



The Skull of the World

Kate Forsyth

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In the land of Eileanan, the Pact of Peace has not meant the end of unrest. And, though Isabeau would like to return home to help her family in these uncertain times, she must first venture to the Skull of the World where she will discover her true talents as a witch. And when she does return home, she does so transformed with the power to overcome her family's enemies once and for all.

The Skull of the World Details

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From Reader Review The Skull of the World for online ebook

Chani says

Finally, we get to follow Isabeau through her initiation into the Firedragon clan. I do wish it went on a little longer or that we got to spend more time at the Skull of the World instead of switching to Nali, Fish Prince. I didn't mind the different perspective, but this is when it fell into the trap that all stories that switch back and forth fall into: you have a favorite character and dislike having to leave them to read about another. I did like Nali's character but it was lessened by my nagging desire to return to Isabeau and/or hear more about her story. In the later books I am finding they are character based, which is why I love them, but the political struggle that ties them all together is just boring. I have to wonder what would have happened if that political struggle was either removed or a better thread to tie them all together was found, if it would make the series even better or if since the characters have nothing to stand on, they too would fall apart.

Steve says

5 stars, because I could not put it down. This book focuses on a character we have seen precious little of for the last three books, and I loved reading about her triumphs, her failures and her adventures. It was a little shorter than the previous book, which helped me speed through it. It also introduced us to seeing things from the eyes of the enemy, and because of that I am greatly looking forward to the conclusion of this series.

Kathi says

A wonderful tale, with trials, magic, intrigue, and betrayal. Isabeau is the featured character and her growth in both magic and maturity are evident throughout. Her courage has been honed in the mountains and her ingenuity and creativity are displayed over and over. The story just rolls along. I am anxious to see how Forsyth wraps up this series in the final book.

Shari Mulluane says

As promised, the focus is once again on Isabeau. This book closely follows the pattern set in book four by focusing on Isabeau's adventures almost exclusively. Kate Forsyth then masterfully manages to bring this story right in line with the events portrayed in book four so that by the end of the book, both stories converge seamlessly. There is also what I am assuming is a setup for book six in that we get a few inside glimpses into the Fairgean. It all makes for some very interesting reading. However, that is not all. As if Isabeau is not facing enough challenges, Margit of Arran kidnaps both the Righ's son and his cousin and our poor heroine is framed for the crime! This puts her in the position of having to go rescue the two boys and leads to a surprise encounter with a previous character.

Fans of Isabeau will be pleased, fans of the entire series will be even more so. Kate Forsyth has several very impressive talents. The level of research, the characterization, the way she weaves the story lines together and the pace are all indicative of a master storyteller. I love the way she gives hints of what is coming,

without giving anything away. For example, in this book, she tells a story about the Fairgean that has no real purpose or bearing on the main storyline, but it does not interrupt the flow either. There is no possible reason for the story except to prepare and make you look forward to events that will occur in book six. Well, that combined with the cliffhanger ending. Believe me when I tell you I am really looking forward to finding out how everything ties together and concludes!

My Review Here:

Dragons, Heroes and Wizards

Lauren says

I could not put this down!

We were back to reading about Isabeau in this one and I'm glad we were. To see her find her name on the skull of the world, find her Talent, and then rescue the boys and bring Bronwyn back home made this book my favourite so far.

The ending was such a cliffhanger too, I wish it wasn't so late and that I could go straight onto the next one!

Jen Welch says

I loved this series and the finale did not disappoint. The various story lines were beautifully wrapped up without too much being given away early on. I was actually left feeling a bit sad to say goodbye to all the characters that I had grown to love. The fact that some of the heroes weren't all that ideal or loveable actually made them so much more real and hard to let go of.

Amanda Botten says

The skill of the world is beautifully down, I really loved how Kate Forsyth created the characters and then made the transform so wonderfully. In this book I thoroughly enjoyed how Kate got more depth on two of the characters by getting them both to go back to 'their' roots. It allows us and the other character to learn the past of another, it opens our eyes at the difference in life styles and reintroduces some characters from the begining.

Phrynne says

This is number five in the series so I only have one more book to go. I will be sad when it finishes. In this book we see much more of my favourite character, Isabeau, as she discovers her talents and develops her magical skills. There is also a parallel story about the Fairgean which apparently is building up to a great finale in book six. I am looking forward to it!

Christina Rothfusz says

Book 5 in the series runs parallel with book 4 but told from the perspective of Isabeau and the other characters left behind in Lucerne when Lachlan and the troops set out to battle.

We've been waiting for Isabeau to learn her true name and purpose at the Skull of the world, yet her quest seems like a bit of a sub-plot and not the real story in the book. Iseult's and Elfrida's son's are kidnapped by Magrit and Isabeau sets out to save them and bring them home.

The pace in this book is fast. Much more so than the previous ones in the series and felt like the writer was rushing us along to finish as soon as possible. While this made for an interesting read, it neglected some detail and some pivotal conclusions in the story felt neglected in the telling.

Still - if you made it thus far you are a true fan and will not miss out on the next and final one in the series.

Tammy says

Isabeau must embrace the other half of her heritage and live among her father's people, the Khan'cohban. As she struggles to assimilate into the foreign culture and survive the rite of passage to the skull of the world, she is set out on a path of self-discovery-- to her ultimate power. Meanwhile, Maya is scheming the downfall of Lachlan, and to have her daughter, Bronwen, placed back on the throne.

As with the past four books, there is plenty of fast-paced adventure and great character development. I find Isabeau and Maya among the most engaging of the characters, and I was glad to see them return in this book. I particularly enjoyed the conflict and tension that arises from the two women's grudging friendship pitted against their morals, goals, and loved ones, and their mutual love of Bronwen juxtaposed against the jealousy for her love.

Lauren Ferguson says

After the diversion of Finn's adventures in the previous book it was good to get back to Isabeau on the Spine of the World. So much happens in this book that it's hard to keep up but I'm glad the Thistle returns. I have issues with Margrit of Arran though. She's your ultimate bad guy but I find it hard to understand her - she just hates for the sake of hating and being cruel and often it seems like she would have made the Fairge King proud. I am disappointed we don't hear from her point of view to know her a bit better. Nevertheless it was again a good read.

Katie says

This was my second favorite book in the series behind the first one. BRILLIANT story! I love hearing more about Isabeau's journey on becoming a sorceress as well as the fight with the Fairge. I must say this book did

flame a dislike of Lachlan in me...he just doesn't seem like a great leader and is almost childish in his quick temper. But that's what makes a great novel-stirring emotions towards a character. Great job, Kate!

Yassy says

A great novel, however, following on from my review of book 4, these two novels could easily have been combined, giving multiple perspectives.

Sarah says

I liked this book better than the fourth, that's for sure. Briefly, the beginning of the book was great (Isabeau on the skull of the world, ect), then the middle got a bit boring, but the pace picked up again once the children were kidnapped by Margrit - from then on it was great. It's frustrating to see Isabeau avoid Dide all the time! It was hard to read that part; Dide loves her so much and she won't even allow herself to enjoy a little time with the poor boy. The end was great, and the threat of the Fairgean is really tangible...on to the last one now!

Delaney says

[Margrit's death was so cheesy and overdone, and the cliche "Nooooo!" was the worst. Seriously. (hide spoiler)]
