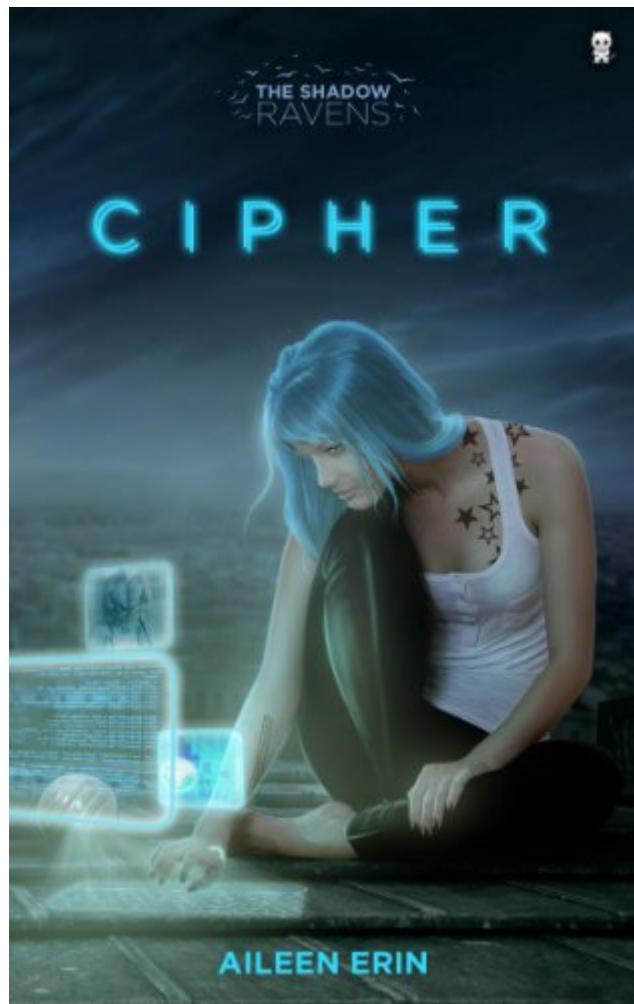


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Cipher (The Shadow Ravens Book 1)



Synopsis

"Two epic people, love, hackers, and explosions lead to an amazing read." -- Not So Public Library

Alone and on the run, Cipher doesn't talk about her secrets, her powers, or the people chasing her. She can't let anyone get that close. At least, she shouldn't. Knight is working undercover for the bad guys. He's done things that have marked his soul, but it'll all be worth it if he can save the girl who means everything to him -- "the girl who saved his life by putting herself in danger. It's been twelve years, but Knight knows she's still alive, and he's made it his mission to find her and keep her safe. When Knight finally catches up to Cipher, electricity sparks. He's crazy gorgeous, stupid brilliant, and begging to lift the burden from Cipher's shoulders. Can she really trust him with her secrets? With her life? She doesn't have long to decide, because Knight isn't the only who's been looking for her. Now Cipher can't run without leaving him behind. What good is being together if they're both dead? To save Knight, Cipher will finally stop running -- one way or another.

The Shadow Ravens Series: 1. Cipher by Aileen Erin, USA Today bestselling author 2. Quanta by Lola Dodge 3. Quanta Reset by Lola Dodge 4. Quanta Rewind by Lola Dodge

"It will keep you on the edge of your seat with action, chases, fights." -- Functioning Insanity

Book Information

File Size: 5604 KB

Print Length: 331 pages

Publisher: Ink Monster, LLC (October 14, 2014)

Publication Date: October 14, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00ISBH33A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #83,838 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #25 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Loners & Outcasts #62 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction &

Customer Reviews

Cipher is about a girl (named Cipher), who has a red helix tattoo which is considered unstable and dangerous in the society she lives in and the government tries to kill anyone with one. She's on the run from her uncle and her childhood friend (who is obsessed with her) tries to save her from him. There are a lot of scenes where Cipher is running away or freaked out and it gets old pretty fast, just to warn you future readers out there. The biggest struggle for Cipher in the course of this book is trying to figure out what a red helix actually means, and how to control her powers. One thing that I don't like is that for her struggle to control her power, Cipher is terrible at it (which I don't mind) and she doesn't improve gradually but SPOILER: not sure if this is really a spoiler or not but you can never be to safe about these things... SHE IMPROVES DRASTICALLY IN HARNESSING HER POWER NEAR THE END OF THE BOOK! There, you're safe now, the spoiler is over. Continue to read this. The struggle is not really resolved at the end of the book, as she cannot control her power all of the time. Cipher changes from, in my opinion, a super hacker that is aloof, to a sad emotional wreck that is dependent upon everyone and is weak. The theme is probably that you should depend on people and not isolate yourself and become stronger in that way, but I personally don't see that as being a strength. I'm the type of person who thinks that the lone-wolf type of main character is stronger than the type who is overemotional and over-dramatic (in my opinion since I cannot relate to her situation or "put myself in her shoes") and relies on everyone else for support. I should clarify that the sexual content is just innuendos and not "real" sexual content. Also, the narration is first person but switches perspectives (one chapter narrated by Cipher in first person, the next by her childhood friend in first person). I personally think that there are too many coincidences in this book namely between Cipher and her obsessive childhood friend: SPOILERS: Cipher and her childhood friend are separated for several years, and coincidentally, Cipher has been talking to her childhood friend online and has become really close with him, and coincidentally, she orders computers made by him from him (she's a hacker), and COINCIDENTALLY he works in the place where they save people with red helixes like Cipher, and COINCIDENTALLY he has been "assigned" to her (meaning that he is supposed to help her keep her power under control; the author is totally not indiscreetly forcing them to be a couple, right?). WAY TOO MANY COINCIDENCES IN MY OPINION!! spoiler over. Continue please. Cipher curses a lot, so if you are not okay with that, DON'T READ THIS BOOK. Seriously, it's not worth your time. I thought this book would be more sci-fi, but

