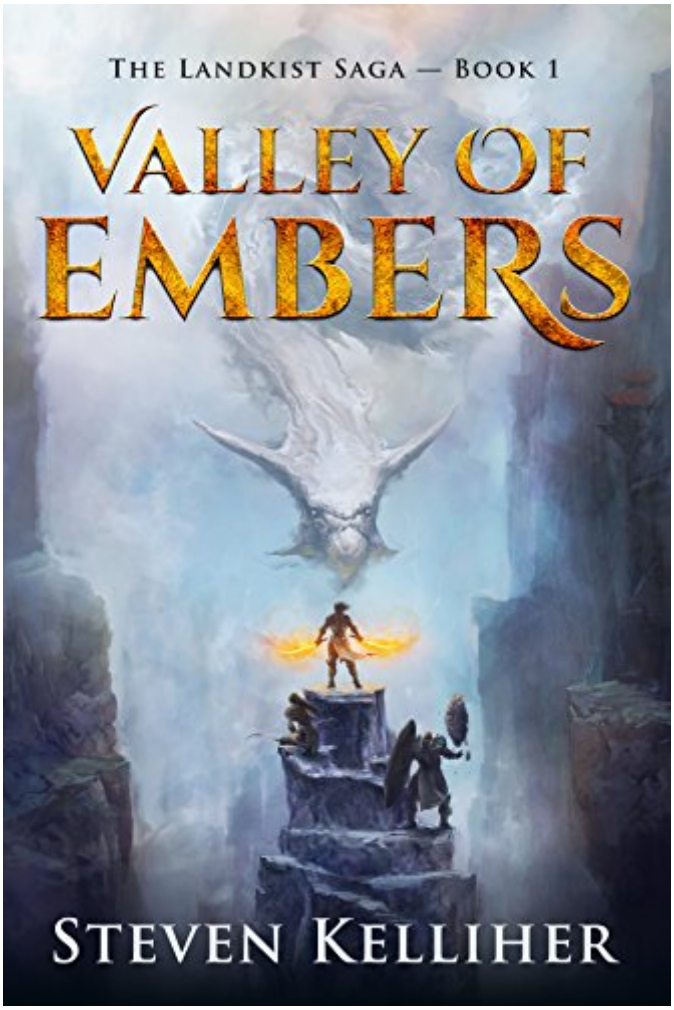
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Valley Of Embers (The Landkist Saga Book 1)



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Synopsis

2017 r/Fantasy Underread and Underrated Award - FinalistPrincess Mononoke meets Avatar: The Last Airbender in an epic fantasy debut critics are calling "exceptionally well-crafted."For hundreds of years, the flame-wielding Embers have been the last line of defense against the nightmare creatures from the World Apart, but the attacks are getting worse. Kole Reyna guards Last Lake from the terrors of the night, but he fears for his peopleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s future.When Kole is wounded by a demon unlike any they have seen before, the Emberfolk believe it is a sign of an ancient enemy returned, a powerful Sage known as the Eastern Dark.Kole has never trusted in prophecy, but with his people hanging on the precipice, he reluctantly agrees to lead the ValleyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest warriors in a last desperate bid for survival. Together, they will risk everything in search of a former ally long-thought dead, and whether Kole trusts him or not, he may be the only one capable of saving them.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the world-building and the concept of The Landkist. The Embers with their ability to harness the power of fire were particularly intriguing, and the author did a great job of making them feel real.The book opens with an action scene that sets the stage for the conflicts to come, and introduces us to a few of the book's major characters. After this initial scene, the first third of the book revolves around various characters arguing over what just happened, what it portends, and what should be done about it. While this does create a certain amount of plot tension, I came away with the sense that a few brief scenes could have conveyed the ideas and tension without slowing the plot.The supernatural forces of evil are an interesting and varied lot, but I sometimes had trouble keeping them straight: The White Crest, Dark Kind, Eastern Dark, Sage, Sentinels, Night Lords. By the end of the book I was starting to get a handle on it, and readers who go on to read the sequel will begin with a better grasp, having sorted it out in book one. There are also a lot of human characters, which is typical in epic fantasy.I always appreciate fantasy novels set in original, complex worlds, and the author has clearly put a lot of thought into creating the world of The Landkist.

