



The Hand of Andulain

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For most young men raised in a quiet rural village, a hunting trip is rarely something to cause excitement. But when Bran Somnerson encounters a mysterious being, mortally wounded and running for its life, all hope of a normal afternoon fades away.

This being, one of the legendary Eki, is a messenger who has traveled far from home to deliver a plain metal arm band on a mission of dreadful urgency. When it is clear to Bran that the messenger's journey will end prematurely in a pool of blood, he promises to keep the precious cargo safe.

Little does Bran know that he has just become the most wanted man in all the Four Realms. His promise will take him far from home and into a world far bigger and more deadly than he could have imagined.

Bran is reluctantly willing to try and keep this unassuming arm band safe, but he may lose his life in the process.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aaron Mahnke was born in Illinois in 1975, holds a degree in psychology from Eastern Illinois University, and has built a successful career telling stories for businesses through marketing and design communication. He is a lover of fantasy and science fiction, and a student of history and religion. He currently lives in the Boston area with his wife and two daughters where he is at work on his next novel.

The Hand of Andulain Details

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From Reader Review The Hand of Andulain for online ebook

Rob says

3.5 stars

I really liked the plot and characters in this book. Its a classic "greatness thrust upon" story with interesting themes throughout. The villains are truly despicable and the hero is likeable. The magic system is interesting and I'm looking forward to more description of its workings. The setting is varied enough to keep things fresh. Excellent description has you feeling like you're traveling alongside the characters.

My only complaint (and reason for the minus .5 star) is that my copy was edited horribly. Lots of missing letters and words and word substitutions. I would estimate that a third of the pages had some sort of editing error.

I'm definitely looking forward to the continuation of the story.

Jason Zimdars says

Quit this one about 1/3 of the way through.

It just never grabbed me. The fantasy setting and story are trite and there is almost no character development. I pushed through a lot more of this book than it deserved hoping for something to pull me in, but I'm giving up.

Becky says

I got about a third of the way through this book and then abandoned it. This is the first book in a series (I think there are two that are currently published) and I just wasn't enthralled enough to feel like I would continue with the next book. I'm not a big heroic fantasy fan and I guess I just couldn't get into the story and characters. Anyone who enjoys heroic fantasy would like this book.

Jeremiah Johnson says

Fun fantasy novel. The characters are very well done and quite likable.

I really like that this is the first book of a series, but is a great stand alone novel in itself.

Looking forward to the next one!

Matt says

(from my Amazon review):

You're always taking a bit of a risk when you read an author's first book--especially in a genre as full of amateur attempts as the fantasy genre. This, however, is no amateur hack at a fantasy novel; it's a great read which was painfully difficult to set down, and I'm very anxious for the rest of the series. It was endlessly worth what I paid for it--a great and exciting read, with enough variety chapter-by-chapter that I couldn't even tell myself to set it down "just at the end of this chapter."

As someone who doesn't read a lot of fantasy novels, I did notice when elements were shared with other fantasy novels I've read--namely some similarities between the main character and other well-known epic adventurers. However, I get the feeling this is normal for fantasy, so I'll leave any commentary in that area to someone who knows more than I do. Either way, it didn't keep me from loving the book.

Just a few more specifics: The characters are engaging and personable--I felt like I knew them by the end of the book--and the mythos/spirituality of the world is something I'm really looking forward to seeing develop. Also, I bookmarked the map in my Kindle so I could continually flip back to it to find locations on the map and track the characters' progress across the landscape, which was great fun.

Overall, it's a great book with wonderful characters, great writing and a storyline I can't wait to see continue.

Volpot says

3 stars.

amber says

Rated this on accident and can't get it to delete unformed the iPhone app. Haven't read it yet!
