

The Fallen Isles Trilogy by Jodi Meadows

A Reading and Discussion Guide

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The Fallen Isles Trilogy

For fans of Shatter Me, Court of Fives, An Ember in the Ashes, Kiss of Deception, and Incarceron.





by Jodi Meadows

Publication: September 10th, 2019 **Publisher**: Katherine Tegen Books

Previous Book: <u>Before She Ignites</u>, <u>As She Ascends</u>

Series Social Hashtags: #BeforeShelgnites #AsSheAscends #When

She Reigns#FallenIsles #JodiMeadows

HIGH STAKES, ROMANCE, AND DRAGONS! This final book features a romance to root for, deadly games of deceit and betrayal, thrilling chapters from the first dragon's POV, and an explosive—and unexpected—ending.

COMPLEX FEMALE PROTAGONIST: Hailed by reviewers for her authentic portrayal of a character with anxiety, Jodie Meadows has

created a compellingly flawed and refreshingly unique fantasy protagonist.

DEVOTED TO DIVERSITY: Writing inclusive books has always been important to Jodi, and the Fallen Isles series is no exception, with characters of many different backgrounds represented on the page.

"A fiercely imagined world!" —Mary E. Pearson, New York Times bestselling author of the Remnant Chronicles

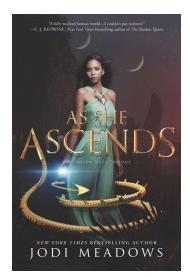
From the New York Times bestselling co-author of My Plain Jane and My Lady Jane comes the final book in a smoldering fantasy trilogy about a girl who must embrace her latent power or lose the dragons she loves. Perfect for fans of Julie Kagawa and Kendare Blake.

The Great Abandonment has begun, and now dragons aren't the only creatures facing extinction in the Fallen Isles.

As entire islands rise up from the sea, causing earthquakes, tidal waves, and utter devastation, Mira must use her growing connection with dragons to track a legendary treasure that could stop the destruction—the bones of the first dragon. But finding the treasure means traveling into the land of her greatest enemies.

What will it cost Mira to save the dragons, the people she loves, and the only home she's ever known from total ruin? And what will be left of Mira once the final cataclysm is over?

As She Ascends (Fallen Isles #2)



by <u>Jodi Meadows</u>

Publication: September 11th, 2018 **Publisher**: Katherine Tegen Books **Previous Book**: <u>Before She Ignites</u>

Series Social Hashtags: #BeforeShelgnites #AsSheAscends

#FallenIsles #JodiMeadows

ACCESSIBLE YA FANTASY AT ITS BEST: The stakes are even higher in the second book in this epic fantasy trilogy, which is complete with a romance to root for, deadly games of deceit and betrayal, and a fiercely imagined world that keeps you guessing until the explosive ending.

COMPLEX FEMALE PROTAGONIST: Facing crippling anxiety and

compulsive counting along with her dire circumstances, Mira is a compellingly flawed and refreshingly unique fantasy protagonist.

DEVOTED TO DIVERSITY: Writing inclusive books has always been important to Jodi, and the Fallen Isles series is no exception, with characters of many different backgrounds represented on the page.

"A fiercely imagined world!" —Mary E. Pearson, New York Times bestselling author of the Remnant Chronicles

From the New York Times bestselling co-author of My Lady Jane comes the second book in a smoldering fantasy trilogy about a girl who must embrace her latent power or lose the dragons she loves. Perfect for fans of Julie Kagawa and Kendare Blake.

Mira the Dragonhearted is on the run with her friends following a fiery escape from the prison where she'd been condemned for speaking out against dragon trafficking.

And she wants answers. Has the treaty she's been defending her whole life truly sold out the Fallen Isles to their enemies? Did her own parents lie to her? Will she lose control of her power and hurt the ones she loves?

The only way to find the truth is to go home again, to face the people who betrayed her and the parents she's not sure she can trust. Home, where she must learn to rise above her fears. Or be consumed.

Before She Ignites (Fallen Isles #1)



by <u>Jodi Meadows</u>

Publication: September 12th, 2017 **Publisher**: Katherine Tegen Books

Series Social Hashtags: #BeforeShelgnites #AsSheAscends

#FallenIsles #JodiMeadows

ACCESSIBLE YA FANTASY AT ITS BEST: The first book in this epic fantasy trilogy is complete with a romance to root for, a fiercely imagined world, and deadly games of deceit and betrayal that keep you guessing until the explosive ending.

