

Dear Reader,

It's a strange feeling to write the final words of a sequel. Maybe it's because I've spent countless hours with the characters and a part of me feels sorrowful to let them go, or because I'm exhausted, bleary-eyed, and electrified by the time I reach the end of any draft. Either way, *Ruthless Vows* was no different from the other duologies I've written and concluded, finding me overcome with a medley of emotions as well as with three different coffee cups on my desk, all half-full.

If there is anything I can tell you about *Ruthless Vows*, it's this: the story required my entire heart to write. When you open the pages for the first time, you'll find that two weeks have passed since the attack on Avalon Bluff, and Iris has returned home to the city of Oath. While it seems from the outside like her life is back to normal, her heart is consumed by worry for Roman. She doesn't know where he is—doesn't even know if he is dead or alive—until an article of his is published in the *Oath Gazette* one morning. Seeing his words in print, writing for Dacre's cause, only heightens Iris's resolve: she will do whatever it takes to magically correspond with Roman once more.

As the war draws them ever closer, secrets about the gods begin to be revealed. Iris and Roman must soon decide if they are willing and brave enough to change the tides of the war and, if so, what they must sacrifice in order to do it.

I loved writing the end to Iris and Roman's story, and I hope that when you reach the final words of *Ruthless Vows* you will realize this story was written just for you. I hope that Iris and Roman inspire you to create and dream and dare to do the things that call to your heart.

Happy reading!

All my best,

Rebecca R.

Rebecca Ross



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