



Peace and Turmoil (The Dark Shores, #1)

Elliot Brooks

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Thirty years of peace have graced the lands of Abra'am. The waning bloodshed from the War of Fire has ended, and the new generations have only the horrid tales of their forefathers to remind them of their countries' pasts. Poverty no longer prevails, the sights and palms of men have grown soft, yet four nations dictate more power than they know. Civil unrest stirs amongst the first, the heir to the throne of Mesidia and the Guardian to its Dagger questioned by a growing rebellion. To its south lies a country of scholars, the mighty nation of Xenith, liberators of the War of Fire and Guardians of the Amulet. Over the Dividing Wall lives the newly freed Sadie, a kingdom with an assassin for a prince and an insurgence at its heels. The fourth is the ancient realm of Eve, the Land Across the Sea, gifted and cursed with the Sight as it shows them what's to come.

Only one knows the fate of the world, but all will be pawns in its reckoning.

Peace and Turmoil (The Dark Shores, #1) Details

Date :

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Author : Elliot Brooks

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From Reader Review Peace and Turmoil (The Dark Shores, #1) for online ebook

Carla says

Delicious story! Strong characters, lovely writing, brutal surprises, awesome world building, creepy creatures. Fantasy at its best! Just trying patiently to wait for book two!

Julia's Paperback says

I received an unfinished copy (beta read) of Elle's book in exchange to give constructive feedback and catch typos. Elle did an amazing job! This book offers many tropes that fantasy lovers will enjoy; kingdoms in a political war, love between heirs to the thrones, an assassin and his dragon. The magic system is great. Everyone has the ability to use their magic but it is learned and practiced. It is also elemental magic which makes for great scenes. The pace of the book was perfect and I did not want to put it down. The plot was not predictable, I always had a million questions running through my head because some characters just weren't trustworthy. Also, Elle didn't hold back on killing off the characters. I highly recommend Peace and Turmoil. There are changes to the book already being made from feedback given by us Beta readers. I'll be so excited to get my hands on a copy of the book when it is published and reread it.

Michelle (Witchy Books) says

I can't wait!

Trisha says

Great book. Elliot Brooks is an excellent writer. I can't wait to get the final copy of this book once it's published.

I love the characters in this story. The magic system is awesome & it's like nothing I have read before. There is lots of political intrigue & it is action packed. The plot was excellent & I didn't guess the way most things turned out. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves a great fantasy. I'm already excited to see where the story goes in the next book.

Bookish Babbles says

4.5 Stars

This book was my favorite book of the year. Now before you read the rest of my review, please keep in mind that I was a beta reader for this book and this book could be even better.

Now, onto the review!

I would describe this book as the perfect transition between your regular romance heavy YA Fantasy to your regular Politically Dense Adult Fantasy. The romance in this book takes a seat at the back of the bus while still being beautiful and present. The political situation sits at the front but leaves room in the middle for others like: Great Friendships, An Amazing Magic System and an Interesting Religion. The world and its politics are easy to understand and the author does an amazing job at explaining to you the history without boring you to death. The world is very clear and so are the people and hey! Guess what, It's diverse af! The people in this world come from very different backgrounds, their kingdoms having different histories.

This book has made me: Frustrated, Confused, Annoyed (at characters), Sad and Desperate. Trust me when I tell you, you will love the characters. Oh, and there are plenty of characters that you will love to hate.

The only reason that I gave this book 4.5 instead of a 5 is to leave room for it to wow me more like I know it will.

Jashana says

TLDR; Awesome world-building, high stakes, high fantasy, super cool magic, heavy politics, vivid descriptions!

(I read this as part of a later beta-reading group for feedback for the author.)

This book is high fantasy -- we have many characters and a large world. Sometimes this is done well, and sometimes it is not. I thought that Elliot did this VERY well! I got a clear picture of the expansive world; which different kingdoms there were and who the people of each kingdom were & what their general history was.

Something I really appreciated here, is that we have a high fantasy novel with more than just white people! And the brown and black people were not just slaves & oppressed by the white people. Some books have themes of racial injustice & it is of course wonderful to have realistic representation in those cases. But here we have a made up world where poc simply ARE, without having to be oppressed and enslaved. And that is a nice breath of fresh air.

This book is heavy on politics so if that isn't your thing, you might not love it. I'm someone who does enjoy political maneuverings, but sometimes it can be just too freaking much or too confusing/convoluted. Elliot did a great job with this as well, in my opinion. There was one point where I got a little confused about something political, but it was my own dumb-dumb fault because I didn't read carefully enough the first time I read that scene. HaHa!

Elliot also created a really interesting magic system. Elemental magic is so much fun and she puts a twist on it that I really loved! It was clearly well thought-out and explained well also.

There is so much mystery in this story! Things happened that I did NOT expect, and Elliot is not a writer who is afraid of "killing her darlings" so to speak. You truly never know what is going to come next and the pacing of the story on top of that REALLY kept my interest. I need the next book asap!!!!

