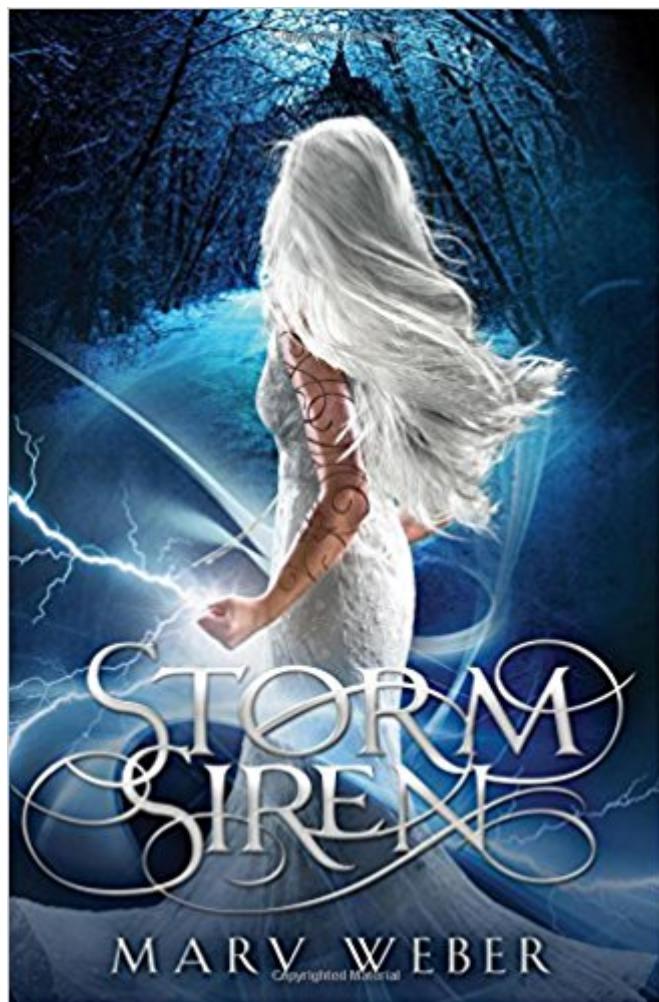


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Storm Siren (The Storm Siren Trilogy)



Synopsis

"There are few things more exciting to discover than a debut novel packed with powerful storytelling and beautiful language. STORM SIREN is one of those rarities. I'll read anything Mary Weber writes. More, please!" -Jay Asher, New York Times bestselling author of THIRTEEN REASONS WHY "Storm Siren is a riveting tale from start to finish. Between the simmering romance, the rich and inventive fantasy world, and one seriously jaw-dropping finale, readers will clamor for the next book--and I'll be at the front of the line!" --MARISSA MEYER, New York Times bestselling author of the Lunar Chronicles "I raise my chin as the buyers stare. Yes. Look. You don't want me. Because, eventually, accidentally, I will destroy you." In a world at war, a slave girl's lethal curse could become one kingdom's weapon of salvation. If the curse - and the girl - can be controlled. As a slave in the war-weary kingdom of Faelen, seventeen-year-old Nym isn't merely devoid of rights, her Elemental kind are only born male and always killed at birth - meaning, she shouldn't even exist. Standing on the auction block beneath smoke-drenched mountains, Nym faces her fifteenth sell. But when her hood is removed and her storm-summoning killing curse revealed, Nym is snatched up by a court advisor and given a choice: be trained as the weapon Faelen needs to win the war, or be killed. Choosing the former, Nym is unleashed into a world of politics, bizarre parties, and rumors of an evil more sinister than she's being prepared to fight . . . not to mention the handsome trainer whose dark secrets lie behind a mysterious ability to calm every lightning strike she summons. But what if she doesn't want to be the weapon they've all been waiting for? Set in a beautifully eclectic world of suspicion, super abilities, and monsters, Storm Siren is a story of power. And whoever controls that power will win. "Weber builds a fascinating and believable fantasy world. Inventive and entertaining." --Kirkus Reviews "[F]antasy readers will feel at home in Weber's first novel . . . a detailed backdrop and large cast bring vividness to the story." --Publishers Weekly "Readers will easily find themselves captivated. The breathtaking surprise ending is nothing short of horrific, promising even more dark and bizarre adventures to come in the Storm Siren trilogy." --RT Book Reviews, 4 stars

