



# Threats of Sky and Sea

*Jennifer Ellision*

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## **Threats of Sky and Sea** Jennifer Ellision

Sixteen year-old Breena Perdit has spent her life as a barmaid, innocent to her father's past and happily free from the Elemental gifts that would condemn her to a life in the Egrian King's army. Until the day that three Elemental soldiers recognize her father as a traitor to the throne and Bree's father is thrown in jail—along with the secrets from his last mission as the King's assassin. Secrets that could help the King win a war. Secrets he refuses to share.

Desperate to escape before the King's capricious whims prove her and her father's downfall, Bree bargains with him: information for their lives. It's a good trade. And she has faith she'll get them both out of the King's grasp with time.

But that was before the discovery that she's the weapon the King's been waiting for in his war.

Now, time is running out. To save her father's life and understand her own, Bree must unravel the knot of her father's past before the King takes his life— and uses her to bring a nation to its knees.

## **Threats of Sky and Sea Details**

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Author : Jennifer Ellision

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# From Reader Review Threats of Sky and Sea for online ebook

Faye, la Patata says

**Let me guys tell you something: I have complete faith in my co-bloggers.** If they love a book so much, I am very much inclined to check that book out for myself and see what was in it that lit their reader pants on fire. *Threats of Sky and Sea* by Jennifer Ellision was one of them. To be honest, I have never heard of the book until Aimee reviewed it on her blog, listing so many awesome reasons why we should read the book. She didn't need to write that review to convince me; just the fact that she loved it was enough.

When the author offered generously a review copy of her book, I took the opportunity straight away. The fact that it was fantasy added to my excitement even more. **My verdict?**

**Enjoyable, but there were a few things that didn't sit well with me.** Here is my review in list form:

1. **The beginning was weak.** I honestly felt annoyed by how the first three chapters felt so simplistic. It was a recurring case of "I (*verb here*). I (*verb here*). I (*verb here*)" made worse by the fact that they were oftentimes very curt sentences. I had expected it to start with a bang, but the lack of a more natural and flowy writing made it difficult for me to appreciate it.

2. **However, the writing got better after that.** Impressively, after the fourth chapter, the writing got so much better that I had thought I was reading a different book altogether! The sentences started becoming smoother, making the transition from one paragraph to the next more natural. It was then at this point that I started enjoying the story about an 'ordinary' girl who later finds out she and her dad are actually more than 'ordinary'.

3. **Do you like the magic system in Avatar: The Last Airbender? If so, you'd find the system here pleasant.** In this world, there are people who are born with powers of fire (Torchers), earth (Shakers), water (Throwers), and air (Riders). Each region (or kingdom?) has a special affinity with a particular element, for example, the Egrian Kingdom is full of people who can control fire, and they are at odds with the people who can control water, finding it hard to invade them because they don't have the resources to combat an element that exploits the wild fire's weakness.

**The moment the magic system was introduced here, I instantly thought, "Oh, damn. This sounds exactly like Avatar's."** But it's such an overused magic system that it didn't really bother me that much (I mean, you have watched Cartoon Network's *Captain Planet*, yes?). I did like the few details the author put here to add depth to it: the fact that you can only know your power through a Reveal (which is something that happens when you reach seventeen), and the fact that one can control two elements at the same time. Other than that, I wish it was polished and made more unique, but there are still more books in the series to behold, so I'm sure we'll be getting more meat in this aspect.

4. **I adored the father/daughter dynamics.** My dad and I are close. I'm the only girl in the family and that's why I particularly get spoiled by my dad more than my three brothers, and there really isn't that many YA books out there that explore this kind of special relationship in depth. Most of the time, you'll find strained relationships; worst case scenario, a non-existent one due to lame-ass reasons (dead, alcoholics, on vacation, or absent for no reason at all because apparently they're not a vital presence in a teenager's life, right?! /s), that's why when I saw how close Bree and her father were here, I was overjoyed.

No, seriously. Even when her dad was thrown in jail and Bree is left to figure out what to do, we regularly get snippets and narrations that talk about the life Bree and her father had before the Elementals caught them. We see Bree thinking of her father a lot and how she wished things were different for them, how she felt betrayed by his secrets, and how she desperately looked for a way to save him. **It was so refreshing and so touching to see Bree go off on her own adventures (which is absolutely normal) and still have her father frequently in her thoughts (which is absolutely awesome).** I need more of this theme in my bookshelves, fo' real.

