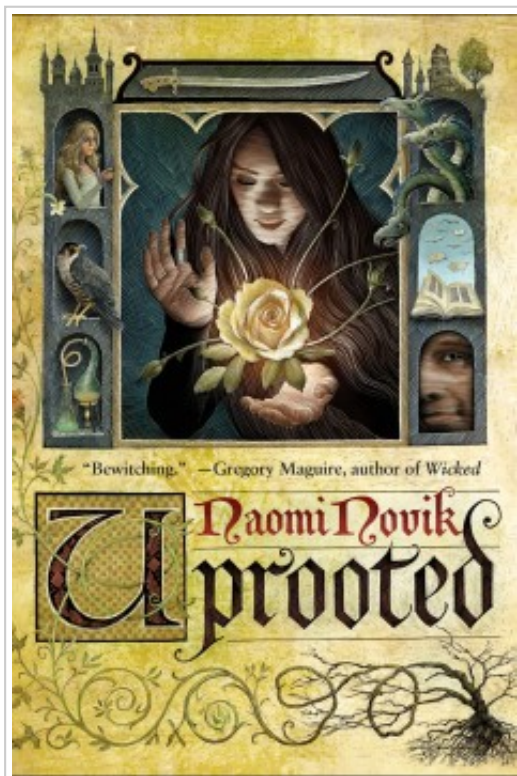


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Uprooted

by Naomi Novik

Price: \$25.00(Hardcover)

Published: May 19, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Naomi Novik, author of the New York Times bestselling and critically acclaimed Temeraire novels, introduces a bold new world rooted in folk stories and legends, as elemental as a Grimm fairy tale.

“Every so often you come upon a story that seems like a lost tale of Grimm newly come to light. Uprooted is such a novel. Its narrative spell is confidently wrought and sympathetically cast. I might even call it bewitching.”—Gregory Maguire, bestselling author of Wicked and Egg & Spoon

“Our Dragon doesn’t eat the girls he takes, no matter what stories they tell outside our valley. We hear them sometimes, from travelers passing through. They talk as though we were doing human sacrifice, and he were a real dragon. Of course that’s not true: he may be a wizard and immortal, but he’s still a man, and...

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What We Say

Like most fantasy fans, I'm eagerly awaiting the ninth and final volume in Naomi Novik's wonderful "Temeraire" series that cleverly and smartly imagines what would happen if there were dragons in the Napoleonic Era. But the muse can't be denied. For whatever reason, Novik felt compelled to write this stand-alone tale and it's a wholly satisfying gem. Based in fairy tale, it begins in classic fashion with a corker of an opening line: "Our Dragon doesn't eat the girls he takes, no matter what stories they tell outside our valley." Novik has you immediately and never falters. The novel begins with a ritual: the once-a-decade ceremony when the local wizard (nicknamed the "Dragon") chooses a young maid to take away to his tower, where she serves him in ways the locals can't imagine but spend an awful lot of time trying. Everyone simply knows the beautiful and winning Kasia will be chosen and yet it's our narrator Agnieszka the Dragon almost reluctantly takes. From the fate of Agnieszka to the fate of her valley to the fate of the kingdom and indeed the world, the scope of this story slowly but inexorably expands. So does the magic, whether the highly detailed, scientific magic of the Dragon or the more creative, "instinctive" magic that Agnieszka soon proves adept at. The chapters fly by; in reading it, I kept thinking, "Ok, just one more, just one more" over the two days I gobbled it down. And the medieval world Novik creates is as rooted in reality as her Napoleonic one. But unlike most fantasy, what I remember best is not the world but the vivid and complex characters. In what is ultimately a rather remarkable novel, I realized there were no genuine villains. Oh there was danger and evil aplenty (as symbolized by the malignant Wood that encroaches on Agnieszka's valley); armies clash, people struggle for power and so on. But time and again Novik reveals characters driven not by a black heart but by sincere if sometimes misguided impulses: indeed, nothing is scarier than someone doing great evil for what they consider a higher purpose. It also contains romance of a very adult and very believable nature, though as often happens in this book, events are very satisfying and characters very real but they never seem to do quite what you expect. The real triumph is at the end where Novik displays the ability to make understanding your enemy just as thrilling as destroying them. I love what Novik has done in the Temeraire series but this is the best single novel she's written. So far. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Uprooted has leapt forward to claim the title of Best Book I've Read Yet This Year. . . . Moving, heartbreaking, and thoroughly satisfying, Uprooted is the fantasy novel I feel I've been waiting a lifetime for. Clear your schedule before picking it up, because you won't want to put it down."—**NPR**

"A very enjoyable fantasy with the air of a modern classic . . . Naomi Novik skillfully takes the fairy-tale-turned-bildungsroman structure of her premise . . . and builds enough flesh on those bones to make a very different animal. . . . The vivid characters around her also echo their fairy-tale forebears, but are grounded in real-world ambivalence that makes this book feel quietly mature, its world lived-in."—**The New York Times Book Review**

"Novik here delivers a tale that is funny and fast-paced, laced with hair-raising battle scenes and conspiracies; it also touches on deeper ecological concerns we grapple with today."—**The Washington Post**

"Novik takes us on a surprise-filled journey. . . . The resulting warmth and intimacy provide a nicely nurturing environment for her heroine's..."

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