



Hero

Alethea Kontis

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Rough and tumble Saturday Woodcutter thinks she's the only one of her sisters without any magic—until the day she accidentally conjures an ocean in the backyard. With her sword in tow, Saturday sets sail on a pirate ship, only to find herself kidnapped and whisked off to the top of the world. Is Saturday powerful enough to kill the mountain witch who holds her captive and save the world from sure destruction? And, as she wonders grumpily, "Did romance have to be part of the adventure?" As in *Enchanted*, readers will revel in the fragments of fairy tales that embellish this action-packed story of adventure and, yes, romance.

Hero Details

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Author : Alethea Kontis

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From Reader Review Hero for online ebook

Megan says

Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat.

I was so excited that Enchanted was a stand-alone, and now it has a sequel? And a third book? WTH?

Not that this is bad news, in fact I loved Enchanted and wanted to read more of Kontis' work, but I admit the fact that it's become a series is a bit disappointing. At least it's the story of another of the sisters, and not a continuation of the last book.

ANYWAY... YAY I GET TO READ MORE KONTIS SOON!

BOO IT'S NOT COMING OUT UNTIL OCTOBER!

YAY I LOVE THIS COVER!

Barry Simiana says

I was surprised by Enchanted - the forerunner to his book. I thought - and I was wrong - girls stuff. But no. Instead I found an intelligently written, funny mash up of every fairy tale you can imagine. I loved it. and so I waited for this sequel to emerge, secretly worried that sequelitis was going to take over.

But no.

Hero follows another of the Woodcutter sisters on a new quest. All the sisters have something magickal about them. Saturday - the star of this tale - thinks she's missed out. Not so lucky there kid. This is a romp and a half. And where Enchanted leaned a bit of the fairy tales that inspired it (but by no means copied, Enchanted is very much an original idea), Hero is a bright brand new adventure, almost boys own stuff with girls in the foreground. The background fairy stories are still referenced, but they are more subtle, letting Ms Kontis weave her own touch through them.

These books are a riot of Story (capital S intended). They take the vanguard on the new Modern Fairytale. Girl or boy, have a go at these. Exceptionally well written, clever, funny, girl-breaks- world-girl-gets-kidnapped-finds-boy-kills-witch-releases-dragon-finds-long-lost-brother-and on and on. In a way, it's a fairy tale version of Indiana Jones movie. It just doesn't stop.

Not just a GoodRead, but a Bloody GoodRead.

Krista Wright says

I enjoyed this even more than the first book in this series. The writing is definitely much better in this one, and once again the mash-up of fairytales is just fantastic! Magic mirrors, enchanted swords, sleeping spells,

evil witches, and a dragon? Yes! I love Saturday as a character...she is definitely not a typical girl, and I love her and Peregrine together. At this point I think I will read anything by Alethea Kontis.

Anne says

This is the second book in Kontis' Woodcutter Sisters series, and while I loved *Enchanted*, this one just didn't have the same spark. I think it boils down to not really liking Saturday all that much.

Oh! don't get me wrong, I didn't *hate* her, she just didn't make me want to stand up and cheer. I *wanted* to like her tough-girl personal, but she just seemed kinda oafish, prickly, and annoying.

I ended up wanting to learn more about Snow White, or her sister, Wednesday, or her pirate sister (can't remember what day of the week she was), or...well, pretty much anyone's story but Saturday's.

Anyway, I *did* like her love interest, and his BFF the chimera. Both of them were interesting additions to the story. I especially liked how comfortable he was wearing women's clothes. Like it was a non-issue that he had to pretend to be a girl for all of those years. Very cool!

I guess between the fact that there was no real recognizable fairytale (to me, anyway) driving the story, and not being super-crazy about the MC, I just didn't enjoy this as much as I was hoping I would.

On the upside, I didn't hate it, and it did make me curious about the rest of the family & all of their adventures. I'll definitely be checking into those as soon as I possibly can.

