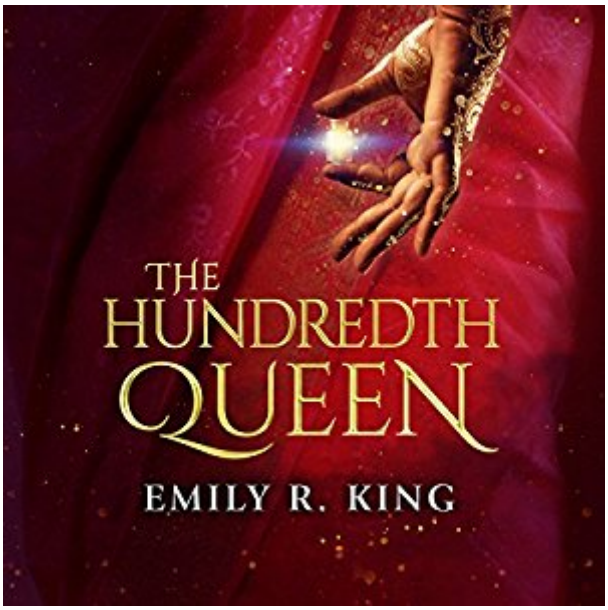
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The Hundredth Queen



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Synopsis

In Emily R. King’s thrilling fantasy debut, an orphan girl blossoms into a warrior, summoning courage and confidence in her fearless quest to upend tradition, overthrow an empire, and reclaim her life as her own. As an orphan ward of the Sisterhood in the ancient Tarachand Empire, eighteen-year-old Kalinda is destined for nothing more than a life of seclusion and prayer. Plagued by fevers, she’s an unlikely candidate for even a servant’s position, let alone a courtesan or wife. Her sole dream is to continue living in peace in the Sisterhood’s mountain temple. But a visit from the tyrant Rajah Tarek disrupts Kalinda’s life. Within hours, she is ripped from the comfort of her home, set on a desert trek, and ordered to fight for her place among the rajah’s ninety-nine wives and numerous courtesans. Her only solace comes in the company of her guard, the stoic but kind Captain Deven Naik. Faced with the danger of a tournament to the death - and her growing affection for Deven - Kalinda has only one hope for escape, and it lies in an arcane, forbidden power buried within her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Emily King, author of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Hundredth Queen,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• displays her talents in this first entry to her series. While her descriptions and use of words are her strength, other elements of the book work against her. Here’s a quick rundown, without spoilers:THE PLOT ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Kalinda, a member of the Sisterhood, is chosen by the current Rajah as his hundredth wife.Proving yourself in battle is necessary, both in the Sisterhood and at the palace.

Everyone vies to be elevated, higher ranks determined by victory in the ring.Everything about this story screams predictability. Unfortunately, the author never recognizes the danger and continues to steer the reader in that direction. It is obvious that Kalinda will have feelings for the young soldier, Deven, just as it is obvious he feels the same way. What makes little sense is that Deven understands the world as it is, yet immediately breaks convention and is willing to risk his life by granting favors to Kalinda. The rules dictating death to a queen who is unfaithful never causes Kalinda to waiver from her infatuation with Deven. Once in the palace, Kalinda faces the expected danger from her Sisterhood rival Natesa as well as Lakia, first among the RajahÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wives.THE WRITING ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ This is the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s five-star strength. The description is consistent, and reflects a time of long ago. Ms. KingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s elegant style deftly describes the action, weaving pictures that effortlessly wrap the reader in the story.THE WORLD ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ One wishes for more details describing KalindaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s world of religion and male dominance. Some of the inconsistencies concerning the relationship between herself and Deven might have made more sense, but defining the culture never gets past a few scrapes off the surface. While the action is wonderfully explained, I wished to learn more about the social mores. Most of what we glean, however, comes in bits and dribbles inserted when something happens and readers must know why. While there was enough to keep me interested, I wished for more.IN CASE YOU WANTED TO KNOW ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Ms. King steers away from using any sort of foul language, and you could read this story to a child without worry. Sex is non-existent, and though sexual tension is present, nothing is written that would make you blush.OVERALL ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ The writing is strong, and almost makes one forget that the plot is unremarkable. Images of The Hunger Games flit constantly, casting a pall over the originality of the tale. While KalindaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s character is best defined, many of the others are one-dimensional, including Natesa, Deven, and Lakia. Motivations are reduced to one reason rather than a myriad of choices, which lessens the readerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s engagement. I did find Ms. KingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s use of words and consistency of style to be enough to keep me reading. However, this is a three-and-a-half star book at best, and though the talented description of the action is strong, the lack of developed characters prevent the total ranking from reaching four.

