



Bound

Kate Sparkes

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Welcome to Darmid, where magic is a sin, fairy tales are contraband, and the people live in fear of the Sorcerers on the other side of the mountains.

Rowan Greenwood has everything she's supposed to want from life—a good family, a bright future, and a proposal from a handsome and wealthy magic hunter. She knows she should be content with what she has. If only she could banish the idea that there's more to life than marriage and children, or let go of the fascination with magic she's been forced to suppress since childhood.

When Rowan unknowingly saves the life of one of her people's most feared enemies, that simple act of compassion rips her from her sheltered life and throws her into a world of magic that's more beautiful, more seductive, and more dangerous than she ever could have imagined.

Rowan might get everything she ever dreamed of—that is, if the one thing she's always wanted doesn't kill her first.

Bound Details

Date : Published June 11th 2014 by Sparrowcat Press

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Author : Kate Sparkes

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From Reader Review Bound for online ebook

Sharon Gibbs says

I loved this book. Bound kept me enthralled and took me on a magical journey. I wanted it to go on forever. Can't wait to read the next book in the trilogy.

Jillian says

Bound was pretty middle of the road for me. It was good but not great. I enjoyed it but I didn't get overly invested in the characters or storyline. I liked Bound enough to be interested in continuing to book 2 of the series.

AUDIBLE: I added the wispersync audible narration to this Kindle book. The two narrators who covered the two different POVs did a great job. They were easy to listen to and understand.

Jennifer says

LOVED IT!

Enchanting from start to finish. "Bound" is a must read.

I was lucky enough to receive an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review

NO SPOILER REVIEW

Sparkes is an incredibly imaginative writer who has created a vivid and shimmering world with an intricately woven history that is both wholly believable and completely captivating. The protagonist, Rowan, is strong, insightful, generous, romantic, and funny. Sparkes' beautiful descriptive language, and informal sense of humour in the dialogue made Rowan seem so real. I felt connected to her and her struggles, and I am excited to see how her story continues in the next two books. It was refreshing to read about a female character who is tenacious and strong and is able to hold her own against a powerfully magical male protagonist. Their love story is compelling and endearing.

The many levels and layers of conflict in the plot make the story interesting and complex, but Sparkes writes with great clarity and intention so the story never seems to meander. The story unfolds at a pace that keeps you completely hooked.

Lately I've noticed that many authors in the Young Adult Fantasy genre are shying away from the creation of imaginary worlds. Protagonists all seem to hail from recognizable cities, and seem to deal with fairly mundane (and very human) conflicts. Occasionally they dip their toes in the magic pool, but it's not the focus of the story. After reading so many of these teen novels (with just a hint of magic) I found Kate Sparkes' debut novel, Bound, to be refreshing on so many levels. The whole experience was magical.

James says

A truly fantastic fantasy début! I really enjoyed this story and I'm really glad I gave the author a try. The story starts off by introducing us to Rowan, a girl lost in daydreams about magic and fairy tales in Darmid, a country and culture where it is forbidden and the consequences are severe. She doesn't fit in with those around her and constantly wonders why she just can't be happy with her life as it is. Escaping from her mother's pressuring concerning a marriage proposal to a prominent magic-hunter's son pushes Rowan to visit her uncle and aunt's farm in the country for a while. Along the way she stumbles upon an injured but magnificent eagle, which she decides to care for out of kindness and compassion even though she knows it probably isn't wise. The eagle as it turns out is none other than Aren, a cold-hearted magical assassin and the half-brother of Tyrea's ruthless monarch, Severn. He had been sent to Rowan's country to track down a magic-user in hiding for his brother to use in some devious experiment. Disguised in his eagle form, Aren spends several days recovering in Rowan's company. He soon learns that she has healing magic which is restrained and she is completely unaware of, except for regular headaches she suffers from. Aren decides to return to his brother empty handed rather than force Rowan to go with him; but before long his deceit is uncovered and Severn forces him to return and capture Rowan. Once Rowan is kidnapped, Aren finds himself conflicted in his choices and secretly plots to set Rowan free. Rowan has difficulty trusting him but for lack of other options agrees to flee with him. From there the two companions set out on a long journey to Tyrea together. They are hiding from Severn but also seeking an answer to the binding of Rowan's magic. Along the way the encounter many things both mundane and magical and make discoveries about themselves and their feelings for each other also.

