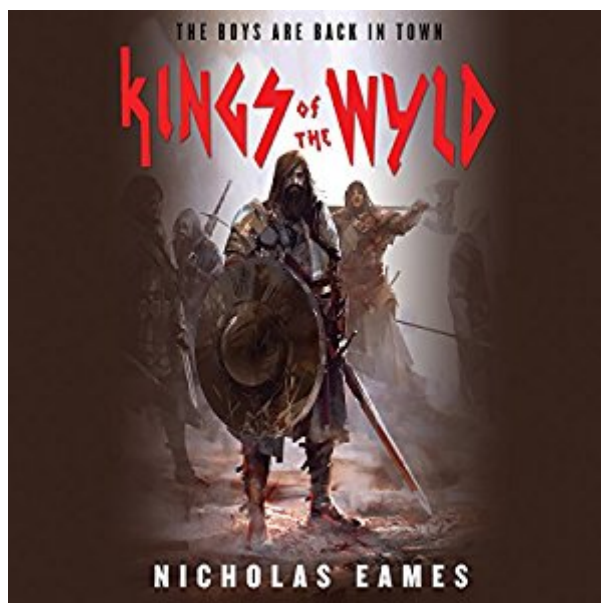


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Kings Of The Wyld



Synopsis

Glory never gets old. Clay Cooper and his band were once the best of the best, the most feared and renowned crew of mercenaries this side of the Heartwyld. Their glory days long past, the mercs have grown apart and grown old, fat, drunk, or a combination of the three. Then an ex-bandmate turns up at Clay's door with a plea for help - the kind of mission that only the very brave or the very stupid would sign up for. It's time to get the band back together.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book takes the concept of mercenaries in a fantasy setting and turns it on its head. In the world of the book mercenaries are treated like a combination of rock stars and or superheroes. Instead of looked upon with scorn as they are in other fantasy novels. In fact they are called Bands and are structured kind of like modern rock bands. With the leader of each individual group called the frontman and have five to seven members with at least one magic user/wizard. And the groups names often take their inspiration from classic rock tunes. When they are hired for a job called it's a "gig" by an agent called a "booker." Active groups are said to be Touring. Along the way, author manages to skewer fantasy tropes like trolls, orcs dragons, other magical creatures too numerous to mention, and the excesses of classic rock group stereotypes, like sex, drugs, alcohol, and the occasional random property damage. The book follows the exploits of Saga a former top merc band with a rep among the public and their peers like the Stones or The Beatles. They get back together for one last gig of a personal nature to rescue the estranged daughter of the groups frontman from a city under siege from a demonic horde incited by an old enemy. This is a darkly funny tale with

plenty of twists, turns, narrow escapes, and outrageous action adventure. You find yourself laughing out loud and at times choked up by the raw emotion of these life long friends coming back together for one last time to save the day.

I truly enjoyed this book. It had excellent characters and locations, and a fast moving plot that kept me reading. As a guy in his later years, I can relate to many of the struggles of the characters, whose glory days were far behind them. The book had me laughing out loud many times, and I was genuinely attached to the characters. The entire book moved along so well, but the ending felt a little rushed; after all of the great scenes and setups, the ending should have been delivered in the same style. I understand it is set in the style of a bard telling the story and as he gets to the end he summarizes the aftermath, but I can't help but think it felt too quick, as it was so different that the rest of the story. I highly recommend this to anyone who loves fantasy, especially those of us a tad past their youth and glory days. I look forward to Eames next book.

This was a fun read. The story was well-paced and moved along pretty fluidly. The whole "get the band back together" trope felt fun rather than tired. This definitely has a feel to it like a story out of a dungeons and dragons campaign with a couple nods to realism here and there and then funny backslides into sword and sorcery style fantasy where the heroes are strong, powerful and lucky enough to get through the day. All in all well worth a read if you like fantasy, table top RPGs and nostalgic references to all sorts of D&D style monsters. The tie in to how bands of mercenaries are like bands of rockstars is interesting enough to keep the feeling of nostalgia moving forward rather than weighing it down.

This ought to be grimdark. I mean, it is. It's got all the right ingredients: an aging and bruised if not broken group of celebrated fighters, reunited in a hopeless quest. And there's plenty of fighting and bloodshed and companions both faithful and sort of treacherous. But it's *cheerful* somehow, and clever and so very likeable. I loved it. Tell me, I beg you, there is more coming from this author. Because I will buy it right now.

My verdict on this book? LOVE LOVE LOVE IT! May not be "the best" but still pretty freaking good. Really want to read the next in this series...like right now. And to note - I usually don't like epic fantasies. I tend to avoid them like the plague but this one I came to adore. Yes, there were a few moments that I thought the book lagged but not enough to knock my rating down at all (which says

something for me because usually I have no qualms doing so because I don't like books that are slow). Brilliant writing. Great characters (I have a soft spot for Moog, definitely) and a really good story line.

Sometimes, you open a book and just a few pages later you know it's going to be an awesome read. Kings of the Wyld was one such book. This is a humorous book that doesn't take itself too seriously, so aspects that are usually important to me in a fantasy book, like worldbuilding, didn't really matter here. For example, in this world, every creature ever imagined by fantasy authors or mythology exists. In a "serious" fantasy world, this would probably come across as lazy worldbuilding, but in this book, it works. Just like the equivalence between mercenary bands and rock bands, which is hilarious, only works because of the humorous nature of the book. And the reason it works is that the book is actually funny. Which brings me to my favourite thing about Kings of the Wyld - it's a book full of soul. The narrator tells the story from the point of view of Clay Cooper, and even though it is told in the third person, Clay's personality seems to infuse the narrator's voice, making the prose extremely compelling. This is not a book about a riveting and unpredictable plot. It's about brilliant characters and the hilarious world they inhabit. It's heart-warming, somewhat nonsensical fun. Highly recommended if you want a change from your usual epic.

This book was loads of fun. Didn't take itself too serious but the serious moments were relatable and emotional. I wasn't fond of the take on fathers versus mothers in the mind of the main character but by the end, at least three fathers proved valiant. Best way to describe the band of brothers is with the author's own words: "A tiger, however fearsome, could be hunted into a corner. It fought alone, so it died alone. But to hunt a wolf was to constantly look over your shoulder, wondering if others were behind you in the dark."

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