



Eternal Knight

Matt Heppe

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This is an alternate cover edition for ASIN: B004WSXVZC

Trees die, crops wither, wombs are barren--the Wasting is devastating the world. And now, cannibal raiders have struck the forest refuge of Long Meadow. A huntress, Hadde of Landomere, bears the impossible burden of protecting and providing for her people. With no hope remaining for the survival of Long Meadow, Hadde sets off to seek aid from the distant kingdom of Salador.

Unlike Hadde's egalitarian homeland, Salador is a highly stratified, male-dominated world of politics, war, and deceit, teeming with its own problems. When King Boradin comes to believe Hadde is part of a prophecy that will end the Wasting, he refuses her request for aid and bars her from returning home. Hadde's only ally is the king's brother and political rival, Morin. When scheming turns to violence, Hadde and Morin flee the king in a desperate quest to end the Wasting before it is too late.

Eternal Knight Details

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Author : Matt Heppe

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From Reader Review Eternal Knight for online ebook

Barbara Dunbar says

Haddie the redeamer

This story has many layers that keep the reader enthralled. Much action and horses and knights and Haddie a wonderful heroine.

bjneary says

Many thanks to Judy and Shelley Meier for lending and recommending this awesome, couldn't put it down book! Matt Heppe wove a compelling tale of Hadde (very strong female protagonist) who is a Huntress from Landomere and must venture out to another kingdom, Salador, to save her people from The Wasting. Her people won't survive the winter without her help; once she finds a orb that will bring much needed money to her starving, dying people, she sets off. What I enjoyed about this book was the differences in cultures, The people of Landomere live off the land in lush forests (when The Wasting isn't killing them) where men and women are equal, do not read, welcome everyone and are not afraid of sex and nudity while the people of Salador are class constricted, male dominated, educated and very formal about titles and distrustful of Hadde. When Hadde gets to Salador she is forbidden to leave by the king. I enjoyed Hadde's persona; she was fearless, she loved her horse, she was able to shoot a bow and arrow flawlessly and she was a true leader, always putting her people first. And those Eternal Knights, you just have to read this book to find out who they are!!! I can't wait for the next book!

Kitvaria Sarene says

This started off at 3 stars for me - but as so often it got better and better while reading. I definitely loved the last third - and so I'll end up at 4 stars overall.

This books has quite a bit of archery in it, so of course I enjoyed that very much! I also liked the main character - who is not like any other I read before. It was a joy to get to know her and live through so many adventures with at her side!

I liked the different cultures that met in the story, and how different people can see the world, for their different upbringings.

The writing style was fluent and kept me well immersed in the story. The plot was interesting and had quite some twists that weren't expected. I especially loved how some of the characters grew over time, and how there is quite some grey between the black and white.

I will definitely read the next book whenever I get around to it! (Where can I buy more time again??)

Sift Book Reviews says

Each part of the story connects and intertwines with the rest of the story so incredibly well that I was blown away at the cleverness of it. This storyline could have easily been confusing and annoying if done by a less skilled writer, yet Heppe pleased me immensely in keeping me surprised at every twist and turn. This is not your typical indie fantasy novel. To understate it, I was pleasantly surprised by a story that I wasn't expecting to enjoy. I highly recommend fantasy lovers read this story, it's well worth it!

See the in-depth review: <http://www.siftreviews.com/2011/08/et...>

Review by: Kayelee of Sift Book Reviews

Sift Book Reviews received a free copy for review from the author. This has, in no way, affected the reviewer's opinion.

Jeanne Johnston says

Way better than I expected. For some reason, it's become a thing to cast women in "masculine" roles, even when it seems forced, and I rolled my eyes at the beginning, thinking it was going to be another one of those. Quickly transcended that, though. The story revolves around a normal woman finding herself in a backward, sexist society where everyone seems shocked by her appearance and behavior. There's actually a lot more going on--a quest epic, the effects of social inequality, romance, trust, betrayal, and some surprising redemptions (mainly women who seem bitches but in the end aren't totally without merit).

Best of all, though there's obviously a sequel (the story ends with a big question mark that the heroine obviously chooses to ignore for the time being as it could take years--even centuries--to resolve), the story stands alone so I don't have to whinge about the frequent tactic of giving the first (incomplete) book free only to sell the rest of a poorly designed series.

Chris says

I thoroughly enjoyed Matt's first novel (first published novel, anyway) *Eternal Knight*, and I eagerly await the next. I hope I won't spoil the action for anyone in saying that I like a good fight scene--and I'm very judgmental about them. Matt writes them beautifully. First, he avoids the pitfalls all too common to the genre. He knows how the equipment works. His heroic protagonist has all the limitations of a woman--and a trained archer--and his exploration of her abilities and limitations is excellent. I particularly enjoyed the sewer scenes. Well done!

I also enjoyed the world creation and the dialogue. And...er...everything!

More!

Dave says

I have to say that I'm a bit baffled by the high ratings this novel received. I understand that there is plenty to

like, but there are some very noticeable flaws as well. As for the good, *Eternal Knight* has a quick moving plot with plenty of action, and a likeable female protagonist, Hadde. The worldbuilding is okay, with some nice nuances, but not very rich or complex. The plotline helps the story along nicely, but also lacks depth and complexity.

And that brings me to my main complaints, the lack of depth and complexity in the characters. Hadde is a brave, naive and friendly Mary Sue. Her development in the novel is close to non-existent. Morin is a bit darker person and seems more complex, but never fulfills the promise he has a character. The lack of depth in the characters is also reflected in the dialogue, which is kind of simple and flat.

All these problems are compounded by writing which is in principle smooth and accessible, but suffers from some problems. A lot of telling instead of showing, hopping from one POV to another in mid-scene etc. Too bad, because the bones of a good story are there.