Katie C says

OH MY GOODNESS this book was so good! I've just finished beta reading it, and I can't wait for the next one! Peace and Turmoil has a lot to offer. The magic system is unique, and the world building is consistently developed throughout the story. The plot is incredible (so twisty-turny) and so obviously thought out. It's intricate and unpredictable. And then there are the characters. The characters you love. The characters you hate. The characters you love to hate - it's got it all! Plus, there are dragons involved, and in the words of JRR Tolkien, "It simply isn't an adventure worth telling if there aren't any dragons." Seriously, though, I can't speak highly enough of this book. I can't wait to snag my own copy when it releases! I'm excited to read it when it's completely finished! Plus, that cover is gorgeous? Let's be honest, who wouldn't want that to grace their bookshelves? I definitely recommend it.

~

P.S.- In case anybody was wondering about how mature the content is (something I always want to know before picking up a book), I wanted to talk a little on that. There are sexual themes and scenes throughout the book, but they are not explicit. The cussing is minimal, but "gateway" language is used throughout. There is a good deal of violence, and at times it can be detailed. However, I think the violence always advances the story and makes you feel for the characters. All in all, the book was a lot cleaner than most (even some YA books I've read) in the genre. Anyway, I thought this may be helpful for some readers. Happy reading!

Halley Hopson says

4.25 stars!

I received this book as a part of round two of beta reading from the author, Elliot.

This is very fun, dark, and well written political fantasy by an upcoming debut author and I cannot wait for it to be available to the public. Establishing itself as a multi perspective fantasy with a very original magic system and even the addition of magical creatures called 'fiends', Peace & Turmoil is a thrilling first book in an epic fantasy series. I would say anyone who enjoys fun magic systems, commentary on real world issues through the eyes of a fantastical world, elaborate political schemes, and of course dragons will enjoy this novel.

This story floats seamlessly between several perspectives; Dietrich an assassin prince, Gwenivere a princess with a fiery temper and an important amulet that is within in her care, Roland a guardian of a magical artifact, X'odia a girl with swirling eyes and a steadfast faith in her creator, as well a few other characters throughout the novel.

If you've been looking for a good book that has dragons, this is solid one. If you've been looking for a dark fantasy with endless political plots for the throne, this delivers. If you enjoy complex characters and unique magic systems, this will keep you enthralled as you learn more about both the kingdoms, the world, and the characters themselves.

I can't wait to read more of this series and think it can only get better with each novel.

Debb says

I was lucky enough to be a beta reader for this book, therefore some things in the book might be changed by the time it comes out.

First of all can I just say this cover is STUNNING!

I honestly really really liked this book. I thought the characters were really cool, I didn't see some twists coming, the world is super interesting and there's political intrigue. From part 2 onwards I couldn't stop reading as there was so many things happening, I just wanted to know what happens next!

Anyways, loved it, would definitely recommend, can't wait for book 2 !

Jessica Hoffman says

I was lucky enough to be a round #1 Beta Reader of Peace and Turmoil for Elliot and I couldn't be happier that I had this chance! I love the entire world of Abra'am, the magic system, the characters, and yes...the political intrigue! I couldn't put it down! Can't wait to reread after final edits?

Filipa says

Do you know when you read a book and there's something in it that's right up your alley and it's the best thing ever? Reading Elliot's book was kind of like she just put together a lot of those things I love.

I was sent this book by Elliot herself for the second round of Beta Readers (thank you so much). It feels so special to be part of a book's birth! Even though it's Beta Reading, it's already very close to what the book is going to be (Elliot's words), so it was like reading an ARC.

PEACE AND TURMOIL starts with a prologue that hooks you right away (It was reading the prologue what made me request for beta reading in the first place), especially if you like seeing family dynamics - which I absolutely love.

I love seeing authors playing with family relationships, I love to see how they love and hurt for each other, it keeps me tethered like few things leave. I love my family so much and I always think of them and how I would feel if anything happened to them, I kind of transport those feelings for when I'm reading about family in books and that's why it always hits close to home, it makes me love and hurt alongside.

From the vibe of the prologue, I liked Dietrich immediately.

The second character we meet is Gwenivere. For a 20 years old, she's just waaaaay too obsessed with the things she wants and cannot have in a very childish way- this was my first impression of her. And what a wrong first impression!!!! She's an absolutely fav of mine. So badass, brave and fierce.

This soon in the novel I could already tell I like Elliot's writing style. I like how she walks you through a lot

of things, the simpler being that card game between Aden and his knight (wasn't that the cutest).

Then we get to meet Roland and oh man! In his first chapter we have a closer view of the magic system and seriously WHAAAAAT IS THIS! I immediately thought "woow who has ideas like this?", which is my everyday thought when I'm reading a Sanderson book. Touched weapons, called weapons, auroras... I was all on board to learn more and more about it.

And from there we keep meeting more characters that keep adding to the world, the plot and your stunned feelings.

