

Down Comes the Night By Allison Saft I had a great time with it and look forward to reading more from Allison Saft! 9781250623638 Down Comes the Night has a very compelling premise: two enemies standing on opposite sides of an unending war find themselves miserably trapped with unknowable terrors (and with each other) inside an estate lurking deep in the dark fog-wreathed mountains and like any trapped thing they must scrape up answers and fight to the bitter end together. Down Comes the Night thrives in its themes of heritage and war and power and in the changing relationship between Wren and Hal and the two far outshine the sparsely decorated setup and the anemic predictability of the storyline. Their heady collision precipitates a difficult education and it is that slow painful unraveling of received notions and ideas about one another which constitutes the novel's most rewarding experience. 9781250623638 Okay! There are gothic disturbing vibes a blooming true romance hateful kingdoms references to Darwin's theory of natural selection and Frankenstein and pure magic dances with fantasy genre. This combination seems like an intriguingly fresh riveting enjoyable debut novel! A dark mansion reminds you of Guillermo Del Toro's dark claustrophobic world building a rich mysterious man keeps very dangerous secret beyond the closed doors two rivalries dig out mysteries by roaming around the eerie ominous corridors looking for secret passages to find clues to stop the probable war between the kingdoms as they helplessly fall for each other. As the epic rivalry brings both kingdoms of the Danubian and Vesria at the edge of war Wren Southerland is the most skilled healer of the Danubian at the service of Queen's Guard is punished by her own aunt Queen Isabel who is merciless ice queen never shows any sign of compassion. Even though she is talented healer she is insecure because of cruel attitudes of Queen and now her best friend lover Una puts her rising career in the kingdom first criticizing her emotional choices as weakness. But as soon as she arrives at the mansion the suspicious attitudes and mood swings of Lowry makes her question about her decision and as soon as she finds out the identity of the patient she wants to run away without looking back because the patient is their kingdom's arch enemy Hal Cavendish: ruthless warrior killer using his destructive magic by using his enchanting eyes. If Wren heals him that will be treachery crime but does she needs to make sacrifices for greater good or she has to kill the enemy by herself which will be against the ethics of being a healer. VERY good!With thanks to Netgalley for providing a free copy in exchange for an honest reviewYouTube | Blog | Instagram | Twitter | Facebook | Snapchat @miranda_reads 9781250623638 He saw the darkness in her magic. So when a letter arrives from a reclusive lord asking Wren to come to his estate Colwick Hall to cure his servant from a mysterious illness she seizes her chance to redeem herself. 5 starsA whirlwind romantic fantasy with forces at play that are darker than what meets the eye Down Comes the Night follows Wren a soldier with healing magic whose life changes when she once again makes the mistake of letting her emotions get in the way of her job. In an attempt to save her life as she knows it and her country she accepts employment from a mysterious foreign lord leading her to meet her country's enemy and fall into a dark plot where they must work together to save their kingdoms. There were times especially at the beginning where there were endless paragraphs of extensive descriptions that bogged down the story but it got better over time as more action happened. It is this that makes Down Comes the Night compelling: its study of characters being forced to grow up in the shade of war of what is deemed monstrous and what constitutes as strength and what deserves kindness when war has a tight grasp on your identity and your life. One of my main issues with Down Comes the Night though was that I didn't care for the romance—the book started off strong but as it began to focus more on Wren and Hal's relationship it fell flat for me. I actually enjoyed the book a lot when it delved into some more sinister things (such as exploring the mysterious house) or took on a darker atmosphere (as it did in the beginning) but for the most part I wanted more. And I think part of the reason why this lacked the creepier quality I was looking for was because this book kind of just went all over the place—there was an ongoing war plus people disappearing plus a mysterious mansion plus a strange sickness; the expected gothic atmosphere would have been a lot more evident if the book had felt less chaotic in my opinion. " While Down Comes the Night doesn't live up to everything it promises lacking in both its romance and atmosphere it was still relatively enjoyable for me and explored

