



# An Ember in the Ashes

By Sabaa Tahir

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An Ember in the Ashes By Sabaa Tahir

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Torch Against the Night*

**INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER**  
**AMAZON'S BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK OF 2015**  
**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER - FAVORITE FANTASY**  
**BUSTLE'S BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK OF 2015**

"This novel is a harrowing, haunting reminder of what it means to be human — and how hope might be kindled in the midst of oppression and fear." — *The Washington Post*

"*An Ember in the Ashes* could launch Sabaa Tahir into JK Rowling territory...It has the addictive quality of *The Hunger Games* combined with the fantasy of *Harry Potter* and the brutality of *Game of Thrones*." — **Public Radio International**

"*An Ember in the Ashes* glows, burns, and smolders—as beautiful and radiant as it is searing." — *Huffington Post*

"A worthy novel – and one as brave as its characters." — *The New York Times Book Review*

**Laia is a slave. Elias is a soldier. Neither is free.**

Under the Martial Empire, defiance is met with death. Those who do not vow their blood and bodies to the Emperor risk the execution of their loved ones and the destruction of all they hold dear.

It is in this brutal world, inspired by ancient Rome, that Laia lives with her grandparents and older brother. The family ekes out an existence in the Empire's impoverished backstreets. They do not challenge the Empire. They've seen what happens to those who do.

But when Laia's brother is arrested for treason, Laia is forced to make a decision.

In exchange for help from rebels who promise to rescue her brother, she will risk her life to spy for them from within the Empire's greatest military academy.

There, Laia meets Elias, the school's finest soldier—and secretly, its most unwilling. Elias wants only to be free of the tyranny he's being trained to enforce. He and Laia will soon realize that their destinies are intertwined—and that their choices will change the fate of the Empire itself.

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## **An Ember in the Ashes By Sabaa Tahir Bibliography**

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- Original language: English
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 464 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of May 2015:** If the test of a good novel is how badly you want to drop everything to finish it, then Sabaa Tahir's debut *An Ember in the Ashes* gets an A+. The world she creates is rich in fantasy, coupled with echoes of a historical saga, all vividly rendered on the page. Tyrannical leaders and a building rebellion set the stage for dual narrators, Elias, one of the elite, trained from a young age to become a skilled assassin for the Commandant at Blackcliff Military Academy, and Laia, one of the oppressed, forced into the role of spy and saboteur in order to save her only remaining family member. Though diametrically opposed within their society, both Laia and Elias are wracked by internal conflict and driven to great lengths by shame and a desire to escape the bonds of their present lives. A complex relationship between them ensues, and while there is a romantic thread to the story, it is ancillary to the larger forces of political power, crippling deceit, and an undistinguished hope that endures in even the darkest corners of their brutal world. Potent action and liquid language whisk the chapters along all too quickly and while this has not been released as part of a series (yet), there can only be great things in store for author Sabaa Tahir, her Martial Empire, and her readers. -- *Seira Wilson*

### Review

#### Named one of the best books of the year by:

Amazon  
Barnes & Noble  
The Wall Street Journal  
Buzzfeed  
LA Weekly  
Bustle  
Paste Magazine  
Indigo  
Suspense Magazine  
The New York Public Library  
Popsugar  
Hypable

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"This novel is a harrowing, haunting reminder of what it means to be human—and how hope might be kindled in the midst of oppression and fear." —*The Washington Post*

"[*An Ember in the Ashes*] thrusts its readers into a world marred by violence and oppression, yet does so with simple prose that can offer moments of loveliness in its clarity. This complexity makes *Ember* a worthy novel—and **one as brave as its characters.**" —*The New York Times Book Review*

"**Sabaa Tahir spins a captivating, heart-pounding fantasy.**" —*Us Weekly*

"*An Ember in the Ashes* mixes *The Hunger Games* with *Game of Thrones*...and adds a dash of *Romeo and*

*Juliet.*” —*The Hollywood Reporter*

**“Blew me away...This book is dark, complex, vivid, and romantic—expect to be completely transported.”** —MTV.com

“Fast-paced, well-structured and **full of twists and turns**, *An Ember in the Ashes* is an evocative debut that has left me invested in knowing what happens next.” —NPR

