



Spireseeker

E.D.E. Bell

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As family and friends are taken from their midst and turned to a life of mindless devotion to their new Master, the creatures of Fayen begin to lose hope. But none of this suffering has reached the peaceful island where Beryl lives with her grandparents. Then when a calm fall afternoon is interrupted by a brutal attack on her family, Beryl is forced to flee the only home she's ever known. As she travels, Beryl discovers who, and what, she really is and how the fate of the world may depend on her own.

This quirky fantasy offers a unique take on a classic epic journey. Centered on themes of empathy, loyalty, and personal burdens, *Spireseeker*, Bell's debut, is best known for its genderless elves, magical creatures, and talking animals. It's different!

Spireseeker Details

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Author : E.D.E. Bell

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From Reader Review Spireseeker for online ebook

Llewellyn says

I won this book through GoodReads First Reads, and I am very glad that I did.

Spireseeker is about an ordinary person who finds out they're special, then goes on an epic journey to save the world.

It's a basic premise that's been done a million times.

But there are so many things that make this book stand out and that give it a very modern and progressive feel.

- A vegan/vegetarian main character
- A main character who is female/genderless
- Crossdressing/ignoring gender expectations
- Asexual/gay characters
- Families based on love rather than blood

There were a few things that I didn't really like. My copy had a few typos, I could do without the religious stuff, and a lot of the conversations were difficult for me to relate to because I could just never picture myself saying anything close to those things in those situations. But it was nothing major and nothing that really took away from the story. Overall, I really liked the story and the characters. It was sort of dark but also sort of fun and uplifting at the same time.

I would recommend this book and would give it 4.5 stars.

Trigger/content warnings: A hint of a rape threat, a few vague references to prostitution, torture, slavery, death, and violence.

Jim Simpson says

It's a good fantasy with a couple of interesting plot devices that intersect with the modern world. The pacing comes and goes, and after a long buildup it felt like it ended rather quickly. That's a testament to the characters: I looked forward to checking in with them every few days, and was a little sad when it was finally over.

Katie Cross says

For me, Spireseeker had a Wind in the Willows kind of quality to it, in the fact that I just wanted to snuggle in with the characters and stay. I got very comfortable in that world and familiar with the characters. One of the things that this book really had going for it was Beryl, the MC. I don't typically enjoy characters with such naiveté and innocence, but I really like Beryl. I think it helps that the other characters in the book openly acknowledge it, as they are always bailing her out. It's a journey story, so it was constantly changing and introducing new characters, which made it very fluid. The book is very well put together and easy to read.

There have been some reports that it's a slow book, and I can see that parts they mean, but didn't really hit that myself. When I tackle epic fantasy, I do it expecting more scenes with history and description. I felt like she had some scenes that really just got us more oriented in the world but didn't necessarily move the action forward, but I think any love of epic fantasy will find it to their liking. The only thing that I could really say stuck out to me about the book is that some of the conversation felt stilted/contrived. You could tell it was set up that way to give information regarding the world, but in the 575 pages that was only a few times.

Overall, I really like this book and plan to follow the author for future works. It would be a great read for a younger audience of 8-10, as well as adults that enjoy a feel-good, clean story.

Laura says

I had the pleasure of meeting the author at a Comicon earlier this year. She sold me on her writing when we were talking and I picked up all of her books. Spireseeker is a blend of familiar themes (e.g. coming-of-age, chosen one) and fresh perspectives (e.g. genderless vegan elves). It had a few rough edges stylistically, but was overall an enjoyable read and the characters were a delight to follow.

Vanacarobert says

It's a little bit quirky in all of the communicating with animals, and there were several of cliches, but they only served to make the story more charming and compelling. The plot was well thought through, held both predictable and unpredictable moments. This story made me laugh, cry, and gasp aloud, and after reading as many stories as I have and being desensitized to those responses, it is a real treat to be able to feel that involved in a story.

Andrea Freeland says

I won this book in the Goodreads first reads giveaway, it was a bit long and took awhile for me to read but I did enjoy it. I love the fantasy genre, anything that involves elves and other mythical creatures is a plus in my book. It was well written and I would definitely recommend this book to other fantasy lovers.

Kat Evans Hernandez says

One of the best fantasy novels I have read. Anything that involves elves and mythical creatures is a makes for a great book to me. This book really sets the imagination jumping. When reading this book you are whisked away to another world that is so fun and creative. Definitely going to pass this book along to all my book reading friends!

Brenda Ayala says

Spireseeker. Kind of reminds me of Eragon, except not pompous and preachy. There's the focus on harmony between the elves and everything in nature, from the more majestic creatures like elves and lions to the plants and insects. I really loved the little nuances for each character and each animal. It made it so much more fun to read about each little pit stop on Beryl's journey. And what made the different stops better was the obvious differences between each group. Obviously, the wolves knew far more and were able to shed some light on Aegra's ability to turn people into devoted slaves.

