



Angel Arias

Marianne de Pierres

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Retra - now called Naif - has escaped from Ixion, the island of ever-night. She doesn't know if her friends on the island survived the battle between the Ripers and the rebels. But she does know that she must return home, behind the sealed walls of Grave, to find out why the Ripers have been seen there talking to the councillors. What links the two worlds?

First she must convince Ruzalia to help her. The fierce pirate captain saves those who face terrible fates on Ixion, but that doesn't guarantee their gratitude. Instead, she faces a revolt - and Naif is caught in the middle.

Naif will need all her courage to survive. For Lenoir, who wants to keep her safe, for her friends Suki and Rollo, if they live, for Markes, who has secrets of his own, and for the new friends she will make on this journey.

The fate of worlds depends on it.

Angel Arias Details

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From Reader Review Angel Arias for online ebook

Siobhan says

Angel Arias is the second novel in The Night Creatures series. It continues the story of Naif, previously named Retra, after she escapes the island of Ixion with her friends Markes and Charlonge via Ruzalia, a fearsome pirate. In this book Naif tries to discover the secrets of Ixion and the part her home, Grave, has played.

Now. I enjoyed this book more than the first one plot wise. It was just as fast, but it seemed more balanced than Burn Bright.

The few problems I have are similar to my complaints during the first book. Not enough description. I mean, I love using my imagination, but sometimes my imagination wants a few quick pointers so I can actually see someone in my head.

This series seems to be full of sexual abuse. See my review of Burn Bright for more information. I won't go into details because I don't much feel like it.

I enjoyed Angel Arias more I suppose because there was less Lenoir, but at the same time I missed Suki, Rollo and even Joel. Though he is a giant tool.

I recommend this book to anyone looking for a quick flaunt in the YA urban fantasy genre.

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

I FUCKING LOVE THIS SERIES!

Arlene says

Completely Addicting!

Angel Arias is the second installment in the Night Creature series and I have to say Marianne de Pierres sure knows how to world build and create a dark and compelling setting that has you sitting at the edge of your seat! Great addition to the series that has me excited to see how this story unfolds.

In **Angel Arias** Retra, now called Naif, travels back to Grave with her fellow run-away Markes to try and find a way to reverse the effects of the badges they got on Ixiom which is shortening their lives. Ixiom is in turmoil and the Ripers that watch over the runaways and enforce the rules are not what they appear to be. They've been seen back at Grave talking to the Elders. So Naif and Markes head back in the hopes of discovering what the Ripers and Elders are conspiring and how they can save their friends back at Ixiom. In

their quest, they learn that Angel Arias is the night song that plays to let the run-aways of Grave know when the barge is coming to lead them to Ixiom. But who controls that song? Who is truly luring them to Ixiom and for what purpose?

It was great to see Naif's character continue to grow in this story and become the strong, quiet leader that intrigued me in the first book. In **Angel Arias** she continually takes risks and pulls through for her friends to help them survive the dangers of Ixiom. I was confused about her relationship with Markes as opposed to Lenoir, but I'm certain that was purposeful on de Pierres part. I'm really curious to see the direction she is headed with these three main characters. The new set of secondary characters were a great addition to the story. Perfectly done!

I won't offer any spoilers, but I will say Wow! Just wow! I did not see that coming until the final hour. What Naif and Markes discover at Grave is sure to cause an explosive conclusion. Excitement!

Jena says

I NEED THIS NEEEEED NEEEEED. I need some RETRA. Some MARKES. Some LENIOR. SOME NAIF. I love this world!

Nina {????s ??? ?????} says

This wasn't horrible, but compared to the first, it was not as brilliant. I did enjoy seeing my favourite characters again, however momentarily. I enjoyed hating Markes all over again and I really wanted to see more of Lenoir, Rollo, Suki. I really liked the characters, especially Naif (though I really liked her personality change in the first one, better than this one), Rollo, Lenoir, Jerrold.

What I was a little disappointed about was the plot. Now, it wasn't bad. But it wasn't outstanding either. **Burn Bright** had smexiness. It had darkness and mystery. **Angel Arias** doesn't have that dark glitter and I was disappointed. But in saying that I still read through it, which meant, compared to some other sequels I know of, it was still pretty damn good. It's still good in the sense that there is action and hidden motives, even without the glitter, it still shines with enough light to make me crave even more the next book - **Shine Light** - which I can not wait to read. I definitely want to know how it ends.

