



# Storming

*K.M. Weiland*

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In the high-flying, heady world of 1920s aviation, brash pilot Robert “Hitch” Hitchcock’s life does a barrel roll when a young woman in an old-fashioned ball gown falls from the clouds smack in front of his biplane. As fearless as she is peculiar, Jael immediately proves she’s game for just about anything, including wing-walking in his struggling airshow. In return for her help, she demands a ride back home . . . to the sky.

Hitch thinks she’s nuts—until he steers his plane into the midst of a bizarre storm and nearly crashes into a strange airship like none he’s ever run afoul of, an airship with the power to control the weather. Caught between a corrupt sheriff and dangerous new enemies from above, Hitch must take his last chance to gain forgiveness from his estranged family, deliver Jael safely home before she flies off with his freewheeling heart, and save his Nebraska hometown from storm-wielding sky pirates.

Cocky, funny, and full of heart, Storming is a jaunty historical/dieselpunk mash-up that combines rip-roaring adventure and small-town charm with the thrill of futuristic possibilities.

## Storming Details

Date : Published December 4th 2015 by PenForASword Publishing (first published November 27th 2015)

ISBN : 9780985780470

Author : K.M. Weiland

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## From Reader Review Storming for online ebook

### Luke Taylor says

TAOS:

or

#### THE AWESOMENESS OF STORMING

With expertly plotted dominos falling from the very first word, K.M. Weiland instantly captures the uniqueness of the world she's about to throw us into at the speed of a biplane charging through the cold wind of the night with a souped up engine and a plucky pilot as bold as black coffee in the outstanding throwback action/adventure novel *Storming*. Memorably colorful and deeply knit-together characters captain this addictively charming page-turner with dialogue that sounds like an ash bat cracking a home run centerfield and proto-european dieselpunk undertones gild an aesthetic of pure Americana, exotically nostalgic and yet somehow effortlessly resonant, making us feel every punch of action down to the last gasp of a superb climax. K.M. Weiland offers the seamless construction of a flawless thrill ride, cinematic and poignant and in the end just plain old fashioned fun. Grab an orange phosphate, kick back, and watch the pages (and the hours) fly by.

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### Suzannah says

KM Weiland's eagerly awaited *STORMING* is in genre quite unlike both her previous full-length novels - one of them a historical romance set during the Third Crusade and the other a portal fantasy adventure. This time she heads home to her own state of Nebraska in the 1920s and mixes a charming yet irresponsible flying-ace, a mysterious gamine with cutely mangled English, and a giant airship that controls the weather into an eminently entertaining story of biplanes, adventure, and redemption.

I have mixed feelings about this book. I *should* have really loved it. All the trademark KM Weiland qualities are in evidence: vivid characterisation, craftsmanlike plotting, unabashed adventure, and wonderful themes informed but not intruded upon by her Christian faith. In addition, Weiland's development as an author is evident even from her previous novel, *DREAMLANDER*. Her characters have that bit much more depth (even the airheaded Lilla is so very, very, very much better than the similar character in *DREAMLANDER*), her plot is more believable, the writing style has gone up another notch, the setting is vividly evoked.

So I should have loved it. Yet somehow, *STORMING* had a huge amount of trouble getting me to give a hoot, and I have no clue why. I have nitpicks, of course. In some ways, this book felt like two different genres sliced down the middle and glued uncertainly together. One of them was a quiet, character-driven historical drama, and the other was a crazy, pulpy tale of fist-fights, airships, and machines that control the weather, presided over by a villain named Zlo. The fantasy/sci-fi/dieselpunk elements kept getting sidelined so the characters could meditate on their feelings. Hitch and Walter's backstory was given painstaking and even redundant detail (I felt the book could easily have been trimmed by up to a quarter) - but Jael and *Schturming* got hardly any detail.

