



Roar of Sky

Beth Cato

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In this stunning conclusion to the acclaimed Blood of Earth trilogy—a thrilling alternate history laced with earth magic, fantastic creatures, and steampunk elements—geomancer Ingrid must find a way to use her extraordinary abilities to save her world from the woman hell-bent on destroying it.

Thanks to her geomantic magic, Ingrid has successfully eluded Ambassador Blum, the power-hungry kitsune who seeks to achieve world domination for the United Pacific. But using her abilities has taken its toll: Ingrid's body has been left severely weakened, and she must remain on the run with her friends Cy and Fenris.

Hoping to learn more about her magical roots and the strength her bloodline carries, Ingrid makes her way across the Pacific to Hawaii, home to the ancient volcano goddess Madam Pele. What she discovers in this paradise is not at all what she expects—and perhaps exactly what she needs.

But Ambassador Blum comes from the same world of old magic and mythic power. And if Ingrid cannot defeat her once and for all, she knows Blum will use that power to take the lives of everyone she holds dear before escalating a war that will rip the world to pieces.

Roar of Sky Details

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Author : Beth Cato

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From Reader Review Roar of Sky for online ebook

Jennifer Lee Rossman says

Pleasantly surprised at the lack of a cure narrative! The main character's disability improves slightly from the last book, but it's acceptance and orthotics that save the day, not magic cures! Also loved that the person actually from the culture gets to wield a culturally significant weapon of holiness, and that infertility isn't somehow magically overcome.

But that twist with Blum. I predicted it, in a "Oh, wouldn't it be terrible if...happened? But no, she would never..." BUT SHE DID AND NOW I'M SAD. (But the author in me is cackling wickedly because it was sooo good.)

Loses one star for ableist slurs, but very good overall.

Anthony says

Absolutely perfect conclusion to this mythology- and magic-infused alternate history. I'll miss these characters but don't regret a moment of the time I've spent with them. I don't want to say anything else for fear of spoilers.

But seriously, if you've not read this trilogy, go get it.

Lisa says

I'm really sad that this series is over! And I after reading the second book and seeing all the loose threads hanging I was a little curious as to how everything was going to be concluded in this final volume while not overwhelming the narrative. Because there was just SO MUCH in play. If I'm honest I was a little bit worried, but turns out all that was unfounded.

This last book did not disappoint. Like its predecessors, it's a fairly straightforward story, but with a lot of moving parts. Our protagonists are off to Hawaii to explore Ingrid's ancestry and meet an all powerful volcano deity to see if she has the answers to help Ingrid overcome her injuries she suffered. After that they're on the run again, trying to find Lee and dodge Ambassador Blum until they are strong enough to fight against her.

Once again the pacing in this book was fantastic. The tension from the characters being pursued by a dangerous entity, having to keep on the move, helped with moving the story along as well. The tension was great. I also liked when the story slowed down a few times and had some really great moments between various characters, it helped things from feeling rushed in any way. I especially these moments between Ingrid and Cy because I love them together, but I also loved Ingrid's talk with Madame Pele, and some moments between her and Fenris as well. I also really appreciated some of the reveals that came along late into the story.

If there is one thing I would have liked to see a little more in this series it would have been a bit more character growth. We do get some from Ingrid especially, and since she's the focus that's great. Also considering the time frame the entire three books takes place in is rather small, I can see how that would be a tall order, but a great character arc is one of my favorite things and I feel like this is something that, had the story stretched out over more time, it maybe could have been done a little better. Really that's a minor niggle considering how well everything else was executed.

Overall this was a very satisfying conclusion to a fun series. If you like steampunk, alternate history with magic, and fun characters with a fast-paced story, I'd definitely recommend checking this series out. 4/5 stars.

