



A Painted Goddess

Victor Gischler

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When the gods go to war, who will stand against their divine fury?

In the thrilling conclusion to the A Fire Beneath the Skin trilogy, the enchanted kingdom of Helva faces a nightmarish future of endless bloodshed, and Rina Veraiin—a young warrior-duchess armed with mysterious, magical tattoos—must use her fantastic powers to save her home from eternal war.

As her far-flung friends scour Helva for additional tattoos to increase her formidable abilities, Rina reckons with an enigmatic death priest...the one whose contract grants her extraordinary magic but demands an awful price. When her debt comes due, can Rina make the ultimate sacrifice?

Deities clash and allies succumb as Rina strives to fulfill her obligation and confront her strange and shocking destiny. Becoming an ink mage taxed Rina's resources to their very limits; now she must become something else, something more, something awesome and terrible.

If she fails, her world will fall.

A Painted Goddess Details

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Author : Victor Gischler

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From Reader Review A Painted Goddess for online ebook

Jason M Waltz says

well. some very exciting action in several areas, great battles, great magics, even at times, in doses, great characters. very abrupt ending that fell far too neatly into place in far too short a span with some dubious transitions and character actions and then simply ending with a huge event that was long heralded but with little fanfare and really quite ugly in delivery. as if Gischler suddenly grew bored, realized he had no more ideas and the trilogy was already long enough, and simply decided to wrap everything up. rather disappointing conclusion to a book that was worth spending my Saturday reading. I liked 4/5ths of this, but the final 5th really dry rots the brain and is quite the poor closure to a series, rather forcing me to recommend skipping the trilogy as not worth the time investment.

Darren Hagan says

****3.5 stars****

I'm gonna actually write a little review for a change, but it's gonna be a review for the series as a whole :)

Very brief synopsis: when her hometown of Klaar is attacked by invading Perranese forces and her parents (the duke and duchess of Klaar) are killed, Rina escapes and is taken to a wizard and given tattoos that give her different kinds of powers. With these new powers, she vows to take back her town of Klaar from the invaders.

That's just a summary of the first book in the trilogy which was honestly my favourite of the three books. If you were planning on reading these books, just know they contain a lot of sex and bloody battles and bad language. Doesn't bother me but just be warned.

One of my main negatives was my disconnect from the characters. There are multiple POVs in the series, however there were only like 2 characters that I cared about in the first one, and one of them just kind of faded out throughout the series. The other surprised me because he was a womanizer and I'm not usually a fan of people like that (both fictional and real) but he was just too funny and he changed by the end of this book so much. The other weren't terrible but I just didn't care about them as much.

I liked the idea of the magic tattoos giving powers. I feel like there could've been far more tattoos explained, or more ink mages with different kinds of powers, as I like seeing people learn how to master their new abilities. I think she does get like 4 tattoos in the first one, but it kind of slows down after that.

The story itself was good, more so in the first book for me. In book 2 and 3, the plot just sometimes got too frantic and a bit farfetched but it was still enjoyable. I also think the end was resolved VERY quickly, with only about a page and a half long epilogue which didn't resolve too much and just showed the surviving characters 20 years later.

The writing was very easy to get into and the chapters were generally short and action packed which helped keep the story really moving and it never felt a chore to read. The fight scenes were bloody, and rarely seemed hard to follow like big battle scenes can sometimes be in books - so that's always a plus.

On the whole, I really liked the series. I don't think it's become an all time favourite or anything but it was

fun to read and had a interesting premise with a couple of good characters.

Benjamin Ireland says

Really bad ending to the series, so much was left hanging and serious characters were just sort of left by the wayside

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2016/01/2...>

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Rating: 3.6/5

Publishers Description: When the gods go to war, who will stand against their divine fury? In the thrilling conclusion to the A Fire Beneath the Skin trilogy, the enchanted kingdom of Helva faces a nightmarish future of endless bloodshed, and Rina Veraiin—a young warrior-duchess armed with mysterious, magical tattoos—must use her fantastic powers to save her home from eternal war.

Review: I had a good time reading this novel. Great characters and scene development. The world building continues with mini-quests by the Lady Wizard, Brasley, Tosh and more cool tattoos. Alem, as usual, is banging all the hot chicks in a sordid love triangle. Why they are drawn to a stable boy is never revealed and will constantly leave you confused.

This was definitely not as good as the first but better than the second. Each mini-adventure the characters undertook was rather abrupt and not as epic as the first novel. The revelations come too quick to be believable yet were riveting all the same. There was a death of an important character that left a vacuum when they departed. Too bad really, as this character could have enhanced this series if it were revisited. The ending is a bit “meh” yet it leaves room for another novel (I hope). Overall a fun read that kept me awake every night.

