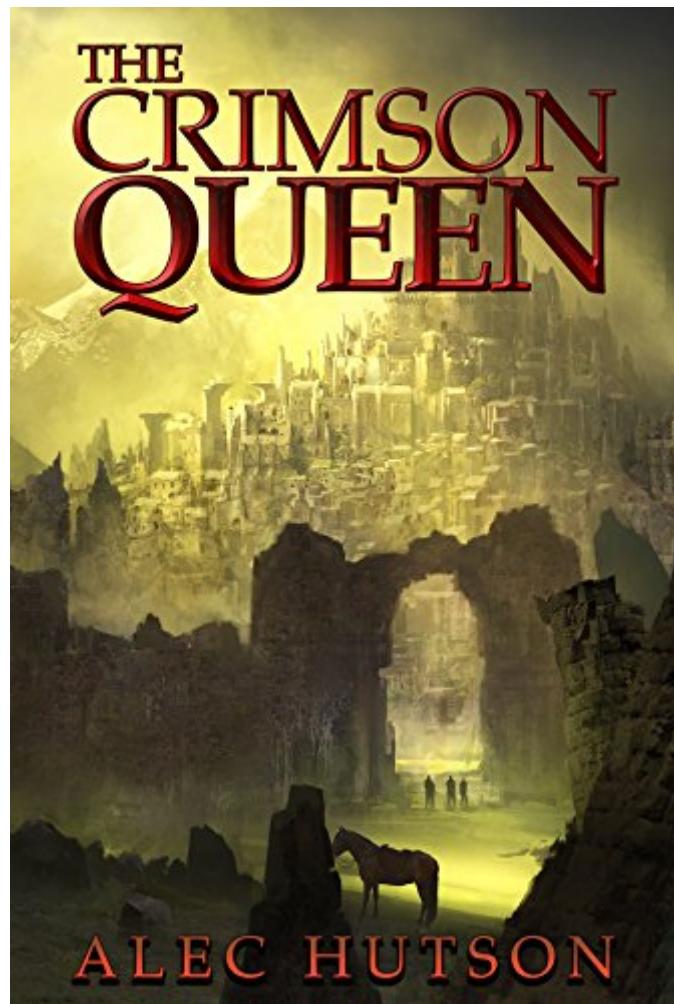


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The Crimson Queen



Synopsis

2016 Ink and Insights Competition - Judges' Favorite 2017 Readers' Favorite Award for Epic Fantasy

Long ago the world fell into twilight, when the great empires of old consumed each other in sorcerous cataclysms. In the south the Star Towers fell, swallowed by the sea, while the black glaciers descended upon the northern holdfasts, entombing the cities of Min-Ceruth in ice and sorcery. Then from the ancient empire of Menekar the paladins of Ama came, putting every surviving sorcerer to the sword and cleansing their taint from the land for the radiant glory of their lord. The pulse of magic slowed, fading like the heartbeat of a dying man. But after a thousand years it has begun to quicken again. In a small fishing village a boy with strange powers comes of age... A young queen rises in the west, fanning the long-smoldering embers of magic into a blaze once more... Something of great importance is stolen - or freed - from the mysterious Empire of Swords and Flowers... And the immortals who survived the ancient cataclysms bestir themselves, casting about for why the world is suddenly changing... The first book in The Raveling, a new epic fantasy saga

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Customer Reviews

...then look no further. The Crimson Queen is one of those books that came out of nowhere and grabbed me from the first page. It has everything you've come to expect from the genre--innocent villagers with heroic destinies, holy paladins, clever thieves, spider-filled dungeons, malevolent gods lurking behind the scenes--but all the familiar pieces are put together to form a beautiful new picture. Each POV character feels fresh and distinct, with clear and compelling motivations for their actions. The world is rich and interesting, filled with magic and a rainbow of cultures. The writing is clean throughout, and the description is evocative without bogging down the scenes. You know all those other epic fantasy series where you get mired in description? Not here, and the imagery isn't lacking. You simply get one sentence to tell you what you need to know: "The delegation from the Satrapy of So-and-So wore sealskin coats and wide-brimmed hats," and that's it. The chapter moves on. If I had a caveat, I would say that it does feel familiar. The holy empire of magic-haters all wear white, and their wizard-killing knights are called paladins. There's an ancient empire that was destroyed by a magical calamity, leaving the world in a dark age. The great and terrible old gods sleep at the bottom of the ocean. The assassins move through shadow. The Chinese-analogue country is ruled by an emperor on the Phoenix Throne and has lots of cranes, jade, and lotus flowers. But the characters sound real, the setting is internally consistent, and those tropes are all classic for a reason. This doesn't feel like a D&D campaign put to paper; it feels like a living, breathing world that perhaps we've glimpsed before. If you're trawling through (or Kindle Unlimited) looking for the next epic fantasy novel to slake your endless appetite, then stop here. You've found it.

Extremely well written, imaginative, and engrossing world view by a master story teller. The main characters are of course the Crimson Queen, a mysterious red-head who can wield enormous magical power, a young man by the name of Keilan who is a powerful but untrained sorcerer, Jan who is very old sorcerer but looks and behaves like a much younger man, and Allyana who is old and undoubtedly evil sorceress also of untold power. They were all following trajectories that are leading them to a violent collision. The author keeps his story cards close to his vest and the story takes surprising turns.

Alec has a very solid offering with the Crimson Queen. I left the fantasy world for Cyberpunk and

general lit-fic quiet some time ago. The Crimson Queen however, took me back to the days I would hoover up authors like Robin Hobb and other fantasy greats at a staggering pace. It's not perfect, but it's extremely good. Buy this jam homies.

Such an amazing book! I am a fan of Will Wight, who advised in his Blog to check out this book. I am so glad I did! I couldn't put it down, and when I have some time I will defiantly go back and re-read this. This book caught me from page one, and I highly recommend it to anyone who loves Fantasy, Mystery and Magic. The world is rich and vibrant, the characters are engaging, and the story itself flows well, never gets mired down

Enjoyed reading this very much. The length of the book and the depth of the story pleasantly surprised me. At first I was a little worried that the alternating POVs would be a bit confusing but the author did a good job of maintaining it. The characters were well developed and almost all of them kept my interest. My only negative criticism is some of the hyperbole was difficult to relate to - one in particular was 'color of a fading bruise'. I've had a number of those; such a 'color' in my experience could mean almost anything. Looking forward to the next book with anticipation.

This was a fantastic find, recommended by Will Wight. This is a new favorite fantasy epic filled with well developed characters, intrigue and adventure, and beautifully descriptive writing which brings the new world into your mind fully formed and pregnant with possibilities. I am amazed that this was a first novel and self-published (although there are a small number of grammatical errors which tends to go with the self-published, they do not detract from the overall excellence of the writing). The tropes are familiar, as with most epic fantasy, but the differences are in the details and the questions. The exploration of friendship, knowledge as power, overt and hidden powers, and the ethical struggles of the characters all add to the richness of the story and make this world one that commands us to return.. hopefully soon with the next installment of the adventure!

While much of the concepts and character types are well known in fantasy books - the way the characters are brought to life and even die is done exceptionally well. It started a little slow - but once I got about 20 pages in, I could not put it down. The only issue I have is it really did not have a complete ending - lots of cliff hangers. I always prefer books to stand on their own - this one begs for a sequel - which means I'll forget much of what you need to know when the sequel comes out - and consequently loose interest.

I really enjoyed this. Read it because of Will Wight's posting on Facebook, and I'm glad I did. It's one of the best epic fantasy novels I've ready in a really long time. Great pace, great characters, great story lines. Get it!

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