



# Aftermath

Written by Ann Aguirre

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# Table of Contents

Aftermath Meaning .....	1
Aftermath Definition .....	2
Aftermath Synonym .....	3
Aftermath Records .....	4
Aftermath Trailer .....	5
Aftermath 2014 .....	6
Aftermath Review .....	7
Aftermath Band .....	8
Aftermath Def .....	9

# Aftermath

By Ann Aguirre

## Aftermath Meaning

DEAD HEROES GET MONUMENTS. LIVE ONES GET TRIALS.

## Aftermath Definition

Sirantha Jax has the right genes—ones that enable her to “jump” faster-than-light ships through grimspace. But it’s also in her genetic makeup to go it alone. It’s a character trait that has gotten her into—and out of—hot water time and time again, but now she’s caused one of the most horrific events in military history!

## Aftermath Synonym

During the war against murderous, flesh-eating aliens, Sirantha went AWOL and shifted grimspace beacons to keep the enemy from invading humanity's homeworld. The cost of her actions: the destruction of modern interstellar travel—and the lives of six hundred Conglomerate soldiers.

## Aftermath Records

Accused of dereliction of duty, desertion, mass murder, and high treason, Sirantha is on trial for her life. And only time will tell if she's one of the Conglomerate's greatest heroes or most infamous criminals!

Because there's no stopping Shelly, Jaime and I at this point —, —,

WELCOME TO MY DESCENT INTO INSANITY COURTESY OF ANN AGUIRRE

I'm updating this review as my rage grows. Lots of cursing to be expected.

March 27, 2015 - 1 AM: I can't do this. I don't know what I'm feeling anymore. I cried. I fucking cried while reading a book. Sirantha Jax, you've done the impossible.

Updated March 27, 2015 - 8 AM: okay so I've slept on this. I feel hungover. I'm still an emotional wreck. And I'm still —, —,

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Updated March 27, 2015 - 8 AM: okay so I've slept on this. I feel hungover. I'm still an emotional wreck. And I'm still rating this 5 stars. Because this book turned me into an emotional wreck and made me cry (yeah I know I'm repeating myself but I don't care). To be honest the actual rating of this book will depend on what happens in Endgame. I could have rated Aftermath 1 star but decided to trust Aguirre and went for 5 instead. There are things I hate in this book. What I dreaded would happen finally did. The Disaster of Epic Proportions. And it's even worse than I expected. I'm not sure how Aguirre is going to fix it all. But she better do it. Otherwise this WILL be a 1-star rating. I'm actually rooting for a HEA here. Well not a HEA exactly (I haven't lost my mind entirely) but something that will mean this wasn't all for nothing. We're too emotionally involved in this series. We love Sirantha Jax too much. You can't do this to us Ann Aguirre. You have to make things right.

Updated March 27, 2015 - 1 PM: changing my 5-star rating to an

## Aftermath

I-don't-know-what-the-fuck-just-happened rating aka no rating at all. I'm mentally giving this book a 1-star rating right now. We'll see how it goes if when I manage to start reading book 6.

â-° Updated March 27, 2015 - 5 PM: yes, I did it. I gave this book a 1-star rating. WTF WTF WTF. What was I thinking when I gave this book a 5-star rating????!! What were \*you\* thinking when you wrote this Ann Aguirre????!! Because you just don't do something like that. You don't ruin one of the best series ever like that. Who are you Ann Aguirre? KMM in disguise? Decided to pull an Iced/Burned on me? Apparently you more or less fix this fucking mess in book 6. But I think the harm is already done. It will take A LOT for me to get over this. A WHOLE FUCKING LOT. So yes, Shelly and I will be reading Endgame after all. I'm expecting the worst.

Now excuse me while I go find myself a punching ball.