Tanya says

Earlier this month I was fortunate to receive an ARC of Roar of Sky. And lucky I am indeed, as it is the perfect conclusion to this trilogy. Ingrid continues to grow in her geomantic and begins to hone some new abilities as well. As always, the stakes are high for our intrepid trio and for the world itself as Ambassador Blum's presence looms over story. New friends are made, old ones reunite, and as always there are pastries. It is a seriously fantastic book with one particular quote I'll carry with me for some time to come. (And a particularly wonderful exchange between Cy & Ingrid that is still making me chuckle days later.) The book is out on October 23, so do yourself a favor & pre-order if you haven't yet. And if you haven't read the series, make haste!

Penny says

This trilogy ended on a great note . There's a point toward the end where every reader must be thinking, "YAY! Go, you people!" I'm a slow reader, so am surprised how quickly I chewed through this.

I am impressed with the description of 1906 alt-earth. Everything is so real, not just the world that actually was (Beth must've researched the heck out of these books), but the alternative world she created. Such a good job of world-building in time and place. If it wasn't real, she sure made it feel real! One thing nicely researched was pastries. I'm craving some Japanese pastry right now.

The books tackle (among other topics) race and prejudice, immigration, disability, and self-acceptance - sexually, socially, physically. And also acceptance of the way things are, things one cannot change - without being preachy. There's so much here for older readers (like me) and also a lot here for readers heading into adulthood.

M.E. Garber says

Easily the best book of the series, and one you must read.

Beth Cato's "Roar of Sky" starts strong, and goes up from there. This volume takes you to alternate versions of Hawaii, Phoenix, and Bakersfield, as protagonist Ingrid Carmichael and her friends struggle to defeat the

kitsune Ambassador Blum. They face pitfalls at every turn, and moral dilemmas abound, but the presence of pastry-addicted sylphs adds a light touch even at the darkest moments. Even with the ancient gods and goddesses helping her, Ingrid gets no easy passes, and instead must toil on to the best of her human extent, while also struggling simply to _walk._

I found Cato's writing has gotten even stronger with this third and final book in the series, and Ingrid becomes an even more realistic, sympathetic protagonist. Even the side characters are vividly drawn. And the magic is simply wonderful (and terrifying), especially as Ingrid learns to better use her prodigious geomancy talents.

Janta says

An enjoyable conclusion to the trilogy. Overall, I think this series was very well done; Cato has a good sense for period detail, and the magic and steampunk-y elements were well thought out and made sense in the setting. As with the previous volume, I did feel like this one rushed to its conclusion a bit, but that's more personal preference than anything else.

Jana says

Review posted at Fantasy Literature.

K. Lincoln says

The thing about Cato's Blood of Earth series (this is the third/finale) is that she manages to take really important ethical questions about race and the use of power in wartime, and turn it into an adventurous, romantic tale with flying airships and seven-tailed foxes.

The first book in this series like catnip for me: alternate WWII history, a lovely, sweet romance, cross-dressing, mixed raced heroine, Japanese myths, and California/Oregon location.

While the locations of Hawaii and desert California aren't catnip for me, there is a time in the book where Ingrid yearns for the cool, misty green of the California Central Coast, and it tugged at my memories of doing my MA in Monterey. And she also manages to make finding bread, jamu-pan, and other baked delicacies into an integral part of the story--which I just love.

And on top of all that, Roar of Sky features Ingrid and Cy doing two remarkable things you don't often find in either Urban Fantasy or Steampunk: adventuring with a disability in a realistic way that impacts the adventure and maintaining a sweet romance wherein the Beta Male does NOT try to rein in the more powerful woman by trying to protect (cage) her or extract promises of being careful or not going on missions.

Ingrid's legs are messed up because of actions she took in the second book. She has leg pains and spasms, she can't really climb ladders, and this fact is not glossed over or forgotten during the action. She even has rash and soreness from the braces Cy constructs for her.

Ingrid and Cy fly around, connect up with lost loved ones, confront Theodore Roosevelt's agenda, and confront the terrible and powerful Ambassador Blum. There is a satisfying ending that ties up loose threads. I sometimes don't make it to the third book in a trilogy if the second one is too slow. But this one would be a sad one to miss.

