character creation as she is with world building. These characters are very distinct and the reader falls in love with them easily. Each character's personality is represented flawlessly and fluidly. You really feel like you know these characters and that you are a part of their world. The plot of the story is very clever and extremely addictive. I lost more than my fair share of sleep reading this series and I am not the least bit sorry for the lack of sleep. I've said this before in my reviews of Annette Marie's books, but she is a truly special author with so much to give the book community. I will forever be her fan and always eagerly awaiting her next book with open arms.

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This book was such an adventure! This is definitely a must-read series! Annette Marie has been on my insta-read list since I read her Stone & Steel series. (Which is phenomenal, btw.) Annette Marie is an independent author, but you really wouldn't know it. Her novels are so polished that you would swear up and down that you are reading something from a major publisher. That's one of the things that I love about Annette Marie's books. Her attention to details. Her passion is all over her books.

Okay, so the adventure. There is a lot of it! I love how active and fast paced the book is. If there is something that Annette Marie can do exceptionally well, it is fight scenes. For real. They get me so pumped up and excited. They are so descriptive and concise. In some fight scenes it is easy to get lost along the way, but Annette Marie has got it down to a science. The plot is really imaginative and it has so many evolving elements. There were a lot of surprises in the story that I didn't see coming. I loved the mythology and the Japanese culture. I just plain loved this story.

The romance in the book is pretty perfect. It is slow moving, but in a good way. It's just the right amount of romance. It isn't too much too soon, but it's also not lacking. And the other relationships in the book are so well written. I love the friendship between Emi and Yumei. It has come so far from her first meeting with him.

The characters are so well written. There is so much growth, especially for Emi and Shiro. I love seeing how much Emi's character has transformed since the first book. She was just a kamigakari in the first book, following orders and doing what was expected of her. She didn't really have an identity of her own. It's awesome to see her gaining some self existence.

This book also included some illustrations throughout the book that were a delight! They were so gorgeous and really brought so much to the story. I loved the visuals so much.

I cannot recommend this book and this series enough! It is such a wild ride, with incredibly complex

characters and a wholly original fantasy world. Annette Marie is definitely one of my favorite authors, and if you read any of her books you will say the same. If you are a fan of fantasy, you need Annette Marie books in your life!

More reviews on my blog: [The Alchemy of Ink](#)

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## Lonna | FLYL?F says

MY FIRST READ of this year has set an incredibly high bar! Annette Marie, Amazon's best-selling YA fantasy author, has risen the stakes with *Dark Tempest*, the sequel to the *Red Winter Trilogy*. I was left breathless by its high-octane action, mesmeric and sweeping Japanese culture, and exquisitely slow-burn romance.

The richly descriptive prose is a sensual feast of word-building that expands beyond the first book to include new *kamis* and *yokais* inhabiting in frightening and fantastical realms, and performing strange and beautiful magic. The vivid details are occasionally paired with aesthetically gorgeous illustrations to create an anime-like reading experience, which I absolutely loved because it gave me a glimpse of how the author envisioned scenes.

From the first tensions of an attraction that blooms lovingly into a deep affection, the slow burn romance between Shiro and Emi was exquisitely nuanced. Inasmuch as I was entertained by Shiro's teasing smile and shameless flirting, I was more deeply touched by his vulnerability and devotion that was carefully hidden behind that nonchalant surface to keep Emi from looking at him too closely. The romance was sweet and swoony; tender and lacerating.

For fans of endless, unputdownable action, *Dark Tempest* will not disappoint. Emi and Shiro, along with the striking and mysterious Yumei, encountered one epic battle after another. With each battle becoming more electrifying and high-stakes, leading up to an explosive conclusion aptly described as dark tempest.

Although the action is highly entertaining, it is the well-drawn characters that is so integral to the storyline. Emi has more selflessness than sense sometimes. But, I really enjoyed seeing her transform from a demure *kamigakari* to a heroine who possesses strength through struggles. Ms. Marie never let me forget that Emi is human, but with a bit of luck, persistence, and cleverness, Emi fought her own battles admirable. Yet, it is Shiro who I think underwent the most transformation. Shiro's mysterious past finally catches up to him, and the memories that was once hidden from him will surface to reveal a cunning and world-shattering plot that has been centuries in the making.

With each installment of the *Red Winter Trilogy*, I seem to be more and more enchanted by this series. *Dark Tempest* permeates with magic—of the ethereal and elemental, and in a spellbinding and delightful way. I can't wait to find out what happens next for Shiro and Emi in *Immortal Fire* (*Red Winter Trilogy* 3).

