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The Elven (The Saga Of The Elven Book 1)



Synopsis

The international bestseller and epic adventure A fierce and merciless demon has been unleashed on the world, spreading destruction and bloodshed in both the human and the elven realms. Northlander Jarl Mandred witnesses the ruthless attack on his men, and he seeks vengeance with the help of the elf queen, Emerelle. Despite Mandred's barbaric human nature, the queen orchestrates an elfhunt joined by the two strongest warriors in Albenmark to pursue the beast. Farodin, the fiercest fighter in the land, and Nuramon, the healer, seize the opportunity to make history alongside Mandred in a life-defining series of battles waged in parallel universes. The Elven is an epic tale, bringing heroes together across the boundaries of their worlds to avenge past losses and influence fates yet to be decided.

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Customer Reviews

I've been wracking my brain for the past day or so, struggling to find the best way to articulate my thoughts on "The Elven." I've found little success: "The Elven" somehow manages to tell a story

both both familiar and refreshing. It can often be difficult to fully express the quality of a novel--the adjectives that come most easily seldom confer nearly so much meaning as they ought to. I first discovered "The Elven" entirely by happenstance. I was aching for a good book to read, and the discounted price on --along with the discounted price of the eBook--convinced me to give Hennen's story a shot, even though it had only one user review on .com. cursory research revealed the Bernhard Hennen is a fairly prolific Fantasy author in German, whose works have been translated into many different languages. This unfortunately-titled novel, "The Elven," is (more unfortunately) the first of his stories to be translated in English. Hennen has approximately 17 books available on Kindle on .de, all of which are rated very highly--the majority scoring a 4.5/5 review average (including "The Elven," which has reviews from more than 400 users). The reviews for the "Elven" series were particularly glowing. I took the liberty of translating a bit from the two most helpful German reviews: The most helpful positive review, by "Martin H." (5/5) declares the book to be harmonious, fascinating, thrilling, sad and vivid. The first three novels form a trilogy of sorts, but each stands alone as a complete story. He states, "The world and characters are vividly and lovingly described so that the reader is immediately immersed into the world of the Elfs. Everything is written with a great deal of detail that never feels too wordy or fails to hold the readers attention." He also states that the story manages at times to be dramatic or melancholy without ever feeling contrived or cheesy. Conversely, the most helpful critical review, by "Media-Mania" (3/5) declares the book to be a very good read, but "brutally" short. This first novel is a complex book that tells a "marvelously intense story," with a great deal of suspense, action, mystery and magic, as well as a great deal of humor. He/she/they declare it to be "A true adventure story and a master work." The review has nothing but praise for the novel itself, but instead criticizes the (German) audiobook adaptation, which apparently lost much of the content from the novel. If you're out to sample more reviews than appear here, check out the German page on .de:

http://www..de/Die-Elfen-Roman-Elfen-Romane-Band/dp/3453315669/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top?ie=UTF8 You may also want to check out the listing on .co.uk, whose reviews (for whatever reason) don't appear on .com at all: <http://www..co.uk/The-Elven-Bernhard-Hennen/dp/147782751X> So: now that I've read the book myself, what do I think? It's fantastic. Possibly even a little sublime. The Elven is very much written directly in the mold of the old Norse sagas. At first glance, that may seem to be a mark against the novel. After all, is there any setting more cliched in fantasy than the Norse-inspired mythic realm? Elves, Dwarves, Trolls and lots of hearty men with stout Scandinavian names, epic beards, and double-headed axes? But where most Fantasy authors conjure their settings through the lens of Tolkien (whose own work was a lens through which to view the old