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • Nym, a slave and unlikely heroine, is plagued by guilt for the innocents killed by her superpower: dangerous weather spawned by her out-of-control anger. Along with flesh-eating horses and the shape-shifting wolf-wizard Draewulf, she considers herself one of the monsters that inhabit the war-torn world of Faelen. Together with Colin, who generates earthquakes, and handsome Eogan, who calms her storms, Nym redeems herself in a dramatic final battle. The story dabbles in exploring the nature of good vs. evil and fate vs. personal responsibility, but it will mainly appeal to romance readers. There are small glitches in the audio recording and a few sentences that are repeated, but the choice of voice actor Christine Stevens is inspired. Her even-toned narration softens the sometimes theatrical text. Stevens's style is particularly effective during the final minutes when a shocking surprise is revealed, leaving listeners howling for a sequel. •Toby Rajput, National Louis University, Skokie, IL --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Readers who enjoyed Marissa Meyer's Cinder series will enjoy this fast-paced fantasy which combines an intriguing story line with as many twists and turns as a chapter of A Game of Thrones!"--Dodie Owens, Editor, School Library Journal Teen "Weber builds a fascinating and believable fantasy world. Inventive and entertaining." --Kirkus Reviews "Readers will easily find themselves captivated. The breathtaking surprise ending is nothing short of horrific, promising even more dark and bizarre adventures to come in the Storm Siren trilogy."--RT Book Reviews, 4 stars'Between the beautiful words used to create this fairy-tale world, to the amazing power of the elementals, to the aspects of slavery and war, I'd say this book is a must read for any fantasy lover. It's powerful and will keep you turning pages

faster than you thought possible. I can't believe this is Mary Weber's debut novel. Congratulations!" (goodchoicereading.com) "Mary Weber's debut novel reflects an author sensitive to her audience, a stellar imagination, and a killer ability with smart and savvy prose." (relzreviewz.com) "One of my favorite things about this novel is how the pace unfolds just like a storm. Whether that was the author's plan, given her lead character's fantastic abilities, or a crazy random happenstance, I don't know; but from the moment the reader meets Nymia on the auction block, a deep, threatening charge, held off only by Nym's grief, shame, and fear, begins to build. As the story progresses, you can almost sense the dark clouds growing, building the tension toward the ultimate storm. And when that thunderhead finally breaks? Look out! There is no escape. You are utterly drenched in the action, drama, emotion---and a few moments of calm-within-the-storm beauty and truth---before the lightning cracks again and blows the sky apart." "The last one-fourth of the novel will keep you white-knuckled, and raggedly emotional---yes, I cried!---as evil and betrayal, romance and regret, sacrifice and surprise take you right up to the final scene that will no doubt leave you, as it did me, gasping from that hanging cliff for the sequel that cannot come too soon. Don't miss this one!" (Serena Chase, USAToday.com) "Storm Siren is an interesting take on the recent trend toward titles with teens who discover they have superpowers. What is unique about Storm Siren is the setting for the release of these powers - somewhat medieval, with rich descriptions of the castle and countryside. Nym is seventeen when she realizes her power, still raw and untrained. Queen Adora wants her for defense, and quickly gets her into training with the handsome and enigmatic Eogan, a favorite of the queen. As an Elemental, Nym's gift is rare, especially since it is usually only passed on to male children from one or both parents. Faelen, Adora's kingdom, is in bad shape, having been at war for many many years. The only way to change this is to mount a lethal attack on Drust. Brother and sister Colin and Breck quickly befriend Nym, and Colin makes no secret of his attraction to her. Breck, who is blind, serves as Nym's chambermaid the confidante, helping her maneuver through the way of the royal court. But there are secrets connecting the two kingdoms, and not all of Adora's loyal servants are what they seem to be. Readers who enjoyed Marissa Meyer's Cinder series will enjoy this fast-paced fantasy which combines an intriguing storyline with as many twists and turns as a chapter of Game of Thrones!" (Dodie Owens, School Library Journal Teen) "In the kingdom of Faelen, Elementals have always been male and killed at birth. With powers reminiscent of X-Men's Storm, 17-year-old Nym considers herself a monstrous fluke, tormented by guilt over her deadly abilities. After letting loose her powers in public, she becomes slave to petty Adora, who offers two unappealing options: execution or training as a weapon to save

