



Roar

Cora Carmack

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Roar Cora Carmack

New York Times bestselling author Cora Carmack's young adult debut: *Roar*.

In a land ruled and shaped by violent magical storms, power lies with those who control them.

Aurora Pavan comes from one of the oldest Stormling families in existence. Long ago, the ungifted pledged fealty and service to her family in exchange for safe haven, and a kingdom was carved out from the wildlands and sustained by magic capable of repelling the world's deadliest foes. As the sole heir of Pavan, Aurora's been groomed to be the perfect queen. She's intelligent and brave and honorable. But she's yet to show any trace of the magic she'll need to protect her people.

To keep her secret and save her crown, Aurora's mother arranges for her to marry a dark and brooding Stormling prince from another kingdom. At first, the prince seems like the perfect solution to all her problems. He'll guarantee her spot as the next queen and be the champion her people need to remain safe. But the more secrets Aurora uncovers about him, the more a future with him frightens her. When she dons a disguise and sneaks out of the palace one night to spy on him, she stumbles upon a black market dealing in the very thing she lacks—storm magic. And the people selling it? They're not Stormlings. They're storm hunters.

Legend says that her ancestors first gained their magic by facing a storm and stealing part of its essence. And when a handsome young storm hunter reveals he was born without magic, but possesses it now, Aurora realizes there's a third option for her future besides ruin or marriage. She might not have magic now, but she can steal it if she's brave enough.

Challenge a tempest. Survive it. And you become its master.

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Roar Details

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From Reader Review Roar for online ebook

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Update: \$2.99 US kindle 10-22-17

This book was in my first Fairyloot box for June.

I thought the book was pretty good. I don't know if it was my mood once again but I didn't love it as much as everyone else. But, I will re-read it before the next book.

Oh, but all the stars goes to the book cover! And if you take off the dust jacket Roar is looking out across the city and it is so freaking awesome!

In the book she goes by: Aurora, Rora, and Roar. You just have to read the book.

Sometimes she was Aurora. Confident. Clever. Cultured.

Sometimes she was Rora. Afraid. Alone. Ashamed.

And more and more, she was Roar-bold, brash, and increasingly baffled by the situation in which she found herself. And sometimes she was none of them, lost and adrift somewhere in between, like the wildlands between Stormling cities.

Roar is supposed to have powers but she doesn't and she can't let her betrothed, Cassius know about it. She can't let anyone know about it.

But Roar has found a way to maybe learn some things. She meets up with Locke and his friends. I loved them all! Locke starts training Roar and we shall see where this will go. I'm not really sure what's going to be going on with that ending. Roar is playing a fine line.

Fables&Wren says

WrensReads Review:

This book has **THE COOLEST CONCEPT IN THE HISTORY OF ALL CONCEPTS IN THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN WORLD**. Like, holy crap Cora Carmack, how in the world did you just come up with this world? It is totally unique and beauty and I need more than one story in this world and I also need the next book to just appear in my hands.

So let me just gush more about the world here. **THESE PEOPLE FIGHT STORMS**. Like they literally

will go out and fight a tornado. The only way to stop the tornado is to get the gem that is in the middle of the storm that is called the heart. Let me reiterate: **THEY STILL THE HEARTS OF STORMS**. I don't know why this whole thing just blows my mind, but it legitimately makes me contemplate what my life is about. Like here I am waiting for Game of Thrones to happen and Aurora and her people are out there fighting fire that comes down from the sky.

Am I the only person who feels this is the coolest thing to happen to the book community since Rowling's Wizarding World? Probably, and I'm okay with that.

So back to the actual story, Aurora is a princess. The royalty is who has the power to fight a storm, because not everyone has that liberty. It stays within a bloodline usually, but you also have to fight the storms to get their hearts. So if you have a tornado's heart, it doesn't mean you can fight a tidal wave as well as someone who has a tidal wave's heart. The more hearts you have, the stronger you are as a stormfighter.

So when Princess Aurora shows no powers when she comes of age, her queen mother negotiates her marriage to a powerful family of another kingdom to keep this from becoming public knowledge. No one knows that she can't actually do what she was born to do.

#Protagonist: I love the character growth with Aurora. Because in the beginning of the book, so is naïve and is kind of a quiet personality; she even feel for a game being played on her in the first few chapters. But, she finds something else that might save their reign, and without having to marry herself off for power instead of love. The whole journey of her finding herself was just so pure and enlightening.

Not to mention the people she meets. It was kind of like their own little version of the gang from Six of Crows (which I found a lot of other reviews also saw that comparison). You had the loud mouth girl, the light-on-her-feet girl, the goofy boy, the brooding boy and the strong-silent-type boy. I mean, there's also like a wise-old-man in the group and then you have our girl Aurora, but I still kept thinking of Six of Crows, even though these books are vastly different.

#CoProtagonist: Locke is a strong character. Things get a little predicable, but I wasn't made about that when it came to him. He is about to go ballistic in the beginning of book two though because of what he is about to find out. I am looking forward to hearing more about his past because I think there is more to him than just chasing storms with his gang.

#AntiHero: The betrothal, Cassius, needs more time in the lime-light. He is dark, handsome, broody and has his own agenda and I need to know more about him. I have a feeling that in the next book, he is going to be taken over the pages and I am not even mad about it. I wouldn't be mad if Aurora ended up falling in love with him because I was after like chapter two so.

#Supporter: Nova, the only friend Aurora ever had, also needs more screen time. The crowns of the Stormling Kingdoms have tried to kill out the witches of the world... and have done a poor job of it because one has been under their nose this whole time. She's about to break everyone's world wide open and I am pumped.

I'm also not mad about the love triangle that is about to form, possibly a love square if the author allows it.

Love triangles are usually overplayed these days, but I am living for the tension this is going to bring with these characters.

I absolutely loved this book and I plan on reading it again at least three times before the next one comes out.

WrensReads | Goodreads | Twitter | Instagram

— — —

This is quite possibly the best book I have ever read. Review is comin'

Oh and also, I'm dead. No funeral though because I'll probably just become [spoiler here and no I don't spoil things unless you ask me too but MY LAUUURD THIS BOOK].

Frankie Lovely says

5 STARS SOOOO HARD OMG!!!

BR with:

That guy

My Beloved Wife-poo

Find this review and others at [A Thousand Lives of Frankie Lovely](#) blog

[illegible]

****AN ASIDE****

This portion is about the romance in this book, and while I kept it spoiler free, if you are sensitive to any sort of mild spoiler information, emotional progression etc. you may want to avoid reading

Apparently there is a review going around that voices the opinion that the romance in this book is problematic and most likely triggering to victims of domestic violence and rape. I actually find this to be baffling only because I felt so strongly the complete opposite. While I respect the reviewers opinion and right to have it, I am concerned with how some people are responding to it's suggestions as fact. Many even lowering their own ratings because of it! Why let other people speak for you I say? A book review is essentially a persuasive essay, including one point of view and only the evidence and facts necessary to support the writer's opinion (including my own).

I simply want to give voice to another reader's experience here to consider.

