

## Chapter 1 : Alma Katsu (Author of The Taker)

*THE TAKER* by Alma Katsu *THE TAKER* can best be described as a novel of mixed genre. It is a historical fantasy that spans the past to the present with sci-fi undertones, gothic horror and there is a definite love story, of sorts.

I hope that you saw my recent post on the good news: A lot goes into getting a book ready to hit the market. Not to oversimplify, but a good deal of the time for the publisher is taken up with marketing. The first part, and the part of the process most visible to the author, is editing. If you deliver a complete manuscript, the next step is for your editor to read it and decide what changes need to be made. However, your editor likely has several manuscripts on her desk, waiting for her attention and it may take months before she sends her edits. Expect a couple rounds, especially if big changes are needed. Then comes copy editing. Did you mean to use the word "worry" twice in one paragraph? Factual questions may get raised here, too Referencing the Battle of Hastings in your book set in when it took place in , for instance. Then comes reviewing the typeset pages. You can make changes to the manuscript at this stage if you must, but it costs the publisher money and may affect schedule. It strikes me funny, now. I believe there is a final pass after this stage, to make sure those last tweaks were made, but I think the publishing house took care of this for me. During this time, your editor is working with the rest of your publishing house to market the book. Galleys are printed up or it may be all electronic these days from the typeset pages. You check in with the authors you ask--have you had a chance to read the book yet? Your editor is using this time to drum up support in-house, getting the marketing staff excited about the book. Galleys go out to Publishers Weekly and elsewhere for reviews, to bookstore owners, to book bloggers. You start brainstorming how to launch the book, what promotions you might do. Do you hire an outside publicist? When I sold my first book, I was advised to think of it as a car on a production line not to detract from the art and magic of putting together a creative thing like a book, or from the expertise of the people who work on it. What that meant was, among other things, your book had to wait for its turn for attention. Publishing houses group their offerings into spring and fall, generally speaking. You may have been placed in the Fall catalog--that means they have Fall and Spring to roll out first. I hope this takes some of the mystery out of the process. There will be a future blog post on why I signed on for this project rather than work on a book of my own: Did I leave something out you were expecting? Write to me in the comments section below.

**Chapter 2 : alma katsu " Books and Lesser Evils**

*Alma Katsu Great question! Writing is an amazing release, a mental exercise, a personal challenge, and more. Writing is an amazing release, a mental exercise, a personal challenge, and more. But it can seem daunting in the beginning.*