It's so exciting how Elliot incorporated my favourite things to read about. There's forbidden love (dying for it); a haunted-by-his-rather-necessary-actions man, someone who just wants to be good; a never seen and mind-blowing magic system; and even the simple things like small banter between characters! Bear in mind that by this point I was only starting chapter 3 but it was that impressive and good.

I seriously have some many thoughts and things I want to say, but let me get you some highlights on things I absolutely was here for:

? Elliot took POVs to another level. I love she gives us not only so many perspectives but also so much insight in how everyone is feeling throughout all the chaos that ensues. You get to see parents' thoughts and feelings towards sons and daughters, and seeing parents' vulnerability really gets to me (as previously mentioned xD).

? GREY CHARACTERS. Most of the characters have grey morality, which means they are not good people. They do a lot of bad things in the name of the things they really believe are right. It's mesmerizing to see the way they think, self apologizing their wrong deeds. Pretty sure one or two are complete sociopaths but, trust me, for the reader is such a delight to try to figure them out. (Abaddon is one of the most layered characters and it was amazing to read about him, so well written.)

? Chapter's headers. Every new chapter, apart from the name of the character to which it belongs, also has a mini map that lets you know where the character physically is. It's such a small detail but it was mega helpful while reading. Apart from the headers, we also have beautiful artwork scattered throughout. It adds so much to the experience of reading this book. And it's beautiful, I believe Elliot herself made all the characters' portraits and they are amazing!!

? DRAGONS. Not only I was not expecting to have dragons in here, but also they were introduced smoothly like it was totally expected. Once again Elliot keeps on putting together so many different things and everything works beautifully together.

? There's this really cool thing almost at the end of the book. Elliot interspersed several small chapters of different POVs reacting to a specific situation with the disclosure of a letter telling about that same situation. You might be like "what the hell is she talking about", but when you read it, you'll know it. IT WAS AMAZING. It builds up so much tension and suspense for the consequences to come, it left me completely hanging at the edge of my sit and made me read compulsively until everything unfolded. It was "artsy" and so well executed.

? Elliot's writing is so impressive. I love her attention to small details that make the experience of getting to know all this world and characters so much more colourful. Things like "The Prince kept his grin withheld, at least on one side, his amusement emerging with a single curl of the lip.", these small details help to build the character's personality and mould the way I feel about them.

? The plot keeps on getting thicker and thicker, characters take decisions that only make other characters' lives harder and the loop keeps on going 'till the very end. The entire book is so full of events it's hard to point out a dead moment in it. There's always something happening, keeping the plot thickening and moving forward.

? Lastly, I would just like to say that I pictured Gwen as Merida and X'odia as Moana and I absolutely love

that.

Stacey Roach says

I am so glad I was given the opportunity to beta read this book. It was a great fantasy read. There were lots of characters, all having their own personality and uniqueness. So many to love and to hate. Some that I loved and now hate. Lol. The book never had a dull moment. The pace of it was nice and kept me wanting to keep reading even after it was over. This book reminds me of A Song of Ice and Fire, as Elliot is not afraid to kill off characters, make daring but intriguing plot twists, and is full of so many great characters. Cant wait to see what she has in store for the next book.

Marwan Al-gaadabi says

This is my first book review, short like me. (Beta Reader)

The version I read was not the final product. Yet this book exceeded my expectations in all aspects.

Lively characters, each with their own uniqueness.

Several kingdoms, the first book only scratches some of.

magnificent creatures with different potentials and unique character.

A long book with plots that could have filled 2 books instead.

Plot twists that blow your mind.

I can't give this book enough justice, and I can't wait for the sequel!!

Sarah says

I received this book from Elliot Brooks to beta read and was absolutely blown away by it. This is a great fantasy book with a unique magic system and magical creatures called 'Fiends'. There are even illustrations throughout the book showcasing what some of these fiends look like. We also get sketches from the 'the sketchbook of Elizabeth' showing us what some of the main characters look like. We follow a vast cast of characters, including an assassin and a dragon, through a world of politics, high stakes and sabotage. This book is a good transition for those seeking out an adult book after reading only YA. It can be quite politically heavy in some areas but that does not bog the reader down.

Don't get too attached to some of the characters though, Elliot does not pull any punches when it comes to the deaths in this book and if you're looking for romance you will find it but it's very subtle and some of the scenes I actually felt like I wanted the characters to kiss but at the same time I understood why they didn't.

Great book highly recommend.

shar zar says

Note: I'm part of the beta reading round two.

9/10

This book is awesome. I hope this gets the attention it deserves. After picking up five books and putting them down feeling book slumpish I started reading this one. And I never wanted to put it down.

The world is big and it feels big, like an epic fantasy is supposed to feel like. The world is constantly in motion and there's politics that come into play quite a bit.

The characters are easily distinguished and well fleshed out. It also feels like they are all at risk. Sometimes in books you know the authors are never going to kill off their characters, but not in this book. No one feels safe. There's a lot of attention to detail which makes the world come to life.

The world building is gradual and easy to understand and the magic system is really cool. It's such an easy read but it's rich at the same time
