



# Sky in the Deep

*Adrienne Young*

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**Sky in the Deep** Adrienne Young

**Part Wonder Woman, part Vikings—and all heart.**

Raised to be a warrior, seventeen-year-old Eelyn fights alongside her Aska clansmen in an ancient rivalry against the Riki clan. Her life is brutal but simple: fight and survive. Until the day she sees the impossible on the battlefield—her brother, fighting with the enemy—the brother she watched die five years ago.

Faced with her brother's betrayal, she must survive the winter in the mountains with the Riki, in a village where every neighbor is an enemy, every battle scar possibly one she delivered. But when the Riki village is raided by a ruthless clan thought to be a legend, Eelyn is even more desperate to get back to her beloved family.

She is given no choice but to trust Fiske, her brother's friend, who sees her as a threat. They must do the impossible: unite the clans to fight together, or risk being slaughtered one by one. Driven by a love for her clan and her growing love for Fiske, Eelyn must confront her own definition of loyalty and family while daring to put her faith in the people she's spent her life hating.

## Sky in the Deep Details

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Author : Adrienne Young

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review Sky in the Deep for online ebook

Sabrina The Trash Queen says

RUTHLESS VIKINGS, ancient rivalries, falling for the enemy and strong has hell female and male characters.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED??

*“We find things, just as we lose things. If you’ve lost your honor, you’ll find it again.”*

I'm surprised with this book, I expected to enjoy it but not as much as I did.

The story is original and intriguing.

This book was an action-packed gift. SO MANY FIGHTS, there was never a dull moment in this, and there was also a lot of heartbreaking moments.

The characters were very believable, with their feelings, confusion and mistrust.

The main character, Eelyn has a lot of emotional struggle and development in the course of the story, and I really liked how forgiving and honest to herself she is.

I liked almost all of the characters in this book, except one that was a real asshole.

The ones I liked are pretty awesome ?!

The romance was really well built and I really enjoy it reading happening. It was slow and then fast. They are really cute together and its been some time since I read about a cute couple.

I really liked the writing style, easy and fast to read.

I'm definitely reading more of this author.

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Emily May says

1 1/2 stars. Okay, I think I might need to step away from YA fantasy for a while. I'm going to read Ash Princess and a couple of other ARCs I've committed to, but after that I'm going to start being much more selective and stop being seduced by pretty covers and exciting blurbs. I might be lying about this, but here's hoping I can restrain myself.

The thing is, Sky in the Deep feels like one more in a long line of **shallow and emotionless fantasies**. When I began reading, I knew very little about it. A few chapters in and I was thinking "wow, this is so dry and boring" so I decided to go see if any other reviewers agreed with me. Instead, I found 5-star after 5-star rating, plus a starred Kirkus review. Convinced I must have been missing something amazing, I pushed on to the end.

And I don't get it. I'm having that "I feel like I read a completely different book" feeling.

There are some attempts to do something different here. The world and fictional language feel and sound like

old Scandinavian, complete with Viking-esque clan warfare and brutal violence. But it is **all action and no substance**, and the tropes are the same ones we've seen in a thousand YA fantasy novels.

Eelyn is a standard strong warrior heroine, apparently, though the plot is mostly moved forward by her being captured and/or saved by the male characters. There's the sibling love driving Eelyn's motivations. There's the aloof love interest who is as bland as steamed cauliflower. In fact, there is not a single memorable character. The whole book lacks character complexity or depth.

*Sky in the Deep* opens with its strongest chapter. A bloody action scene ends on a cliffhanger: Eelyn believes she sees her dead brother fighting for the enemy clan. Next thing you know, Eelyn has been kidnapped by said enemy clan, the Riki, or more specifically, by her future love interest. Nothing says romance like a guy shooting you with an arrow and then kidnapping you.

After a few terrible attempts to escape, Eelyn settles into life with the Riki, who are mostly nice and welcoming to her. **Then there are pages and pages of conversation, garlic crushing, and wood carving.** Where is the suspense? The excitement? The ferocity? Why do we care?! It was SO HARD not to skim chapters.

