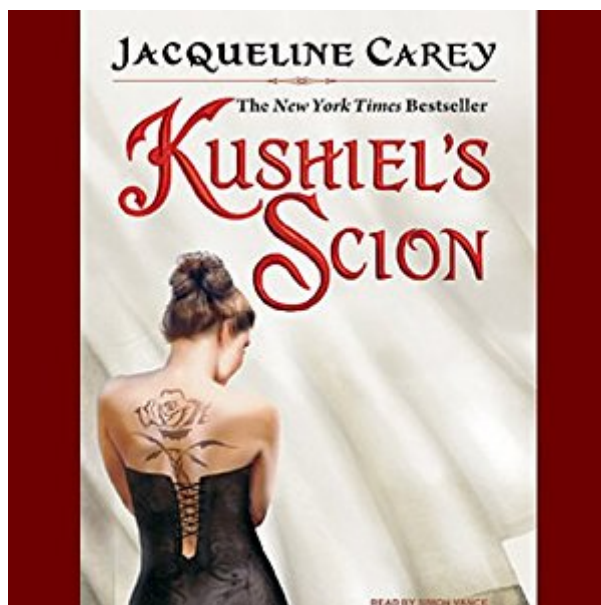


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# Kushiel's Scion



## Synopsis

Imriel de la Courcel's birth parents are history's most reviled traitors, but his adoptive parents, the Comtesse Phœdre and the warrior-priest Joscelin, are Terre d'Ange's greatest champions. Stolen, tortured, and enslaved as a young boy, Imriel is now a Prince of the Blood; third in line for the throne in a land that revels in art, beauty and desire. It is a court steeped in deeply laid conspiracies-and there are many who would see the young prince dead. Some despise him out of hatred for his mother, Melisande, who nearly destroyed the entire realm in her quest for power. Others because they fear he has inherited his mother's irresistible allure-and her dangerous gifts. As he comes of age, plagued by unwanted desires, Imriel shares their fears. When a simple act of friendship traps Imriel in a besieged city where the infamous Melisande is worshiped as a goddess and where a dead man leads an army, the prince must face his greatest test: to find his true self.

--This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This may be my favorite of the Imriel trilogy, which is unusual for middle books. Usually I find those to be the weakest, but not Justice. It's hard to talk about without getting into spoilers, but I will try. This installment sees Imriel through as he accepts his responsibilities as a Prince of the Blood and agrees to marry into Alban nobility. We get a much, much closer view of Alba, which I have always wanted and so enjoyed reading. We also get a bit of a closer look at some of the Night Court Houses which we hadn't seen before, although I'll admit that I wish we had seen more. As with the

rest of the books, the presence of the gods is strong. I love seeing how the gods interact with or support their followers &/or scions. I love seeing new magics, especially in other lands, showing that it is not only the D'Angelines who wield other-worldly powers. I love the tenderness and the sharpness. I love the depth of emotion that Carey makes me feel, and the amazing way she has with words. Again, a great book written with great skill.

This has been one of the BEST book series I've ever read. I read them three different times since they first came out. I love the world that Jacqueline Carey creates with this story and the intimate detail that she uses to bring her characters to life. I wouldn't recommend it for a younger teen, but your older teens or adults that love to read and are fantasy lovers will definitely fall in love with these books. HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!!

It's officially summer, the season of strappy sandals, sexy sundresses, barely-there bikinis, and the latest offering from Jacqueline Carey. Yes, June is no longer just about summer vacation and fruity girlie drinks on the beach - it's also the time to immerse yourself in the sweet and sexy world of the Kushiel's Legacy series. "Kushiel's Justice", of course, is the fifth and most recent in the series. It's also the second book in Imriel's subtrilogy - and, in an almost unheard-of development, in this case the middle book has actually surpassed the first. Fantasy fans know what I'm talking about - it's an unwritten rule that the second book of any trilogy is the weakest link. It even held true in Phedre's trilogy - "Kushiel's Chosen", while still fantastic, didn't quite measure up to "Dart" or "Avatar". However, "Justice" takes the bar set by "Kushiel's Scion" and blows it out of the water, if I may mix my metaphors. It is at once darker, more personal, and yes, more erotic than "Scion" - in fact, perhaps more than any other book in the series. Imriel has returned from his rebellious phase in Tiberium, a little older, a little wiser, and prepared - he thinks - to finally prove to his enemies that he is not tainted by the treason of his parents. He will marry a princess of the Cruithne and provide Alba with a half-d'Angeline heir. It will cement Terre d'Ange's alliance with Alba and help silence the grumbling against Queen Ysandre's own half-Cruithne heirs, and thus, Imriel hopes, establish once and for all his devotion to his country. (If this paragraph has just blown your mind, it is only proof that yes, you do need to read the entire series from the beginning to understand what's going on.) But you know what they say about the best-laid plans. Before the royal wedding can commence, Imriel finds himself head over heels with the last person he ever expected to capture his heart - his first cousin, twice removed, the Dauphine Sidonie. I must admit, this was a coupling that blindsided me when it was first hinted at in "Scion." But here, Carey makes it clear that everything we've seen of

Sidonie to date is her public face, very different from her private side. She then sets about introducing Sidonie in such a lovely way that she makes it very easy to understand why Imriel falls in love with her. But although it breaks his heart, Imriel chooses duty over love - a huge no-no in Terre d'Ange, where the only commandment is "Love as thou wilt." He marries his Cruithne princess, Dorelei, and leaves Sidonie for Alba. Once there, however, a power darker and older than even Earth's Eldest Children seeks to control him by using his love for Sidonie against him. Tragedy ensues (I was terribly spoiled on this point, but it still shook me up, big time. Still, I won't ruin it for anyone else) and Imriel vows vengeance, never realizing how far his vow will take him, nor how much it will cost. Once again, this is a book about Imriel's personal journey, rather than the save-the-world plots that characterized Phedre's trilogy. I like the execution here much better than in "Scion

Not quite up to Phedre's trilogy, but if you're dying to get back to Your favorite characters, there is no other way. Imriel mopes so much I found myself skipping through pages occasionally as he wrestled again and again and again with the same tired questions & demons over and over again. How I wish there was more of Phedre and Joscelin - they are infinitely more interesting - as even Imriel himself points out a half dozen times. But you can't help but like Eammon and I enjoyed his storyline. The siege of Lucca goes on for far too long, and I began losing interest before it was all said and done. I'm on the fence about reading the next two books....

This is an exceptional series by a gifted author. When you read these books the descriptive writing has you feeling like you are a fly on the wall. You see the green of the countryside or the desert. This is like a historical fiction book with a lot of sexuality. About a different culture, If sexuality offends you then you would not like this series and will miss out on great storytelling about a culture with different kingdoms, about sacrifice for duty and honor. This series of books has more depth and character development with a wonderful historical fiction background way before the popular fifty shades was even thought of.

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