In my opinion, Valley of Embers is a dream-like epic fantasy tale not to be missed, a chilling vision of high fantasy horrors and delights that will have you cheering on the heroes and fearing for their lives. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s crafted with great ingenuity, skill and care. In my mind, KelliherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s style is an intriguing combination of Tolkien, Donaldson and Abercrombie, mixed and seasoned for a flavor all its own. I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t wait to see what Kelliher comes up with next, not just with the story, but as his mastery of word craft continues to mature.

I am an avid reader, and I enjoy when a novel includes a unique atmosphere and a well developed historical background. This novel certainly delivered that. With a wide cast of characters all having vastly different traits and powers, original world map, and deep, well developed historical roots (within the story universe), this story provided exactly what I look for in a fantasy novel. The opening of the story skips all the historical and introductory exposition you typically find, which caused me a little difficulty connecting to the setting and characters at the very beginning, but as you are basically thrown right into the action, and made to absorb information as it unfolds, it was not too long before I

was comfortably acquainted with the myriad personalities, locations, and history of the world Steven has crafted.

This story opens almost immediately into a fight with a demon that has come out of the forest, writhing in horrible squiggly demon tentacles that sounded, more or less like a certain squiggly demon from Princess Mononoke. This is not a bad thing. It was a nice homage. ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s something to be said about your favorite things (fantasy novels) being inspired by your other favorite things (Ghibli movies). IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m totally on board with that.It took a little while for me to get into the story, because there is a *lot* going on and a lot of information to be absorbed right in the beginning. WeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve got Kole, who is a Landkist. Landkist seems to be this worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s word for magic user. There are different kinds of Landkist. One for each of the elements, it seems. So, the label makes sense. Embers are the type that wield fire magic. So, theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re kind of like fire mages (actually more like fire benders, if you know what I mean). With me so far? ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a lot to remember. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not super complicated though, once you remember the basics, and itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s well thought out. ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a lot of development happening in the first 1/4 or so of the book and it was a little heavy at times. I think I mostly got the gist though. My biggest difficulty here was that sometimes characters are referred to by their surname, and sometimes their given name, and right at the beginning, when you donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know who the hell everyone is yetÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s confusing sometimes. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t think I ever really got a good feel for some of the background characters because of this.The demons that plague the valley where the Embers live are from the World Apart, and the Embers are all that are protecting their town from them. When Kole fights the squiggly demon, he senses something that seems familiar to him, from back when his mother was killed. He thinks that this is no ordinary demon. The village elders say that this must be the return of the Eastern Dark, an evil Sage. The Embers used to live in the desert, until the Eastern Dark drove them out. The king of the Embers and the White Crest (a good Sage) went and defeated him. Now, the Eastern Dark is coming back and they need the White CrestÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s help againÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| but nobody knows where he is. So, KoleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s bestie Linn puts together a team of the townÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s greatest defenders, and they all go off to try and find The White Crest. And our real adventure begins!I rather liked Kole and Linn. Actually a whole lot. Especially Linn. She was sassy and didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t take anyoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s crap. Loved her. There was plenty of action throughout the book

and it was well described and gave me a good feel for what was happening. The magic system was well thought out and made sense for the most part. There were a few twists and turns in the story that I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see coming, and a nice, satisfying non-cliffhangery ending that leaves lots of room for further exploration in this world.IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m excited to see where this series goes. Looking forward to the next one! I am down for more Ember action.

A strong start for a debut author. The prose flows well, and for the action lover there is no dearth of fighting. The tale is told well, and although the book itself would benefit from looking into some spellcheck issues (using "want" in place of "wont," for example -- and I don't mean "won't"), it does not detract from the strength of the novel. This is well-written; it provides tension and excitement, and I'm eager to get started on book 2 when it's released!

I first downloaded a free preview of this book. I was so intrigued and captivated by the first chapter that I went and purchased the full book. It was well worth the money. An awesome read with a different type of people called the Landkist. A grand adventure with many twists and turns fighting evil and overcoming personal battles as well as battles against the enemies. Looking forward to Book 2 in the series.

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