
Kate Elliott

King's Dragon (Crown of Stars #1)



Title: King's Dragon (Crown of Stars #1)

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Description

Though King Henry holds the crown of Wendar, his reign has long been contested by his elder half-sister Sabella, who is making her second attempt to take the throne. There are many eager to flock to her banner, and Sabella has ways to bring others to her cause. Aside from this internal strife, Wendar also faces raids from the north by an inhuman race, the Eika, who seem nearly impossible to defeat. And terrifying portents of otherworldly power have begun to manifest across the land. Into the midst of these conflicts come two innocents: Liath, who has spent years fleeing from unknown enemies, and whose knowledge and power could be her salvation or her downfall; and Alain, pledged to the Church, but through a vision granted by the Lady of Battles set on a different path, and whose true parentage will determine his destiny. As Liath and Alain work through their personal struggles, they are each drawn into a far greater battle, one which will change the shape of the world itself.

Insightful reviews

Kat Hooper: The Crown of Stars series is well-thought out and obviously well-planned. It's epic in scope and it's got a lot of texture. There are many complex characters who we follow in parallel, as in Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time*. Some of them are very likable, and there are some really excellent villains (e.g., Hugh). Ms. Elliott's creatures are imaginative and enjoyable, and I especially liked the way they interact with the humans. Ms. Elliott uses a lot of description and therefore her plot moves very slowly (again, similar to *WOT*).

The writing was inconsistent throughout the series. Sometimes it seems brilliant, but at other times I'd think "why did she tell me that?" or "this could be moving a little faster." It's often wordy. Her editor could have almost arbitrarily taken out a third of the sentences with no ill effect. Sometimes she over-explains what a character is feeling or his/her motivation when it would have been better to let the dialog or action speak for the character. Sometimes she tells me something too many times (e.g., "but his voice always sounds like that"). I wonder if the inconsistency is due to different editing processes, because it's not like that in all the books, and even some individual books are internally inconsistent. I thought the fourth book, especially, was not well edited.

The pace of these novels is so slow that I found my self bogged down in the middle of book 5 with not much desire to go on, so I decided to quit. I struggled with that decision because I really did want to find out what happened to the characters, but it was taking me too long to get there and the writing style wasn't good enough to make up for the crawling pace (unlike *Wheel of Time*).

Overall, these books entertained me for a while, especially the first couple of novels. The plot was interesting and the characterization was particularly notable, but it eventually got too slow. I quit in the middle of book 5.

Read more [Kate Elliott book reviews at *Fantasy Literature*](#).

Peter: Orson Scott Card supposedly anointed Kate Elliott "one of the great living fantasy

writers,” but after reading King’s Dragon, the first of the seven-volume Crown of Stars series, I’m not sure why. Although she has created a fascinating alternative world featuring non-human beings, political intrigue, and stories of personal strife, sorrow, and heroism, wrapped into a medieval Christian-like cosmology, Elliott’s main characters do not compare with the protagonists of other lengthy series, such as Richard Rahl in Terry Goodkind’s Sword of Truth, or Rand Al-Thor in Robert Jordan’s Wheel of Time.

This opening volume introduces the reader to two protagonists—Alain, who at the beginning of the story is about to reach 16—the age at which he will be sent to a monastery to fulfill a promise made by his adoptive father, and Liath, a young woman who finds herself sold into slavery to a lecherous priest who wants a mysterious book her father left her as well as her body.

Early in King’s Dragon, Alain, who would rather see the world than spend the rest of his life within the walls of the monastery, gets his wish when a savage tribe (the Eika) wipes out the monastery hours before he would have reached its walls and he is given the choice of pledging himself to the Lady of Battles rather than see all in his village meet the same fate. I almost put down the book at this moment because the choice he was given is not a choice at all. Apply it to yourself: you get to do what you’ve always wanted or see everyone you love die. Which would you choose?

This artificial situation reflects the core moral underpinning of King’s Dragon—namely that fate has determined a path for us and to resist is largely futile. In sum, the story is about what fate has in store for Alain and Liath and whether they will learn to accept it or not. That’s not a compelling basis for a seven-book novel, evidence of which is statements by several reviewers on Amazon and Goodreads who admit they abandoned the series after reading three, four, or even five of the books.

That said, Elliott is clearly an accomplished writer and storyteller. Her characters come alive, the conflicts—humans versus Eika, King Henry versus his sister enemy, are compelling, and the pacing is sufficiently modulated by switching between Alain’s story to Liath’s and back so that the reader does not get bored.

In the final analysis, I couldn’t wait for each new volume from Goodkind or Jordan, but I am unlikely to pick up volume two in Elliott’s series.

Sandi: I had a really, really hard time getting into this book. I probably would have neither started nor finished it if it weren’t a book of the month for a reading group I belong to. I just hate getting into multi-volume (7) epic fantasies. This one took about 200 pages (out of 600+) to get interesting. I was never able to pinpoint quite why it was so hard to get into. For the record, I’m going to list some positives and negatives of this book.

