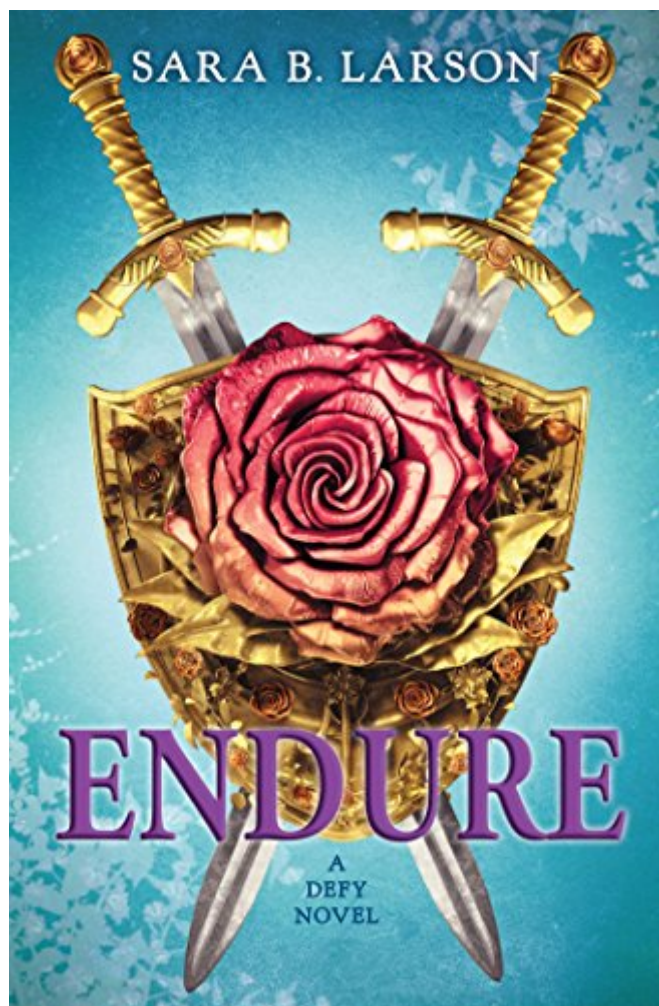


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Endure (Defy, Book 3) (Defy Series)



Synopsis

The remarkable third novel in Sara B. Larson's bestselling Defy series! At last, Alexa and King Damian are engaged to be married. But their lives are far from safe. The kingdom of Antion is under siege, and Rylan is a prisoner of the enemy. Even worse, Alexa remains at the mercy of the evil Dansian Rafe, who controls her mind and can force Alexa to kill or harm Damian at any moment. Despite this, Alexa is determined to rescue Rylan, which soon leads her far from Damian and deep into enemy territory. When she arrives, what awaits her is deadlier than anything she could have ever imagined: an army of black sorcerers, and a horrifying plot to destroy the world as Alexa knows it. Will she be able to gather the strength to free herself, protect the love of her life, and save the land? Will there ever be true peace? Acclaimed author Sara B. Larson has woven a stunning, romantic, and evocative finale to the Defy trilogy, that is sure to leave readers breathless until the very last page.

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Customer Reviews

Endure was an epic conclusion to one of my favorite series. In fact, it's the first book I've read in a

while that I wanted to (and had the time to) devour in one day. There was so much heartbreak and loss, and there were so many gruesome and bloody things going on throughout the book, but there were also so many brilliant and beautiful things happening in the book that it all seemed to balance out in the end. It was so heart-wrenching to watch Alexa and Damian separated throughout most of the novel, but whenever they were together, it was incredible. I've always loved their chemistry, and their relationship in *Endure* grows even stronger. I guess the saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder" really is true. Or maybe the fact that black sorcerers are trying to kill them both makes their relationship stronger because there's such a high chance that they'll lose each other. Perhaps both. Either way, the romance, despite how little there was in the final book, was absolutely beautiful. The immense love they have for each other is to-die for, and their love made me cheer for them even more throughout the book. I JUST WANTED TO SEE THEM HAVE THE HAPPILY EVER AFTER THEY DESERVED, OKAY?!?!?The characters went through so much, but still managed to stay strong and pull through to the very end. Unless they died, of course. Because whenever there's an epic final battle, people are bound to die. Since I read *Ignite* (book 2) exactly a year ago, I had trouble remembering who some of the characters were, so when some of the important secondary characters died, I didn't feel as emotional as I probably should have... Despite this, it was still really upsetting to see how much blood was shed throughout the book, and I admit I did cry when one character died. I love this series though, so I'll probably binge read them and maybe feel a deeper emotional connection to those lost in the battle. Ultimately my limited emotions for these characters did not impact my thoughts on the book. From start to finish, the book was action packed and an emotional rollercoaster. There was so much to lose for some characters, and so much to gain for others (i.e. the villains). Speaking of the villains, they were CRAZY. They were some of the sketchiest, maddest characters I've ever met in YA, and their thirst for power was frightening. It was so interesting to go into enemy territory for the first time, but it was also so disturbing and grotesque. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time, hoping that the characters would escape before it was too late and the world as they knew it fell apart. All in all, *Endure* was a satisfying conclusion to a wonderful series. There were fantastic fight scenes, a swoony romance, and a fast-paced and intense plot -- everything I could have wanted. I highly recommend this series and am looking forward to reading more Sara B. Larson books in the (hopefully) near future.