â-° Updated March 27, 2015 - 6.30 PM: just punched someone. Feel slightly better. Just wanted to add: as I said in the comments, this is NOT a bad book. On the contrary, it's a GREAT book, which is probably why I rated it 5 stars to begin with. I read it in less than 24 hours, I just couldn't put it down. The problem is Aguirre ruined it all towards the end of the book. I'm sorry but you don't put your readers through an emotional roller coaster like she has been doing since book 1 to pull out (view spoiler)[HUGE spoiler ahead (hide spoiler)] (view spoiler)[a FUCKING LOVE TRIANGLE (hide spoiler)] on them at the last minute. Hell no. And you don't (view spoiler)[ruin the two main characters by turning them into two of the most selfish human beings that ever existed. Oh they both have very valid excuses for their respective behaviours but it doesn't change the fact that each of them is only concerned about his/her little person. And we're supposed to believe they're madly in love with each other, forever and always? (hide spoiler)] Well fuck that. It looks like I didn't punch hard enough the first time around. I better get back to it.

â-° Updated March 28, 2015 - 12.00 AM: 13% into book 6. I'm so bummed I have no words. I should be really happy right now seeing how things are turning out. But I feel like I've been played one time too many. Ann Aguirre, you put us through all the stupid drama at the end of this book to have it come to this in book 6? Are you kidding me? So what are we supposed to do now? Wait for the next manufactured drama you have in store for us? Well, you know what? Whatever you have up your sleeve, I don't think I care anymore.

â-° Updated March 28, 2015 - no idea what time it is anymore: DNFing book 6 at 20%. Ann Aguirre, I can't take anymore of your bullshit.



## Aftermath Trailer

4.5 stars

Grimspace is a bitch mistress who carries unearthly delight in one hand and a crop in the other. We bear the latter to receive the former.

(From Killbox)

Nobody builds worlds better than Ann Aguirre. Nobody destroys them quite like her either.

At the end of Killbox, Jax did the only thing she thought could save the worlds threatened by the Morgut. In doing so, she betrayed the Conglomerate, the Armada, but most of all March – both as her lover and as her commanding officer. She now has 4.5 stars

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Imprisoned, Jax finally has time to think about everything she's already lost and the possibility of losing March forever. But being planetbound is hurting her more than anything else and she's slowly starting to realise that she'll have to lose much more because of her inability to resist the siren call of grimspace.

Aftermath is an adventure comparable only to Doubleblind before it. What separates these two books from the rest of Sirantha Jax series is that they focus more on personal growth of the characters and less on action. I'm so happy that Aguirre finally gave us more information about Hit, Adele, Doc and Rose, but most of all Vel. Sirantha's path from an anti-heroine to a self-aware, courageous woman is nothing if not impressive, and she owes a lot of her newfound dedication and maturity to the strong, loyal bounty hunter.

Impeccable writing style, rich worlds, complex characters and unending excitement are exactly what I expect from my favorite author – a title Aguirre deserved long ago. Nevertheless, Aftermath exceeded my expectations in every way!

I've learned to expect disappointment from final installments, but there will be no disappointment coming from Ann Aguirre and Endgame. I am absolutely certain that she will deliver a conclusion worthy

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Aftermath

of this fabulous series.

Favorite quote:

...I hear footsteps, and it's not mealtime. Hopefully, this means they've come to some decision about what to do with us. If they haven't, Mary help them. Because I'm Sirantha Jax, and I've had enough.

A huge thank you to the author for sending me a signed copy of this book. ...more

Originally posted at WickedLilPixie Reviews

This is a spoiler-free review.

I have had to allow myself 24 hours to digest Aftermath, the stunning fifth book in Ann Aguirre's Sirantha Jax series, before writing up my review. I will give my usual disclaimer I provide in my reviews of Jax books: I am not a huge Science Fiction fan nor am I an expert of the genre. I picked this series up at the strong recommendation of Mandi from Smexybooks, and could kiss her for it. What I think makes the series so i

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Vel fans (claws up!) will be very pleased as we get much more of him than we did in Killbox (bk 4). Previously, my favorite up to this point had been Double Blind (book 3) mostly in part to getting so much time with Vel and learning so much more about him. Vel is one of those characters that you will slowly grow to cherish and adore. Ms. Aguirre has built him subtly yet significantly over the last four books, and it is his time to shine. As a friend. As a partner. As a being of complete worth. What might be surprising to find out if you have not read the series is he is Ithtorian, making him similar in appearance to a tall walking bug, he has a carapace and side-set eyes and claws. The beauty in Ms. Aguirre's writing is that Jax, and you as the reader, never forget what he looks like! but you find you just don't care what he looks like. The developments that are made in Jax and Vel's relationship are resonant.