interesting ideas. I'm not sure I would recommend this because I honestly feel more indifferent about it than any other extreme feeling but definitely go into this book with adjusted expectations about its supposed gothic-ness if you decide to pick it up and hopefully you will find more enjoyment in its romance—and therefore the book as a whole—than I did. —□—:: representation :: bisexual MC Black wlw side character:: content warnings :: war murder gore descriptions of medical/surgical procedures depictions of blood// buddy read with cath! Thank you to Macmillan for sending me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. It shows the convolution of their characters which made me feel more connected and understanding despite how some of them got me wanted to pull my hair (out of frustration) because Wren is Wren while Una is Una. Although one may find Hal a bit uninteresting (only because he was sick and there was not much you can get from someone who's been lying on his bed most of the time) but at some features he was almost the same as Wren. And now I understand why the author dedicated this book: to all the girls who feel too much. Although I don't really fall into the category I believe you would relate to Wren and feel heard. After Wren Southerland is suspended from the queen's guard for her reckless actions she travels to the estate of an enigmatic lord who's sought out her healing services for one of his servants. I think the magic system that the author presents is really fascinating but there needed to be more explored within the world since it played such an integral part to the plot. Gothic fantasy romance a murder mystery what else could you possibly want from a book? The enemies-to-lovers and forbidden romance tropes are my absolute favorites in the romance world and this book has both. *chef's kiss* What starts as a misfit trying to avoid being sent to an abbey for the remainder of her life quickly turns into Wren realizing that she might have bitten off more than she can chew in caring for Hal. As is usually the case not all is as it originally appeared and both of our main characters have to come to terms with the fact that everything they thought they knew isn't exactly the truth. I loved journeying alongside of Hal and Wren as the mystery was engaging the romance was an added reprieve from some of the heavier moments and the atmosphere was dark and oppressive in the best way. My only concern is that I wish we had seen a little more into the magic system and Wren's life before the first page of the book as both of these play an integral role in the plot's progression. 9781250623638 A DARK GOTHIC FANTASY REMINISCENT OF GUILLERMO DEL TORO (WITH A BISEXUAL MC AND LOTS OF PINING)?? YES I SAY VERY MUCH YES (this book is my literal brand) edit: look at that cover gothic vibes aboundddd 9781250623638 Allison Saft is the New York Times and indie bestselling author of A Far Wilder Magic and Down Comes the Night. After receiving her MA in English Literature from Tulane University she moved from the Gulf Coast to the West Coast where she spends her time rolling on eight wheels and practicing aerial silks, There is a castle and it had the opportunity to be a gothic story but it just wasn't, I love the name Wren and was so excited for this book, I guess it was the 30% mark it started to get relatively interesting. And I love the cover! I enjoyed Wren more when she was at the castle taking care of Hal: I enjoyed the slow burn little romance but it was mostly a let down for me. I will say the ending was good and that made me happy: I'm in the minority as most people love this book so you need to read it and make up your own mind, *Thank you to Netgalley and Wednesday Books for a digital copy of this book, 9781250623638 Niece of the Queen.

