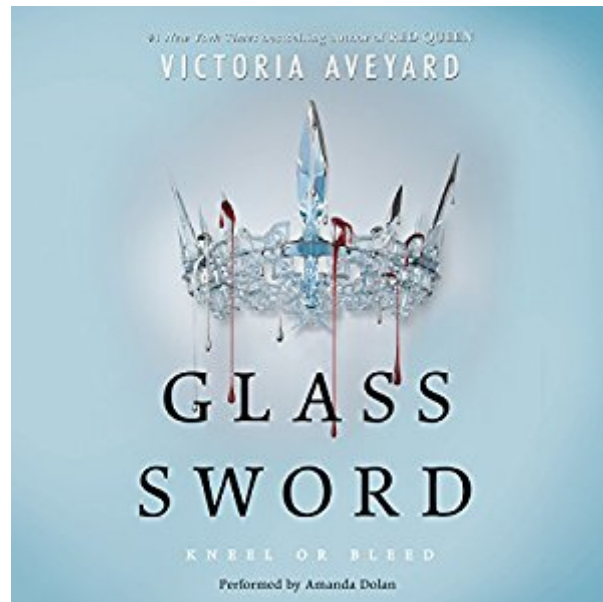


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# Glass Sword



## Synopsis

The electrifying next installment in the Red Queen series escalates the struggle between the growing rebel army and the blood-segregated world they've always known - and pits Mare against the darkness that has grown in her soul. Mare Barrow's blood is red - the color of common folk - but her Silver ability, the power to control lightning, has turned her into a weapon that the royal court tries to control. The crown calls her an impossibility, a fake, but as she makes her escape from Maven, the prince - the friend - who betrayed her, Mare uncovers something startling: She is not the only one of her kind. Pursued by Maven, now a vindictive king, Mare sets out to find and recruit other Red-and-Silver fighters to join in the struggle against her oppressors. But Mare finds herself on a deadly path, at risk of becoming exactly the kind of monster she is trying to defeat. Will she shatter under the weight of the lives that are the cost of rebellion? Or have treachery and betrayal hardened her forever?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have to say it and I hate that I have to say it because this was one of my most anticipated titles of the year | but this book I think suffered greatly from second book syndrome. If you're reading this, you have to know that I absolutely loved Red Queen | it was exciting and suspenseful and full of fantastical elements that drew me in and had me so stupid excited to get my hands on book 2. I loved Mare | I loved Cal | I loved Kilorn and at times I even loved Maven. We dive right into action with Mare and Cal trying to escape Maven with the help of the Scarlet Guard which was exciting and

brought me right back into the heart of the story, but from there it was just a lot of ups and downs for me. The pacing of this part of the story was incredibly slow, and I get that there was no way around it | we needed to find out about the other Reds with special skills, but it was just soooooo stinking sloooooow. Unfortunately, I found myself skimming over passages of the middle of this book and then having to focus, go back and pay better attention. I think my other issues were with Mare | she at times to me seemed to have lost the fire and spirit that I came to love in Red Queen. She was just kind of moving through the motions with no real passion for what she was doing and it was so frustrating! I expected more from her as a character and all the things I needed just were not there. I have to mention the romance because there were a lot of different players in Red Queen, and while they are all still present there is no question as to she | she got the connection with but to be honest, it was soooooo bland and not at all exciting and I didn't get any urges to get them to hook up. I unfortunately think that had a lot to do with my feelings about Mare.

Okay. So: Red Queen was good ! I really liked the whole idea and everything, and finished the book rather quickly, to be brief. Now, I was so excited for Glass Sword. Like, I got it the day it was released. So I really gave it a chance, I did. But boy, by page 40, I could not stand this book. Not just the book, but MARE. Let me break this down into what made this book a disappointing disaster for me. 1) MARE I'm going to call her nightMare because that's exactly what she was throughout the entire book. What on Earth! I've never disliked a main character so much. It started out by her calling herself the 'lightning girl' literally 20 times within the first two chapters. Yes, okay, we get it. You're the Lightning girl, woopy doo. Not only was that incredibly annoying, but her ENTIRE inner dialogue was a pity party that NO ONE wanted to be invited to. On every single page she had to remind everyone of how "broken" and "alone" she was and boo hoo. Oh look at me I'm the Lightning girl and my heart is ice and my soul is black and I'm so alone I can't smile or laugh because that girl is dead and I must become this and that and I must harden my already hard heart and push people away and I can't trust anyone because ANYONE CAN BETRAY ANYONE (yes, we KNOW) and blah blah blah BLAH. Literally all she did was whine!! I'm going to add some legit quotes from the book at the end but I'm just paraphrasing what her inner thoughts were like. We had to be told what nightMare was feeling after every single little thing instead of being SHOWN. Show, not tell. Hello?? NightMare was also incredibly disrespectful, heartless, and distant. She didn't give two craps about her family and belittled Kilorn FOR NO REASON.

If I had to sum up my opinion of Glass Sword, it would be disappointment. I had high expectations

after reading the first novel in the series, Red Queen. I was very impressed, and slightly jealous of the author for making me, the reader, fall in love with Maven and trust him. I personally felt betrayed at the end of the novel when Mare realized that Maven was using her all along for his evil plot to take the throne. I also applaud the first novel for its classic rags-to-riches story with an X-men inspired twist. It kept me interested throughout, and as a slow reader, I have to admit I read this book pretty quickly. Imagine my disappointment when I begin to read Glass Sword. I think part of the problem was that I still liked Maven. Even after what he did to Mare and Cal, he was still my favorite character. I couldn't help but think that his mother, the Queen Elara, had controlled him, convinced him to betray his brother and father, and helped push him to his limit. (I sort of have this mentality that all bad guys are pushed to be bad guys from a bad childhood, not being brought up properly, an unhappy or stressful life, and so on. Basically it's never their fault. Plus, I always fall for the bad guy) All I saw was the "second prince" living in his brother's "shadow", and for that, I never saw him as a villain, even after finishing Glass Sword. I felt like all Mare could have done was go back to him, try to comfort him, try to persuade him that he loved his brother and that his mother was using him like a puppet, etc. I think the author's greatest skill of gaining my trust was also a weakness because of this. In the second book, I felt like Maven was a completely different character, one dimensional, like a villain without reason or motive - it all felt random.

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