*{Thank you Annette Marie and Dark Owl Fantasy for kindly giving me this book free of charge, which does not influence my review.}*

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## **Miranda (MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It) says**

4.5 / 5 Fangs

Honestly, how does Annette Marie do it? She continues to write fascinating and addictive novels that never disappoint.

The first 30% of this book was on the slower side, and I had a hard time fully getting back into this story. I was worried that this book wasn't going to be as enjoyable as the first book. Thankfully, after the 30% mark, the book's pace really picked up. After that, I couldn't stop reading the book. There was a ton of action that took my breath away and kept me on the edge of my seat. That mixed with the Japanese mythology, romance, humor, and plot development lead to one spectacular book.

The main character, Emi, was still as selfless and thoughtful as she was in book one. I loved how strongly Emi cared for those around her and how she always put the safety of others first. Since she was surrounded by a lot of strong mythical creatures, she was typically viewed as the "weak human". It was awesome to see her stand her ground, save people, and show the others that she was valuable too.

There were times where I would have liked her to kick a *little* more booty, but I understood she wasn't extremely powerful. It was actually kind of nice to have a YA character who wasn't a badass fighter 24/7. Since she wasn't as powerful as the other characters, it made her more relatable and it made her moments of triumph feel even more badass. I cannot wait to see how she grows in book three.

Shiro was just as swoon-worthy as ever in this book. His snarky remarks always put a smile on my face! I was glad that he was still extremely sassy in this book, but it was nice to see his more vulnerable side too. Shiro went through a lot in this book and I really enjoyed learning more about him and his past. Shiro has a lot more to him that meets the eye and I loved seeing those sides of him. He was an over-protective alpha male at times, but I couldn't help falling more in love with him in this book. I am trash for him and I don't even care.

Also, Shiro is a BADASS. His fight scenes were freaking awesome. GIVE ME MORE SHIRO.

The romance in this book KILLED me. Every little interaction between Emi and Shiro had made my heart flutter. Watching their feelings grow for each other put a smile on my face. THEY ARE SO ADORABLE TOGETHER! Their banter was wonderful in this book and their chemistry felt electric. One thing I really love about Emi and Shiro is that they make each other stronger. They always support each other and they want what is best for each other. I ship Shiro and Emi SO FREAKING HARD.

Annette is great at creating a romance that never takes over the plot and adds just the right amount of deliciousness to the story. I LOVE IT.

Overall, I thought this book was a great addition to this series. Fans of this series will not be disappointed with this installment! If you are in looking for a unique YA Fantasy series, then I would recommend checking out this series.

I NEED BOOK THREE.

4.5 / 5 Fangs

*\*This ebook was given to me in exchange for an honest review. \**

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It

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## Hiba says

Dark Tempest was certainly **dark, in some ways brutal, action packed and very fast paced book**. I flew through it in just two days and while reading it I was thinking of giving it four stars for sure but now that I've finished it, I think there are somethings that were not really great and that left me feeling kind of angry with this book.

## L I K E S

● **World Building** The book is set in modern day Japan and the japanese mythology **on the spot**. We get to know more about this universe, the yokais and kamis and all the gods and goddesses. Everything in this world was very well defined and the histories and relationships between gods and goddesses were all very complex.

● **Characters** I liked all the characters in this book. Emi developed as a strong willed person. She's determined to fulfill her duty no matter what the cost is and doesn't care of her physical weaknesses against powerful monsters. Shiro is still the same quirky, cunning and sarcastic yokai from the first book but as his curse weakens, he's remembering glimpse of his history and we see as his former personality mix with the ancient powers hidden underneath. And then we have Yumei, the prince of shadows, the warlord. He's this eternally pissed off, extremely broody person who's really responsible and serious about everything.

● **STUNNING ILLUSTRATIONS.**

● **So much action.** From the beginning till the end, Emi and Shiro are facing one hurdle then other. We got some spider woman, then we had creepy fungus and creepy pines, then we had two dragons. Yessss. Action was constant and very well written and it did not allow me to put this book down.

## D I S L I K E S

● Even though japanese mythology was great and well developed, **we had no sense of the real, modern day world**. One reason why I love urban fantasy is because of mash up of old mythologies with the modern world. But here there was no sense of modern world. They kept on travelling in forests, there were no local humans, only yokai and kamis and humans in shrines. Seriously does nobody use gadgets? Where are the buildings, where are the humans. It seemed like Emi and everyone else was going to save the superficial

world with superficial people tbh.

