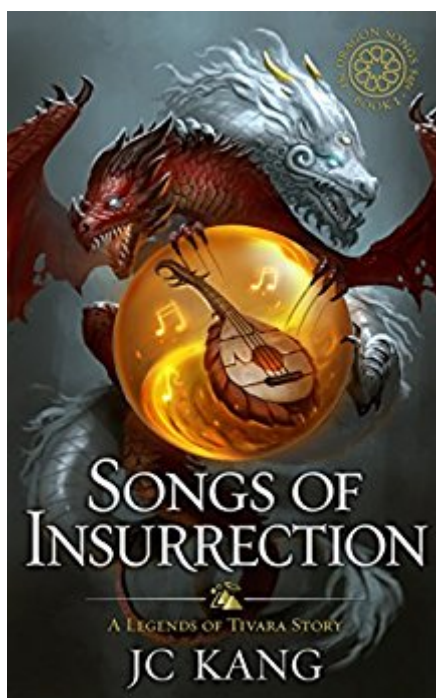


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Songs Of Insurrection: A Legends Of Tivara Story (The Dragon Songs Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

Books 1 & 2 on sale for 99c in the US and UK from August 30 to Sept 6. Only the lost magic of Dragon Songs can save the realm. Only a naïve girl with the perfect voice can rediscover it. Blessed with an unrivaled voice, Kaiya dreams of a time when music could summon typhoons and rout armies. Maybe then, the imperial court would see the awkward, gangly princess as more than a singing fool. When members of the emperor's elite spy clan uncover a brewing insurrection, the court hopes to appease the ringleader by offering Kaiya as a bride. Obediently wedding the depraved rebel lord means giving up her music. Confronting him with the growing power of her voice could kill her.

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Customer Reviews

I've read well more than a thousand books. I've had opportunity to read some amazing novels and series by both well known authors and complete noobs to the writing arena (as I myself am). Few novels or series are able to draw me in and make me hunger for more, to ache when the series is

over, to feel kinship to characters as if walking with old friends and family. John has done this with the Legends of Tivara. I had the honor and privilege of being one of the limited Critique Circle readers for the series. From the moment I read that first chapter, I was enthralled. My fascination with the world comes from being a world builder type author. The way the lands, the customs, the tiniest of details are presented really makes the reader feel as if they are there. These details are woven into the action, are there to support the characters, so much so that Tivara is as much a character as any other. He truly has shown us the world in his mind and I am grateful to John for sharing it with us, for sharing it with me so early on, because I know first hand what it is to allow others go at your stories with the purpose of hacking it to pieces in order to make it better. It's a level of trust and I seldom experience these days. Tivara is a land rich with cultures that mirror our own here on Earth, each written in three dimensions, interacting with one another in lively fashion. There are humans, elves, and dragons. There are ships, guns, and magic. A magic so varied and subtle and powerful that it would take at least three books just to begin to understand it all. So I recommend you get started. Pick up the Dragon Scale Lute and immerse yourself in Tivara...just don't forget your scuba gear!

For his debut novel, JC Kang did a terrific job. His world inspired by a mixture of Asian and other cultures felt refreshing and interesting compared to many fantasy novels these days. The narrative was well-balanced among descriptions of the setting, fleshing out the characters, and moving the plot. The plot was predictable in a few places but there were also a couple of surprises thrown in, and overall it was engaging. The 3 POV's (Kaiya, Tian, Jie) were not hard to keep track of, and the last third or so of the book moves very quickly... I couldn't stop turning the pages! Kaiya as the heroine was generally likable despite her naivety and had a couple of standout moments to her name. I look forward to see how she grows in the next books. I do think there was some untapped potential in this story. The setting could have been explored/detailed even further to really bring it to life, as I imagine readers unfamiliar with East Asia would not be able to fully envision the villages and palaces in Cathay and the life there. The characters, while most having distinct personalities (even the minor ones), seemed to fall short of being fully relatable. In particular the mysterious Hardeep who for being the main character's love interest failed to generate meaningful emotion or interest from me, which was the main disappointment. It was also difficult for me to gauge the motivations of the villains, though they were quite good at well, being the villains. The star of the show for me was Jie, the character who endures significant hardships throughout the story while serving her country and dealing with her (unrequited?) feelings for Tian. Overall a strong start. I'm

definitely onboard for the next books!

Everything about this heady fantasy pushed all my happy fangirl buttons. It was diverse, with a refreshingly predominately Asian cast. There was plenty of political power plays and immersion in Chinese and Southeast Asian cultures. There were spies, elves, magic, danger and yes...romance. Hence lies the BIG problem. By all rights and means this should have easily rated the full five stars. Unfortunately, the heroine, Princess Kaiya violated one of The Fountain Pen Diva's cardinal rules: thou must like the heroine as much as I do the hero. Frankly, Kaiya annoyed me throughout the entire novel. Between the endless hair twirling and her obsession over the handsome Prince Hardeep, I struggled to get through the chapters she was in. I got it, she was the typical plain Jane princess. I got it that she saw her only value in providing a marriage despite her talent for music. I got the whole idea of love at first sight, but that's also where it ran off the rails. Everything she does, as heroic, daring and dangerous, is all dependent upon what Prince Hardeep will think of her. It's like her bravery means nothing unless it's validated by a man. The irony being, Kaiya is quite capable and has a strong sense of justice. Hardeep (who is an interesting character in his own right) should have served as the catalyst, not the raison d'être. With that said, I enjoyed Songs of Insurrection and most definitely plan to read the next book in the series. I can only hope Kaiya finds her own voice, independent of the love interest.

I had a really hard time getting into this book. It took me almost a week to read it when I usually can finish a book this length in a couple of days. There was too much detail given on mundane things that were not important in my opinion, as well as the constant hopping around different Pov with hardly any notice of whose point of view it is. I think the story was a good idea but really should have the extra detail issues taken out.

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