Speculative fiction is all about asking "what if?"; making extrapolations from a few starting assumptions. If alien life *did* exist on other planets, and if medieval cosmology *were* true, then how would the Green Lady of Perelandra react to a temptation similar to Eve's? If there was a secret airship that was capable of controlling

the weather, what effect would that have on the course of history/the life of a charmingly roguish barnstormer/anything, really? Serious science-fiction or even fantasy speculation was missing from *STORMING* and I felt those elements only existed as set-dressing. For example, there are approximately 130 people living on *Schturming*, but we never get a close look at any of them except Jael and Zlo, who fundamentally act as Plot Catalyst and Villain respectively. We don't find out how in such a small and presumably inbred community anyone could possibly be considered an outcast. We don't find out how the weather machine is supposed to work, and at the end (view spoiler) All the dieselpunk elements could have been removed from the story, and it would have been a little more quiet, a lot less engaging...but substantially the same story.

Genre problems aside, KM Weiland deserves plenty of credit for this book, and I feel dimly certain that my lacklustre response says more about my *TINY, SHRIVELLED HEART* than about her skill. For all its more obvious flaws, *DREAMLANDER* was a much better speculative-fiction-genre read. I have a hunch *STORMING* will appeal to fans of character-driven historical fiction above fans of sci-fi adventure, and the beauty of the independent publishing route is that books like this that don't fit neatly into mass-market categories will get their moment to shine. But, personally, it wasn't my cup of tea.

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### **Nicole says**

Quite frankly, one of the best books I've read in a very very long time! Just the right amount of every ingredient that should be in a story, well-developed characters that are diverse and endearing (and a few that are absolutely despicable!), and a plot that never stops, and never disappoints. I can't think of anything to say that will fully convey how excited I am about this one! Go buy your copy asap, and then hop in the front cockpit and buckle up for the flight of your life!

Well done, Weiland.

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### **Gabrielle says**

Ooo-weee. That was one wild ride!

I don't read much steampunk/dieselpunk. (In fact, the only books I can recall off the top of my head that would fit either of those genres is the Matt Cruse trilogy by Kenneth Oppel.) Therefore, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to read *Storming*, both for its unusual genre, and also the high ratings it garnered from my Goodreads-friends.

Let's start with the characters, shall we? The characters were very well developed. Nearly all of them had complex back stories and motives--even minor characters (the only exceptions being the villains). Jael wasn't \*quite\* as rounded out as the rest, but part of that was to keep the foreigner feel, so I won't take off any points. Weiland's strong suit is definitely in writing people, because she nailed every last one in this book.

World-building: I was not expecting much of this, since #1, it is set in the real world, and #2, the setting chosen isn't an exciting or exotic locale. However, Weiland brought Scottsbluff to life. I was totally amazed at how she used every bit of writing--dialogue, description, even characters' thoughts--to flesh out this small, Nebraskan town. The writing style never lapsed once from keeping in character with the time period and locale. It was incredible how real and life-like it seemed! I felt like it was an actual place I could visit to see the places where the story played out. And the whimsical illustrations scattered in-between chapters were just the right touch.

The plot: I did have a few quibbles with this. The plot picked up at first, and then dragged a bit in the middle, before racing towards the finish. Instead of edge of your seat action every single minute, it was more of teasing out the plot, so that I wanted more, more, MORE. Some readers might really enjoy this--I, however, was slightly frustrated by it. I feel like if the pace could have been increased just a bit in the middle, and I would enjoyed it even more. I debated whether or not to take off points for this, and finally settled on deducting a star, because it just didn't keep me gripped.

Conclusion: Storming was an excellent read. If you are into major character-development, and love that homey, country feel with just a touch of sci-fi, than this book is perfect for you. Readers who prefer edge-of-their-seat-suspense in their books might be a bit disappointed.

Rating: 4 stars

Recommended: 12 and up

Content guide (may contain minor spoilers):

Language: 1/10 ("durn it" and similar phrases used)

Violence: 7/10 (violent death of a character, a bit gruesome. characters incurs serious wounds. fist-fights and beatings. one disturbing scene in which a 'good' main character unapologetically tries to kill a villain by beating him to death. beating people up or killing them if they're villains is considered acceptable.)

Sexual Content: 1/10 (one character has a "love 'em and leave 'em" type of mindset, a few light kisses)

\*Many thanks to the author for providing a copy to review!\*

For more reviews, see [gabriellenblog.wordpress.com](http://gabriellenblog.wordpress.com) and [fullofbooks.com](http://fullofbooks.com)

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## R. says

I loved it, and this is why you should love it too:

Airplanes. And not just any airplane. A biplane . . . like you can walk out on its wings. #wannatrythat

A weather machine and a weapon that manufacture lightning

Earl . . . He's my maternal grandpa through and through.

