

Title: Sisters of Sword and Song

Author: Rebecca Ross

Reviewed by: Ria Chhabra, 13

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

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Sisters of Sword and Song was a stunning, fantasy, stand-alone novel by Rebecca Ross! Halcyon (Hal) and Evadne (Eva) once shared an unforgettable, deep bond as sisters. But when Hal is accepted into the queen's army at age 12, she leaves her home behind to begin her training. Now eight years later, Eva and her family eagerly await Hal's arrival, but instead she returns days earlier than scheduled. Sensing that something is amiss, Eva quickly discovers that Hal is accused of murder and is fleeing from her commander. Soon after an intense chase, Hal is finally captured and taken to be tried. There she's sentenced to a heavy punishment that would devour 15 of her valuable years, but Eva offers to share it! As the two begin to serve the sentence, they discover their strengths and purpose in the mission to save their nation!

My favourite part of this novel was definitely Hal and Eva's beautiful relationship. From unintended envy towards the others' accomplishments to pride for the other's successes, Ross captured the sisters' bond perfectly. Weaved with obstacles throughout the story that challenged the deep love, kindness and unending care for one another, their flawed relationship felt so authentic and relatable to readers. It was especially inspiring to watch each sister go through their individual journey, but always work towards the end-goal of reuniting!! Furthermore, Sisters of Sword and Song had dual points of view from Eva and Hal. This made it much more interesting and intense to experience relationship disagreements and shared issues with 2 compelling, unique perspectives.

I especially loved the immersive world in this novel that was steeped with culture! Inspired by ancient Greece, the characters wore chitons and sandals - traditional Greek clothing, while they worshipped 9 "divines" or gods and goddesses. In addition, each "divine" left behind a "relic" on Earth that would give the bearer a special gift such as flight. I also really liked how Sisters of Song and Sword had a new, refreshing twist on traditional magic, rather than spells, abilities or wands. In this novel mages would craft and sing their own enchantments to channel their power, while their scribes would sing along for support and record everything. Sisters of Sword and Song was a captivating, fantasy novel, immersed with Greek culture and I would highly recommend it for those 12+.

Recommended Titles:

Shielded, KayLynn Flanders

Splinters of Scarlet, Emily Bain Murphy

Forest of Souls, Lori M. Lee

A Song of Wraiths and Ruin, Roseanne A. Brown