



Skyfire

Skye Melki-Wegner

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What if you achieve everything you've dreamed of – and it turns into a nightmare?

Danika and her crew of refugees finally reach the Magnetic Valley. Will it be the safe refuge and land of freedom they had imagined? When a runaway girl is shot down before their eyes, Danika and her friends realise that this new land is no paradise. They must try to fit in at all costs – even if revealing their secrets will mean a death sentence.

The conclusion to the Chasing the Valley trilogy will reveal explosive surprises and terrifying new dangers.

Skyfire Details

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Author : Skye Melki-Wegner

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Adventure, Magic

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From Reader Review Skyfire for online ebook

Laura says

it was a great book

Lauredhel says

"People accepted us. Believed us. Just confidence and costumes, and the willingness of others to believe in what they see. But midnight is over, and it's time for unmasking."

Skyfire is the third book in the wonderful Australian YA fantasy trilogy, Chasing the Valley. Skye Melki-Wegner pulls off a satisfying sequel in Skyfire. Our team of refugees, fleeing dystopic Taladia, finally make it through the treacherous borderlands to the legendary safe haven of Magnetic Valley.

The Valley turns out to not quite be a green paradise of harmony and joy, unsurprisingly! Their first encounter is a girl shot down by her countryman. Danika hears her mysterious dying words:

" 'Fire,' Tindra whispers. 'Firestones.'
I shake my head, confused. 'I don't know what -'
'Hourglass.' This time, the word is so faint that it feels more like a memory. 'Midnight ...'
Tindra gurgles.

This leads to Danika's musing:

But the people of this country have devised alchemy beyond anything we've seen. If they can crossbreed hawks and foxaries, and set fire to the sky, what else have they created in the centuries since they broke contact with Taladia? What other weapons?
What if King Morrigan's obsession was born not of greed, but of fear?

Dun - dunn- dahhhhh!

But our band of fugitives has no choice - they must try to fit in to this new society somehow, because there's nowhere else to go. Their integration into this bizarrely segregated society does not go smoothly, and they just keep on stumbling over secrets they cannot ignore.

Skyfire is a ripping adventure with excellent pacing. The lively stakes-raising gives momentum to the story

that persists to the last page. I love the worldbuilding in this series, and the slow elaboration of the magic system, starting with the individual magical Proclivities, and extending to - well, spoilers, sweetie. The mashup of technology, alchemy, and magic sets the series apart from most other fantasy I've read - it's not quite steampunk, not quite medieval fantasy, and not quite urban fantasy. I also like the elucidation of how people's characters are entwined with their proclivities, sometimes in quite unexpected ways. Plus, a magical supervillain who hangs out in a volcano? Sign me up!

Skyfire also offers some real-world ideas and implications for young readers to mull over: there are two very different dystopias (and hints of a third) at war, with none more evil than the next; and the ordinary people of the societies end up being the victims. Should people obey, keep their heads down, and try to stay safe, or put themselves on the line to rebel and maybe enact change? There are meaty discussions to be had here about individualism, collectivism, and rebellion, should any high school teachers decide to use this rich material.

I'm mostly just sad that this ride is over. And am very much looking forward to whatever comes next!

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

<http://www.divabooknerd.com/2014/07/c...>

I absolutely adore the Chasing The Valley series, it's an incredible fantasy dystopian fusion series that is not only engaging, but simply magical. It follows the story of Danika, who lives confined within an oppressive reign of a tyrant, until her family is taken from her. Living life on the streets and seeing the poverty and destruction, has created a tough and passionate heroine. She has nothing to lose, and wants the freedom she so desperately deserves. Along with Lukas, Maisy, Teddy and Clementine, Danika has no choice but to forge forward, into an unknown land with nothing but an old Smugglers song to guide their way. The Magnetic Valley represents their chance to finally be free of oppression, but they are entering a world that offers no safety, especially to those from Taladia.

Skye Melki Wegner is a formidable storyteller, weaving a unique world that readers can immerse themselves in and I'm an enthusiastic advocate of her debut series. A brilliant Australian author, her words take on a unique enchantment that paint a vivid picture of the world that Danika attempts to endure. I not only fell in love with her world, but the characters that are unique and well developed. Each book in the series, Chasing The Valley, Borderlands and Skyfire are all among the best Australian young adult novels that I've read, not to mention internationally. I don't often completely and utterly fall in love with any book, not to mention an entire series, but Chasing The Valley is not only worthy, but it's simply phenomenal and I'm sad to have to say goodbye.

I can't recommend this series enough, I've even got my name on the back cover.

