



## When the Kingdom Falls

*Meagan Hurst*

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## **When the Kingdom Falls** Meagan Hurst

“And you wonder why I don’t trust you to behave?”

In a world of multiple races, cultures, and lifespans, those words apply to almost everyone. With over a decade working with the various races and kingdoms of her world, the human Ranger Z knows this well. Even with the resurrection of the Alliance, very few kingdoms willingly work together.

Yet when a magical disaster threatens their world as a whole—a disaster that has occurred once before, and left nothing in its wake—racial differences will have to be set aside. With the tentative agreements between kingdoms to assist in these types of crises untested, Z knows it’s up to her to gather the assistance she’ll require.

Calling upon the heirs of the Allied kingdoms, the Shades of a long perished race, and the exiled, unsocial Dragon who invited himself, Z might actually succeed. If her allies can get along, if they can stop something others failed to avert before, and if she can contain the personal demons that sporadically endanger the lives of those who travel with her.

But the buildup of magic, the heart of it, is rooted in the kingdom that holds her past and the scars she’s never managed to escape.

To defeat the danger that’s brewing, Z will have to return to the kingdom that broke her, confront the man who rules there, prevent the magic building in the depths from escaping, and protect those who stand beside her, all while risking the second annihilation of their world if she falters—if any of them falter—in even the slightest way.

## **When the Kingdom Falls Details**

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# From Reader Review When the Kingdom Falls for online ebook

## Janet Slipak says

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## MY REVIEW:

This is an intricately woven fantastical adventure. I was asked to review this ARC by the author, Meagan Hurst.

Skillfully written world-building, complicated and new twists on sword wielding heroes. Magic of the undead, and dragon disguised rogues. This story reminds me of the writing style of Terry Brooks, author of the Shannara Chronicles, and it's characters, a combination of Game of Thrones and Sarah J. Maas books, especially, Throne of Glass series. If you like those books, you'll enjoy this story.

The only thing I found offsetting was this "wall communication" thing. When I read this, I had to re-read it a few times to make certain I'd read it right. I didn't get it. But the rest was imaginative and fast-paced. The quality of writing was well received. This author has a way with words that captivates the reader's attention. It's not too complicated for a first time fantasy reader and yet, not too intricate to bore a well-read fantasy reader.

The characters were raw, interesting and not necessarily original, but enjoyable to read. Their development and arcs were intricate and complimented each other through active interactions and conflict. Secondary characters helped the Protagonist to reach her goals successfully. The pace of the story was done well, with a few "huh's" that made me re-read a sentence or two, but other than that, very enjoyable.

The character I enjoyed the most was the Dragon. Hated his name, loved his character. Original concept that I haven't read anywhere else. He was well written and envisioned. The idea (spoiler) that he was a dragon that could take on a human disguise yet retain many dragonish attributes was quite interesting.

The cover is your standard woman in a cape. In my opinion, she looks nothing like Z. I did not picture her

like that. I never did like covers with people on them, but this one is one of the better ones, I guess. I think if there was to be someone more intriguing on the cover, I would have put Z with the Dragon showing his fierce eyes and smoke breath. But, it is what it is.

I really didn't like 'Z' and found her character a bit unbelievable. However, what made her tolerable were her interactions with the other characters that kept the theme cleverly done and enjoyable to read. Because of the talent of the author, you were able to delve deeply into each character's personality and either like them or hate them for who they were written as and not because they were written poorly.

There was an ease of reading to this story with many clever insightful twists and highlights that I did enjoy. Overall, I found this book enjoyable and would recommend you give it a read.

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### **Kimberly Vanderbloom says**

#### **Great fantasy!!**

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

I fell in love quite early and couldn't put it down. The world building was absolutely fantastic and transported you to such a cool place. It was so strong that the world almost became a side character. I loved the character building and the author really made you feel connected to them. The plot was intriguing and kept my ever fleeting interest the entire time. I loved it and will be recommending it.

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### **Esmerelda Weatherwax says**

Crilyne is a Shade, an immortal being and one of only seven of his kind left in the world. At the beginning of the book he's waiting for his 'charge' to show up, a girl he's set on protecting even though she's very prone to getting herself into dangerous situations. She's one of a kind, extremely powerful, one of the only beings powerful enough to kill Crilyne, but she's been gravely injured and he knows it. He's been tracking her for a long time and when they finally meet Z is almost on her deathbed, she's feverish and has serious wounds but refuses to see the healers. Before Crilyne is able to figure out what he wants to do, an unwelcome visitor stops by to see Z. Nivarados is a Dragon, an exiled dragon at that, and one with very few scruples or moral hang ups. He's been known to leave piles of bodies in his wake for no particular reason and has a reputation for being a hot head. Crilyne doesn't understand why he's shown up, but he doesn't want to let him anywhere near Z. Things aren't working out in Crilyne's favor however because Nivarados gets past Crilyne and enters Z's room where she's resting and trying to recover. Miraculously, the dragon is able to convince Z that she needs to go see the healers despite her hatred of their kind. Z ends up getting healed but also winds up in a fight with the Mithane, a ruler for another species of immortal beings who healed her.