Wren is a magical healer, She also happens to be the niece of the Queen of Danu but that hasn't won her any favors. In fact after her mother's untimely death her Aunt has consistently treated her quite poorly, After Wren's empathy leads to an error in judgement while at work she gets ejected from the Queen's Guard and banished to live in a remote abbey. The most upsetting aspect of this whole affair is that Wren is then separated from her best friend Una a Captain in the Queen's Guard and the woman she loves, Wren is kicking herself for her mistake and just trying to figure out a way back to Una, Certainly her Aunt will find it in her heart to forgive her need to care for others, While at the abbey stewing in her misery Wren receives a letter from Lord Alistair Lowry inviting her to his home in order to help him with a little problem. Lord Lowry wants Wren to try to heal this suffering man before it is too late, She considers it a great opportunity and decides to take him up on his offer

traveling to the neighboring kingdom of Cernos to Lowry's remote estate of Colwick Hall. ((cue the gothic ambiance)) Her movements weren't exactly approved by the Queen so Wren finds herself a bit of an Outlaw: Hal Cavendish the infamous Reaper of Vesria her kingdom's sworn enemy, Perhaps Wren can still work her way into the Queen's good graces and be reunited with Una. As she begins to get to know Hal however she starts to question a lot of her previous beliefs: Soon Wren and Hal are working together to solve a murder mystery chilling enough for even the sturdiest of characters, A great debut for Saft! There were many aspects that I enjoyed but first and foremost would be the atmosphere: Colwick Hall felt like the creepy gothic mansion of my dreams. I could smell it feel the cold and I was dreading what was hiding in every shadow. Hal and Wren working together watching their relationship evolve was fantastic, They were complete opposites but grew to understand and appreciate each other because of that, The dangers they faced as they explored the secrets of Colwick Hall were palpable. Wren's work as a magic-based healer was quite detailed and I liked that it was a bit on the gruesome side, Saft definitely didn't shy away from blood and gore so if you enjoy that as I do you should definitely check this one out. There were a few little things that didn't work as well for my tastes but they were definitely overshadowed by the aspects I enjoyed, Thank you so much to the publisher Wednesday Books for providing me with a copy of this to read and review, This is a novel that probes at the nature of what it means to inherit a story of hatred and prejudice and be in perpetual service of it, "War makes monsters out of children" writes Saft they live shoulder to shoulder with it and thus grow immune to its atrocities: Wren and Hal both barely having finished being children were taught to survive in the vocabularies of violence and monstrosity and they did not know any other language, I have to say however—I am not sure this book lives up to its gothic billing. The story gropes unsuccessfully for the gothic note but doesn't fulfill it: Throughout I found myself longing for the kind of hauntingly evocative atmosphere that Moreno-Garcia crafts so effectively in her gothic charmer Mexican Gothic for example: I think my expectations might have simply been exacerbated by the marketing around the book: She sentenced to spend her days at abbey as like the days she's been abandoned as a child when her mother has died: As Danubian and Vesria's guards who have powerful magic start to get missing suspiciously both parties start to accuse each other which increase the war threat. Now Wren accepts an offer via getting a letter from Lord Alistair Lowry a rich powerful man came from scandals needs her help to cure one of his men at his service, This kind of powerful man could be a great alias to stop the war and make her position restore earn her respect she is looking for: But of course Queen is not pleased about the existence of this letter and bans her to leave the place: So she get to deceive Una to run away from abbey to ride on the carriage which is sent for her by Lowry, And the worst thing is not her dilemma to finish her mission properly: As she start to know more about Hal she starts to understand both of the kingdoms were deceived and the things she believed were the distorted facts. The mansion they reside is full of deadly secrets and she has to be accomplice of Hal to find out the truth to bring justice and peace, But as you imagine the chemistry between them and forbidden love drag them into a dangerous line they shouldn't pass. Overall: Likable MCs riveting story telling action packed exciting development were the strengths of the story. Only one thing bothered me: At some parts romance overshadowed the fantasy genre which brought out unnecessary drama in the story, Martin's Press/ Wednesday Books for sharing this exciting ARC with me in exchange my honest opinions, 9781250623638 I've had a hard time trying to rate this book: In my opinion Wren Southerland has always felt herself a burden: Her parents are gone her family is gone (except the Queen) so she realized pretty early on that she needed to make herself useful to gain any sort of recognition, Wren is the most talented healer but despite her power she's constantly being driven away from the Queen and from her career: She's too emotional - more likely to heal a prisoner than continue his capture: Her most recent incident (where she kinda-sorta is the reason that an important prisoner escaped) sends her back to the abbey where she would likely be shut away forever, Lowry a lord is requesting her assistance with a diseased manservant, She (against her Queen's wishes) (and against her best-friend-almost-girlfriend's wishes) packs up her bags to go help: But when she arrives she realizes that Hal Cavendish is the servant: but soon realizes

