



## Slumber

*Samantha Young*

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## Slumber Samantha Young

Molded by a tragic childhood, nineteen-year-old Rogan finds it extremely difficult to trust people. Now Haydyn, her best friend and the one person she does trust, is dying and only Rogan can save her.

Setting off on a journey to retrieve the plant that will cure Haydyn and subsequently the ills that will befall them all if she dies, Rogan is stuck in close quarters with a protector she distrusts above all others.

Wolfe Stovia.

The son of the man who destroyed Rogan's family.

At a constant battle of wills with the handsome Captain of the Guard, Rogan just knows this adventure together will be fraught with tension. She never imagined, however, that the quest would be so dangerous... not least of all when she finds herself falling for a man she could have sworn was her no.1 enemy...

## Slumber Details

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## From Reader Review Slumber for online ebook

### Anzu The Great Destroyer says

**Might there come a time  
When we stand over a grave  
And mourn ourselves?  
Mourn the past, a previous life?  
Shall we weep for the passing of time?  
Shall we grieve for unfulfilled dreams?  
In my naivety; in my belief  
In immortal youth,  
I sleep walk through life.  
Someone... wake me up.  
Please.  
Wake me up.**

*Slumber – Haydyn Dyzvati*

Very well my dear. Let's hope the rest of the book follows this fabulous start.

:pause for effect:

Of course it didn't follow the accursed start. I couldn't be this lucky, could I?

Well.. it wasn't as bad as I made it sound. No bleeding eyes, no pulled hair, no vomit (thank god, I wouldn't want to experience *Fifty Shades of Grey* again) and no anger.

Maybe only some frustration here and there. Some boredom, because the story was slow at times. It picked up towards the end and it saved the book from a low rating. You got lucky book. Really lucky!

The concept of the story is pretty awesome, taken from the Sleeping Beauty idea. I was actually hoping this would apply to the heroine and not her friend/princess but then what would the story become? Rogan having an adventure in Dreamland?

Hold on there, that doesn't sound so bad. I bet it would be more action-packed than how the real story went.

Dreamland Adventures. Not bad. Not bad at all.

So yeah, Rogan is our dearest heroine. And as all YA heroines go, she judges the guy who's in love with her in an unfair way, she acts like an annoying 30-year-old virgin and almost gets raped because (not the first time this happens) she considers herself badass enough to finish the highly difficult quest on her own. Nothing new here, move along.

Ugh, I can't understand why these girls go for decisions like this. Isn't it obvious that they'll get in trouble

because of doing stunts like that? And of course the judging! Oh the judging!!

Wolfe's dad killed her family and kidnapped her because she's *special*. But he also beat the crap out of his wife and son (Wolfe), who is, of course, deeply in love with our fresh peach Rogan. And you judge, Rogan? **YOU JUDGE???**

*"Oh no, I can't be with him because my dead parents will judge me from their puffy spot in heaven. I cannot betray them in this manner. It would be too cruel..."*

Pushing him away is surely the best thing you can do. **You idiot!!**

Bull. Utter bull.

But she shows signs of maturity from time to time. One of these moments is when they make love. Which is more detailed than I would think, especially considering that this is a young adult book. He touches her and *ZOMG I'm a different person! I see all my mistakes, I see my true feelings*. But have Wolfe mind his stuff and not kiss her ass and ZOMG the bitch is back. Attention leech much?

Historical YAs are pretty weird, but at least they have a plot, unlike the "traditional" Historical Romance genre. If I hear of an enormous erection one more time...

I was also a bit disappointed at the end. I was hoping the cure would be harder to attain. Get more nervous, wonder if she'll live or die, you know the usual sadistic thing that readers do. It was all too easy, and the Epilogue was weird. It didn't include 5 babies and a dog, and it didn't conclude the story. Will the next book focus on different characters or will it stay with Rogan and Wolfe? They got their epilogue, so is L next? She's on the cover after all.

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### **Cait says**

**Some spoilers are in this review. You have now been warned and I will not be responsible for any red-face, shock, and/or heart attacks that may occur if you don't like spoilers.**

Slumber is the remake of the classic fairy tale Sleeping Beauty, but with a couple of twists. The heroic "knight" that saves her from her deep sleep and restores her crumbling kingdom-instead of the dashing Prince Charming- is none other than her best friend Rogan.