Also reviewed for:

Caitlin says

I have no idea what consists of spoilers, so I've hidden my review because of some things I mentioned that some people might not enjoy.

Although this is the second in a series, it could also make a fine standalone book, even though I strongly suggest reading the first, not only to understand some things they mention in *Hero* but also because *Enchanted* is equally as amazing as *Hero*.

I'm not going to lie, I was disappointed by Saturday being the next sister to get a book. I just didn't really enjoy her that much in *Enchanted*, but after reading this book, I'm disappointed in my earlier self. Saturday is charming, possibly more so than Sunday was in *Enchanted*. She is ambitious and even when she's annoying, she's still endearing.

Peregrine is another story. I both loved and hated him. When he was introduced in the prologue, I felt for him. But as I kept reading, he became a little bit more creepy. His obsession with her is probably understandable, seeing as how he's had visions of her for a very long time, but it rubbed me the wrong way. I

hated him for those reasons, but I loved him because of reasons I cannot explain. I didn't want to like him, because he felt a little bit creepy in the beginning but I found myself loving him all at the same time. I will say that, by the end of the book, he had captured my heart completely. He does not compare to Rumbold, but he's a different person entirely and so he doesn't need to be a copy of Rumbold.

I LOVED Betwixt, and I have no shame in admitting he was my favorite character in the book. He was caring, loyal and hilarious. He stole my heart. That's not even mentioning the perfect friendship between Betwixt and Peregrine. My dying wish is for Betwixt to have a role in the next books, please, oh please.

I loved that there was a witch involved, period, but when Cwyn was introduced, it made it even better. I loved the idea of the witch using the raven's eyes to see, specifically. It made me feel more on edge, because whenever the raven came, the witch was right behind. And I HATED the witch. I guess there's no shame in admitting that, but the moments when the witch showed up were horrible. And I never felt safe. I was always nervous, because I always thought the witch was going to find Saturday in parts of the book where I didn't want the witch to find her.

I also want to mention the final chapters in particular because they painted a picture. Alethea Kontis wrote the entire book perfectly, but the final chapters were particularly amazing. I hate using cliches, but I felt like I was there. Those last few chapters deserved five stars all on their own. A definite round of applause.

In conclusion, the writing continued to be amazing, the world building is still perfect and Alethea Kontis managed, once again, to write a really great book. I bow to her.

Yune says

Saturday, one of seven sisters in the Woodcutter family, feels dull in comparison; her siblings have married royalty, run off to sea, or gone off to the realms of Faerie. Naturally, she falls right into an adventure of her own, complete with a cursed prince, a good-natured chimera, and an eyeless witch who's threatening the world beyond the mountaintop domain where our heroes find themselves trapped.

I think I'm bowing out of this series; while this book wasn't bad, it lacked the depth that intrigued me in its predecessor, and its mishmash of characters and plot elements and magical doodads -- homage to various fairy tales -- just made it feel incoherent rather than sprightly, especially since some things seemed to pop up and then vanish when convenient. Inconsistent pacing and a habit on the author's part to blithely skip over some minor but awfully useful explanations made me skim through the last part of this.

The worst part was the villain, the lorelei who wants to open a gate to the demon world. Although her eyes were stolen, she uses a raven familiar to see for her ((view spoiler)), and what could be a deliciously creepy aspect just becomes a source of comic silliness, as the lorelei fails to notice that a man is now pretending to be her daughter, or that the captured woodcutter lad is actually a girl (Saturday). The situation had a lot of potential that I frankly found wasted, and the frothy nature of the story couldn't make me overlook a lackluster narrative.

Lubinka Dimitrova says

My kind of heroine:

"Instead of batting their eyes at idiots, young girls will start taking up stick swords to slay a dragon and save the prince."

Jenna (Bookiemoji) says

Read this review on Jenna Does Books.