Sherry Mackay says

This was ok. Third in the series which could have been finished in 2 books or even one big book. Lots of filler and not much action. A happy ending which is great, but just too much of the main character pondering

rather boringly.

Skyla says

This whole series is amazing!

Alice says

SUCH A GOOD BOOK!

It's so satisfying when you finish a series with all the loose ends tied up and everything make sense, even if you weren't expecting it.

Sally906 says

SKYFIRE is the third and final book in the 'Chasing the Valley' series and an amazing end to an edge of the seat adventure, the first two books are 'Chasing the Valley' and 'Borderlands' both terrific reads. SKYFIRE picks up where 'Borderlands' left off and the opening line tells us that the sky over in the legendary safe haven of Magnetic Valley where they're finally heading is on fire. Danika, Lukas, Maisy, Teddy and Clementine have arrived at the entrance of the valley after using a centuries old smugglers song to guide their way. Now expecting a beautiful refuge from oppression it is a bit disconcerting to discover that instead of walking into a green and pleasant land they find themselves in a burnt out landscape of blackened rocks. In the distance, on the other side of the valley, they can see a forest and decide to head that way over the barren landscape – as you would when there is a bad king on your heels wanting to kill you. They end up in the village of Vindurn, where they are told that admission to Magnetic Valley is determined by their magical gifts. Depending on your gift you live in the village as a lowly peasant, the capital as a privileged member of society, or die. At night the only safe places to be is in the city or high up in a tree house anyone on the ground is killed in noxious fumes. The ruler of the valley is Lord Farran who expects respect, does not encourage questions and rarely appears in public. What is he hiding up in his isolated well-guarded volcano laboratory where he conducts explosive experiments? It is apparent that Magnetic Valley residents are just as oppressed as those in Taladia, however, unlike Taladia, Magnetic Valley has devised alchemy to the nth degree and the heroic group soon realise that the two nations are going to go head to head and the result will be the end of the world as they know it. Something has to be done.

I have loved the 'Chasing the Valley' series, an edge of the seat fantasy dystopian adventure. All of the main characters are realistic, well developed and grow in emotional strength as the series progressed. Each book in the series has been a ripping adventure with excellent pacing that never lets you go for a minute. People die, as they would in a struggle to overthrow cruel oppression, but there is hope and there is laughter among the tension. The final ending wrapped up all the loose ends and left me saddened at having to say goodbye to my new-found fictional friends. I heartily recommend this series.

Joanna Burke says

Loved it! Great plot that keeps you reading, characters that you get to know and care about, interesting magical powers and a strong female lead character. Sorry it had to end....

Tsana Dolichva says

Chasing the Valley: Skyfire by Skye Melki-Wegner is the concluding volume of the Chasing the Valley trilogy. I have previously reviewed the first book, Chasing the Valley, and the second book, Borderlands. It has been a journey I have enjoyed a lot; I don't think I've read anything quite like it before. This review will contain spoilers for the earlier books.

Skyfire picks up only moments after Borderlands left off. I don't think it's a spoiler to say that it opens with the sky (in the distance) literally on fire. The crew has reached the promised land of the magnetic valley but it is not the verdant utopia they were lead to believe. (I suppose there wouldn't've been much story if it were.)

The country they find themselves in is an improvement on what they left behind but not as much as they had hoped. There are strange laws about what people with certain proclivities (magic) can and can't do in society and the ruler is a three hundred year old man with a singular proclivity. The crew quickly learn that no one likes to question the ruler or speak against him at all (always suspicious). Have they stumbled out of the frying pan and into the fire? If you mean a literal fire (in the sky), then yes. But enough about the plot.

I'm a bit conflicted with how this series finished off. On the one hand, all three books have very different settings and new problems to go with them. The new setting isn't actually the part I feel conflicted about. It's the way in which the story escalated book to book. The personal stakes were already pretty high (death if they didn't flee in book one), but by the third book new revelations up the ante to the point of them needing to save the world.

But the thing is, it was all actually foreshadowed from the start. So although some elements seemed to me to come from left field, they didn't, not really. I have no doubt that the author had planned out the entire series before book one was done.

It also ended in a place where I wanted to know what happened next. Sure, the world was safe (that's so not a spoiler) and everything was probably going to be OK... but that doesn't mean that the next step was obvious. I would like there to be more books about Dannika and the others, but I suspect there might not be.

Oh, and the thing I complained about in my review of Borderlands — someone not picking up an important object — was actually resolved. Not quite the way I would've liked it to be, but in a way that made sufficient sense given the plot. So yay.

Anyway, Chasing the Valley is an excellent series. All three books have been very close to being five stars for me, but just not quite. Skyfire is the same. Obviously, that still makes it a really good series. I highly recommend it to everyone.