5. **The heroine is feisty, intelligent, and just downright fantastic.** I love Bree. She's a girl who suddenly finds herself thrown into a chaotic and tricky situation full of politics and power, and **instead of whining and wallowing in self-pity or recklessly doing stupid things, she patiently bids her time in order to get the advantage and gain more information that would help her along the way. Which I definitely approve.** A want more level-headed heroines, kick-ass female heroes who make mistakes and not be annoying at making them, and rise from them like an Amazonian warrior. Which is what Bree is, in a nutshell.

6. **I didn't like the romance, though.** The romance with Caden wasn't built up enough, in my opinion. I mean, I get that they're attracted to each other, but their "progression" was a bit contrived for me. **I want a development that's more subtle and more believable, a romance that is built on a beautiful friendship, on shared experiences, and a level of "comfortable-ness" that a pair achieves when they go through trials and tribulations together.** The development between Bree and Caden was a little in-your-face and felt like rather than convincing me, it was trying to make itself believe it was there.

Examples (non verbatim):

*Caden kisses Bree's hand. Her heart pounds and she wonders, "Is it me or does his kiss linger a second more on my knuckles?"*

or

*Bree remembers Caden and another girl's marriage. She imagines the two of them standing with clasped hands before a priestess, and her stomach churns unpleasantly.*

Don't get me wrong, there isn't really anything wrong with any of these two situations. It's just that, for me, these weren't enough, and before I knew it, the two were kissing already. **There weren't enough believable scenes for me to take their feelings for each other seriously.**

All in all, this was a pleasant surprise, and I certainly do see why Aimee loves this book. Although I wasn't able to enjoy it fully, there were still many things about it that I found fantastic. Consider me excited for the next book.

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**Giselle says**

Request a free review copy here: [closed - other review opportunities found here]

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## Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

Want to win this book and the prequel, *Sisters of Wind and Flame*? **Jennifer Ellision's giving away e-copies of both books on the blog!**

This one caught my eye when I saw it being featured in one of my favorite blogs, so when the blog tour sign-ups were announced, I had to give it a shot. *Thank you to Giselle at Xpresso Book Tours and Jennifer Ellision for the opportunity to read this book!*

Do you guys remember me ranting about how *Throne of Glass* didn't live up to my very high expectations? Well, *Threats of Sky and Sea* was **everything *Throne of Glass* was supposed to be** (for me, at least). We have a heroine who I highly respect (I'll even innumerate all the reasons why), lovely relationships between characters, an interesting cast of secondary characters and an intriguing new world.

Let's start with our heroine, Breena. I think she's a character we can all respect and admire, for these reasons and others:

1. **She's resourceful.** Don't have a sword or dagger to protect you? You can use anything else! Breena can use even branches for self defense if she needs to.
2. **She has a conscience.** There's a boy being beaten up, and even if Breena knows it'd be better to run, she can't just leave him there to possibly die!
3. **She's snarky and sassy.** Yup. Even when the air in her lungs are being beaten out of her.
4. **She's responsible.** She started work when she was only twelve!
5. **She knows when it's her fault and when it isn't.** You guys know those stupid heroines who think everything's their fault? Breena isn't one of them. She knows when it is and she tries to fix her mistakes, but when things aren't her fault there's no way she's taking the blame.
6. She said this: "There are times for defiance, but now is not one of them." See, she has brains, too!

I should stop. I guess you guys get the picture, anyway.

"Da and I are business partners."

Another thing I loved was the non-romantic relationships in the story. First off, **Breena and her dad just work so well together** and I love their father/daughter dynamics. They were equals and treated each other as such (mostly--but I won't spoil anything). **Breena also had a wonderful set of friends:** Tregle (my favorite character), the sweet one, and Princess Aleta, the one with the half-bitchy-but-actually-friendly attitude.

Non-romantic relationships aside, **the romance was actually the part of the story I wasn't able to love.** Caden's a wonderful (sweet and caring) character on his own, but I just didn't love the idea of him and

Breena as a couple. I might warm up to them in the future installments.