The bottom line is, we all read a book and process it based on our own personal context. **So I wanted to share my experience with the romance in this book being both a domestic violence and rape survivor.**

Most of you know (and the evidence still exists below) that I fangirled big time while reading this book. It became more to me than just a really kickass story though because I connected so emotionally to Roar and Locke and their relationship in general. **Not only did it feel real (meaning flawed), but it felt natural in its progression, in it's growth, and most of all in it's beauty.**

Locke is strong and supportive and he allows Roar to be her own person, he does not control her. (Let's face it Roar is not going to be controlled! She's so awesome yet flawed but totally kickass!) But he is not a doormat either. He fights her on things when he feels like he needs to. And Roar fights back. Because that is what people do.

One of the things I loved, was how much he respected her. There is a thin line between protecting those you love and controlling them. I felt like Carmack did an impeccable job not crossing that line at all. Sure, Locke makes some mistakes. Roar does too. But people make those. Without mistakes we have a world with flat unrealistic characters.

One of the worst relationships I have seen written lately in YA fantasy fiction is Rhys and Feyre in ACOWAR. Rhys watched Feyre do everything without an opinion of his own to such an extreme that he lost his identity completely. This is NOT healthy in a relationship, for one person to be so passive that they lose themselves in the other person is really damaging. Any relationship that does not have a give and a take, a push and a pull, is a controlling and unhealthy relationship whether passively or aggressively so.

A healthy relationship does not mean a relationship without issues. A relationship will never be perfect when it is between two humans who have their own opinions. Just as even the purest friendship will have it's moments of strife. There will be times when these two people do not think 100% the same way. This is normal. **A healthy relationship is one where two people compromise, or admit their mistakes and grow as individuals and as a couple.**

I want to be very clear here, **this relationship did not strike me as being an abusive or problematic relationship at all.** I also want to reiterate that I am a survivor of domestic abuse and also of rape. So, I happen to be someone who is extremely sensitive to controlling behavior in people around me. I cannot speak for everyone, but I absolutely never felt triggered in any way. Quite the opposite actually. I felt empowered and emotionally connected because of how beautifully **I thought Carmack crafted and melded this relationship into something with a mutual respect!**

There are some moments of strife, some moments of hurt feelings, some moments when people put hands where they shouldn't. But these are things that are not portrayed as positive moments, they are portrayed as mistakes more times than not. This book showed us a real relationship and this is one of the things I loved most.

Some people may not see the full depth of this story and that is ok. Some people may read this story and see things a different way and that is ok. Some people may see this story and connect to it positively like I did and that is ok. Some people may have any number of responses to and opinions about this book and that is ok too. This is what reading should be.

BUT ... I do encourage everyone to make an effort to form their own opinions after reading the book. Do not let the suggestions of others sway your own experience and conviction either. **Going into it a book with a positive mindset and seeing how this story unfolds for you specifically is always your best option.** I just hope someone who might have gotten something positive from this book like I did wasn't discouraged. **This book hit me really emotionally hard in an empowering way.** Again, everyone draws from their own context differently.

I just wanted to remind everyone that one person's opinion and experience with a book or a moment in a book does not and should not speak for everyone (including my own).

[illegible]

ASDGOEPRGQNRKGJAEGA:REGOAEWHATISLIFE?!?!

Gold and white stripes ... or funky cats?

because...

I.
Am.
Wrecked.

I see spots and I don't think they are real?! My eyes are rebelling.

BUT why do I have to wait for things?! I need book 2 now though ... the universe owes me AT LEAST THIS!!!!

PREPARE THYSELF ... because this review is going to be a lot of random fangirling, poorly flowing points and epic gushing because I really adored this book!!!

Also I am running on a crazy lack of sleep right now ... so the writing on this review is going to be awful ...
oops

What I Liked

This is **one of the coolest worlds I have ever read in a YA fantasy book!** SO FREAKING COOL! I mean look at the map. Ok, yeah ... lot of YA fantasy books provide maps in the front of their books but far too often the stories end up taking place in only one location and maybe mentioning a place or two on the map. This book uses a huge percentage of it's really cool world! Many cities are really well developed in this book, doing more than just mentioning them a time or two, but actually developing bits of culture and/or history for them. But the absolute best part of this world is hands down THE STORMS! Omg these wrathful mega storms and the entire concept of this aspect is so incredibly brilliant and well done ... I JUST CAN'T! OMG SO AWESOME!!! SO FREAKING AWESOME!!! I mean the imagery is the most incredible thing I have read in a very long time! Ripping the hearts from the storms ... wow ... just wow!

This ties heavily into the magic system which is also one of the coolest things I have read in YA fantasy. Let's be honest ... I have been let down by storm magic and elemental magic in books quite a bit in the past.

THIS BOOK DELIVERS! Again, well written, easily understood, Intricate, and did I mention SO FREAKING COOL!?!

And we have Stormlings, and storm hunters and I am actually quite bitter that I was not able to become a storm hunter in life to be honest. I feel like the Universe has some making up to do on this account because I feel cheated! These character concepts are so cool! And the characters themselves are fangirl worthy for sure! (which is convenient ... since I fangirled a shit ton). There is not a single character in this book that I felt fell flat. I fell in love with basically everyone! These characters are really well developed with backstory, differing opinions/beliefs and identifiable personalities.

This book has one of my new absolute favorite female MCs of all time! Roar is an epic strong but imperfect female role model of an MC! And she is pretty badass! She is all the things Celaena Sardothien wanted to be and wasn't (sorry epic fans but it's true). I mean ... she can protect herself ... and says things like this when boys touch her ...

"Excuse me." She shoved him backward, Heat rising into her cheeks. "Perhaps ask before you put your hands all over a person."

FUCK YEAH! Get is girl!

I mean she doubts herself from time to time, she has obvious faults and insecurities, this makes her human and I love her all the more for it!

And villains! Oh we have some of the coolest villains in this book!!! And I love them too. Again ... developed, well written, unique, and intricate! And oh so dark which is the best part <3

But not only were individual characters well developed in this book, but relationships between characters were as well! NOT TO MENTION ALL THE TENSION RIDDLED, AMAZING AS FUCK, WHY ARE MY EYES SWEATING SHIPPY GOODNESS OMG MY HEART!

Like ... the romance is on point! I ship it so so so hard you have no idea! ***Mild Spoiler***(view spoiler)

The plot is so freaking good too! I know a lot of people are over certain tropes and this book has one or two (not going to tell you which ones because no spoilers!), but they are so well done ... who even cares?! While this book certainly fits the mold of a YA fantasy ... it is unique enough to be extremely refreshing and enjoyable!

I kept waiting for this book to become another "meh" cliché YA fantasy book and ... it never did!

This book was more than just a pretty face. It was extremely well written for one! Despite the unique magic and world building elements, this book had all of ZERO info dumps ... and yet I do not feel lost or confused at all! This book also throws in a few really powerful messages throughout the story. I'm not going to give these away too much because I think letting them find you is so much stronger. There is a lot of powerful positive and empowering relationship moments in this book. Very supportive and beautiful. There are also a few tolerance messages throughout.

Speaking of diversity did I mention that we have several different skin shades represented here. But race is not really a huge discussion point.