Taos. 'Cause dogs in general

Walter (and the plot twist associated with him that was totally sobworthy)

Taos and Walter together

And Jael, a woman who is neither feminist nor prissy. She's brave, spunky, and wonderful.

Basically you can not go wrong buying this book (even if you're a tightwad like me). The plot is fast-paced; the characters, realistic; the theme, well-developed; and the relationships, deep.

Plus there's parts that totally flooded me with wabi-sabi (a term you should have in your vocabulary, by the way)

"He dropped to his knees and pulled Walter to him. "He's just a dog. He doesn't matter a lick compared to you. You hear me?" Two skinny little arms wriggled up around his neck. "I'm sorry." He tightened his hold around this boy—this incredible, brave, loyal, determined little boy who was his own flesh and his own bone. His son. He wanted to press him right into himself, until they were bonded, until Walter could never leave him again."

\*cue teardrop\*

This book was definitely less violent than Dreamlander (which is a plus), and there was only one part at the end where I felt uncomfortable because Hitch seemed to be extracting revenge from Zlo instead of justice.

## Rebekah says

A roller coaster. That's what this book was. A fascinating, exhilarating, mind-numbing roller coaster. I think I might have had heart failure a couple times in the story.

I'm really loving this author's style and way of writing. Her characters are fabulous, her plot was amazing and original, and the themes and lessons taught are so well written.

I have a couple more books by her to read and I can't wait to begin!! Highly recommend this book to all those who love action books with good lessons and character growth. I should warn you that there is some romance in it (like you would expect after seeing the cover...) but it's very clean and wholesome. Nothing too ridiculous I promise. ;)

So what are you waiting for!! Go read it!! :)

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## Hope says

THIS BOOK IS AMAZING.

Review to come!

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## Jane says

**This book, okay.** Just...this book. **I approve 10000%** There is so much to love (aka, the entire thing), and just ack it's so good. **\*looks around for the five gajillion star rating\***

**The characters are the most epic creatures ever.** I could probably flail over them all for hours. **They have such layered personalities, backstories that just give ringing outline and depth to every word they say.** And their emotions. I felt **every. single. one.** It hurt, but I loved it and it's just such an amazing thing. Everyone of the characters is so real. **Like, cliché doesn't even exist here.**

**I LOVED the writing style so hard.** The uncommon words used to describe small actions, the small actions used to describe emotions, the emotions. Oh man. **This book basically tied my feels to the plane wing struts and flew me through a lightning storm.** I admit that I was close to crying once or twice just because of allllll the feeels.

Also stabbing. **There was violence, and it was done really well.** Not passed off as nothing, and not over done or over described. And it wasn't like some violence in books, it really did need to be there. **And all through the scenes when it was happening just so. much. character. development.**

**It was the sort of book that gave me shivers as I read.** And the plot twists. **I was so deeply engrossed in the story that I honestly didn't see them coming until they were right there and happening.** That, my friends, is epic.

**I recommend this to absolutely anyone with good reading tastes.** Read it. Now. You know you want to. Trust me on this one. To repeat myself: **THIS BOOK, OKAY.**

## Rebecca McNutt says

This book was fantastic! I haven't read too many books in this particular genre but *Storming* has everything from adventure to friendship to science fiction to romance. That's not all though, the stunning way that the scenery is described throughout, along with creative characters like Jael (who reminded me of Amelia Earhart), make it even more exciting. This book takes off into the air right away from page 1 and makes itself stand out way ahead of others of its type.

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## JonathanT says

WELL THEN. That was quite the wild ride. And honestly- I loved every. Single. Second.

All of the characters are so complex, with realistic motivations. I loved how the author used backstory to shape Hitch, and I ADORED Jael. She's smart and brave and spunky but she's still feminine. IS THAT AN AMEN I HEAR.