As for the story and world-building, **I would like to commend Jennifer Ellison for getting me immersed in her writing and in the world she created.** I loved being in the world of elementals and I would love to know more. There were a few parts in the story I wasn't fully sold on, but for the most part, I enjoyed the twists and turns the novel had to bring.

*Threats of Sky and Sea* was a well-balanced novel with just the right amounts of action, politics and developing relationships. I highly recommend high fantasy fans to pick this one up!

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## Allison says

Often in Fantasy, a humble hero or heroine will have their world turned upside down with a warning to flee some danger that is searching for them, and they get away just in time. But what happens when the warning doesn't come, and the heroine is captured? That's what happens to Bree in *Threats of Sky and Sea*, and she is torn away from the humble world that is all she's known, alienated from her father whom she realizes has lied to her, and thrown into a dangerous world at court under a cruel king. This world is so far beyond anything she's prepared for, and how she learns to survive is the scope of this first novel. Learn she does, though, and she discovers much more than she bargained for.

Bree finds few friends at court, and most of them are spying on her or are in deeper danger than she is. It is not about political intrigue so much as Bree attempting to keep her head by not angering the capricious king too much, and trying to avoid other non-fatal physical abuse as much as possible (without much success).

I liked the magic system. It's based on the four elements: earth, air, fire and water. If someone is going to be an Elemental, the ability manifests when they turn 16. The king conscripts all who manifest, searching the realm for any who try to escape. So the dangers of court include hostile fire wielders and those who can spy on conversations carried on the wind. That's in addition to a king who is almost mad with power, who is known to send people to their deaths on the slightest whim.

There would have been too much hostility for me to be able to enjoy the book, except there is one character who is solid, honest, and a ray of light in an otherwise dark place. There's also a tiny bit of a romance to lighten things up. It's not the focus of the story at all, and at times I actually wished there was a little bit more build-up to it.

The ending did not surprise me, but it was suspenseful and dire, and it has me hoping for much more in the next book.

I normally don't start new series before I know when they're going to end. I hate waiting for sequels and have this fear of being left hanging forever in case they don't get finished. But, I've been changing my mind lately and have started several this year. This one looked interesting and was available on NetGalley, so I went for it. And... I'm rewarded with a bit of a cliffhanger! Although it is a logical stopping point, now where is book two when I need it? I am looking forward to seeing what happens next, and how Bree grows into her discoveries. I have a feeling it's all going to change.

*\*\*Received free arc for review.*

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## Jen says

My thanks to NetGalley and the author, Jennifer Ellision for an eARC copy of this book to read and review.

This book had a lot of positive going for it. Feisty, but not perfect heroine, strong relationship between father and daughter, interesting plot line and curious magic system. To me, it worked that the MC had no clue about the magic and the world, so as she was learning, the reader was learning too. It came in fits and spurts though, so by 65% of the way in, I still didn't have a complete grasp of the magic system or the world. But neither did the MC, so I wasn't alone in that at least.

I don't know why, but this book just left me cold. It felt like it was missing something somehow. It was written at a decent pace. I was flying through it each time I picked it up, but I kept putting it down and not wanting to pick it up again. It also felt like, despite how quickly I was moving through it, that it was taking forever. In a weird time paradox, it both flew and dragged at the same time.

I tend to read one and two star reviews of books I'm on the fence about, to see if I should bother with the book and by reading the spoilers (I LOVE spoilers, saves me from having to read something if I don't like the way it went), I realized that while I was not disliking it like some did, I also wasn't loving it like others and that the ending didn't grab me enough to want to read to the end of the trilogy. Deciding that while this wasn't a bad book, it wasn't for me at this time, I put it down at 65%, and felt relief.

This in no way will reflect how others will feel about this book, just how I feel right now about it. 3, solid writing chops, stars. If you enjoy YA fantasy with a female protag and magic, you will probably like this trilogy. It just wasn't for me unfortunately.

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## Lyanna (I need a Herondale in life) says

To everyone who is comparing this book to Throne of Glass, I will have you know, I still like Throne of Glass more and Celaena is still more bad ass. That is all. Carrying on...

### OFFICIAL RATING: 4 stars

Threats of Sky and Sea stole my heart like a thief in the night.

I like my protagonists strong-willed, I like them feisty, I like them rebellious, I like them kind-hearted and most importantly, I like them smart.

