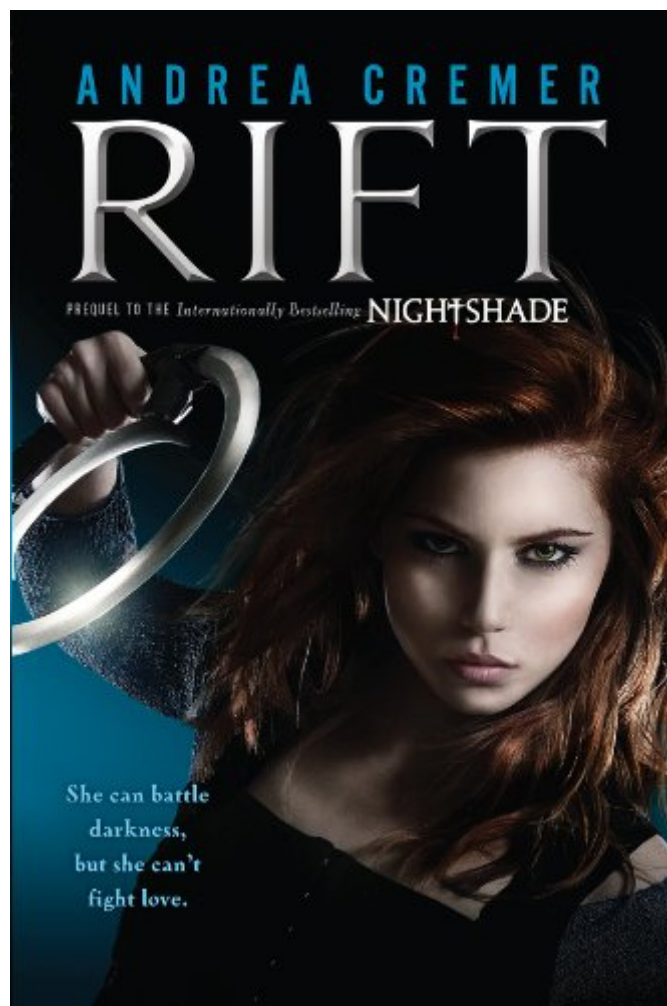


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Rift: A Nightshade Novel



Synopsis

Chronicling the rise of the Keepers, this is the stunning prequel to Andrea Cremer's internationally bestselling Nightshade trilogy! Sixteen-year-old Ember Morrow is promised to a group called Conatus after one of their healers saves her mother's life. Once she arrives, Ember finds joy in wielding swords, learning magic, and fighting the encroaching darkness loose in the world. She also finds herself falling in love with her mentor, the dashing, brooding, and powerful Barrow Hess. When the knights realize Eira, one of their leaders, is dabbling in dark magic, Ember and Barrow must choose whether to follow Eira into the nether realm or to pledge their lives to destroying her and her kind. With action, adventure, magic, and tantalizing sensuality, this book is as fast-paced and breathtaking as the Nightshade novels."A great new book that will leave you breathless."

• "Romantic Times"

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 1494 KB

Print Length: 465 pages

Publisher: Speak (August 7, 2012)

Publication Date: August 7, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0072O02H8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #330,163 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #82

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Historical Fiction > Medieval #153

in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval #211 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Romance > Historical

Customer Reviews

In the Nightshade series, Andrea Cremer gave us the Guardians, humans with wolf spirits who can shift into wolf form to protect against unnatural evil beings. But how were the Guardians created? If