their kingdom. Life consists of being trussed up by maid and new friend, Breck, for parties populated with lusty, conniving members of the elite High Court and slightly less dangerous outdoor training by secretive and attractive Eogan, along with Breck's cheeky brother Colin, who literally moves earth. The heroes and plot come in to action in the last third of the book. A bittersweet ending teases happiness, but the rug is pulled from under Nym and readers alike in the final pages. The language is occasionally jarring, using a tone typical of medieval tales, with occasional quips or thoughts coming across as too modern. Nym is distinct while the other characters are archetypes. Still, this adventure, in the vein of 1980s fantasy films, has readers rooting for the heroes to smite the wicked baddies. Buy where fantasy flies. (Danielle Serra, *School Library Journal*) "Nym has been a slave for 14 different masters when a noblewoman named Adora buys her, although as an untrained Storm Siren in a kingdom that kills Elementals at birth, Nym is lucky to be alive. In her new home, Nym finds that Adora is one of the king's advisors trying to stop Faelen from being invaded, and she plans to use Nym's powers as a line of last defense against the armies of the body-snatching Draewulf. Meanwhile, Nym can't stop thinking about Eogan, her trainer, whose touch brings a calm the likes of which she's never experienced before. Nym's struggles don't exactly tread new ground, so fantasy readers will feel at home in Weber's first novel. The romantic subplot falls a little flat, but a detailed backdrop and large cast bring vividness to the story. Nym's friend and fellow magic-user Colin, for example, keeps the mood light with his good humor without being reduced to comic relief alone. The story takes a surprisingly dark turn as the narrative pieces fall into place for the next book in this planned trilogy. (Publishers Weekly) "Readers will easily find themselves captivated. The breathtaking surprise ending is nothing short of horrific, promising even more dark and bizarre adventures to come in the Storm Siren trilogy. (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars) "Weber builds a fascinating and believable fantasy world. Inventive and entertaining. (Kirkus Reviews)

Nym is an Elemental, a supernatural being with the outward appearance of being human but with the inner ability to control Earth's elements and summon storms. Nym's very existence is considered a freak of nature. Before her birth, it was said that only male children could be born with Elemental powers and typically they were killed at birth. Nym's parents are able to hide her for a time, but once her secret is discovered, Nym is sold into slavery. In a span of 11 years, she is sold and sold again fourteen times, each time getting a circular brand on her arm to mark each time she changes owners. After an incident in which Nym's powers were said to have caused the death of

multiple innocents, she is grabbed up by a court advisor for the war-torn Kingdom of Faelen and given a choice: either be trained to fight for the Kingdom of Faelen or be executed. Nym agrees to undergo training and finds herself placed in the bonds of slavery once more. Not only that, but she is also immediately thrust into a world of war and court intrigue. Nym's battlefield training is overseen by Eogan, a court favorite of Lady Adora, the tyrannical ruler of Faelen. Eogan teaches Nym the extensive history of her people: how over 100 years ago, a war raged between a powerful shape-shifting wizard and the then king of Faelen. To end the war, a treaty was drawn up stating that all Elementals would be killed at birth, those born before the treaty's creation would be sent to camps to die. To this day, people of the Five Kingdoms (Faelen being only one of the five) are divided -- some say the treaty saved the kingdom because the Elementals were growing too powerful, too arrogant, too great in number... while others argue that the treaty turned the kingdom into a wasteland of debauchery. Now the area is at war again, hence the need for Nym's training, even though her Elemental blood is still kept a secret from most. But it's not just Nym with fantastical blood. There's also her training partner, Colin, a Terrene with the ability to manipulate topography, and his sister Breck. Breck is one of Lady Adora's house servants and is someone Nym quickly befriends. Nym also learns of another race, the Luminescents, who are capable of seeing into the souls of people, reading their true intentions. Leading the Luminescents is Rasha, heir to one of the other Five Kingdoms. Rasha explains how the power works: the stronger one's dreams and intentions are, the more easily a Luminescent can read you. Nym, having spent so many years pretty much just trying to stay alive, is surprised to see how quickly she becomes attached to these characters around her, especially trainer Eogan. As their bond grows, Lady Adora begins to take notice, becoming quite jealous. Her inner green monster grows so large that she pulls Nym aside and gives it to her straight: either keep interactions with Eogan strictly to the training grounds and speak only of training matters, or fear disfigurement... or injury to her friends. As the feudal tension throughout Faelen grows, Nym must make incredibly tough choices about who to trust and who to protect. If she's to save those she's come to know and love, save the kingdom she's come to call home, she realizes she must also find it within herself to embrace her powers rather than fight against them. Man, did I get sucked into this one in a hurry! At surface level, *Storm Siren* is quite the enjoyable fantasy novel; the plot proves just layered enough to stay interesting to story's end yet the world building, while rich and detailed, is explained straightforward enough to be enjoyed by newbies to the fantasy genre. I also liked the variety within the characters themselves. Nym is no damsel in distress! She is strong, yet she rages like a wildcat when triggered. She also has great capacity for love, though those around her sometimes have their work cut out for them getting