Chandler says

I really am not sure what to say about this one. I'm still reeling from the ending, which was not at all as I expected. The ending was...too clean? It was sudden, for sure. I'm going to have to come back to this later, perhaps when my head is no longer buzzing....

Update 1/23/17: After letting this sit with me for about a week, I feel only slightly more confident about what I could possibly say about it. This one was a bit more fast paced in places, and a little sluggish in others, but overall the flow of the story was relatively smooth. I'm still mad at Alem; both for my original reason and an entirely new one that cropped up at the end of this book. I still stand by what I said about the ending being too clean. There's a giant battle, which is cool. A good fight sequence, kept me on the edge of my seat until the end. And then the end happened and I mentally fell out of my seat. I didn't anticipate it at all. I am glad it didn't end how I was expecting, however, this particular ending was cut with a very sharp knife. The minor loose ends were burned until they did not exist. I wish it would have been a little more complicated than it was.

I would recommend this series for anyone who enjoys high fantasy. The premise of the series is very interesting, and I actually really enjoy the way Victor Gischler writes. If you have Kindle Unlimited, the series is available with the Audible narration. The narrator (forgive me, I don't know her name) is very pleasant to listen to and does a pretty good job with different voices for the characters.

Go forth and read, my children.

Terence says

Rina Veraiin's friends are scattered searching for more ink magic tattoos to protect Helva. The threats Helva is facing are more dire than initially believed and ink magic may be Helva's only chance at survival.

A Painted Goddess was a strong story. The entire A Fire Beneath the Skin trilogy caught me by surprise. The story picks up directly after the cliffhangers in The Tattooed Duchess. The author Victor Gischler spent a lot of time setting the enormity of the events the protagonists faced. I had come to care about a lot of the characters and it was hard reading at times because not everyone survives their ordeals.

I'm still loving the idea of ink magic bestowed through tattoos. It presents one of my favorite story aspects of incredible powers in a way I've never witnessed before. Unlike The Tattooed Duchess, new tattoos emerge of incredible power. I'm floored by the creativity needed to envision such powers and how they'd be utilized.

My complaints, which in truth are minor, are that the book wrapped up too quickly and chose not to explain what everything meant at the end. Perhaps it was simply left open for the potential of sequels and that's easier to swallow if that's the case. I hope there wasn't any other reason to leave the reader guessing.

A Painted Goddess and its predecessors were truly a pleasant surprise. I hope the author Victor Gischler chooses to revisit the world in the form of prequels or sequels because I really enjoyed the A Fire Beneath the Skin series.

5 out of 5 stars

I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kimberly says

Gischler is a talented writer with a vivid imagination. I liked how he interweaves the different characters into the story so the reader could see how their motivations fueled their choices. Also, the book was funny. The

wit and sarcasm was dead on. I both read and listened to all three books and the narration was superb. Fiona Hardingham has an envious voice. I could command men to give me the world with a voice like that! I loved her accents for the characters and each one was distinct and full of personality. And there were a lot of voices considering characters went on separate quests to unknown lands and such. I only gave the book 4 stars because I only give 5 stars to books that I plan to read again when I need to re read certain stories. But the books were excellent and exciting. (Goodreads really needs a half star feature. Just saying.)

Karla says

A fitting conclusion, however I can't help but feel disappointed in it too, tbh I feel a little broken. Again the book went in numerous directions leading up to the big showdown. Thankfully the epilogue cleared up a few things and left an opening for book 4. All in all it was an action packed trilogy where the reader gets a chance to be part of the story (if their imagination allows it).

I was given the book by Netgalley in return for an honest review.

Joshua says

Disappointing final entry in the "A Fire Beneath the Skin" trilogy. I'm a big fan of Gischler and this seemed like a very slap-dash novel intended to wrap up the story. The ending was flat and lifeless and the final treatment of Rina was cliched and abrupt.

Sarah says

This was a pretty entertaining series. I enjoyed the plot, but I thought there could have been a bit more development in some areas. I would have liked to know more about the Gods and what was going on with them. I feel it was a bit of a cop-out to just say "we can't understand" but then a bunch of stuff happened that didn't have much back story or development. I was also a bit bothered by the liberal use of the F word. I'm not against profanity, it's more that it kind of jarred me out of the mood of the story because it seemed tossed in places it didn't belong. Like Rina is supposed to be this highborn noble and she has the posh accent but she swears a lot? Not that she couldn't, but it didn't seem to really match her personality or the rest of her character. A bit inconsistent. It makes sense for there to be some more crass language in more of the lowborn characters or the guard, etc., but it seemed like everything was pretty clean EXCEPT for the bunch of F bombs showing up randomly. Not enough to ruin the story or anything, but I noticed it and then it kept bugging me enough to pull me out of the story every time it happened.