“Once you get caught up in the story, **it’s addictive, and there’s no way you can put it down** before you figure out what happens to the characters you have fallen for over the course of the 400 some-odd pages. So I didn’t.” —Bustle

**“One thing I can say for sure: this is a page-turner. There comes a moment when it’s impossible to put it down.** Sabaa Tahir is a strong writer, but most of all, she’s a great storyteller.” —*The Huffington Post*

**“This epic fantasy set in the Martial Empire has it all:** danger and violence, secrets and lies, strong characters and forbidden romance and a touch of the supernatural.” —*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“A setting inspired by ancient Rome; a fierce battle for freedom in the face of tyranny; and **a villain who makes Cersei Lannister and Dolores Umbridge look like a pair of pathetic amateurs...***An Ember in the Ashes* is at the **top of our must-read list** for 2015.” —MTV.com

**“Be prepared to be blown away** by this fantasy-thriller-adventure.” —*Girls’ Life*

*“An Ember in the Ashes* is a book that’s **too good to put down.**” —*RedEye*

**“Perfect for fans of Maggie Stiefvater’s *The Scorpio Races* or Sarah Maas’s *Throne of Glass* series...**The book is already set to be a film, which will be EPIC!” —TeenVogue.com

\* “Tahir’s **deft, polished debut** alternates between two very different perspectives on the same brutal world, deepening both in the contrast. In **a tale brimming with political intrigue and haunted by supernatural forces**, the true tension comes from watching Elias and Laia struggle to decide where their loyalties lie.” —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

“Tahir’s world-building is wonderfully detailed and the setting is an unusual one for fantasy novels. All of her characters, even minor ones, are fully realized....**For fans of *Game of Thrones* and of Melina Marchetta’s *Finnikin of the Rock*.**” —*School Library Journal*

“An original, well-constructed fantasy world...**truly engaging.**” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“An **epic fantasy debut** about an orphan fighting for her family and a soldier fighting for his freedom. It’s a story that’s literally burning to be told.” —Hypable.com

“First-time novelist Tahir has written an ambitious sword-and-sand adventure story that is notable for its suspense and scope.” —*Booklist*

“Here’s **one of the year’s most anticipated** young-adult debuts.” —io9.com

**“I was so engrossed with this book that I missed a connecting flight.** If that doesn’t convince you to

read *An Ember in the Ashes*, I don't know what will. **An explosive, heartbreaking, epic debut** that will keep you glued to the pages. I hope the world's ready for Sabaa Tahir." —**Marie Lu, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Legend***

"With *An Ember in the Ashes*, Sabaa Tahir shows us light in the darkness, hope in a world of despair, and the human spirit reaching for greatness in difficult times." —**#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Brandon Sanderson**

"*An Ember in the Ashes* is a **spectacular page turner** that asks readers to consider how far they'd go to save the ones they love. **Sabaa Tahir is the next superstar in young adult fiction** and her debut is as cinematic as *Gladiator* and as high-stakes as *Game of Thrones*." —**Holly Goldberg Sloan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counting by 7s***

"A **heart-pounding story of love and loss**, with the most original world-building I've read all year. Deeply felt and deeply moving, **I could not put it down.**" —**Margaret Stohl, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *Beautiful Creatures***

"This electric debut is a **pulse-pounding action-packed *Romeo and Juliet*** story in a richly imagined world with a great twist and heroic characters you'll root for and won't stop thinking about." —**Melissa de la Cruz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Frozen* and *The Ring and the Crown***

#### About the Author

Sabaa Tahir grew up in California's Mojave Desert at her family's eighteen-room motel. There, she spent her time devouring fantasy novels, raiding her brother's comic book stash, and playing guitar badly. She began writing *An Ember in the Ashes* while working nights as a newspaper editor. She likes thunderous indie rock, garish socks, and all things nerd. Sabaa currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family.

For more information, please visit Sabaa at [SabaaTahir.com](http://SabaaTahir.com) or on Twitter @SabaaTahir.

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

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##### Dawn Nelson:

Do you have something that suits you such as a book? The publication lovers usually prefer to opt for a book like comic, brief story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not seeking *An Ember in the Ashes*

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**Richard Lawrence:**

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