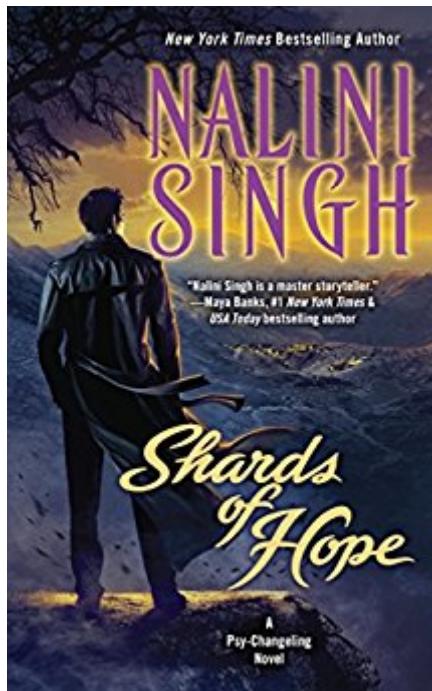


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Shards Of Hope: A Psy-Changeling Novel (Psy/Changeling Series Book 14)



Synopsis

The smoldering heat, epic romance, and awesome action* of Nalini Singhâ™s New York Times bestselling series continues as two Arrows find themselves caught in a chilling conspiracy that spans all three races. Awakening wounded in a darkened cell, their psychic abilities blocked, Aden and Zaira know they must escape. But when the lethal soldiers break free from their mysterious prison, they find themselves in a harsh, inhospitable landscape far from civilization. Their only hope for survival is to make it to the hidden home of a predatory changeling pack that doesnâ™t welcome outsiders. And they must survive. A shadowy enemy has put a target on the back of the Arrow squad, an enemy that cannot be permitted to succeed in its deadly campaign. Aden will cross any line to keep his people safe for this new future, where even an assassin might have hope of a life beyond blood and death and pain. Zaira has no such hope. She knows sheâ™s too damaged to return from the abyss. Her driving goal is to protect Aden, protect the only person who has ever come back for her no matter what. This time, even Adenâ™s passionate determination may not be enoughâ™ because the emotionless chill of Silence existed for a reason. For the violent, and the insane, and the irreparably brokenâ™ like Zaira.*Jaci Burton, New York Times bestselling author

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Customer Reviews

I waited 24 hours to even start this review so I did not sound like some gibbering fan, it was hard. First of all, this book might not have the same effect on people that have not been through all of the previous 13 books, this is the culmination of a lot of things and it was awesome (and I dislike using that word usually). Before I get into a few details let me make sure you understand that this book is a progression of this series, it builds on things that happened in previous books and without that knowledge I seriously doubt you could really get the deeper meaning of many of the things that happen in this novel. This book does not progress slowly like most of the others have, we are dropped into a life or death situation which for any Arrow is a bit of a new feeling. Most of this book revolves around either the attempts to get two Arrows who have lived most of their live under Silence to become a couple which may not be possible at all for reasons you will see as the story moves forward. This is not a typical romance with a guaranteed HEA but a real struggle that could leave one or both of them dead. The majority of the rest of the book pursues a plot where people unknown seem to be targeting Arrows (Aden in particular) which to me would have seemed like a really stupid idea but you will see how it goes. There are a few other small subplots that play directly into one or the other of the above plots and everything weaves together beautifully so much that I have to say that I may have to give this my vote for the best book in the series (and after Heart of Obsidian and Shield of Winter, that is not something I say lightly).

Aden and Zaira have been captured and cut off from their psychic abilities. Their first plan of action, escape. Second, survive the coming storm in an unfamiliar land where they must place their lives in the hands of Changelings. Aden's recovery is fueled by his desire to find those behind their abduction and return back to his Arrows to help guide them into a life post-Silence. A life away from pain and one filled with emotions and hope. He wishes to do it with Zaira by his side but she fears the monster inside her, the one Silence caged, will destroy him. Aden is the leader and protector of the Arrows and in a post-Silence world, he wants to undo the miserable existence that was forced upon them at a very young age. He's a mentor and friend to those who have never known the joy of play and anticipate pain as punishment. Aden has few equals and it's something that becomes clear to the naysayers in this book. He's incredible to read about in battle, yet the element of his character that has me crushing so hard is the perfect role he plays at the head of the Arrow table. The intense love and devotion he has rivals even the most dedicated Changeling

alpha. He had me melting inside on many occasions, such as when he gives a child Arrow her first hug. For me, heâ™s a mix of everything that makes a Changeling and an Arrow great. Handed over to the Arrows as a child after an incident with her extremely abusive parents, Zaira survived thanks to Aden and his refusal to let her give up. Since then, sheâ™s grown into a respected, lethal Arrow. Zaira has bond with Aden and when he confesses to wanting a romantic relationship, she is afraid. Afraid the monster inside her created out of pain, fear, and anger will consume Aden and all the good he stands for.

My first thought while reading Shards of Hope was that it was written from the wrong character's point of view. This was supposed to be Aden's book and so it is our only chance to really understand this enigmatic character who fascinated me from when he and Vasic appeared briefly in Mercy's book (I think they made brief appearances in earlier books). I bookmarked those pages because Aden and Vasic came out of nowhere and did the most amazing things. Unfortunately, way too much of Shards of Hope is from Zaira's POV. I wanted to get to know Aden. For example:-1 When did Aden decide that he didn't want to do his job the way his parents wanted? This would have happened long before there was any talk about the fall of Silence, so how did it happen? We are only told that he did.-2 Why was Aden never Silent although he went through the same torture the other children? Was he Silent when his parents dropped him off and eventually stopped being Silent? When did he realize he was different? How did he feel about that? There are degrees of Silence; was he partially Silent? He certainly seemed to be. Was it entirely an act?-3 Aden was drawn to Zaira's "fire". What made her different from all the other girls who had been tortured before and after their arrival in the Arrows? Everyone in these books has a tragic backstory and her's was mild by comparison to some of the other characters'.-4 How did the awareness grow among the Arrows that Aden was the de facto leader even when Ming was around? I thought we'd get some flashbacks of scenes that would explain how that happened. What were the interactions with the other Arrows like back then? After all, it was Judd who got the other Arrows off the drug Ming used to control them.

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