I am strangely really interested in Lenoir as a character and possible love interest for Naif. I'm actually quite surprised by the lack of romance. I actually prefer it. I like the focus on the other events, and I like that the lack of in this novel means that there's enough tension present for the next one. I really don't like Markes. It's like he's being presented as this innocent nice guy yet what he does is always so assholish, yet from the writing, you just don't get the feeling that Naif cares that he acts in such a way. Naif, for heavens sake, please do not get together with Markes in the next one, unless I am presented with a really, really, really good reason, or by some miracle Markes happens to choose Naif over his other two ladies, then I will crack the shits. Man, I really am getting worked up about this little mess. Wow.

Well, whatever, Lenoir is much more interesting character than Markes. Markes next to him is a pale imitation of someone fascinating. I'm actually quite interested in Pierres's decision to create Markes as a character who's, well, the non-masculine of masculine heroes. Ugh, does that make sense? No, what I mean is that he's not like the other males who placed opposite the main female protagonist. He's kind of wimpy, kind of normal, kind of likable yet unlikable. He's not brooding or dark or angst. Which is why despite the

fact that I might not like him, I still cannot help but like him.

(OH yeah, I really love the covers for these books, especially Burn Bright, I think it's really creative, and attractive all in one)

Braiden says

I was so ecstatic when Marianne asked if I would like an uncorrected manuscript of Angel Arias. I want to first say thank you to Marianne as well as the crew at Random House Australia for giving me the chance to read it in advanced. And now, from what I see so far... nobody has been disappointed in this sequel to Burn Bright. As Burn Bright is currently only available in Australia – for the moment at least – I am not going to go into too much detail about the plot of Angel Arias. It's best that you get a copy of Burn Bright first and be wound up in this original and captivating story yourself.

Rather than being set predominantly on Ixion, the island of freedom and eternal pleasure like Burn Bright was, Angel Arias brings us back to Grave. We previously saw a glimpse of Grave at the beginning of Burn Bright, where Retra – now Naif – was escaping to Ixion to find her brother Joel. But this time, we are given the chance to see the environment, the restricted and controlled Seal Compound that Retra/Naif was raised in. She returns to try and discover if there's a connection between what's been happening on Ixion and her home island of Grave, and to ultimately save her friends and brother who are still on Ixion.

Naif continues to evolve. In Burn Bright, she transformed herself completely to fit in with everyone on Ixion, leaving behind her past. However, this time Naif solitarily questions Grave, its authorities, and her upbringing to uncover the realities and truths of her world – and of her life. On this journey we are introduced to many more new faces. There was one character in particular, Jarrold, that I really grew to admire. Most likely because he constantly risked his young life to help Naif. Also partly because I wish when I was at that age, that I was as adventurous, intelligent and bold as he was. We are also presented with a new type of creature, separate from the already known night creatures. These new creatures although initially mysteriously anonymous, and encountered with caution and uncertainty, developed into endearing allies despite of their physical features. Learning about the causes of how they came to be like that and got those physical attributes was fantastic. Marianne did a splendid job at introducing us to all these new characters, and weaved them into this plot flawlessly well.

I really want this world that Marianne de Pierres has conjured in the Night Creatures series to be known and shared by all. I hope soon that all of you – whether your American, British, Canadian, Indian, French, German, or even an inhabitant of the North Pole – get to experience this world as us Aussies have been lucky to be captivated in, and for some, twice already. Grave felt just as real as Ixion and you'll be thrown into the story along with Naif to find the truth behind the truth. Angel Arias is a captivating sequel that outdoes its predecessor – well, for me at least.

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All I'm going to say for now until I do publish my review in a few weeks time, is that I loved it heaps more than Burn Bright if that's possible. SO much more you learn about Grave/Seal and each society as a whole, old and new characters <3, and just all out pure greatness.

Got sent manuscript from Random House Australia and Marianne de Pierres. Full review published in a few weeks time. Look out for it!

Mark your calendars people as this is one book you don't want to miss!

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### **Emily May says**

This second installment was a very disappointing sequel to an excellent and unique series opening in Burn Bright. Though it wasn't what I'd call dreadful, it just held none of the stuff that made the first book so exciting, dark, gritty and sexy. There's a general mood in Burn Bright that the author very cleverly builds up throughout, it's a mood that emphasises the dark, dingy world of the novel, but also creates a very sexual feel too.

