



Ferromancer

Becca Andre

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Solutions aren't always black and white—sometimes they come in shades of iron gray.

Captain Bridget “Briar” Rose wants for nothing. Each day is a new adventure, living the life she loves, running cargo on the Ohio & Erie Canal. That is, until her cousin decides to sell the family boat to finance a new business venture. He wants to build locomotives for the railroad—the very industry that could put the entire canal system out of business.

Not one to give up without a fight, Briar does a little snooping into her cousin’s new business partner. When she gets a sneak peek at the locomotive plans, she suspects that the man is either a genius, or a ferromancer—one of the dreaded metal mages of Europe’s industrial revolution.

Determined to reveal her suspicions, Briar takes the plans and heads for the newspaper office in Columbus, stealing the family boat in the process. Kidnapping her cousin’s handsome business partner wasn’t part of the plan, but when he shows up, demanding the return of his property, she can’t let him go. After all, if Briar can prove that the railroad is using ferromancy, she could save more than her boat. She could save her way of life.

Ferromancer Details

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From Reader Review Ferromancer for online ebook

Spangles says

I love Becca Andre's books and this is a great start to a new series. After the first few chapters I was totally hooked; I really enjoyed getting to know the characters, and the pace kept me wanting to keep on reading to find out what was coming next. Looking forward to the continuation of this story.

Jennifer Roth says

Excellent!

The author's writing has improved since the Final Formula series, which I enjoyed reading. This series has a more steampunk feel and some deliciously snarky humor.

Jenna says

love this world. I look forward to reading more

Karen says

I'm going to break this into three parts, the world building, the characters, and the story. First the world, I really liked it, steampunk for me can be confusing and I don't like it sometimes, in fact I don't even know if I would consider this steampunk probably more of a fantasy to be honest. I understood the concept, liked the world and started to follow along pretty quickly. Check.

The characters. I didn't like Briar, though she did get better, I dislike lead characters who can break any rules and are almost shocked when they have to face consequences. I also didn't like the way she treated Grayson for most of the beginning of the book, without any real proof that she should. She stole from him and when he came to get his property she kidnapped him, blaming him! I had a hard time forgiving her, no I never did forgive her. She continued to do as she pleased even to the detriment of others. Now the other characters I liked and really helped me enjoy the book.

The story. Without giving too much away I found it interesting. I found the end fell a little flat for me but I found the flow wasn't too fast or slow and I stayed entertained.

Cheryl says

I was lucky enough to receive a copy of Becca Andre's book Ferromancer to give an honest review on, I can honestly say the book was brilliant, I love her books and this one didn't disappoint. Really well written book.

I love being able to chill out and enter the fantasy world of her imagination. The story itself flows really well, you are sucked in right to the end. The only problem was it got to a good bit then the book ended. Really looking forward to more.

Lynn K : Grimmedian says

A brilliant story set in the canals of the Great Lakes when the steam and coal run railways threatened the livelihood of the cargo boats that plied the Ohio & Erie Canal. As always, Andre's characters are well rounded, a delight to read, their beliefs and motivations clear. Each of them unique and deftly woven into the story, their own backgrounds come into the forefront as the action mounts up. Masterfully turning the mundane into intrigue, magic, and murders.

Becca Andre has a style with snark and wit, coupled with fantastical danger in ordinary seeming places. Add a heart melting little dragon construct, with soulful eyes, discovered by accident while snooping for ways to undermine her rivals, and there's Steampunk fantasy aplenty. The story setting in the late 1800's is well done thru the characters point of view, with due homage to the ingenuity of canal and lock system which was the life's blood of the towns set along its banks. The protagonist, Briar, is a determined and scrappy young woman who defies the convention of society, dresses as a man, and runs a loyal crew. Drinking, fiddling, and an occasional brawl with low life competition is part and parcel for her and her loyal crew.

The story:

Bridget Rose has only wanted one thing her entire life, and that was to captain her boat in the company of her loyal crew. Nicknamed Briar after the boat itself, the Briar Rose, she defies convention to live the simple life she loves on the canals, ferrying cargo to and from the towns along the route. It's the only life she's known since the age of three. A simple life aboard the boat, with her crew and fiddle, is all she desires, but new locomotives and railways are a threat to her business and she would go to great lengths to see them hampered in any way.

Without warning, she is swept up into her cousin's machinations to sell the boat and invest in the railroads. Though her beloved boat isn't hers yet. When her uncle died, the business was inherited by her cousin Andrew, who has been Briar's guardian and owner of her business and boat, since early childhood. Briar longs to earn enough to buy the cargo boat outright and make it her own.

When she stumbles across a new locomotive, the likes of which have never been seen, she quickly finds herself in over her head. As Andrew's plans to sell the business and have her married off to his new business partner are revealed, Briar decides to take a reckless course and steal the Briar Rose and the designs for the new locomotive before her cousin can stop her. Briar gets more than she bargained for when Grayson turns up on her boat demanding return of the magnificent new locomotives plans. Briar can't let him go before she can prove that Ferromancy is powering the machine, and takes him hostage aboard the boat while she heads for Columbus.

There are more serious threats lurking than a handsome and perplexing valet for a ferromancer that can destroy her way of life. Briar finds herself on the run with a very unusual hostage. Both of them pursued by a dangerously powerful Ferromancer, her spiteful cousin, and the authorities as well.

A thoroughly enjoyable read, you will not want it to end. The action is constant and you will find you are eager to discover the truth of the magic behind the little dragon construct, the locomotive, and the much maligned and feared Ferromancers. True to form, with a bittersweet ending, Becca Andre gives us a fast paced and tense ending with more of the tale begging to be told. We will be waiting for it eagerly.

