



Sky Song

Abi Elphinstone

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In the snowy kingdom of Erkenwald, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find. Because Erkenwald is ruled by a cruel Ice Queen and you must stay hidden or risk becoming another of her prisoners.

Join Eska, a girl who breaks free from a cursed music box, and Flint, a boy whose inventions could change the fate of Erkenwald forever, as they journey together in search of an ancient, almost forgotten, song with the power to force the Ice Queen back.

This is a story about an eagle huntress, an inventor and an organ made of icicles. But it is also a story about belonging, even at the very edges of our world . . .

Sky Song Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Abi Elphinstone

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From Reader Review Sky Song for online ebook

Kayla says

A really cute Middle grade fantasy story about friendship and rebellious acts!

Nikki says

A lovely middle grade fantasy quest book. Really generated a lot of feel good emotions and warmth. I loved Eska, Flint and Blu, and their animals! Flint in particular with his magic and inventions was really lovely, especially in how he is with Blu and in looking after her.

It's just gorgeously written and incredibly evocative.

Eska is a bit harder to connect with, possibly through not knowing much about herself, but I loved her strength and faith. And they all display such bravery.

Also as a side note, the book cover and art inside (including the map) is just stunning, as is the snowflake page art on every page. Yep, every single page has tiny little snowflake decoration and it is glorious. Easily one of the most physically beautiful books I've read.

Gaem Phisalaphong says

It made me cry..... It was so sad for like 4 pages then BAM! It turned like better and good. It seriously made me feel like my reading emotions were in a rollercoaster ahhhhhhh. I DEFINITELY RECOMMEND IT!!! ? ??

Layla says

4.5/5! Review to come!

Milou says

The prologue (and epilogue) of this book are told in a folktale/myth kind of style which does a great job of setting the scene without making it feel like an infodump, and also nicely 'frames' the story, giving it a clear beginning and ending while also making it seem like part of something bigger. It gives the story a magical feel, in which not everything needs to have a logical explanation.

The writing style, though simple - it is a middle grade story - does a great job of pulling the reader in and sketching the world around the characters. You can just feel the cold (which is helped by the snowflakes illustrating all the pages). I read this in a single sitting, only pausing to refill my tea and have peepee breaks.

The snowflakes show that great attention is given to the overall book, not just the story. This is also clear from the GORGEOUS cover, and the stunning map inside, as well as the french flaps. The whole book is just an absolute thing of beauty.

I really enjoyed how close everything in this book stood to nature. The different tribes and their cultures, the way the animals that are hunted are thanked, the sources of the magic, and of course Eska's background. It was all just beautifully done and worked really well with the folktale vibe and snowy, desolate setting.

Which, lastly, brings us to the characters. They are great. Yes, the villain is just evil for no good reason, but that doesn't feel necessary seeing her origin. Eska is a wonderful main character, who grows a lot throughout the story. Because she cannot remember her past and therefore doesn't really know herself, she is difficult to connect to at the start, but the strength and perseverance she shows is inspiring. Flint is a boy who is an inventor among his tribe of warriors, but eventually he does find his place. I loved that he cries (for good reasons) and it is made clear that that is okay ('tears are just a warm-up for bravery'). His little sister may have some form of mental disability (it is stated there is something 'wrong' with her, but never explained what), which is mainly shown in her different and simple way of talking. This is never ridiculed though. She is just as much part of the team, and her heart of gold made me instantly love her.

I originally picked this up purely based on the cover, and am now so happy I did. It is a beautiful story.

Bookwormandtheatremouse says

There is always something very magical about stories that have a snow and ice setting. It automatically conjures up ideas of magical creatures and amazing adventures. This is true in Sky Song - Erkenwald is caught in a prolonged winter due to the control of the Ice Queen (a perfect villain). Our young heroes, each with their different skill, need to prevent this becoming forever and return the Sky Gods and their power. It is a brilliant adventure story that truly captures the imagination - would be perfect to read snuggled up during dark nights of winter. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good old fashioned adventure!

Nick Swarbrick says

Abi Elphinstone's most assured fantasy yet, Sky Song has the internal logic and cosmology of a well framed other world. Some of the imagery is close to Michelle Paver's Torak in the well-designed land between shamanic culture and Northern European early peoples, but the world and its magic are Abi's own. Subtler and more complex than the Dreamsnatcher series, it felt (to use an image from the book) that the author has found her voice.

I am nevertheless uncomfortable about the child Blu who, although sympathetically drawn, speaks in a curtailed English that comes close to caricature -perhaps in the next in the series more will be made clear?

Fiona M says

Counting this as my final read of 2017 as I only had 30 pages left to read going into the New Year.
A very wonderful magical tale full of animals and friendship.
A full review will come soon

Jo (That book-hoarding geek) says

I found this little beauty of a book while I was actually looking for something else. It's always the way, isn't it? This book is beautiful. The cover is attractive, the inside cover has this amazing little map that opens out, and hell, even the pages are scrumptious due to the intricate snowflakes dancing around the words. It is clear that great attention has gone into the presentation here.