Now, more than three months later, I have accumulated enough emotional distance to deal with the story again. The ambitious novel has unquestionably its merits and strong points, which I will come back to later, and will appeal to a certain target group " which I to my shame have not been able to label yet -, but it miserably failed the above mentioned pitch in both aspects: It should go without saying that I would never discourage a teen from picking up books from those shelves. Read what you want to, but know what it is you are wanting. And that is why I am sitting here to elaborate. The Taker could be called a gloomy thriller, dark historic fiction or a book about alchemy and magic. But furthestmost, as the title hazily suggests, in its core The Taker is a frightening study of obsession in different ugly forms. The story is arranged in three chronological, but interwoven layers told from three points of view. The most recent layer shows us middle-aged, jaded small-town surgeon Dr. Luke Finley, who is divorced, lonely and extremely weary of his future in the unfriendly town St. When a beautiful murderess is brought in by the Sheriff for the medical check-up that has to precede her police interrogation, he immediately falls so hard for the young girl and her weird explanations of being immortal and having done her companion a favor by ending his much too long life, that he risks everything to help her flee across the border in a "borrowed" car and becomes an accomplice without even looking back. In the course of the middle layer killer Lanore McIlvrae tells Luke the story of her youth in a partly Puritan, partly Catholic wood-cutting settlement in Main around and of her fateful move to Boston at the age of All her life she had " like all the other girls and women in her village " been feverishly craving the undivided attention of rich and otherworldly beautiful Jonathan St. Andrews, who graciously admitted her to become his friend-like confidant, but who was too obsessed with himself and his unstillable sexual needs to bestow any kind of affection on her her or one of his uncountable married and unmarried bed-partners. No means to gain possession of Jonathan had been too dangerous, too evil or too stupid for Lanore, but eventually her parents had to send her to a Catholic convent in Boston to birth and hand over her out-of-wedlock offspring. In fact, her fascination with him began even before her life was out of the danger zone: The deepest layer of the three-tiered story narrates the misery of his 14th-century youth in a third-person-point-of-view: His father, a Romanian nomad, sold his teenage son to a creepy, old alchemist employed by an entertainment-crazy Hungarian Count. Along with sympathetic Lanore the reader learns a lot about his complete loss of freedom, his utter loneliness, his purely sexual relationship with the physically and mentally disabled maid, his quiet hate for his unspeakably brutal, immortality-seeking master and his step-by-step foray into satisfying his sexual urges by sleeping with the mutilated corpses of village wenches, who his master regularly raped to death in his private dungeon and had him bury in the forest afterwards. Yes, there is a lot of sex in The Taker. But, as already stated, the book is no paranormal romance and does not promote love. There are no glistening drops of fluid dancing on silky body parts to the rhythm of a sensually throbbing loin area. There are hiked-up petticoats in dirty barns, iron chains and primal screams in mouldy underground chambers, bruises and mortally wounded vital organs, there are forced threesomes and frantic, unexpected couplings in motel rooms. Although I can safely say that the romance-novel-style-overdose of sexual visuals is more often than not something I could do without, I would gladly exchange the corpse-groping and all the loveless abuse for some mushy minute-details-narration of how Lord X expertly leads Lady Y to her first orgasm ever. Honestly, I abhorred every single sexual encounter in The Taker , but I guess others might not. But what appalled and enraged me the most is the description of rape victims getting unwillingly aroused while being sexually abused and beaten to pulp. Another thing that stood between me and the ability to enjoy the book were the characters themselves. I did not remotely like any of them. I despised Lanore and her parents, Jonathan, Adair and his minions and certainly the alchemist, but I also did not get Luke, his unhealthy, illogical fascination with selfish Lanore, and his willingness to overlook that she is using him for her means in a very calculated way. I even contemplated giving up during the first third of the book.

Plus, I felt as if the author wanted to mislead me in purpose by using elements that make the well-read fantasy reader associate "vampires": But both hints turned into dead ends without a later explanation or apology. Dangerous things Luke and Lanore remain unaware of. So you close the book with a lot of unease in your guts although you might not feel the urge to pick up the sequel. Do you like that? Yet, I should not hide that although I easily anticipated most of the important plot mysteries, I think that the story-within-story-within-story structure has been well-planned and well-executed, that both historical eras seem to have been well-researched and intricately depicted, that the writing shows talent and promise indeed.

*"The Taker by Alma Katsu has literally left me speechless! [Katsu] mix[es] just the right amount of history, magic, and suspense The only way to fully understand the magic of The Taker is to go and pick up a copy for yourself!"* —Browsing Bookshelves.

