



Songstruck

Sofia Black

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Isabel Poole is a wonderful storyteller. So wonderful, in fact, that her audiences tend to believe that the fairytales she tells are true. They aren't, of course, because magic isn't real.

That's what Isabel tells herself, until the day she's proven wrong.

On what should have been an entirely normal, entirely dull day, a strange melody fills the air and captures Isabel's attention. Leaving her home behind, she follows the song into the forest and finds its source: fae twins, intent on spiriting her away. They need her—or rather, the spark of magic inside of her—to help them end a war that is tearing their world apart. A wise person would refuse. A wise person would run home and forget about the fae and their war and their magic. A wise person never would have followed the music into the forest to begin with.

Isabel never claimed to be wise.

This is a new edition of Songstruck (ISBN: 9781505508536), with a new cover.

Songstruck Details

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Author : Sofia Black

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From Reader Review Songstruck for online ebook

Kate says

I can not wait to read this book! And its paperback so that is even better.

Alexxy says

*“Up and down and all around
Dancing, leaping from the ground
Fair Folk roaming everywhere
Come and join us if you dare*

*Come and see the fairies play,
Let me take you faraway
Come with me and you'll be free,
If you just believe in me...*

I know you believe in me”

Isabel likes to tell stories and people like to listen to her. What she doesn't know is that things are a little more complicated than she thinks. After following a voice singing a strange song into the jungle, she finds herself sucked into a world of magic, where she has to help fae twins stop a war.

Songstruck was a very interesting story to read. You will definitely enjoy it if you like stories that involve magic and fairies. One of the things that I especially liked was the pace of the story. It did start a little fast but it became okay soon and all through the book it was never slow to make me bored. Somethings were also a little predictable, like (view spoiler) But there was also some twists that I really didn't see coming and was fairly surprised.

On the other hand, the characters were a bit cliché and one dimensional.

Isabel, our MC, is apparently 15 –sorry, I don't remember the age, had to go and check the other reviews- which gives sense to her behavior. She acted a lot like a spoiled child but considering her age it's understandable. What bothered me was that she was some kind of a mary-sue. Like I've said before, I'm not one to detect mary-sues. So, I didn't see it when she was the only human who had magic, neither when she was able to use her magic literally two minutes after they told her she has one, but when one of the characters told her she's the only one who had been able to silence the twins in months? Okay, that definitely is a sign of a special snowflake. Although, she wasn't too perfect to be irritating just some small things that bothered me a little.

The era of the story wasn't mentioned either. So I had problem imagining things. For example, their clothes and the houses and the same sort of stuff.

The twins, Alastor and Ilena were interesting characters and I really liked them. Although, I would have loved to see more of their powers. Actually, I would have loved to see more of everyone's powers. Isabel's power played an important role in the plot and going of the story, but the others didn't seem like to remember they have powers at all.

And finally, the thing that bothered me the most: (view spoiler)

Despite all the things mentioned above, I do believe that Songstruck was a very light and enjoyable read.

You wouldn't be disappointed to try it either!

Edit : *And I forgot to mention that I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

Leslie says

Oh man, I am DEFINITELY "songstruck"! What a wonderful novel, balancing whimsy with ardent truth! Fantastic plot, unexpected twists, well-paced and highly entertaining! A great debut from an author worth following!

Brianna Mclaughlin says

This was such a fun read!!! Fantasy is not my first choice when it comes to picking a new book, but I'm so glad I chose Songstruck. Isabel is a unique narrator in that she is independent and strong, but still undeniably flawed. I also love that Isabel's magical development and the war are at the forefront of the novel and aren't put on the backburner for romance or mundane teen drama. This is a story of growth, confidence and finding one's way in a completely foreign land because reality was too ordinary. There were multiple plot twists throughout the book that I begrudgingly didn't see coming in the slightest. With that said, Songstruck is definitely a page turner. I definitely got sucked into this story and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to escape reality for awhile, not just those who usually prefer fantasy novels.