COMPLEX FEMALE PROTAGONIST: Facing crippling anxiety and compulsive counting along with her dire circumstances, Mira is a compellingly flawed and refreshingly unique fantasy protagonist.

MOTHER OF DRAGONS: The faction-like islands, endangered species, and Mira's strong resemblance to Game of Thrones fan favorite, Daenerys Targaryen (aka Mother of Dragons) will hook readers.

"A fully realized fantasy world complete with dragons, treachery, and flawed characters discovering their courage. I couldn't put it down!" —C. J. Redwine, New York Times bestselling author of The Shadow Queen

From the New York Times bestselling co-author of My Lady Jane comes a smoldering new fantasy trilogy perfect for fans of Victoria Aveyard and Kristin Cashore about a girl condemned for defending dragons and the inner fire that may be her only chance of escape.

Mira has always been a symbol of hope for the Fallen Isles, perfect and beautiful—or at least that's how she's forced to appear. But when she uncovers a dangerous secret, Mira is betrayed by those closest to her and sentenced to the deadliest prison in the Fallen Isles.

Except Mira is over being a pawn. Fighting to survive against outer threats and inner demons of mental illness, Mira must find her inner fire and the scorching truth about her own endangered magic—before her very world collapses. And that's all before she ignites.

ABOUT JODI MEADOWS

Jodi Meadows wants to be a ferret when she grows up and she has no self-control when it comes to yarn, ink, or outer space. Still, she manages to write books. She is the author of the Incarnate Trilogy, The Orphan Queen duology, and The Fallen Isles trilogy (harpercollins/katherine tegen), and a coauthor of My Lady Jane (Harperteen). Visit her at her website or online.

Twitter | Goodreads | Website | Instagram



Guide to Hosting Your Before She Ignites Read-a-Long

Getting Started

- Pick a book
- Make a hashtag for said Read-a-long (#BSIReadAAlong was ours!)
- Figure out a schedule
- Create a sign up of some sort
- Graphics! (Canva is free)
- Promote! Promote! Promote!

Creating Your Read-a-Long

- Create a DM group on the platform of your choosing and add participants!
- Get to know the group participants
- Post "bookstagram" style photos on the #hashtag, share with the group, and have everyone share it to spread the word!
- Create Discussion Questions
- Set a time for said Discussion & let the group know when & what time the discussion will commence

Managing Your Read-a-Long

- Conduct discussion by welcoming everyone to the discussion
- Pose questions and allow enough time for everyone to answer if they'd like.
- Thank everyone for participating in the discussion!
- Repeat steps 12-14 throughout the Read-a-long based on the schedule.

Sample Schedule and Discussion Questions for Before She Ignites Read-a-Long:

Schedule	Questions
Week 1. Discuss Chapters 1-12	Q1. What did you think of how the story is told, with the present and flashback?
	Q2. Do you like fantasy that drops you into the middle of the action with no backstory like this or do you like info dumps at the beginning?
	Q3. We get to meet two other prisoners, Gerel and Aaru, what do you think of them?
	Q4. What do you think Altan's intentions are with the information he is trying to get from Mira?
	Q5. Do you think her family is working on getting her out or do you think they were aware of what was happening with the dragons?
	Q6. What do we think about Mira and what she is capable of?
Week 2. Discuss Chapters 12 - 24	Q1. Do you think living and appreciating silence makes Aaru more sensitive to others? Does it make his words more important since he says less?
	Q2. Do you think anxiety is still as taboo to bring up in society as it is in Mira's world?
	Q3. Do you think being born in a different region predisposes you to that regions traits or do you think you are born to that region because you have those traits?
	Q4. Tirta stays so the to her beliefs of kindness and friendship when others crack, how do you think she does that?
	Q5. What do you think of Mira's new name Mira the dragonhearted?
Week 3. Discuss Chapters 25 - 36	Q1. What did you think when you found out Tirta was undercover for the Luminary Council?
	Q2. What do you think was the reason for cutting Mira's face?
	Q3. Were you surprised by Mira's speech or did you suspect she would change it?
	Q4. What did you think of Mira's powers? Especially what she did to the Pit?
	Q5. What did you think of Mira's character arc from the beginning of the book to the end?
	Q6. Do you think Aaru is hiding something from Mira at the end of the book?
	Q7. What do you predict or want to see in the next book?