I think part of this book's problem is that it is not set in Ixion, and let's be honest, that's where all the fun happens. Another matter that I've already mentioned to a couple of GR friends is a theory I have about the author's decision to write a trilogy. I just don't think she had enough material to do so, and I don't mean in a bad way, I mean in a way that sometimes two books are exactly what is needed to tell the story that needs to be told perfectly. I think this is a trilogy because trilogies are so in vogue right now (either that or it's a moneymaking scheme).

If my theory is correct, when the third book arrives it will probably be the exciting conclusion to the first book that the fans were hoping for. Angel Arias, however, felt like a very poor way of bridging the gap between book one and book three. In the first book the problem is established, in the last book it will surely be solved... in this one our characters basically dawdled and pretended to be finding out something - the things they were finding out could have actually just taken a chapter in the next book.

It's likely I will read book three in order to find the closure I need from this series and I think it will pick up once we return to the Ixion setting. I hope my theories are correct because I took next to nothing from Angel Arias.

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### **Shaheen says**

Not many sequels surpass the original work, but Angel Arias achieves this gargantuan feat with relative ease: it's just as eerie and beautiful as Burn Bright, but quickly becomes a darker and edgier tale – one that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Naif's growth is the most striking aspect of this book for me, because her return to the Grave could have easily allowed her to slip back into being the passive Retra, but she steels herself and brings Naif into her old world and comes out a lot stronger for it. I think that the way that Naif deals with being back in the Grave's oppressive environment and seeing the consequences of her decision to run away to Ixion reveals the strength of her character. Markes helps Naif in this journey a lot and we get to see a stronger, more confident side of him that was lost within the splendour of Ixion. I really hope there is a happy ending in the next book for them both!

The new characters in this book are wonderful and provide an excellent counterpoint to Markes and Naif –

Liam is especially endearing (and creepy, yes) and I love Jarrold. I'm not sure about some of the other characters, but I think that has more to do with Naif's biases than my impressions of them. However, no one can replace Suki's vivacity and Rollo's good naturedness, and I keenly felt their absences right along side Naif. Her bond to Lenoir allows readers to glimpse what is happening back at Ixion, but nothing is clear and I am looking forward to getting back to the island in Shine Light.

I had not expected this book to be quite as action-packed as it is, since Burn Bright was filled with descriptions of the wonder and splendour of Ixion and only ramps up at the end. Angel Arias is thrilling from the get go, and with everything progressing so quickly I forgot that the book only spans a few days, until the very end. It has answered a lot of the questions raised in Burn Bright, but has offered up many more for readers to contemplate before reading Shine Light.

Engaging, thrilling and dark, Angel Arias offers us a wider glimpse into the world of the Night Creatures and is a must read for fans of Burn Bright. I am thoroughly enjoying this series and I think if you're not already reading it, then what on earth are you waiting for? Hop to it: the third book is out already and now there is really no excuse!

You can read more of my reviews at [Speculating on SpecFic](#).

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### **Shiku says**

Naif, Charlonge und Markes konnten Ixion entfliehen und haben vorerst Unterschlupf bei der Piratin Ruzalia gefunden. Doch auch dort ist es nicht sicher. Zwar rettet diese die Leute vor dem Tod in Ixion, aber ihre Zeit läuft trotzdem davon - früher oder später verlangen die Manipulationen, die bei der Ankunft in Ixion vorgenommen werden, ihre Opfer. Nicht jeder ist dankbar und der Zorn richtet sich auch auf die drei Freunde, die Ruzalia näher stehen zu scheinen. Ohnehin kann Naif nicht lange bleiben - sie ist fest entschlossen, nach Grave zu kommen und herauszufinden, welche Geschäfte die Riper und die Elder verbindet - trotz der Gefahr, die ihr auch dort droht.

Okay, was war das jetzt? Ich hatte ja schon mit Band 1 meine Probleme, hoffte aber, dass Band 2 ein bisschen was wieder gutmachen kann – Pustekuchen. „Angel Arias“ hat mich hauptsächlich geärgert, aber warum? Nun, ich werd's euch gerne verraten:

Fangen wir einfach mal mit dem größten Ärgernis an: Mir fehlte es ein bisschen an Logik beziehungsweise gesundem Menschenverstand. Nur um die Basis abzuklären: Naif hat zwei Tage in Grave Zeit, um einige Dinge zu klären, für die dieser Zeitraum eigentlich ziemlich gering ist – zumindest wenn man herkömmlich nach Spuren und Hinweisen sucht und dabei untergetaucht bleiben muss, weil man sonst weggesperrt wird. Zwei Tage sind also an sich schon verdammt knapp und unsere „Helden“ haben nichts Besseres zu tun, als zimperlich zu sein (die Situation ist verdammt ernst, Leute, da ist kein Platz für sowas!) und gleich mal den ersten Tag beinahe komplett zu verplempern. Dass der zweite Tag wirklich sinnvoll genutzt wird, davon kann auch nicht immer die Rede sein. Genauso wenig kann ich behaupten, dass Naif nach den Antworten sucht, die sie finden will – im Grunde weist jemand anders sie zu den richtigen Leuten, die ihr praktischerweise den richtigen Ort mitteilen können, an dem sie die richtigen Informationen erhält und zufälligerweise findet dieses Treffen noch innerhalb der Zeitspanne statt, die sie haben. Klingt langweilig? Ist es auch.

Lustigerweise ist es ausgerechnet Naif, die später anderen sagt, sie sollen nicht so trödeln oder zimperlich

sein. Vielleicht hat sie ja doch auch ihren Fehlern gelernt. Andererseits: Wer im Glashaus sitzt, sollte nicht mit Steinen schmeißen, oder?

Mein persönlicher Störfaktor Nummer 2 ist Markes, von dem ich nicht einmal mehr weiß, welche Haarfarbe er hat oder ob so ein Detail jemals erwähnt wurde. Nicht dass ich etwas gegen ihn persönlich hätte – nun, eigentlich schon –, mich ärgert vielmehr Naifs plötzliches Interesse an ihm. Ich meine damit nicht mal, dass es mir unverständlich ist, wie man jemanden, der so feige ist, auch nur ansatzweise interessant finden kann. Der Kerl würde wenn möglich seine Freunde allein auf eine gefährliche Reise gehen lassen, hält durchaus wichtige Informationen zurück, was andere in ziemliche Gefahr bringen kann und sein Grund, nach Ixion zu gehen, hat endgültig dafür gesorgt, ihn gedanklich in die Kategorie der A....löcher einzurordnen.

Aber gut. Sie realisiert das alles zwar, aber wenn sie das nicht stört ... Man kann in ihren Augen ja auch ruhig mal kostbare Zeit verstreichen lassen. Was soll's. Ich frage mich aber, woher das Ganze auf einmal kam. Ja, sie war in Band 1 ein bisschen an ihm interessiert, aber auch nicht so sehr, dass ich es als Verliebtheit wahrgenommen hätte. Lenoir war da beispielsweise sehr viel präsenter. Hier aber kriegt sie regelrechte Eifersuchtsanwandlungen, wenn sich andere Mädchen um ihn kümmern – das wäre durchaus verständlich, wenn ihre Gefühle von Anfang an Sinn machen würden. Es wirkte vielmehr wie das typische „Er ist der einzige Mann in der Nähe, also ist er jetzt einfach mal mein Erwählter“. Das hilft der Geschichte aber auch nicht weiter!

Aber genug gemeckert, „Angel Arias“ hatte ja nicht nur schlechte Aspekte, wenn auch genügend. Die Autorin führt ein paar neue Charaktere ein, von denen einige auch ziemlich interessant und liebenswürdig sind, so zum Beispiel Liam, der mit seinen ganz eigenen Problemen kämpfen muss, oder Jarrold, mit dem man ganz sicher so einige Abenteuer erleben könnte.

Genauso gibt es neue Informationen, auch wenn die Welt noch lange nicht so „dicht“ ist, wie ich mir das wünschen würde. Allerdings gibt's genügend Input bezüglich einer recht großen Intrige, die im zweiten Band natürlich nicht weiter behandelt wird, sonder dann erst im 3. Band wirklich Wurzeln schlagen kann. Ich persönlich hoffe ja, dass auch die Riper dann endlich nicht nur näher, sondern nah beleuchtet werden; bisher wird man nur mit kleinen Informationen angefüttert.

Diese gibt es übrigens nicht von Naif, sondern teilweise von Lenoir selber, der seine eigenen Kapitel bekommt, damit wenigsten ein bisschen von dem mitgeteilt werden kann, was in Ixion vor sich geht. Diese waren definitiv die interessantesten Kapitel des Buches, die mir richtig Spaß gemacht haben. Zu dumm nur, dass es nur zwei davon gibt.

Insgesamt reicht das wirklich nicht aus, um die zuvor angesprochenen, großen Kritikpunkte wieder auszumerzen. Und da kann eine Geschichte noch so angenehm geschrieben sein – wenn ich mich ständig über die Protagonistin ärgern muss, dann wird das nichts, so sehr ich mir das auch gewünscht hätte.

