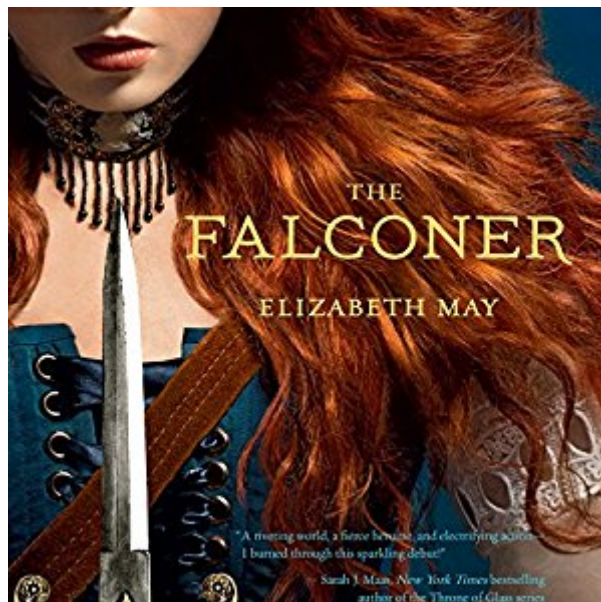


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The Falconer



Synopsis

Edinburgh, 1844. Beautiful Aileana Kameron only looks the part of an aristocratic young lady. In fact, she's spent the year since her mother died developing her ability to sense the presence of Sithichean, a faery race bent on slaughtering humans. She has a secret mission: to destroy the faery who murdered her mother. But when she learns she's a Falconer, the last in a line of female warriors and the sole hope of preventing a powerful faery population from massacring all of humanity, her quest for revenge gets a whole lot more complicated. The first volume of a trilogy from an exciting new voice in young adult fantasy, this electrifying thriller blends romance and action with steampunk technology and Scottish lore in a deliciously addictive listen.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 24 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: September 30, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00NSQJDUQ

Best Sellers Rank: #173 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fairytales & Folklore #465 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural #567 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller

Customer Reviews

“I’m like him. I’m a monster, too.” I plunged into this story with hopes of enjoying a new YA fantasy. This series was highly recommended to me and I finally got a chance to read The Falconer. I’m glad I did. The characters intrigued me and Aileana was a welcome surprise as a heroine. Aileana is a Falconer. She’s the last one standing. She was born to kill the fae. She learned to fight and to kill after she witnessed her mother’s murder. Her mother could have been a falconer too. The power comes from the female bloodline. Unfortunately, before she was able to learn how to defend herself, she was attacked and died. Aileana wants revenge. She needs to destroy the one who hunted and killed her mother. She won’t give up until she accomplishes this task. In the meantime, she’s happy disposing of the fae she runs into. Aileana has been trained by Kiaran, a

daione sith. He's powerful and dangerous. She met him after the death of her mother and he has been preparing her to fight the fae from then on. Aileana doesn't know why he attacks his own kind and he doesn't know the reason behind her hate for the fae. Aileana does have another fae in her life. She has Derrick. He's a pixie who likes his honey, helps her fix her ripped clothes and can conceal her from the fae. He reminds me of Jenks from The Hollows series by Kim Harrison. I liked him. There is also Catherine, her best friend. Catherine is sweet and she covers for Aileana when needed. Catherine's brother, Gavin also plays a big part in the story. Aileana had feelings for him before he left for Oxford two years ago. Aileana's father is almost non-existent throughout only making an appearance when he thinks she needs to find a suitor and get married soon. I'm not usually into the Steampunk genre but none of it bother me while reading this novel. Instead, I love that Aileana knew how to create contraptions, fly something close to a helicopter, and make awesome weapons to defend herself. She was smart, innovative and a great fighter. She was also broken, her grief was constantly present. Kiaran was so swoon-worthy. He was a very attractive fae who didn't say much and hid too many things but whom I could tell cared for Aileana more than he wanted to. I can understand how someone could be faestruck by him. "I will worship thee." There were some things in the Falconer which reminded me of The Fever series (one of my favorites). This didn't deter me from liking the story. If anything, I wanted to keep reading it. One thing I hated was the ending. Major cliffhanger. I was not expecting it. Fortunately for me, the next book is out.

4/5 Fangs

I've heard wonderful things about The Falconer so I went in with fairly high expectations and that led to a bit of disappointment. Set in an alternate history filled with intriguing inventions and a new spin on the Seelie, Unseelie, and Solitary Fae, I thought that this just had to be the book for me. Not quite. Aileana never struck me as anything special. I liked that she invented her own weapons and other useful devices, though it always seems to come in as a side comment, something she just does (I wanted to know more about the inventions!) but otherwise she's a Faery hunter. A chosen one, the last of her "kind." And so she spends the book preparing to face the big bad and save the world. Woo... haven't seen that one before... Honestly, I wanted Kiaran's story. He was mysterious enough to make me curious with this layer of humanity he tried to hide behind his Fae nature. His history starts revealing itself closer to the end but he (and Derrick, the pixie) held my attention over Aileana. Then there was this romance-thing. It started out looking like there would be a love triangle between Aileana, Kiaran, and Gavin (her best friend's brother). Thankfully that wasn't the case but the way it's written that isn't really confirmed until later. But the romance that was there kind of

caught me off guard in the "oh this is actually going to be a thing now" way. I was shipping them, don't get me wrong, but it was almost a zero to sixty scenario, with the world ending and whatnot, so it didn't feel real, if that makes sense. Despite following the Chosen One trope and introducing what could have been a love triangle (the fact that it wasn't is a redeeming point but the lead-up to that particular reveal was annoying), I loved the way The Falconer took the Fae and twisted the legends into something new. I love all things faerie, especially the stories of the Seelie and Unseelie Courts, which are mentioned here so hoping to see more of them. Combined with the Scotland setting and the alternate history, I think the backdrop for this story was my favorite part. As for the story, I liked the beginning because it did catch my attention. Then the story slowed down and nothing really happened. I mean, Faeries attacked but it was kind of the same thing over and over while the doomsday clock kept ticking and Aileana didn't move to stop it until the last minute. Then the end was one big action scene ending in a massive cliffhanger that I would assume was intended to make you NEED the next book, but I didn't feel that. Honestly, I reached the end and felt a mild interest in the sequel but nothing stronger than that. The Falconer had the potential but never quite reached it for me. Here's hoping The Vanishing Throne does a better job of holding my attention. This one was just an average fantasy.

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