Guide to Hosting a Twitter Chat Alongside Your Read-A-Long

Getting Started

- ★ Establish a DM group on Twitter
- ★ Ask participants what time & day works best for participation in a Twitter Chat
- ★ Once day & time is established Promote, Promote
- ★ Promote Twitter Chat details, including #hashtag that will be used, on multiple platforms
 - Details include:
 - Day
 - Time
 - #Hashtag Used to locate Chat

Preparing Discussion Questions

- ★ Plan for the Twitter Chat to last approximately one (1) hour.
- ★ Each Tweet will go as follows with each tweet posting five minutes apart.
 - The first two tweets will include welcoming everyone to the chat & an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves.
 - Examples:
 - "Welcome to the #ASAReadalong Chat! @krlga00 and I are so excited to discuss Chapters 1-10 with you all!! Make sure to use #ASAReadalong on your responses!"
 - "Tell us your name & if this is your first time reading AS SHE ASCENDS or if you're doing a re-read! #ASAReadalong"
 - The following tweets will include discussion questions. It's always fun to include one that will allow people to include GIFs.
 - Example:
 - "If you escaped the Pit, who would you bring with you? #ASAReadalong"
 - o If you do weekly chats for each section of the Readalong than you'll want the last question to ask what the reader's expect will happen in the next section.
 - Example:
 - "What do you predict will happen in the next section? #ASAReadalong"
 - Finally, and most importantly, Thank the readers for participating in the chat!
 - Example:
 - "Thank you for joining us today!! We can't wait to chat about Chapters 11-20 with you all next week!! #ASAReadalong"

★ TIPS

- If you're hosting by yourself you can post using "Tweetdeck" so that you can focus on responding to the readers in the discussion instead of trying to make sure each question is posted at the right time.
- o Don't stress about making the questions too complicated, just have fun with it!
- If there are readers who weren't able to attend than you are always welcome to post the questions into the DM group so that you can see how the rest of the readers felt about the section!

Interview with Tiffie, Creator of The Fallen Isles Map

Tell us about your art style and how you create.



I usually stick more to black & gray marker drawings (that's the niche I feel most comfortable in; see dragons) but I very quickly figured out that in order to make suitable art for Jodi, I would have to learn one thing or another about creating digital art (or at least digitally enhancing drawings!). So, for the map I really went all the way out of my comfort zone but I did have a very clear vision of what I wanted it to look like when finished. Well, not quite. I did have the vision AFTER starting on another concept, spending a lot of time on it, and realizing that I wasn't really

happy with it and finally deciding that it wouldn't work out.

Talk about the process to create the Fallen Isles map. What parts of the book did you use to inform the creation and where did you have creative freedom?

First off I'll probably have to mention that I'm not a professional artist. For as long as I can remember, I've always loved drawing and painting, and the only times I really "zone out" and forget about everything around me is when I have a book OR art supplies in my hands, but I never received any kind of formal education, and quite frankly, most of the time I feel like I'm flailing my arms a lot.

My process is very unglamorous and usually starts by staring at the ceiling, trying to visualize the end result (in 9/10 cases the first concept won't look anything like the end result, though). Then I get to work on paper and start sketching, and try to create first very rough draft of the previously vividly imagined concept. And from there on it's polishing, polishing, and polishing (and coffee) until I finally have created something that I feel comfortable sharing with others. In a way I think my creation process is very much like an author's writing process:

- imagine a concept
- create a first draft
- rework first draft until it gets close to initial concept (and apply major changes that you figured out will work better)
- polish details and make shiny
- (turn it in and worry about what other people will think of it)

Though my goal for the Fallen Isles map has never been creating it only after my own imagination. I wanted it to get as close to what Jodi had in mind as possible. She was so kind send me a rough layout of the isles and mark the capitals, etc. She also send me quotes from the books that describe these places, so I could get a better feeling for them. This was incredibly helpful as we, the readers, haven't yet "seen" everything!