Man sollte Naif demnächst vernünftig denken lassen, bevor sie etwas macht, dann wird der nächste Band vielleicht auch ein bisschen spannender. Mehr Informationen können auch nicht schaden, aber immerhin kam dieser Punkt nicht allzu kurz im zweiten Band.

Bei Band 3 werd ich wohl erst mal ein paar Rezensionen abwarten – wenn alle begeistert sind, lohnt es sich vielleicht doch noch ein bisschen, neugierig bin ich ja schon, wie sich alles auflöst. Wenn nicht, dann war's das hiermit mit mir und der Night-Creatures-Reihe.

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## Miss Bookiverse says

### Lang und breit

Wer sich nur noch dunkel an *Burn Bright* erinnern kann, sollte nun schleunigst sein Gedächtnis aufbessern. *Angel Arias* hält kaum inne, um die Geschehnisse des Vorgängers Revue passieren zu lassen. Gerade mit den ungewöhnlichen Namen und ihren zugehörigen Besitzern hatte ich zu Beginn noch ein paar Erinnerungsprobleme.

Retra alias Naif bleibt im zweiten Teil der *Night Creatures* Trilogie eine solide Protagonistin. Sie hat gleichzeitig schwache Momente und genug Mut, wenn es darauf ankommt. Ich habe zwar keine übermäßigen Muttergefühle für sie entwickelt, aber es macht mir Spaß sie durch die Welt von Ixion, Sanctus und Grave zu begleiten. Einzig ihre Verliebtheit kann ich beim besten Willen nicht nachvollziehen. Schon in *Burn Bright* fühlte sie sich von mehreren Jungen angezogen, was sie mehr verunsichert hat und wenig schlampig wirken ließ. In *Angel Arias* konzentriert sie den Großteil dieser Gefühle auf Markes. Sie ist nicht blind vor Liebe, sie erkennt, dass der nicht der Tapferste ist und gern mal den Schwanz einzieht. Allerdings verzeiht sie ihm diese Charakterschwäche großzügig, was vielleicht für ihren Charakter sprechen mag, Markes für mich aber alles andere als begehrswert gemacht hat.

Viel spannender ist da doch der Reaper Lenoir. Er hat es Naif und mir schon im ersten Teil angetan und zum Glück ist er trotz der Trennung von ihr auch in diesem Abenteuer nicht völlig von der Bildfläche verschwunden. Großes Highlight im Buch ist ein Kapitel, das komplett aus Lenoirs Sicht erzählt wird. Hier kann der Leser endlich direkt nach Ixion zurückkehren, dem wohl spannendsten Ort in de Pierres Universum. Leider verfliegt die Zeit dort viel zu schnell und es geht zurück ins karge Grave.

„Lenoir activated his carriage, watching its metallic legs unfold and shudder upright, like a sleeping animal shaking itself awake.

He climbed inside and settled on the plush velvet seat. He could still smell her in here; her blood and her secretions. Strands of her hair would be caught in the creases of the seat. He fought the desire to search for them.“

(p. 175)

Naifs alte Heimat Grave ist der Haupthandlungsort des Romans. Sehr zu meiner Enttäuschung. Die Autorin hat sich zwar einiges ausgedacht, um diesen tristen Ort aufzupeppen, aber es ist eben nicht das gleiche wie das nachtfarbenfrohe Ixion. Ab und zu hatte ich sogar Probleme mit den Beschreibungen (Stichwort Brücke), sie waren einfach nicht einleuchtend genug um ein nachvollziehbares Bild vor meinen inneren Augen zu zeichnen. Möglicherweise lag das auch an ein wenig Vokabelmangel meinerseits.

Die Handlung ist definitiv actionreich. Man kommt kaum zum Verschneiden. Dennoch würde ich die Geschichte weder als fesselnd noch als ermüdend beschreiben. Irgendetwas fehlt einfach. Allein in *Burn Bright* gibt es genug offene Fragen und zu lösende Rätsel. Leider brauchen Naif und co. bis zum Schluss, um endlich mal ein paar Antworten zu finden. Diese bieten dann auch eine gewisse Befriedigung und Neugierde auf den letzten Band in der Trilogie.

### Kurz und knapp

Schade, aber wahr: nach dem spektakulären Feuerwerk namens *Burn Bright* lässt die Fortsetzung die Flamme ganz schön ins Flackern geraten. Bleibt zu hoffen, dass der finale Band das wieder rausreißt.