Breena is all those things, if not more. She knows exactly when enough is *enough*. She can handle pressure without breaking, she can be rebellious without becoming reckless. She understands the weight of her actions and she knows how to set her priorities straight.

Ellision is an astounding writer, she can paint a vivid image without overwhelming the reader. Although there were certain over-detailed scenes, thankfully they did not subdue the better ones.

Sadly, I expected more from the plot. We spent an awful lot of time trying to figure out which elemental Breena was and that was fatal to the story itself. We weren't able to glean much from her father and their relationship was one of the brightest highlights of this book for me. Her visits were rarely described in detail anymore and Jennifer Ellision could've used their time together to pitch in hints for the ending to make its plot-wist a little less strained once introduced because it totally came out of the blue, (though I was pleasantly surprised to be blind-sided).

That aside, the romance was stiff. Breena and Caden never truly spent time together aside from their clandestine meetings but I hardly consider that romantic. Breena developed feelings out of nothing, aside from probably gratitude but disregarding that, I don't see what Caden has done to get Breena to feel the way she did for him. Although I, myself, would hardly be immune to his charm.

The biggest disappointment was Tregle and Aleta. I kept on anticipating a reaction or emotion from Aleta that she reciprocates Tregle's feelings (aside from that *one* time) but she never did. Next to Breena and her father's relationship, this comes a close second to the list of things I looked forward to while reading this book, I only hope that the following installment compensates for the aspects lacking in this one.

Threats of Sky and Sea is a strong debut for a promising series that I (and you) should watch out for.

I received a copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Blogger at:

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## Tracie says

**Book:** Threats of Sky and Sea

**Series:** Threats of Sky and Sea Book 1

**Author:** Jennifer Ellision

**Publisher:** CreateSpace

**Genre:** YA Fantasy

**Publication Date:** April 14, 2014

**Rating:**

\*Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for giving me a copy of this in exchange for my honest review\*

### The Low Down:

Breena Rose was content as a barmaid in her father's humble tavern. They lived good if modest lives and were never bothered by a soul. That is, until one day Breena and her father are confronted by and taken by three Elementals (people who possess elemental magic) to the capital of the kingdom to face the king. Once there, Breena is forced to confront the secrets of her father, navigate the cruel and dangerous world of politics and court intrigue, and figure out her own power and strength.

### What I Liked:

HOLY SHIT THIS BOOK STOLE MY HEART. IT WAS SO UNEXPECTED AND I DON'T



UNDERSTAND WHY MORE PEOPLE AREN'T ENJOYING THIS. This book hooked me from the first page. Was this story predictable in many ways? Definitely. I could figure a lot out about this story. But that wasn't a bad thing. The writing was beautiful and fluid and it kept pace wonderfully. The characters were unique, and each had their own secrets and ulterior motives. Breena's dad, the king, Katerine, and pretty much the entire court in this book lived their lives in greed, power and fear.

It was so refreshing, too, to have a book where the heroine isn't ruled by love and where she can make the decision to save a kingdom from an evil ruler BY HERSELF and WITHOUT A BOYFRIEND. I mean I do hope they get together, but it is really empowering to see that a feisty, strong-willed and SMART girl can make the tough decisions and do things herself for once. She also knows when and how to fight her battles ask questions.

We had some well-developed side characters. Each had their own personality and none seemed like some stereotyped person or group. I enjoyed that Breena made some allies in these characters, but I like that she and they were not falling head over heels in amazing friendship over each other at first. I especially like the relationship between her and Aleta. They at first didn't like each other, but Breena knew there was something going on and didn't really try to press the issue. The author did a good job in giving Aleta a legitimate reason not to like Breena; and not just make her the bitchy one.

I think Ellison painted a beautiful and vivid picture of her world in the pages of this book. From religion in the world, to the political intrigue and court system with the colors, to even the Adept magic, I was thrust into this world and I didn't want to leave.

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### **Tamara says**

[Snow Like Ashes (hide spoiler)]

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### **Dianne says**

Power, the more the better, greed, and betrayals will mark a turning point in young Breena's life as she goes from barmaid to Elemental in a brief span of time. **Threats of Sky and Sea** is a nicely paced fantasy of a young girl's coming of age as her life is rapidly turned both upside down and inside out.