Sagas), Hennen ignores Tolkien and emulates the source itself. So, despite the many similarities to Tolkien's masterpiece, "The Elven" feels more like a parallel work than a derivative one. I guess my "review" is getting pretty long, huh? I'm sorry about that. I really want to "sell" this book to everyone out there, but at the same time I don't want to rob any enjoyment of the story by spoiling anything, no matter how minor. The story of "The Elven" has humor, but treats its plot and characters seriously--with respect. The central conceit of the novel is lifted directly from some of my favorite myths and fairytales. To get from one point or another, the characters travel by means of magical portals--portals which are not altogether reliable, and have a bad habit of dumping our heroes out at their destination far later than they'd expect. This allows the story to be focused and personal, while still managing to fill out a truly epic, historical scale spanning centuries. And, covering entire generations as it does, the novel is able to constantly provide each scene--each moment--with genuine tension. Because people do die, and the world does change, and if there's one clear and obvious theme to Hennen's story, it's that everyone is at Time's mercy. In other words, it's impossible to be certain in the safety or success of any one character, because their trials and triumphs are presented at a historic scale. This transforms the "draw" of the story from seeing what the characters do to, instead, seeing why and how they do the things they do. What makes the story of "The Elven" truly memorable is the pacing. The "time travel" conceit allows the tale to be neatly divided into small chunks--each like a self-contained story that is connected to both the preceding and succeeding tales, but also enthralling in its own right. Rather than a single novel, "The Elven" feels like a collection of heroic stories tied together more by the characters involved than the machinations of the overreaching plot. None of the scenes feel wasted, and nothing at all feels superfluous (which, I now realize, is praise I can confer upon precious few books, fiction or otherwise). The prose itself is--and I cannot stress this enough--magnificent. I wish I could discuss the quality of the translation, and maybe someday in the future I will. What I can say, having learned German myself solely to read Herman Hesse's stories in their original tongue, is that translating German to English is a very difficult task. And while I cannot yet comment on the accuracy of Edwin Miles' translation, I CAN comment on its overall quality. The prose... is simply fantastic. The writing conveys action, humor and beauty quite deftly. So deftly that, if I did not know better, I would never have suspected this to be a translation at all. Miles clearly put sufficient effort into his translation to make it appear effortless. If more of Hennen's books are to be translated into English (and I very much hope they are), I hope they are translated even half so well.

I would have preferred to have given this a 5 star, but I was so let down by the ending, I just could

not do it. The whole book had me mesmerized, so involved. This book was truly a piece of literary art, I couldn't put it down to do anything so mundane such as cleaning or making meals!!! And after all the work that was so obviously, so heartfelt put into it, it finished like a rush job to get rid of it and be done....I wanted to yell to Mr. Hennen=HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME????!!!!

I enjoyed the book but found it long and predictable. I did finish the book, but thought about changing to a new book a few times. The ending didn't satisfy me at all.

The writing is wonderful, so even though it is a very long book I wished there was more. The characters and plot lines are layered and interesting and woven together into an epic plot. I think the theme is - what might happen if a civilization of magic wielding hopeless romantic bad-ass warriors were threatened with the end of their endless re-incarnation? The answer is love and violence.

I am not a huge fantasy fan, however, I occasionally indulge and this one was so worth it! Fantastic storytelling!

I really stumbled on this book and was surprised by how much I enjoyed it. It always amazes me when reading a saga how the story can continue without losing its richness - well done on that account. I was super disappointed in the ending though. I can handle bittersweet goodbyes and losing beloved characters but the end just seemed to trivialize the awesomeness of this beautiful and vast tale. Just kind of tying up loose ends without actually creating any resolution. I would still recommend reading the book! But know that you may have to imagine a slight better final chapter.

I absolutely loved this book. There was action and suspense. The authors created a world that was so captivating. Everything that was included in the book had a purpose and moved the story along, even if you do not realize it when you first come across it. Things you may find irrelevant initially are later revealed to be a crucial part in the character development. I loved the main characters and their depth. The book is long and may be a turnoff for some. However, think about all the trilogies/sagas you may have read in the past. This book saves you the time and money of having to buy sequels. I think the translation was great. The English did not feel choppy or forced.

This book was a great read. The author did very well in making you fall in love with the characters. They laughed.. you laughed. They cried.. you cried. An emotional rollercoaster to be sure. This

author did what a good storyteller does... Left me wanting more.

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