



Cry Of The Firebird

Amy Kuivalainen

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A firebird hatches in the far corners of Russia, where gods still walk and magic slumbers, sparking a supernatural war that will tear the worlds apart.

Inspired by Finnish and Russian Mythology, 'Cry of the Firebird' is a noir paranormal series that brings to life the bloody fairy tales of the North in a new modern setting.

Born on the crossroads between worlds, Anya's magic is buried deeply until one fateful night it causes a firebird to hatch on her farm. Through a twist of dark magic it is sharing its body with Yvan, an ancient prince from legend.

With Yvan's dark magician brother Vasilli and other powerful enemies closing in around them, Anya has no choice but to sober up and follow Yvan into Skazki, the land of monsters and magic.

Kirkus Reviews says '...the story incorporates a fair share of surprises, and never fails to provide new scenes featuring bloodshed and strange new creatures...'

A US Second Edition Release as of January 2017!

Cry Of The Firebird Details

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Author : Amy Kuivalainen

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From Reader Review Cry Of The Firebird for online ebook

Katrina says

3.5*

The good

Let me start with a compliment to Ms Kuivalainen - Cry of the Firebird was an interesting concept with fascinating intertwining of mythologies and legends from different cultures . I was raised on Russian Skazki and found this foray in to Russian and Finnish folklore well told, respectful and vastly knowledgeable.

Not so good.

I found the pace of this novel too even, slow and plodding, lacking any tension or a build-up to the final confrontation, which was totally without any impact. For a story in which a lot suppose to happen, there was just very little actually happening. This is not a short book and most of it our protagonists spent running or hiding from evil pursuers while gathering the cast of supporting characters – even 80% in to the book we get someone new. For all the powers that this merry band of supernatural's suppose to possess, it is surprising how often they had their assess kicked, and frankly, after a while the whole “must protect Anya” only plot purpose became a bit narrow.

The whole possible love triangle and romance was as tentative as mating between two porcupines. I think Ms Kuivalainen will greatly benefit from clearer definition of her target readers - as a mature reader, I found interaction between characters too formal, but at the same time slightly juvenile.

As a début novel, Cry of the Firebird showed great potential of a talented, creative writer. Ms Kuivalainen already covered “interesting” aspect of the storytelling, and I am sure that with continuingly improving her craft, she will progress to “exciting” by leaps and bounce.

Steven says

To be fair, this is more a 2 1/2 stars than 3, but as usual I am rounding up. I won't bother rehashing the plot because the summary pretty much does that, so suffice it to say that this is one of those "hidden abilities come to the fore after the death of a loved one and all sorts of opposing forces gather for a big fight" stories. Toss in a lot of references to European folklore and fairy tales and there you have it. Well, sort of.

I didn't have a problem with the plot of the story. I kind of knew what to expect with the summary and dove in anyway hoping for something less meaningful and more fun. What I got was a story that felt like a quilt with pieces sewn together here and there to make a whole that just wasn't cohesive enough for me. Then we have all these characters that have some knowledge of each other and either hate each other or want to jump in the sack with each other, which happens far more often than one would expect for beings (only the heroine is human here) facing imminent destruction. In other words, my suspension of disbelief for the characters' actions just couldn't hold up. The farther I read the flatter and more predictable became the plot all while characters are saying "I hate you" "I love you" while being pursued by something really bad. It all ends in one of the most anti-climactic fights I've ever read accompanied by a momentary appearance of the real bad

guy (who doesn't do anything except look menacing in a loincloth) and the revelation that the supposed good guys are just as bad as the bad guys.

For a debut novel and first in a series (I am re-learning why I hate series) this does show promise. There is nothing bad in here (more than a few editorial mistakes, but nothing egregious), but everything, especially the characters, just felt really shallow. And I was really missing any sense of tension or drama. All that being said, it wasn't hard to read, it wasn't hard to follow, and it really could go somewhere. It just didn't for me. Some things were just too quick, others not quick enough, and too much attention paid to things that didn't really matter (like the type and color of someone's car, which was described at least four times for no purpose).