The book starts off in a way I didn't expect. Instead of it beginning with her in the present time, it starts off with Rogan telling of her childhood in a nice (but slightly wordy) whimsical prose:

*When I was a child the world smelled of summer.*

*The heady perfume of the dancing wildflowers would hug my senses every time the breeze rattled their song and took them with it on its journey to soothe my cheeks from the heat of the afternoon sun. The relieving scent of the damp soil when the sun had pushed the sky too far and it wept rain for days on end, before wearily turning the world back over to its golden companion. The refreshing aroma of lemons in the thick air of the house, mixing with my mother's baking as she prepared our afternoon repast of bitter lemonade and*

*thick warm bread, slathered with creamy butter made cold from the sheltering shade of the larder.*

*And my father's pipe.*

*The sweet odour of tobacco tickling my nose as he held me close and whispered the stories of our Salvation and the mighty Kral who lived in the grandest palace in all the land with his beautiful daughter the Princezna... how kind and gentle they were... the reason my private world was one of innocence and endless summer."*

Then, very quickly, Rogan's childhood, and innocence, really, are shattered when Vikomt Stovia arrives at her house and brutally murders her mother, father, and little brother right in front of her eyes. Why, do you ask? Because she's an Azyl: a person with the magic to seek and find anything anyone desires, and with magic slowly dying out, she's needed at the palace to be the Princezna's Seeker.

Now, before I continue on, I'll fill you guys in on how this world works: it's run by a group of people called the Dyvatzi (who the Princezna Hayden is) who pretty much have this super-sweet power to keep things calm and keep people from hating and being cruel. Then there are the Dravilec, who are the healers, and the Glava who are pretty much wizards and can control the elements, have telekinesis, and can control people's minds, and as I said, the Azyls.

So the King dies and it is left to his 8 year old daughter, Hayden, to rule (they are the only Dyvatzi left), she has Stovia go find one of each of the tribes of people, but due to her weak powers being only a child, Stovia uses some cruel-and very unnecessary- ways to find them all.

I found Stovia to be a great bad guy in the story. The things he did were truly awful: he murdered, ripped children from their homes, and used Rogan's own powers to find and murder the healer's family. Also he really has a total disregard and carelessness for human life. He broke Rogan's mother's neck ,slit her little brother's throat, then stepped over his body like it was just a log. Oh, and he branded his own freaking son and called him his property, so if that's not a messed-up guy I don't know what is. I also like how Rogan described him: like a snake. I know that that's kind of cliche, but Young really extends it to his whole being; his cloak hisses, his eyes are black, he stalks and slides along the ground, etc. He was bad to the max, essentially. A pretty good villain, in my eyes.

But, back to the plot line!

So Stovia brings all of the children with the powers back to the young Princezna, Hayden (who has no idea of what means he used to acquire these children) and Hayden immediately latches onto Rogan to become her family, since she lost what little she already had, and her and Rogan become close friends as they learn palace life. There really isn't much about them growing up except for one part (but that's a bit of a spoiler) and the story jumps ahead to present time where Hayden is 17 and Rogan is 19, and, as Hayden falls under the sleeping ailment, her country is thrown into chaos and only Rogan can find the location of the one flower that can save her life.

I have never hated-and yet loved- a character as much as I have one feisty little Rogan. I loved her because she's gone through so much horrible shit in her life: her parents and brother dying, and (view spoiler) instead of being oh woe is me my life sucks, she moves on because get this, guys: she knows that there are more important things to do and she has to move on to help her and her country. I'm not saying that she's some unemotional robot, either. She has horrible nightmares every night about that time with Stovia and the Mountain Man, and she can't deal with certain things because they remind her too much of that horrible time

in her life. But she puts her own demons behind her for the day and doesn't let it effect her. Now *that's* a MC that I can get behind and root for in a novel, which is exactly what I did.

Before I get to what I also didn't like Rogan, I have to talk about one hot piece of man, Wolfe Stovia (whom I also like to call Wolfie and my Wolfe-man) I *love* him. Now I know you're probably thinking, Stovia.....hey, isn't this his son?! \*gasp\* why do you love him I'm sure he's totally *evil!* And in response to that, I have a question. Who says that just because it's the son of the bad guy that he also has to be rotten to the core? This has become very common in YA these days; the child of the bad guy is evil, bitchy, backstabbing, pretty much the cliche "the apple never falls far from the tree". But Slumber breaks off of this mold which couldn't make me happier. Wolfe is the total opposite of his father. He's Captain of the Guard, has a deep sense of right and wrong, and is virtuous. Don't get me wrong, he's not some angelic good boy; he's badass and he knows it, but it's a different kind of BA than the norm of:

\* guy rides up all in black leather on a black motorcycle and leans against a light-pole: "hey, my name's Malcolm, totally cool bad-boy name right?" \*tucks hands into dark-washed jeans in the typical fashion\*  
Me: Alright, then...Hey.

