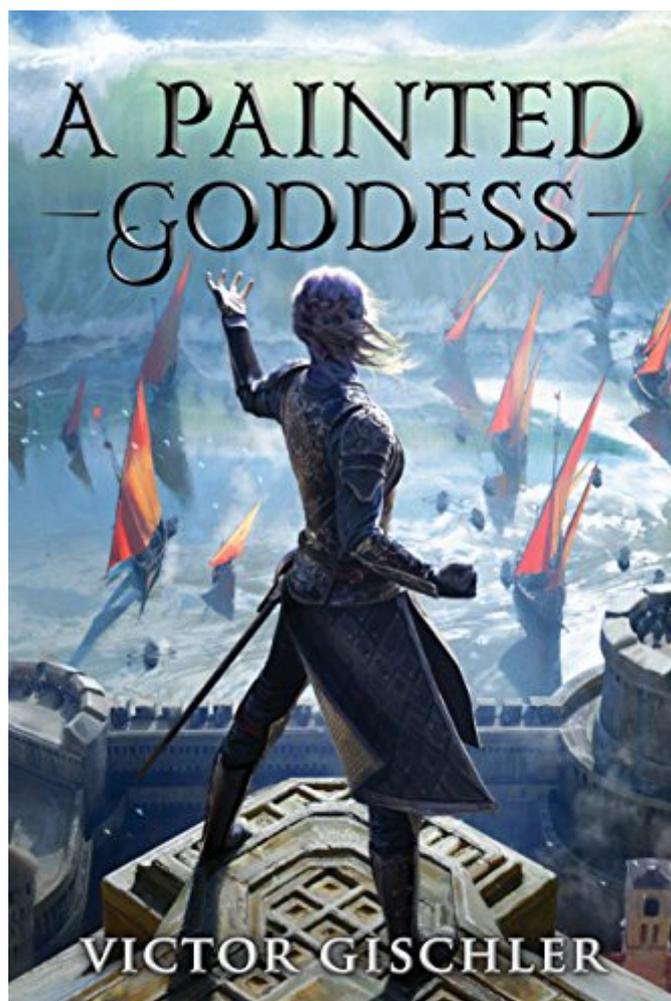


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A Painted Goddess (A Fire Beneath The Skin Book 3)



Synopsis

When the gods go to war, who will stand against their divine fury? In the thrilling conclusion to the *A Fire Beneath the Skin* trilogy, the enchanted kingdom of Helva faces a nightmarish future of endless bloodshed, and Rina Verain—a young warrior-duchess armed with mysterious, magical tattoos—must use her fantastic powers to save her home from eternal war. As her far-flung friends scour Helva for additional tattoos to increase her formidable abilities, Rina reckons with an enigmatic death priest—the one whose contract grants her extraordinary magic but demands an awful price. When her debt comes due, can Rina make the ultimate sacrifice? Deities clash and allies succumb as Rina strives to fulfill her obligation and confront her strange and shocking destiny. Becoming an ink mage taxed Rina's resources to their very limits; now she must become something else, something more, something awesome and terrible. If she fails, her world will fall.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

3.5 stars. You've read the first two. There is no reason not to read this one. But lower your expectations a bit. The author follows about 8 different subplots, and only spends a couple of pages on each before switching, so it's hard to get in the flow. The middle of the book is a little better as

the number of groups followed decreases and the action focuses on the interrelations of the plots. OK, you know from the title of the book that Rina will be transcended. As you near the end, nothing much is developing along that line and one wonders how it is going to happen. Then a tattoo is found which, if Beasley can get it to Rina, seems to suggest the answer. Voila, magical transportation and remarkable coincidences arrange that. But then one realizes that Rina's character has not developed anywhere near that far, nor is it at all clear what she is becoming. When she becomes, she leaves a lot unresolved, and no questions are answered, she just leaves behind everything that was important to her (or the reader) for the last three novels. And nothing. No information about what she has become. No interactions with former friends or even feelings about them. Also there are logical inconsistencies, such as why Bremmer's acolytes try to keep Rina and co. from Mordis' temple, but that is exactly what Mordis wants. Many other points of illogic. Numerous allies are summarily killed or maimed, and even after goddesshood, Rina does nothing about it. Several characters switch sides abruptly without adequate development. Stories about transcendence are very difficult, because basically, humanity has never figured out what gods do.

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