

Amber Hansford

polymath. writer. fantasist.

2026

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short bio (~40 words)

Amber Hansford is the author of The Emari Chronicles, a Persian-inspired epic fantasy series, and a UX director based in Atlanta. She writes character-driven fiction about faith, power, and the brutal price of becoming who you choose to be. Member, SFWA.

longer bio (~90 words)

Amber Hansford is the author of The Emari Chronicles, an epic fantasy series rooted in Persian folklore and mythology, about faith, power, and the brutal cost of becoming who you choose to be. By night, she writes character-driven fiction welded from myth, politics, and intimacy. By daylight, she directs UX for companies.

When not drafting or behind a panel mic, she's spiraling down a music or history rabbit hole or manifesting her next passport stamp. She lives in Atlanta with too many notebooks and not nearly enough shelf space. Member, SFWA.

AUTHOR PHOTOS & HEADSHOTS
(Google Docs)

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long bio (~200 words)

Amber Hansford grew up moving up and down the U.S. coasts as a Navy brat, eventually landing in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the years she carved out a career in tech that spanned front-end development, design, and UX leadership. But through it all, she was writing.

In the early 2000s, after encouragement from IRC friends and a collective obsession with Methos, she posted her first Highlander fanfic to fanfiction.net. It's probably still out there. She asks only for kindness.

These days, Amber writes epic fantasy inspired by pre-Islamic Persian culture and mythology. Stories about women who carry kingdoms on their backs, men who survive by being underestimated, and gods who have gone dangerously quiet. She is the author of *The Emari Chronicles*, with the third installment, *The Embers of Tamidh*, coming October 2026. She directs the Filk Music Track at Dragon Con and is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association.

When she's not drafting or revising, she's probably embroidering, falling down a history rabbit hole, or adding another stamp to her passport. She lives in Atlanta with too many notebooks and not nearly enough shelf space.

AUTHOR PHOTOS & HEADSHOTS
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the emari chronicles

series overview

Book 1

The Hand of Mashyana
released February 20, 2025

Book 2

The Veil of Takhsha
released August 12, 2025

Book 3

The Embers of Tamidh
releasing October 13, 2026

Book 4

Title TBD
releasing 2027

The Emari Chronicles is a four-book epic fantasy series inspired by pre-Islamic Persian culture, folklore, and mythology. Set in the kingdom of Emari, the series follows Farahnaz Rahnema, a foundling forged into a weapon in service of a queen she believed in, and Yasher, a card shark who survives on luck and charm and is running out of both. Together they uncover a kingdom rotting from the inside, gods who have stopped answering, and a Darkness that does not announce itself before it takes hold.

The series is character-first. Built on loyalty tested to breaking, relationships with real consequences, and the question of what it costs to become the person a broken world needs you to be. For readers of Robin Hobb, N.K. Jemisin, and S.A. Chakraborty.



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the hand of mashyana

book 1
the emari chronicles

BOOK COVERS &
PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

Publication Details

- Release Date: February 20, 2025
- Formats: Paperback, eBook
- Publisher: Polymath Publishing LLC
- Ebook ISBN: 979-8-9997473-2-7
- Paperback ISBN: 979-8-9997473-0-3

Book Description

She served her queen faithfully. That was her first mistake.

Farahnaz Rahnema was a foundling, one of those blessed by the gods who abandoned Emari with a Talent. Newly elevated to Hand of Mashyana, her first task is a clean one. A relic lost for centuries has surfaced in the pocket of a foreigner who has no idea what he carries. Find him. Take it. Bring it home. But the foreigner's luck has carried him too far for it to be only luck, and somewhere underneath the queen Farah loves, a Darkness is shifting that no oath of loyalty was ever meant to hold.

The Hand of Mashyana is an epic fantasy of faith, betrayal, and the brutal cost of becoming who you choose to be.

Short Description

She served her queen faithfully. That was her first mistake. Sent to take a relic from a foreigner whose luck is more than luck, Farah pulls a thread that unravels everything she has been told about her queen, her kingdom, and the gods who supposedly left.



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the veil of takhsha

book 2
the emari chronicles

BOOK COVERS & PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

Publication Details

- Release Date: August 12, 2025
- Formats: Paperback, eBook
- Publisher: Polymath Publishing LLC
- Ebook ISBN: 979-8-9997473-1-0
- Paperback ISBN: 979-8-218-75531-7

Book Description

The queen is dead. Her kingdom is not done paying. The wasting sickness was never a sickness, and Farah is the only one in parliament willing to say so. Then a town on the southern cliffs goes silent, and the Mashya sends Farah and Yasher south to find out what has taken Sakasan and what is still inside it. His Luck is failing. A child is sketching shadows no one alive can decode. And the Darkness that hollowed out their queen is not done with Emari, with Yasher, or with the Hand trying to hold what is left of them all.

Power is never safe. Love is never simple. And no one walks away unscathed.

Short Description

The queen is dead. Her kingdom is not done paying. Sent to a town gone silent on the southern cliffs, Farah and Yasher find what hollowed out their queen waiting for them both.