The Sirantha Jax of now is most definitely not the Jax we met in the first book, Grimspace. She has suffered tremendous loss, endured significant physical and emotional pain. She has found herself in even more trouble by doing her classic authority defying, a fly by the seat of her pants stunt, and it has landed her in some seriously damaging trouble. She also sets out to keep two promises she has made,

## Aftermath

and cannot allow herself the freedom to live a life as a jumper she so craves until she sees her seemingly-daunting promises followed through to completion. In *Aftermath*, Jax is hell bound and determined to protect those whom she loves at all costs, and to pay back her debts any way she can. Ms. Aguirre does a superb job with keeping Jax completely true to her character, no matter how we wish some things might be different.

And then we have March. :deep sigh:. March. The deadly cold soldier, who cannot and will not turn his back on his great love, Sirantha Jax. But as we learn through *Aftermath*, no matter how deeply their love runs, their ways of life at this point are not guaranteed to be compatible. Youâ€™ll just have to wait and see on that one, but I will say this: What Ms. Aguirre pulls off is sheer genius and it works in every way. I can think of a million ways this book could have fallen flat, or dived off a horribly executed character cliff. It never did. Not one false line. I was left sitting here with so many parts highlighted throughout the book that deeply shook me up. As a woman, as an emotional creature, and as a socially aware being.

I promise you the Sirantha Jax series will appeal to lovers of all genres. The lavish world building and profound relationship development between all the characters continue to be top-notch. *Aftermath* is about wandering the road less traveled; doing things to help others outside of yourself; and most importantlyâ€¦ embracing the many shapes love can be given and accepted in. I look forward to everyone reading this and experiencing the supreme storytelling this book provides. In short: *Aftermath* is a masterpiece and is one of my favorite books of 2011.

This has been a summer of 5 star books but I beg of you, try the Sirantha Jax series if you try nothing else. Donâ€™t let it get lost in your To-Be-Read pile, or at the very least, move the first book *Grimspace* up higher in the pile. You are really missing out on something so unique and special, and I would love for you to have this adventure. If you are already a Jax fan, then I know youâ€™ll be reading this one on release day and cannot wait to discuss it with you! There is only one Jax book left, *Endgame*, out next year. I am so very eager to see where Ms. Aguirre takes us with it and how she brings this beautiful series to a bittersweet close. Here is the full Sirantha Jax series reading order:

*Grimspace*

*Wanderlust*

*Double Blind*

*Killbox*

*Aftermath* - 8/30/2011, Tuesday!

*Endgame* - 9/2012 ...more

## Aftermath 2014

The Sirantha Jax series feels like it's changed so much from those first, frenetic, action-packed books, but I know that's not wholly accurate. Jax's world is as messy and political and fraught with peril as ever, but my relationship with the characters has deepened to the point where they are almost all I see anymore. Though not in an urban fantasy setting, fans will find the species and technologies in this world are written as accessibly as any magic, and the romance and action portrayed def The Sirantha Jax series feels like it's changed so much from those first, frenetic, action-packed books, but I know that's not wholly accurate. Jax's world is as messy and political and fraught with peril as ever, but my relationship with the characters has deepened to the point where they are almost all I see anymore. Though not in an urban fantasy setting, fans will find the species and technologies in this world are written as accessibly as any magic, and the romance and action portrayed definitely fit the kick-butt heroine bill. AFTERMATH, more than any other book in the series, has the flavors of an epistolary novel. Not in the sense that current events are shown only through letters, but the characters that I've grown to love so much pour their hearts out to each other through the emptiness of space in letters and stories and memories.