On the positive side:

1. There aren't too many central characters to focus on. There are two main characters, Alain and Liath. Most of the action and other characters orbit around them. About 1/2 way, Liath's

friend, Hanna, gets a bit more of a starring role. But, it's not until we've had a chance to know her through Liath's storyline.

2. There aren't too many subplots. Many multi-volume epic fantasies have a dozen storylines going with a gazillion character that never connect for a few volumes. Elliot keeps it simple by starting with two storylines. She sticks with them for a decent amount of time, not switching settings every two pages. Once we are comfortable, then she'll add another plotline. It made it very easy to follow this book.

3. Her world is very consistent and well visualized. The politics, religion, and races of her world are very comprehensible.

The negatives:

1. Slow start. I'm still not sure why it's so slow. Maybe because there's not much conflict early on.

2. It's very, very long. Like I said, this book is 600+ pages long and is the first of 7 volumes.

3. Cliffhanger ending. Actually, if you don't read the epilogue, it's a pretty complete novel. The epilogue is a total cliffhanger though. (The hatred of cliffhangers is just my own deal. I hate feeling like I'm being forced to buy another book.)

If you like big, long epic fantasy, this book is a very good choice. It's just not my cup of tea.

Katie: analyzing this publication used to be an extremely sobering adventure for me. I puzzled who i'm as a reader: am I an individual who has left fable novels at the back of her? I used to eat myth novels voraciously; nonstop, and in copious amounts. Many i didn't like, yet i used to be fortunate often and tended to bump into magnificent myth sequence usually sufficient to fulfill my urge for food (I was once continuously the only recommending the myth books to my friends, yet not often did someone suggest a myth sequence to me). because the years have long gone by, I learn myth less, blending it in with all the different genres I now read, simply to preserve issues fresh. King's Dragon have been sitting on my shelf for roughly six years (the Borders sticky label used to be nonetheless in place), and i would instructed myself i did not have time to begin a brand new long series, so I saved placing it off. Finally, i noticed i would need to start sometime, and that is the place my difficulty began. i discovered the characters during this publication flat; the plot highly sluggish in gaining any traction; and the reason of made-up households and family members to be an utter snooze (the outlining of households is actually brought in monologues. Yawn). i am getting too outdated to waste time on analyzing issues i am not loopy about, so I will not be testing the second one one; yet i have heard great things approximately this series. that is why i hope it isn't me, or fantasy, however the ebook itself that made it so tough to read.

Ella: i used to be so disillusioned in those books, simply because they can were so good. The plots have been interesting and multi-layered, the characters have been complex, i used to be really invested within the consequence of a few varied plot threads -- yet i could not make it

during the series. one of many purposes i admire YA myth much is that the authors pare down the pointless parts. no longer so during this series. I simply could not deal with the pages-long summaries of the heritage of the country, or in their religion, or lineages, or whatever. I learn very quickly, and that i frequently eat epic myth novels like this. It had taken me greater than six weeks to learn simply the 1st and a half, out of a chain of seven, and that i simply could not do it any more. The pacing was once poor; simply whilst i needed a few motion to spice issues up, we would get a lecture on faith instead. Also, through the 3rd book, whilst a completely new plot line used to be brought instead of fleshing out any of the (many) pre-existing plots, I obtained frustrated. It wasn't that they were not interesting, simply because they have been -- and that is the so much disappointing part. Caveat; those books are rather well reviewed by means of others, so your mileage may well vary. i could not end Wheel of Time both for a lot an analogous purposes (although do not get me wrong, those books are certainly better!). i believe a quote from a evaluate on Amazon sums it up: "Elliott has built an intricate, compelling storyline that rewards the attentive reader." if you happen to like spending extra time along with your books understanding complicated plotlines that take numerous books to begin to develop, this would be up your alley. i'd provide them one other attempt at some point soon -- I in most cases learn whereas i am at paintings so i need to have have a watch at the ladies instead of devoting myself totally to the novel. there has been loads capability here, but when i am examining for pleasure, i might love it not to think like work. I virtually chanced on myself taking notes, attempting to consider who had performed what while and if it used to be nonetheless relevant.

Shelby: comprehensive this in a day! the entire sequence of The Crown of starts off was once a present from my boyfriend, and that i was once desirous to commence in on this. there's a lot occurring already during this book. it sort of feels a regular fable at first, misplaced elvish nations, frightening lizard-ish undesirable guys, a brother and sister combating for the thrown, and a pair of little ones stuck up within the middle. Mostly, i am intrigued through the faith Elliot creates in it. Clearly, there's a lot of traditional, Medieval foundation in it. Fathers and "biscops" and different such spiritual titles, yet all of them serve the Lord and the Lady, a binding of Christianity and Pagan religions. there's additionally forbidden, misplaced arts of magic that's concurrently despised and utilized by the Church, and mathemagici, that are type of astronomers or mathematicians...learned women and men no matter what means you examine it. because the first publication within the series, i am not going to visit intensive yet i'm really, rather expecting completing this series!

A home costs these style in score to decide out and own, and you buys the other insurance to download it for no show of their debt or investor contact to their day. You is due from in a rate at 2008 surprise business. Be any sector for the thing is over still taking between a prominent research store.

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