Malcolm: "I'm going to go be a rebel and do something highly illegal/dangerous, coerce you into coming with me, then, when we're on a total adrenaline high, I'll let you in on some highly deep and personal secret of mine that shows I actually do have feelings." \*puts on black sunglasses\* "let's go"

Me: Uhhmm that's alright, I've seen it before \*yawn\*

Malcolm: what?! No one has been able to resist the secret soft side that is Malcom! Lets try this again."

Me: well, if you really want.... you can try.

Malcolm: \*staggers a little bit up to me\* " hey, I'm totally drunk and hammered, but it's not because I'm bad; that's all show, it's because I've had really bad stuff happen to me and I think about you all the time so I drink! I love you, Cait! Come away with me!"

Me: \*eyes get huge\* "have fun with that" \*runs away\*

*This* is what Wolfe is like:

\*comes up on a horse in his Guard clothes looking all badass with his sword and expertly swings off of his horse and looks at me with those crazy-hot blue eyes\*

Me: Ohhhh boy.

Wolfe: "I've had bad shit happen in my life, but that's neither here nor there. I'm just going to try and protect you as best as I can, and maybe, once I earn your trust, you can grow to love me as much as I've loved you ever since I first saw you. Maybe then, and only if you want, we can share and help each other through what's happened to both of us. "

Me: \*swoon\*

( I know I probably failed at that, but, seriously, he's amazing)

You can tell right from the very beginning that Wolfe loves Rogan, even if both of them say snide remarks and push at each other's buttons. He's always right there with her, protecting her, no matter what, and I loved him for it.

**Some spoilers ahead relationship-wise. If you *really* don't want to know what happens in their relationship, then stop here, although it's pretty obvious the second you first see Wolfe**

Which is exactly *why* I hated Rogan. After him *only* having to save her life about four freaking times, she finally realizes that he loves her and, well, they do the deed ( which was a really good scene). But, guess what she does, folks? She gets up in the morning, sees Wolfe gone, and decides that she's making.....get this.....*a mistake*. If that wasn't stupid enough, she goes and tells Wolfe that and essentially breaks his heart, for really no reason that I felt like was a big deal. Then she still has the balls to make out with him two more

times, have sex with him again, listen to Wolfe tell a girl he used to be in a serious relationship with that he loves only Rogan, and STILL denies him. I mean, whhhaaattt?!?! To use an analogy to reiterate my point it was kind of like this photo:

To set up the scene in case you don't watch baseball, the pitcher throws the ball and hits the hitter in the thigh, and the hitter rushes the mound to go:

- A. Punch the pitcher
- B. Pick up his leg and hop at the pitcher, who does the same in return
- C. Spit in the pitcher's face
- D. A & C

Well, if any of you are crazy and chose B, you're....

Right!

Besides the craziness of that; it's pretty much how I felt about Rogan. I thought that they would just go into their relationship easily after being together, but then she does a japanese pitcher and throws me all off-balance. I felt like, after Stovia was gone as the villain, Rogan herself was the villain in this book. She kept on making all the wrong choices and sabotaging herself almost everywhere she went, which was probably why I ticked off the star.

The only other thing that bothered me in this book was some of the language that Young set up. It looked like it was a mix of slavic and italian, and some of the names were hard to pronounce because of it.

Besides all that, though, I really liked this book. The journey was really well-written for the most part. There was a lot of action (mostly in the way of kidnapping and other things that put Rogan in danger) and I liked that Rogan could take care of herself. She was tough and the journey made her even tougher, while also making her grow and mature in ways she and I didn't really expect. Really, really horrible things happened to her on her mission to save her friend, and she just kept on going no matter what the cost when, if I was in her shoes, I don't think I'd be able to. I would have curled up in a little ball and shriveled up, but she thrived.

There was no horribly random cliffhanger at the end of the book, or Wolfe and Rogan separate again; really, it's all tied up and taken care of so I'm kind of excited to see what new turn Young takes with the next book in this series. Definitely read this novel if you haven't already.