you ever asked yourself that question, I think you are going to like this new prequel series that starts with *Rift*. Ember is being collected to pay a debt that was owed for her very life to begin. In order to save her and her mother, her father made a deal for a special healer to send his daughter for service to a secretive sect of the church. When they come to collect, her father is distraught (having better plans to marry her off for his own political influence), but Ember is actually excited to leave the future life of a wife and a mother. She knows there is more out there for her. When she arrives, she is shocked to learn just how much is out there... but not surprised enough to leave. After the initiation where Ember chooses her path as a hunter, it is the prey that changes her life. Horrible supernatural creatures threaten innocent people, and they are responsible for keeping innocents safe. When her mentor is chosen, she is first nervous then excited to learn it is to be Barrow, a man whose mere presence leaves her longing. But it is his expertise and strength on the battlefield that has her excited to train with him. What none of them expected, however, is the horrible evil that is brewing right under their noses. And the worst part of that evil is its ability to corrupt good hunters with warped ideas of how the means can justify the ends. Now the hunters who refuse to ever side with evil may be hunted themselves, by the very people they trust the most. This was a phenomenal prequel, and I have to say I think it was even better than the first series! I always loved the pack dynamic and how the wolf side played into everyone's lives, but this connection to the Knights Templar and the hunting of so many kinds of evil is just too interesting! I think it adds this additional layer of intrigue that makes me appreciate the original series even more. I know there is a second book out there to this prequel series, but I hope Cremer will keep going with it! It reminds me of Sarwat Chadda's *Devil's Kiss*, especially with the strong female hunter role who struggles to balance being a woman, being a hunter, and how that job is societally unacceptable for women. It makes for one heck of a leading lady! Having read about this history behind the Guardians, the Searchers, and the Keepers, I now wonder how I read that original series without knowing this information. It seems so vital to the story! In fact, I think I would suggest someone to read this series before *Nightshade* if they haven't already read those books. I think this story is really exciting and will help your understanding of the Guardians even more. Although, maybe it will reveal TOO much from the original series? I guess it is your call! But whatever you do, don't skip any of Cremer's books!

As an adult who finds YA novels in this genre a fun, charming read, I come to them with certain expectations. I don't expect them to be completely accurate but they must not insult the intelligence of the YA I used to be. They must contain something original and snappy. The characters must be

charming, and again, original. Unfortunately, I was totally let down. You see, I would have gone cheerfully along with a new rider being able to go at a trot and then a gallop on her first day. It is clearly set in a pre-industrial world and she is a 'special' heroine. I would go along with being able to ride from village to village because of the magic that exists in the story. I would even have skipped along with being able to smith, pound, cool and polish a small metal weapon in a single night. But I do draw the line at throwing the heroine into battle with a weapon she got two days before and had used once. These characters that do that are military men used to battle. It insults the reader and the characters, as well as demeans the set up by throwing a character into a situation like this. Someone this green would be more a hinderance than a help. Compounding all these errors just made my brain cramp. The writer does herself no favors by repeating the same reaction of her heroine to just about everything. All she does is blush, she doesn't stutter or any gulp or anything else that could happen when you are embarrassed. Not to draw in a totally adult book, but the same problem appears in 50 Shades of Grey. I am a writer myself, so I understand how easy it is to have a set reaction for any situation your character bumps into. But really, this too, insults the reader. You get a case of the dreaded "Said-pox". In this case, her cheeks turned pink, her cheeks heated. Nearly as bad as some romance novels, the old fashioned bodice rippers. I hope that her other books are better because I feel robbed with this one and will not try again...

This is a must read for any fan. And if you're like me and read Nightshade, Wolfsbane and Bloodrose first, it helps clear up a lot of confusion and info left dangling in front of our face with no answers. This book, once you get farther in, will definitely help reveal the origins of some of the characters like the Keepers, the Seekers, the Weavers, The Strikers, The Healers and even some of the Guardians' powers. You have to really pay attention to catch some of the hidden history. It also gives you an insight to Eira, the first keeper, and Cian, Shane's ancestor. This is a must read for any Nightshade fan. Though I would recommend that you read Nightshade, Wolfsbane and Bloodrose before you read Rift. It makes more sense that way and it gives you more revelations as to the missing info.

Since this book is so different from the Nightshade books (i.e. no wolves), I don't really consider them part of the same series. That being said, I think I might actually like these two prequels better since they're more in the fantasy genre. My only wish is that there had been more of a romance aspect throughout the story instead of just towards the end.

Rift was very pleasantly unexpected. Even though it didn't contain any werewolves i still enjoyed it. Though the entire time i kept thinking of Ren and Shay in Nightshade because of Allistairs puppy love for Ember his entire life and the expected love of the newcomer Barrow. It was exciting, thrilling at best with the action, drama, romance, and secrets yet to be discovered. I recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good fantasy read set in the 'olden days'. Even if you still have yet to read Nightshade, you should still read this because already knowing the truth behind the lies will come in handy.

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