McReadsALot says

I originally read this in the Dominion Rising collection, but I'm admittedly a big Becca Andre fan and can't wait for the rest of the series!

Ferromancer is set in America, during the expansion of the railroad. Briar is the captain of her cousin's canal boat, and this adventure begins as she "invites" a... let's call him a passenger... aboard. This is one of those stories where it's hard to say enough without giving too much away. The beginning might seem a little slow, but that could also be because I was interrupted constantly by two adorable children. I know once I finally sat down at night to read I really got into it. The story builds up well and I enjoyed being surprised when the plot twists I thought I saw coming turned into something completely different. My take on it is that ferromancers are a bit like a magical Dr Frankenstein, replacing bits of the body with metal and creating a soulless follower. There is magic, fantasy, and a scene-stealing, utterly adorable dragon. I imagine he and Bubo would be thick as thieves.

Jenn says

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

I'm a recent fan of Becca Andre, having finished her Final Formula series a few weeks ago. I thoroughly enjoyed that series and was excited to learn of this new series and delve into the fantastic world that she can create. It did not disappoint at all.

Briar is the captain of a small crew that travels up and down the Ohio & Erie canals. She's trying to save her livelihood from the encroaching railroads that are being built throughout the country. While trying to figure out if the railroads are using Ferromancy, she kidnaps the man she thinks is responsible for its expansion. She is soon thrust into the secretive and forbidden world of Ferromancers.

This book has a great cast of characters that are easy to relate to and a story that grabs your attention from the first encounter. It's also a wonderful blend of history and fantasy. I finished this book in one sitting because I couldn't put it down. There are some good twists in the storyline with action and lots of secrets. I highly recommend this book and can't wait until the next is available!

Kendra says

Another great new world! Andre has a very unique view toward fantasy/steampunk, and this new book is no exception. Magic meets mechanics in this great start in a new series set on the canals of Ohio in the 1800s. Add a spunky heroine, a mysterious man who might be her greatest enemy, and threats all around, and this adventure is hard to put down.

Ollivier says

Trust Becca Andre to always find something different for her books. The Final Formula characters were not

your average alchemist or elementals and this new series is not like the previous, it is something new and this first book introduces us to this new form of magic, ferromancy. The idea is really interesting and like before, the main character is a woman, again a strong one. The series setting is different as well, along the canals and lakes.

The plot is strong and the characters very attaching (I love Lock!), I loved it. Looking forward to the next one!

Chanel says

Definite recommendation! I absolutely LOVED it and it takes place in my home state!

Meet Briar Rose. Captaining canal boats has always been in her blood since she was little. She's also very curious and adventurous. Lately she's been concerned that her way of life might be taken over because locomotives and railroads have become increasingly popular over canal boats. One night, she decides to go "explore" these locomotives when she witnesses a murder. Shortly after, she finds out that her uncle is looking to sell her beloved canal boat. She decides that this can't happen and ends up kidnapping the engineer her uncle was looking to establish a business relationship with over a new locomotive. However, everything is not as it seems and she ends up getting a crash course in all things ferromancy and the soulless.

Fantasy, steampunk, mystery and adventure are just a few of the reading elements you'll find in this book. The characters are written so well. My favorite character, Lock, is a construct that Briar took an instant liking to and was the reason she dove deeper into the ferromancy world. You can easily relate to Briar in that she's trying to find her place in a man's world but also trying to handle her own issues. She often finds herself in situations that potentially threaten her livelihood and her life. The relationship she has with her crew members often goes misunderstood even though each and every one are loyal to her even when she tries to shield them from the real world. Another unique trait about the characters is that you can't really define who's the hero or who's the villian. At times, I found myself questioning who the "enemy" truly was including Briar herself.

By the end of the story, you will definitely want so much more! There is so much more to look forward to with Briar, her crew, as well as a few other characters. You must give this story a try. You won't regret it. I promise!

Catherine Milos says

Becca Andre is a master story teller and delivers in this steampunk meets magic inspired story. I love Briar. I love Grayson. I love all the characters. I can't wait to keep reading more from Becca.

Quartknee says

I heard the author interviewed for SFFMP episode 186, and while Historical Fiction isn't a genre I read a lot, I thought the premise was interesting enough to give it a try. I'm glad I did. The characters are unique and compelling and get more nuanced as the series progresses. (I'm currently in book 3 and circled back to write

this review).

The climax of this installment of the story ends rather abruptly and in such a head-scratching manner that I had to reread it to see if I missed anything. At the time, events didn't make sense to me, but the author finally explains them in book three. I know most readers want their answers and payoffs to initial setups to play out much more efficiently so this might be a turn-off, but I urge you to give this series a try and see if you can handle it. I was often annoyed at the lack of information. We could avoid much of the confusion with a five-minute conversation or a quick explanation. I realize that much of it has to do with back-story elements but the ferromancer-ferra relationships are a central component of events. At times I had trouble understanding motivations, and it made Grayson seem more like a plot device than a person. I realize the author was trying to avoid an info-dump and to hint at or tease things out, but in this first book, those attempts often feel heavy-handed and overly contrived. She gets much better at dealing with this as the series progresses and though it might cause readers to abandon the first book, if you can stick it out, I think it improves as the story progresses throughout the series.

Jody Jung says

This was a great adventure... hard to put down. The story setting was different than usual, set aboard a canal boat.. loved everything about this story. Characters were well developed and unique.. the writing was well done. I would love to read a book 2 whenever it comes out... highly recommend and I'm looking forward to reading some of her other stories

Jan Drotos says

Wasn't sure about this one but after reading it I can say whole heartedly that this will be as great a series as the Final Formula Series! Grab your copy today!
