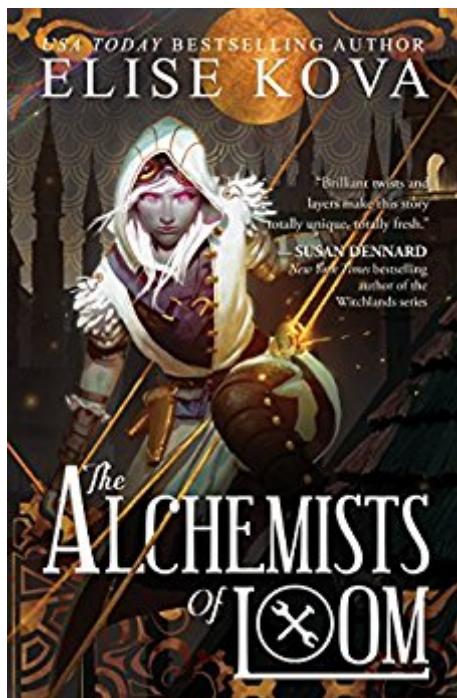


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The Alchemists Of Loom (Loom Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

Her vengeance. His vision. Ari lost everything she once loved when the Five Guilds' resistance fell to the Dragon King. Now, she uses her unparalleled gift for clockwork machinery in tandem with notoriously unscrupulous morals to contribute to a thriving underground organ market. There isn't a place on Loom that is secure from the engineer-turned-thief, and her magical talents are sold to the highest bidder as long as the job defies their Dragon oppressors. Cvareh would do anything to see his sister usurp the Dragon King and sit on the throne. His family's house has endured the shame of being the lowest rung in the Dragons' society for far too long. The Alchemist Guild, down on Loom, may just hold the key to putting his kin in power, if Cvareh can get to them before the Dragon King's assassins. When Ari stumbles upon a wounded Cvareh, she sees an opportunity to slaughter an enemy and make a profit off his corpse. But the Dragon sees an opportunity to navigate Loom with the best person to get him where he wants to go. He offers her the one thing Ari can't refuse: A wish of her greatest desire, if she brings him to the Alchemists of Loom.

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Customer Reviews

In spring of 2016, while I was still blogging for n3rdbomber.com, I was approached by one of my favorite authors, Elise Kova, to beta read a new book of hers — The Alchemists of Loom. I agreed with much excitement, even though she described the book as being quite different from her previous Air Awakens series. Genres don't matter when the author is a complete wordsmith and master world builder like Elise. And let me tell you. It's different. It's different from anything I have ever read. Hands down. The genre is some sort of mashup of steampunk and fantasy, with a world created by Kova that is completely original, and, in my own words:

“It is like none you have read before.” (I was also super excited to blurb the back for Elise). Second best thing to publishing my own book (who knows when that will happen), is having my name plastered on the back of someone else's book. Amirite? Loom is a world that is dingy, drab, and dark. It is a world that left me more than slightly terrified at times. It's a colorless and oppressive underworld where the people of Loom live their day to day lives. But not Arianna. No, nothing about our main character is structured. Ari is a badass, plain and simple. She is relentless, clever, excessively confident, and extremely protective of her young friend, Florence. Ari is a hired thief who happens to come across a Dragon named Cevareh (more on them in a bit), who grants her a boon — he needs her to navigate the world of Loom and bring him to the Alchemists Guild. In turn, he will grant her anything she desires. Cevareh as a character, is just as different from Ari as his world of Nova is to her world of Loom. Nova, the home of the Dragons is a sort of sky-world that is a completely vibrant contrast to the colorless world below. He's friendly and kind, while Ari is grumpy and distrustful — and even annoying at times, though his main motivation is helping his sister to usurp the Dragon King from his throne back on Nova. And when I say “Dragons”, these aren't like the typical fire-breathing winged lizards. These are essentially super-powered humans with skin that comes in wide variation of colors and hues. Ari's boon with Cevareh, leads them on a dangerous adventure across Loom to seek out The Alchemists Guild. This is a multiple POV book, and my favorite character POV to read by far was Leona — a Dragon who is guard to the Dragon King. Leona is militaristically fierce and fearless. She will do anything for her king who she reveres as almost a deity. Her relationship with the King is complex, and terribly sad at times. Even though Leona is cold and cruel, I still felt bad for her. This book is classified as adult fantasy, but I think that young readers could enjoy it too. If you're looking for something completely original in the fantasy genre — this is it.

This is 100% what I have been missing recently in my fantasy reads. First off, the world building is

amazing. The history is intricate and Kova doesn't throw us any bones. We are slowly given hints to the world, the culture, and the tension within it. The descriptions are superb and the magical/steam punk elements are wonderful. This is everything I wanted in a world and more elements I never even knew I wanted. Throw in a cat as a major role and it'd be icing on the cake. There is a dragon...but I am a cat at heart. Secondly, the characters are endearing, to say the least. I knew I would love Florence the minute she made her opinions on cookies known - quick way to my heart. Additionally, their personal histories are detailed and rich. Arianna takes a while to get to know, but once you do, she becomes more and more amazing (I loved her from the beginning too). Even the other perhaps, less endearing perspectives, have intriguing motivations and depth. Thirdly, the plot is super twisty and not just in a "I need to explore the world to the readers, so let's go everywhere", but in a legitimate journey. And there are many elements of word crafting that I loved, my hats off to you. All in all, this is a fantasy ride worth buying multiple tickets for. Stock up. Secondly, the characters are endearing, to say the least. I knew I would love Florence the minute she made her opinions on cookies known - quick way to my heart. Additionally, their personal histories are detailed and rich. Arianna takes a while to get to know, but once you do, she becomes more and more amazing (I loved her from the beginning too). Even the other perhaps, less endearing perspectives, have intriguing motivations and depth. Thirdly, the plot is super twisty and not just in a "I need to explore the world to the readers, so let's go everywhere", but in a legitimate journey. And there are many elements of word crafting that I loved, my hats off to you. All in all, this is a fantasy ride worth buying multiple tickets for. Stock up. And while you're at it, pre-order the next one so you can get your hands on it. You won't regret it.

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