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# A Torch Against The Night (An Ember In The Ashes)



## Synopsis

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMESÂ BESTSELLING SEQUEL TOÂ AN EMBER IN THE ASHES USA  
TODAY BESTSELLER WALL STREET JOURNAL

BESTSELLERâ œSpectacular.â •â "Entertainment Weeklyâ œFresh and exciting...Tahir has shown a remarkable talent for penning complex villains.â •â "A.V. Club"Even higher stakes than its predecessorâ | thrilling."Â â "Publishers Weekly, starred reviewâ œ[An] action-packed, breathlessly paced story.â •â "Booklist, starred reviewSet in a rich, high-fantasy world inspired by ancient Rome, Sabaa Tahir's AN EMBER IN THE ASHES told the story of Laia, a slave fighting for her family, and Elias, a young soldier fighting for his freedom. Â Now, in A TORCH AGAINST THE NIGHT, Elias and Laia are running for their lives. After the events of the Fourth Trial, Martial soldiers hunt the two fugitives as they flee the city of Serra and undertake a perilous journey through the heart of the Empire. Â Laia is determined to break into Kaufâ "the Empireâ "s most secure and dangerous prisonâ "to save her brother, who is the key to the Scholars' survival. And Elias is determined to help Laia succeed, even if it means giving up his last chance at freedom. Â But dark forces, human and otherworldly, work against Laia and Elias. The pair must fight every step of the way to outsmart their enemies: the bloodthirsty Emperor Marcus, the merciless Commandant, the sadistic Warden of Kauf, and, most heartbreaking of all, Heleneâ "Eliasâ "s former friend and the Empireâ "s newest Blood Shrike. Bound to Marcus's will, Helene faces a torturous mission of her ownâ "one that might destroy her: find the traitor Elias Veturius and the Scholar slave who helped him escape...and kill them both.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of September 2016: With sequels there's always an underlying worry that the second book won't live up to its predecessor, but Sabaa Tahir's *A Torch Against the Night* not only meets expectations—it surpasses them. Tahir returns to Elias and Laia's quest to rescue Laia's brother from an impenetrable prison while eluding the Emperor and Commandant. Helen, now the Blood Shrike, is under the Emperor's orders to kill them, and it's clear that she still knows her former best friend as well as ever. The stakes are higher in this novel and the suspense just keeps building from new directions. The characters' internal conflict is almost painful to read, but that's part of what makes the story so intense. How can you kill someone you love? And how do you watch someone you love die trying to save you? Packed with cliff hangers, *A Torch Against the Night* ends with the same feeling as the first: a burning desire to read the next book. Right. This. Minute. --Seira Wilson, *The Book Review* --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Gr 9 Up "In this sequel to *An Ember in the Ashes*, Martial Elias and Scholar Laia are trying to escape from Serra and reach the prison of Kauf, where Laia's brother has been imprisoned for having secret knowledge of Martial weapons. Their journey will be extremely hazardous, since Helene Aquilla, childhood friend and fellow Mask, who is now Blood Shrike for the Emperor, has been ordered to hunt Elias down. Elias and Laia are also trying to evade Elias's ruthless mother, the Commandant, who is scheming to seize power and is willing even to poison her own son to achieve her ends. Most dangerous of all, however, is the grim prison of Kauf, where their attempt to rescue Laia's brother leads to further horrors and some surprises. Told in the alternating voices of Elias, Laia, and Helene, this book is even darker and grimmer than the first, which readers will need to be familiar with in order to follow the twists and turns of the plot. Strong and compelling characters, particularly Helene, who is fleshed out more than in the previous volume, and a number of action-packed sequences help keep things moving. VERDICT This one is bound to be popular with fans of the first installment, making this a must-purchase." Kathleen E. Gruver, Burlington County Library, Westampton, NJ --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I liked this book but not as much as the first. Actually I would have given it 3 1/2 stars if possible, but I rounded up. The first book really grabbed my attention and this one was just ok for me. I enjoyed

Helene's point of view in this story to help us see what's happening on the Empire's side of things. I feel so bad for Helene, she tries so hard and loves Elias so much. The main female character I don't care for as much. As you can see I can't remember her name and I remember everyone else's in the book. Lol. Anyway, I know it won't happen but I am team Helene and Elias. I am assuming Helene will end up sacrificing herself for Elias by the end of the series or ending up with the interesting new character in this book.

Sabaa hooked me in from the very beginning and still hasn't let me go. The 2nd book doesn't disappoint, unless you count the long wait for the next book. There was no annoying reiteration of events from the first book. The action picks up right where Ember ended...or maybe paused is a better word. The characters are so well-fleshed that you can't help but feel with them, fight with them, and be taken over by other emotions as you experience it with them. We even get glimpses of understanding of the "evil" ones. Throughout both books you notice a theme of choices, each one with its own set of consequences, but inexorably dragging us toward a dramatic conclusion. Sabaa has created a wonderful world full of complex characters and broiling situations. I really enjoy her writing style, even if open endings are frustrating for a hungry bookworm! I will recommend (and have already) to anyone and everyone. This is a series I will be reading over and over, and one day passing on to my kids.

I absolutely loved this book. There are parts of it that just gripped me and I read it in a day. The world building and the character building in this book is even better than Ember in the Ashes. The development of Helene had me rooting for her and her success. The descriptions of the different environments made me feel as if I could really see into this world and experience it for myself. I cannot wait until the next book comes out. It was a joy reading and I look forward to continuing the series.

I haven't been this excited about a series of books since Harry Potter. I burned through An Ember in the Ashes and could not wait to get my hands on A Torch Against the Night! And of course, Sabaa Tahir didn't disappoint!! Torch is just as good (if not BETTER) than Ember! It's wonderfully written, gorgeously detailed and beautifully captivating. I fell in love with the story and the characters all over again...(Seriously, Elias is bae

This book has everything, a love triangle, and a quest that makes you want to cheer each victory.

Loved it! (For those who care, this book is pretty clean too).

Just as dark and horrifyingly entertaining as the first novel. It's got twists and turns and shocking revelations. The characters make the story, in my humble opinion anyway. If you don't have good characters then forget it. These characters are flawed, seriously flawed. Their mistakes not only cause trouble for themselves but costs some their life. I like that they aren't perfect and their actions aren't either. It made things....interesting.

if you're reading this then I assume you read the first book which was great! However, I actually liked this book more due to her ability to develop her characters and the magic behind it all. Take notes! The Devils in the details. When I finished, I was so bummed as with any good book. However, I'm excited to say there will be a book 3 and 4! Just have to wait till 2018 for it...

This book isn't as good as the first one. The story is weird and convoluted. There is almost no character building or movement in the story. The only reason I made it through the book was because it had an audiobook.

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