This is a book that works on massive timescales and huge stakes – many many millennia ago there was a mass extinction event, where nearly of the flora, fauna and sentient life forms were wiped off the planet. It's believed that only Z can prevent it from happening again, so unlikely alliances are forging. Several bickering kingdoms are coming together to try and fight the impending doom, but one of the countries, the Tenians, think that everyone else is over-reacting or scheming to take over their lands the moment they evacuate. The Tenians aren't doing anything to prepare despite the warnings, and the enemy will be at their gates within a

matter of weeks.

Cryline has lived for so long that mortals lives and deaths mean little to him, with the exception of Z. He's killed millions of people and it hasn't crossed his mind that maybe he should regret it. He's had one hundred and sixty millennia to perfect his magic use and he's gotten quite good at it.

I didn't find myself warming up to Z, I thought maybe I would as the book went on but she was a pretty aggravating character. She makes a lot of very unwise decisions knowing full well that they could have disastrous consequences, she's stubborn and difficult to work with and in general, has a bad attitude. Z isn't without redeeming qualities however, she belongs to a group known as the Rangers who work to keep the world protected, it's an honorable goal and she doesn't do it for thanks. She technically has the Dragon locked down in a life debt since she's saved his life multiple times over, but doesn't want to cash in on things like that. Speaking of the Dragon, my favorite character was probably Nivadros, the exiled and hot tempered dragon. He tended to be sarcastic and bounced well off of Z giving entertaining dialogue.

The world building in this is intense and expansive, the timescales alone are staggering with Z having traveled back in time 150 millenia, and Cryline being about that same age. There was a mass extinction event that's cycling back around that killed nearly all life on the planet – the fauna, the flora and the sapient beings. They speak of it as the era the world was “remade”.

This read a little slower than the other books I had for SPFB0 and it's due to a few things. The beginning was mostly build up of characters and world-building, the only plot point for the first 15% (60 pgs) was that the main character was injured and needed to be healed. The writing style took me a while to get used to as well, there were some scenes I had to go back and re-read to make sure I understood them correctly. This was partly due to awkward phrasing, and also partly due to wild world-building concepts that took a minute to register. There's also a lot of heavy world building, names that aren't familiar, and huge time scales so it took a while for me to get my footing.

As far as the writing goes, as I said earlier it took me a while to adjust to it, but once I did it got easier to follow. Instead of cursing the author would say something like ‘she used colorful curses in 72 languages’, which is funny once or twice, but that's how cursing was explained every time so it got a bit old after a while. There was a lot of repetition when it came to describing Z's character, everyone who dealt with her made several mentions of how difficult she is, or how willful she is, so it felt a little like getting hit over the head with her character traits.

Despite its drawbacks, I want to emphasize that I liked this book, it had a ton of imagination and original ideas which matter to me as someone who reads 200ish books a year. It gets a little numbing reading similar versions of a story over and over. The world building was fresh and extremely expansive, it's clear a lot of work went into it and I always find in-depth world building impressive. I wish I liked the main character more but there were side characters that grabbed my attention and helped balance things out. This was an extremely ambitious debut novel and I'm impressed it came together as well as it did since there were so many things to juggle.

Audience:

in depth world building

non human povs

large time scales

time travel

lots of magic  
female mc  
long lived species

Ratings:

Plot: 10.5/15  
Characters: 10/15  
World Building: 12/15  
Writing: 9/15  
Pacing: 8/15  
Originality: 12/15  
Personal Enjoyment: 6/10

Final Score: 68.5/100 or 3.42/5 stars on Goodreads

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## **Sue says**

### **Nice epic fantasy read!**

I really enjoyed *When the Kingdom Falls*. The character development is strong, the plot is engaging, the characters are interesting, and the book has some fun dark humor.

However, this book is probably not for everyone. There are a lot of characters, and unlike some fantasy novels, this book has created a whole world from the start and so there are a lot of races introduced. It's not impossible to keep track of, but anyone who prefers just a handful of characters in a book might feel overwhelmed.

There was a lot of great world building. It's obvious that despite the fact this is the first book, a lot of planning went into it, and there is also a lot of backstory that is hinted at which makes the world feel more believable. There is a lot of history I hope to learn about in another book.

The book does start off a little slow, but once you get a few chapters in, things really start moving. As the main character, Z, starts off injured though, the slow start is understandable.

I can't wait for a sequel, and am hopeful one comes out in decent amount of time, as I absolutely hate waiting, and, with how the book ended, I'm very curious where the next book starts.

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## **Meagan says**

So, my novel, what did I think?

Well, I liked it enough to finish writing it, so that's got to be worth at least 5 biased stars.

To be honest, when I started writing about Zimliya (yes, I am using her full name, and she can just deal with the horror) I began with her fleeing Tenia. Which, for those of you who noticed, and hopefully enjoyed, the fact that there is a lot of history before *this* book, is why part of that history exists. I know what happened between Zimliya's arrival at Tenia and the Zimliya you meet over a decade later, but I felt the series started better here, where Zimliya is mostly friendly and has already accumulated her power, allies, and enemies. It's a different starting place than some might consider usual, but I liked the series starting here. I may, at some point, go back to the past and highlight events that are mentioned (view spoiler) but for now, the goal is to move forward.

The sequel to *When the Kingdom Falls* is in the wild and can be found here: *The Price of Survival*. The sequel begins several months after this book and hopefully clarifies certain things some of you may have suspected from this book.

If you're following the series, you have my heartfelt thanks. I've read these books what feels like millions of times, but it's truly worth every moment spent writing, revising, or editing when someone else reads it when it's finished.

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