I pretty much had complete artistic freedom, though. Sure, the shape of the isles were predetermined (for example: Khulan is a warrior swinging a mace - but there are about a thousand ways to draw a warrior swinging a mace). However, I did send Jodi an unhealthy amount of photo messages (SORRY!) to make sure that the layout matched what is written in the books.

From the "imagination stage" on, I knew that I wanted to go for a more "sketched/hand drawn" aesthetic. In the very beginning I actually intended to make the entire map using nothing but paper and black ink (and a quill, obviously) but quickly abandoned this idea again (mainly because these particular mediums leave very little room for error and well, I'm only human).

Finally I decided that this time I'd work entirely digital, which was a first for me and definitely threw some massive rocks onto my path (like that time I was almost done and my hard drive died).

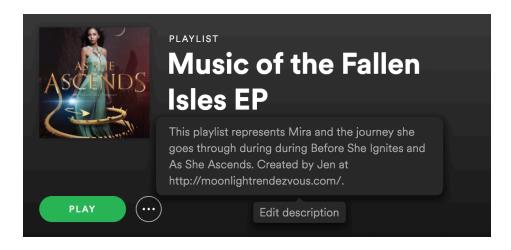
But in the end I think it was definitely worth all the times I sat in front of my laptop utterly frustrated (there was a massive learning curve involved), and I am quite pleased with the result!

What's one thing people may not know about the process of creating fan art?

I think the fact that you not only have to bring to paper what you yourself imagine things look like, but also taking into consideration how other readers imagine things to look like. Does that make sense? It is a bit of a challenge but it is so rewarding!

Music of the Fallen Isles by Jen @ Moonlight Rendezvous

Get it here



Developing a Secret Language with Your BFF

Mira and Aaru use a silent language to communicate, a helpful tool when starting a rebellion that you want to keep secret from your enemies. To help you get ready for your own rebellion (or maybe you want something that you and your friend share together!), we have a few tips on how to develop your own secret language. (source)

- 1. Create an alphabet of symbols. If you're a visual or creative person, making up symbols for your new language can be a great way to secretly communicate with your friends. These symbols can represent entire words instead of creating a whole new alphabet. This is an option if you're fine with only being able to write your made up language. However, if you want to speak your secret language, this isn't the best method to use.
 - Reference other languages that use symbols for their written language to get inspiration for your symbols. Some languages that use symbols for words are Chinese characters and Egyptian hieroglyphics.
- 2. Make a dictionary of your language symbols. Make sure that the alphabet and dictionary have been agreed to by everyone involved. It's ideal to make symbols that are easy to draw so that your friends with poor drawing skills can still use the language. Making symbols for words instead of letters will make for a much simpler language to learn, and a much easier diary to create. Make sure that all of your friends get a copy of this dictionary.
- 3. **Practice how to write and read in your language daily.** This way, you can have it memorized close to the same degree you have of your native/first language. Keep practicing and using it often, as new languages are easy to forget.

Advocating Against Mass Incarceration and For Endangered Species

Mass Incarceration in the United States

"The United States incarcerates more people, in both absolute numbers and per capita, than any other nation in the world. Since 1970, the number of incarcerated people has increased sevenfold to 2.3 million in jail and prison today, far outpacing population growth and crime. Worse, racial bias keeps more people of color in prisons and on probation than ever before. One out of every three African-American boys born today can expect to go to prison in his lifetime, as can one of every six Latino boys — compared with one of every 17 white boys. African-American people are also subject to pretrial detention at a higher rate than white arrestees with similar charges and history." (source)

In **Before She Ignites**, Mira is sent to "The Pit" aka the worst prison within The Fallen Isles. We won't spoil the story for you but let's just say the whole experience is unjust. We can't help Mira but we can help end <u>mass incarceration</u> by:

- Donating to organizations working against mass incarceration such as the <u>ACLU</u>, <u>the Innocence Project</u>, and <u>Critical Resistance</u>.
- Watching and sharing this speech from Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.
- Engaging your book club in reading *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindnes.* There's even a discussion guide here!