My favorite fairy tale writer, Alethea Kontis, pulls off another slam dunk with HERO, the second of her stories about the Woodcutter sisters. HERO is a gender-bending, swash-buckling tale about Saturday, the second youngest sister to Sunday, whom we previously met in Enchanted. While Sunday was a whimsical girl with an art for words, Saturday is a strong and willful girl with plenty of heart (plus some added snark). Her story proved to be just as enthralling as the first!

Alethea has a knack for reminding readers why many of us love fairy tales to begin with. In this entry we are once again given a delightful story with some obvious (and some not-so-obvious) nods to classic tales, such as The Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin and more. It was so much fun picking out the various references. Just like Enchanted, HERO is built upon these familiar stories, but her overlying story and characters are entirely of her own creation. You never think "Wait, this is just a retelling of Cinderella!" or "I feel like I've heard this before..." because Alethea's story and characters are wholly unique and distinguishable – not to mention they have so much more personality.

Alethea made some daring decisions in developing the roles that the ill-fated Saturday and Peregrine would play in HERO. Gender issues are front and center in this installment, and her characters go against the "status quo" in every way possible. I'm not an active pusher of the feminist movement (though I am 100% behind equal rights, don't get me wrong – I am female), nor do I require "girl power!" in everything I read, but I certainly appreciate the gender role reversal in HERO. The... er, extent... to which Alethea reverses the roles of her two leads is unlike anything I've every read before. The gender role reversal also adds to the humor within the story and helps to develop the personalities of the two characters. Peregrine, for instance, was even more endearing because of his place in the story. I have difficulty choosing between him and Rumbold as best fairy tale male lead ever... They're just so different!

Just as the tagline asks "Does romance have to be part of the adventure?", HERO is more about action and adventure than it is about love and ballroom dances... In fact, there's not a single dance in these (almost) 300 pages. (That is, unless sword fighting can be considered a dance? Some think it is, but I digress.) My point is this: There are more bantering words thrown between the two main characters than there are sweet nothings. The main characters have to use their brains and brawn to fight an evil witch if they want to survive to the end of this story. They have to decipher friend from foe and they have to learn to trust each other before they can even consider falling in love...

...Alas, as the tagline question reveals, there is some romance in HERO. But that's kind of a given, right? This is a fairy tale... and what is a good fairy tale without romance? Plus, if you stick two equally awesome characters together in a dark and dreary cave with limited living space, they're sure to form some sort of bond. In fairy tales, that bond usually leads to romance. So no matter how much Saturday wishes she could fight it, her fate is inevitable. Now whether or not she can survive long enough to follow through with said romance... that is the real question. Luckily, Saturday's adventure is full of excitement, error and unexpected turns before the ooey gooey romance begins to take over.

While the dialogue exchanged between the characters had its ups and downs during the scene in which Saturday first encounters Peregrine and the witch, Alethea certainly appears to have refined her already effortless writing style in *HERO*. (Some of the issues I had in this particular scene may be limited to the early copy I was provided and final edits may have fixed these items for the final copy.) There are many quotable passages within these pages, and the story progresses in a way that is both exciting and unpredictable. Only a master of storytelling can accomplish all these things within a single novel. And although the book gets off to a somewhat slow-ish start, it quickly picks up with the throw of an enchanted mirror. Not to mention, the friendship between Peregrine and his chimera friend (cleverly named Betwixt) fills even the early pages with a bro-mance that feels genuine and more fully-realized than many friendships in YA. Betwixt has the honor of delivering some of the best lines in the book, even. If you like chimeras, you absolutely must meet Betwixt.

If you found much to love about the first installment, you will surely find even more to love in *HERO* – the story will leave the reader wishing for thirds! (Luckily, at least one more book has been confirmed by the author; *Beloved*, the story of the third youngest sister, Friday.)

Rachmi says

2.5 stars

"Instead of batting their eyes to idiots, young girls will start taking up stick swords to slay a dragon and save the prince."