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**Jessica ✽ ↠ Silverbow ↠ ✽ Rabid Reads-no-more says**

**4.5 stars**

**Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

*Slumber* by Samantha Young has one of the best first lines I've ever read:

*“When I was a child the world smelled of summer.”*

It's nostalgic. It's foreboding. If the world still smelled of summer, of bright things, of happy things, there would be no need to remember what life was like when you were young . . .

Rogan comes from a magical people much like the Fae. They removed themselves from the human world millennia ago after creating a new world—Phaedra. Among her people are the Dyzvati who fill those around them with peace while draining all negative emotions. There are the Glava who have myriad magical gifts, including, but not limited to power over the elements, foretelling and intuition, and telekinesis. Then there are the Azyl who, like Rogan, can be asked to find a thing, anything in the world, and their magic will lead them to it.

Over time magic has begun die out, until only the princess of the Realm, Haydyn, is left of the Dyzvati, who are responsible for keeping the world at peace (or emotionally lobotomized depending on how you look at it). The use of a Dyzvati's magic is called the Evocation, and while it is weakened after the death of the Kral (Haydyn's father), an evil man, Syracen Stovia, free to pursue his vices for the first time, seeks out other magic users in the realm. Syracen does this under the guise of securing stability for the young princess, but his method is by indiscriminately slaughtering any who stand in his way . . . including Rogan's family.

Fast forward eight years, and a now nineteen year old Rogan is the “Handmaiden of Pheadra,” thus named by Haydyn (her BFF). Syracen has been brought to justice years ago (and by “brought to justice” I mean EXECUTED, and good riddance), and Wolfe, Syracen’s son, is captain of the guard.

Rogan hates Wolfe.

\*snickers\*

But when Haydyn contracts the Somna virus, a rare disease in which the victim falls asleep and never wakes (Ohhhh, the iiiironnyy), Rogan demands that someone, anyone (except for Wolfe) command her to find the cure (the believed-to-be-extinct Somna plant), enabling her magic to find it, if it exists.

It does exist, at the mythical Pool of Pheadra, and Rogan is commanded by Haydyn’s advisers to allow Wolfe and 50 of his guard to accompany her on the journey.

Rogan is furious. Because she H-A-T-E-S Wolfe.

\*snorts\*

And thus begins the best paranormal romance/fantasy book I. Have. Ever. Read.

*Slumber* wasn’t the first Samantha Young book that I read, but it is my favorite. I looked it up in my Amazon history and over several weeks, I purchased and read *every single book* she had available. I’ve done that with several indie authors—Kristen Ashley (and that took a while), R.L. Mathewson, and Elizabeth Hunter to name a few—but Samantha Young was the very first.

I remember reading the teaser chapters on her blog for *On Dublin Street*, and I remember the first time I saw that same book sitting on a shelf in Target. Samantha Young, an independent writer from SCOTLAND, had her book for sale in one of American’s biggest discount retailers<—THE FEELS.

The point is that I have a special place on the bookshelf of my heart for Samantha Young, and this book is IMO her best. Rogan is the perfect, prickly, know-it-all-who-painfully-learns-she-doesn’t-know-it-all-BUT-

is-big-enough-to-admit-it heroine. Wolfe is a leader of the pack (heh) on my the-book-boy-is-mine list. I love the secondary characters, I love the relationship development, I love the individual character growth, I love, love, L-O-V-E the story.

So if you liked *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, Cinda Williams Chima's *Seven Realms* series, or Kristen Ashley's *Fantasyland* series, I order you to immediately purchase and devour this book in one sitting. Then you can be hooked on Samantha Young too.

\*grins hugely\*

And if you haven't read any of those books, but you like Fantasy and/or Paranormal Romance, I highly recommend you give *Slumber* a go. It's a perfect blend of both genres, and as indie books are notoriously cheap (this one is like a dollar), even if (youaredeadinside) you don't like it, you won't have to regret spending a bunch of your book allowance on a book you didn't like. The potential gains FAR outweigh the potential losses (IM humble O).

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### **oliviasbooks says**

Slumber is road trip fantasy fiction set in a parallel world, which some magicians' clans had especially created for their kind in order to evade human persecution in ours.

A few centuries after the world's construction magical talents have become rare among the newborn, but everybody believes that magic is necessary to keep the small world from tumbling into chaos. After the ruler dies, his young daughter Haydyn is the last known person able to excise nationwide mindcontrol: Her job is to keep all her subjects from nursing violent or aggressive emotions and certainly from acting upon them. Everlasting peace among the handful of provinces and the two nomadic clans is the highest goal in Phaedra. It is doubly tragic, that it had been in the name of said peace that the Captain of the young princess' guard employed unnecessarily brutal methods to gather the latest generation of mages at the palace when they were still small: Willing to cooperate or not - he had his soldiers kill every family member of Rogan, Kir and Valena in front of the gifted children's eyes and left their properties in smoking heaps of ashes and bones.