And then, of course, there was Walter. The boy who doesn't talk- not because he can't, but because he doesn't want to. The kid with a dream who has to pretend to be brave. The little guy who needs someone to look up to, and who wants to be a hero. I loved everything about this kid. If everything else was a complete flop, I would still recommend this. BECAUSE WALTER.

I also liked how the author had multiple antagonists all acting against Hitch. It made for an intense and fast moving storyline, with obstacles that increased as the events progressed.

The plot was bouncy, imaginative, and unpredictable. Just when you think you've got it figured out, the author throws another twist at you. I think I'm still a little bit breathless from that revelation at the end- but it was perfect. So, so perfect.

The setting was also lots of fun, the perfect blend of small town charm, historical elements, and imagination.

The themes were honest and real. The author explored things like bravery and facing your past in subtle yet heartfelt ways. But I will say that although this author is Christian, there's nothing overtly Christian in here.

As far as content goes- VIRTUALLY NONE. CAN I GET ANOTHER AMEN PLEASE. XD There's a bit of romance, but it never goes further than a few very undetailed kisses. Not much violence until the end, however there's lots of high-flying action and danger. So with that in mind, I wouldn't hesitate to give this to ages 13+.

Five stars for a brilliant storyline and complex, engaging, and overall fabulous characters. :D

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## Schuyler says

The night I got *Storming*, I promised myself I would be good and get things done before I opened it. Well, I wasn't good, and the opening scene of a nighttime plane ride and a woman falling out of the sky sucked me

right in to the adventure. Storming delivers the same Weiland trademark of vivid characters and masterful plotting that I've come to love and anticipate. It's a different flavor from Dreamlander--historical dieselpunk rather than fantasy--and as I've never read dieselpunk before, it took a while to grow acquainted with the flavor. While Dreamlander is a book where most of the story takes place in a rich new world, Storming is a book where an ordinary world full of biscuits and overalls has to grapple with the extraordinary invading. In some ways, I liked that just as much and even better.

Hitch's hometown Nebraska world was heartwarming. From the Berringer brothers feuding over tomatoes, to the rowdy air of an early 1900s airshow, to a little boy's starved longing for a dog and a plane ride, I loved the setting. Those gossipy, loyal towns with hurts to deal with and heart to meet them with always make me smile. Everyone from motherly Nan to stalwart Griff to that snake of a Sheriff Campbell are characters you love to love or love to hate as the story dictates. And I loved the little red Jenny plane, as good as a human character in her own right, almost as much as Hitch did.

Weiland narrates mostly inside Hitch's head and the little boy Walter's. She gave the narrative such excellent flavor, with Hitch's similes. Sure as gravy, burn like the devil's bacon. It feels like they come off completely naturally, though I'm sure in reality they took a lot of work to craft. She's good at making the narrative match the personality and education of the character, so that you know exactly who's picking up the point of view just by the way she writes.

And Jael herself. Fantastic example of a strong woman who doesn't need to be a brash woman to do pretty amazing things. She's a wing walker, and a pretty bold, brave lass with an endearing broken English way of talking. But she doesn't need to put down others to find her own strength. She's all about joining everybody's strengths together to get the job done. She really deserves to be in a top heroine's list.

The kissing scene is hilarious. I love the first storm ride with Hitch and Jael. The scene where Hitch takes Walter up in the plane. Earl trying desperately to get the Jenny running again after every escapade. Taos the dog. It's just one of those stories that's plain fun to sit down with. Rich, meaningful, well-crafted, heartwarming. I can't remember the last book where I enjoyed myself so thoroughly in the reading process.

And what a humdinger of a climax. I had no idea. No idea. The story up to that point had been a fun adventure, and any crisis points were more relaxing enjoyable than traumatizing. But she turned up the heat and saved the fireworks for the final show. Anything I could have imagined as far as the resolution of the theme and the final climax was wonderfully surpassed. I sat spellbound to my computer screen while I finished up the final chapters. My only worry--I knew that Weiland wasn't afraid to make tough choices, and I couldn't bear that this world I had come to know and love would be ripped apart by sorrow. But I also knew that whatever Weiland chose to do, would be deeply fitting and fully satisfying.

