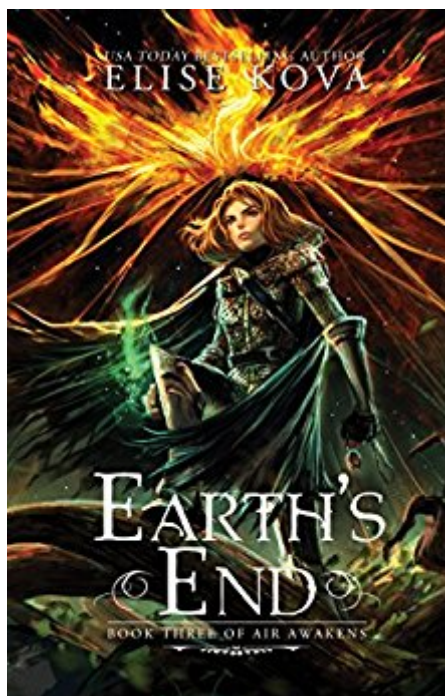


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Earth's End (Air Awakens Series Book 3)



Synopsis

A woman awoken in air, a soldier forged by fire, a weapon risen from blood. Vhalla Yarl has made it to the warfront in the North. Forged by blood and fire, she has steeled her heart for the final battle of the Solaris Empire's conquest. The choices before Vhalla are no longer servitude or freedom, they are servitude or death. The stakes have never been higher as the Emperor maintains his iron grip on her fate, holding everything Vhalla still has left to lose in the balance.

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Customer Reviews

I absolutely loved Book 1 and 2. I was almost dying to read book 3 obviously because of the cliffhanger. I still don't know how I feel about EE. The fact that I'm not currently reading it all over again (as I usually do when I love a book) is enough for me to know a lot is bothering me. I loved: Baldair, I never expected a friendship to grow with him and I loved it, he's amazing! Elecia being friends with Fritz, I'd like to read more about those two Jax! (best character of EE) Aldrik challenging the Emperor Vhalla realizing strength

doesn't come from other people's comforting

Â The battle scenes (the bird

I finished this book and read it nonstop for four hours when I should have been doing homework for my clinical psychology program. I mention my major because what is about to follow is basically going to be for anyone that needs support after they read this book. Without spoilers, I can say that this book has wonderful, extremely interesting dialogue, the writing in general is exceptional - I usually skip ahead in books if I am particularly anxious about an ending but for this I hung on every word. This book is ferocious in its energy, surprising in its depiction of war yet refreshingly unapologetic in the triumphant aspects of glory in battle. Vhalla is perfection - I highlighted many of her thoughts, observations, dialogue - she is a true hero that I haven't come across in fiction in a long time. Her balance of vulnerability and strength that is never ever bitchy, the masks she has had to wear to get through her day and then the in-between spaces when life is changing so quickly none of the masks or past selves work anymore... all incredibly relatable. I can say this for the whole book actually. Then on a more theatrical note - Kova has brought in all the charm and romance I have loved from the best animes I watched and mangas I read growing up...the banter, kinship, and romance are drenched with charisma and drama that I always loved about shojo manga. Each scene is penned for high emotional reactivity - all that being said, this is where my heart feels broken and I need serious book hang over therapy. Anyone else that needs this, feel free to read below.

****Spoilers Below******

Edited after I reread the last chapter after a good night's sleep and recovered slightly from this book induced heartache