Parents don't tell their children everything, but the secrets that Breena's father kept from her could lead one of them to their death and the other into a lifetime of servitude in the king's army. Her father was branded a

traitor to the Egrian King a man once his best friend, to Bree's shock, her father will share nothing of his past, but why not?

Far from a normal child, Bree learns she has Elemental powers so strong, she is to become the deadly weapon for the king in his thirst for victory over others and the spoils it will bring. Is this what her life is to become? Time is running out to save both her father and herself, and who to trust is a dangerous game. All she needs is a plan and for it not to fail...the battle of good versus evil comes alive again.

Jennifer Ellision has painted a fantasy world with the feel of a long ago tale. One brave and level-headed girl is about to take on a vile and twisted king, ill-prepared for what she is about to face. How refreshing to have a quick-thinking and resourceful heroine who manages to keep her wits about her as she plays a dangerous game of "who has the most power." Secrets are kept, secrets are revealed and lives will be lost, in the end, will it be worth it? Beautiful scenes descriptions bring this world to life as characters of every ilk play out their roles to perfection. A great read that entertains and flies by from the beginning to that last page. Looks like another great series is off to a flying start!

I received this copy from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Series: Threats of Sky and Sea - Book 1

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Available from: Amazon

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Rane says**

This was like a breathe of fresh air for me, it hit so many points. An amazing story, a strong heroine, court intrigue, and some twists and turns I didn't see coming.

Breena, I felt for and cheered for throughout the story, she had some sass but didn't overdo to the point of doing some stupid. She step lightly and used her brains to see where everyone stood and watchful. It was heartbreaking some of the choices that lead her to the path she walked, but she kept strong.

The use of elementals might have been done before, but in Jennifer Ellision's hand she gave it a fresh take with a war brewing between countries and a mad if not evilly clever king using everyone as a chess piece on the board. Making the intrigue at times bothersome as you didn't know who stood where. So finding an ally in this backstabbing court was almost a relief!

The romance was given a very light touch, that I can see growing from an attraction to more. I hate me some instalove, so again it was refreshing to see a nice change of pace!

The only true trouble I had was the somewhat blocky narration. Time would skip from days to weeks, so this

kinda left one with a skip that you had to take a second to catch up with Breena and her trials.

I greatly enjoyed this, and with the ending leaving me wanting more, I'm looking forward to more from this series.

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## **Kirsty (Amethyst Bookwurm) says**

This and my other reviews can be found at <http://amethystbookwurm.blogspot.co.uk/>

Thanks to Netgalley and Patchwork Press for giving me this book to review.

Bree has lived a normal 16 years as a barmaid at her father's tavern, until her father's past catches up to them. Bree discovers that her Da was a good friend of the king but ran away after his last mission. With her father in prison, Bree is throw into a new life of politics and lies. Bree is desperate to free her father and escape but that becomes difficult when the king finds out that she is the weapon he has been waiting for. With time running out for Bree, her da and her friends, will Bree be able to unravel her past and escape from the king's grasp before she is used to destroy a nation.

Threats of Sky and Sea is a very good if predictable fantasy book, with danger, a hint of romance and magic. It was slow to start, but as we got to know the characters it quickly picked up.

I like Bree as she stands up for herself but is also kind and handles the changes in her life reasonably well, however, because she was so headstrong it caused her problems as she did not know which battles to fight and which to not. Bree's Da is a very mysterious person and even at the end of the book there is more to discover about him. Prince Caden is a charming character who is torn between loyalty to his father and what he believes is right. However, the characters which I was underwhelmed with are the villains, the king and lady Kat, as they are not original.

I saw the twist at the end I saw coming but I still want to see what happens next in Riot of Storm and Smoke. I would recommend Threats of Sky and Sea to fans of Throne of Glass by Sarah J Maas or Fireblood by Trisha Wolfe.

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## **Katerina says**

*“Monstrous men will turn and flee,  
When faced with threats of sky and sea.”*

### **YA Q&A (Threats of Sky and Sea edition)**

**Q:** So, Katerina, you read tons of YA Fantasy. What made you pick this book?

**A:** The **cover!**

**Q:** Isn't that a little... shallow?

**A:** Yeah yeah, I know, don't judge a book by its cover (literally and figuratively), but have you seen it? It's so

pretty!