But of course my favorite part of any book is HOW IT MAKES ME FEEL! I love a book that wrecks me and this book did that so good I loved it. There was so much tension, my heart felt like it was on a wire about to snap! I cried several times for multiple times for everything from sadness to happiness ... I was an emotional mess. Still am. And I have a pretty serious book hangover right now.

In lieu of posting a what I did not like section ... I am going to list the things I hope to see more of in the next book

- +More Cassius
- +More knife throwing
- +More backstories
- +More strife/tension between a certain ship
- +More of the same awesomeness this book delivered on!
- +Don't kill my babies ... ok but seriously if everyone lives I will *eye roll* so hard so it's a tough call
- +Answered questions

In Conclusion

This book was the light at the end of the 2017 shitty book releases tunnel for me! This book saved my life in all honesty ... maybe that's a bit dramatic ... no it's accurate.

A brilliantly conceptualized and written world and story! I LOVE IT OMG SO FREAKING MUCH!

****MUSIC SUGGESTIONS****

Sparks After the Sunset by Cosmic Gate & Sarah Lynn

And as always ... pretty much anything by Crywolf

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

2.5*

This wasn't awful, the fantastical element was very unique, I mean c'mon storm magic. How cool! However you can definitely tell that this author usually writes heavy romances, which is fine, but I did not at all care for the language used in the relationships. It was very possessive and honestly my eyes were rolling 80% of the time. I think I would have enjoyed this more had the romance not been such a big part of the story, or had the romance not been so aggravating. I don't know what it is with me but I'm so critical of relationships in YA lately. I just feel like we can do better and there can be a cute romance without the possessive harmful language.

Em says

record scratch

freeze

yup. that's me. the bundle of straw tied into a vaguely human shape staring blankly at the computer trying to sift through her weird mix of feelings about this book and figure out how to properly phrase it all. you know, just another awkward 3 stars review. yeet.

look, **I am so conflicted**. I feel like all of my emotions are people in their 20's mistaken for actual adults, and there's an 80s montage of everyone just kind of fumbling around bumping into each other, trying to figure out where the free food is. hey @feelings, it's not halloween for you. please quit trick or treating with me.

So since I am very Undecided™ about this book, I guess I'll just make a **LIKES vs. DISLIKES IN BULLET POINTS** review like some sort of goddamn medieval peasant. see, I, personally, would love to get my shit together and yet... ˘(?)˘

LIKES

"Treat others with kindness. For you do not know which souls will visit you again as storms rather than men."

—*The Book of the Sacred Souls*

- first of all, this book introduces one of the most interesting magical concepts that i've ever encountered:
- **people who reincarnate as storms after they die**
- imagine being able to house your consciousness in a more suitable home, to transcend the parameters built into your earthly shell and leave behind your prison flesh and your current biological state with your current societal mode of being...to be *reborn* as a storm
- how cool that no one never really has to leave?? like someone can be gone in their human form but their atoms are still floating on the wind and growing into a whirlwind... it's like their existence was just a holiday romance but their particles have to get back to their real lives and become a tornado!!!
- please I don't want gender I want thunders and a formless existence
- but see, their consciousness isn't just floating into an empty void
- they are quite aware of themselves. quite *there*
- and **they are being hunted by the Stormlings**
- a Stormling's duty is to excavate a storm's heart and ultimately kill it
- so maybe it's not that cool after all. some folks just have to ruin the fucking fun.
- no really why would you do that??
- I love storms and if I could be any natural phenomenon I would probably choose thunderstorms
- so this book has pretty much laid me out to die with this concept, I have seen the stars and I will not accept any lesser death than a death that leads to me becoming a soaring windstorm
- also there are people called **Stormlords** and they're so rare because they can actually *bend* the storms to their will and they're considered dangerous and a threat
- this whole thing with stormlords is still ambiguous because we don't really know much about it yet. we barely had two chapters from a stormlord's point of view and all he did was literally just wreak havoc and I

was so there for it!!

- anyway, the premise is so cool and I mean, if I think about it hard enough, in a million years when we're all dead, our atoms will mix with solange and we will all probably become a whirlwind
- also this list won't be complete without my favorite under appreciated character: **Nova**
- she might be a minor character but she's a major one in my heart
- she's the queen, the moon and at least three suns
- we don't see much of her in this book but she completely dominated the entirety of it (for me, at least)
- her spirit just radiates warmth and peace and hidden power and quite frankly, she's the main thing I look forward to in the next book

DISLIKES

"Sometimes we must make answers where there are none."

—The Tale of Lord Finneus Wolfram

- everything else??
- I was literally so bored my mind kept drifting into thoughts of sharks and if they ever think of falling in love or if aliens have inbuilt fears like heights and snakes and the dark like the rest of us humans??? (I'm just weird don't actually listen to anything I say)
- the book dragged so much and you know how they say 'time flies when you're having fun'?? well I was *not* having fun and every page literally takes at least a fortnight
- even when something remotely distressing occurs, I was figuratively just slowly walking backwards from the messy situation while raising my eyebrow and sipping my drink because I !! just!! did !! not !! care !!
- I liked those few chapters with that Stormlord and Nova but that's about it
- **let's talk about the characters**
- if you think that I could care less about shitty plot lines and that if the characters were real and I connect with them, I would defend them until my dying breath...well you are correct.
- I come for the characters and I stay for the characters
- well, I wouldn't exactly stay for these characters, in fact I would run away to start a new life after my scheme to defraud my insurance goes wrong and live a new life as a yoga teacher in guadalajara
- it's just... something was missing
- it's like when you go to nonchalantly put your hands in your pockets only to realise you don't have pockets
- there was nothing special about them, in fact, they felt more like an echo of every YA character rather than their own person
- **we've got Cassius**
- you know his type: a strong jawline, broad shoulders, a shit attitude with a side of controlling and possessive douchebag
- how groundbreaking. truly innovative. absolutely amazing. I've never seen this before.
- I need to buy a Polaroid so I can take photos of my loved ones that I can stick on my prison wall if I ever manage to retreat into this book and beat cassius into a goddamn pulp
- do you think he knows that I hate him? like...really hate him in an oddly personal way? do you think he knows?
- if I had a dollar for every time he treated Rora like his personal trophy doll, I'd have enough money to fund a rocket ship to send his ass hurtling into Jupiter and even pay off my student debts
- there was this scene at the begining that pissed me off so much dear lord, I honestly struggled to keep my

reactions from spiraling out like bullets...like how about I switch your apple juice with piss. how about that?? it's a scene in the beginning where he and his brother were literally playing ping pong with Rora. It was told from cassius pov and I kept expecting him to say that she's at least tried to wrench her hands from his grip but she was totally eclipsed and I just sat there whispering to myself "what the fuck?? what the fuck??" maybe it's due to the writing but the whole thing made me so uncomfortable tbh.