it's such a romance novel. So, if you're into sci-fi, mystery, crime, or psychological novels and books like I am, don't read this book. If you're into sappy romance that doesn't add up all of the time and crappy sci-fi content, then this is the book for you! The only thing I liked about this book was the internal monologue (one character worrying about what the other character thinks of them), since I like seeing what the characters think about themselves and each other. Another problem with this book is that I could never feel like I was in the setting or place they described in the book. They never described it enough and most of the time I wasn't interested enough to even bother trying to put myself there. The story itself seemed to fast and repetitive. Cipher was always running away from the government and the author kept trying to describe fight or flight scenes and I was getting lost and bored. I feel that the whole idea of the red helix being unstable and a source of fear for the government could've developed much more if the author focused more on that and less on the romance between Cipher and her childhood friend. If the author wanted a romance novel, she shouldn't have wasted such a good plot and just stuck with some corny overdone thing. Though I have to admit, the idea of something that is found to be different and rejected in society to a point where the government tries to hunt down anyone with that difference is not a new one for books, so actually, the author chose an appropriately overused subject for her romance novel with a lame sci-fi element here and there to make it seem different compared to other romance novels. The resolution was definitely a let-down. I am the type of person who doesn't like happy, predictable, and boring endings, and that is what this book delivered, so I was not too happy. I don't think that Cipher really learned anything important because, as I mentioned earlier, I thought that she had become weaker as a person. I did not like the author's writing style. Even in the first couple of pages in the book, Cipher curses and the author uses phrases like, "Hacking where no one had hacked before" and " hackfest" (Erin 1). If you want to hear even worse, read the rest of this book! The writing was too sloppy and corny, as expected of a crappy romance novel with no real plot development. So, in short, if you don't like romance novels and prefer something a little more murderous and psychological, then go read something of Stephen King's and DON'T READ THIS BOOK!

3.5 rating for me. Cipher is a girl on the run, because technically she's living illegally- as in she was marked for death as a baby and instead was whisked away to safety and secrecy. She's twenty, she's paranoid, and she's been on her own for at least a decade. Her system works for her, and so far she's managed to escape her uncle and the evil system they work for. just totally sucks that one of these evil soldiers happens to be a blast from her past... and he's got more secrets than she does. This started out as a really exciting read that I couldn't put down. The blurb was promising, the

writing style clicked with me. I liked the buildup of the characters and the world, their roles in it and the way they all interacted with each other. Totally enjoyable and sometimes squeak worthy (faaangirled with some of the guys, my God) and it was all just- I literally couldn't put it down. And then things slowed down. I started to lose interest when it looked like I wasn't going to see the secret Ravens' HQ, or see her interact with more of the people promised and enticed throughout the chapters. I was hoping for a long adventure with different changes of scenes and personality, but really this all added up to our MCs finding each other, Cipher learning to harness her gifts, and them rescuing her. That bummed me out a bit but this is still a pretty good introduction to the series.

When Cipher was eight years old she saved her best friends life and she has been on the run ever since. She is on the run from uncle who has given the order to kill on the spot. Cipher has a special power where she can conduct electricity that she tries to keep hidden. If she uses her powers then it lets her uncle and whoever may be looking for her know where she is. Cipher is a hacker and is very good at what she does but she has been known to have gotten caught on occasion though and has fried a few computers in her life just imagine what she could do to a person. This is one of the reasons Cipher has always stayed to herself and never interacted with people much she is afraid of hurting someone and she never ever wants to do that. Knight has been looking for Emma ever since that eventful night when she saved his life only he doesn't know that the girl that he plays computer games with online and sells his famous processors to is the same girl that he has been looking for all these years. Knight wants to save Emma/Cipher and all the Red Helix girls like Cipher too. When Knight finally finds Cipher they team up along with the rest of Knights friends to find the other girls like Cipher who has special abilities. I have wanted to read The Shadow Ravens for a long time so when I got the invite from YA Bound Books Tours for a blog tour and review imagine how ecstatic I was. I couldn't wait to get started on reading Cipher. I loved Cipher's world with her ability to hack and conduct electricity. Cipher is filled with lots of action that will keep you on the edge of your seat with the adrenaline pumping waiting to see what is around the corner. I can't wait now to start the next book Quanta. If you have not read Cipher then let me suggest that you do, that is if you love a good dystopian, science fiction book with a little romance on the side.

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