**Q:** But what about the story? Was it **engaging**?

**A:** **Yes**, it held my attention from the very first pages! It's about Bree, a plain, common girl, that lives in a kingdom ruled by a cruel monarch, who forces the Elementals (people who use elemental magic) to serve him. Bree's world is turned upside down when her father is arrested and declared a traitor to the crown, because it is revealed that he'd been a gifted Elemental and effective assassin that left the king's side and disappeared. To spare her father's life, Bree is forced to attend court and obey the king she despises, but eventually she finds herself in the middle of the plot to control the king's greed and undermine his efforts to conquer another nation.

**Q:** It sounds like a story we've heard before, am I right?

**A:** I have to admit, it followed many cliches and it was **highly predictable**, I could sense what was about to come miles away, and I figured out the so called secrets and plot-twists really early, but that didn't prevent me from enjoying the story!

**Q:** Why is that?

**A:** Well, the world-building was solid and the writing fluid, reading Jennifer Ellison's words was **effortless**! Plus, I'm a sucker for **elemental magic** and **courts full of danger and intrigue**, so naturally I had a great time following Bree's journey!

**Q:** What about the **characters**?

**A:** All of them were **likeable**! I understood Bree for feeling betrayed by her father and being cautious, and I admired her for wanting to help him nonetheless! She was stubborn, and fierce, and she did not let her fear guide her! I also liked Aleta and the way she became friends with Bree, and the boys were very alluring! Especially **His Royal Highness, Prince Caden Garrett Langdon Edric Richard of the House of Capin. The Fourth.**

**Q:** You said boys, is there a love triangle?

**A:** Thankfully **no**, and I hope it stays that way! There is enough love triangle drama in my life right now!

**Q:** Oh really?

**A:** You have no idea, my two nephews (3-years-old and 7-years-old) like the same girl (8-years-old), it's a freaking nightmare! The older one practiced his kissing skills on a teddy bear!

**Q:** That's... not what I expected. Do tell me, how was the romance?

**A:** It was great! Very **subtle**, no insta-love, just slowly-burning feelings they could no longer deny! And a **toe-curling kiss**! In fact, Bree was a heroine who chose to save her father and her friend, even when it meant giving up Caden. It's so rare, a girl's decisions not guided by her love life!

**Q:** Well, it sounds like a book worthy of your time, doesn't it?

**A:** It definitely is!

*“Sorrow drains from me, replaced with a boiling conviction. They know that fire can burn.  
But they've forgotten how water can scald.”*

**\*ARC generously provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\***

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## Nicole Pramik says

For starters, this cover is really gorgeous, both in color and design. Plus, kudos for using a short-haired model 'cause we short-hair gals don't get enough press, if you ask me!

Who says only long-haired lasses can save the day? If anything, we short-haired gals at least don't have to worry about messing up our tresses while battling evil-doers. :D

Okay, I'll stop rambling now.

While I liked this first novel in a planned series, the story itself toed the three-star line for me. While it's not a terrible or even a boring read, I think I just wasn't the perfect audience to fully appreciate it.

As a whole, this is squarely a YA fantasy read that I sense will appeal chiefly to the YA fantasy market, especially teen girls looking for fantasy fiction that isn't populated by paranormal creatures or dominated by a dystopian environment. That being said, I certainly wouldn't call this novel a juvenile read. The writing is solid and the pacing is appropriate. Likewise, the characters are interesting and Breena, the chief protagonist, is likable, avoids being annoying or whiny, and is worth rooting for. So, all in all, there isn't anything that would insult the minds of adult readers, much less anyone younger.

So why the three stars?

I suppose I have myself to blame for having read so much fantasy over the years from various authors; within various subgenres; and containing various character types, creatures, and magic systems. Hence, what I found in *Threats of Sky and Sea* was interesting but nothing new. I've seen the Elemental concept used before. I've read works of court intrigue where an outsider is whisked into the royal court. I've encountered magic systems that characters within the story seek to use and control. In a sense, I've seen what this novel offers times before and nothing in particular stood out as being a brand new take.

Does that make this a terrible novel? No, not at all.

