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Assassin's Heart

Rachel Wadham

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Book Review

Title: Assassin's Heart
Author: Sarah Ahiers
Reviewer: Rachel Wadham
Publisher: HarperTeen
Publication Year: 2016
ISBN: 9780062363787
Number of Pages: 420
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Dependable



Review

Lea is a clipper, one of nine families who are sanctioned by the city to murder for hire. Dating the son of the Da Vias, a rival family, is just a fun game until her family is brutally murdered. Enacting her revenge on the Da Vias is the only way Lea knows to find peace but she can't do it alone. Seeking out a lost Uncle, Lea finds it's his untrained apprentice who is the most likely to serve her needs. But training him while escaping those hunting her is much more difficult than Lea anticipates making it necessary to travel to the brink of death in order to complete her mission.

Without a doubt the set up for this novel is very intriguing and connects to other works that delve into the mythology of death and its deities. Some interesting issues surrounding faith and family are explored in very broad strokes, but beyond that this novel lacks cohesion. Lea is a lackluster character with too many inconsistencies to be interesting and her all-consuming attitude of revenge just reads as stereotypical teenage angst. The plot also finds itself in a repetitive loop which makes the big climax at the end a little disappointing, and leaves readers wondering what could really happen in a sequel. Overall other books like LaFevers *Fair Assassin* Trilogy or Leavitt's *Keturah and Lord Death*, may be more satisfying for readers who are not looking for anything but an anguish filled romance.

*Contains violence.