I guess I would recommend this for fans of violent action scenes interspersed among pastoral activities. For me, this lacked some suspense, characterization or a deeper intriguing theme that would make me want to read on.

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## destiny ? howling libraries says

Wow, this review is *so* overdue, and I'm so sorry for that—I think I honestly completely forgot that I hadn't reviewed it yet, but it's been a full two months since I read this book! That said, it was enjoyable enough that it stuck with me pretty well, so... let's do the thing!

***“Vegr yfir fjor. Honor above life.”***

First of all, let me say that I went into this book feeling cautiously optimistic; the synopsis didn't completely sell me, and I was a little bit worried that it would be one of those super hyped releases that let me down. Thankfully, that was not the issue *at all*, because this book sucked me in so fast!

**I was the ice on the river. The snow clinging onto the mountainside.**

I love stories involving icy tundras and characters that fit this Viking-esque vibe, and *Sky in the Deep* definitely supplies a version of that. From the first page, there is so much action and bloodshed, and unlike many YA authors I've read, Adrienne Young doesn't shy away from showing you a little gore and devastation! Obviously we're not talking adult grimdark levels here, but if you're very sensitive, well, don't say nobody warned you!

**I hadn't lost her. I hadn't buried her. I'd only let her change into something new.**

More than anything, I loved Eelyn's character and how capable and intelligent she is. Despite the fact that she's been raised to believe certain things about her enemy tribe, she's not so set in her ways that she can't grow to recognize when things don't quite line up with her upbringing. She's got this fantastic fighter's spirit, and I truly enjoyed watching the world go by through her eyes.

**The writhing, bleeding hole inside of me closed up. I let him erase it. I let him make it go away.**

Of course, there's also the matter of the romance, which is a bit slow to build, and never overpowers the main storyline. That said, it's swoon-worthy in its own way, and I'm such a sucker for these characters that look like big, scary tough guys on the outside but end up being gushy teddy bears inside, so if you feel me on that, you'll probably appreciate Eelyn's love interest just as much as I did.

**"What are you thinking?"**

**"I'm thinking I don't want to fight anymore."**

Overall, I *so* thoroughly enjoyed this story. I loved the fighting, the romance, the depictions of faith, the mysticism in certain scenes, and the atmosphere. I felt like I should've been surrounded by icy fjords while reading this book, and it's the type of story I can happily recommend to anyone who enjoys fantasy, and that I will happily come back to again and again.

You can find this review and more on my blog, or you can follow me on twitter, bookstagram, or facebook!

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Buddy read with Taylor! ♥♥♥

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**Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

**May Owlcrate Box. Click under picture to see the unboxing. ♥**

THE GOODS

Freaking loved it!!

I loved Eelyn and Fiske! There were others too. This definitely wasn't what I thought the book was going to be but I loved it all the same. A few bloody fights and some strong women.

But the thing is, you need to read this book for yourself! Don't listen to the know it all people. Read YOUR own damn books!! I hate if someone decides not to read something I didn't like because you could miss out on your own gem. Find YOURSELF in books. I have found so many great books that way. AND, I'm pretty much just going to say the book wasn't for me or not say anything. I'm not going to tear apart books (which is pointless and stupid) I just want to love and like what I read.

Trust me. Read the books you want to read. Enjoy and keep on keeping on peeps. We don't live forever. Waste your time on things you might love! Me, I loved the hell out of this book!

Happy Reading!

Mel ???

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## Katerina says

**No words can explain how much I loved this book.**

But I will give it a try.

*“Ond Eldr.  
Breathe Fire.”*

Sky in the Deep is a **Viking-inspired tale**, following the steps of Eelyn, a fierce and devoted warrior. Her clan, the Aska, worship the god Sigr and, according to his will, they fight their enemies, the Riki, the ones who worship the goddess Thora, every five years. This **ancient blood feud** has filled the hearts of the Riki and the Aska with ingrained hatred, but the fates of the two people are intertwined in a way no one could predict. During a battle, Eelyn sees her brother, Iri, who was supposed to be dead, fighting alongside the Riki, and later she is captured by them and kept as a slave by Iri's Riki family, in order to protect her long enough to escape. Even though Eelyn was bred to kill Riki, the longer she spends time with them, the more she realises that maybe they're not so different after all. And that there is another, terrifying enemy, the enemy that comes out at night and sheds oceans of blood, that needs to be defeated, before both the Riki and the Aska perish.