[3.5 Sterne]

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### **Nomes says**

Angel Arias starts right after where Burn Bright left off ~ and it begins with the same dynamic energy that Burn Bright burned with ;) But where Burn Bright was mysterious, the world and plot swirling around the reader, Angel Arias has a different tone. It has an urgency and plenty of action, but this time Naif (Retra) is much more sure of herself.

The plot in Angel Arias is ambitious, secrets are revealed, unveiling more mysteries which showcase extraordinary world building: the world Marianne has created is intricate yet accessible. It's a daring kind of read, and just as original in flavour as the first book in the series. The scope of the book is fantastic (from time with the pirates, and seeing more islands), and I think the plot is best explored with no idea where it is heading (no spoilers here).

Aussie author Marianne de Pierres has a talent for throwing her readers alongside her characters in such a way that you are kept on your toes: the action is blended beautifully with plot twists and developments, the reader discovers things alongside the protagonist. There is foreshadowing, creating tension and atmosphere, but not clue-ing the reader in enough to make the plot predictable. It was the opposite. I was constantly on edge, even questioning the loyalties of certain characters, friends who suddenly seem like foe and enemies who have shades of goodness shining through.

I loved the larger scope of the book and yet somehow I missed that gothick-y vibe of Ixion (I am nostalgic by nature, haha). I cannot compare reading the first book in the series to read Angel Arias. I think I was so startled in my love of Burn Bright , like the first taste of chocolate, it was addictive, startling and delectable. Angel Arias did not stun me in the same way despite still being driven by that intoxicating vibe that made it impossible to put down.

It is not the kind of book I am normally drawn to (action, worlds, secrets ~ I am more often drawn to books that are less plot-driven, more character-driven) so perhaps I did not enjoy this as much as I \*should\* have. I think my enjoyment is more indicative of my tastes as a reader than the quality of this book. This is a book to enthrall and ignite imaginations. Despite my wishing for more depth in the characters (with personal motivations, relationships) it is obvious the author cares for her characters (yet also has no qualms about putting them in harms way).

A small teaser: I was (incredibly, delightfully) pleased when the story suddenly swivelled, giving readers a taste of Lenoir's POV! A real surprise, it widened the scope of the story, and also, Lenoir is one enigmatic guy, so it was enlightening being inside his head).

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### **Renee Thomas says**

#### **FROSSING EXCELLENT!**

A most worthy continuation of the Night Creatures trilogy, and an excellent read all on its own. New characters to encounter, new lands to explore, more revelations, more questions raised, more mystery remains.....

This is a fantastic series, really truly, and it continues to instill in me the same feelings and sense that I had experienced reading the Obernewtyn Chronicles. And trust me, this is a very good and welcome thing.

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### **Ava says**

This book was nice. In fact, it improved compared to the first one.

Naif/Retra was smooth and a little, awkward normal girl. She's on my favorite heroine list.

4-night-slithering-creatures-in-the-night-stars!

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### **Amy Parker says**

This book isn't finished yet, but I've read it, it's amazing, and that's all I'm going to say. Get excited, because Angel Arias is something special!

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### **Brittany (Nice Girls Read Books) says**

What a great follow-up to *Burn Bright*! Fans of the first book will not be disappointed. Naif and her friends return, unearthing more dark secrets about the strange island of Ixion - and unfortunately for the young rebels that fled to the island in *Burn Bright*, these secrets are more menacing than they ever could have imagined! Fans of dystopian fiction should not pass this series up!

Much like the first book, *Burn Bright*, *Angel Arias* took a little while to really 'lift-off' for me. I read the first handful of chapters in small doses, but it wasn't long before the real action and intrigue kicked in! Needless to say, the last 200 pages were turned in a frenzy. It's a really hard book to put down once you become absorbed. I wasn't surprised at all, though, because Marianne de Pierres is just this sort of writer! She knows how to do action, how to pace things, and how to make everything come together perfectly.

We turn away from Ixion in this book - other than a chapter narrated by Lenoir who still resides on the island - and instead face Sanctus (Ruzalia's island) and the sprawl of Grave North (Retra/Naif's original home). I must admit I wasn't pleased when I thought the story would be heading back to Grave, but once I was there the action and drama soon swayed me. We focus on the characters of Naif and Markes more than anyone else in this one. I quite enjoyed that, because I thought Markes took the sidelines in *Burn Bright* and I wanted to find out more about the musician and Naif's fascination with him. I like him much more as a character now, so that's good.