something even more sinister is just around the corner, I liked Wren from the start and while she did get a little woe-is-me she was overall a good main character: I enjoyed the blossoming romance between Wren and her best-friend-almost-girlfriend but the author did cut the relationship short (but it made sense in the long run). The relationship between Wren and Hal was really well done - I loved how Hal was so human despite the atrocities, As each reveal was given and more dimension provided to the evil. Wren Southerland's reckless use of magic has cost her everything: she's been dismissed from the Queen's Guard and separated from her best friend—the girl she loves, The mansion is crumbling icy winds haunt the caved-in halls and her eccentric host forbids her from leaving her room after dark: Worse Wren's patient isn't a servant at all but Hal Cavendish the infamous Reaper of Vesria and her kingdom's sworn enemy, Hal also came to Colwick Hall for redemption but the secrets in the estate may lead to both of their deaths. With sinister forces at work Wren and Hal realize they'll have to join together if they have any hope of saving their kingdoms: But as Wren circles closer to the nefarious truth behind Hal's illness they realize they have no escape from the monsters within the mansion: All they have is each other and a startling desire that could be their downfall: Allison Saft's *Down Comes the Night* is a snow-drenched romantic fantasy that keeps you racing through the pages long into the night. While promising everything from a delectable gothic setting to a romance full of yearning worth rooting for *Down Comes the Night* ultimately fell a bit short for me: " First of all I think if you love beautiful writing you will really appreciate the prose of this book: The details in Saft's writing are vivid and luscious and help make the creepy atmosphere feel more palpable especially in parts where such atmosphere was lacking, At the forefront of this book is Wren who grapples with self-acceptance and handling her own emotions: I loved how throughout the story she also had to decide what (or who) was good for her and what she needed for her personal fulfillment, Her arc involves themes regarding emotional strength and what that actually means especially for women whose emotions are always dictated and scrutinized: While empowering and overall well-written sometimes those messages were too on the nose for me to the point where it got a bit annoying, Hal's character was also interesting to me particularly in how he carries the weighty legacy of war and struggles to meet the desires of a people desperate for salvation. War demanded sacrifices they were not prepared to give the cost of which they could not understand. Both Danu and Vesria created monsters the moment they stooped to recruiting children, I honestly didn't feel the yearning between them and while I thought they had a great dynamic I felt that they would have been better off as friends. And because the romance was such a significant part of the plot and I felt so indifferent about it this unfortunately tainted my opinion of the book as a whole, Another major issue for me was that this was marketed as a gothic fantasy and while there were creepy gothic vibes it definitely was not as much as I was expecting, All quotes are taken from an advanced copy and may differ in final publication, 9781250623638 Where do I start with the book because I have expectations of what it should be and I am so happy that it does not disappoint me: I love gothic romances — the eerie feeling the perpetually dark and chill environment. Let's just start with Wren Southerland because characters are pillars in books for me and Wren Southerland just happened to be my favourite. I particularly love the theme of the battle over compassion as to whether it's a weakness or strength; seemingly everyone around Wren had always put her down for her kindness. She's empathetic passionate and wears her heart on her sleeves, But I love the message that this book is giving and to be vulnerable is not a weakness, However her recklessness with using magic had cost her her positing separating her from her best friend Una who also happened to be the person she loved, She's controlling annoying and to some extent is abusive — but I love to read the incongruity between her and Wren when it comes to their personality and relationship. But things changed when Wren received a letter from a reclusive lord asking to help cure the illnesses of one of his servants, She took this as her opportunity to redeem herself except she was not expecting the patient to be her kingdom's sworn enemy Hal Cavendish, Hal Cavendish best known as the "Reaper of Vesria; is not an upright honourable person. Regardless of how he was willing to do what he can to prevent a war from coming and redeem himself from his past mistakes. While the mystery surrounding his illness and