(view spoiler)

Debbie says

I really wanted to like the story, I struggled with it, the smirks, pouts, whines, and non heroic behavior was too much for me. It didn't make the characters more real to me, just unlikable. The plot was solid, the story line developed, I just couldn't root for anyone.

Ricah (vamptimesurfer) says

Full review to come

Athena says

[First off, I like that it was a pretty fast start. The very beginning, when we were getting all the background and stuff was a little tough to swallow but after that it was just like,

Creepy guy was creepy. :P Though, finding out who he was later was pretty cool. And, because I'm ill educ

EJ Roberts says

I think of these books as 'crossover' books. The main character begins in one land and ends up in another. What I liked about this is Isabel didn't come from our times. Our world, yes, but more in the past. It worked well and the explanation made sense. Being that Isabel is 15, she acted and behaved like a typical 15 year old and it worked quite well. She came across sometimes as childish and spoiled, and yet could be quite grown up and responsible as well. Teens behave this way during this time in their lives, so it was perfect.

The plot itself shows great promise. Some things you expect were there, but there were parts that completely surprised me. I quite enjoyed being surprised as I wasn't expecting it. However, the writing could be tightened up. The beginning was a little jumpy and confusing in places. As with many indie books, Sofia hit her stride about midway through the book and the story began to flow better. It picked up momentum and continued strong to the end. One thing I did have problems with was the conflict resolution. There was a lot of build up to many scenes and then the resolution didn't quite seem to hold up its end of the bargain. The build up to each conflict was great, so they deserved a great resolution.

Sofia shows promise as an author and will only continue to grow in her craft as she progresses.

Lysistrata says

There are few self-published authors that can make me feel like a thirteen-year-old discovering the fantasies of Tamora Pierce or Tanith Lee for the first time. Sophia Black has certainly joined their ranks with her debut novel.

The shining star of SONGSTRUCK is clearly its lead, Isabel. Sophia Black maintains an excellent balance of showcasing a realistic young girl and a clear heroine in the making. For example, she's not afraid to be quippy or confrontational like most teenagers, but there are times where that does more damage than it does good, so Isabel must deal with the consequences. Her workarounds to problems, especially when she begins using her powers, likewise mirror her personality. As such, her magic itself feels very organic to the setting, and never once feeling like some sort of overpowered Chosen One narrative. It's extremely refreshing amidst a hoard of YA fantasies that do just that.

The story itself is serviceable. While it is no Game of Thrones, I did find it hard to put the book down once I was sucked into the story, as almost every chapter seemed to have some sort of plot twist ready to spring itself on Isabel and her party. Isabel's storytelling powers added a level of unpredictability to the story, as she frequently comes up with interesting solutions to typical fantasy clichés. Similarly, the supporting cast isn't groundbreaking, but they have strong enough personalities and motivations to keep the reader from losing interest.

However, the story does have flaws. There is a distinct lack of world-building in the text. Perhaps the intention was to give the story a timeless fairy-tale like veneer, but the lack of solid details about world of Illusia end up throwing off the overall flow of the story. There is simply too much dialogue and no true sense of scale, especially so during the first third of the story. It's not until half-way through that the action-dialogue ratio balances itself out.

Related to the world building issue, while it's clear that the "real world" is in the past, I couldn't tell if Isabel

was supposed to be from the Middle Ages, the Victorian era, or somewhere in between. Due to the lack of detail, I couldn't even figure out where Isabel was supposed to be from--England? Greece? Mexico? It's certainly jarring that a young girl who has never left her little village before wouldn't react more to her new surroundings, especially when castles start popping up. While I do like that Isabel takes everything in stride, it does take away from how she ultimately ties up the loose ends in her home world.

Nonetheless, the meat of story is strong when it matters most. SONGSTRUCK is an enjoyable adventure that's suitable for readers of all ages.