I won't say steer clear of this book, but I can't say pick it up either.

Cranky - The Book Curmudgeon says

*** 3 Cranky Stars ***

Anya, traumatized by the murder of her grandfather, spends her days drinking her pain away on a small farm in Russia.

Visited by a strange man in a small cafe, a destiny unfolds. The man isn't an ordinary human, he's Tuoni, a Finnish God, who informs Anya that the fate of worlds rests on her novice shoulders.

Enter: Yvan, a Prince from the otherworld, who not only has a passenger, but also, a host of enemies lining up against him. He is both a boon and a bane to Anya. His presence sets off a chain of events, which throws Anya headlong into not only trouble, but her history and destiny.

I actually enjoyed this book. I liked the languid writing style and the work's foundation on Nordic and Russian mythology.

From zero to twenty percent, this book had me enthralled and then it went off the boil. It also became repetitive: Anya drinks, Anya is untrained, and yet, not a lot is done to fix the issues.

There is a massive cast of characters in this book and when they've been developed to a level you're interested in their fate, another one is introduced. Then the ones you've become interested in are relegated to

background furniture. In fact, new characters were still being introduced at ninety percent of the book.

I also felt that this book missed the mark on action. There was great set up and then it was over all too quickly. I really did feel that this was a missed opportunity to really nail it.

In saying the above, I liked Anya and Yvan. Anya, for all her faults, was witty and brave. I loved the use of Nordic and Russian mythology in this work. I also thoroughly enjoyed the setting in Russia and Paris, which made a welcome change to what I'm used to reading.

Viktoria Winter says

You know that feeling when you're really in the mood for a specific book but finding it seems nearly impossible because there's likely nothing published that will match what you've conjured up in your mind? Yeah—that's me with all of my reads. Lately, however, I've been craving Slavic folklore retellings. I find those fairytales to be the most intriguing, and I love the dark atmosphere they usually bring. But seeing as *Deathless* by Catherynne M. Valente and *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik are two of my all-time favorite books, the rest I come across have a lot to compete with.

What initially drew me into *Cry of the Firebird* by Amy Kuivalainen was the synopsis. “Firebird” being in the title was one thing, but “...a noir paranormal series that brings to life the bloody fairy tales of the North” made me cross myself and thank whatever Gods have been guiding me along my search. Honestly, it couldn't have sounded better to me.

The ebook for *Cry of the Firebird* is FREE on iBooks right now, and if that wasn't another sign for me to start reading immediately than I don't know what else to tell you. Naturally, I stayed up until 4am for two nights before finishing the massive book (to be fair, it's not super long but the online version was roughly 1,450 pages) and here's what I've come to think of it.

It didn't let me down, but it also didn't exactly live up to my expectations. The writing is a little choppy at times, and there were a few phrases being overused when there wasn't any need for them to be. I'd say that the first 30% of this book had me on the edge of my seat, but it kind of dwindled after a while and I felt as though I was reading the same scenes over again for chapters. There is also an influx of characters that come into play one after the next, and while I love books that have tons of characters I felt as though these ones weren't getting the development that they deserved. The author draws you in with their stories, you grow attached, and then she leaves you hanging as to what will become of them. After all, there are so many to keep track of.

What I did enjoy about this book was the setting, plot, and the quirkiness and individuality of each character. For as many cons as I've listed, it balances out all of the pros. I'm still unsure how I truly feel about this one, but I'm leaning more towards a positive vibe because for all of its flaws, the good parts are too good to look over.

The characters—all one-hundred of them—are wonderful. I frequently find that with side-characters there

are many authors who will bundle them together in similar mindsets so that they only serve the purpose of the main characters. That's definitely not the case here. I loved nearly everyone, and it was wonderful to read how such a diverse cast came together for the sole purpose of defeating a threat to their realm. That's was something I wasn't expecting to happen, and it couldn't have come as a nicer surprise.