the lonely setting of the manor created a frightening sense of peril I adored the slow-burn romance. That being so here comes the most interesting character: Lord Lawry, He's just one reclusive and anxious man but I have to say he gives me the best creep most of the times. I was so happy when Wren was invited by him to the mansion, I believed he was nice and trustworthy but he made me second-guessing him as I went on at just how peculiar and suspicious he is: I particularly love the interchange of his characters from the start to the end of the book: The world-building in this story is decent but the magic system fusing it with science made it compelling, I enjoy reading Wren treating all her patients with her magic. I just wished that the author could give me more variation in Wren's magic as I believe healing isn't her only strength but was not executed here: As a whole Allison Saft transports her readers to a world that is both dangerously enticing and courageously hopeful. I couldn't look away for a second my stomach churning with a never-ending sense of dread: This is a story that will captivate you from the smart characters to the multi-sensory scenery, It was just a bit downer that I find the ending a bit rushed, Nevertheless I believe this is still a successful debut and I can't wait to read more from Allison Saft, 9781250623638 → 4 stars There's something about being trapped inside a crumbling mansion with your sworn enemy that can actually be so personal. Upon her arrival she discovers that the very person she's been tasked with healing is none other than Hal Cavendish an enemy of the kingdom and of Wren herself. As the two grow closer they uncover a sinister plot at work within the dilapidated estate connected to the very fate of their respective kingdoms: This truly is a rich gothic fantasy that seemingly pulls you into its gravity from Wren's arrival at Colwick Hall, The setting is eerie and atmospheric and an air of mystery is present that is palpable from the very start, To say this book felt like a dream would be putting it lightly: Maybe it's because I read this all in one sitting but there is truly no way to describe the feeling of reading this from start to finish. The characters were witty and utterly hilarious and the slow burn enemies-to-lovers romance kept me going during moments where things needed a spark: The same could be said for the character background of Wren. You don't get the whole picture of who she is as a person or what drives her to do what she does beyond the events in the book. There are some key moments mentioned but not thoroughly examined for my liking, I loved what was given but if you look beyond the surface it's clear that it's lacking something: The plot is altogether imaginative and I thoroughly enjoyed where everything ended up though. If you came here for enemies trapped in a mansion together and solving a mystery look no further, Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for providing this arc in exchange for an honest review. Trigger warnings: gore murder implied torture description of surgery and procedure 9781250623638 Happy Pub Day! Now available to purchase, If you enjoy romantic gothic YA fantasy you need to read this book. I'll be eagerly awaiting Allison Saft's next release! *Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy[1]

This is just a murder mystery. Wren was an idiot during the beginning of the book. Mel [BLOG: https://melissa413readsalot.blogspot](https://melissa413readsalot.blogspot). A mysterious illness has plagued his household. His servants are sick and dying. One man is still alive but he's suffering terribly. In her eyes she didn't have any other options though. Shockingly her new patient turns out to be someone she knows. There's political gains to be made here. Down Comes the Night was such a pleasant surprise. Reading this I felt like I was there. I was genuinely afraid for them. I also thought the magic was well done. You know who you are. Overall I think this is a very fun standalone YA Fantasy. This is for the most part a very successful debut. But I mostly enjoyed the promising premise. Special thanks to NetGalley and St. I did not like the beginning of the book. And so she did. But then a letter arrives Colwick Hall. The same man whose murdered thousands of her people. She's trapped in the snowy mountains with a murderer. Overall thoughts: this was a deeply atmospheric book. It was gorgeously rich in details and imagery. The plot felt unexpected and exciting. The last 25% - oooo! I was hooked. it was good. She saw the magic in his darkness. Love makes monsters of us all. Down Comes the Night 2. "Mercy is the most difficult thing. People like Hal shouldn't have existed. "We all were raised to be cruel. It takes incredible strength to be kind in this world. To endure suffering instead of further it. This did not affect my opinion in any way. I love all of it and so I love this book. While Una was not

exceptionally a lovable character. A blanket statement for this book: it just needed more. This one doesn't disappoint. Whatever is done unto you let it be repaid thrice over.