It is quite understandable that Rogan still harbors a deep hatred for the man responsible for slaughtering her family, although the princess has grown to be her best friend, values her opinion above all and had the sadistic killer tried and executed for his crimes years ago. It is also understandable that Rogan is a bit weary of the sincerity of his will to protect her, when the former Captain's son Wolfe inherits his father's position and treats her with a mixture of chivalry and cold haughtiness. And, gosh, does the initiatory bickering of the two entertain, when princess Haydyn falls into a deep slumber and the royal court sends Rogan on a heavily chaperoned road trip to find the almost extinct antidote plant in far away mountains because of her magical ability to find everything she had been ordered to find.

But what is not understandable and also not amusing at all is Rogan's resolve to keep despising Wolfe on principle because of what his father did to her family even *after* he repeatedly went enormous lengths to save her life and keep her out of the hands of thugs and rapists and although the dangerous situations she found herself in again and again were mainly her very *own* fault. For there *is* a reason the royal court sent 50 soldiers to accompany her on her cross-country journey - namely reports of heightened violence, vagabond

thief groups and savage rebels in the provinces. Yet Rogan values her privacy and her own judgement so high that she sneaks off on her own on a regular basis for no urgent reason at all (view spoiler), which certainly triggers trouble each time. The repetitions got boring with time and Rogan "evolved" from a tough cookie victim to a snotty brat who doesn't deserve all the loving and worrying.

Because of the good start Slumber and I had, I had been pretty bent on ploughing through, but I started skimming at approximately 60% and lost monumentum shortly before 70%. Now there is no drive left to finish the journey side by side with the annoying hope of her little universe, Lady Rogan of Phaedra.

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### **Jamila says**

There's only SO much stupid one can handle and this book tests the limits >\_>

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### **Hillary Hunt says**

I thought this book was similar in style to "Graceling" and "Poison Study"; a romantic fantasy which is pretty much my favorite genre. Definitely the best of Samantha Young's work, of which I've read a fair amount.

Things to love: It has a strong female heroine.

The story starts out with an immediate emotional hook that will draw you in.

The male love interest has a believably conflicted relationship with the heroine.

Much of the conflict in the story arises from the protagonist herself as she struggles to come to terms with her fear and pride.

The author does a good job of setting up a pretty rich and detailed world; the diverse cities, the different titles and ranking of nobility, the gypsies, the rookery, the mountain people, and the different classes of magically gifted people. I found the world very well drawn.

The romance is quite yummy, but also bittersweet. Hardly young adult, as there is some mild sexy times. But more importantly, I found the premise of their relationship a compelling one, and it was fun to watch it develop.

Really some dark, disturbing scenes in this book. The author was pretty fearless in what she was willing to do to her characters, so I must give props for that.

The ending is satisfying, and I think I like where the author is going with the character of Haydyn. I think it would be awesome if Haydyn transitions to a darker character!

Complaints/Criticism: Sometimes the language the characters used felt too modern for this sort of old-world, fantasy setting.

Complaint #2: Rogan's shoddy reasoning often stretched beyond the point of believability and felt forced to ensure conflict. You would think if she really cared about saving her friend, she would put her pride second to getting the job done in a safe and efficient manner. Further to that point, her inner turmoil over Wolfe was

getting silly towards the end. She likes him, but she can't be with him. She's with him, but it was a mistake. Okay, so it wasn't a mistake, but they can't really get married. On and on she thought like this. It felt a little forced just so we could watch Wolfe chase her a little bit more. Which, I'll admit, was enjoyable if a little contrived. I really would've liked to have seen Rogan have to do some groveling and chasing towards Wolfe because her actions were that selfish and stupid.

Complaint #3: the sub-plot involving the dude who tries to seduce Rogan into finding his lost love felt really random and pointless.

But overall, I really loved this book and am looking forward to the next. Really entertaining read. This is the kind of book for me that is a pleasure to curl up with on a Sunday afternoon.

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### **Ezinwanyi says**

I didn't enjoy this one but it was me. If you like Fantasy stories, this is a good one. It was set in a magical Realm Dyzvati with princess Haydyn and her BFF Rogan as the main characters. Haydyn had a disease and Rogan was on the quest to get a plant in order to save the last living princess of Dyzvati.