*“Vegr yfir fjör.  
Honor above life.”*

Sky in the Deep is a **heartbreakingly beautiful story**. Adrienne Young's words were **arrows**, piercing and hooking my entire existence. There were a **sword**, cutting any attachment to reality and the surrounding environment, ensuring my utter focus and attention. There were an **axe**, scattering my reserved expectations and skyrocketing them into the sky. I read Eelyn's story with a deep **reverence**, I felt humble before the magnitude of Adrienne's **soulful, poetic writing**, and her rare ability to bring words and sentences to life, to make you absorb images, smells, sounds, and feelings as if they were your own. The way she described **daily chores**, like cooking, and gathering herbs, managed to transport you next to her characters. The occasional **gruesome** scenes, and the **battle frenzy** that made your stomach churn, awakened every cell in your body, all of them tuned to the drama unfolding before you. And the romance, the **wonderful, slow-burning romance**, made your heart yearn and ache in a desperate need to grasp the love that was all-consuming. In a

frozen lake, where the night sky was reflected on the ice, making it look like the sky was in the water, I realized that I gave my heart to this novel, something I hadn't felt in a while, and my eyes were wet from the hot tears that escaped in the light of this realization.

*“If I wanted to, I could kill the three of them right now. I could set this field of yarrow on fire and let myself burn with it.”*

Featuring intense battle scenes, badass Vikings and strong, well-portrayed characters, marvelous world-building and ideal pacing, **Sky in the Deep** is an enthralling, deeply enchanting debut. Matters of **religion** and **honor** are examined in a subtle way that is not preachy, the **bond of family**, both by blood and by choice, is thoroughly explored, breaking and mending every piece of me. **The entirety of the story was simply breathtaking.** Eelyn became one of my favorite heroines, she is truly rare, and an example of how YA heroines should be written. She is fierce and independent, but she is also vulnerable and broken, she faces a reality where her enemies are not so different after all, and at first she can't cope with it. Her narration is a **poem**, the anger, the relief, the disappointment, the pain and the love she felt, I felt them too down to my very core. I shared her thoughts, her emotions, and the conflict that raged inside of her and ravaged her mind and her heart. The betrayal and the hurt she went through were devastating, she just found her beloved brother only to realize she'd lost him to the enemies of her people, and as a result, I suffered from her burden.

*“I'm thinking that I wish you'd die that day.”*

Adrienne Young does not elaborate on small-talk and unnecessary dialogues. Every word whispered or shouted is **meaningful**, and the profound tethers between the characters tangible. The **enemies-to-lovers romance** made my soul sing with its beauty, it intensified the story without overshadowing it, it started as a sparkle and turned into a conflagration that enveloped me in its warmth.

**Sky in the Deep** is a **stunning debut**, a bloody saga and an ode to love, family and friendship. Do NOT hesitate to give it a chance!

*“Heill para.  
Safe travels.”*

**\*ARC generously provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\***

Review also posted on BookNest!

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**Melanie says**

*ARC provided by St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review.*

*“...the last time I saw my brother was five years ago. Lying dead in the snow.”*

*Sky in the Deep* is a debut, standalone, young adult fantasy novel that stars two different Viking clans. But this is a story about betrayal, then survival, then a choice. You all, I really enjoyed this one. I thought it was unique, well written, and has some amazing characters.

Our main protagonist, Eelyn, has lived the last five years mourning her brother's death. Every five years, the two rival Viking clans battle for no reason other than blind hatred. And five years ago, Eelyn had to watch him fall off a cliff and was forced to leave him dying below. But this book starts out five years later, with a brand new battle, yet Eelyn sees her brother, Iri, before her very eyes.