We also meet some new characters; mainly Jarrold and Liam. Both were ones I liked immediately. They each add a new aspect to the story. Jarrold is a Grave resident, brother to Marke's former 'Trothed', Emilia. He's much like Naif's own brother, Joel, mixed with a dash of Rollo from *Burn Bright*. Liam, on the other hand, is revealed to be someone from Suki's past, and he's been one of those unlucky few that were joined with the Night Creatures on Ixion after being 'withdrawn'. I presume we're going to learn a lot more about him in the third book, *Blaze Dark*, and I look forward to it. I know there's an interesting story there.

Marianne de Pierre's world-building skills are just as fantastic as ever. While reading, I felt completely immersed within the worlds Naif and Markes explored. I also really loved Jarrold's experience with the tunnels beneath Grave, and how they hinted at the end of our modern civilisation. The world of *The Night Creatures* series is very elaborate and lush, and I dare anyone not to fall in love with it.

*Angel Arias* was a fantastic read - and fantastic sequel! The story develops further, things are revealed, characters evolve and new relationships are formed. It's everything you could hope for in a second book. I urge anyone to get their hands on this series if you haven't already done so.

**Recommended to:** If you liked *Burn Bright*, you'll love *Angel Arias*. Definitely recommend this series to fans of dystopian YA. You will not be disappointed!

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### **Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says**

U.S. publishers should really snag this author up while they can! She has several great series out, and this, her second book in her Young Adult series is one I recommend whole heartedly.

What I love most about this series so far is the constant action going on. Right from page one you are thrown into this fantastic world of light and dark, creatures and pirates. Naif is one of the best main characters to have, as she is very sympathetic to all of them and their struggles to try to just exist in such a complicated world, with so much anarchy and politics happening.

I have been meaning to post this review since I read the book on it's release day and just like the first book (*Burn Bright*) I read through it so fast that I feel that I need to go back and re-read them immediately to catch everything I missed in my fierceness.

As Lenoir tells Naif "Times are Dangerous" it's so true. There is not one island that is not going through some kind of turmoil. What I would really enjoy to see is if this series takes off and we get to see Naif or other characters travel to some of the other places we have not seen yet. Visit the people and the way they live and interact would be awesome. This is the first series that I have seriously considered doing some fan fiction for, it speaks to me that much.

My absolutely favorite character in this book was Liam. I am so interested in how the night creatures interact with each other. How they view the world as a creature and of course what they have been through.

Besides the fast pace of the story and the new characters introduced, seeing the Island of Grave through both Naif's and Markes's eyes was like hearing about 2 different places. Naif's childhood was so locked-down that Markes seemed to have lived on a whole other island, so as we travel through Markes' hometown and the difference between the two was so imaginative all on it's own.

I really could not have any more hype for a series of books that this one. I am a complete fan-girl of Marianne De Pierres and completely encourage all to sign the petition to help bring these books worldwide! Direct Link here <http://www.strangemore.com/2011/07/in...>

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### **Rebecca ♥ Warner, Kishan, Magnus ♥ says**

This felt very short and simple compared to *Burn Bright*, but it has been so long since I read it I might be remembering it wrong. This was just a single mission back into the city to find out how the elders are involved with Ixion.

We got to know Markes a whole lot more in this book, and I liked him for the most part. Lenoir was hardly

in it and he and Naif never met up so we were able to focus on Markes and see if anything would happen between him and Naif. They clearly like each other but Naif is still caught up on Lenoir. And at the end it seemed that Markes was a little mad at Naif, and Naif was mad at Lenoir, so who know what will happen there. And most confusing of all is the blurb for Shine Light which called Lenoir Naif's one true love. I really didn't think it had come to that yet. It was a blood bond and a physical attraction. I didn't think it was more than that. But perhaps the rest is still to come. I am excited to find out since I will usually choose the more complicated of two love interests, and that is definitely Lenoir.

Speaking of Lenoir. He is an alien. Somehow I totally missed that in book 1. I had no clue what he was but I was leaning towards demon. But he referred to his "home world" more than once, as if I should have already known. We met a lot of new characters in this book. I really enjoyed Jarrold. He was so helpful and did all kinds of crazy stuff to help Naif. I can't believe he got away with it all. Such a daredevil. I really did not like Emilia though. What a big baby. I hope she is not in book 3 too much. And I think Markes deserves better. Even if Naif chooses Lenoir, I hope Markes does not end up with Emilia. So I don't know how this series will conclude but I only have one book left and I will read it soon.