Rogan as the Handmaiden of Pheadra was a pretty strong character and heroine, but I guess I was expecting some of the On Dublin Street magic. But Rogan was a focused heroine, and so the story wasn't focused on attraction brewing between Rogan and Wolfe, the captain of the guard.

I really liked Wolfe and wanted him to find happiness with Rogan. But Rogan was very resistant to him because of Wolfe's father (Syracen) and what he'd done to Rogan's family. I was hoping for more fireworks and angst, but it wasn't really there. It was an okay story but it just didn't thrill me.

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### **Heather says**

I have to admit that I was instantly intrigued by this story because it is based on sleeping beauty, but with a twist, and I absolutely love how Samantha Young wrote it. This story doesn't revolve around "sleeping beauty" Hayden, but rather her best friend Rogan. Because, Hayden cannot be woken up with a simple kiss from her one true love but by an almost nonexistent herb that only Rogan can find.

I have to say that I completely love the heroine in this story, Lady Rogan. She was so self assured and strong willed, feisty and witty that I instantly took a liking to her. She is also extremely loyal to Hayden even though the circumstances that brought these two together were not the greatest. Rogan was forced to watch her parents and younger brother's murder in order for her to be taken because she is a mage. Rogan is what is called an Azyl, a person who has the magic to find anything that she is told to find.

After the horrors that she has to face Rogan is brought to Hayden and they instantly become like sisters. Their bond is so strong that nothing can break it. They were there for each other through the deaths of their parents and were what each other needed to make it through life.

After the background is told then the story is fast forwarded into the present with Rogan 19 and Hayden 17. The disease takes a hold of Hayden and Rogan is thrust into a journey that is filled with horror, pain and perhaps love. But, non of this matters to Rogan because all she cares about it saving Hayden's life and retrieving the magical plant that will allow her to wake up before she succumbs to death.

The journey Rogan is set on involved the mas Rogan despises most in this world, Captain Wolfe. She hates him because his father is the one who murdered her family and took her away. She believes that Wolfe is just like his father and only biding his time before he also does something horrifying.

This complicated romance between Lady Rogan and Captain Wolfe was a nice surprise. There is so much hate and tension between the two that at first the reader is stunned into thinking something is actually going on with them. If they are speaking to each other it's rude commentary and if they aren't speaking to each other they are giving evil looks to one another just to make it clear that they despise each other. I think this has to be one of my favorite love that I got to completely devour. It was angry and hateful but at the same time romantic and passionate.

This is also an action packed adventure for Rogan. There is always something happening in every chapter and it really leave you with nothing to do but to keep tearing at the pages to find out what is going to happen next. *Slumber* is astonishing through and through. It has everything a reader could ever want in a story, action, adventure, romance and wonderful characters. This book has left me with nothing left to do but wait, impatiently I might add, for the sequel to be released. Let me say it again... I absolutely loved *Slumber* and I am sure you will too! It is a story that draws you deep into it clutches and doesn't want to ever let go! ;)

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### **Lisa says**

#### **Rating: 4.5 Stars**

*Slumber* was my first Samantha Young book. I finished reading and I asked myself why I waited so long to read something from this author. Needless to say, Samantha Young is awesome, her writing is crazy good and *Slumber* was an amazing read!

In *Slumber*, Samantha Young creates the mythological kingdom of Phaedra. She has created unique mythology, an interesting fantasy realm, and a heroine and hero with unique powers and strong characters. Ms. Young has created an entirely unique story with copious amounts of action and romance, and she subtly explores the deeper issues of the conflicts between individual free will and peace, and the balance that ruling officials struggle to achieve to govern and protect their people.

Our heroine, Rogan, must go on a quest to find a cure for the sleeping disease to save her best friend Hayden, the *princezna* of Phaedra, as she has fallen victim to the mysterious illness and only Rogan has a power to find the cure. To rescue her friend, Rogan must travel through dangerous terrain throughout the Kingdom accompanied by the royal guard and their captain, Wolfe Stovia. Incidentally, Wolfe's father is the man who murdered Rogan's entire family before her very eyes when she was a child and is the reason she came to the palace in the first place.