As flawed as it may sound, I adore Adair. He had to find her and look at her, touch her skin and stand in her. Theresa's full reviews of *The Taker* and *The Reckoning* will be posted on my blog soon. This is one of the best series I have read in years. It sucked me in, chewed me up, and spit me out against my will. If you enjoy suspense, twists, romance, horror, or the supernatural, I suggest you RUN to buy this series. *Poppy Fields* Riveting, disturbing, intriguing, uniquely bizarre. *The Reckoning* picks up a year after *The Taker*. Adair is the most despicable of men and yet his The cover was so artistically stunning. Read the blurbs, summaries and some reviews. *The Taker* Book 1 was by far, my favorite book of Alma Katsu is an amazing storyteller. What goes on in that brain of hers, let me just say When I started this book Miss Insane character development mixed in with fantastic world building made reading this series a absolute delight. Immortal beings created by dark magic that can only be released by the one who created them. This is not a pretty tale full of sparkly vampires wit Deeply unsettling and gripping sequel to *The Taker*. Part historical, part modern day thriller that explores deeper character development and emotions. We were nearly at the Victoria and Albert Museum when we saw the crowds spilling out of the entrance and across Cromwell Street, forcing our taxi to stop in the middle of the road. Lanore McIlvrae and Lucas Findley are sp So when I finish the two books I was so flabbergasted that this book is like—that. This book is sort of an e Serena There are some books that you read quickly through and there are those books are almost too seductive and you want to slow down and savor every moment with the characters, and *The Reckoning* by Alma Katsu — the second book in *The Taker* series — is the latter. Once plunged into this world of immortal, devilish, and sometimes wayward beings, readers will not want to leave and by the end of the book, they will be clamoring for more. Scandal Scandalicious Book Reviews oh my goodness Tonya I loved this book, the second of trilogy. Kelly Well, I actually enjoyed this one more than the first in the series. It had been three months since Lanny ended the life of Jonathan, the love of her life, per his request. It endeared Luke all the more to her. The relationship had chang So I was taken aback by "The Taker. To summarize *The Taker*; Lanore is born in the early s. She loves Jonathon, a beautiful and shallow boy. They grow up in parallel lives but are friends. Lanore finds herself pregnant. She is sent to Boston to have the baby in a convent. She runs away and finds herself in the company *The Reckoning* has quite the few shocks and unexpected reveals. We had lastly left off in *The Taker* with Lanore Lanny having imprisoned Adair the person who gifted her with Immortality itself. Lanore had also just met Luke, I found it to be disturbing, compelling and one that left me breathless. The group decided to read *The Reckoning* for August and again I found myself completely drawn to this tale and its fleshed out and complex characters. Katus is a powerful story teller and I encou She is looking to the future with the doctor, Luke Findley, who helped her in the first novel in the trilogy, *The Taker*. As she views items from her past that she has presented for an exhibit at a London museum, she feels a humming This plan hits a Lucinda A delicately interwoven, stunning tale that is utterly enchanting and which takes one on an acutely dreamlike journey of the heart The exquisite blend of supernatural fantasy, detailed historical elements and spinechilling horror makes this original work appeal to a wide-readership. Remarkable and astonishing I was swept away by this deeply and profoundly affecting, emotive tale of eternal love. I was captivated by the cleverly crafted narrative As Lanore laments—the body lives forever but what prevents your mind from betraying you? First Jonathan, then Savva, then even Lanore long for their makers to end their extended life. Trying to outrun his reach will be futile, so she sends Luke back to his family. Themes of unrequited love flow through *The Reckoning*, fast and furious — and in its wake come disappointment, disillusionment, anger, remorse, and — hopefully — redemption. Percy This sequel to *The Taker* was so good. Although I find Adair disgusting in every sense of the word, he is by far the most interesting character. Lanny felt like she had given up long ago but only now admitted it to herself. This was actually the first book of the series that I bought. Never

having heard of either Sonja Arlow It is very rare that the second book in a trilogy is even better than the first and this was exactly what happened here. I liked the fact that Lanny seemed to have matured more and that Adair was this time round at a bit of a disadvantage. Richly descriptive, dark and obsessively destructive. I cant wait for the last book. After reading quite a few candyfloss YA fantasy books, this feels like drinking some decadent dark chocolate - just what I needed. I also enjoyed the authors comparison of technology to alchemy. Lisarenee It had been three months since Lanny ended the life of Jonathan, the love of her life, per his request. The relationship had changed her, grounded her and she was content. The Rake And The Recluse: Part Two Changeling Dreyfuss Trilogy, 1.

**Chapter 4 : The Hunger by Alma Katsu – Books and Lesser Evils**

*"Alma Katsu's The Taker is a frighteningly compelling story about those most human monsters' desire and obsession. It will curl your hair and keep you up late at night." – Keith Donohue, bestselling author of The Stolen Child.*

