

Editorial Review

***Destined* Culminates *Three Sisters Trilogy* with Exclamation: Strong characters and life-and-limb action bring author Nikki Lewen's eco-ethos to life.**

By: Jonathan Richard Grant author of *Snow Valley: Last of the Ski Bums*

Nikki Lewen closes the *Three Sister's* Cli-Fi (Climate Fiction) trilogy in bold style with *Destined*—Sadie Larkin's last stand for sustainable survival in the 'post-*Ender* world.'

While the apocalyptic approach may not seem new, Lewen succeeds in her message where others get lazy—in her line-by-line, a clean yet textured syntax with strong dialogue—creating vivid characters battling for earth-and-self in a hostile world that feels very real.

The coastal redwood mountains of northern California are now nothing but a string of mist-enshrouded islands in an expansive sea extending to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada—"the tsunamis came and the earthquakes wouldn't stop"—most of the territory and its inhabitants under the domineering control of the evil Splitter Nation. Until, that is, Sadie Larkin showed up in her fatigues and tank top with a bow slung over her shoulder.

Her out-think-you-ways have allowed Sadie to live long enough to find allies and recruit a team—but her final fight against the enigmatic 'President X' and his hoard of short-sided power-hungries proves a test of muscle and mind requisite of the kind of ingenuity and leadership only destiny bestows. (Think: Tomb Raider meets Mother Theresa with a little Jane Goodall and a large heaping of Rachel Carson.)

For, with Sadie Larkin—her intelligence, her cunning, her bow—Lewen has created what some term the 'code hero' for this third-wave of feminism, Sadie's strengths and struggles metaphoric for the sustainability mindset of this new- and ever-needed surge in female geopolitical influence.

But it's not just 'all ethos and fungi' in Lewen's work. *Destined* culminates the trilogy with taut action and steamy romance, with crisscrossing double agents, with a bright-eyed boy named José who can fix anything, and with those 'Trail Angels' roaming the remnant PCT who hold the fulcrum's tilt.

Lewen's strength begins with her characters—with their believability and with the things they can do—and she weaves them in her inter-plots with deft hand. She has a knack for describing nature vividly. She can do romance.

Destined will answer questions for the years' long reader while providing a perfect *in medias res* welcome for newcomers—the book both provides satisfying series' culmination and stands alone as a compelling piece of Cli-Fi.

And watch out for the knives—Sadie Larkin's Monkey Wrench of choice.