*** LANGUAGE ***Plain, easy-to-read English with no profanities or adult situations. If this were a film, and it likely will be one day, it would be rated G, except for violence [Revised at suggestion of commenter ' Customer.']Quick OverviewThis is going to be a two-edged review. I will write of how I perceive the story to be, and for what audience it works best. Otherwise, though, this is, regrettably,

not the sort of story written for me.What we have here is a fantasy/love story that is ideal for people who love family-oriented programming similar to programming on Hallmark Channel. Let me hasten to add, however, that I enjoy many of the programs on Hallmark, especially the When Calls the Heart. Thus, I am not knocking that medium and I am not attacking that genre. The Hundredth Queen, however, is just a tad too extreme in that focus, for my reading pleasure.The plot is pretty basic for a Young Adult fantasy. I picked up on the influence of Hunger Games in the first few pages, but donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see that as a fault, because The Hunger Games is a great series and has altered womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s fiction forever.What also is revealed in those first few pages is that the heroine in this story told in first-person has certain vulnerabilities and has not mastered skills thought to be common for her age and time. This is told in a skillful matter and can easily be overlooked and forgotten by the reader.As I indicated, I like the approach and find that telling the tale in first person keeps it fresh and personal. Bravo.As for myself, I would have preferred something a little more action-oriented, and with some seedier, even dastardly, characters. It might have required another hundred pages to more fully develop the characters, but I would also like to have heard some down-to-earth squabbles and complaints from Kalinda.Still, this is a well-organized tale that many folks are going to love. It should reach number one status quite early on and stay in the Top 10 for quite some time.Length: Print, 300 pages.Q - Target Audience/Genre and is it marketed as Nonfiction or Fiction:A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Family-Oriented Historical Fiction/Fantasy. Think Hallmark Channel in the Ancient World.Q - How was this book obtained?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Bought on as my Kindle First selection.Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Yes.Q ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ If this is a recurring character or a series, does it have a cliffhanger ending?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Although the story clearly continues into a second volume, it does not end on a cliffhanger.Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ No.Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Pretty fast. Engaging. Can be read in one sitting, with a break for a snack.Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ For me, it was a little too tame. A little too cozy. And, as another reviewer stated, a bit too predictable. Shades of The Hunger Games evident.To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below.ExcerptÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦chamomile ointment soothed away the redness. My hope that we will fail inspection does not look good.Healer Baka finishes with my friend, and her calm eyes meet mine. I try to ignore the healerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s adept hands roaming around my body, but it is impossible not to be anxious about potentially being shown to the rajah. I breathe

easier when Healer Baka moves on.Natesa lobs a withering glance over her shoulder at me from where she stands in the front line. A white bandage rings her neck. A thimbleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s worth of shame spills over me, but with one sideways glance at JayaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s cheek, fury burns my guilt to smoke.I do not know how long we wait, but my knees ache when Healer Baka finishes. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“You may put your clothes back on,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• she says.I scoop my robe off the floor and cover myself. Natesa and Sarita flaunt their bodies, unrushed to get dressed. They are replicas of the goddess Ki, petite and round, soft yet firm, fit yet feminine. So unlike my gangly, angled shape.Priestess Mita, who watched the inspection from the rear of the chamber, confers with Healer Baka. They speak in low, heated voices. Healer Baka looks at me and shakes her head. Priestess Mita nods fervently and steps forward.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Daughters, you have all passed!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• says the priestess.I lock gazes with Jaya. Her weak smile releases slivers of fear. We are going to be shown to the rajah.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Daughters,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• says Priestess Mita, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“we will now adorn you with the mark of Enki.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•The priestess and Healer Baka come around with a pot of henna and draw a wavy line down each girlÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s spine. The wave symbol dyed into our skin represents the water-goddess, Enki. Stories depict Enki as a daughter who walks in perfect obedience to her parents, Anu and Ki. Wearing EnkiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mark indicates to the benefactor that we are in full submission. I let my robe hang low at my back, clutching it to my front. Priestess Mita marks me and then leaves the henna to dry and flake away.Once we are all adorned, the priestess whisksÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢King, Emily R.. The Hundredth Queen (The Hundredth Queen Series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 390-406). Skyscape. Kindle Edition.Bottom Line:As I stated at the outset, this was a story that leaves the reader feeling good. For me, though, it left me less stirred emotionally, because I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t quite connect with the characters. I realize I may sound pompous, but I like characters whose principles are tested and who might, occasionally, fail their principles due to pressures placed upon them. Otherwise, though, this is an incredible tale.Four stars out of five.Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.Thank you.

Kali, the intended 100th wife of the rajah, drew me into her world from the first page. I didn’t want the book to end. It is a must read. I can’t wait for the next one to come out.

The Hundredth Queen was an unexpected treasure. Emily R. King is a really good story teller. The world building is complex enough that it feels like it could exist somewhere and the characters have quite a bit of depth. In some ways this book felt like an introduction, which could be fine because it seems to be the first of a series, and didn't delve as deeply into the characters' relationships as I would like. It kind of felt like instalove between the two mains and some of the other side relationships could have been focused on a little more, however, I think it's okay for the first book because it feels like the author is going to explore those elements more fully in upcoming novels now that the stage is set for a future adventure. I'm sure some people will complain about the ending, however there is enough resolution that it doesn't feel like a complete cliffhanger. I recommend this book to people who like romantic fantasy, specifically young adult romantic fantasy. There are some adult themes (forced marriage, forced concubinism, which honestly translates to rape), but nothing in detail. It's just alluded to. There is also quite a bit of action. It isn't purely a romance novel. I'm really glad recommended it to me and I look forward to the second book.

Picked this book as a random selection to read and sat down and finished it in an afternoon. Love the story line!

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