through those emotional walls she's put up. Then there's solid but smirky Eogan, perhaps one of the sexiest men I've met in fantasy in a long while. And for those who are always on the hunt for fantasy with a diverse cast -- male lead Eogan is described as a beautiful, dark black man! Eogan does a nice job of balancing pep talks to get Nym to believe in herself (and trust that she's not a monster unworthy of love or respect) with "I have no time for your nonsense tantrums, pull yourself together" shutdowns. Loved it! I also got a kick out of Myles, even though I was sometimes frustrated with him, as most of the time I was conflicted with what to make of him! For large chunks of the story he seems to be an adversary to Nym but then he'd turn around and offer help but then have the reader wondering about his motives. He has powers of his own, as well as a stutter that gets in the way of his trying to build up that presence of possible wickedness. Hard to truly hate someone when you just end up feeling bad for them! Underneath the fun fantasy adventure though, what I truly appreciated was the powerful, motivational message at the heart of the novel: that what you think might be a flaw within you might actually end up being your greatest strength, if you only learn to harness it rather than fight it. Nym spends so many years fighting this guilty feeling that she's this monstrous thing that doesn't deserve to live... until she is brought to that moment in life when she's placed in this reality where only her exact talents can save a nation of people. That's such an inspiring idea to bring to a reader -- that the thing you've spent so much time trying to stifle could end up being the one thing down the road that people will need to get them through... you just never know! So now where will Nym's new-found truth take her next? Wherever it is, you can bet she'll be more likely to have her eyes on the horizon rather than her feet!

Once I picked up *Storm Siren*, I had a hard time setting it back down. Set in a world of magical abilities, horrifying foes, friends and frenemies, (and with just a touch of a steampunkish feel slipping through now and again), *Storm Siren* is a fascinating, enjoyable, and altogether intriguing YA read. Not to imply that the story is all fun and games. The story progresses at a rapid pace, pausing only to explain the histories of the nations involved as needed. No fantasy adventure would be complete without a fair share of battles and training and desperate escapes, and *Storm Siren* is no exception. By the end of the book, the death toll is fairly high, but rather than feeling gratuitous, it only serves to highlight the dangers of the war facing Nym. Colin is people and all that is truly at stake. Nym makes for a sympathetic main character. Although she has lived as a slave in some form or another for most of her life, she is anything but a victim. And Colin is just too much fun. He's sweet, a little goofy, and slightly adorable, but that doesn't stop him from being quite formidable in battle. (Slight Spoiler Alert: Can I

just say that, despite all the readers who've been swooning over Eogan, I personally liked Colin so much better! I never really got Nym and Eogan's connection, or saw anything between them other than that she thought he was really, really, really handsome and we're supposed to believe that he thinks the same about her so it's got to be love, right? Not exactly a firm basis for a relationship, if you ask me.) As for Adora, well, let's just say it's been a long time since I have so thoroughly disliked and despised a character. From the first time I met her, I couldn't help hoping she would get her comeuppance and that it would be a doozy! Note: partly because of Adora, and partly because of Nym and Eogan, I'd suggest reserving this book for older readers, ages 14+ or so. I was not overly fond of the hissing speech pattern given to one of the slightly more dubious characters in the story. It seemed like too much of a desperate attempt to make this character seem stereotypically evil, but that's just my two cents. Long story short, I did enjoy reading *Storm Siren*, and I'm sure I will pick up the next book, *Siren Fury*, when it releases!

I ADORED each and every word that was written in this book. From the time I picked it up and began reading, I couldn't get enough. This is another one I had on my TBR Kindle shelf for way too long. This is the story of Nym, a slave who also happens to be an Elemental and can summon storms and wreak havoc in seconds. This is demonstrated in the opening scenes where she is on the auction block yet again and shows her dislike for one of the male buyers. Holy moly this girl has power! She is taken in by a woman named Adora, and there she meets some fantastic people; Breck, Colin and Eogan, to name a few. Eogan becomes her trainer, and Colin's too. I can't tell you how much I loved this book! I would classify it as YA, fantasy, sorta dystopian, with romance and humor, pretty much a little bit of everything. And that finale was jaw dropping! I highly recommend stopping whatever you are doing right now, and buy this book if you don't have it already, and get reading!! :)

Beautiful, lush world. Elemental powers and a dark, steampunk fantasy vibe round out this book. I've read the trilogy and all three books are fantastic. I loved Nym and her struggle to come to terms with her elemental powers and all the responsibilities that come with that. Nice slow burning romance too. (No spoilers!) Weber doesn't hold back on Nym's struggles, either. She deals with tough subjects like self-harm and self-worth. Definitely a keeper for my hardback bookshelves!

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