The two rival Viking clans:

- **Aska** - Worship the god Sigr, water and the sea, and Eelyn's clan where her father is the leader.
- **Riki** - Worship the god Thora, mountains and fire, and the side that Iri is currently fighting for.

Eelyn doesn't even know how to process what she is seeing, especially being on the opposite side of the battlefield with her presumed dead brother, who was once her fighting partner. And her hesitation costs her, because she ends up captured by a Riki, who spares her life for some unknown reason.

*“I'd abandoned my clansmen on the battlefield to chase after the brother who didn't even want me.”*

Then we get to follow Eelyn becoming a slave for the people who she has vowed to always kill. But slowly, she starts to realize that maybe the Aska and Riki have more in common than anyone would ever think, including a common enemy, the Herja, that will eliminate them all the same way they killed Eelyn's mother.

I will say that I thought this read a little older on the young adult scale. I mean, yeah, the main character is totally seventeen-years-old, but her brother is five years older and the story does star him, too, even if we don't get his point of view. A lot of dark things happen in this book, and the author doesn't shy away from the violence. And rape threats are used a lot during this story. Like, a lot a lot, so just know that going in. And **content/trigger warnings** for loss of a loved one, violence, murder, gore, sexual assault(s), physical abuse, slavery, talk of suicide, and war themes.

And even though this is a brutal book, the romance is so damn sweet. I mean, it's a slow burn without question, but enemies to lovers will forever be my favorite. But seeing it happen to a nice guy, too? It was really sweet and I really enjoyed it. I might even go as far to say that the romance in this book was my favorite element of the entire story.

*“I remembered the way he looked, lying with eyes staring into the sky that day I'd left him in the trench in Aurvanger. The broken boy bleeding in the snow beside my brother. I wondered if the gods had a plan then.”*

I also love the sibling relationship between Eelyn and Iri. In general, I'm always a sucker for books about siblings who unconditionally love each other, but this story had such a unique twist and dynamic, I absolutely loved unfolding the mystery behind what happened five years ago.



My heart was also truly stolen by Halvard and his relationship with Eelyn in this book. Like, best character and the most amazing little cinnamon roll ever. There is such a strong emphasis on found family in this book, and I was so here for it. Truly, these 350 pages carry a beautiful and important message about how life is about surrounding yourself with people who love and accept you, regardless of what blood runs in your veins.

Overall, I really did enjoy this one. I wish the rape threats weren't so abundant, but besides that I feel like this is a really solid story that is action packed and truly captivating. I never wanted to put this book down, and each time I picked it up I felt absolutely teleported into this world. Also, I kind of have a soft spot for girls that wield axes. I really enjoyed it, and I cannot wait to see what Adrienne Young does next!

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*The quotes above were taken from an ARC and are subject to change upon publication.*

Playlist of songs that inspired this story! ♥

Buddy read with Jules, at JA Ironside, Lilly at Lair of Books, & Amy at A Court of Crowns and Quills! ♥

This was in the May 2018 OwlCrate box!

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## Nasom says

4.5

### Full Review

This was so good!! Now I need more enemies-to-lovers books ???

I can't believe this is the first book by the author because it did not feel like a first book at all. I found it well written and engaging.

### What I liked

- The first chapter is a battle one. I love books that start off being action-y instead of having to wait until the middle of the book. So I was immediately invested in the story.
- I love books that have belief systems and this book had two: I loved learning about the history of both and why the two became enemies, how they practice their religions, the usage of their language for particular sayings and just everything about their belief in general
- I loved the plot in general: Eelyn finds her brother Iri who she thought was dead, fighting for the enemy and due to some events, she gets captured by the enemy and finds herself living among them as some type of slave. I love learning about how Iri goes from being dead to living with the enemy.
- The relationships: This book had **enemies-to-friends** and **enemies-to-lovers** and I loved both, especially the second!! I enjoyed reading about Eelyn and Fiske and watching the relationship slowly blossom. I may or

may not have reread some of their scenes after finishing the book lol. I do wish there were more of them though ?