Shelley says

Source Edelweiss/Publisher

Genre Historical/Fantasy

Rating 4.0

Thoughts

Roar of Sky is the final installment in author Beth Cato's Blood of Earth trilogy. The best way to describe this series is Alternative history & fiction mixed with reality. Roar of Sky picks up shortly after the end of Call of Fire. In an alternate world 1906, the United States and Japan have forged a powerful confederation—the Unified Pacific—in an attempt to dominate the world. Their first target is a vulnerable China which has been left utterly devastated.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<https://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/20...>

Keith says

This book is an excellent end to a different and outstanding steampunk/magic series. While the main plotline is very satisfactory concluded, I found that the lack of 'clean up' ala a totally happy ending made the entire series and this book much more emotionally engaging. The writing style is very pleasing and the characters nicely three dimensional (a remarkable lack of cardboard cutouts and cliched people).

The use of earth magic and other types of magic was consistent, and once I accepted the initial premise of such magic, then it was consistent, coherent and interesting. The pacing of the series and each book is excellent with no troughs or info dumps. I won't comment on the story except to say it is great to read and cheer on very lifelike and human female main protagonist and the steampunk elements are lovely.

Yes, I very much liked this book and the series and recommend you try it!

Corrine says

Non-spoiler thoughts:

This was a great way to end the trilogy. Most of the loose ends were tied up, but not so many that the author couldn't return to the world if she wanted.

If you haven't read the previous books recently, you should reread them, particularly the most recent one. The book does not start with a synopsis of the previous books.

The language continues to be beautiful, both in describing the places the characters see as well as the actions that take place.

I won this book as a Goodreads Giveaway (thanks!), but that in no way affected the way I am reviewing it.

Now for the spoilers:

(view spoiler)

Overall, this is a solid trilogy. I liked Beth Cato's other series better, but she did amazing work here at researching the locales and basing the action on real places and events as they existed at the time. It's also a good look at racism and the many ways we wage war, neither of which is something one would normally expect of a steampunk novel. I recommend it - just make sure you read the rest of the series first.

Andrea says

Oh, my heart. I hated to see this book end.

Over the course of three books, I've fallen in love with Ingrid and all of her companions. They are so human and real-- even more so for being in a meticulously crafted, alternative world. Ms. Cato deals so thoughtfully and respectfully with myriad issues-- gender, race, transgenderism, ableism-- while skillfully moving the plot along to a climactic showdown that had me cheering our heroes on in the last pages. Highly recommended.

William Bentrim says

Roar of Sky by Beth Cato

This is the final book in an excellent trilogy. Call of Fire and Breath of Earth were the preceding volumes. I would recommend reading them before reading this book. This book wraps up the adventures of Ingrid, a geomancer, and her beau, Cy, an inventor.

Cato does a good job of weaving social commentary into steam punk fiction. Fenris has a secret and Cato makes it clear that a rigid societal structure can prevent an individual from reaching their potential. Ingrid faces prejudice due to her skin color and her gender. Cato makes it clear that talent should be seen and lauded regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

The story brings into play the ambitions of a adventuristic Japan with history as a guideline. Theodore Roosevelt adds color to the story albeit in a minor role. The fantastical, creature of imagination also add color and interest to the story.

I enjoy Cato's books and highly recommend this series and any other of her works.

Deep Roots, Wings of Sorrow and Bone, The Deepest Poison, The Clockwork Crown and The Clockwork Dagger are all worth reading. Click on the titles to go to my reviews.

Joe Crowe says

Beth Cato sticks the landing with this third part of her series. "Blood of Earth" is an alternate history story, but it's in an era that hasn't been done a zillion times, San Francisco around the time of the infamous 1906 earthquake.

You'll need to consume the first two books in this series, but that's a good thing. The author is an ace at creating a world and an ensemble cast infused with magic as much as real-world history.

This book is terrific for fantasy-adventure fans as well as history nerds, even if they're the same person.