- there's obviously so much left untold about his story but the grudge have been formed so I guess it'll be just me and my hate for a long while

- and then **we have Rora**

- she started off as the character who wants to be Loved and Validated and repeatedly makes awful decisions while desperately trying to find people that will at least throw even the tiniest slivers of genuine caring and concern her way and with whom she'll create a false sense of closeness and ultimately pretty much hurt herself because of it

- I was trying really hard at that point not to be a grinch but the annoyance kept pulling me back in, like I was basically just sucking in my cheekbones and thinking why is everyone trying to bring back That Trope, they've had their time

- she did end up piercing through her thick armour of insecurities and holding fast to the notion that her self worth isn't defined by other people's views on her and she honestly had such a remarkable character development throughout the book and I really liked that

- and **Locke**

- he's The Nice Guy, the total opposite of Cassius, the equivalent of a sunflower field, the kind of character you would envision a perfect life with and unwittingly create a new person for them to live up to thus doom in any chance of happiness followed by being harshly disappointed by reality

- except I really did not care about him, either

- so much for not being a grinch

- **THE ROMANCE**

- not to be the kind of person who constantly makes fun of everything for being corny and their life becomes a bleak void of an unfunny joke but I guess some skills are just innate and I did think the romance was so cheesy

- I'm not really crazy about this ship but at least people are happy I guess

- also, thank god there was no love triangle, I would rather be eaten by an orca whale than have awareness of another love triangle thrust on my conscious experience

Overall: I think the sequel definitely has the potential to be so much more. I feel like this book was just character development, which means the next book will hopefully be strictly action and story progression and what do you know, I'm actually uh, excited.

WORDPRESS | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM

Chelsea Humphrey says

If it helps you decide whether or not to read this book, just know I read an e-galley of this back in February and I adored it SO much that I bought a finished hard copy for my collection of re-reads. It was THAT good! ♥??????

Full Review:

I guess I've put writing this review off long enough. I keep feeling like, if I don't write this, I don't have to let go of this story yet. When I first read the above description of said book, I immediately thought "Great,

another cliché YA fantasy filled with tropes of white, timid girls saving the day, love triangles where all the boys are unrealistically pining after one extra spoiled lady, and a let down of a plot because my expectations of how awesome controlling storms would be simply can't measure up." Sound about right? However, I kept seeing this little book popping up all over my Goodreads feed, so when I was offered an early copy from the publisher, peer pressure got to me and I caved because I like having things earlier than I'm supposed to. Let me just tell you folks, if you are a fan of YA fantasy with a bit of romance, immediately click that pre-order button because you need some Stormlings in your life, I promise. As a fair warning, there may be some extremely mild spoilers below, so if you'd like to go in completely blind, I'd recommend stopping reading this and pre-ordering the book. If you want to get a little more feel of the book then follow along.

"You are lightning made flesh. Colder than falling snow. Unstoppable as the desert sands riding the wind. You are Stormling. Aurora Pavan. Believe it. Believe it, and others will too."

Let's start with our main character. This is where I was most concerned before entering into the book; I can't tell you how many books I've read (and probably you as well) where the protagonist is a pale, **white 18 year old female** who is unsure of herself, even though the book tells us for PAGES how perfectly above average she is in looks and talent. This girl also falls at the feet of any guy to show her attention, and usually has saved her virginity for a mainstream view of an abnormally long time, only to give it up in one quick moment. This particular trope has gotten old, so you can see the concern when our main character is described as a pale, white 18 year old female. Thankfully, this story is different. I won't go into too much detail, but the first chapter leads us to believe the story is going in one direction and brings us a significant twist right away, showing that this book will indeed be different. I love how there is no love triangle in this book; the romance that is there is very engaging, but also very tame and somewhat ties into the reasoning behind portions of the action. The remaining characters are fairly diverse, at least racially, and the band of friends that we follow throughout the story remind me a bit of our gang in the Six of Crows duology, although I hate to make that comparison and raise expectations unintentionally. I feel this crew had their own strengths and weaknesses compared to Kaz's crew, but gave me that same close feeling that I had while reading those books.

*"Soul of fire, soul of rage
No longer bound by flesh or cage,
Soul exalted, soul made new
Reserved for those devout and true."
-"The Way of Souls" (A Sacred Soul Hymn)*

The plot was actually very complex, layered as an onion to where, once we had a portion figured out, it opened up others that were still a mystery. I did have to devote my full attention in the beginning for the world building, as this fantasy realm is very different than the others I've previously read. There is intricate detail of multiple lands that I found completely mesmerizing; I adored how realistic it was and didn't account for how caught up I'd become until I had to check back in to reality. There is so much action in the plot that makes it paced really well; I could hardly put this down and do all the other things I needed to during my days. The entire premise of certain lineages being able to control storms, and said storms having a "heart" really intrigued me and I found the story to be much better than my wildest expectations. This has a "half mythological/half modern fantasy" feel which caused a nice balance without either aspect feeling forced. I grew close to the characters and felt really sad to have turned the last page and have nowhere else to follow them (for the time being). And that cover? Absolutely stunning.

I'd highly recommend this to fans of any sect of YA fantasy; the romance was mild and age appropriate for

all teens. This is the type of book that would even make a great cross-over into YA Sci-Fi as it toes the edge of some pieces that would fit nicely there. Such a well-written and exciting YA debut; I now have a complete book hangover that is almost as severe as when I finished ACOMAF last year. This one was so good I'm going to have to buy a finished copy for my special shelf at home in hopes of a re-read before the next book in the series is published.

Many thanks to the publisher for providing my copy via NetGalley; it was an absolute delight and privilege to provide an honest review.

Initial Thoughts:

Now that, my friends, is how you end the first book in a series. Not a giant, open-ended cliffhanger, something that leaves you angry for not having enough story to tide you over until the next book. This left me ready for the next book but with enough closure to let me sleep at night. This was EXCELLENT. Highly recommended for a different type of YA romantic fantasy. I loved the use of the elements and wielding storms as a form of power. Full review to come.

Katerina says

I really should stop buying books for their cover.

Although, to be fair, the premise sounded like my cup of tea, and it should have been. It was, mostly. But I feel like I'm slowly (and steadily) turning into a grumpy, bitter old lady who complains about anything and everything and cannot be satisfied, unless her 72 cats do something adorable.

Don't get me wrong, Roar was not a bad book. The concept of magical lands ruled by storms was brilliant, and the execution was skillful; after all, Cora Carmack is a romance author, and this was her first attempt at fantasy. The most astonishing thing is that **she succeeded in the fantasy element, but failed in romance and character depth.**

“Whether it be thunderstorm, hurricane, or some storm on which we have not yet laid eyes, one truth remains - challenge a tempest, survive it and you become its master.”

The lands of Caelira are tormented by all kinds of storms, which wreak havoc and destruction in their path. The only salvation for the people of Caelira are the Stormlings, gifted with the power to control the forces of nature and thus becoming something equivalent to Gods. Aurora is the heir of the Pavan throne, the one charged with the protection of her country from the tempests, but the problem is that she has not manifested any magic. The only way to keep her throne and save her people is to marry another Stormling and hide her inadequacy, until she meets a group of storm hunters who can harness storms even though they were not born into magic. And reveal to Aurora another way to be of use, and to truly discover herself.

“With that done, she took a deep breath and said her final good-bye.

To Pavan. And to Aurora.

From this point on, she could only be Roar.”