- I liked Eelyn and in these times of annoying MCs, that was such a relief lol. She is such a complicated girl. This girl is really emotional and cries a lot but she is also a warrior who would slowly pull out the eye of her enemy to get him to talk (yeh, that happened)

### **What I didn't like**

- I think the only thing that stopped this from being a full 5 was that the last battle was a bit rushed. I am not one to enjoy reading about long battles but it felt a bit anti-climatic.

Overall, I enjoyed this book!!

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### **clara says**

*'Vegr yfir fjor. Honour above life.'*

On paper, *Sky in the Deep* sounds like everything I would want in a book: historical fiction, vikings, and an enemies-to-lovers relationship (I'm such a sucker for this trope, not gonna lie). However, I felt that the execution ultimately failed.

The writing was mediocre, the phrasing sometimes awkward and clunky, and the worldbuilding was barely present. Although *Sky in the Deep* never lacked for action, there was little substance or depth backing this.

The familial bond between Eelyn and her brother was well-written, but the characters themselves were unremarkable and unmemorable, lacking in emotional depth and complexity. The love interest, especially, is one of the blander and more boring characters I've read about in the recent past, and if you asked me to list off his motives or personality traits, I'd probably struggle to come up with any.

The romance felt artificially manufactured - Eelyn and Fiske had no chemistry together and there was no buildup to their relationship.

Personally, I think it would have worked better if they had a platonic, rather than a romantic, relationship.

The combination of bland writing and lack of complex characterisation and worldbuilding resulted in a shallow, unspectacular read. If I'm being honest, I probably wouldn't have finished this if I hadn't received an ARC.

*Thank you to **St Martin's Press** and NetGalley for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

// buddy read (kind of?) with rowan's mate and kat ?

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## Fables&Wren says

### WrensReads Review:

*Thank you to the publisher St. Martin's Press: Wednesday Books and NetGallery for providing me with a ebook copy of this beautiful book! Quotes taken from the book are subjected to change with the official release. All opinions on are mine and mine alone.*

### Release Date: April 24th 2018

Call the coast guard, I am drowning my need to become a viking. Who can I call to train me in how to use an ax and where can I get about fifty of them? As a young 20-something, I feel it would scare off all the wanna-be suitors if I carry around an ax with me at all times, don't you think?

Let's talk about my main girl Eelyn.

Side note: What I love about this story is injuries are actually taken seriously and they aren't like brushed off. Also, these are actual people and not super people who never get injured.

Eelyn is injured from a previous battle in the beginning, so she is not at her best when a Riki (another Viking clan) corners her and is about to take her life. And then - beyond all odds - her supposedly five-years dead brother stops him and saves her life. Her father believes it is their god favoring her, but she believes different and is rewarded with her skepticism because he isn't dead - he just traded in his Aska armor for Riki. When Eelyn fall captive to the Riki, she sees first hand why she is just now finding out about her brother's survival.

Eelyn lives up to every expectations of a bad-ass. Instead of using a shield, she uses a ax in one hand and a sword in the other. Even though she is injured, she is willing and able to fight for her clan. What is different than the majority of the bad-ass girls of our written-generation is that she actually does have a heart and is compassionate. She cares for her father, who has lost his son and his wife, and she cares for her fighting partner Mýra, who has lost loved ones as well.

But the Riki are the enemy, **so why is her brother on their side of the battle field now? Against his own father and sister and kinsmen?** You must read this book to see!

The romance in this book is heart-wrenching. I won't spoil who it is and what happens, but I absolutely loved it. I mean, I always love those hate-to-love type of stories, and this possibly that. It was slow and practical and the characters slowly came together and didn't feel forced.

*"The prickling of his stare ran over my body, making me shake as I lifted my hand and spread my fingers, reaching out to him. He looked at it, taking a small step toward me. He moved closer until I could feel his breath on the palm of my hand"*

Besides the romantic relations, the family and friend relations aren't pushed on you. They come very naturally and sweetly. Especially the strain between the siblings, Iri and Eelyn. They love each other but they are on opposite sides of the on-going fight between clans. It is written SO WELL.

