

Fire

Kristin Cashore

Reviewed by: Owen Broadwater, 12 years old

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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In the kingdom of the Dells, the ongoing war has touched everyone in some way, yet none as much as it has affected Fire. Her unique beauty and ability to control the minds of people around her has placed Fire at the forefront of the war threatening the Dells. She is their greatest chance, although the same talents that have given her the ability to achieve victory have also set her apart from the rest of the World. Fire's determination to help the young King Nash clashes with her opinion of herself, as she comes to grip with her dark past. As the tension mounts and the land is rife with treachery, the ideas of loyalty and trust are shown, causing the entire cast of characters to question the life they thought they knew. This companion to Graceling showcases much of the same ideals, and the added insight into one of the pivotal characters in the Graceling book adds a whole new level of understanding, serving to make it richer than previously.

This fantasy book puts the full range of Kristin Cashore's brilliant talents on display. The characters are complex and interesting, and the shocking plot twists grant the reader access to what has shaped their lives. They will engage every one of your emotions. Some will have you cheering for their success, and others will have you hating their every word. The mind-bending description of the Dells has you shaking your head, imagining the rich, luscious world described. In addition to the incredible and creative plot lines, these elements serve to make an astounding book, one well worth your time. Furthermore, the concept itself is innovative. Fire is a monster, yet human, and unlike many other characters from other works of literature who feel similar, she has a dear friend that supports her. Usually, that friendship is portrayed as the cure to such feelings of self-hatred. However, a much more realistic outlook is taken and superimposed into a wondrous world full of danger and tough decisions that shape who Fire is.

There are no major flaws in this book. I only wish that there were more things shared between Fire and the companion piece, Graceling. I think that the combination of characters from those two books would have created a better book. There are also various adult themes that make this book unsuitable for people of less than 13 years unless given permission by their parent/guardian. This fantasy book is a great read for anyone who enjoys characters possessing unnatural powers, as well as those who appreciate a strong, female lead.

Recommended Titles:

- Bitterblue by Kristin Cashore
- Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
- The Cruel Prince by Holly Black
- The Sparks by Kyle Prue
- Frostblood by Elly Blake