●**No female friendships.** Throughout the book, Emi met many new people, some men and some women. Of them, only Amatesaru and Uzume were only women who Emi trusted. And they were billions of years old. Other than these, Emi distrusted every woman she came across. She wanted them to be away. All the mikos in shrines were supposedly below her, therefore she never talked to them. I hate it when protagonists are so distrustful of other girls. Female friendship is my jam, and when the girl is distrustful toward other girls on first glance, it immediately becomes a no-no for me.

●**Romance was too cheesy.** I liked Shiro and I liked Emi. I liked how romance was forbidden and slow burn. But the thing is, Emi and Shiro are too touchy touchy. Shiro *always* has a reason to wrap his arms around Emi from behind and burying his nose in her hair and Emi is *always* flinging herself at Shiro and hugging him tightly to convey her love and blah blah. The thing is, I don't like my couples touching each other all the time and then constantly reminding me that they are touching each other. Go away with your romance, Shiro and Emi, gimme more fighting and action.

●Some of the characters just disappeared from middle and then appeared in the end. For example Katsuo or Ishada or Nanakato. They were present in the beginning and when Emi went with the Yokai, she didn't even bother remembering them. I hate when authors neglect some characters for development of others, and that's exactly what Annette Marie did here.

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And that's about it. Overall, this book wasn't really memorable. I enjoyed reading it even though I had some problems but I don't think I'll be ever rereading this.

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## mith says

hiya lovelies. you can read this review on blog by clicking [HERE!](#) also, get on these books!

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I love this book. I love this series. The characters, the plot, the action, the *romance*, and the mythology--it's all amazing. Dark Tempest is an amazing sequel to Red Winter.

Following the events of *Red Winter*, Emi, Shiro, and Yumei are at a loss. Emi has less than five weeks to complete her task of finding the other *kunitsukami*--the four leaders of the *yokai*. Not to mention, Shiro still has his *onenju* beads on, still blocking his memories and magic, both of which are needed for their journey. Still, Emi is determined to complete what's set out for her, even with all the danger surrounding her.

Annette Marie has done it again. She's mixed rich Japanese mythology with her signature of action and romance and I loved every single page of it. She kept me on the edge of my seat, breathless, and always wanting more. It was amazing and I wouldn't mind right back into the world she's created.

I really like Emi as a main character! She knows what she has to do, even though the task is dangerous. Even when she doubts herself and her abilities, she doesn't let herself stick to the sidelines; she'll throw herself into the fray to help her friends. She's both selfless and strong and so caring of the people she loves. Her sense of duty is remarkable! As strange as this may seem, it was nice to see her questioning her skills at times because she knows she's just a human. She accepts her vulnerability and doesn't let it stop her either. Watching her

overcome that insecurity by proving her worth was amazing development and I loved it! Emi is just wonderful!

The plot, as always, is full of action! Things are constantly in motion, and it's a thrilling ride through and through. Annette Marie writes breath taking action scenes and it always kept me on the edge of my seat, *needing* to know how everything ends out. Her romance is the same! And speaking of, it is my absolute *favourite*! I love Ash and Piper but goooooosh, I die over Shiro and Emi EVERY SINGLE TIME. They are SO cute. The scenes with them are either adorable or *super swoony*.

Shiro is going through a lot! And I felt for him throughout the novel. He's struggling to remember his memories, himself, and because he doesn't have all of his magic, he feels he isn't as useful as he could be and seeing him like that breaks my heart! Despite his naturally flirty manner and constant smirk--which, by all means, I *love*--he's vulnerable and scared sometimes and that sound? Yes, it's my heart breaking. I am so glad he has Emi, and Emi him, because they are each other's strengths and have each other's backs. I love the way they work together! (I LOVE THEM.)

Guys! This book is *wild*. I'm not even kidding because oh my gosh. SO many things happen; SO many revelations, and I'm breathless all over thinking about it! With Marie's amazing characterization and her action, you will not be able to put this book down.

I'm so excited for *Immortal Fire*. I need it now! I can't wait to see what direction Marie takes the story and what becomes of Shiro and Emi and Yumei (whom I also dearly adore!) *Dark Tempest* is the perfect sequel and it deserves all 5 stars!

*e-ARC was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review!*

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i need this book by yesterday

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## **Minni Mouse says**

Ahh, that was so terrific! *Dark Tempest* has everything that *Red Winter* had in terms of vibrant Japanese mythology, exciting action sequences, fantastic illustrations throughout the book, slow-burn romance, and shameless flirts.