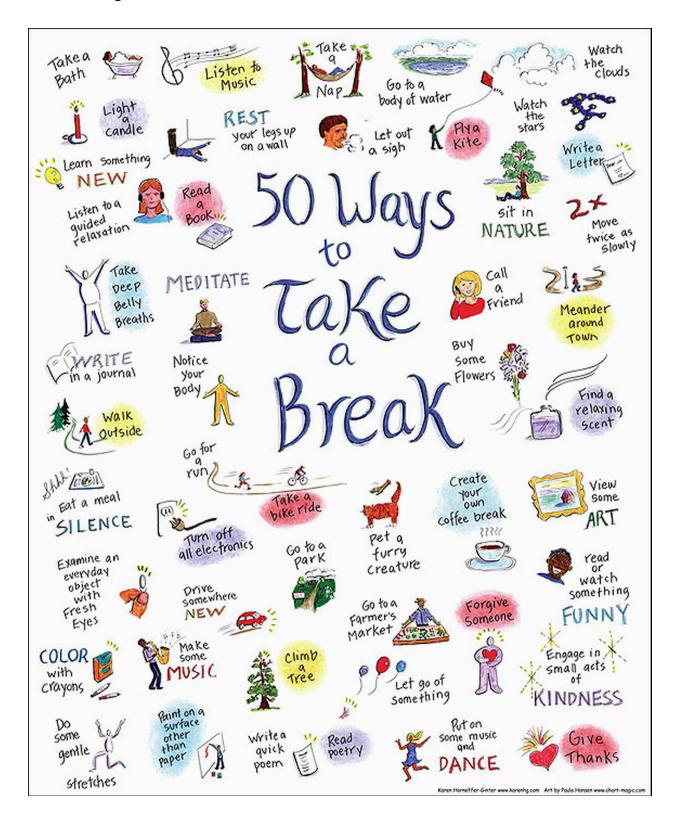
Endangered Species

As of September 2018, the Endangered Species Act is under question and yet the success rate is over 99% in bringing a nearly extinct species back. No doubt without the act, tigers, pandas, and whales (oh, my!) run the risk of extinction, much like the dragons on The Fallen Isles. Be like Mira and:

- Support organizations like <u>World Wildlife Fund</u> (WWF), the <u>International Fund for Animal Welfare</u>, and <u>Defenders of Wildlife</u>.
- Recycle!

50 Ways to Take a Break When You're Overwhelmed

Mira uses counting to manage her anxiety, coupled with support from her friends and medication when necessary. Below are 50 ways you can take a break when things feel overwhelming.

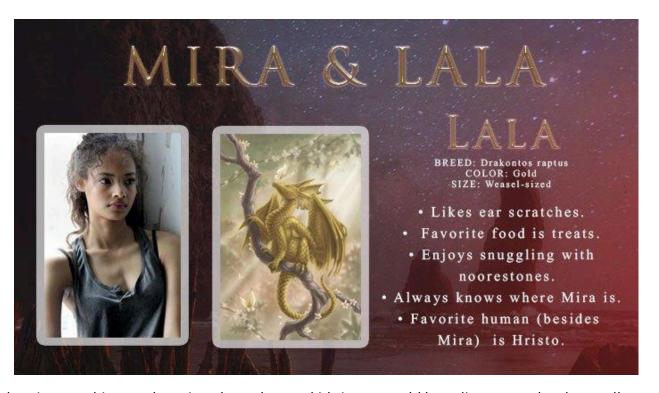


The Dragons of the Fallen Isles by Jodi Meadows

(originally featured on The YaBooktraveler, AlexaLovesBooks, & Mary Had a Little Book Blog)

One of the things I get asked most frequently is how I came up with all the different dragon species in the Fallen Isles, and why I wanted so many.

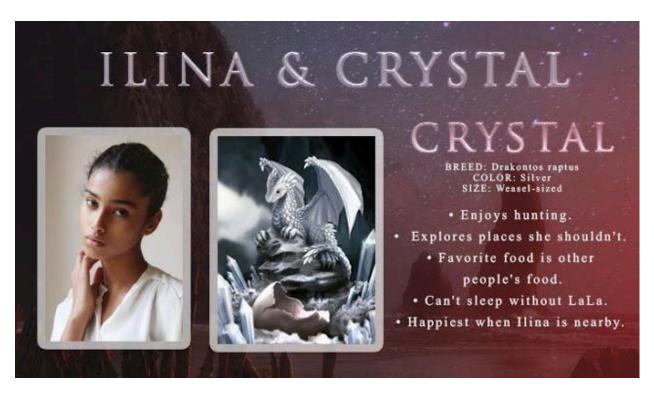
Well, the answer to the second question leads nicely into the first, so heeere we go!