The lessons of home, responsibility, adventure, and family were beautifully, beautifully done. Go read the book. That's all I can say. There's so much to love I could just keep listing it all, but it's much better for you to experience the heart-stirring, breath-taking moments for yourselves. Thanks to Katie for a free e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

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## Audrey Caylin says

Review to come! But basically Walter was the sweetest thing ever <3

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## Kate Willis says

Wowzers, wowzers, wowzers! This was really good. I loved the characters--complicated, realistic Hitch and stubborn, sweet Jael were an awesome flying duo. (I love how she scared the crazy barnstormer out of his wits every time they went up by out-crazy-ing him.) ;) I couldn't help liking Griff in spite of myself, and Walter was sweet. (And his big moment: unexpected!) Those antagonists made me hate them thoroughly. Don't ask me to pick my least favorite.

Oh, and the Berringers made me laugh! Good job (view spoiler), boys. They, and maybe some of Jael's kicking, were responsible for the comic relief department which was good because it's a pretty action packed story (except when it slows down enough to make you cry. Grrr.). That ending really made it a five-star book, but it's good all the way through! ;)

I would not recommend this book for younger readers because of intense action (including (view spoiler)), some slight romance, and (view spoiler).

Best quote: "I will tell you in car." She gestured to J.W.'s jalopy. "Should I drive?" "No, you should *not* drive."

Altogether, I found this to be a great adventure perfect for older reader's who like a little dieselpunk. ;) (And did I mention, I love Jael's accent?!!)

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## m a r y l i z says

I'm just sitting here in a daze because *wowwww this book*.

The author somehow manages to combine fantastic plot, AMAZING CHARACTERS, poignant themes, great writing style, and high-flying action all in one fell swoop. LIKE SERIOUSLY. It is not often that I find a book with all of these components.

For the sake of my scattering thoughts, I'm just going to compile a list of all the brilliancy that is this book.

### Things I Loved:

+ ALL THE CHARACTERS. I know I say this a lot...but characters are basically a make-or-break deal for me. If I don't like the characters, you can be pretty sure my opinion of the book will plummet faster than the Jenny in a thunderstorm (which...actually isn't that fast? #failedmetaphor XD) But *Storming* was a gold mine in terms of characters. You can tell K.M. Weiland put a ton of work into crafting realistic characters with realistic motivations. Props to her for that because it's not an easy task. (And yes, I made an airplane pun, go me.)

I have to say, Hitch was probably my favorite character. I wasn't expecting that, honestly, but he just stole my heart right away. I really felt for him, and watching his character arc was just the bestttt <3

Of course, I loved Jael and Walter, too. I mean, who wouldn't? Jael is smart and feisty and sweet--basically a female character that all the YA world can take notes on. And Walter is just a darling who makes my heart melt. I loved the way the author actually shaped his personality throughout the book, instead of just leaving him as a typical "cute kid" character tacked on for fun.

+ The themes. OH MY GOODNESS. The themes almost overtake the characters in terms of brilliance. Like gosh...it's been a long time since I've felt *this moved* by a book's themes. I teared up more than once. It's just so perfect the way the themes are woven in throughout the story. <3

+ The setting. It was set in Nebraska during the 1920s, a setting I would I've never seen before and probably would have never thought of, to be frank. I loved the simplicity of the town, contrasted with the airshow and the mysterious *Schturming* flying around.

+ The writing style. It's amazing, okay? End of story.

### **Things I Didn't Like:**

+ Not much to see here. I *did* know the big plot twist before it happened, but that was probably because I'm getting much better at guessing plot twists. Also, as much as I loved the airshow, all the flying around got a *teensy* bit boring. Not enough to bother me that much, though, because most of the book was action-packed.

In short? THIS IS A MASTERPIECE AND EVERYONE MUST READ IT.

4.5 stars!

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### **Claire Banschbach says**

I really loved this book! It's got plenty of action and wonderful characters. I love Hitch and Jael and the relationship that they develop. It reminded me of *The Fifth Element*, which is not a bad thing at all. I just wish we could have explored the airship a little more.

The plot was amazing and moved forward pretty steadily. It kept me reading until late in the night, which was probably not the best since I was in the middle of finals. :P

I highly recommend this book, especially if you like historical adventure and bits of steampunk.

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