It was from my agent: A multi-city tour including San Diego Comic Con. Oh, wait a minute. You could say it started when I was eight years old and knew that I wanted to be a writer, or when I was a sixteen-year-old stringer at the local newspaper. Or writing columns on the Washington, D. I decided to commit myself to my new career—and there was plenty to learn, believe me. So, I stopped writing. Until I turned forty. You can read about why I decided to take up the pen again elsewhere: My goal was to see if I could write a novel, a good novel. Met people, learned craft. But mostly I rewrote and rewrote. There were other problems, the standard ones: Whose story is this? Your villain is more interesting than your hero. Like all authors, I submitted to agents too early. Everyone along the way was very nice and just encouraging enough so I kept going. Finally, I got the manuscript to a place I knew was good: I found two, and this time, both were interested. I picked the one who had managed the well-received debut of another D. The book went to auction. UK rights went in a pre-empt. I had two more books coming out with them, but was effectively orphaned. My US editor seemed to start having problems with her house. She left around the same time my third book, the last of the trilogy, came out. Then I changed agents. It was a very, very rough time for me. I never thought about throwing in the towel, though, because I am crazy stubborn. I was extremely lucky to get a new, great agent not long afterwards. And he got me a great book deal. And there was a lesson here, too. It was written in partnership with Glasstown Entertainment, a media development company. In addition to the great story idea—the Donner Party meets The Walking Dead—the partner had a great track record with film rights. So, in addition to being a great opportunity creatively, it was a business opportunity, too. A wonderful team of professionals who take a lot of pride in their work, led by an editor who is both a genius storyteller and a savvy businesswoman. Make friends with authors before you sell your first book. These are the people who will advise you, console you, keep you from losing your mind and making dumb mistakes. You need a good network to survive in this business. And be a friend, too. Craft is important but so is understanding the business. You are a sole proprietor dependent on your partnerships publisher, agent. Be the partner these people want to be in business with. Be fair, patient, knowledgeable. Always acknowledge the contribution of your business partners. Alma Katsu is the author of four novels. She is a former intelligence analyst and current consultant in emerging technologies. Find out more at [www](http://www).

**Chapter 5 : Alma Katsu - Book Series In Order**

*Alma Katsu (born ) is an American writer of adult fiction. Her best-known work is The Taker, a literary novel with historical and fantasy elements that was published in and recognized as one of the ten best debut novels of the year by the American Library Association.*

An incident that has lived in lore and legend for hundreds of years. The rich stench of decaying flesh mingled with the piney air, making it heavy as the group approached the shore. Many of the party cannot help but feel that they are being tracked and hunted by something unseen. But he sounded uneasy. I know how they hunt. The Indians know it, too. They just rode off and left him there. Tamsen is a witch and she is cursing the journey. But there is something following the Donner Party as it faces the cruel winter, mountain conditions. The pain of it. Even my blood is starving. But there is still something out, in the howling storm, in the darkness and it is waiting to feed. But where is the greatest danger, on the outside or within the Donner Party. There is a strong supernatural element to this story but the human drama trumps the supernatural. The Donner Party is notorious in history. The role of women in the trek across the wilderness and into the mountains and the arrogance of the Eastern American white male play a huge part of the doom of the Donner group. It in no small measure why the Donner Party was doomed. Where the book struggles is in the supernatural aspect of the tale. Is it real or is it paranoia. For me, as the reader, I was never sure and that is a resolution I would have liked to have had. The Hunger, if it was written simply as a human horror drama would have excelled. As a supernatural horror tale it would have excelled as well. The blending of the two struggles. Overall it is a good tale and the an author stepping out of genre and exploring her talent. And for that alone it is to be read and enjoyed.

**Chapter 6 : How It Happened by Alma Katsu | The Thrill Begins**

*Alma Katsu is an American author most popular for the writing of adult fiction. She is best known for "The Taker Trilogy" a series of fantasy and historical novels that she published in to much critical acclaim.*

