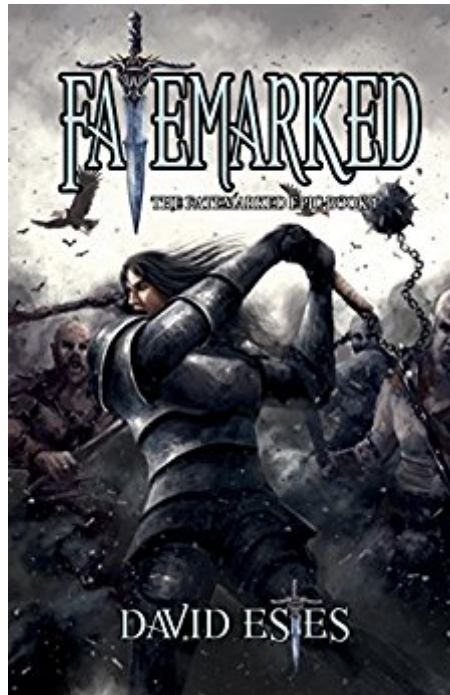


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Fatemarked (The Fatemarked Epic Book 1)



Synopsis

In the spirit of fantasy epics like *Throne of Glass* and *The Lord of the Rings*, enter a world of magic and dragons, kings and queens, and victory and defeat, during a time when honor and valor still meant something. No one knows why the fatemarked are born with godlike powers. Until kings start dying... An ancient prophecy foretold their coming, the chosen few who will bring peace to a land embroiled in a century of mistrust and war. They are the fatemarked. Misunderstood. Worshipped. Hated. Imprisoned. Their time to step into the light has come. Roan Loren... He has hidden his mark of power his entire life, fearing the damage it might cause to those around him. When a series of ill-fated events send him on the adventure of a lifetime, Roan must face the truth of who he really is and what role he must play in the future of the Four Kingdoms. Annise Garic... Reluctant princess. Fierce brawler. When her family members start mysteriously dying around her, Annise is forced to decide whether to abandon the kingdom she's despised her whole life, or stand and fight for what is rightfully hers. Grey Arris... Thief. Orphan. Womanizer. Everything goes wrong the night Grey abandons the western princess during their midnight rendezvous in the cryptlands. Hunted by the law and a murderer of myth and legend, he must find a way to protect his sister and become the man he was always meant to be. Rhea Loren... Beautiful. Spoiled princess. Seeker of vengeance. Rhea's world of luxury and fame is turned upside down when she's accused of fornication, a crime carrying a brutal punishment: the scarring of one's face. As Rhea seeks to come to terms with her new life, she must choose whether to rise above or spiral down into darkness. As their paths intertwine, they will soon learn that the fate of the Four Kingdoms is in their hands.

Book Information

File Size: 5800 KB

Print Length: 492 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1542429765

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: March 1, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MTEK3NM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,393 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Arthurian #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Historical Fiction > Medieval #2 in Kindle Store > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Military

Customer Reviews

I am a huge David Estes fan so of course I joined his mailing list to hear about all of his new books. In one mailing he was giving away some ARC copies of his newest book. Most of his books, and my favorites are dystopian for YA. "Fatemarked" is the first in a series of epic fantasy. I entered the drawing and won a copy. I was a little nervous due to the different genre of this one. I so loved it! I do enjoy a good fantasy and this one does not disappoint. One of the things I like about Mr. Estes' writing is he has a tongue in cheek type of humor. He understands people and relationships. So my rating is a strong five star. I can recommend for teens and up. Now I have to try and be patient for the next one.

This book was totally awesome! The worldbuilding was amazing, the characters are all quite interesting and believable, the plot contains the perfect balance of action and quieter scenes where you can catch your breath while learning more about the characters and their world, and the descriptions are fantastic (in fact, those with weak stomachs may find them a little too good, since there are wonderfully described scenes of violence and blood in this story, as well as the more pleasant images the author paints for us during the tale). On top of that, while the ending is clearly left open for the continuation of the series, things are also wrapped up well enough to avoid an actual cliffhanger ending, which meant that - though I was a little disappointed to find the book was over - I felt satisfied with the way the story ended. I highly recommend this book, and can't wait for the next book in the series to be available!*NOTE: I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This fact has in no way influenced either my opinion of the book, or the contents of my review.

Fatemarked follows the lives and ordeals of multiple different characters, jumping from viewpoint to

viewpoint. The characters are spread out among the Four Kingdoms, and each character's POV gives us more details about the world, the wars, the people and the sentiments. The plot revolves around the fulfillment of a prophecy that involves a group of people called Fatemarked - those all born with a unique mark on their skin and possessing unique abilities. The Fatemarked are culturally treated differently in different parts of the Four Kingdoms, revered in one region, reviled in another, viewed with indifference in yet another. The cast is large, but I never felt confused or forgot who was who. The names, instead of all being impossible to pronounce concoctions of made up languages, are a well done mix of unusual and simple, and each character's introduction is strong enough to leave a distinct impression that makes it easy to remember who is who, what their problem is and what they're trying to do. The events in each separate circle gradually impact each other and collision is inevitable. The prophecy, which foretold the death of many kings, was forgotten by some, disbelieved by others, but takes center stage in the Four Kingdoms in a growing ominous cloud of events that even the doubters cannot ignore. The story is full of action with few dull moments. Several characters go through major arcs of revelation, realization and realignment. I have read many of David Estes books and this is easily his best work yet.

In a world where corrupt rulers dominate the Four Kingdoms, the Hundred Years Wars has ravaged more than three generations of kings, queens, and citizens. The cycle of vengeance and violence continues. An ancient prophecy by a legendary oracle promises the return of peace to the Four Kingdoms by a chosen few, the fatemarked. Those marked at birth and blessed with specific magical powers. One shall be the King's Bane, bringing death to the warmongering rulers, he is dark and death. The other shall be the Peacemaker, blessed with the ability to heal, he is light and life. Opposite sides of the same coin, Bane and the Peacemaker are tasked with the fate of the entire world. As they fight to achieve their destinies, adversity will hinder them in every realm. To truly achieve the oracle's prophecy of peace, both the King's Bane and the Peacemaker, as well as all the other fatemarked, will need to overcome those who seek to destroy everything in their pursuit for power. In 'Fatemarked', book one of the Fatemarked Epic, David Estes has wrote a thrilling journey comparable to George R.R. Martin's 'Game of Thrones' and Brandon Sanderson's 'The Way of Kings'. A fantastical world is brought forth, with interesting and relatable characters. A thrilling plot that is filled with suspense, political intrigue and magic, with a suspenseful and exciting climax that will have you furiously ripping through the pages. Fatemarked is a fantasy lover's dream!

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