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Fire Falling (Air Awakens Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Soldier... Sorcerer... Savior... Who is Vhalla Yarl? Vhalla Yarl marches to war as property of the Solaris Empire. The Emperor counts on her to bring victory, the Senate counts on her death, and the only thing Vhalla can count on is the fight of her life. As she grapples with the ghosts of her past, new challenges in the present threaten to shatter the remnants of her fragile sanity. Will she maintain her humanity? Or will she truly become the Empire's monster?

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Customer Reviews

Warning: Do not start reading this book, or Air Awakens, if you have things that need done or need to be up for work in the morning! Obviously I had trouble putting either book down and it left me short on sleep! These books are amazing! The characters are well-rounded, obviously well thought out and well written. They are also human with all the foibles, failures and joys we go through. It is very difficult to believe the author is just starting her career! To understand everything going on you need to read the books in order, which means starting with "Air Awakens". Be prepared, however; Book

three won't be out until Feb '16 and you may have a hard time waiting patiently for the next book. I know I will be waiting anxiously and impatiently for Feb. I'll just have to keep re-reading books 1 & 2!

Oh god. Prepare for an ending that will make your heart stop. Elise Kova continues to amaze me. In the sequel to her debut novel *Air Awakens*, Elise continues to demonstrate her sheer mastery of the written language. Within a few pages she can make you laugh, cheer, panic, and cry. The power she has over her readers is amazing, and I simply could not put this book down for a second.

I'm pretty sure that Elise might be a sorceress, because not only are her books about magic, but they are magic in themselves. It's art, plain and simple. The plot has definitely deepened in *Fire Falling*. Vhalla is a servant to the crown, being forced to fight in the Emperor's war to capture the North. Not only does she have to figure out her magic, but she has to learn to defend herself by more physical means, all while trying to figure out what is going on between her and a certain dark prince. I loved this book because not only does the plot deepen and continue from where we left off in the first book of the series, but the characters do to. We meet some new people who seem as though they might be becoming some lead roles on the stage that is the Solaris universe, and we also get to see TONS of character development not just from Vhalla and Aldrik (which they do, in abundance!) but from some of the more minor characters in the first book that will play more important roles as the series continues. To name just a few we see Baldir and Larel become closer to Vhalla, which I loved. I had a hard time with Vhalla during this book. I found that she was a little "poor-me" during this book while pining for Aldrik. I mean, I understood it was kind of necessary for the character, and she did grow to be a bit stronger as the novel went on, but I do hope that we get to see Vhalla become more sure of herself as the series goes on. She has so much potential to be badass, and I truly believe that we will get to see that eventually. Saying that, this was pretty much the only reason I gave the book 4.5 stars instead of five. But considering it doesn't let you post half stars, I'm going to give Elise Kova the benefit of the doubt here and round it up. We get to see so much more action in this book, and it was powerful. I was constantly at the edge of my seat desperate to read what happened next. What I love about this series (so far anyways) is that it really has the power to completely draw you into the book until it feels like you are right alongside Vhalla experiencing everything she does as if it were you. That is just another testament to Elise's writing which, in case you didn't get the memo, is bloody fantastic! Also, I just want to quickly mention the fabulous cover art once again. The cover art is something that initially drew me into *Air Awakens*, and here there was no exception! Overall, I think

that this was a great sequel to the series and I absolutely cannot wait to see where Elise takes us in *Earth's End*, the third instalment of the series. If you haven't started the series yet, get on it! This is a definite must read for all those YA fantasy lovers out there!

Everything is different now that the Empire knows who Vhalla is. No longer is she a librarian. She is a tool of the state & is forced to navigate the tricky politics of the regions, the state & the royal family. Vhalla grows as a character. Aldrik can't hide behind his aloof facade. The terror and horror of war can't be avoided. But, there are also beautiful moments of fun, friendship and love. This is a well-written, nuanced tale. Good gravy, I am eager for book 3.

It is very, very rare when a sequel outdoes the original. There is usually something missing, a small spark, a lost emotion, a much needed death. Elise Kova did not skip a beat in her second novel in the *Air Awakens* series. She made it better. I had minor issues with Vhalla, the main character, in the first book and everything I disliked about her in the first book, she managed to change and grow. And as Kova promised there was more Aldrik. Lots of Aldrik. As in I could not have asked for more Aldrik time! (Well actually I could but I would prefer it was more real life for me and that I was the one actually in his tent and hotel room but I don't think Elise has yet manifested that power to put her readers in her world. But if you do Elise, let me know!) I honestly could write an entire blog post about everything Aldrik but I feel like many of you would be annoyed and the others would be confused and spoiled for this fantastic fantasy series. At the end of *Air Awakens*, Vhalla is forced to go to war in order to serve the crown. She knows nothing of war and battles and is frightened to leave. This story takes place along her journey towards the front lines of battle. We see her friendships grow along with her powers. And a forbidden love grows into bursting flames. But as her power grows she is concerned just what will become of her and her use for the empire. There was not one thing wrong with this story. I want to say it was almost perfect. It was fast-paced and funny, swoon-worthy and tragic. It took everything I love about books and wrapped neatly into one epic story with a burning bow of fire on top. I was so happy to see Vhalla grow. She was still whiny at the beginning and always second-guessing herself but as her power grew and she learned to control it better, she learned to have more confidence in herself. By the end she was the Vhalla I always imagined she would be. The relationship growth between Vhalla and Aldrik made my heart do little happy dances. There was so much flirting going on, like that one scene in the tent with the pillows, all I wanted for them to do was make out in a total hot, steamy, almost too much for YA novel kind of way. But they kept holding back and tiptoeing around the feelings they both knew were growing

much deeper than a small crush. And then finally, finally things happened. I wanted to skip around my apartment like a crazy kid who ate too much Halloween candy. Kova wrote the love story of these two almost brilliantly. I could not have asked for a better story. I really can't say much more because spoilers but seriously that ending, that freaking ending?! Elise Kova, you are killing me. I tried to overwork myself after I finished just to keep my mind off of it. But it was like a little devil standing on my shoulder whispering in my ear, distracting me from everything I was doing. I have a countdown going for February 11. It's not that far away, right? I can survive, I can make it through but trust me when Earth's End, the third installment in the series, comes out I will be ready at midnight with my tablet in hand so I can devour the book and force myself to finish before the sun wakes up. So stop wasting your time and go read this series, you will be pleasantly surprised and desperate for more!

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