I won't give more of the story away. I will instead say if what I've described so far sound interesting to you, you should definitely give this book a read. I loved getting to know both Rowan and Aren's characters. Rowan was a curious and sometimes naïve girl, but I always appreciated the way she saw beauty in the world around her. Aren was serious and mistrustful of pretty much everything except Rowan. He was calculating and quite manipulative, but ultimately he was trying to fix his past mistakes and do the right thing by Rowan. Both characters grew a lot over the course of the story and as they began to care for each other. My only frustration with the story was the way things started out so exciting and action-packed for the first half of the book and then dropped off after that. Save for the last few chapters of the book, once the first half of the story is over everything is just Rowan and Aren running off to different places and skirting around their feelings for each other. You meet some interesting characters and learn more about Aren's past, but nothing really significant happens until Severn catches up to them again right at the end of the story. Ignoring this lull in things, the ending was good - open ended and in need of a sequel - but not so much of a cliff-hanger that I feel like I'll die of frustration before the next book is released. Overall this was a fantastic read that I really enjoyed. I'd recommend reading this if you're looking for some new young-adult fantasy material. It is creative, romantic, funny, exciting and very well-written for a début novel.

Damaris (GoodChoiceReading) says

I think I would enjoyed this book more had I just read the book instead of playing the audiobook. I couldn't really connect with the female MC and I think that had to do with the narrator. She was whispering the whole book. And whenever she would do the male voice, I would picture him younger. But when the male took over, he made the male MC seem much older. It was all over the place. The story itself was pretty good, though. I think I'll just read the second in the series instead listening to it.

Claire says

****I was kindly giving a copy of bound by the author in exchange for an honest review****

WOW HOLY HECK THIS BOOK WHERE TO START OMG!!!!!!

I seriously can't get over this book in fact I loved it sooooo much I'm still reeling from the fact that I have to wait a **WHOLE MONTH FOR TORN THE SECOND BOOK!!!!!! THAT'S RIGHT A WHOLE MONTH!!!!!!**

I knew instantly that I was going to love this the cover is gorgeous the characters are perfection and the story was just amazing. I have to admit I haven't read much fantasy but this is a fantasy book to be read and re-read over and over again.

While at the first chapter you're not meant to like Aren holy heck I couldn't help it right away you know there is something about him that will make you love him by the end of the book and boy did I he's charming at times, also infuriating, lovable, wicked just an amazing character.

And Rowan from her first chapter you can't not like her she's wonderful, stealing or borrowing magic fairy tale books she knows she shouldn't. Not wanting to marry a man she knows she should. Wishing for adventure that will do her no good and when she meets Aren for the first time boy does she get adventure by the bucket load.

The POV change throughout is a breath of fresh air to it totally allows you to really get inside the minds of Rowan and Aren who each have a wonderfully distinct voice.

Even the secondary characters, Kel and Cassia are fantastic. The world and the creatures the author has created are spellbinding pardon the pun. I can't possibly make anybody realise how good this book is just through this review but seriously read this book you won't be disappointed it's got character, magic, fantasy, romance, adventure and it's even got a soon to be wicked king on the hunt for out hero and heroine. You'll be itching for book two I know I'm desperate to get my copy on the 31st March. I'd recommend this to everyone and I will too once I finish this review. If I could give it more than five stars I would. I've just currently purchase this book because it's definitely one to own.

Mayric says

Bound is a very great YA-Fantasy book to read! At first I really don't know what it is all about but then when I read the prologue, I was hooked up. Definitely because it was just so fascinating and amazing that I couldn't help myself reading it and enjoying it.

So when I got the chance, I didn't think twice. I signed up already to review this book.

So the book is all about Rowan Greenwood. She's a very kind woman who is very considerate of other people's feelings. She is living in a country named Darmid.

In Darmid, magic was banned and when they knew that someone was doing any kind of magic practices they will punished him/her. They were also destroying every form of it. Rowan grew up with the thought that magic was a very dangerous thing. That they must not entertained themselves liking it or even thinking about

it. But then Rowan finds herself enjoying and reading some fairytale stories and wanting to have a magical adventure of her own.

On the other hand, Aren Tiernal was sent to Darmid by his brother Severn who rules the country of Tyrea. Severn ordered Aren to get and bring him a magic user from Darmid.

Aren wants to be his brother's second so he went to Darmid to get what his brother wants.

There, Aren transformed into something and was shot by a magic hunter who happens to be the father of the another magic hunter that Rowan was gonna marry. Callum Langley.

Because Rowan wants space in order for her to think what she really wants. Rowan decided to come back to Stone Rodge where she grew up. In the road, she found an injured animal and decided to help it not knowing that it would change everything.

As the story goes on, you'll see what will happen to Rowan after helping her country's most feared enemy and on how she would deal also being in the world full of magic wherein she didn't know if she could find all answers to her questions.

While reading this book I find myself enjoying it so much and I am looking forward on every adventure that Rowan gets herself into. Especially being with someone who happens to be your country's enemy. I just found that very interesting and very intriguing also in a way that I couldn't put down the book itself.

