

***Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros**

The long-awaited Book 3 of the Emphyrean series is out! Even if fantasy books are not your usual fare, I encourage you to give this series a try. There are five books planned – so you have plenty of time to catch up. Book one is *Fourth Wing* and book two is *Iron Flame*.

At its heart, this series is a romance. Yet it is also an immersive dive into a Games of Thrones-style world (although not nearly as brutal) with dragons, rival countries, magical signets, friendships, siblings, extreme physical challenges, and an indomitable enemy. I find the author's writing style to be easy to read and easy to get wrapped up in. Even my husband is now a fan, and we had to pass the book back-and-forth during vacation.

Onyx Storm continues to follow the journey of dragon rider cadet Violet Sorrengail and her lover Lieutenant Xaden Riorson. The end of *Iron Flame* sets them up with a formidable challenge, and they desperately try to meet the challenge during this book while also dealing with politics, the resurging enemy, and trying to find the origin of Violet's dragon Andarna. The journey takes them all over the continent with many battles, some tragic losses, and more alliances. What makes this book especially intriguing is we discover we don't know everything about Andarna's origins – and also Violet's. It turns out Violet's parents were less than honest with her about some things and we are left wondering why.

It's a gripping - sometimes anxiety-producing – read and will leave you with more questions than answers. The author has yet to start writing book four, so we may have awhile to wait. I hate that – but the books are well worth it. While we wait – there is exciting news of an Amazon television series in development to look forward to as well.