I really liked the way that the women (besides just the heroine) in the series were portrayed as powerful and capable!

Gardavson says

A

Excellent series. Excellent finale. Loved and hated the ending. I should have seen it coming, but I didn't, not until it was happening. I hated seeing it come to an end. I'd become totally invested. Upon reflection, it's apparent how everything fits at the end. Everything. Superbly done.

Kushnuma says

I received an advance e-book copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

A Painted Goddess is the final book in the trilogy.

I preferred this book compared to all the others. There was a lot happening, with the various characters in different places for various reasons, but most of all, to help Rina and save everyone. I actually hated Maurizan since book 1 and really couldn't stand her. Also, the ending was okay but I think it is possible for there to be a fourth book.

Lisa says

At first I didn't really want to read the last part of this trilogy... I did not like the ending of the second part or where the story might develop to. So I waited.. And waited and finally started reading it.

Duchess Rina is more or less imprisoned with evil ink mages.

Talbun and Brasley are on a library hunt, where another evil ink mage Ankar (the one who already tried to kill Rina) searches for answers.

Tosh and some of the former whores went to another land for... I don't remember why.

Alem and Maurizan traveled with the group and went overboard. They might be starting their previous relationship anew because he thinks Rina wants to marry another man.

After I started to read this I regretted waiting this long to continue the story.

You can see how the characters develop (for better or worse) but I think the magic is getting out of hand as we near the end of the story. Maurizan gets her long awaited Prime tattooed on her back just to start petty fighting with Rina about new tattoos. I think Maurizan is the one person I absolutely can not connect with. She seems petty and selfish to an extent that somewhat ruins her as a good person. Sure she does things you have to admit are for the greater good, but often for the wrong reasons. Her relationship with Alem is a nice change, but it always seems to be forced in regards of his feelings for Rina.

Rina seems more distant and you always have the feeling she is somewhat tired of all this shit going on. She seems more like a martyr than a hero, which I didn't like. She was always the main part of the story until the third book. I felt a little like losing her in favor of all the other characters.

The end of the story was a little confusing and did not really make sense at some point. For example Ankar - previously wanting all of them dead- now wants to fight alongside Rina. I didn't quite get the end with all the stuff about the Gods and what really happened to Rina, but maybe I was just too focused elsewhere to understand.

Sarah says

This book was very fast paced, and I absolutely flew through it. I loved how much Brasley changed throughout this novel; I always loved his character, but it was so refreshing to see a male character redeemed

through a female (Fregga) as opposed to the other way round.

The fast pace did leave me confused over what was going on at times (Ankar's 180 at the beginning I am STILL confused about), and the ending had me utterly gobsmacked. Was Rina alive?! Was that HER?! My biggest complaint about this book is exactly the same one I had with #2, which is that Maurizan I just did not care about AT ALL. Her relationship with Alem felt completely forced to me, and after spending most of the books being an antagonist to Rina, who I love, I couldn't bring it in me to like her or care about her. I always saw Maurizan as spoilt and selfish (Rina saved her life in #1 for goodness sake, and yet Maurizan takes everything Rina does personally... despite approximately none of them being done personally at all), and therefore her chapters made me physically very irritated.

I also haven't quite forgiven Alem for what he did at the end.

However, I did genuinely love this book (you always end up talking about complaints more easily than positives), and as I've stated before, it has one of the most original magic systems I've ever come across. I couldn't put this series down, and this was an excellent ending to it. The ending was both tied up and also left open, so if Victor Gischler were to write more books in this universe I would not complain in the slightest...

Montzalee Wittmann says

A Painted Goddess by Victor Gischler is the third book in the Fire Beneath the Skin series but it can be read without reading the others first -but you will want to! Rina and her friends are now clashing with more than magic, gods are now in the game. Rina has more magic tattoos. There are more surprises, fights, action, excitement, twists, turns, and magic then ever, this book is fast paced and never boring! This is a wonderful series! It has wonderful characters that have stayed true throughout the series, well developed, complex, and very interesting. The plot is complex but makes sense in the end when the reader puts all the pieces together. A joy of a fantasy. A romance, a battle, and a magic ride. When is the next book? I received this book for a honest review from NetGalley and it in no way effected my review or rating.