World-building is definitely Kuivalainen's strong suit.

We are brought across the Russian wilderness to a dark forest in an otherworldly spirit realm, back to Russia, all the way to France, and then eventually to Budapest. Each character is from a different country, a different era, and no two people (seemingly) share the same 'species' so to say. Bare in mind, everyone has a supernatural ability of sorts...or an unnatural talent with knives and guns and riding motorcycles.

I wasn't expecting this to be a series so when I read the final page, a cliffhanger no less, I was ready to scream until I saw the prologue for the next installment. I'm definitely going to read all of the novels in this series because I need to know what happens next.

Perhaps this one isn't great for getting out of a book-slump because of its length and swapping point-of-views, but it's great if you're looking for something new. Fans of Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo will likely enjoy this one.

Punkin says

Whoa

Loved the story telling and the details but holy character overload! So many characters. Different points of view but it all fit.

Chitra says

What I really liked about this is the fact that the love story, I was really worried about insta love, didn't go the way I thought it would. It was such a refreshing change that I actually gave a sigh of relief. Anya and this man bird, Yvan, go on a quest to try and solve the predicament of Anya's identity and there they meet a rather interesting band of "people". Being rather unfamiliar with Russian Fairy tales it was all a bit over my head but I enjoyed whatever bits I knew and understood, example, the Baba Yaga portions. Yes, Baba yaga features in this along with a bunch of other dark characters but just because it sounds dark doesn't mean it was actually dark.

What I didn't like was the pacing and the love stories. It was a bit off at the beginning and end. The beginning felt sort of hurried (maybe this was because I'm not all that familiar with Russian fairy tales?) and the ending rose to a crescendo and then fell flat for about 80 pages, rising again to a crescendo. If that portion had been edited better I think it would have been brilliant because up until then I couldn't put it down, reading 250 pages in one sitting. And the love stories, apart from the main character, it was distracting from the story and slowed down the pacing. Moving on to what I adored

What the author does really well is the character of Anya and the perspective shifts. Anya is a girl who has been ignored all her life and is sort of an outcast. And this shows in how annoying and needy she is all the time while turning aloof when others show her affection. This will obviously be someone difficult to deal with and that makes the story all the more interesting. And the perspective shifts were so well done, each jumping cleanly without any trace of the other character that I felt like I was watching a movie in my mind. You get to know each character like you know a friend and therefore aren't stuck in the mind of an annoying single character.

I got a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Full review on [https://booksandstrips.wordpress.com/...](https://booksandstrips.wordpress.com/)

Anna says

I found this absolutely amazing! The characters are so well crafted it is like you are living vicariously through them. Loved every minute of reading it and wish I could reread it for the first time again!

Fox says

I really loved this book and can't wait to read the rest of the series. Cry of the Firebird is a refreshing modern urban fantasy. It's full of cool references to all sorts of magic, mythical creatures and cultural fairytales very entertaining as you never know what to expect next!

It's dark, funny, romantic and action packed! A real page turner.

Spoilers....

Anya, the main character, gets rudely taken out of her life and dumped in the middle of a crisis in which she needs to use power she doesn't know she has to save the world (sort of). I like that she doesn't immediately rise to the challenge, she has fear and doubt and more often than not, hides in the bottom of a vodka bottle. She isn't perfect and never tries to be which is refreshing for the hero urban fantasy genre.

There are lots of people that turn up to help her, everyone of them has a rich backstory that is fun to find out about. They have some issues getting this group together, there is some sexy little bits to keep it interesting, but they end up coming together for the common purpose of helping Anya.

Cheryl Brandt says

This is Amy Kuivalainen 's first book, and is the first in a series. Like many first books, it has some rough spots, such as being a bit slow to start, and the narrator driven, third-person-from-on-high intervals seem a bit odd at first. The hardest part was that she seemed, at first, to be trying to make her heroine unlikeable; but you get past all that and Anya becomes a strong, albeit confused, character.

