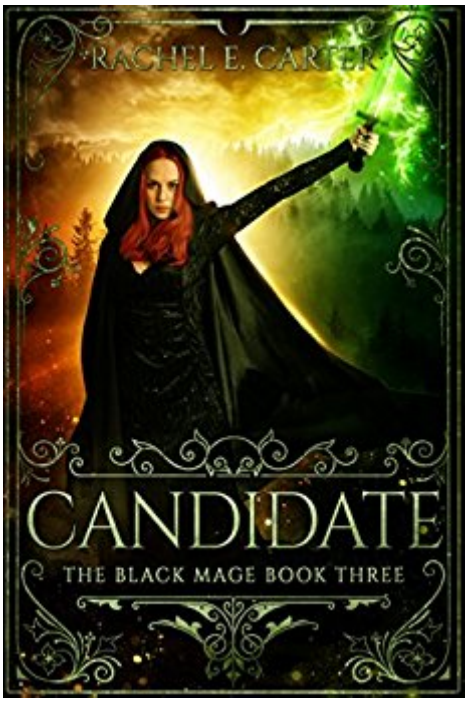
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Candidate (The Black Mage Book 3)



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Synopsis

Welcome to the Candidacy. Where dreams go to die.Twenty-year-old Ryiah is a black mage of Combat, but she’s not the Black Mage. Yet. She’s had her eyes on the legendary robe for as long as she can remember, and in just one year, she will have a chance at her country’s prestigious--and only--tourney for war mages... Too bad she is going up against a certain prince--the one person she has yet to beat.The Candidacy finally arrives and a winner is robed, but something dark is lurking in her kingdom’s midst. Rival nations are closing in, and it’s time to make an alliance.Unfortunately for Ryiah, that’s only the beginning. The worst enemy resides in the palace. *** The third book inÃ Â The Black MageÃ Â series by USA Today bestselling author Rachel E. Carter. ***

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even thought this was not the last book of the series, for a period of time I believed (to my dismay, I’ll explain why later) that is was because of the "The End" at the end of the last chapter. And at that time no future information was released on whether or not this series of continued, and it paused at

a horrible end. I would've given this book four stars because of the lousy ending if I haven't' find out later that it wold still be continued.Many of the original positive factors from the last two books was not only preserved, but improved and magnified in this book. And again, Rachel added many new factors. From politics to international relations, and the rebels' were more apparent here.Even though overall the characters did not change, pasts were discovered and revealed, with Darren's older brother, the crown prince, Blayne as an example. We were shown how he used to be kind, and an incident which switched the boy with their characteristics.Because Ryiah is now engaged to a member of the royal family, the readers get a better look at inside, and what is happening in the palace. And Rachel used that to show and reveal hidden mysteries and secret from the past.Even though the grand villain was revealed. The problem is not solved. On that happy note, the fourth book is coming up, and remember to check it out when you do!

So I was so anxious for this book that I downloaded it on my Kindle App instead of my Nook because B&N was being so slow to release it. I read it in like a day, then I went into labor and got super distracted, so I read it again and now here I am reviewing it. :)I have a love/hate relationship with this book. Obviously, majority love, hence 5 stars. I really wanted a little more time spent with Darren. If it hadn't been for their supporting each other through the tragic parts of the book, I honestly would've felt like they were complete strangers. It bothers me a little that for two adults who claim to be in love, neither can seem to prioritize the other, but given their positions I do appreciate the reality of the situation be presented.I did love the back and forth of their relationship in this book, though. There was an honesty to it I appreciated. So often, authors shy away from having their characters say truly hurtful things, but sometimes even people who love each other go there, and I liked the doses of reality she spread throughout the book.I thought Ry was being kind of a jerk not wanting to stay with him in the beginning, but her character has always been admittedly a little selfish. If I thought war was on the horizon, I would spend the time I could with the person I loved the most, but Ryiah is more concerned with her own glory than her relationship. That being said, that's kind of an ongoing theme in the book and it's not necessarily a bad thing. She's fallible, and real, and again, that's why I love this series.I don't have any complaints about the actual book or writing, just some plot points that KILLED me and AAAH that ending!!

While the magic system is still fairly weak in terms of thrashing out the entire story, character setting and plot is tight. Many of the seeds that were planted in the second and first books flourish here . While this does make the reader aware something is coming it is not quite as predictable as some

authors would've made it out to be. Again while the story does have an epic feel to it the third book feels a little more intimate in scope when dealing with the characters.

Once again, author Rachel E Carter has captivated attention for the duration of this novel, and gave me *all* the feels.After the three-year apprenticeship, the Combat, Restoration, and Alchemy mages were ranked and offered posts at various cities in the country, based on those ranks. Ryiah was determined to have an opportunity in one of the more dangerous cities before her 'new responsibilities' kept her close to the Crown's palace. I was glad for her to see familiar faces while on patrol up in Ferren's Keep, and the feisty banter between Ryiah and Darren never disappoints.Carter's continued elaborate and vivid descriptions of battle scenes played a large role in my enjoyment of the Candidacy tournaments, and some of the political reveals had me on the edge of my seat. Can't wait to see what happens next, in the 'The Last Stand', available February 7, 2017.

I have to say the third book drew me in even though I was getting pretty tired of the woe-is-me theme linked to Ryiah. Her seeming inability to take control of her situation was annoying. That said, this third story is twisty engaging and I just had to find out how Carter was going to resolve the storyline - which he does in a nicely surprising turn of events. Taken all together, the three books of the trilogy is a good read and this last ties it all up in a satisfying manner.

I enjoyed this book as much as the first two. After reading other reviews that the main character was always negative and had no self confidence i was concerned, but I think other people didn't realize how quickly her life changed. She was constantly around new people and in new environments. Even from the beginning of the series the lead had confidence issues. I think the author did a good job showing that once you are in that special relationship, that love definitely lifts you up, or can crush you entirely. I am hoping that in the 4th book the heroine makes some smart choices and is better with her interpersonal communication.

There are so many good things about this series. The main characters are admirable, well-described, and credible. The plot is complex but understandable and interesting. The action scenes are very good. The dialog is surprisingly natural. The book does not oversimplify good and evil. The fly in the ointment is the frequent inappropriate use of words, occasional misspellings, and awkward sentences, especially when the author starts to describe the scenery and what is

happening. What the book needs is a good editor.

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