Her novels have been translated into more than twelve languages in Italy, Spain, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. Before becoming an author, she spent almost three decades working for the Federal government in several departments that included foreign policy and intelligence, where she was a technology expert. Since , she has been a consultant with the RAND Corporation where she holds the title of senior policy analyst. Katsu currently lives in a suburb of Washington with Bruce Katsu her musician husband. In addition to writing fiction, she also contributes to the Huffington Post and writes reviews for Publishers Weekly. Katsu was born to a Japanese born mother and an American born father who lived in Fairbanks Alaska. Nonetheless, she spent much of her childhood and young adult years in Concord Massachusetts, and attributes her life there as one of the reasons why she has such an interest in early American history. Outside the formal education setting, she attended the Squaw Valley writing workshops, which gave her the courage to finally become a published author. Without being a hyperbole of romance, it renews the genre in something of a Faustian bargain set in a story within a story. The Taker Trilogy is the narrative of Lenora, a girl that has been granted immortality but who believes this is a punishment for evil acts she committed in life, and is now condemned to revisit her sins until the end of time. However, at their core the novels are a terrifying study in obsession in its many forms. But despite the darkness in the novels are also love stories full of poignancy and wicked debauchery. At its most accurate description, the trilogy may be best called an exploration and lesson in different human experiences and tragic lessons in romance and love. Hopeful yet heartbreaking all at the same time, the novels can be many things and span several genres. The novels of the Taker Trilogy take the reader through a roller coaster of emotions and difficult challenges that make one reflects and ponder in complex aspects of life and love. However, even with their emotional and moving stories, the narratives gets dark in some places which can make for some uncomfortable thrills. But the dark nature of the novels is a crucial for the development of the characters, who go on a journey of self-discovery and grow over the course of the series. Luke Findley is working the midnight shift at a small hospital in rural Maine and does not expect much activity during the night. He is jolted out of his reverie when Lanore McIlvrae is brought into the Emergency Response Unit with a couple of policemen. Luke is inexplicably drawn to the Lanore who happens to be a murder suspect just recently arrested. Lanore proceeds to tell her story of betrayal and love, an impassioned narrative that transcended mortality and time and changed her life forever. In the very early years of the nineteenth century, Lanore was obsessed with a love for the heir to the St Andrew Medical hospital founder. She was prepared to do anything to make him hers, which included entering into an immortal bond that turns out to be some kind of Faustian bargain that results in a terrible fate she can never escape. McIlvrae is so obsessed with love that she kidnaps her nemesis Adair and entombs him behind a brick and stone wall in a quest to save Jonathan, a boy she considers is the love of her life. But the man Adair is not so easily gotten rid of. He had put to use his paranormal and magical powers to make Lanore immortal and will not be cast aside so easily. Too late, Lanore had learned that the price for immortality was to spend eternity with her enemy. His real self often comes out when someone fails to do what he wants them to do. Two centuries after locking up her enemy, Lanore has come to realize that Adair will not let her go and tries to make right her wrong. She is atoning for her sins by giving away the many treasures she had accumulated over the many lifetimes her deal with Adair had presented to her. She is hoping that giving away her tainted wealth will get rid of her past and make it possible for her to start a new life with Luke Findley her new lover. But while she is giving away her treasures, she realizes that what she has been running away for nearly two centuries may have finally caught up with her. Adair has just escaped from his prison and is looking for revenge. Jack Reacher is back! Family secrets come back to haunt Reacher when he decides to visit the town his father was born in. Because when he visits there he finds out no-one with the last name of Reacher has ever lived there. It leaves him wondering - did his father ever live there? Recommendations Every 2 weeks we send out an e-mail with Book

Recommendations. Insert your e-mail below to start getting these recommendations. If you see one missing just send me an e-mail below. Featured Author Our author of the month is Canadian author Opal Carew who writes erotic romance novels. Opal has written over novels with multiple book series such as the Dirty Talk series and the Abducted series. Author Dan Brown was a pop musician initially, and even relocated to Hollywood in an attempt to continue that career. However his kids version of electronic music never caught on, and he ended up becoming an author.

### Chapter 7 : Endpaper Notes: Outlander vs. The Taker

*The Taker is the first in a trilogy by Alma Katsu. Well written, well researched, descriptive and a little frightening, Alma tells the story of Lanny, a young girl from the s, who is in love with the town founder's handsome son Jonathan, and what she does to keep him.*

### Chapter 8 : *^*, The Reckoning (The Taker, #2) [Alma Katsu] *®* Books Online

*Alma Katsu is the author of The Hunger, a reimagining of the story of the Donner Party with a horror twist. The Hunger made NPR's list of the Best Horror Stories, was named one of the 21 best horror novels written by a woman, and was selected as a most-anticipated Spring pick by The Guardian, Bustle, Pop Sugar, io9, and many other media outlets.*

### Chapter 9 : Listen to Audiobooks written by Alma Katsu | [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)

*I loved Alma Katsu's prior novels, the trilogy of Supernatural eternal creatures that began with the Taker, and The Hunger is a bit of a departure from the prior tales. There is a strong supernatural element to this story but the human drama trumps the supernatural.*