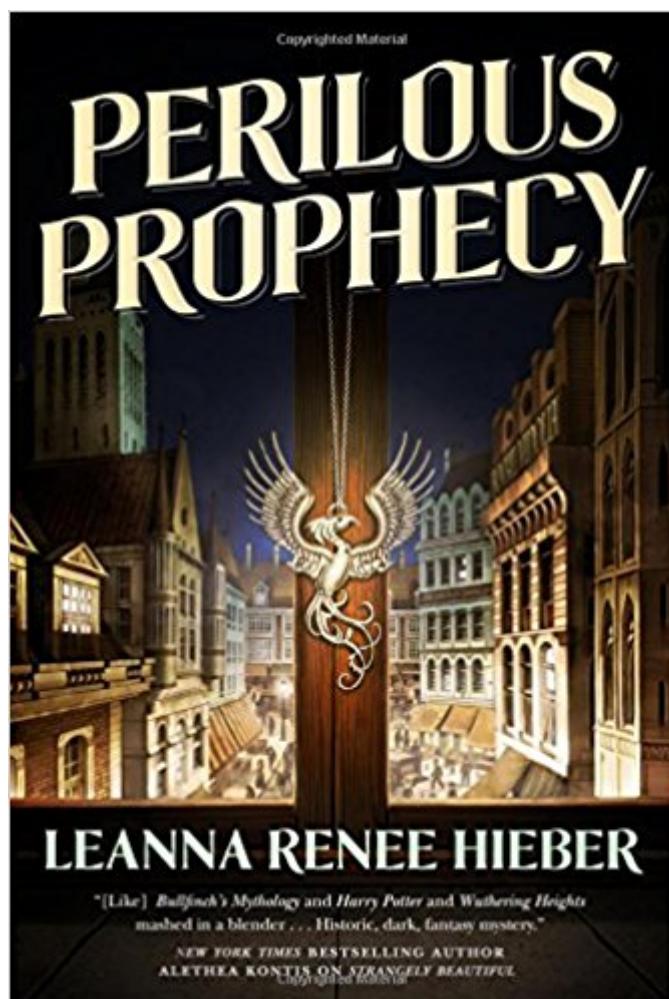


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Perilous Prophecy: A Strangely Beautiful Novel



Synopsis

Winner of the Prism Award for Best Fantasy Novel—“Tells a love story with exquisite detail.” TrueBlood.net Cairo in the 1860s is a bustling metropolis where people from all walks of life mix and mingle, mostly in complex harmony. When evil ghosts and unquiet spirits stalk the city’s streets, the Guard are summoned—six young men and women of different cultures, backgrounds, and faiths, gifted by their Goddess with great powers. While others of the Guard embrace their duties, their leader, British-born Beatrice, is gripped by doubt. What right has she, a bookish, sheltered, eighteen-year-old, to lead others into battle? Why isn’t dark-eyed, compelling Ibrahim, who is stronger of will than Beatrice, the one in charge? Ghosts maraud through Cairo’s streets, heralding a terrible darkness. Beatrice and her Guard have little time to master their powers; a great battle looms as an ancient prophecy roars toward its final, deadly conclusion. This enchanting prequel to Leanna Renee Hieber’s gaslamp fantasy, *Strangely Beautiful*, returns to print after more than a decade, edited and revised for Tor’s publication. *Strangely Beautiful* series *Strangely Beautiful* *Perilous Prophecy* *Miss Violet* and *the Great War* *The Eterna Files* series *The Eterna Files* *Eterna and Omega* *The Eterna Solution*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

LEANNA RENEE HIEBER is the author of *The Eterna Files* and *Eterna and Omega*. The *Perilous Prophecy* of Guard and Goddess is a standalone prequel to *Strangely Beautiful*. Rarely seen out of Victorian garb, Hieber has won several Prism Awards and was a finalist for the Daphne Du Maurier

Award. A talented actor and singer, Hieber has appeared on stage and screen, including episodes of *Boardwalk Empire*, and regularly leads ghost tours in New York City.

It feels like ages since I've stepped into this world. I first stumbled upon this series when I bought *The Strangely Beautiful Tale of Miss Percy Parker* during an eBook sale. Imagine my surprise when I found the book in print, along with its sequel, years later AND heard there was going to be a prequel. SO. EXCITED. And *Perilous Prophecy* didn't disappoint! I will recommend that, though this is a prequel, you would be better suited reading it after tackling at least the first of the *Strangely Beautiful* books simply for context. This one follows Beatrice, who is introduced in the previously published books, and how she becomes a part of the Guard, all while darkness is stirring and threatening to take over the world. You know, standard prophecy doom and gloom style. I loved Beatrice and giving her a separate book, I think, was a fabulous idea. I wouldn't say I was swamped with questions after finishing the second book in this series but there were definitely knowledge gaps and this trip back in time helped to fill those in a bit. I also thought this particular Guard was much more dynamic than the one presented in books 1 and 2. They have a lot of differences between them that cause all sorts of trouble. Providing more background on Persephone was an added bonus. We meet her as Percy Parker in *Strangely Beautiful* but that's as a human. Here, she's still a goddess but diminishing. It put the other two books in perspective for me. Now, I can't say too much about the story since, though a prequel, it does feature details that may be spoilers for those who haven't read the other books, but what I can say is that I ADORE Hieber's writing style. It's a bit over-the-top at times, other times reaching for those beautifully intricate descriptions that fell out of place in anything but a classic novel. I've not read a work by another author that felt the same and it's set her work apart in my mind. I'll say that *Perilous Prophecy* didn't hook me as quickly as the previous installments. It's both setting the stage as well as filling in the gaps, all the while detailing the adventures of the Cairo Guard and Persephone's divine fall. Though there's a lot going on, it took a while to get into it. But if you've read the others, I have no doubt you'll get sucked into this one too. To those who haven't read *The Strangely Beautiful Tale of Miss Percy Parker*, I highly recommend doing so. And if you have, definitely get your hands on this prequel! You're not going to want to miss it!

From page one the reader gets sucked into Leanna Renee Hieber's worlds, and truth to tell I almost didn't want to return to mine! This is a wonderful read, I couldn't put it down

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