While reading Roar it was obvious that Cora Carmack had poured her soul into this project. She elaborately crafted the kingdoms of Caelira, the wondrous and terrifying storms that ravaged cities and wastelands alike, and the **strong aspect of adventure** in her story made Roar a novel you couldn't put down. Even though at times the world-building could be confusing, and I'd appreciate more details to disperse the fog that clouded my brain, the occasional confusion did not deter me from keep reading, and losing myself in her rich world. Featuring a villain whose identity is yet to be revealed, but his cruelty and bloodlust are unprecedented, a ruthless prince fighting for a throne that is not his, and a bunch of badass storm-hunters, it was a **highly addictive ride** that had the potential for greatness. If it weren't for Aurora.

She's your typical **special snowflake**, the embodiment of perfection, beauty, sweetness, strength, compassion, determination and- You're rolling your eyes, aren't you? So am I. Everyone fell in love with her and turned all possessive caveman after one look, she stole the breath away from ambitious princes and seasoned hunters alike, making the latest category endanger their long-term partners, distracting them in fights for their life, because she's such an aetherial and pure being. Aurora wavered between self-pity and the fiery need to prove her value and acquire power, leading her to smart decisions like demanding to participate in stormfights without an ounce of magic and zero former experience, because *she knows she can do it*.

And let's not forget the dreadful combination of **insta-lust** and **insta-love(s)**. In the span of twenty-four hours she trusted her fiance with her heart (something that has to do with her raging hormones, if you ask me), he broke her heart and then she met *another* dazzlingly handsome young man that made her feel alive and burn etc etc. Now, as you can tell, there were two love interests. I wouldn't go as far as to label it a love triangle, because she had two to three scenes with the first one whereas she spent most of the book with the second, but their reactions to her were similar (and ridiculous); they see her - they want to conquer her - to protect her - to hell with the world.

The romance was overly sweet and sappy, it gave you diabetes. The interactions between the love birds were rather childish (I'm surprised there wasn't involved any ponytail pulling) and while there were descriptions of tension and angst, you could not feel them. I still root for the other guy (the 'bad' guy), at least he's not turned into a pile of goo (yet).

“You are lightning made flesh. Colder than falling snow. Unstoppable as the desert sands riding the wind. You are Stormling, Aurora Pavan. Believe it.”

I may have mixed feelings towards Roar, but I will definitely continue this series. **If you're searching for your next guilty pleasure rejoice, you just found it!**

You can find this review and more on BookNest!

Lola says

The main character may look like Daenerys Targaryen, but Aurora Pavan is nothing like the Khaleesi we

know.

Maram says

~~Since I haven't written a review yet :) if you haven't already read my br partner's review then you missed out on some awesome references + the gist of this novel, as explained by em ofc :)~~

~~link here, enjoy!~~

^^^ just consider the good bits (*she* wrote) out of that review and ignore the rest, thank you :)

4.5 stars?? I'm still confused as hell

HAHAHAHA WHAT WAS THAT EPILOGUE??? I NEED SOME EXPLANATION AND IDK WHY I'M LAUGHING

~~Rating and review to come soon~~ bc it's 6 in the morning and *what was that epilogue???*

BR WITH THE BEAUTIFUL, EM ?

chants

pleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslumppleasegetmeoutofaslump

Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says

4.5 stars because this really was fun. There were A LOT of really cool elements and honestly the sequel is set up to be even better than the first, so I'm dreading an entire year of waiting. On the same note, a few cheesy lines and tropes, which is to be expected. All in all though, it was definitely fun and I REALLY enjoyed it!

I'll start with Aurora, or 'Roar'. I actually really liked her. She starts off as a weak heroine, and to be honest, she DOES grow but her character development is far from finished. I think some will get annoyed at her for it, but I appreciated it SO much. Not every heroine has to be 100% badass 100% of the time. But I have no doubt she will grow into her own.

At the beginning, she's a princess who is held in isolation inside her castle by her mother in order to prevent people from finding out she doesn't have storm magic, which is a hereditary thing in the royal family. So yeah, kinda a big deal that she doesn't have it. She's being forced to marry Cassius (more on this lovely chunk of words later) as quickly as possible so she can keep her kingdom before others find out. But as you can tell by the synopsis, Roar runs away, and I won't say much more than that. I love the direction the author took her in because book two should be GREAT as I said above. Anyway, she has a cute little temper but a good heart and wasn't overly spoiled by the whole palace life thing.

Now for Cassius, our resident dark and very questionable prince... YES. I am so here for him. He needed MUCH more screen time and I'm hoping he gets it in book two because asldkfja;lsdkjf. The beginning was SO STRONG when he first met Aurora. Like what even, can we please talk about chemistry? But then Roar overhears him and realizes he only plans to use her to get the crown. Whatever guys, I know that is *kinda true* but there's also a lot more about him that we don't understand, and he DEFINITELY has a good side too. I'm labeling him as an antihero and you can't stop me. I have such high hopes for him. He's kinda like... **a baby Darkling??** Yes? Anyone?? (Dearest Cora... please please more Cassius...and Cassius and Roar...)

I kina have a feeling the author was hinting at something between Cassius an Nova but noooooooo
alldskfja;ldkfj I need Cassius and Roar.

I'm also super interested in Casimir an the rest of Cassius's family.

Once Roar runs away, she ends up with a new gang of storm hunters (which are super cool). Actually, let me stop there for a moment. The whole storm fighting and storm hearts thing was really neat and took this from being a typical fantasy book to a super unique magic system and storyline. As I mentioned above, there are definitely some cliches and cheesy parts that you find in most fantasies (especially in the romance egh) but the A+ world building kept me invested even during those times.

That bring me to Locke (resident head storm hunter broody guy). I liked him part of the time, but I didn't fall head over heels with him. I think it was because he was the sole focus for Roar in, and by the end of the book, he kinda felt like a typical overprotective boyfriend who gets angry at anyone who even looks at his girl wrong. I don't know. I mean, he and Roar did have some chemistry and I didn't mind him, and I did feel for him and his story, but Cassius is just so much more interesting and I liked his dynamic with Roar more. I CAN'T HELP IT.

The more I think about it, the more I'm kinda eh at Locke. I think he was what Roar needed at first, don't get me wrong. And I still don't hate him. BUT, he says was questionable stuff at times. However, I've seen all the arguments about him being way problematic and stuff and I can't say that I agree with all that, but I'm just not sure which way Cora will take him in the future, so we shall see! If anything, he's a bit overly protective, but it just depends on how he acts on it later.

To summarize...

The Good:

- really cool world
- freaking cool magic system
- um the storms have personalities? SO COOL
- CASSIUS
- likeable yet weak heroine
- excellent villain development

-A+ set up for the sequel

The 'eh':

--a few cheesy 'love declaration' blah blah stuff but it was kinda cute too

-Cassius didn't get enough book time

-not much resolution for things I wanted to see before the sequel (more below)

Before I get into spoilers below, I'll just say definitely give this book a go if you're in for a unique fantasy/world and don't mind romance being the main focus (because it is) - but even if you aren't huge on that part of it, there's for sure hope for the sequel.

*****SPOILERS BELOW*****

Anyway, about 70% of the book is Roar traveling with Locke and his crew, and I did enjoy it and the pacing was pretty good, but at the end, I expected a cliffhanger, but I felt like there was way too much left open. I mean, Cassius never even gets close to her or gets any clues, and I was super disappointed because I was totally on board for a cat and mouse thing (I'm so lame) and Locke never finds out who she is... so we literally had no resolution in this book aside from Locke and Roar getting feelsy. We get a glimpse at Roar's 'ability' which is cool, but not much else. Berlghhg I just need the second book please and thank you.

