



The Sphere of Secrets

Catherine Fisher

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Danger still lurks around every corner for Mirany, Seth, Oblek, and Alexos in this fast-paced sequel to The Oracle Betrayed.

The Sphere of Secrets Details

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Author : Catherine Fisher

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From Reader Review The Sphere of Secrets for online ebook

Nora says

Brilliant. Simply brilliant. Review to come.

Allison says

Really really intriguing idea, but unfortunately not a terribly intriguing author. If only Neil Gaiman had written this book...

Allen Karp says

The sphere of secrets was by far one of the most enjoyable books i've read. The story takes place in a small region where there are two lands ruled by an archon. These lands are next to a desert and they have been stuck in a drought for decades. And the oracle is corrupted and the real god speaks to mirany. To save the kingdom from war and to bring back rivers and lakes alexos the archon embarks on a journey to the well of secrets with melony, seth, a young scribe and good friend of alexos, oblek alexos's guardian and the jackal. The encounter many things and obstacles. Catherine Fisher writes a very detailed novel that engages you and makes a connection between you and the characters. I recommend this book to anyone all ages alike and i rate this 5 stars because it was an awesome book.

Ingrida L says

„Archontas“ – „Orakulo“ t?sinys, antroji garsios šiuolaikin? s Velso poet? s ir prozinink? s Katrin Fišer trilogijos dalis. Už knygos heroj? nuotykius ne mažiau ?sp?dingos j? akistatos su savo sielos demonais. Paprastais ginklais j? ne?veiksi, nes tai kova su savimi.

Ithlilian says

The Sphere of Secrets has many of the same problems that the first novel had. I still don't get a feel for society as a whole, and the characters are weak. I feel like the characters are just going through the motions and completing tasks without any drive or determination. They do as ordered by the god and don't really think for themselves. In addition, this novel adds a large amount of traveling. I'm really not into books where the main plot consists of traveling across the land to retrieve an object or complete a task. In a nutshell, that's what this book is. Plenty is happening in this book, but it doesn't seem to fit in with the events of the last story. Most of the events in The Sphere of Secrets are based on the discovery of the sphere and traveling to restore the water. Those things could have been explained without the sphere, and I don't understand why the Archon is just now discovering how to restore water. To sum it up nicely, I would say that the plot doesn't flow very well.

I'm interested in the land, and I want to know what happens with everything. I just want a little more than is being delivered. I want to know more about the characters. I want to know what drives them, why they act the way they do, why they care about certain events. I want to know what the god thinks of people randomly asking for things, and I would like to see a reckoning. I don't know that any of those things will happen, but I will continue to read the series because it's not bad. It's not really good or great, but it's not bad either. I don't judge it too harshly because it is the second book in a trilogy, and I almost expect those to be slow. If you liked the first book, definitely give this one a try.

Joshua says

I thought the first one ended well enough, and didn't see why a sequel would be necessary—until I read it. The stakes are higher, the characters further developed. This is Fisher at some of her best, in my opinion.

Abby says

A complex book. The author kept switching the narrative like, every other chapter, so it was a little confusing at first, figuring out who was talking.

Jota-p says

Para ser sincero, quando comecei a ler o livro questionei-me se não me ia arrepender... Tinha lido o primeiro livro da série, mas não tinha delirado com ele... E esta história não me estava a "agarrar" tanto como à partida eu pensava que me "agarraria". Deparei-me com a mesma fórmula d' *O Oráculo*: uma narrativa rápida ("cinematográfica", diria eu), personagens planas que não surpreendem muito por aí além, muitos acontecimentos (demasiados!) em simultâneo (então nos últimos capítulos...!). Isso não me costuma agradar muito nos livros. Penso que talvez este não seja bem o meu género literário.

Porém, por outro lado, a autora consegue tratar aqui de forma subtil, mas interessante na mesma, a eterna problemática do poder, assim como a ainda mais eterna problemática da fé. E se o primeiro livro me fez lembrar um pouco a mitologia grega e a egípcia, este fez-me viajar para a América do Sul. É engraçado como Catherine Fisher acaba por cruzar influências e criar um mundo (mais ou menos) credível. Chegado ao fim do livro, não posso dizer que não gostei mesmo nada. Foi uma leitura acima de tudo, agradável e que deu para me ir entretendo à medida que a ia lendo.

Muito me espanta esta história ainda não ter sido adaptada ao cinema, pois parece ter todos os ingredientes para isso.

Nunca cheguei a ler o segundo livro desta série...

Robin says

I greatly enjoyed the first novel in this trilogy and approached the second one with some trepidation, as

sequels are often not nearly as compelling. But this one was a pleasure, and quite intriguing. This is more Seth's story than Mirany's, though she is still around and still active, I would say he is the focus of this sequel.

The Archon has brought rain, and is installed as the god, but the rivers are still not flowing and the threat of drought remains, suffocating the land. In addition, Hermia retains her position as Speaker, even though she knows --and even admits -- that she is NOT hearing the God speak, and greedy powerful Argelin is still in control of the army. Mirany, in addition, is in constant danger of being poisoned and has to have a food taster. (She feels terrible about putting someone in danger this way.)