There's something so charming about the way kids in our world love dinosaurs. They know all these species, can pull random facts out of the dinosaur database in their heads, and they even seem to know the controversies. It's incredible. I wanted to write a fantasy story about a teenage girl who feels like that about dragons, but in her world, dragons are real and she can have first-hand experience with them.

So I set about figuring out what kind of dragons might be present here, given the geography and size of the islands, and what sort Mira might be closest to.

Obviously I wanted big dragons, because awesome, but I also find tiny animals so adorable. (I'm a ferret person.) So I considered . . . what if my ferret were a dragon? The personalities for the Drakontos raptus were built from there: they're ferret-sized, uppity and fun-loving, and very social. They can also be trained to perform tasks (for the right reward) and they enjoy working.



But for the larger species, considering the amount of food they'd need to consume, it made sense they'd be more solitary, territorial creatures like the dragons we often hear about in stories. So I used that assumption as a jumping-off point for the bigger species in the Fallen Isles, giving them unique traits to ensure they always read differently on the page. For example, the Drakontos titanus has the distinction of being the largest dragon in the Fallen Isles, while the Drakontos mimikus can change its scale colors to blend in or scare off other dragons.

Gerel's Guide to Keeping Fit in The Pit

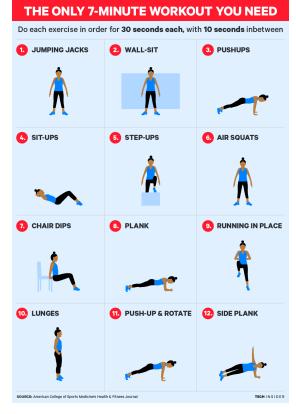
Looking for a workout that can be done in a smaller space like, shall we say, a prison cell?

Gerel's fitness plan is a convenient and easy to follow routine that mixes and matches basic moves so you get a full body workout in the confines of your cell.

You'll want to do reps based on your skill level and then build upon that while you plan your escape!

- Beginner 2 sets of 10 reps
- Intermediate 3 sets of 15 reps
- Advanced 3 sets of 25 reps
- 1. Squats and lunges. These will help tone your legs and butt because you'll need them to be strong for when you're running from the enemy!
- 2. Push-ups and tricep lifts which are great for your chest and arms. You'll need your upper body strength for wielding your swords or fighting the old fashioned way with your fists
- 3. Planks, sit ups, and mountain climbers because we need to keep your core tight. You'll need this for when you have to lift heavy objects such as unconscious companions.

Once you've built up your strength you're ready to move on to even more exercises! Try out the workout routine if you're ready to take your fitness to the next level!



The Pit Work Release Sign Up Sheet



Interview with Mira Minkoba, Hopebearer, the Dragonhearted

(originally featured on bookandprejudice)

Please state your name for the record.

Mira Minkoba, Hopebearer, the Dragonhearted

When did you first know your family had abandoned you to betray dragon-kind and the Fallen Isles?

My first clue was when I was sent to the Pit, although I did believe -- for a while -- that my family would come for me. But they never did. And then, when I found out the Mira Treaty might be a lie that sold us to the Algotti Empire . . . Well, my father wrote the treaty. That was another clue.

And, of course, there was the time Ilina's parents lied about where the sanctuary dragons were. . . .

There were actually a lot of clues. I just never wanted to believe that people I cared about could be so callous.

What helped you the most getting through your time imprisoned, and how are you dealing now that you've escaped?

Being too stubborn to give up really helped. Knowing that dragons needed me to rescue them, knowing that my friends were counting on me -- needing to be strong for others is what allowed me to keep going, even when I thought I'd never manage.

Now that I've escaped, I'm hoping to have fewer panic attacks, but we'll see. Do you ever have those points in your life when it seems like everything goes wrong all at once? I'm pretty nervous about that happening.

Yes I do have those moments. All the time...

So that power with the noorestones... Care to go into more detail about it? What's it like?

