



Mistress of the Wind

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Windspeaker Kyla Cren gathers news from the wind and passes on to her village its warnings about mindstealers, creatures that rob human minds, leaving their victims insensible and helpless. Because Kyla's parents were victims of mindstealers, the need for revenge consumes her. She attacks two mindstealers and rescues their victim, but gets no satisfaction from the act. The ungrateful victim, a powerful mage, thrusts upon her the care of Claid, who appears to be an appealing young child. He's not a child, the Mage Alair declares, and challenges her to discover what Claid really is. That challenge sends her from her native village on a journey of discovery that takes her into the wider world beyond her isolated valley, a world in which machines have replaced magic. Harrowing experiences teach her more about herself than about Claid and eventually bring her back to Mage Alair, whom she joins in a scheme to destroy the mindstealers, a plan which might result in tragedy but which could also lead Kyla to the full truth about Claid's nature and her own.

Mistress of the Wind Details

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From Reader Review Mistress of the Wind for online ebook

Sam says

I won a copy of this book in a First Reads Giveaway.

Mistress of the Wind follows Kyla, a windspeaker, as she embarks on an unintended journey for answers behind Claid, whom is thrust upon her possession without her consent, and ultimately stopping the Mindstealers through a third person narrative.

The mystery of figuring out what Claid really is kept me hooked from page to page. Additionally I liked how Kyla is torn between who to believe - Claid or the Mage Alair.

And boy, the author sure knows how to push her characters. My heart utterly felt for Kyla through the Line's End segment of the book. I could really feel Kyla's emotions and I ended up being frustrated by her predicament. Which is a good thing as this means that the story was able to invoke such an emotion from me (I don't always end up emotionally invested in every book I read).

The ending is bittersweet but for me it sits just fine (I really couldn't imagine it ending any other way). (view spoiler)

Ana ★ Tesserell says

[if you haven't read the School for Sorcery trilogy yet, what are you doing with your reading time?]

There's no table of contents, first thing I notice about my copy. Why isn't there one, is this supposed to give me a bad feeling? But Tria has confirmed that Alair is alive, and there's no reason to believe Kyla is dead. Or is there?

CHARACTERS: 10/10

After being mentioned in the other books (the... sequels), Lady Kyla finally makes her debut. Only she holds no title as of yet. Where the story begins, Kyla Cren = is a nineteen year old windspeaker in the Noster Valley (pull out your copy of "A Perilous Power" for the map). A windspeaker is someone whose job is to rely on the wind to tell them (personification~!) of what's going on in that area and whether the mindstealers are coming to the town or not. And Kyla has a personal beef with the mindstealers. I was very curious to see what led to the extinction of this job or whether it still exists in the sequels and is just being held secret from the other Provinces (or the Triumvirate is keeping it a secret).

Predictably, we also get introduced to the Mage Alair, the Power-Giver in this book. Yes, he = is different from the godly/fatherly figure he was... is going to be! to Tria, but then again, we have been told Kyla and Alair have been around doing their epic things since a long, long time before the events in the A School for Sorcery trilogy.

The satyre Claid= I was so intrigued about him because... well, mostly because he's part of the Arucadiaverse. A very mysterious part, or at least was he was until he got explained more in this book.

PLOT: 10/10

Engaging from the start, like always. I forced myself to read only 3 chapters per day to make it last longer. I

don't have a wish to reveal who does what and with who, but I will say that figuring things out on one's own is still a big theme here. The struggle between giving in to what you see and daring to see beyond. The deception is real. I've seen so many connections to "A School for Sorcery" on this level, it was beautiful.

FEELS (ENJOYMENT): 10/10

This book treated some legendary characters and I found it appropriately written for them. These characters will go down in the history of Arucadi, at least as far as the Community is concerned, and they do deal with some stuff of epic proportions. And the connections made with "A School for Sorcery", especially towards the end of the novel, gave me goosebumps and shivers of pleasure and anticipation.

(To everyone who is still digging their feet in claiming this is a series 'for kids, meh', have fun explaining to them what "orgasmic abandon" means.)

STYLE: 10/10

Sabin knows how to write a suspenseful atmosphere. Knows how to make you root for the main character. Her characters think of all the possibilities when presented of a riddle, and those coincide with the exact same possibilities the reader is considering at that point. Her plots are always engaging and she is my favorite fantasy author.

I like the idea that anyone can be redeemed. Look at Marta, she's no less worthy because of her former occupation. I also like very much the importance goodness/morality is given, versus sheer power – another tie to "A School for Sorcery". I do believe this is an appropriate first book in the Arucadi series, I am pleased with the explanations given for certain things.

WORLD-BUILDING: 10/10

Our story begins in the Noster Valley, the North Woods Province. Everyone, pull out your copies of "A Perilous Power" too see where that is. I would love a new map of Arucadi, one to include all~ the mentioned places. There's a place called Martyr's Pass. How... *looks at all the sequels she owns* foreboding. I do like how almost each of the provinces has been mentioned once, but I would like a book where they are all mentioned together and someone travels everywhere or one person from each province come together. Same with the Gods, we get about one mentioned per book, I can't be the only one wishing for a story to bring them all together. The series feels a bit... fragmented like this. Scattered throughout a very long period of time, each installment dealing with one of the 12 Provinces. This is my only complaint about it. I feel like each of the books is one big puzzle piece and that together they could fit, except they're all so far away from each other. I wish for someone sometime to connect all the events in some way, either with his omniscience or by learning of all the major events we the readers have witnessed.

One thing I immensely liked in this story is the personification of the wind. I've never read about personified elements before, but I've loved the concept... for as far back as I can remember (wink wink!). And then I realized the double meaning of the book's title.

Jenny says

This is a thoroughly absorbing story from start to finish. I found the windspeaker Kyra to be a compelling protagonist - she has a sad backstory but a strong will that propels the action. It was an excellent read.