OKAY OKAY AND WHAAAT CASSIUS IS THE FIRST BORN OGMARGHER YESS I AM HERE FOR THIS.

(Are you guys tired of me talking about Cassius? Sorry.)

All the while Locke and Roar and their gang are doing their thing, there's another villain being set up in the background so I'm super interested in that. Especially with the last paragraph of the book.

Anyway, is it too early to beg for an ARC of book two? Yes? Poo.

My Blog ~ Instagram ~ Twitter ~ Etsy

Aentee says

I'll get the lone positive out of the way first. The world building in Roar was compelling, set in a world haunted by tempestuous storms where gifted humans employ magic to control them. Since the internet has no shortage of glowing reviews about the magic system in Roar, I'll leave it at that. I have a lot more to say about the toxic romance in Roar as, it is an example of how dangerous it is for harmful tropes to reign unchecked and unchallenged. **This post will contain spoilers for the romantic plot within Roar.** This is the book that ruins itself, so I am just helping it along.

Note: The protagonist in this book goes by three different names – Aurora, Rora, and Roar – I will use the name Roar for the sake of clarity.

My main issue with Roar is the very problematic romanticisation of male sexual aggression and

possessiveness. Unlike many YA novels where the narration primarily takes place from the heroine's point of view, Roar is also written from Cassius and Locke's perspective – and their thoughts on Roar were disturbing and frightening, especially because the text largely presented them as romantic.

Creepy Love Interest #1 – The Tortured Prince

Moments later Cassius Locke melted out of the shadows, looking more like a villain than a prince—dressed all in black with dark hair and eyes to match.

The first love interest is betrothed to Roar. Cassius Locke is your classic dark, sardonic hero, complete with chiselled cheekbones and a secret agenda. Within ten minutes of their first meeting, we have him throwing her over his shoulders – caveman style – because her gorgeous gown was restricting her movement and he simply did not have the patience. Isn't that charming? This particularly gallant thought also crossed his mind during their first encounter:

...he had a feeling that conquering her would prove more exhilarating than any storm he had ever defeated. Yes, Cassius, because women are objects meant to be conquered. Also, this is the first of several instances that Roar is compared to a storm under a male's gaze within this text – and given the misogynistic history surrounding the naming and feminisation of destructive cyclones and hurricanes (<http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womeninthe...>), these comparisons constantly bothered me. The storms within this particular universe are described as devastating and mesmerising, people simply can't help but be captivated and destroyed by their unknowable force. To her love interests, Roar is equally magnetic, they can't help wanting her, it's her own nature that makes them want to conquer and claim her.

Here's a couple more examples of Cassius's simply winning personality:

Her aggression had been a surprising but welcome new morsel of her personality. He had prodded at the fire in her, treated her like a woman he truly wanted, rather than a woman he had to have at any cost.

In this instance, Cassius perceives Roar's anger as being a come-on rather than a warning that he has overstepped his boundaries (as mentioned above, this is a guy who has no concept of what a personal bubble is). According to Cassius, when you're interested in a woman, you have to 'prod at her fire' – because nothing is more romantic than pissing off your wife-to-be.

"You don't deserve someone like me," he said... "But you are mine all the same."

Unfortunately, this is not the last time vile possessive sentiments will be voiced within the book. At least Roar is not impressed at this stage. However, the next time someone else says this, the text will treat it as romantic.

Mercifully, at this point in the novel, Roar does not entertain Cassius's nonsense – she had the fortitude to think:

She had hoped that when all was said and done, she could finally belong to herself.

Ohhh Roar, I had such high hopes for you. Unfortunately, both our hopes largely go unfulfilled – at least in the romance department (to be honest, there's not a great deal of plot in this book aside from the romance). Her second love interest is even more consumed with thoughts of possessing her.

Creepy Love Interest #2 – Protective Alpha Hunter

When Locke first appeared, I harboured some hope that the book's romantic plotline will take a less toxic course. Perhaps Locke was the thoughtful, respectful foil to Cassius's domineering personality. Alarm bells rang immediately when I saw his first POV perspective of the heroine:

He has been teasing earlier with his little girl comment, but now she did look young. And frightened. And it roused every protective instinct he had.

Right off the bat, we have the overprotective alpha-male trope rearing its ugly head, along with a healthy dose of toxic idealisation of masculinity. Males can't help but want to protect their love interest, and in this case, the instinct comes with a need for control and possession. It's a 'romantic' set up that we have unfortunately seen time and again, but this is one of the most rage-inducing version of the trope I've read in recent years.

To add another layer of creepiness to it all, Roar also reminds him of his dead sister:

But he remembered the feel of his sister, the timbre of her soul, the bravado with which she had lived. Roar had that same strange mix of vulnerability and strength.

In an entire book's worth of Locke's conflicting and very unsettling narration on Roar, this is a first. Locke simultaneously equates Roar to the little sister he had failed to protect, while also obsessively thinking of her through a more romantic lens. Here's a couple of examples:

He had thought about her more today than he cared to admit, wondering what kind of home, if any, she had gone back to. But anything in this city would be safer for her than life in the wildlands.

At first it was kind of sweet, although perplexing as he's only met Roar a couple of hours ago.

But now after three nights of restless sleep, broken by nightmares about a girl in danger who was somehow both his sister and Roar simultaneously, he had run out of excuses. It had been ages since he'd last had a nightmare. He knew having Roar here would throw him off balance, but it was even worse than he anticipated.

Then he began losing sleep over her and I started side-eyeing a little. Note that all of this obsessive behaviour is always framed as Roar's fault, because of her nature – he cannot help but be infuriated, mesmerised, and obsessed with her. In Roar (as is sadly true in most romance), this is often painted as something that sets the heroine apart from other women, something that is romantic rather than unsettling.

And when he wasn't consumed with thoughts of her, he was battered by an anxiety that had never plagued him before.

Obsession is not romance. Locke's constant preoccupation with Roar eventually manifests in a more physical manner during their training sessions (for context, he's teaching her how to manipulate and hunt storms). All of their training session sets feminism back by around two decades, but these passages are the ones that made me physically ill:

He should let her go. He knew her well enough now to know that manhandling her would only make her fight harder. But he was too distracted by the way her body fit against his own. Her soft hair tickled his neck. Even more startling, she had stopped fighting him completely. Her body sank against his, her back pressed against his chest and abdomen. He became acutely aware of where his arms wrapped around her shoulders and her midsection. She sucked in a breath, and the rise and fall of her chest moved through both of them.

Firstly, I do not think anyone of any gender would respond well to being manhandled. Secondly, his display

of physical dominance followed by his sexual arousal truly makes me want to hurl. It is passages like these that are potentially triggering for survivors of sexual assault. I think it is absolutely vile that Locke even made it off the editing table. When I read paragraphs like this one, I feel like I am seeing through the eyes of an abuser – one that blames women for being distracting and inviting with their “soft hair” and curves. There is nothing remotely romantic about this predatory behaviour. This is abuse, and I cannot brush it off as a bad alpha-male trope – especially given how many reviewers view this as romantic.