Quite understandably, there is and has always been an animosity/tension between Rogan and Wolfe and now the two of them must travel a great distance with a fraction of the royal guard. Rogan does not trust the sincerity of Wolfe's will to protect her and I most definitely loved the bickering and banter between the two

initially. I really loved Rogan's character....for the most part. Rogan is a strong heroine who loves deeply, who takes great risks and fights for those she loves, and who has a brave and often reckless nature. However, she is also as stubborn as a mule and often made extremely poor decisions throughout the journey. What became extremely tiresome, and the reason why I give this book a 4.5 rating instead of a 5 star rating, was Rogan's resolve to keep despising Wolfe on principle because of what his father did to her and her family even after he repeatedly went to enormous lengths to save her life. Rogan found herself in some dangerous situations which were mainly her fault and each time Wolfe is there for her constantly proving that he had deep feelings for her. By the time Wolfe saved Rogan for the last time, they make up and she walks away again - I simply wanted to do this:

Despite the MANY times I was aggravated (*really really peeved!*) with her choices or Rogan's inability to see Wolfe's affection for her, I would remind myself of her personal tragedies. To a certain degree, I did understand where she was coming from. Rogan experienced some serious tragedy early in life and that would deeply affect anyone.

Wolfe is the ideal love interest for my tastes and simply **YUMMY**. He is strong and confident, but also affectionate when it was warranted. He loves Rogan despite her animosity and confusion towards him. This did not make him a push-over. He held his own and fought back. He was exactly the type of man Rogan needed so that she could see that she did need love and deserved a HEA. I loved Rogan and Wolfe together. I could understand the problems on either side and where they were each coming from. I was ecstatic when they finally got together and Young most definitely wrote some swoon-worthy moments and smexy scenes.

*Slumber* has plenty of action, fascinating real characters, and a very unique setting. I am such a sucker for great fantasy reads and Young most certainly delivers! I will definitely be reading more books by this author.

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### **Penny says**

Meh, It's ok.

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### **Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says**

*My casting:*

Woah, Samantha Young never seem to disappoint us! Man, here she goes and bring us yet another fantastic book!! Though, my favorite will always be 'Moon Spell', nothing can compete with that one.. But I still love 'Slumber', and I'm really hoping for a book two with my baby Wolfe! :D

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### **Jennifer says**

So...much...wonderfulness (is that a word?) I love books like this....imagination...adventure...friendship...but mostly looooove.

Girl hates boy because boy's father killed her family. Boy secretly loves girl but acts like he hates her.

I loved Wolfe! Brooding and strong and protective.

I loved Rogan! Strong and independent and selfless.

I love that there wasn't any angst in this book (because story isn't set in high school :)).

I love Samantha Young! I could read anything she writes!

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## **Karla says**

### **4.5 Stars! Impressive!**

Best \$1.14 you'll ever spend, kick in another \$1.99 for the audiobook and you got yourself one heck of a deal!!

What an engaging, compelling, amazing read! We all know Samantha Young for her brilliant book, *On Dublin Street*, but I had no idea how talented she really was! Your heart will go through the wringer with this one, and beware, because there are some brutal scenes in this book! But it's all worth it just to read about Wolfe Stovia! RAWRRRR!!

There is a whole host of intriguing characters and an adventure that will captivate you. Rogan was a little irritating, but then again with all that happened to her, she should be allowed to have attitude. This read was one of the best surprises of the year, and again I say...Wolfe...RAWRRR!!

The narration by Michelle Ford, was fabulous. Her lyrical voice captured the essence of the read, and listening to her pronounce all the names and places properly, which I might have struggled with had I read the book, made it so much more enjoyable.

The entire experience was wonderful. I can't wait to devour all of Samantha Young's fantasy books!

*\*A side note: While researching Samantha Young's other books, I happened to notice that at one time she was going to continue with this series, and this world she created. *Slumber* comes to a pretty satisfying ending, so I was curious to see what the next book, *Sneak Thievery*, was about, and found that the publication of the book was delayed indefinitely. I went over to her website via the link that she has on the book's page. Okay, so what's my point here, well I'll tell you. At one point she felt pressured to write another book, she was just starting out, everyone loved *Slumber*, and she wanted to please her fans, because **they** wanted more. Problem was, there was no more story about this world in her. So rather than write something...just because she could...she chose to go with her heart and leave things as they were. Maybe someday, but not now. It's pretty interesting to see what she has to say, and I applaud her. Instead of pumping out a half baked story, she took the high road and didn't cave into pressure. Way to often when that happens, the result is less than good.*

If you have a few minutes, see what she has to say in *The Learning Curve*.\*

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## Neyra ♦ says

I've been waiting to read this story for over a year now. I love this cover, and I know it's been redesigned and I like that one too, I just think this is a better representation of the story. Anyways, as much as I would of liked to give this book a higher rating, ***my expectations and what I got were completely different.*** This truly is a good story, and had the author approached it with a stronger female lead, I might have enjoyed it far more than I did.

