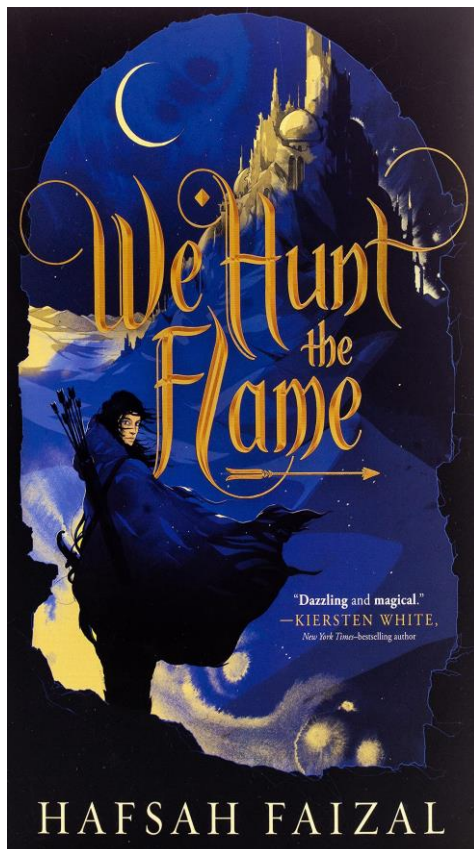


We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal: book review



Genre: Y/A fantasy

Recommend if you like:

Hunger games.

Shadow and bones.

Six of crows.

We Hunt the flame, the first of a duology by Hafsah Faizal, is a riveting story set in ancient Arabia, which paired with Faizal's rich and poetic linguistic style and the inclusion of supernatural elements such as: Jinns, Hafsah truly creates an expansive mythical universe that is really easy to fall into. Throughout the story we alternate between the two leads: Zafira and Nasir. Zafira, an impoverished huntress suffering the prejudices of being a woman in a land ridden with misogyny, is forced to subvert her femininity by being disguised as a man and brave the cursed 'Arz' (dark magic encroaching the kingdom) in order to save her caliphate (kingdom). Nasir known as 'the prince of death', is a hashasin (an elite assassin), who assassinates those foolish enough to defy

his autocratic, tyrannical father, the Sultan (King). If Zafira was exposed as a girl, all of her achievements would be rejected; if Nasir displayed his compassion, his father would punish him in the most brutal of ways. Both are legends in the kingdom of Arawiya- but neither wants to be. As the war brews and the Arz sweeps closer with each passing day, the land is engulfed in a dark, ominous shadow, forcing both Zafira and Nasir to individually embark on a treacherous quest to a cursed island to uncover a lost artefact that can restore magic to their suffering world and stop the Arz. However as the story unfolds, an ancient evil stirs, forcing the two polarising protagonists to unite against a much greater threat. This story combined with the: rich, poetic world-building, unexpectedly witty banter between the two leads and the myriad of plot twists, creates an incredibly gripping story worth reading.

Some of my favourite quotes from 'We hunt the flame':

"Be as victorious as the name I have given you, and bring the desert to its knees."

"But eyes couldn't stay closed forever, unless one was dead. And the dead never dreamed."

"They'll tell stories about us, he had said.
There once was a boy with a future.
Until all he had left was his past."

"A life without purpose may be no life, but a life without love is nothing but an existence."

"There was nothing more respectable and dangerous than a woman of confidence."

"Knowledge without action is vanity, but action without knowledge is insanity".