Locke then follows up this assault with thinking:

He knew he should step away, but it was like he'd been mesmerized. He stood there, stock-still, his mind filled with nothing but her. If she were a storm, she could destroy him, and he would never lift a finger to protect himself.

Locke, you sack of waste, she is not a danger to you. Quite the opposite, you're the clear aggressor in this situation. You do NOT get to blame her for mesmerising you, not when you clearly can't control your own revolting impulses to dominate her. Society keeps making excuses for men like Locke, and seeing echoes of these excuses in fiction – especially ones that defend his action in the name of romance – make me see red.

As if this assault was not bad enough, within the same chapter, Locke then proceeds to start groping Roar. The passage is far too long for me to quote here, but it includes 'he stilled and looked at her like hunters looked at prey', and 'the hand around her neck tightened'. Also, there is this very awful passage which reduces a woman's body into an object to be conquered:

'She was uncharted territory, and mountains formed where he touched her and a river of sensation flowed down her spine.'

The fact that this takes place from Roar's perspective makes it all the more disheartening and disturbing. By the time Locke's wandering hand started 'grazing the upper curve of her bottom', she begins to question 'Why?'. Why was he putting his hands all over her without clear consent? The answer, dear reader, truly establishes what we already know – Locke is trash:

"When you're distracted or feeling strong emotions, the natural barriers of your mind are weaker and more susceptible to being mesmerized by a storm's magic. Which means something as simple as a thick fog could do much worse than make you forget where you are or what you were doing. It could keep you in the fog, even as it moves, dragging you along with it. Your mental barriers must be without weakness."

He claims this particular assault was done in the name of training, to strengthen her mental barrier. I don't know whether to laugh or cry or rage at this point. Of course, there are no consequences for Locke. It's heartbreaking to see Roar turn the anger she feels towards herself instead – for not being able to see through his manipulation. She does this on a couple of occasions:

Locke's voice was a fierce, angry growl, and she bowed up, ready to growl right back. She was getting tired of his moods—suffocatingly protective one second and a beast the next.

While Roar does occasionally acknowledge that Locke's behaviour is tiresome, the text never probes further. His action is portrayed as a minor annoyance and a character quirk – rather than extremely harmful and toxic. Roar only pushes back enough for Locke to see her as a challenge to be conquered, and she never manages to get him to respect her personal boundaries. In one scene, she shares a horse with Locke and tries her best to avoid bodily contact—this is what our romantic hero proceeds to do:

After the tenth or so time she had tried and failed to keep from falling against him, he was out of patience. Wrapping the reins once around the pommel so he didn't lose them, he reached both hands back to grip her thighs, well above her burns, and tugged her forward. She squeaked in response, her fingers tangling in the leather straps and holsters that crossed his abdomen. He would be lying if he didn't admit that he got pleasure out of both her outraged cry and the feel of her surrounding him. "There," he said, his voice low so that only she could hear. "We're touching. I can feel you, all soft and warm against my back." He heard her sharp intake of breath behind him, and he could swear her fingers tightened on the holster around his midsection. "You can feel me, and the world has not descended into flame again." Though there was plenty of heat moving down his spine.

Because when a woman is clearly establishing boundaries, what you should do is force her into compromising position and tell yourself that she enjoys it? Roar rightly calls him "such an ass!" after this particular exchange, and this is his smug response:

"Yes, but I'm an ass who gets what he wants." He hadn't meant those words to sound quite so possessive. He still thought it was a bad idea to get attached to her, but since the kiss, he was having trouble getting himself to care.

The book is aware that Locke is an overly-possessive alpha male – yet it is continually treated as something that's attractive. This would be problematic no matter which audience the book was published for, but Roar is specifically marketed to the YA audience and this makes it all the more abhorrent. Teens are partially informed about the world around them by the media they consume. Having the primary love interest constantly pushing the heroine's personal boundaries and dismissing her protests is harmful and irresponsible. By the way, that kiss he mentions in the paragraph above also unsurprisingly transpires without consent:

"Would you listen—"

"Can you just leave me alone?" His hand seized her elbow, and he spun her around forcefully. He growled, "No. I can't."

And then his mouth collided with hers. For a moment, Roar did not understand what was happening. She knew his lips were on hers, pushing hard enough to be punishment, and his fingers threaded through her hair, and an arm wrapped tight around her waist. But even knowing those things, she could not quite comprehend that Locke was kissing her. She froze, unsure whether she wanted to allow it or shove him away. She had been so angry, but now that blazing heat had melted into something different, like molten glass being shaped into something new. He tilted her head back, his hand gripping tighter in her hair, and when he opened his mouth against hers, she followed. He kissed his own fury into her, melting and reshaping her again and again with each strokes of his tongue over hers.

I nearly threw my Kindle across the room at this point in the book. Roar really knows how to get these romances burning, because haven't we all dreamed of being shut up with a kiss – especially one that was akin to "punishment"? After all, isn't that what we deserve for defying the alpha male's unquestionable authority? Especially because we seem to enjoy the kiss so much? There are so many layers of wrong to this passage that I cannot unpack them all.

Roar does push back a little after this kiss, telling Locke he 'cannot manipulate [her] into letting go of [her] anger'. Yet the book quickly diminishes this display of backbone by i) having Locke spout the age-old excuse 'I was worried, and I overreacted.', and ii) we have to end this particular assault with her thought on how the 'kiss [was] so intense that she was still shaking'.

The book makes excuses for Locke time and again, and Roar is too distracted by her physical attraction to him to ever truly challenge him. While I wish I could say the book did this with the intention of subverting the trope, and I continued reading Roar with that hope in mind – I truly believe that the readers are meant to think of this as romantic. The PR campaign around this book is all about picking your book-crushes, not about confronting your abuser. Given the amount of reviews saying how ‘swoon-worthy’ or ‘steamy’ the romance is, I am truly disheartened. I am angry at how easy it is to dismiss these toxic tropes and for the world to make excuses for (or even overlook) abuse.

How do I know that the book has no intention of redeeming itself and will paint Locke as a romantic figure to the bitter end? Because this is the culmination of Locke and Roar’s relationship, and it’s definitely meant to be viewed in a positive light. In classic Locke manner, all romantic interactions are drenched with language that’s intended to dominate and control:

...suddenly he was thinking about kissing her again, tugging her down until their mouths crashed together. Would she yell at him or kiss him back?

Blog readers – if there’s ever a possibility that a woman might yell at you when you kiss her – DON’T DO IT. Actually, don’t kiss anyone without their consent. It’s frightening that the thoughts Locke has about Roar often forgo consent.

He had lost control over his own hand, and it trailed up and down her back now, tracing the delicate line of her spine again and again. And with each pass, he claimed a little more of her...

And of course, even when he has consent to touch her – he uses words that imply he has no choice in the matter. He can’t help but want to claim her like she’s some trophy to be had. Locke, I would have a tiny measure of respect for you if you would just own up to your own action and obsession instead of blaming your lust for Roar on male instinct.

Locke couldn’t stop the fierce protectiveness that rose in him, and before he knew what he was doing, he had caught her face in his hands, turning it toward him. “Who was he? The man from the market?”