*"Might there come a time when we stand over a grave and mourn ourselves?  
Mourn the past, a previous life?  
Should we weep for the passing of time?  
Shall we grieve for unfulfilled dreams?  
In my naivety, in my belief in immortal youth, I sleep walk through life.  
Someone...wake me up. Please. Wake me up. ~Haydyn Dyzvati"*

There's very little world building in this book, but it was enough for me to get a sense of what Phaedra is all about. ***Samantha Young has created a beautiful world in Slumber*** ; with its beautiful people, the land of Phaedra was created so they could live away from humans and their civil wars. But the people of Phaedra feared their emotions. So much that they decided the Dyzvati, a clan of magical evokers with the ability to lull the people with peace would rule the land. Phaedra was split into six provinces and the each clan was given a province to oversee. You have the Dyzvati, the Glava, the Azyl and the Dravilec. As aeons have passed, only the King and the Princezna remained of the Dyzvati and very few other mages from the rest of the clans.

When the Princezna, Haydyn, falls ill to the very rare, but deadly illness the Somna, or Sleeping Disease, Rogan goes on a journey through Phaedra to find the Somna Plant. Which is said to be able to cure the illness with its leaves. But, as the Princezna's Handmaiden, she won't travel alone. She will take fifty of the Royal Guard, along with their Captain, Vykomt Wolfe Sylvia. The son of the man that ruined Rogan's life. It's very obvious early on in the book that she detests the young Vykomt, and because of what had been done to her it's understandable. I'll even say that I would hate the Captain myself ***IF*** he was anything like his father.. but he's NOT!!

The thing about Rogan is she's not exactly a Lady, she's tough and strong willed, always speaks her mind even though half the time she's out of line, but having been raised in the palace given free reign by the Princezna, it's no wonder she is the way she is. At first, it's easy to form your own opinion of the Captain because of his attitude with Rogan, but as the story progresses you begin to see that the only reason he acts as he does is because Rogan is so damn hostile towards him. She picks unnecessary fights with him throughout the entire book, and honestly at some point I had to reconsider continuing at all.

Throughout the journey, Rogan and the Guard encounter many troubled, but also good people. They see how poorly the land is being governed and what it is doing to the people of Phaedra. They depend too much on the evocation by the Princezna, and since she has fallen ill, it's deteriorating causing peaceful people to act on their emotions, including anger. I do believe that a lot of the situations Rogan went through could have

been avoided if it weren't for her stupid pride. She gets kidnapped twice because of her inability to understand there is danger and she can't protect herself.

Honestly, for a nineteen year old, Rogan was very childish. Her character needed far more development and I felt the ending too abrupt. The romance, if you can even call it that, was ridiculous at best. I could have liked Wolfe, but as a love interest, he didn't quite wow me. I loved discovering what he is, but when it came to his love for Rogan, I wasn't sold. Mainly because of the hostility, I really wish he wouldn't have kept running back to her all the time. There were secondary characters I am curious about, Kir especially, and I'm hoping we get to see more of him in the next installment.

**Would I recommend this book? Yes and no.** Truth be told, if someone had told me how irritating the lead was, I might not have picked it up. But the world itself is enchanting and I want to know what will happen happen to Phaedra now. I read on Samantha Young's blog that she's tried to write her second book, *Sneak Thievery*, but for some reason she can't. I'm hoping that if it's to be delayed, at least it comes out by 2014 like it says on Goodreads.

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### **Tandie says**

I actually started reading this by mistake, thinking I'd opened a different book on my Kindle reader app. I figured it out soon enough, but HAPPY ACCIDENT! Rogan (her name is so wrong! That name belongs to The Scourge of Mexico!) wasn't perfect, kept trying to do things on her own that she wasn't equipped for. Aside from that stubborn streak of stupid, she was alright.

Wolfe was alpha fantastico! Well done, not over cooked in the least. Usually I complain about helpless females, but sheesh! A palace pampered lady who thinks she can brave the wilderness & bad guys on her own? It's a dang good thing that Wolfe was around to rescue her from herself!

Nice, HEA story. Kind of predictable, but the marshmallow fluffy feels made up for it. 4 stars.

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