This story is much more amazing than what you expected it to be. Its far way more than that and this book will make you happy, sad, scared, angry but most of the time. Smile. :")

Kate Sparkes is such an amazing author for writing this kind of book that will really get you into it.

It's a very amazing book to read and I recommend all of you guys to read this one. Especially if you're a huge fan of YA-fantasy or if you just like to read something new.

All in all I love this book! I rated it 5 out 5. I'm looking forward reading the book 2 because book 2 will be published next month which is March. So yes. I wish that I could read the book 2 just after it had been released. :")

~yooheereads

Virginie (chouettblog) says

As far as YA fantasy novels go, this is probably one of the most underrated read I have come across this year. I kept reading this piece wondering why had I not seen it advertised anywhere, displayed on your usual bookseller shelves, and why I still don't. "Bound" is definitely on par with the most popular YA reads sold right now and can hold its own. I really feel that Kate Sparkes is an author to watch.

The world of magic and fairy tales is one that many authors venture in with repeated tried and tested formulae. What made "Bound" stand out for me, is not the world where the story took place but the journey that the main characters are on. The tale focuses on the people and not necessarily on what they can do with

their magical powers. This is the difference that essentially makes this book a great read.

You will still meet your “want to dominate the world” power hungry villains and Aren is maybe one of the cruellest sorcerers there is, until he is hit by a spark of compassion from Rowan, a young lady who is currently questioning everything she knows and seemingly has no idea about her magical heritage. As a female character, I found Rowan refreshing. Watching her learning about this new world was like seeing everything through the eyes of a child. Aren’s journey however, is one of sacrifice and he is learning that his past actions have consequences in the present even if he is a radically changed man who has now learned to embrace an emotion he has been taught was a weakness all his life.

This piece would not have been complete if it was not for the right amount of humour and sexual tension between the characters dotted throughout the read. So thank God it has some of that too.

Bound is the perfect read for any YA fantasy & romance lover and I highly recommend it.

Katerina says

Review to come!

Krista says

The second book I've read this summer where I desperately wanted the saccharine heroine and broody hero to get eaten by the bad guy...

Hours of my life were spent waiting for something to happen. This book read more like a travel journal looking for magical help, and never finding it, and then on to the next destination with mini adventures in magic and near romance on the way. Then yup! Nothing happens.

Pauline Ross says

This is a cracking story. Fantasy romance is a tricky format. It can veer from straight fantasy with a little romance on the side, through to outright romance with a little arm-wavy magic or the occasional dragon thrown in for light relief. This book leans more to the relationship side of the equation, but there’s some solid world-building underpinning it.

Many elements of the story are quite conventional. Rowan is the teenage girl expected to do her duty and marry well, producing the babies in unexpectedly short supply in her country, Darmid. But she’s fascinated by magic, even though it’s illegal, and why does she have strange headaches? Aren is the royal from the neighbouring country, Tyrea, a powerful sorcerer whose even more powerful older brother now rules. When Aren is sent to capture a sorcerer from magic-less Darmid for experimentation, he meets Rowan and... Well, we can see where this is going, can’t we?

Despite the well-worn plotlines, the opening chapters draw the world and characters with deft brushwork,

and if Rowan is a little too quick to help the injured Aren, and Aren is a little too easily drawn to Rowan, I can let that go for the depth of world-building below the surface. There are some nice details here: like the idea that eliminating magic in Darmid acts to weaken the magic in next door Tyrea, too. And women in Darmid are only fertile once a year. No wonder they have so much trouble producing babies. The author cleverly follows this through in logical ways: sex before marriage is positively encouraged, because it just might result in a successful pregnancy.

The middle part of the book sags somewhat, becoming a slightly dull travelogue, with various threats leaping out of the scenery to liven things up. In between dealing with these events, the two main characters angst about what they're doing, and each other, and the future. The story is told from both Rowan's and Aren's point of view, in first person. Occasionally I found this confusing, but it did help to get under the skin of both characters. Both of them are smart and behaved sensibly, but Aren I found particularly fascinating. His background and history, his suppressed anger, his status as a loner and outsider despite his family connections - all made him far more interesting to me than Rowan, whose life was far more settled.

Aren's history also made the romance difficulties work well. It's a convention in a romance story that although the main characters are irresistibly drawn to each other, something prevents them from being together. And when one of them is a professional assassin and ruthless fixer-upper? Yes, I can see why Rowan might have second thoughts about a man like that.