The only way to restore the rivers is to return to the Well of Songs and put back into place the three stolen apples (stars) that the Archon Rasselon took many years ago. This mythology is brought to life when Seth is offered a "mysterious stone" by a trader: a stone with such gleaming light that he is compelled to buy it. This is, of course, the first of the three stars, but no one knows it yet. He is also offered a terrible choice, and is manipulated by his love for his family into agreeing to do something he does not want to do. The tension of this agreement he carries to the very end of the book.

A quest is therefore undertaken, by the Archon, Seth, Obleck (who longs for his musical inspiration to return and believes that the Well of Songs will give him that) and, oddly, the Jackal and his sidekick the Fox. At this point, the book becomes a parallel tale: we bounce back and forth between the men on quest, and the women of the Nine. The parallels are loose at first but as the book progresses they become more tightly connected. I loved the skill with which the author made this happen: the connections between the two groups, who are miles apart and unable to communicate, are nonetheless getting stronger and their situations begin to mirror one another's situations in striking ways.

The dessert has its own danger. Thirst of course, and bandits: then the mysterious animals, giant lines in the sand which the Archon diligently paces and honors. Then the bird people, who freaked me out a bit. Then the mountains themselves, so difficult to climb. Then the Well of Songs, where you must face..... well, I don't want to spoil it, but that particular scene was beautifully done.

We learn a LOT more about the side characters in this sequel, especially Hermia, Rhetia, Argelin, and The Jackal. I felt the book rounded out these characters and gave us some insight... and some sympathy... about why they act the way they do.

Eager to start story #3. Recommended for all readers. No sex, moderate but not graphic violence, lots of adventure and intrigue, and still those lovely fleeting diary entries at the start of each section.

Sofia says

Much like the previous book, this one isn't a masterpiece, but it is fun and entertaining.

One thing I liked was the fact that despite all the world-saving adventure in the first book, when this one

begins not much has changed - the land is still pretty dry, the bad guys got away with it, the heroes were put out of the way. It was unusual, and it felt right, closer to real life rather than everything turning out awesome and riding off into the sunset. It justified this sequel a lot better than having some other villain or danger to fight.

The plot is tropey: there is a Holy!Quest, for which Magical Items must be retrieved. Unlikely Alliances are made when Heroes Bond over difficult times in the desert. But it's handled decently, and you don't feel like putting the book aside with an I've-read-this-a-million-times yawn; there is still much that is engaging and imaginative enough to be read.

The villains are still drab and flat and not very interesting at all, but our merry band of tropey heroes does enjoy some character development, which is nice. They still have their shades of gray, and some have some harsh choices to make and personal demons to battle (quite literally, even). I really do like it when main characters in YA fantasy aren't all SuperGoodAndPureOfHeart.

It was a very decent read and I'm sure I'll re-read it some day.

Suzan Köycü says

Okurken biraz s?k?ld?m yine de güzeldi.

Jess says

Just as engrossing as The Oracle Betrayed. I particularly like the way solving one problem doesn't magically fix everything for the characters - they struggle along with their character flaws and their adversaries, doing the best they can. Another twist at the end has me (again) looking forward to the next one. So far a solid series.

Emily B. says

I'm glad that the author used this book to flesh out the characters and setting she introduced in the first book. The added details gave life to the story. As for the story itself, it could get a little outlandish at times. The entire plot goes somewhat like this: "Mirany's up to her eyeballs in treachery, and Seth teams up with two thieves, a drunk musician, and a god to retrieve some stars." Even though it sounds completely ridiculous on paper, it works brilliantly as a story.

I only had two complaints. One, the constant treachery that I mentioned earlier. At one point Mirany herself complains, "Do we all have to be plotting against one another?". Like her, I'm a peacekeeper, so I admire the fact that she was able to keep her head throughout all of this. My second complaint is much more serious: one of the central characters gets murdered. They weren't admirable, but I feel like their death is going to unleash mayhem. I'm approaching the third book with a morbid curiosity; hopefully the aftermath won't be as chaotic as I'm imagining that it will be.

Cherrylea says

I'm doing a quick review on this:

1. Basically, in the book, everything is going wrong, even though it's supposed to be right.
2. It was like the first one, I'd say, with just a few different problems:
 - The drought has not ended. All of our important friends are distracted, and only Mirany can see that something is really wrong.
 - Alexos is still being plotted against, which is why he heads to find the Well to give the land water again, following the directions of the Sphere of Secrets.
 - Oblek has lost his music, and, it seems, his mind. He has to be on the watch, with the witty Jackal right behind him.
 - Seth has been offered an interesting job - his loyalty is questioned by everyone, especially himself.
3. Through it all, the same old themes are explored - loyalty, power, and belief.
4. A lot of mythology in here, again.
5. It ends with more of a bang than the first one - big things happen and we have a huge cliffhanger!
6. It wasn't as pulling as the first, but, like I mentioned, it had a big ending, so I'll be looking out for the sequel.

Iva says

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