There is a lot of fighting, some gore, and there is a type of assault that Eelyn goes through. All things that I personally don't mind at all, but some readers might (We all know how I need a little violence in my books).

Overall, this story is about vikings and fighting for what's right. **What are you waiting for?!**

WrensReads | Goodreads | Twitter | Instagram

This was the best and I am SO GIDDY WITH LOVE. If I could marry a book, man... RTC.

- - -

I'm so ready for this.

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## **Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says**

100% pure Viking awesomeness and a crapload of feels. SO GOOD.

I'll be honest. I was a little worried about connecting to the heroine. I LOVE badass girls, don't get me wrong, but it seems every book is throwing us a hard heroine who wants to cut down a bunch of people and not apologize for it, and they often have no heart or redeeming qualities. (And a lot of the times, they are written by men.) I find myself having a hard time rooting for them unless their character arc is extremely compelling. I'm particularly drawn to characters who find other means of strength and power that isn't in the form of slicing people up and being super mean, lol.

I shouldn't have been worried. **This book blew my every expectation out of the water.**

In fact, I connected so deeply with Eelyn - even within the first few pages. For me, that's rare. I loved everything about her.

Eelyn is a warrior who has lost her mother and her brother due to wars with rival clans. In fact, her clan (Aska) has a standing battle with the opposing Riki clan every five years - and it was that battle that claimed her brother's life. At the beginning of the book, we're thrown right into that battle five years after she lost him. And despite kicking major ass, she finds herself face to face with a Riki warrior who injures her - except, something stops her from killing him, and she could have sworn it was her brother.

Yep, she actually sees him, despite thinking he was dead for the past five years. And he was fighting against Aska, her clan - which he would NEVER do. It leaves her wondering whether or not she hallucinated him.

I won't spoil anything else, so I'll just say what happens next results in Eelyn ending up in the hands of the rival clan. Go in blind if you can. I didn't even read the blurb before I dove in, and it made every page a mystery as to what would happen next.

I really can't rave enough. The prose was gorgeous, and Adrienne Young has a way of taking hold of your heart with her use of language. I'm just in awe.

As usual, I'll leave you with a list of reasons you should snag this book:

- Epic battle scenes
- Vikings. Are. So. Cool. I mean, cmon. Clan wars? Yes, please.
- You'll find yourself attached to EVERY CHARACTER

- Emotional friendships
- Fantastic worldbuilding & perfect pacing
- All the feels.
- Yes, there's a perfect smidge of romance that doesn't detract from the story - it enhances it.
- And that romance may or may not be enemies-to-lovers - the best trope ever.
- Eelyn is the type of heroine we need more of in literature

So, my point is - read this book, and help me to convince Adrienne to write us another thousand books!

\*\*\*A special thank you to Wednesday Books for providing me with a gorgeous physical copy in exchange for an honest review!

My Blog ~ Instagram ~ Twitter ~ Etsy

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## **Lola says**

More often than not, when I pick a YA fantasy up, I am not expecting to be surprised. Entertained, maybe, and possibly charmed, but not surprised. Never surprised. I feel like if I do, I am setting myself up for disappointment on purpose.

Because rare are the YA fantasy books that are so original they don't immediately remind you of previous fantasy books you've read. This is why it's extremely easy for readers and professionals to market those stories as "said book" meets "said book".

It's when you're unable to do that when you review a book that you realize that what you hold in your hands is completely fresh. And isn't that an amazing feeling? To know that you may have just read a new classic that will allow for more stories about Vikings to be published in the future?

To my surprise, it is more character-driven than action-driven. It is interesting because there is strong, intense action in the beginning and for the last one hundred and so pages of the story, but what is in-between is relatively calm and measured.