This time is Saturday's story. After I finished *Enchanted* I was looking forward to read this book, as I want to know the Woodcutter girl who doesn't like to go to the ball and wearing beautiful gown.

I think her adventures in this book are more interesting. I love it more than Sunday's in *Enchanted*. Although this book doesn't have many retelling of fairytales, at least not much I know, Saturday's adventure to become a hero is more appealing to me. Not to mention the fact that she is the one who rescue her hero, and also rescue the world from the evil witch. I know that Saturday is a badass heroine since I read Sunday's story, what with that ax and helping her father and brother in the wood. So it isn't surprising knowing that she's the hero the title refers to.

However, it was a bit hard for me to connect with her and other characters, especially Peregrin, her love interest. I didn't connect with her instantly, unlike with Sunday and Rumbold. I think it was mostly because she's a bit different in first few chapters than in *Enchanted*. Here I see her as a mopping and whinny character in the beginning of the story. I know that she wants to have her own adventures and thinking that she's the only one who doesn't have magic, but the way she keeps talking about it is a bit annoying.

There is also problem I encountered at the beginning, the flow doesn't run smoothly, in my opinion. There are things that happen at the same time with many different characters. The movement between one scene to another felt jumpy. It was like one paragraph I read one thing but then in the next paragraph another thing happens without so much description to begin with. It also happens with many characters (view spoiler), so they disappear but then pop up out of the blue at the end of the story.

All in all, as much as I enjoyed the book, I'm not that satisfied with it. I think in a way, as a full story *Enchanted* is still a bit better than this one.

Trisha says

"Those of us who are Fate's playthings often have little choice where our path takes us."

This was a great adventure and an interesting meshing of some of the fairy tales we all know and love.

But this one wasn't quite up to the standard of book 1. It was good on it's own but not quite as amazing. Saturday is kind of a tough girl to love. she's gruff and stubborn and often confused by the emotions of there. She does come off like she doesn't care but...sometimes she does.

I think another stumbling block for this one is the beginning. A lot of it is just throw in confusing and it takes a good 10 chapters to really sort out some of the odder points. And the smoke moment between mother and daughter - that whole thing felt childish and silly. It felt out of place with the rest of the book....

all in all, it was good and I did enjoy it. I just didn't love it.

Jessica ❁ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

4.5 stars

RTC.

Princess Debz says

I approached Hero with low expectations, only because there was no way it could possibly measure up to the genius that is Enchanted. Just goes to show that I don't know everything, because Hero was equally, if not more compelling and enchanting than Enchanted. Something about Saturday's story just touched me in a way that Enchanted wasn't able to, and that made my experience reading this book even more powerful.

Saturday herself was an amazing character. The contrast between her and Sunday is enormous, and not just in height. I have to admit I didn't pay much attention to Saturday in Enchanted, and now I'm wanting to go back because she is such an interesting character. She's the oddball of the family, with her strength and lack of magical ability, but she doesn't let that stop her.

Gender roles are challenged, but in a very skillful manner. Saturday doesn't worry about settling down. She has adventures to embark on! She's independent and doesn't spend her time worrying about boys, which is something we need with the weak, bland heroines that are all over YA.*glares at Twilight* That being said, there is still romance fully present in the story, but it isn't the focal point of the novel. And more than the actual romance, time is spent focusing on the companionship between the two, which made their more romantic moments that much more genuine.

And now to the meat of the novel: the plot! I absolutely loved it. Right off the bat there's a ton of excitement in the air. And that's just the start! Sometimes it seemed like there was maybe even too much happening at

once, but then things would calm down for just a moment so we as readers could sort things out and catch a breath before the next adventure. It takes skill to create such a powerful, exhilarating, and beautiful novel, and for that I applaud Alethea!