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### **Isamlq says**

Well, the author has certainly got no qualms about putting her people in sticky situations. She's also very generous when introducing new characters who I felt just as interesting as the originals; Jarrold and Liam both had me imagining so many things! I look forward to the next one with a little more time with them.

All said, Angel Arias didn't have me as pumped as Burn Bright. That may be because it's not in Ixion. Let's face it a place where anything goes is likely to grab then keep a body's attention, yes? This one with though is filled ducking and covering in places that brought out the girly-girl in me as in: \*shudder.\* Some of the descriptions, as in Burn Bright, were vivid just not as enamoring. It felt almost scarier, almost more disturbing than some of the things Burn Bright.

Recall that I was very impressed with Burn Bright with its vivid world as well as characters that contributed. Book two has both these things, but strangely, I'm just not as in love with it. I do have to point out that I enjoyed the direction some of the characters went. Markes and Lenoire especially had me paying more attention. It was refreshing to see things from the Lenoire's side. Then things got even more interesting to see more of what made Markes *Markes*.

Revelations here made for a more complications in Naif's already overly-complicated life. I mean just consider her connection to Lenoire. Then consider her connection to Markes. Then don't discount the promises she'd made to herself then to her friends. See? Complicated. Yet, I like that she's so different from most everyone in the book. I also like that the others were not clueless about how different she actually was. She's an interesting lead, as is repeatedly mentioned, she's quiet, doesn't want to make waves but strong and acts when necessary. Most of all, I like that she's not afraid of showing her vulnerabilities to people who actually count.

So even with me feeling lukewarm over book two, I am still looking forward to the next one. Maybe some of the dark/magical/different vibe that Burn Bright had will come back minus the ducking and covering that filled this one.

### **Crystal says**

Thanks Arlene!!

I have learned in the past that quite a few second books in a trilogy are filled with filler and a little bit story. Well Angel Arias is a huge exception to that rule. This second book in what is quickly becoming my favorite trilogy delivers an explosive storyline and darkishly delicious characters.

The story picks up where *Burn Bright* left off with Naif, Markes and Charlonge leaving with Ruzalia, the pirate captain. They quickly learn that things aboard the ship are not as quiet as they seem and soon they are faced with a revolt that they want nothing to do with. Running to save their own lives Naif realizes that she has to go back to Grave to help save everyone that she loves. Going back may be the one thing that kills Naif for good though.

I just fell right into this story. I finished *Burn Bright* a few months ago and the story stayed with me long enough that I had no trouble picking this one up and knowing exactly what was going on. These characters are so real and flawed that you can't help but feel for them. Naif has a long way to go but I think that by the end of the last book she will finally learn who she is and I think that moment will be pure awesome.

Marianne de Pierres had me guessing the entire book. I really cannot wait for the next installment! Angel Arias does end in a cliff hanger and my oh my is it a biggie. What comes to life at the end changes everything and I am wondering which is a worse place to be Ixion or Grave. Lenoir is still a mystery to me and I am really wondering how his relationship with Naif will play out. I am really hoping that we get to see more of this creepy monster in the third installment.

Fans of *Burn Bright* will love this book. I really hope this series will be published in the US. They would definitely be a wonderful addition to the YA bookshelf. My copy was provided by a wonderful friend but I will definitely buy my very own copy soon.

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### **Julia says**

Upon finishing *Burn Bright*, I took the time to look at the authors page and realized "She's Australian!" So, I ran into a little trouble getting my hands on this book because Amazon did not seem to like my location. But, the internet rewards those who read, in the end.

Although I think I liked the first novel in the series a little better, I still loved *Angel Arias*. I think Marianne de Pierres has a gift of combining the action, mystery, and YA appeal, while still keeping all the characters sane, involved, and full of integrity.

Three things I loved about this book:

1) Despite Retra's new predicament, Lenoir is still involved in this novel (who I disturbingly adore). All the characters are engaged and evolving, even as new ones come in and the story highlights some more than

others. Very well done.

2) The plot thickens. Some questions are answered, but more arise, layering deceit upon corruption upon betrayal. Oh yes, it gets good.

3) I absolutely love love love Marianne de Pierres's approach to writing in terms of how her stories are organized near the end. Most authors use the traditional approach of mending a story after the climax. This is important for stand alone books especially, but also for series books. However, in a series, if you are so well concluded at the end and the climax was 100 pages before, then its not quite as excited. What Marianne does is she takes the climax up to the last page; you will still be on the highest point of adventure up to the very last word when you realize "Bullocks, the next page is *About the Author*". As much as I don't want to wait for the next book, I admit I'm hooked.

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