That is absolutely normal, seeing that when Eelyn becomes a captive, she is unable to pursue her past activities that mostly involve fighting. She is forced into a submissive life that consists of her performing household duties and helping the enemy in different ways. Clearly, as she is doing those things, she is planning her escape and how she will get back at her kidnappers. At the same time, she is torn since the brother she thought lost forever is back into her life as one of her new enemies.

Eelyn is a fully fleshed out heroine. She may be out for blood and not progressive-thinking, but I understood where she came from. In her culture, honour goes above everything. By being taken from her group as she was fighting the enemy, she believes she has lost her honour in the eyes of her God. It is imperative that she recuperates it, otherwise she will not be allowed access to the afterworld. Her motives are justified. But I also liked that she found it in her to see the world through her enemy's eyes.

I was happy to be reading a standalone YA fantasy novel, as those are fairly rare, but now that I finished it and loved it, I want more. This is a satisfying novel, though, so this is just me being greedy.

## Shreya (?High Lady of The Night Court?) says

I did not expect to like this book so much at all. The concept is simple and the plot is also very straight forward but the emotional aspect of this book was far deeper than I anticipated. I love the whole Viking concept going on and the characters are all amazing. What blew me away the most is the writing. Adrienne Young's writing is the one of the most spectacular use of words I have seen in my life. I went into the book without reading the blurb and the two reasons I was so enchanted by this book are the protagonist (who is awesome) and the author's writing skills. I can't stop ranting about the dexterity of the writing in this book. Every sentence is written so alluring and the descriptions are done so well I could see everything happening before my eyes. **HOW DOES SHE WRITE SO WELL?!**

The Aska and the Riki have been fighting since the beginning of time. Every 5 years they meet on the battlefield to fight a war fueled with hatred accumulated through the centuries. Their children are raised to hate their opponents and are taught to fight and are prepared for battle. They each worship a different god and follow different religious paths, but eventually you see they are pretty much the same but with a different god.

Eelyn is an Aska. She lost her brother, Iri, on the battlefield a few years ago, but she sees her brother fighting with the Riki and in her shock she is captured by the Riki and is made a Dyr, which is the title for slaves. She is bought by the people her brother calls family and plans to escape as soon as possible. But in the time she spends with the Riki she is struck by how similar the life of the Aska and Riki are and subconsciously begins to realise that her opinion on the Riki was misconceived.

Watching her grow to understand why and how her brother had accepted the Riki as his family and grew to love him opens our eyes to how much weight love had in leading us to open mindedness.

I love Eelyn's character. Even though she was raised to fight and kill, she never took joy in killing anyone and only saw it through as it was her duty as an Aska warrior. I was even more impressed by the fact that she opened up enough to accept the Riki even after a lifetime of nurturing hate towards them.

Realising that the people on the other side of the battlefield are people with families and the same responsibilities as you and your people changes your perspective on war. And this view was magnified and came into clarity as Eelyn was forced to see the working of a Riki village and the similarities to her own make it so much harder to accept that the people she was raised to hate were also just that - people with their own lives.

I absolutely **loved** every part of this book and I flew through it. The book moves at a great pace and since the characters were so amazing it felt like this book was over in no time at all. If you're looking for an easy read or a good standalone I definitely recommend this to you, especially if you enjoy a bit of Viking war. I rate this book 5 stars.

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## ? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

**RELEASE DAY!**

Review also found at:  
<https://dustoffyourmachalo.wordpress....>

*Thank you Netgalley and publisher for the eARC to read and review!*

*Sky in the Deep* is not released until April 24, 2018, so this will definitely be a spoiler-free review. The setting is a re-imagined historical fiction/fantasy about Vikings. Eelyn is seventeen and a warrior in the Aska clan. During a battle against an enemy Riki clan, Eelyn discovers her brother, Iri, thought dead, is actually still alive and fighting against her clan on the battle field.

From the blurb here: *Faced with her brother's betrayal, she must survive the winter in the mountains with the Riki, in a village where every neighbor is an enemy, every battle scar possibly one she delivered.*

Essentially, this is a story about how everyone is similar and the hate and prejudices you hold are against people who underneath their differences, are just like you – with families, hobbies, hopes, fears, etc. It's about the love of family and friendship. It's about the love of the heart found in unlikely places.