The plot rolls along quite nicely, until... Look, I'm going to rant for a minute here, so you can skip ahead to the next paragraph if you want. So we have our plucky hero and heroine racing to escape a fate worse than death, chased by evil villains here, there and everywhere, things getting fraught, building nicely to a climax, and then what happens? There's a ball, that's what. Well, a party, anyway, with fancy frocks, and dancing, and general merriment. Guys, there are people out there wanting to kill you, probably painfully and very, very slowly - get a sense of urgency, for goodness sake. No, I get it, I really do, the two main characters have to have their Big Romantic Moment, but I do struggle with credibility here. As it happens, it was a particularly good BRM, so that's fine, but please, authors, skip the frocks and dancing, OK?

The climax is a suitably dramatic confrontation with a fairly long-drawn-out post-dust-up scenario, which managed to bring some emotional resonance to bear without sacrificing common sense or betraying the characters of the principals involved. And needless to say, there are enough loose threads to continue the story into the next book. This is a particularly well written and well plotted fantasy romance, which finds a good balance between the two elements and has unusually strong characterisation. A good four stars.

Lala_Loopsie [fire breathing B!tch Queen] says

I'm sorry i'm not able to write a review. Until my vacations/holidays are over... nothing. Just know that i can't wait for the next book.

Rachelann says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

5 PERFECT STARS

Can I start this review off with **HOLY COW THAT COVER...**

I admit, I knew I was going to buy a paperback of this novel before I read it. What kind of book with this gorgeous of a cover could be bad, right?

Well... Kate certainly did not disappoint. This is definitely my kind of story.

"I'm not afraid."

"No. You're not allowed to be, are you?"

The story follows Rowan, a young sorceress, and Aren, who is one of the "evil" king's sons.

They are both beautiful people with extraordinary talents. Though, because of Aren's past, Rowan instantly despises him. The two are forced to work together to save Rowan's life. She doesn't know that she is saving him, just as much as he is saving her.

"I shouldn't... I shouldn't love you... But I think I do."

His gaze flicked away from mine. "In spite of what I am?"

"Because of who you are."

I am mesmerized by this novel. The story line is so wonderfully written, it blew me away. I did not think I would enjoy it as much as I did.

PRAISE TO THE AUTHOR for knowing how to write a book! It was so refreshing. I was constantly on the edge of my seat wanting more. When I wasn't reading I was wondering what was going to happen next. It takes a special kind of writer to bring that out in me.

The characters were absolutely spectacular. Their personalities were described amazingly and I knew exactly what they looked like.

The imagery was gorgeous as well. I could see EVERYTHING! It's like I was watching a movie.

If you aren't into magic this book definitely isn't for you... but if you do... then this is the JACKPOT. It has everything. There's dragons, potions, mermaids, faeries, sorcery, etc.

Seriously... If you want a well written novel filled with magic, suspense, adventure and romance... this is your book. TRUST ME!

"I tried to hold on, to watch what happened, but the white light ripped through me and stole my sight, leaving me blind and falling into a darkness I welcomed with everything that was in me. I was ready for the end..."

Rowan is such a strong willed character. She is amazing in every way possible. I was never once disappointed with her.

Praise to the author for making me fall in love with Eagles... and Aren. Yay.. another fictional crush to add to the list. *sigh*

I don't know if I can wait till March for the second novel to come out, but I suppose I don't have much of a choice. :P It's safe to say that it's being pre-ordered. Take my advice and read this. You won't regret it.

"We can have happily ever after later."

"Of course," I said.

I didn't believe it, but I wanted to.

cEe beE says

This a romance pretending to be a fantasy. Told in alternating POV between Aren, the male protagonist and a young killer sorcerer from Tyrea and his female counterpart, the naive but adventure seeking Rowan from magic-fearing Darmid. Their countries are sworn enemies and Aren is instructed by his evil older brother Severn to look for magic-user in her country. The first chapter started out promisingly and ominously. Then it slowly went downhill.

The world-building is threadbare with shallow descriptions of its peoples & customs: Tyreans speak with an accent and their men wear their hair long. Mermen have the same food and wardrobe just like land people. Every country talks the same language, and some of their expressions are very 21st century.

Characters appear and quickly disappear, most are unnecessary and add nothing to the plot. There's a lot of telling and no showing. If Harry Potter's world was like the artwork in the Sistine Chapel, this magic world would be like a child's crayon drawing of stick figures and their dog.

It doesn't help that Aren is the typical brooding, good-looking murdering anti-hero, and Rowen is a clueless, goody-two shoes Mary Sue. They are 20 somethings who act like teenagers. A boring couple in a thinly conceived fantasy. The only thing I liked is the cover which I think is really pretty.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

This one started out slow, but once I was in about 25%, I couldn't put it down!

Full of action and adventure with the right amount of romance!

Absolutely loved this series!