I think the ending was fairly obvious. Almost as soon as Beryl's gift was revealed, I realized how the story was going to end. But the best part of the novel was that this knowledge didn't take away from the story at all--I still wanted to see what would happen along the way, and just how exactly it would come to pass. The unicorns were an awesome addition, and I wish that their sense of humor were a little more prevalent. I think Beryl did a great job of honoring that sense of humor and joy, but I didn't see as much of it in the unicorns as I would have liked. Granted it was in the middle of the slaughter of the entire world....

I loved, loved Jura and Tann. Since I read The Taking of Stonecrop first, I already knew Tann very well, and I'm pretty sure I mean Rikian at some point too. It was nice to have seen them in their younger days first and then see Tann especially in later years. Jura was so feisty and just all around amazing, although I will admit I got frustrated sometimes with how little she would reveal at a time. Despite that, she was such a pleasure to read about and I would get antsy for her to come back into the fold when she flitted off somewhere away from Beryl.

Beryl was a bit too helpless for my taste, which is why Kick was by far my favorite. Kudos to the author for creating such a kickass (get it?) heroine! She wasn't afraid to do what needed to be done, and had the skill and badassery necessary to pull it off. There's no way Beryl would have lasted even a week without her, which was painfully obvious over and over again.

Yep, I'm happy with this one.

Ce says

I enjoyed the book Beryl is innocent yet strong. Each character is well developed with defined personalities. The only true bad character is Aegra, who's self darkness is poisoning the world of Feyen. I liked the Christian themes in the book of have faith on the creator, each elf having their own talent that is to be used for good, and the choice is an important part of who we are.

P.A. says

An enjoyable reading experience. Well rounded characters that are each distinctly unique with personalities you can't help but become attached to. Good flowing story line with perfectly described surroundings.

FTC stuff; I received this book for free through a Goodreads, Firstreads contest and I'm very thankful for it. By looking at the cover I would have thought this was a young adult book, it is a good book for young adults, but it is also an enjoyable reading experience for adults. Sometimes as adults we forget about the joy that believing in unicorns and elves can bring us.

Redcat2 says

I really enjoyed reading this book. In particular, I liked how the animals in the book were portrayed. They all had unique personalities and characteristics that were specific to their species. I got the impression that the author had put as much thought into developing her animal characters as she did the humanoid characters.

E.D.E. Bell says

I wrote this book. And, I do love it!

If you like unconventional fantasy fiction, or stories that challenge our perceptions, I'd love for you to try it out.

This book includes strong females, magic, talking animals, a touch of humor, and an adventure to save the world. Hope you enjoy!

Alisha Torres says

I won this book in a GoodReads win and apologize for my late review. Unfortunately my computer was out of commission until yesterday.

I love ALL stories involving elves, and I was not disappointed with this story. It brought the story of the elves in a new and refreshing light. It can finally be said that I've found an author who can bring an old story to the page in a new way. Wonderfully written and entertaining. I had fun with the characters the whole way through.

Monica says

If you are a fan of the fantasy genre then you will enjoy this new take on the subject by debut author E.D.E.

Bell. SPIRESEEKER is a fun and exciting adventure through the world of Fayen. The author does an excellent job developing the characters and the world they exist in. As you read, you truly care about the characters and struggle alongside them through their adventures.

The world of Fayen is protected by a group of elves that each have a unique blessing. The use of these blessings by the elves is one of the truly unique aspects of this book. For example, some of the blessing allow the elves to communicate with animals, which makes the animals a key part of the story. This interaction between the main characters and the various animals they encounter on their journey sets this book apart from past fantasy novels.

The author also does a great job of increasing the tension between the good and bad characters as the book progresses. As a result, I found myself staying up way too late to continue reading and find out what would happen next. I highly recommend this book and I look forward to more stories from E.D.E. Bell especially if they are set in the fascinating world of Fayen.

Klancy Hoover says

I really wanted to like this book, but I just was not able to get into it. Why you might ask? I'm not entirely sure. After all, the storyline was enjoyable due to Beryl's adventures throughout the magical world of Fayen. She encountered many different creatures, each of whom impacted her journey in different ways, which drove the central story forward.

I guess my problem is with Beryl herself. Every time she was in a hostile area, she almost always advertised her presence by healing creatures in the town. Basically, she just threw herself out on the streets ALONE in search of harmed creatures without considering the thought that maybe she should lay low and refrain from putting herself in danger. And then when she was captured, she questioned how she was captured in the first place.

Beryl aside, the other characters were well-developed and very likable. Kick was my favorite character. Her sass and kick-butt attitude added humor to the story that I really appreciated in times where I found myself wanting to put the book down.

This was not my favorite fantasy story, but it was enjoyable. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys epic fantasy stories!