Despite the lack of a basis in any one particular fairy tale, the whole feeling of the novel was that which lies in the dusty fairy tale collection you grew up with; a mixture of familiarity and knowing to expect the unexpected as you embark on an all new journey. It's a feeling that never gets old.

Melodramaticfool says

SEE THIS REVIEW ON MY BLOG!

Melodramatic Reviews

Meet Saturday Woodcutter, a fierce, muscular girl who would much rather gallivant around the forest chopping down trees with her axe, than dance at a ball least alone in a dress!
A girl who is a fun rolemodel for tomboys out there!

While Enchanted was a mash up of fairy tales, Saturday's was more of an adventure. We pick up with the Woodcutter family's lifestyle completely changed thanks to the golden egg laying goose, so they find themselves with more steady financial support. Saturday's axe has changed into a sword, and she finds herself questioning her purpose and if she's really all that special since she believes herself to be the only non-magical person in her family.

But once she summons an ocean in her backyard, she finds out that she is more than she could ever imagine. Saturday sets out on her journey, but once she is captured by a witch she meets an Earl's son, a man who is more than he appears. They will need each other's help in order to get out of their predicament, and love will of course be part of the adventure, though Saturday wishes it didn't have to be so.

I once again found myself falling in love with the Woodcutter family.

They are all so unique, close together, and amazing. Saturday is such a brave woman that is an admirable heroine in this book and her love interest, Peregrine, is quite admirable and unique himself, and their chimera friend tops off the trio perfectly. Though the story is slightly cheesy, it is really enjoyable and fantastical none the less.

We don't get much insight into the villains from *Enchanted* until the end, which leaves me wondering if things will be summed up in Friday's book, or if there will be more?

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I *knew* that Enchanted couldn't be a single book! How wonderful!!

I wonder if it will focus on one of the other sisters?! Or the brother! Oh boy, **oh boy!**

## **Mel (Daily Prophecy) says**

-It was interesting to see how different Saturday is when you compare her with Sunday. I liked her journey and development, seeing how she realizes she has some magic on her own. I think I liked Sunday more, but Saturday was pretty tough!

-I liked that Peregrine played a woman to survive and how Saturday rescues him. Their relationship went a bit fast, but I liked their chemistry and they were cute together.

-I couldn't point out the separate fairy tales, so I'm a little confused which tale(s) this story was based on.

-The plot was filled with action, but sometimes I was a bit bored. I felt something was missing; something I did find in the first book.

Overall, a good story, but it didn't live up to my expectations after reading Enchanted.

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## **Branwen Sedai \*of the White Ajah\* says**

*"Men are bastards. Amazing, wonderful, fabulous, heartbreaking bastards."*

*"I destroy everything I touch. What sort of destiny is that?"*

Althea Kontis blew me away with the first novel in this series, Enchanted, and I was equally impressed with this follow up book as well. In fact, I may have enjoyed it *even more* than Enchanted. Huh, wasn't expecting that!

In this second book Woodcutter daughter number six, Saturday, takes center stage after she inadvertently throws a mirror out her window and creates an ocean in her backyard. But when she sets sail with her pirate sister Thursday she gets kidnapped and is taken to a mountain on the top of the world and forced to complete tasks set forth to her by an evil witch. Hijinks ensue. Romance blossoms. And Saturday comes to learn just how strong she really is.

My two favorite aspects of these books are the highly developed characters and the beautiful descriptive writing. It's no secret that I am a huge fan of fairy tales, and this story is just such a huge mash up of various fantasy and fairytale tropes it made me want to dance around with joy! This book makes me think of butter; warm, sweet, and dripping with happiness and magic. I loved it! And I also loved watching Saturday grow into herself.

Another wonderful fairytale that I would recommend to anyone who loves this type of story!

*Peregrine caught her by the neck and kissed her hard. "In case we never get this chance again."*

*She kissed him back. "We will. We have to."*

*"Because you're going to save us?"*

*Saturday smile. "Because we're going to save each other."*

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