4.5 / 5 stars

You can read more of my reviews on my blog.

Harrison says

If you can imagine yourself in a book then you know its worth reading

Kady says

My opinion: This book holds all the answers I've been waiting for. I love it.

The characters: Danika and her crew don't seem to have changed, but if you look at parts from the first book, you see how they're different. I could understand them really good and I'm happy they don't keep secrets anymore.

The Cover/the title: The cover and title are perfect for each other. "Skyfire", the burning red. You can see two figures there, one reaching out for the other. It's reflecting the story, in some way.

Conclusion: For fans like me, this is a must-read. I can highly recommend it if you still look for answers and want to know how Danika's journey ends. Beautifully written, a really fitting cover image and a great showdown - what else could you need?

Nara says

The sky catches fire at midnight.

Wow, what an incredible conclusion. Honestly, Skyfire was everything I'd hoped it would be and more. This series deserves so much more recognition than it currently does, and I'm going to say that it's probably only underrated because it's only been released in Australia. Some US publisher really ought to snap it up and give it the attention it deserves.

And suddenly I know I have to tell them. I can't just sneak away and never look back. It would be more than a betrayal. It would be unforgivable.

I love this book so much right now. Only just recently, I wrote a discussion post about how annoying it was when characters break up with some to keep them "safe". And what do we get in this book? A character who actually thinks about the other person. A character who doesn't lie, doesn't hide things, doesn't completely ignore the other person. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is amazing. Skye Melki-Wegner, I applaud you.

And that story! Finally we get some surprising twists! And pretty much all of the unanswered questions from the first two to do with the world building are answered, making an incredibly satisfying conclusion.

Sidenote: in the first two books, there were these beasts called foxaries which are basically massive foxes that are big enough to ride. Well, if those aren't awesome enough anyway (ignoring the fact that they're apparently really aggressive and eat people...come on! They're giant foxes!) NOW THEY CAN FREAKING

FLY. Seriously, just give me one now.

I have to admit, while the first two books in this series were pretty good too, Skyfire really blows the other two out of the water. Much more action, many more unpredictable twists, great character development and the perfect amount of feels. Get yourselves a copy, people. ASAP.

Ratings

Overall: 9/10

Plot: 4.5/5

Writing: 4/5

World Building: 4/5

Characters: 4/5

Cover: 3/5

Harper Peart says

Legendary Book and great series with plenty of action and plot twists.

Charlie says

I love this series, I actually think it's one of my favourite series of the past couple of years. Off the top of my head, I can't think of anything that I didn't like about this series - except that it's over - and Skyfire was a fantastic way to conclude it.

I liked the pace of this novel, and the fact that Danika's crew finally the land beyond the Magnetic Valley, only to discover that it isn't the paradise they were promised. And why! I really liked the way this novel unfolded, and how it clearly demonstrated that this was an incredibly planned series - so much that happened in books 1 and 2 led directly to the conclusion of book 3 and that was a fantastic thing to see. (And something that you don't see all that often these days.)

As usual, I love everyone in Danika's crew, and they didn't disappoint (though I may have liked a bit more about Clementine and Maisy in this book). Overall, it took me just over 16 hours to read this book (and I was sleeping for about 9 of them...). I can't recommend this book, this series strongly enough - I loved it!

Brenda says

The sky catches fire at midnight

When Danika and her friends, Lukas, Maisy, Teddy and Clementine finally reached Magnetic Valley they realized fairly quickly that the land of green plains, of freedom and of safety had been high hopes; and fuelled by rumour which was obviously incorrect. For the very first thing they saw was a young girl shot down and left to die, and it seemed by one of her own people.

When they arrived at the village of Vindurn they discovered they had to be tested – their proclivities would

need to be correct for them to stay. A certain one and they would die. Sleeping in tree houses until the testing, they wondered at the fact that no houses were actually built on the ground. But at midnight each night they saw the fire in the sky and the shaking of the ground below. It only lasted a few minutes, but it was enough to kill if anyone was foolish enough to be on the ground.

And it seemed that the danger they had tried to escape from in their home of Taladia was as bad in the Magnetic Valley. What had they got themselves in to? Once again they had to fight the oppressors to overcome the evil of a King who was a monster. Would they survive? Could they possibly make a new life for themselves in Magnetic Valley or would they have to continue to search for safety and happiness?

I loved this, the final in the Chasing the Valley series. How sad that it's over and I'm saying goodbye to the characters I've come to know well. This fantasy series has been a lot of fun, with gripping adventures in each episode. I have no hesitation in recommending Aussie author Skye Melki-Wegner's work highly.
