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Haven (The War Of Princes, Book 1)



Synopsis

For hundreds of years, the peaceful country of Haven has remained isolated from the rest of the world. But for adventurous seventeen-year-old Katelyn Kestrel, Haven's calm has always been a little, well, boring. She can't help but wonder what lay outside Haven's seemingly impassible borders, but no one will talk about the mysterious catastrophic event that separated Haven from the outside world. Katelyn has a strange knack for finding things, and when she miraculously finds a passage into the outside world, she thinks she's solved a longstanding mystery. Instead, she discovers that some things should never be found . . . The outside world is more treacherous than Katelyn ever imagined, full of monsters, magic, and two princes locked in a bloody, centuries-long battle. The moment she arrives, she is kidnapped and held captive in a nearby keep, accused of being a northern spy. With the help of a hardened young soldier and a handsome lord, Katelyn must try to escape and find her way back to Haven. But there are dark forces at work that Katelyn can't begin to understand, and she'll be lucky to make it out of the fortress alive . . . This is a new edition of the previously self-published novel.

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Customer Reviews

I'm not a young adult... more like middle aged. "Haven" came up as a recommendation after reading a young adult title which was recommended by a friend. "Haven" had good reviews so, for a buck, I gave it a whirl. I'm very glad I did! In her afterward, Ms. Ivanovich asked for reviews. I'm not well versed in critical review and have hesitated to leave comments (this is my first for a novel) but, in the interest of encouraging a new author, I'll try to give you the highlights of my reading experience: I could picture the world Ivanovich built quite vividly - right down to form, color, and texture. That hasn't happened for me in a while. I cared about characters - I found their reactions genuine. Nice pacing and well written action sequences. Not only did I find myself anticipating each break in my schedule so I could return to Katelyn's adventure, I downright grinned when the ending indicated there would likely be a sequel. What struck me about halfway through the novel was the fact I hadn't once muttered, "Oh, really?" "I don't think so!" or "Puhleeze!" I enjoy fantasy, urban fantasy and paranormal (among other genres) but often find myself chortling over plot holes and inconsistencies. Evidently the plot and writing here were strong enough for me to skim over any that might be present. Why 4 stars instead of 5? Honestly, I'm not always sure what ratings mean to folks after having read some mediocre books with predominately 5 star reviews. Since this is my first rating of a novel, I gave some thought to the scale I'd use. Most of the books I read are popular fiction or general interest titles, not "great literature." With that in mind: 5 - Outstanding read. Enriched my world by being especially thought provoking, moving, useful, etc. 4 - Excellent read. Thoroughly enjoyable or worthwhile. If fiction, will probably snatch up the author's next book. Would read this title again. 3 - Solidly good read. Some quibbles on plot, characterization, writing style, usefulness, etc. but not enough to detract from overall enjoyment (or practical application, if non-fiction). Will look to this author again. 2 - Not particularly recommended. Writing, subject treatment, plot or character defects that seriously detracted from enjoyment or usefulness. 1 - Avoid this book. Fatal flaws.

First off, can I say I liked the other cover better. This book was so gloriously awesome I don't know how I have never heard of this author before. This book is classified as steampunk and while it has elements of that sub-genre, it wasn't the main focus of the book like other steampunk books I have read before. I would classify this book as being a dual genre for that reason. But it was glorious! From the world building to the abilities everyone had, the differences between the nations and the push and pull of the emotions! Everything was lined up so perfectly and just collided into this amazing read. It has already crept up the ranks to become one of my favorite books. I think the detail the author puts into each character is

what really won me over. I love character depth and this book has it in spades! Each character is completely different and unique. They all have something to offer to the story as a whole and there are no token characters. The love that blossoms in a time of war always gets me so much harder because it's felt so deeply. I just love this book and can't wait to see what the other books have in store for me

First of all, I want to say, the world Ivanovich built is solid. It has a great foundation in fantasy. The problems I had with the book, I write here with the hope that my critique helps the author in some way with future books. First, we get it. She's seventeen and has lived a sheltered, carefree life until now. We understand that she's overwhelmed and ill-prepared to deal with the situation she's in. There is no need for the repetitive "If you would've told me last week that, I'd have said" paragraphs to show how shocked she is. It was okay at first but somewhere along the way I started skimming to the next paragraph everytime I saw this. There was wayyyy too much self-contemplative "omg I can't believe this is happening it's so horrible how could you do that what kind of terrible wrong place is this" superfluous narrative in this book. It really really did get tedious and boring to read, and I found myself skipping alot so I could move the plot along and get past her own self-pity/shock/fear. Second, she is our hero, the day-saver. Seventeen year-old or not, at some point she has to start acting like it, or get killed. Instead, she is constantly overwhelmed by the situation, cowering in fear, so appalled at death, even of the terrible bad guys, that she can't possibly be a hero. One thing I hate about fantasy novels is a hero that can't stand doing what is necessary and taking out the bad guys. I know where she comes from but my goodness the sight of such terrible evil has to be met with a little more backbone than little Katelyn showed, even in the end. Next, some things were just poorly explained. I can't go into specifics without including spoilers so I'll just leave it at that. I loved the world created in this book and look forward to reading more about it, but I hope future novels contain far more exploration of this fantasy world and its elements, and a lot less of Katelyn's personal moral/romantic discovery. She needs to be alot tougher and mature than she is to possibly be handling the kind of situation she's in.

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