Those letters are necessary, as political strife and responsibilities separate lovers Jax and March again and again. Nothing brings home the inexorable movement of life than March searching for his nephew on a far away planet while Jax is on trial for her life. That turns out to be the first of many necessary separations for these two over the course of the book. Of course, while March is physically absent, that doesn't mean Jax is alone. Vel is there for her, endlessly loyal and supportive and undemanding. Jax and Vel, each so different from others of their own species, have joined together in a singular tribe of two. Aguirre writes the most human of relationships, without ever glossing over the truly alien differences between them. Aguirre has not created anything so common as a love triangle between Jax and March and Vel. Rather, she has written two distinct futures for our heroine, in which Jax's dreams take on distinctly different, though beautiful, forms.

Maturity feels like too light a word for the transformation Jax has been going through over the last few books. Perhaps Vel has given me a chitinous frame of mind, but I can see Jax breaking free from a brightly colored chrysalis. AFTERMATH is the book where she begins to dry her wings, pulling free of the bonds that have kept her to earth for so long. I would definitely recommend readers start at the beginning for the entire, glorious ride. As for me, my heart is in my throat at the thought of reading the last of this series, ENDGAME. Part of me can't wait for Aguirre to continue weaving her spell, but the rest of me will always remember Jax at the end of AFTERMATH: poised between the poles of two such beautiful destinies, limitless possibilities laid out at her feet.

Sexual Content: References to and descriptions of sex, sex scenes. ...more

Definitely more of a 3.5. But, I'm bumping it up because I'm a nice guy.

Aftermath

There are two very good reasons why I marked this low. But I'm not saying. Yet. Because.

Spoiler free 3 days and counting.

## Aftermath Review

One thing that I really love about this series is the slow silent triumph of Vel. He's my favourite and I'm not sure Jax deserves his partnership! Um, anyway. Another instalment down, only one left!

I am such a complete and utter wretched mess after reading this book, I barely even know where to begin. I feel conflicted. The journey I have taken with these characters has brought me to places I could have never expected and they are not all places I wanted to go. Things don't feel the same. But they're not supposed to. It's kind of the point. But I loved what it was before and change is hard. Especially if it breaks your heart.

The book is aptly titled. It's all about the aftermath of Jax's I am such a complete and utter wretched mess after reading this book, I barely even know where to begin. I feel conflicted. The journey I have taken with these characters has brought me to places I could have never expected and they are not all places I wanted to go. Things don't feel the same. But they're not supposed to. It's kind of the point. But I loved what it was before and change is hard. Especially if it breaks your heart.

The book is aptly titled. It's all about the aftermath of Jax's actions and how she lives in the wake of her own choices. The big one she must face as the book begins: her decision to go rogue and change the beacons of deep space to save the Conglomerate from the Morgut. Obviously, she is a hero in that she saves billions of lives, but it comes with a cost. She kills hundreds of humans by accident. She undermines March. She lands in jail. And while you might think that is her consequence, it's really just the catalyst for all the changes to come.

I don't want to spoil too much. I will say that the tone of this book is so different. Gone is the breakneck action and seat of your pants feel. This is all about repercussions, about what can be fixed and what can't. Even more so, maybe, it's about Jax taking ownership for all she has done and deciding where to go from here. Unfortunately, there are some consequences that are simply out of her hands, putting at odds who she is with what she wants.

This is a very Vel-centric story. In a lot of ways, when the chips fall, he is the one Jax can count on most. I've always loved Vel and I still do, but I missed the other wonderful supporting characters that make up Jax's world. They're all scarce and that is part of what makes this so different. I felt like they were more loose ends to tie up while Jax straightens out her karma. And then there is March. Aguirre does not make this easy for us. She gives us this good, honorable man. She shows us the depths of his love. She makes us feel it and then she makes everything so hard. I ache inside.

I can't imagine anyone can deny that this is quality storytelling. It couldn't affect me this way if it weren't. Aguirre maintains the integrity of these characters to such a point that she even makes me understand it as they do things that grieve me. I can't fathom where this series will go next. But at this point, I have no doubt it will completely gut me before it's over. I'm pretty much there now.

