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The Vanishing Throne: Book Two Of The Falconer Trilogy



Synopsis

When we last saw her, Aileana Kameron, the Falconer, disappeared through the fae portal that she was trying to close forever. When she escapes and reenters the human world, she finds her beloved city—indeed, the entire world—has been destroyed, and the fae world itself is slowly dying. Somehow Aileana is the key to preserving both worlds—but how? This much-anticipated second chapter in the Falconer trilogy "combines vivid world-building with action-packed fight sequences" (School Library Journal) "and a cliffhanger ending ensures that readers will follow Aileana to the very end of this trilogy" (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books).

Book Information

Series: The Falconer (Book 2)

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books; Reprint edition (June 13, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452161402

ISBN-13: 978-1452161402

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #165,411 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #450 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore #486 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—In The Falconer, 19th-century Edinburgh debutante Aileana Kameron discovered that she is the last Falconer, a line of women warriors with the ability to defeat fae. In this installment, which picks up where the previous volume ended, Aileana, after failing to prevent the destruction of Edinburgh, is trapped in what was once the Unseelie Kingdom with the vicious Lonnrach, who tortures her physically and psychologically. After being gone for the equivalent of three human years, Aileana returns to find the world a very different place, with her human and fae friends—among the few survivors—hardened by the destruction they witnessed. Throughout the novel, the young woman copes with the guilt and shame of letting her friends down

and of being forced into the role of a helpless victim. After Aileana purposely survives death so she can come back with the gift of sight, this entry ends with her being reborn with the power of Kiaran and Aithinne's mother, The Cailleach, the queen of the fae. This work combines vivid world-building with action-packed fight sequences and does a better job than the first volume of pulling readers in from the beginning. Aileana is a strong heroine, and, as such, her struggle to avoid being a victim following her captivity with Lonnrach is believable and compelling. Kiaran and Aileana's romance progresses in a predictable way, but that does not make it any less enjoyable. Fans will eagerly await the trilogy's conclusion. VERDICT Purchase where the first volume is popular. — Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library, NJ --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"May deftly navigates Victorian romance, steampunkery, and now, dystopia. Surprising, well told, and worth purchasing alongside with its predecessor." -- Booklist "Combines vivid world-building with action-packed fight sequences. fans will eagerly await the trilogy's conclusion." - School Library Journal "An ever-expanding mythology and a cliffhanger ending ensures that readers will follow Aileana to very end of this trilogy." - Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Actual Rating: 4.75 out of 5 In *The Falconer*, Aileana Kameron was seeking revenge against the fae for killing her mother. Now, in *The Vanishing Throne*, she's fighting for survival instead. Trapped in the fae realm due to her failings, Aileana is tortured by the sinister Lonnrach for memories and knowledge that might save his world. And when Aileana escapes with an ally's help, her joy is short-lived: The Scotland she once knew has been demolished, and the remaining survivors (human and fae alike) hide underground. The only way Aileana can save both her home and the fae realm is by finally waking the dormant Falconer powers within her. But at what price? And can she do so before it's too late? I had enjoyed Elizabeth May's first book *The Falconer*, but with some reservations. So, I was not - absolutely NOT - expecting to fall head-over-heels for *The Vanishing Throne*. The expanded world-building and Scottish fae lore, vivid writing, break-neck action sequences, laugh-out-loud humor (thank you, Derrick and Aithinne!) - in short, there was more of what I had enjoyed most about *The Falconer*, and marked improvements on what I hadn't. I even found myself rooting for Aileana and Kiaran's romance this time, especially since we learn more about Kiaran's past and see him at his most vulnerable. It was also great to see other female characters like Aithinne and Aileana's childhood friend Catherine rise to the occasion, and remind

us that women don't need to wield weapons to be "strong." What I loved most about *The Vanishing Throne*, though, was Aileana's growth. She's shed her desire for vengeance, and is now battling the demons in her head as well as the evil fae who want her dead. This lends to a darker, more mature, and ultimately more compelling story than *The Falconer*. I did miss Aileana's tinkering with inventions from the first book, and her escape from the fae realm dragged on a little too long. Otherwise, *The Vanishing Throne* thrilled and captivated me from its harrowing first pages to its stunning last chapter. If you aren't reading this series yet, you need to get on it - right now!

"You make me wish I didn't have to live forever." Wow! This is the right way to end a book. Lots of possibility for the next one. So what happens in the second novel? Well, at the beginning Aileana's still trapped and tortured by Lonnrach. He seeks information and her memories are the best way to get them. In order to retrieve them, he needs to drink her blood. Luckily, this *Falconer* has friends and she's able to return to Edinburgh. However, this is not the Edinburgh she remembers. The world has been destroyed after the Fae attacked. Of course, Aileana blames herself and sure enough, some humans including some of her old friends think it too. I liked this book as much as I did the first one. Usually, the second book in a trilogy can have a lot of build-up in preparation to the end but *The Vanishing Throne* was full of action too. There were plenty of ways for things to go wrong and sure enough, they did. In addition to the action, we get further development in regards to the MC's romance. When Aileana and Kiaran meet again, they have not seen each other for years. They both carry scars which proved what they have both endured. I hate knowing Kiaran's life is attached to Sorcha's. She's evil and she's only going to cause more trouble. In regards to the secondary characters, I love how funny Derrick is. Also, I'm hoping for Gavin to find his true love too. Catherine has matured into a strong woman. She's always on Aileana's side which makes her a true friend. I can't wait to read *The Fallen Kingdom*. I'm very interested in reading how Mrs. May is going to end it all. Cliffhanger: Not really 4/5 Fangs

Wow! This book blew me away! I enjoyed the *Falconer*, but I felt as though it had some really fast world building. The main character was only ruled by vengeance. It got a little old in the first one. This book, the main character, and all of the other characters, address the faults in the first book. Not in a boring explanatory way, but showing that they have been through so much and completely changed. The characters, world, dialogue, and love story in this novel are all amped up to a level I didn't even imagine with the *Falconer*. I would easily say that this is the strongest in the trilogy so far and I cannot wait for the 3rd installment to be out in June. This is an author to watch, I know she is

working on a couple of other stories that hopefully will be taken up by publishers as well. i am very excited to enjoy more of her writing.

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