Alissa says

3.5 stars rounded up because there is no cliffhanger and the main lead is realistic and interesting. This is a pleasant indie book, it's straightforward quest epic fantasy with adult characters and features several hallmarks of the genre: a prophecy, magical artifacts, lore, a little romance and worldwide stakes. There is nothing particularly original and it's usually predictable, also the side characters are a bit stereotyped, but taken as a whole the tale is truly refreshing, well-written and well-paced, with a remarkable protagonist and thrilling action/archery scenes.

This is probably what made it work so well for me, the author crafts a solid story and doesn't overreach. Exactly the kind of sensible fantasy I was looking for! Not to mention, I took my first pause when I was already 62% in. I already liked the first part, but the second was even better when the plot thickened.

As a side note, before this I read the most excellent *Evil is a Matter of Perspective: An Anthology of Antagonists*, and *Eternal Knight* villains fit the bill splendidly.

“Why do people do evil things to one another? Because of desire. They covet what others have. Riches, power, and the pleasures of the flesh... and when they cannot have what they covet, they take it.

Kimberly says

Wonderful beginning for a new fantasy series. My only complaint is that I cannot get the next one right now, tragedy. This book is one the great ones and I look forward to reading more work from this gifted author. You don't want to miss out on this one!

Stephen says

Downloaded this to my kindle on friends recommendatation. Once I started reading I couldn't put it down & the day was gone. I know no higher recommendation than that for a fantasy novel.

James Sundquist says

Engaging and enjoyable.

The story is a relatively simple, standard fantasy tale, but with some key differences that, for me, set it apart. The realistic medieval setting, and the incorporation of a strong heroine within that, is really well done. The clash of cultures as Hadde encounters the Saladorians is the type of thing fantasy novels all too often choose to ignore, with their generic, multicultural, homogenised worlds. The action is well done and, again, realistic, and the plot twists here and there just when you think you've got it sussed.

The only drawback was that the lack of description (which the author acknowledges) means that now and then the scene isn't fully set before you are dragged into a new round of action. It is fast-paced but without getting too frantic, and certainly doesn't get bogged-down in world-building or moodiness like some fantasy out there. Still, I could have used a little more colour around the edges.

Overall, I really enjoyed it--could hardly put it down--and almost wish I had paid for it in the end; it would certainly have been worth it! Worth picking up while it's still free!

Amber says

So, finally getting around to writing a review of this book. I really had to let it sink in a bit because I was worried I was getting a little to fan-girlish and my review would be little, overly gushy.

I found this book on Amazon in the free section, it had one of the highest ratings in the fantasy listings, so I figured, what the hell, not much risk in giving it a shot. I was pleasantly surprised by the story. I enjoyed it very much, the main character was instantly compelling for me and I didn't want to put my e-reader down at all when dinner rolled around. I really liked that this book was in epic fantasy form, but from a woman's point of view, what made it better, in my opinion, was that Hadde was from a culture that is far removed from the European status quo that tends to over populate the Epic Fantasy genre, making her more relatable for a modern woman. Once Hadde reached Salador, where medieval European customs prevailed culturally I found myself chuckling a bit at Hadde's reactions to a few of the more archaic customs.

Another thing I enjoyed about this novel is that I felt it was really well balanced. I found I wasn't always so sure that Hadde was going to come out on top in the end. (I'm still not fully sure she did) She was good at what she was good at, but she wasn't a Mary Sue, which was a nice change up, especially in a female based epic fantasy. I feel like most men, who write females in this format, tend to shy away from letting them get maimed or killed or tormented in the same way they allow their male counterparts to, but in this novel there was a respectable amount of success and failure for both genders. I also, really loved the ending. I think, especially since Matt's doing at least one sequel that I've heard of, that the ending to this installment of his series, built a lot of extremely interesting character and gave depth to not only the main protagonist but other important characters as well.

Plus, it just made you think, which really, isn't that point of reading to begin with!?

For Self-Published and Edited novel, I think I'll bump this to the five stars it really deserved instead of four. (And I totally gave that time to sink in!)

Also, my Dungeon Master is now required to map the plumbing of all castles and dungeons my roleplaying group storms....so Thanks for that Matt. LOL

Sarah (Workaday Reads) says

Hadde is a very unique and intriguing woman. She isn't afraid to be herself, even if she is different from those around her. She is proud of who she is, with good reason. Hadde is an awesome heroine you can easily root for. I was a bit disappointed that she seemed to become a little less unique after being in Salador for a while, but I guess it is to be expected. Put a person in a stranger land and they will eventually begin to assimilate.

Morin was also a great character. I'm not sure if he was a good guy or bad guy though. He made me both smile in happiness and growl in frustration. Either way, he was a great complement to Hadde.

The world building in the story was extraordinary. Everything was very well thought out and complete down to the tiniest detail. But all without hitting you over the head or taking away from the story. It is very easy to tell that Matt put a lot of work into not just writing, but also editing.

Overall, this was an amazing epic fantasy story. One of the best I've read in a long while, possibly ever. If you can't tell, I loved this book. Everyone should definitely check it out.

Kira says

excellent book

Hadde is a huntress from Landomere. The forest is dying and her people are starving. Finding a necklace in the forest, she sets off in search of aid for her people and enters the strange world of the saladorans where she finds love and war. Can she accomplish the task she was destined for?

I love Hadde. She is an awesome lead character and I fell in love with her dying world.

Paul Lavender says

An excellent fantasy tale that leaves you guessing right up to the end as to who to trust. Only criticism is the use of arrow lengths for distance. Obviously this distance is variable depending on the strength of the archer and the draw weight of the bow.