Aftermath

...more

## Aftermath Band

\*\*\*WARNING: This is more of a rant than a review, and contains some parts that people might consider SPOILERS.\*\*\*

I must admit that, as much as I have been relentlessly plowing through this series, I was pretty nervous to start reading Aftermath. Based on the plot summary, I knew that this book was going to be more like Doubleblind (my least favorite book in the series) than the more action-centric books.

I wish I could say that this book proved my fears to be unfounded, but, in truth - it didn't.

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I think the worst part about reading Aftermath is that, for the first time, I started actually disliking Sirantha Jax (the character). For the first four books I've been Jax's biggest fangirl, and after reading Grimspac I couldn't even fathom why some fans of the series had such a love/hate relationship with her. But now, I think I get it.

You see, Jax is pretty selfish. And I was more than willing to accept that as part of her character in Grimspac, when she did things like blasting Canton Farr without a thought to the well-being of Baby-Z, or like almost leaving March for dead. But by the time we get to Aftermath, all we hear about is how much Jax has changed since then - and, to be fair, she certainly has in the sense that she's willing to sacrifice herself for the people she loves or for the greater good, which is pretty significant. Yet, she's still emotionally selfish, and what's worse, there seems to be no accountability for it.

In fact, instead of accountability, she finds convenient redemption. Jax feels guilty about having blasted Baby-Z? No worries, we'll make a clone and bring him to Marakeq. Problem solved! She feels guilty about her past with Loras? It's all good, a brilliant doctor can easily make a cure for Loras and his people as long as she pays enough credits! I just feel like she never really earns redemption, but that it's just easily given to her by gracious writing.

And it's not just the convenience of it that makes her guilt sabbaticals so hard to swallow. It's that she also thinks things like:

"I want to do this for Loras to prove I'm not a selfish ass. And there's some self-serving agenda tangled up in it, but doesn't it matter more what you do rather than why?"

## Aftermath

I don't know - maybe it's just me, but personally, I think the why is pretty damn important.

And, speaking of the cure for the La'hengrin, does she never once stop to think that creating a cure for them might actually be a bad idea? She wants to give a planet with a grudge against humanity the ability to be violent, and can't think of how that might possibly backfire? I have no idea what will happen in Endgame, and I'm sure that Aguirre will prevent the curing of the La'hengrin from having any dirty repercussions for Jax to feel guilty about - and I'm not even saying that wanting to cure an entire race of people is wrong, because it's not - but geez, can Jax for once just think something through, at least? She spent the first third of this book on trial for not thinking about the consequences of her brashness (I mean, even if she was too cowardly to trust March, I don't get why she couldn't have warned Tarn before she started changing the beacons to not let people jump, and why it had to wait until after - it's not like he'd have been able to stop her), and it's like she hasn't learned a damn thing from that. It's perfectly possible that the La'hengrin could use their new-found cure to attack humans as payback for what they did. How many people have to die before she learns her lesson?

In Aftermath, I felt like Jax's only redeemable moments were those she spent with Vel - ah, sweet, wonderful Vel. Somehow, Vel is the only person that Jax isn't completely selfish with, although to be honest, I think it's because he's so willing to bend to her wants. Vel is willing to go where Jax wants to go and do what Jax wants to do, with seemingly no other desires in the world except to act as a companion to Jax, so that makes it easy for her to not be selfish with him. So, I'm not sure that her treatment of Vel really holds much weight when dissecting her character.

Instead, compare her treatment of Vel with her treatment of March. Unlike Vel, March has obligations to keep him "dirtside," which completely clashes with Jax's dreams of adventuring in space. I think it's more than fair that Jax isn't willing to give up her dreams for March. She says:

"I won't change my dreams to fit his needs, nor do I think he should do so for me. If we can't find a median that makes us both happy, then..." Well."