I will admit, this book did not hook me until about halfway through. But, it ended up being emotional and Eelyn and the other characters finally cracked through my shriveled bitter heart.

Eelyn was hard to like at first. I wanted to give up because she was SO angry and stubborn, it didn't make for easy reading. But thankfully, just as my heart thawed, so did hers.

This is Young Adult, but there is violence (it is a Viking culture after all). I think people will enjoy this story. So check it out on April 24th!

**32% Pre-review:** This is kind of reminding me of *And I Darken* (which I dnf'd). Eelyn isn't an easy character to like.

(Quotes subject to change with final release; this is an eARC version.) *"You'll find your own end before the snow melts because your pride and your anger are more important to you than your own survival."*

Eelyn has lots of pride and anger. It doesn't make for easy reading. So far, this is fantasy only in that it is a re-imagined history of Vikings.

I'm hoping it gets better. \*fingers crossed\*

*eARC provided by Netgalley and publisher to read and review.*

Read for the MacHalo 2018 Reading Challenge.

**Theme Challenge: Read a book with pirates and/or Vikings.**

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**\*?Nani\*? says**

**Well, in the words of someone who knew exactly what they were talking about... I've just been had. So utterly and completely.**

This was a letdown; plain and simple. I don't know how else to express my shattered expectations.

This was not the "Viking" book I was eagerly awaiting to read and in fact, the only thing Viking about this was pretty much the setting and that's where it stops. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Put every cliched ya plot together, mash it up, say it's Viking, throw in some Nordic terminologies here and there, and bam - you've got a "badass" Viking fantasy. Smh

First off, for the first 200 pages (mind you, the entire book is 334 pages) nothing happens.

This book is incredibly safe and feels overly recycled. The plot is predictable and each character plays their respective clichéd role down to the bone. You know exactly how they're going to act and react to any given situation because they're all characters we've seen and continue to see.

The plot centres around a 'Viking warrior' girl who finds out her dead brother is in fact alive and she's angry and feels betrayed. That's pretty much the gist.

There was almost no context to anything else that happening and it felt like things were only happening simply for the sake of it.

I'm incredibly disappointed and I take no solace in saying this because this was one of my highly anticipated releases. As someone who loves Norse mythology when I saw 'Viking' in the description fireworks were going off in my head.

Alas, it was bland, everything was forgettable, including the characters and the struggle to finish it was REAL.

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**Cait • A Page with a View says**

Wow, this story gets going right from the start. Nothing is *ever* dull and you pick up a ton about Eelyn's main character right away. She's pretty tough - you can totally feel her conviction and drive through her POV! But I reallllly appreciate that her character and personality are SO much more than simply "fierce."

I'll admit I put this one off for a bit and didn't get to it until around Christmas because I kind of maybe judged it by the cover. I LOVE stories about Vikings, but was a bit hesitant that a YA take on that might result in an empty, ruthless MC who just wants brutal revenge and to kill everyone around her blah blah etc. I'm getting a bit tired of seeing that over and over. But this was NOTHING like that and I am so sorry I ever waited to get to it!!!

Oh my goodness - Adrienne Young *can write*. This whole story was so well done!! It felt a bit like Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Chronicles except tamer/less violent?? I kept thinking throughout the book how I really appreciated being immersed in an action-packed and detailed setting like this without having to sit through all of the descriptions of gore and violence against women that I've sadly grown used to skimming around.



This was just a fun, intense, and emotional adventure full of well-developed characters! The book description is perfect and summarizes everything without giving away any spoilers, so I'll just defer to that instead of basically rewording the whole thing here...

If you like this story then I'd recommend *The Half-Drowned King*, anything by Bernard Cornwell, or some YA stories like *Warrior Princess*, *Beyond a Darkened Shore*, *Between Two Fires*, or *The Valiant* (just because of the whole dead sibling returning & MC fighting for a previous enemy). They all have similar elements!

*Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC!*

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