This story takes place in a world where the world of, primarily Russian, fairy tales and the real world sit next to each other, with gateways protected by gatekeepers - most of whom come from long lineages of gatekeepers.

Anya is different only in that all of her family is dead and she has never been trained, shown or known about the magic in her family.

Her real adventures begin when she finds a firebird in her cabin.

The characterizations are well done, the dialog is fun, and I very much enjoyed this book once I was past the first couple of chapters.

I would recommend this book, and I am looking forward to the next in the series.

Miss M Wheelden says

Brilliant

Took away on an adventure holiday for an easy read to pick up an put down good story an no second guessing what happens next brilliant

Ellie ? says

This was one of those books that had so much potential but just didn't hit the mark.

Cry Of The Firebird has a really interesting inspiration taken from Russian and Finnish folklore. These were the aspects of the story i loved the most. The beautiful settings of Russian woods and Sami traditions. Tales of gods and rune stones. It was all so interesting and i loved how it was incorporated into the story. Where this book went wrong was that all the hard work put into the world building and folklore was completely lost by the onslaught of tropes and unnecessary plot.

The first 100 or so pages of this has a beautiful woodland setting and a dark mysterious tone which made it a fast paced and interesting read, after that point though we were suddenly thrown into the modern day setting of Paris and Moscow with fancy houses that just ended up feeling very jarring. The inevitable love triangle was introduced which was eye roll worthy and completely turned me off from the plot and the romance just got taken over by it.

A few things i found really problematic with this read was the other characters treatment of the main character. Throughout the entire book they were so patronising and demeaning it would seem they were looking after a toddler not a supposedly hugely powerful lead character.

I felt the use of the term "bitch" was wildly overused and the sexual flirtations between characters felt very possessive and un consented which i really didn't appreciate.

Overall this ended up being a really hard book to read. The first 100 pages i really liked and if it had carried

on like in did i would have loved this book! However, this book just didn't live up to it's potential, could have been at least 150 pages shorter and really needs to branch out from the ya tropes.

Dionaea says

My expectations were high. Really high. I love mythology and fantasy and this sounded right up my ally. Kuivalainen, if your protagonist doesn't know anything, doesn't do anything, and drinks with no ambition to change any one of those things for the majority of the book then just make her a toddler and call it a day. Also, fixing those three things I mentioned deserve more focus and attention than whether or not Anya was gonna get some. Filling the book with lots of characters that you can't keep track of doesn't make the main character more endearing either. I'm only glad that I didn't drop 15 bucks on this and got it for free.

Susan Harrowa says

Magic and folk lore beautifully done.

Love this story. Anya is an amazingly powerful heroine while still being inherently humanly flawed. She has immense power but no training. Yvan is a other world prince with firebird inside him that Anya awoke. Their troubles and travels take them to places filled with both wonder and danger and nobody they meet is quite normal or fully human. But it may take all of them to just to survive and fulfill her destiny. I love the blending of culture and fairy tale and folk lore. I could have easily given this book a 5 star rating except for one thing. The romance between Anya and the Thanatos. It feels forced and adds nothing to the storyline. Plus there is zero chemistry to me when I read them. The chemistry is definitely in the story, just not between those two. I hopeless that arc ends in the next book. Its ruining what would be an almost perfect fantasy read otherwise!

Debra Bulger says

Loved it.

The story kept me coming back for more. Which of course has made me want to read the rest of the series.

Veronica Thomas says

Russian fantasy - never knew what I was missing.

Loved this book! Loved the characters; all so strong and confident. No simpering Damsels in Distress here. Great interactions and relationships. An Aussie superhero!! Gotta be a first!!

Such a variety of supernatural beings to choose from, and the action just doesn't let up. Can't wait for the next exciting episode.