And, I couldn't agree with her more! Amen, sister. If she feels that strongly that she can't give up her future in space, then she should be selfish about it. My issue, though, is not that she's being selfish, but that once again, there's no accountability for it. Instead, she gets Vel willing to learn how to be a pilot so that he can accompany her, and March willing to wait for her for another 8 years (after his 5 years of previous waiting, making that 13 years waiting for Jax). Talk about having your cake and eating it too. We should all be so lucky.

And ugh, March. I didn't understand why he loved Jax so quickly and fiercely in the first book (aside from her "grit" and the fact that she was honest about her thoughts, I don't think it was every really explained), so I don't understand now why he's so willing to accept her selfish needs. It just makes him seem really pathetic. Jax thinks:

"Maybe it's cold, but I cherish no attachment to his sister's child ... Ever since I heard about the kid, I've had a bitter, stark feeling, and it's not getting better."

I mean, how can you think that a woman who has such open disdain for a child of your own flesh and blood is worth your unfaltering love, is worth waiting for for 13 years? How do you not even resent her

Aftermath

just the slightest bit for this?

Jax also thinks:

"I don't doubt March still loves me, but I fear there might not be room for me in the new life he's built."

And this is why Jax's selfishness annoys me - because not even she can hold herself accountable.

There's room for her in the new life he's built, she just doesn't want any part of the new life he's built.

It's not wrong that she doesn't want that life, but it's certainly wrong that she has the gall to portray herself as the wronged party in their relationship.

But in truth, I think that the Jax/March relationship has been the weakness of the entire Sirantha Jax series, and I really wish that Aguirre had just never gone down that path in the first place. It just makes both of their characters so unlikable. We are constantly being fed lines telling us how much these two love each other, without much reason as to why, and with their actions completely contradicting this throughout most of the series. If these two end up together by the end of the series I'm sure I'll scream, but I can't imagine that that's not where Aguirre is going.

Vel is the one shining grace of this entire book. I loved reading about his past with Adele, and I just love him in general.

• To my mind, one thing does not lessen another. The heart is not a glass of water, but more like an endlessly pumping spring. •

Sweet, perfect Vel. Sirantha does not deserve you.

But Vel alone could not save this book for me, and I'm starting to wish I had just quit the series after Killbox. Now, I have only one book left, and I can't see how I can not read it, but I don't have any hope that I'll end up feeling satisfied by the conclusion of this series. I would love for Aguirre to surprise me and prove me wrong - I suppose we shall see! ...more

4.5 stars! Emotional, surprising & heart-breaking.

This book takes a very different turn to the others and I loved it!

Sirantha must deal with the fallout of her actions both emotionally and judicially. She altered the grimspaced beacons to prevent an invasion but it was at the cost of 600 soldiers' lives. As well as being subjected to the public's ire and condemnation, she must face trial for her life and defend her actions.

Dead women get monuments; live ones get trials

She is haunted by them 4.5 stars! Emotional, surprising & heart-breaking.

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Dead women get monuments; live ones get trials

She is haunted by their deaths and the guilt is eating her up, so with the help of Vel, Sirantha tries to atone by making good on her promises to others as well as assisting the Conglomerate to get back on their feet.

War is bloody and awful! There are no heroes, only survivors.

And through it all, Vel is by her side. But as with all the best laid plans, things do not go as expected, and Sirantha and Vel end up fighting for their very survival. I loved that I got to see so much of Vel as he is my favourite character in the series, and I love his tight bond with Sirantha. Vel has been Sirantha's rock from the start and he does not fail her now.

His devotion is not loud or demanding, but quiet and steadfast, a deep tidal pool that never runs dry.

It was refreshing to see his vulnerable side, and to learn about some of his past. March is not around much, though he does correspond with Sirantha, and it was fascinating to learn his true feelings and reflections.

The ending was a surprise, and I am so glad that I can dive straight into the next book to find out how it ends.

In summary, I loved it! The characters have found their way into my heart, and I was spellbound til the end. Sirantha has grown so much through this series and this book is one of reflection, atonement and choosing which path to take in life's journey.