Hey, book, I am getting really sick of this. Abandoning logic, reason, and consideration for the other party because you ‘love’ them so much is not romantic. There is always a choice, and pretending there is not is the classic tactic of an abuser. This kind of protectiveness is just a few steps away from actual violence, whether it’s towards perceived threats or the actual person you’re meant to be protecting. How many times have we seen domestic abuse in real life being explained away with these same excuses? ‘I couldn’t help myself.’ ‘I lost control.’ ‘She made me.’ Book, please make Locke take some goddamn responsibility for his atrocious behaviour.

“I’m the first to touch this mouth? To taste it?” Her nails dug into his shoulders, and her blue eyes flashed with heat. She nodded, her tongue darting out to soothe the skin he had tugged between his teeth. “That means it’s mine. My territory. And I’m prepared to protect it, every hour of the day if I must.”

What ever happened to ‘not wanting to sound possessive’, Locke? A woman’s body is not anyone’s property. For a book that began as a journey for Aurora’s independence, seeing her reduced in the eye of her lover to an object to be conquered is truly devastating. On a larger scale, seeing Roar marketed as a fantasy book with female empowerment, it’s distressing to see how wide it missed the mark when it came to romance.

Due to the character limit on GR I can't post my full review, you can read the rest on my blog:
readatmidnight.com

Ashwood (?? ??). says

Sometimes she was Aurora. Confident. Clever. Cultured.

Sometimes she was Rora. Afraid. Alone. Ashamed.

And more and more, she was Roar-- bold, brash, and increasingly baffled by the situation in which she found herself. And sometimes she was none of them, lost and adrift somewhere in between, like the wildlands between Stormling cities.

If I could give this book more than five stars, I would in a heartbeat! This was an amazing, phenomenal and intense read.

All the different dimensions to this book was fascinating and mind blowing, Stormingings, Hunters, Elemental Witches, and lastly Stormlords.

The characters were badass, brave, loyal, reliable, fiercely protective of their loved ones, and had insane survivor instincts! Kiren and Roar stole my heart and I'm letting them keep it because they are one of the most beautiful, loveliest and strongest couples ever! Their connection, even the occasional battle of wills, is natural, effortless and spectacular to read about.

Favorite characters:

Roar; brave, loveable, fierce, sweet and a true force of nature.

Kiren (or more commonly known as Locke) precious, intimidating, protective, strong, amazing and mine (that counts as a character trait?).

Cassius; brutal, semi-vicious, gorgeous, scarily powerful, admittedly he has his flaws but nobody's perfect and he's also mine haha.

Duke, Jinx, Ransom, Bait were the heart of their fearless crew.

Novaya; amazing, unexpectedly badass (in her own way), and loyal to a fault.

Least favorite characters:

Sly, the Lockes (besides Cassius of course), and the Stormlord (still iffy on that one, don't know if he's really good or bad but I'm sticking with bad until the 2nd book comes out).

One of my favorite parts of Roar and Locke(Kiren):

"I think if you met a bear in the woods, you might order him not to eat you and he might just listen" said Locke.

"Well, there are some books that suggest challenging a bear. To pretend as if you are the greater predator to scare it off," replied Roar.

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

Roar? More like...

I DNFed at 20% because my patience only lasts so long and that is it. By this point in the book, there has been 3 hot guys (2 of whom are brothers!), a useless princess who is sooooooooooooo beautiful, and the majority of what I've read has been the accounts of an betrothal ceremony for an arranged marriage with lots of steamy glances and flirting and blushing than actual plot.

The paint had begun to wear away on her lips, revealing rosy skin underneath. Was the rest of her flushed beneath all that powder?

The premise is really interesting. Too bad there isn't more plot and fewer attractive people.

Cora Carmack says

I've been dreaming of writing YA fantasy for nearly a decade. My hope was to write an exciting, unique fantasy world with an equally compelling romance. This book really took hold of me, and demanded to be written. It began with the idea of magic storms, storm hunters, and a black market. It took shape through the lens of a princess with a dire secret. I fell in love with so many characters as I wrote this first book, and I can't wait for you to meet them all and see how all their journeys unfold as the story moves forward! <3

Check out excerpts from Roar below!

Chapter 1 - <https://goo.gl/i0roa5>

Cover reveal and excerpt - <https://goo.gl/QbWDdb>

Excerpt - <https://goo.gl/9LYKIa>

Excerpt - <https://goo.gl/YPVoca>

Cait • A Page with a View says

4.5 stars. Ok, the more I think about this book the more I do love it. I initially lost some enthusiasm when the story got so into Roar's training and a romance I wasn't quite into, but this entire world and story are so awesome that I don't even care now. I am 100% here for the sequel.

Roar/Rora/Aurora is a bookish princess who's been sheltered by her mother so nobody can find out she's powerless. She's supposed to be a Stormling (someone who can capture the hearts of storms), so she needs to marry one to protect her kingdom. At the start of the story she's betrothed to Cassius, a Darkling-type Prince who's trying to plot his own plots around his evil father's plotting plots. That whole part of the story was obvious from the beginning, so I wouldn't go as far as to call the end of the book a "plot twist." But I'm still just as interested to see how everything there will play out in the sequel!

Anyways, Roar decides to create her own future and runs off with a group of stormhunters who can do magic even though they aren't royals who were born with it. Some instalove ensues and then she finds out she might actually not be as powerless as she thought...

I could tell by reading the book description that this would probably be a lot of tropes. BUT that in itself actually isn't a problem for me! I obviously keep reading YA fantasy books because I *like* that familiar format. Princesses who are privileged enough to flee their super confining life will probably meet a hot guy + rebel group and change the fate of the kingdom together. Cliche moments can be fun when they're like seeing an old friend in a new setting... I just need the tropes to *work*. And this story totally did in every way! Even the super special snowflake power thing was fun.

I also thought the multiple POVs brought a lot to the story. Roar was a likable character, but a bit hard to pin down since she's still struggling to figure out who she is and claim her place in the world. She's super shy, brave, bold, skittish, meek, ferocious, confident, and afraid all at the same time. And that's understandable, but also kind of gave me whiplash. So I don't have any actual opinion on her yet after the first book because she's definitely still growing.

But all of the manipulating, manhandling guys and their manly possessive instincts got annoying really fast... and the instalove romance with Locke pretty much just made me cringe. But I LOVED Cassius. So much. His character walked a fine line between being ridiculously problematic or the greatest part of the book, but I rolled with everything and liked him a lot. He reminded me of Magnus Damora in a way with how they're both torn between doing good or serving their crown/evil father. I will be thrilled if the next book drops the bland Locke and gets more of a focus on Cassius! (He also has total Darkling potential btw if that's what you look for in a story).

So the first 1/3 was REALLY strong and totally grabbed me, but I lost some enthusiasm in the second half. A lot of this story started to feel like exposition. I think that's where I often have issues with the start of a series: I still want something close to a complete plot arc *in each book*. Any actual threat was just tacked on at the end (and what was up with the Stormlord). So that's just me being weird... I still loved the start to this series!! If you're a huge YA fantasy fan, you'll probably have fun with this too.

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC and finished copy.