In *Dark Tempest*, more is revealed (thank goodness!). We meet a smattering of more secondary characters, more *kami* and *yokai*, and more moments that made my heart hurt. This series has sold me on exploring more Japanese mythology because it's such a beautiful and sweeping set of stories.

Just like it took me until the 20% mark in *Red Winter* to truly get sucked into the story, *Dark Tempest* took some time as well. This is partly because we spend the first several chapters with the human characters at the Shion Temple, which I found to lack the same intrigue as the *yokai* characters of Shiro and the Tengu. By the 60% mark, though, the action *really* picked up and suddenly we were battling spiders and poison ivy and giant dragons and it was terrific.

## **THE GOOD**

1) At first, I wasn't a fan of the fact that Emi is still a weakling in this book. You'd think that she would've grown more powerful with the power of Amaterasu flowing through her *ki* but to my initial chagrin, Emi is

just as dainty as ever. She can't keep up with Shiro and Tengu, she's tripping over her kimono, getting picked up by the waist and tucked under peoples' arms, and getting bossed around by those bigger and stronger than her. After a while, though, I re-evaluated the way she's portrayed because despite her physical fragility, she's the more brave because of it. In each action sequence, she's awkwardly and uselessly on the sidelines...until she isn't and until she's saving the day not with a sudden burst of power but with gutsy acts of sheer courage. Even Shiro and Tengu come to recognize that she's saved their lives multiple times -- by the final fight scene, it never occurs to any of them to leave her behind.

2) The action sequences were fun! The action sequences between the Greek mythology gods in *Breath of Fire* got a little *much* after a while but the scenes in *Dark Tempest* fascinated me. I was in awe at the majesty and might of some of those creatures -- how cool is Tengu in his true form? Or Shiro?

3) Shiro. You shameless flirt, you.

### THE BAD

1) We definitely go a little deeper into Japanese mythology here with the shapeshifter creatures/*yokai*, which unfortunately means that sometimes I couldn't think of Shiro and Tengu together without picturing them as Pokémon:

2) The first part of the book didn't match the rest of the book, which is the same feeling I got from *Red Winter*. In the first part of the book, we were at the Shion Temple with Ishida and Nanako and Katsuo, and it all felt slightly more juvenile and average...particularly when we hinted at the beginnings of a love triangle. Even after we met up again with Shiro and the Tengu, the tone was still light and bubbly...like a Japanese anime.

3) Shiro. He's got fox ears coming out of his head, guys. I'm brand spanking-new to Japanese mythology and folklore, so pardon me if that still seems extremely weird to me.

### THE VERDICT

If you liked *Red Winter* then you're going to like this book either just as much or even more. And the best news? The third and final book apparently only comes out in a few months! :)

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★**Rachelle**★ says

**5 stars**

Shiro basically this whole book:

Now go read

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## **Cheryl La Pa says**

Wow! Ms Marie has blown me away with another phenomenal read! Dark Tempest is the second book in Red Winter trilogy and should be read after the first book, Red Winter.

I loved this book just as much as the first, if not more. I love, love, love the characters, as well as the incredible world building, the gripping plot and Ms Marie's writing is perfection!

With the help of Shiro and Yumei, Emi must find the four leaders of the yokai before she ascends and also fulfil her vow to Shiro to remove his oneju beads so that his memories and magic can return.

Dark Tempest focused more on Shiro, Yumei and the yokai. I loved finding out about Shiro's past, and seeing Yumei in action. Emi struggles with the vulnerability of being a human, but makes the most of her abilities and wins the respect and admiration of the others with her bravery and resourcefulness. I love the bond of friendship between Shiro, Yumei and Emi and how it develops throughout their journey together. I felt all their heart-aches, triumphs, frustrations and fears in their search for the missing yokai leaders – I was hooked!

I found the Japanese mythology fascinating, though I did find it confusing at times with the many Japanese names and used the glossary on several occasions to clarify some of the characters.

Ms Marie weaves a gripping story with unforgettable characters, mythological creatures, adrenalin-filled action scenes, swoon-worthy romantic moments and jaw-dropping revelations which kept me enthralled and intrigued. Can't wait for the next book!

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## **Tara ? says**

Review to come!

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## **Khadidja says**

JDNDKAL1KBZBEKDKDID I AM DIYING FOR SHIRO AND EMI!!

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