****Aldrick's Inner Darkness:**His drinking problem had very subtle build-up that was realistic (I mean, considering his past trauma and constant exposure to the battlefield, pretty understandable to be honest) so it didn't feel like it came out of nowhere. This was the beginning of me starting to get what everyone was warning Vhalla about in the previous two books. Additionally, the bigger hints about the huge secret Aldrick has in his past that relates to his father...and his explosive defensiveness about that...also scary. Despite all of this, I really truly believed that he was healing and that his relationship with Vhalla was real. I have never read such beautiful descriptions of a soul bond (Even without the magical bond, they are a believable pair), not since perhaps Wuthering Heights but I had so much more hope for this one than for Bronte's disturbed, obsessed lovers. I mean, Aldrick was still secretive about some parts of his life and I know someone doesn't just stop drinking cold turkey but they seemed to have enough of a connection that they could work through it. But the ending...Dear God. The wild violence - their words were aimed to kill. My eyes starting tearing up with shock - the brutality of what they said to each other. Even now I can feel the knot in my throat and this sickening feeling in my chest when I

think about it. I'm so confused...I found myself thinking back on the intoxicating, relentless confessions of adoration and love and thinking to myself - this is insane. No way. This isn't happening. I can't accept this. And Vhalla, as savage as Aldrick was being - she returned it with her confession about the origin of the bond and then his reaction, just - oh my God. How are they ever going to recover and WHY, why did Vhalla have to attack Aldrick - just, rub his face in his failure. He tried everything he could - the whole time, pleading with her to take pity on him. He did the best he could considering the circumstances and AFTER I READ THE LAST CHAPTER AGAIN, I realized that it was obvious that Aldrick still completely loved her, that none of it was a lie, and he tried so hard...and actually, on the reread, I found myself angry at Vhalla! I know that she deserved her freedom but Aldrick had to wrench it out of his evil father's hands...a small victory amidst the rest he was forced to agree to - Vhalla was going to be killed if he didn't do what his father said!

And...Vhalla - just....no gratitude. No understanding. I realize that Aldrick didn't have to be so angry, that he didn't have to attack Vhalla so badly but he knew that that was the only way to protect himself - to chase her away. Even though Vhalla realized this, she chose revenge instead! They both attacked each other so terribly, again, how can they possibly recover? It poisons everything that came before...and yet, Kova throws so many curveballs I can't let myself give up hope. This has to just be Aldrick's final purge of the very real darkness that none of the readers thus far knew went so deep...and the purging of Vhalla's one secret. If they reunite, it could be a fresh start on their own terms - with perhaps less idolizing, having both seen each other's worst. Kova gave us every reason to believe in their beautiful dreams. I want Vhalla to be a Philosopher Empress and Aldrick to be an Emperor of Peace. After so much suffering, I want the current emperor to die and for them to have a long and happy reign together. Yet, I am terrified that after all the confessions of undying love and loyalty and respect and "change" - that Aldrick won't recover from what Vhalla said to him and he'll instead go mad like his father, that Vhalla will have to break the bond to be truly free, and if Vhalla ends up with anyone at all, it will be the good man that isn't complicated (which Kova seems to be setting up with this Daniel character)...I'm reminded of Amy Bartol's Under Different Stars series, Leigh Bardugo's Shadow and Bone series, or the Sin Eater's Daughter by Melissa Salisbury...all of them ended up with the stable, simple good fellow (if they ended up with anyone at all) and the original obsessive, "you make me a better man", all-consuming love or "dark, misunderstood love interest" is portrayed as misleading and unhealthy. An "anti-Beauty and the Beast" trend if you will. But people do change! After rooting for this extremely intense couple for three books...I want to believe in them again. Aldrick has anger issues but he still acted as nobly as he knew how when fighting with his father all day for Vhalla. After what she said to him, I want to believe he can heal.

I'm going to be a therapist for Christ's sake! Healing wouldn't be a "fantasy ending" - healing is real! I am so broken hearted and so worried that I won't get that ending though...considering the trend in YA fantasy right now. I'll get the - Vhalla's tired of politics, doesn't want to serve as a leader even though she's super good at it "free as the wind, tied to no one, back to the library" ending. Ideally, for me, this is the last dying cry of Aldrick's darkness and when they reunite, it will be with true, compassionate love that is wise and CAREFUL with each other's feelings and that finally, they will have no secrets. Please Kova? Pleeeeeeeeeeease? This IS a love story right!?

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