I found this book to be a grand adventure of happiness, sorrow and everything else in between. The prologue and the epilogue are written in mythical style writing, and sometimes while this doesn't work, it really suited the book. The writing is simple, yet it bears some rather important messages of love, hope and courage, that the reader is able to determine with ease.

I loved that the main character, Eska, is a strong minded and brave individual, and yet, whatever hardship is thrown at her, she is able to find a way to overcome it. I did become less interested in the story around halfway through, due to the plot becoming a little slow, but apart from that, this was a satisfying read.

Lauren says

Have just finished Sky Song- simply stunning. Another magical tale with lovable characters and some powerful quotes about hope, courage and friendship.

The acknowledgments at the end were as moving as the story and Abi truly is an inspiration!

Ros says

Excellent vocabulary and very well written. I'm going to suggest it for Y4 or Y5 to read.

Laura Noakes says

This book was EVERYTHING. I really enjoyed Abi's first trilogy, but Eska stole my heart from the first page. Eska is just a wonderful character, and her growth from prisoner stripped of everything to determined young person is astounding.

Winter is so important to this story, it seeps through every page. Reading this whilst the January winds roared outside my bedroom, a cup of tea by my side, felt very apt.

The one theme that permeates SKY SONG is friendship. The relationships between our main characters, and our MC's and the animals is just so darn special. I especially gravitated towards Finn and Blu's relationship—it was so caring and loving, but tough at times—realistic.

SKY SONG is a classic in the making. It reads as an action packed fairytale, simultaneously familiar and brand new. It is magical in its purest sense, a quest of belonging that you can't help but throw yourself completely into.

This book is a celebration of bravery and friendship, and I would recommend it to everyone who loves fairytales, rich mythology and a heart-thumping-ly exciting plot.

Karen Mace says

A stunning read, in the tradition of the classic children' stories, that had me under its' spell from the first page!

It's the story of good vs evil! Poor Eska is trapped in a castle by the Ice Queen who is desperate for her to speak so she can feed on her voice to gain the immortality she craves. There is something different about Eska that leaves the Ice Queen to cherish her voice even more. But Eska knows nothing of her past as she has had her memories taken from her, so she is feeling alone but determined to be free.

Flint is searching for his place in the world too. His brother is the chief of their tribe and Flint wants to do all he can to impress him. Even if that includes crazy schemes to break into the Palace to free their Ma! When he does break in he sees Eska who begs him to help her escape and his kind heart doesn't know how to say no.

When they both flee the palace, we get to see their friendship bloom while they travel across dangerous territories. Eska just wants to know who she is and where she came from, while Flint is just desperate for his inventions to be praised by his brother.

Add in some amazing animal guides, a magical and fantastical world, brave quests and adventures and you'll find that this is such a wonderful escapist read for those of all ages! It is full of courage and the message to believe in yourself and it was just a delight to read!

Stephen Connor says

A magical fantasy adventure that follows Eska, a young girl who has been trapped by the Ice Queen as she seeks to take her voice and achieve immortality. Eska escapes the Queen's clutches and falls in with Flint, a boy from the Fur Tribe. He doesn't trust Eska to begin with, but, as with Eska's relationship with Balapan, a golden eagle, this changes as the story's theme of trust, hope and friendship are explored. Eska, Balapan, Flint, and Flint's sister, Blu, work together to fight against the odds, finding out why Eska is wanted by the Ice Queen and learning the power of collaboration.

Wonderful language, non-stop magic and adventure, and a fitting rollercoaster ending. Abi Elphinstone's acknowledgements at the end are just as heart-rending, showing that the courage shown in the book doesn't just come from the characters.

Leilah Skelton says

Flint set out to rescue one of his own from the clutches of the evil Ice Queen, but ended up freeing a stranger. Eska, a girl with no memory of her past, must find a way to break a curse and save the fate of a people to whom she doesn't seem to belong.

Can tribes see past their differences and deep suspicions of 'outsiders' to unite against a common enemy? Can Flint, - himself a far from standard warrior, with his belief in Old Magic and his gift for inventing, - punch through prejudice and learn to trust the unknown? Just maybe:

'... Flint found himself wondering whether birthplace, parentage and appearance were really the things that you should list people under. Somehow courage and loyalty seemed better markers.'

Abi Elphinstone has woven the glittering magic of old fairy tales onto a wild, frozen tundra, and the result is

the sparkling brilliance of Sky Song. With research that led her to the Kazakh Eagle Hunters in Mongolia, sped her by huskies over the snow and ice of the arctic, lifted her face to the dancing Northern Lights, and saw her serenaded by the calls of underwater giants, this book has become a song to wilderness, and wildness, and to life itself.

This breathtaking quest kept me hooked. Finding your tribe is a key theme that sits comfortably alongside the humour of a ravenous pup, the courage of a little sister, and the trust and faith that comes with opening your heart to new people, new thinking, new friendships and new possibilities. A truly exceptional tale.