I wish I could tell you about it, but I'm still learning what it is. I have no idea what it means, only half a clue how to use it. It's not one of the regular god gifts, so it's just another thing that sets me apart from everyone, but, I have to admit, it does seem useful. It makes me feel really powerful.

If you could only see one of your friends for the rest of your life, which one can you absolutely not live without?

LaLa, my dragon.

Apologies to the rest of my friends. I love them all and I definitely want to stay with them forever (even Gerel), but I cannot live without LaLa. She is my heart and I love her more than anyone in the world.

Making of the Before She Ignites Postcard with Daphne Chang



Draft 1 and Draft 2 are examples of some the ways I was considering the style of the quote to be. I didn't end up using either of those but it's nice to see how it looks written out in different ways.



Gridding is where I try to set the format of the quote- at this stage I know what it wants to look like and have determined the spacing, etc. The pencil marks are an aid for that.



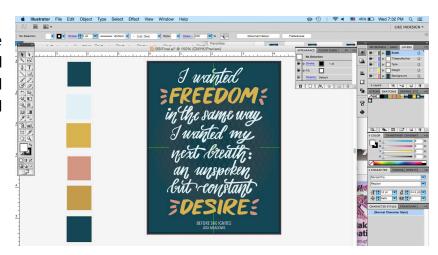


Final Written is the final hand-lettered quote on paper- I've erased the grid marks and it's ready to be scanned onto my computer.



This image is after I've adjusted the levels of the scanned image and have cleaned up any stray marks, etc. This is a still a raster image and is ready to be put into Illustrator to be turned into a vector graphic.

This is the final Illustrator file for the quote- I've vectorized the original quote and changed the colors and background into what I want.





An alternative is the final Illustrator file for the quote- essentially the same thing as the OwlCrate file, but a different version for the colors.

Gerel's Survival Guide

Whether escaping from the Pit, or just in desperate need of getting away, it's always good to have a plan. Review Gerel's Survival Guide for tips on how to survive if you find yourself on the lamb with limited resources, and don't forget to cover your tracks!



Mira's Trunk: A Capsule Closet for Every Occasion

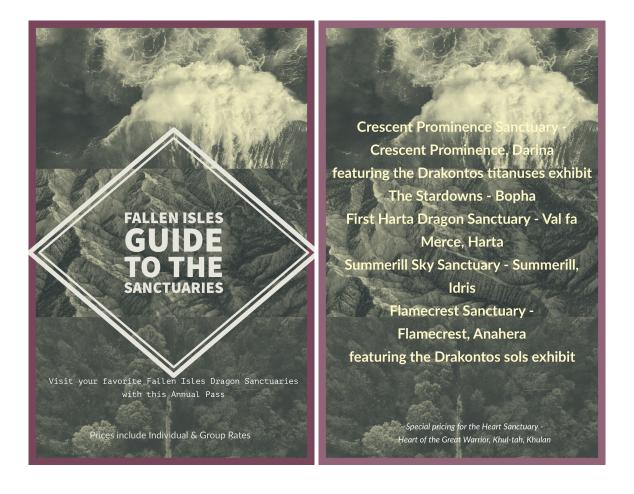
Throughout Mira's journey, we see her proudly displayed on the cover in a multitude of dresses. For Mira, clothing isn't a simple affair but a symbol of her life and the revolution she and her community undergo. Mira has limited space and a wide variety of activities on her journey so we give you Mira's Trunk, a capsule closet for every occasion!



Fallen Isles Sanctuaries Annual Pass

Have you wanted to visit the sanctuaries of the Fallen Isles? If so, then check out the flyer below for a complete list of Sanctuaries included in The Fallen Isles Guide to the Sanctuaries annual pass!

Special pricing is required to enter the Heart Sanctuary. Because it's "illegal"



Reading Recommendations After Finishing The Fallen Isles Trilogy

Dragons, Fantastical Worlds, & Rebellion

- The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon
- Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu
- Princess Princess Ever After by Katie O'Neill

Found Family & Ensemble Casts

- **The Diasters** by M.K. England
- **Death Prefers Blondes** by Caleb Roehrig
- Once & Future by Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy

Mental Health

- **The Storm Crow** by Kalyn Josephson
- **Starfish** by Akemi Dawn Bowman
- <u>Six of Crows</u> by Leigh Bardugo