...and I'm looking forward to seeing more by a very talented young writer. I can imagine that she will continue to get better, as the books themselves overall did. First, to clarify my rating, I would have given this a 4, or possibly a 4 1/2, if it weren't for the fact that Ms. Larson has created a lovely and

varied landscape, as well as a heroine that I can truly identify with. A warrior woman who is dark, determined and consistent, rather than really complex. The love interests are fairly standard, but enjoyable anyway (hey, I'm not a young woman, but I was, you know?). My one real complaint is that I don't like stupid decision-making in a character who clearly and consistently has made better choices to survive to get where she/he is. Two BIG cases in point here, and I'll try to illustrate without spoilers. One: If you have a dangerous prisoner, perhaps a sorcerer, don't you go WAY out of the way to make certain her/his powers are locked down? I mean WAY out of your way? Two: If you have a piece of information that even COULD be considered critical to the mission, lives of friends/colleagues, you absolutely MUST relay that info to the people to whom it will be most useful, right? I mean, really, at the earliest possible opportunity, right? How else does one survive, in this case, being a teenage girl disguised as a male conscript? This is what a soldier does, from day one. No other way. Ok, there are two more things that bugged me: the author's overuse of a tortured interior monologue, and a lack of knowledge of horses. The first is pretty obvious and certainly self-explanatory. The second, I am continually surprised by, and far more so because horses are used soooo much in soooo many fantasy settings. AND it's just not that hard to avoid some really basic mistakes. For example, horses eat. A LOT. There are breeds of small, tough and thrifty ponies in every difficult climate in the world, but most fantasies use big, relatively slow and VERY big-eating warhorses. They simply cannot survive a prolonged fast, hard journey without eating a huge amount just to keep going. Ponies do a lot better, but they don't seem as impressive. Look up a few breeds, it's fascinating. And please, people, consider letting your characters untack the poor beast to eat and rest? I mean, a hot sweaty creature layered with blankets and saddle, not to mention the bridle, will get great huge sores from being constantly tacked-up (these things are not hard to find out about, so go ahead and look them up!). A horse can eat a little around a bit (that's the big hunk of metal that goes in the mouth), but most can't do it well. Remove the darn bridle! There are many that have a halter built-in, for just that reason. And last, a horse can cover a lot more ground at a trot, and consequently get farther, than what is even faintly possible at a gallop. I do realize that these things may seem a little esoteric, but there are a lot of horse-lovers out here and maybe it's my wishful thinking, but I have a hard time believing that there aren't a lot of younger ones (younger than me anyway), who would love to see a few stories that contain some reasonably accurate portrayals of horse-care. Particularly since those stories that use horses have the characters bond with their animals. Sure, take some liberties, but at least get the rudimentary care right, please? I really hope there are some authors, budding or fully fledged, who read this. It means a lot to me, and possibly to a small but (trust me) rabid contingent of readers. (Whew! Well, I feel better!)

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I found Defy by chance. Then read Ignite the day it was released, and I have been waiting for the release of the final book it seems forever. CONTAINS HINTS OF SPOILERS... I love that this book has such a relation to reality in the fact that the people and characters you love are not guaranteed to make it to the end of the story, but you mourn their loss as if you knew them. Alexa's character is a true depiction of a person who will fight for everyone and everything that she loves. She is the heart of this story and you feel everything with her at the same degree she does. Alexa and Damian's story is one of my favorites. I am glad that you get a glimpse of their life in the final chapter and I love their baby name ideas.

This is the final book of a trilogy. The story is both compelling and spellbinding, and the characters are champions that you want to win, but honestly, this series can get too intense -especially in the second and third book. By the time I finished the second book, I argued with myself over whether to jump into the third one or not. I wanted to know the ending, but I felt like I needed a break from the intensity of the constant struggle and violence. I felt like the characters needed a moment to breathe as well. Otherwise this story is both tragic and triumphant.

It was a good conclusion with a mostly happy ending. I have always liked Alexa and she is a very strong character.

Absolutely loved this book! What an amazing and satisfying end to the trilogy. This is the last book so I don't want to give spoilers but if you love fantasy romance and adventure you need to pick up this series! It's one of my faves.

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