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the embers of tamidh

book 3
the emari chronicles

BOOK COVERS & PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

Publication Details

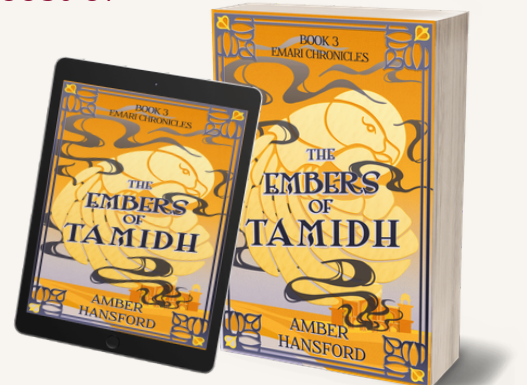
- Release Date: October 13, 2026
- Formats: Paperback, eBook
- Publisher: Polymath Publishing LLC
- Ebook ISBN: 979-8-9997473-5-8
- Paperback ISBN: 979-8-9997473-3-4

Book Description

The child is dead. The gambler is gone. What is left of the Hand is winning the war.

Seven months after Sakasan, Farahnaz Rahnema burns provinces back into order and feels nothing. The voice behind her ribs approves. In rebel Tamidh, Yasher loses coin flips he should win. His Luck still speaks to him. Something is speaking over it. When assassins reach the Mashya and the last of them dies with Tamidh on her lips, six people ride for the rebel city to keep a peace no one believes in. Among them is the Hand. Waiting inside the walls is the man who left her, and a Darkness that was emptied once and means to fill itself again.

The Embers of Tamidh is the third book in The Emari Chronicles, a Persian-inspired epic fantasy series of faith, power, and the brutal cost of becoming who you choose to be. For readers of Robin Hobb, N.K. Jemisin, and S.A. Chakraborty.



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press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Atlanta Author Amber Hansford Announces The Embers of Tamidh, the Penultimate Book of The Emari Chronicles, Coming October 2026

ATLANTA, GA — Amber Hansford, author of the Persian-inspired epic fantasy series The Emari Chronicles and member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association, announces The Embers of Tamidh (Book 3), coming October 2026 from Polymath Publishing LLC.

Seven months after the events of The Veil of Takhsha, Farahnaz Rahnema has become the empire's most efficient weapon and stopped feeling what that costs. Yasher is rebuilding a rebel city with a Luck he can no longer trust. When an assassination attempt sends a peace delegation to Tamidh, the two of them end up inside the same walls, along with a Darkness that has been gathering since Book 1 and is no longer patient.

The Emari Chronicles is inspired by pre-Islamic Persian culture, mythology, and folklore, a world that is both rigorously researched and emotionally immersive. The series sits on the shelf beside Robin Hobb, N.K. Jemisin, and S.A. Chakraborty, adult epic fantasy built on political complexity and character-driven emotional arcs.

The Hand of Mashyana (Book 1) was published February 20, 2025. The Veil of Takhsha (Book 2) followed August 12, 2025. Both are available in paperback and eBook via Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Bookshop.org, with signed editions at amberhansford.com. The series concludes with Book 4, expected 2027. Hansford is available for interviews, podcast appearances, convention panels, and book club events.

Media inquiries: info@amberhansford.com

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press & praise

The Hand of Mashyana

"Well developed characters, very descriptive, and world building that left me looking for the next book in the series."

– Goodreads Reviewer

The Veil of Takhsha

"Everything I want in an epic fantasy sequel, dark, emotional, immersive, and impossible to put down."

– Goodreads Reviewer

Featured Interview. "Amber Hansford. It Ties Back to Music"

Sean H. Taylor, Bad Girls, Good Guys, and Two-Fisted Action. March 3, 2026. seanhtaylor.blogspot.com

On theme

"I tend to come back to what it means to be strong, especially when it comes down to the difference between being strong for others and being strong for yourself, and what that choice costs."

On music as origin

"Almost everything I write ties back to music I love. Emari started because of a few lines in a song that I couldn't get out of my mind because of the image that it created for me."

On being an indie author

"Being an author, especially an indie author, is a long game. Your backlist is your superpower."

Amber is available for interviews, podcast appearances, convention panels, and book club events. Media inquiries. info@amberhansford.com

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interview talking points

On the world-building. The Emari Chronicles is built on years of research into pre-Islamic Persian culture. The Zoroastrian faith tradition, the political structures, the mythology, the material culture. It's not a retelling of any specific story; it's a world that grew from that soil. I wanted readers who know that history to feel it, and readers who don't to find it irresistible enough to go looking.

On the characters. Farah and Yasher are deliberately designed to be mirrors of each other's blind spots. She over-trusts institutions and under-trusts people. He over-trusts people and under-trusts everything else. Watching them collide, and eventually need each other, is the engine the whole series runs on.

On writing the "devastating middle book." Book 3 is the Empire Strikes Back of this series, and I mean that with full commitment. I'm not interested in writing a middle book that treads water. Everything earned in Books 1 and 2 gets tested here. Some of it doesn't survive. That's the point.

On being an indie author in epic fantasy. Epic fantasy is a space where readers have very high expectations for scope, for depth, and for the long game. Publishing independently means I control everything from the cover to the release timing to how I talk about the work. That's a real advantage when you're writing a four-book series with a lot of moving parts and you need readers to trust that you'll see it through.

On the SFWA membership and the indie/trad conversation. SFWA's eligibility criteria for indie authors have evolved, and I think that reflects something real shifting in the industry. The walls between indie and traditional publishing are more permeable than they used to be. What matters is the work.

On Dragon Con and the fan community. I've been directing the Filk Music Track at Dragon Con for years, and that community, the overlap between fandom, music, and storytelling, is one of the most generous and weird and wonderful spaces I've ever been part of. It keeps me honest about why stories matter.