I think it really just depends on the audience, and I'll admit that I probably was not the best audience. In truth, my sentiments towards *Threats of Sky and Sea* are akin to my feelings about *Eragon*. I sense it will have the most appeal to readers who haven't delved that much into the fantasy genre. Just as *Eragon* makes for a good introductory fantasy read for persons new to the genre, so is *Threats of Sky and Sea* a good introduction into Elemental fantasy magic. (I imagine fans of the Nickelodeon series *Avatar: The Last Airbender* might find much to like here as there are some similarities in terms of how the various elements are used and controlled by the Elementals.) Likewise, this makes for a good introduction into the court intrigue sub-genre that, thankfully in this work, isn't heavy-handed with the politics.

The same can be said for the characters as most of them are tropes that, again, if you're well-versed in fantasy, you will recognize these figures. Such characters include the strong female protagonist, an icy female antagonist who is a near equal to the heroine, the handsome prince, the head-strong king, the mysterious father, etc. Again, these are conventional characters within the fantasy genre, so there isn't anything inherently wrong with their usage. But for fantasy newbies, these might not strike the same chords of *deja vu* as they would to long-time fantasy fans.

Content-wise, I can't recall there being any strong language other than a sporadic PG-level word (if even

that). The violence avoids being bloody and focuses more on magic-driven action while there are a few scenes of peril when characters are placed in dangerous or life-threatening situations. Lastly, there was no sexual content that I could recall though Breena is given a love interest (that borders on insta-chemistry) but nothing (that I can remember) happens between them in terms of anything sensual or sexual.

Overall, while *Threats of Sky and Sea* wasn't a terrible book, my extensive reading background in the fantasy genre kept me from enjoying it more as it doesn't bring anything new to the genre that I haven't encountered somewhere before. That being said, I think it would make for a better read for teens, especially teen girls, who are starting to get their feet wet in fantasy books but who want to avoid any racy fare.

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### **Sylvia Mercedes says**

A fantastic, female-lead fantasy that features elemental magic in a thrilling adventure. Forbidden romance and unfolding secrets keep your turning pages as you read.

My favorite aspect of this book was the our leading lady, Bree. She is smart, brave, determined. She has one blow after another thrown at her, but she doesn't let them stop her. I loved watching her struggle against incredible odds and surmount them one after another.

And that ending . . . definitely left me with a need for book 2!!!

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### **Wart Hill says**

You can read this and other reviews at [Things I Find While Shelving](#)

*[I received a free ARC of this book via NetGalley. This fact has no bearing on my review.]*

When I get into a DNF streak, I start to get discourage and I wonder if I should have kept going, given the books I couldn't finish more of a chance.

But then I read something I absolutely love, and I know it was a good thing I didn't struggle through those other books, because then I might never have gotten to the ones I like.

That's how I feel about this book.

Threats of Sky and Sea is quite the adventure. Breena's life is turned upside down when the King's Adepts (Elementals) whisk her and her father away, claiming that the life she lived was not the one she was meant for - and that her father is not the man she has known him as for all her life. Breena is trapped in the world of false smiles and power hungry kings. She isn't sure who she can trust or what's going to happen to her or if she'll ever see her father again.

She makes some unlikely allies, and they work in secret against the King, who likes to have the rulers of neighboring countries killed so he can then swoop in and take over in the confusion. His sights are set on an Island nation now, but the nation has a strong navy, helped by their Water Elementals (Throwers), and

Breena's country hasn't had a Thrower in sixteen years. So the king is finding weapons where he can, including marrying his son to the princess who was stolen from her home sixteen years before.

Ellison's world building is beautiful. From the different types of Adepts to the religion surrounding the Makers (OMG THE MYTHOLOGY!!) it was so well done and I really felt swept away into this world. Breena is a great character - she's strong, she's got her flaws (I think she's a little too trusting sometimes, but it works) and she knows when to fight and when to stay silent, which is something that happens frustratingly little in YA high fantasy, I've found...

There are great side characters, including Aleta (the stolen Princess), Caden (the Prince), Kat (the King's head Rider (air elemental)). Everyone is well developed, they didn't feel like caricatures or cardboard cutouts.

One thing I particularly liked was that Aleta and Breena did not get along to start, but Breena didn't chalk it up to Aleta being a bitch or anything petty like that, and they eventually came to be something like friends.

Over all, a very fun read. Looking forward to more in this world.

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