...more

## Aftermath Def

I can understand why many lovers of a certain romantic duo may have had issue with this book. However, in reading the series and following the trials and adventures of the characters, I found that this book traveled in exactly the proper path that has been set for them. This book has been nothing but real emotions and real trials in life and showing that no matter how much you care for another, you can only concede so much of yourself before you lose who you are and find yourself in a place of r I can understand why many lovers of a certain romantic duo may have had issue with this book. However, in reading the series and following the trials and adventures of the characters, I found that this book traveled in exactly the proper path that has been set for them. This book has been nothing but real emotions and real trials in life and showing that no matter how much you care for another, you can only concede so much of yourself before you lose who you are and find yourself in a place of resentment. I find that this type of honesty with oneself about the realities of life and soul are extremely brave and hurt immensely. I actually think this book played out exactly as it should and cannot wait to conclude the journey with Sirantha, even if I wish for there to be more of it in the future. ...more

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

As soon as this book hit my Kindle at 2am in the morning, I was reading. I fell asleep at some point, woke up a few hours later and kept reading until the end. I completely jacked up my sleep schedule, but it was worth it to read the new installment of the Sirantha Jax series. I love this series so much that I actually reread all the books to be ready for this newest installment.

So what do I have to say? This book was perfect. So good in every way. Even the parts with March (I don't like him at As soon as this book hit my Kindle at 2am in the morning, I was reading. I fell asleep at some point, woke up a few hours later and kept reading until the end. I completely jacked up my sleep schedule, but it was worth it to read the new installment of the Sirantha Jax series. I love this series so much that I actually reread all the books to be ready for this newest installment.

So what do I have to say? This book was perfect. So good in every way. Even the parts with March (I don't like him at all) were well done.

As always, Jax gets herself into trouble and there was plenty of excitement in this novel. I always love the action in this series and this one provides it in spades. I wasn't too sure where this book would head after the ending of the last book and Ann definitely surprised me more than once. She's such a good writer and has a firm grasp on the world and characters she created. Though full of surprises, this book feels the natural progression of the series. In some ways it is very hard to see how much Jax's life changes, but that is the reality of life. Jax has evolved and her decisions have a significant impact on not only her own life and those she loves, but the galaxy. Seeing her cope with the fallout of her choices was hard, but at the same time it showed us how much the character had changed. Honestly, if this had been the last book in the series, I would not have been disappointed.

## Aftermath

I'd like to go into specific developments that I enjoyed.

Hit & Dina- It's nice to see a same sex couple make it through some terrible times and remain together. They feel real and their love is touching. I was glad to see how their lives together evolve.

Baby Z - After his terrible death in the first book, it was nice to have the little one back (cloned) and in the mix. I thoroughly enjoyed his reunion with his people and how it affected Jax. I look forward to seeing how he evolves as a character in the next book since he's now a grown up jumper.

March & Jax - It's always been pretty obvious that though Jax and March may love each other (still can't figure out why), they can never quite get it together. A happy ending has never seem to be in their cards. The events in this book make that even more unlikely. March has always had a tendency to put others in front of Jax and he does the same thing in this book. He's just not capable of meeting her on her level. And truth be told, she can't meet him on his. They're very different in what they want out of life and its very clear in this novel how far apart they truly are. I won't lie. I don't like March. I think he's the weaker of the two people and he pulls Jax down and hurts her an awful lot. The progression of their relationship in this book felt very natural and I hope Jax doesn't sacrifice herself in some way in the last book to make him happy.

Vel & Jax - As a huge Vel fan, I loved this book even more because of his presence. Vel has always been very loyal to Jax and once again he is her staunch supporter in everything she does. I love his alien nature and how it evolves in each book. His evolution matches Jax in that they are not quite the same person they started out to be in the first book. Their friendship definitely has deepened into a committed relationship of sorts and in this book the sweetness between them is heart-wrenching. I admit it. I cried. There is a deep love and a lot of honesty between the two characters that surpasses sex and romance. It's really beautiful. The idea of these two flying off together in the last book to chart the beacons makes me smile, but we'll see if that ends up happening in the last book

In closing, this series has not let me down once. Now I have a year to wait for the last installment in this wonderful series.

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