



## Broken Arrow

*Azaria M.J. Durant*

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## **Broken Arrow** Azaria M.J. Durant

Ealdred is the son of no one. A half-breed slave. Born to serve.

And yet magic lives within him.

When a freak accident reveals his powers not only to himself, but to the world, Ealdred is forced to flee for his life, only to fall into the hands of the dark sorcerer, Zeldek. Suddenly, he is thrown into a world he never knew existed. The legends are real, the Vaelhyreans of old exist, and Ealdred must choose between death and service to Zeldek.

But when he meets Bellator, beautiful and treacherous servant of Zeldek, a new choice is presented to him: to escape from Zeldek's stronghold and embark on a quest to find the cursed arrow of his ancestors and free the Vaelhyreans from the spell that holds their powers captive.

Yet how can he survive in a world where magic is illegal, half-breeds are despised, and the four kingdoms are on the brink of war?

## **Broken Arrow Details**

Date : Published July 29th 2018 by Imperatrix Publishing (first published April 29th 2018)

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Author : Azaria M.J. Durant

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## From Reader Review Broken Arrow for online ebook

### Azaria Durant says

Broken Arrow was my project and passion between the ages of 14 and 19, and I put basically all of my struggles into it. The story and characters were very real to me, and I enjoyed writing every word. What I want most for my reader (you) as you enter the magical, epic, and dangerous world of Theara is that you are immersed in it and it can be as real to you as it was for me. I hope that the characters stick with you for a long time.

But I already know you will enjoy it. Because it's a great book.

So go read it.

Please ;)

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### J Aislynn d'Merricksson says

Broken Arrow is first in Durant's Darkened Destiny series, following the adventures of half-breed Ealdred. Despised for what he is, Ealdred has been a slave his entire life. When the sorcerer Zeldek captures Ealdred and brings him to the stronghold of Gaiztoak, he learns there's more to his past than ever he realised. Zeldek tries to convince Ealdred to join forces with him. Ealdred refuses, and later is 'freed' by Zeldek's general, Bellator, who is convinced that Ealdred has what it takes to mend the magical broken arrow artifact of Arnon. There certainly is more to Ealdred, more than even he and Bellator know. A visit to the Valamette royal household reveals unexpected aspects of Ealdred's past. Ealdred will lose friends, and gain them, but can he gain what he most wants- his freedom? And can he learn to control his burgeoning magic before he seriously harms himself or others?

I quite enjoyed this story. There were far less dragons than I expected. We see living dragons, but most often, we see them as decoration on weapons, jewelry, and brands. Still, I love Fyra for the time we see her. Maybe there will be more dragons in future books. I certainly hope so! Ealdred himself is a compelling character. A slave, Ealdred has never quite lost his will, his stubborn streak. He's been beaten near senseless, starved, and forced to watch a friend die. He has a strong sense of morality and ethics, and it is for this reason that Bellator needs him to help mend the Arrow of Arnon.

The writing was a little clunky at times. There were things that could be tightened and trimmed to flow better. Another grammar/ spell check would not be amiss. I was also confused about the half-breed concept. Zeldek called Ealdred half-race, saying he is part Valhyrean, which did seem a different species actually. But half-breed seems to mean something else, like if people from one country marry someone from another country. Does that mean each country is actually a slightly different species? Half-breeds seem to always manifest with pale skin, black hair, and blue eyes. The anthropologist in me wants to understand the genetics behind this! Haha, probably just reading too much into things. That being said, I quite enjoyed this read and am looking forward to reading the next in the series. Recommended for those enjoy scifi/ fantasy!

\*\*\*Many thanks to the author and publisher for providing an e-galley in exchange for a fair and honest review. This book was reviewed for the XPresso Blog Tours.

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## CS Taylor says

Incredibly developed story. It had a rich world, mythology. Bountiful, beautifully written characters. A carefully built plot. Excellent play on cliches that made them feel new.

This story drew me in right away. It had a great voice. It had beautiful description. It had well-written and consistent characters.

It's often difficult to keep me interested or invested in a story. I get bored having read very widely in fantasy. But I had neither of those problems with this book. It kept my attention from beginning to end. It was well worth the few hours it took to read.

I look forward to seeing more from this author in the future.

For more, read this review: <https://romantictypewritergardens.wor...>

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## Gregory says

No Spoiler Review. Imaginative. Rolling out with a good pace, in a well constructed world, Broken Arrow managed to subvert my expectation! It answered important questions set from the beginning, while raising more questions in the end...questions that need answering, begging for further adventure. Well done!

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## Lee says

After almost a year of not reading anything except school books, Azaria sent me an advance copy and I devoured this book in a day in a half. The characters are fascinating and complex, the story is amazingly developed, and the world feels completely real. While most fantasy books tend to explain their world and magic in long, dull passages, *Broken Arrow* explores these aspects of the story in engaging, fascinating ways. I'm excited to reread a published copy soon.

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## Anie says

Received from Xpresso Book Tours

Broken Arrow describes such a rich fantasy world. I especially love the mix of political and magical system, it's very vast and interesting. I love reading a fantasy book with thought out setting.

Ealdred is just a boy living a very hard life. Sold as a slave from a very young age and is constantly beaten and yelled at. No matter the amount of abuse, he stayed good on the inside. After particularly hard punishment, something magical happens and he has to run. This is a world where magic has become a myth. On the run gets captured and thrown in the middle of an ancient power struggle. And he just might be the most important part.

The world building is amazing, I felt like I was really there, in the middle of the action. The writing is good,

but the pace is a bit off at times.

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## **Anisa says**

Intriguing storyline, strong characters ( I would like the male protagonist to be stronger but I understand he has't been trained yet so) I love fantasy books and these kind of lovely book cover so this can't really go wrong with me.

It is possible for you to be confused at the first few chapters, but you'll be fine! Don't worry. I like how the male protagonist develops his powers slowly, in a more realistic pace. Unlike some other books that went from a poor guy to the strongest in a nanosecond after the big revelation .

I would love to know what happens next, can't wait for book 2 :"(

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## **Wolverine says**

### **Women in Fantasy**

I was excited to see so many women in positions of power—in the councils, in their legends/stories, as sidekicks, as a protagonist. Bellator, who reminded me of Black Widow in a lot of ways, was the most obvious strong woman. But every woman who featured showed a different kind of strength—loyalty, love, patience. Mental, emotional, and physical strength were all displayed through these female characters, which was a welcome departure from clichés of “her personality is knocking people out + wearing spandex.”

### **Plot**

There were multiple times that I thought I had the plot figured out, based on assumptions/clichés of the high fantasy genre. I was always wrong. If I assumed that no one else was going to be added to the cast of characters, someone who turned out to be one of my favorites joined the crew. If I thought that chapters of the novel would be taken up with a Journey-Through-The-Fantasy-World narrative, swordfights/higher stakes/so many people with their own motivations and goals that fought against Ealdred's were introduced.

There were also quite a few plot twists that were well foreshadowed and caught me by surprise. My only con is that during the climax, Ealdred didn't seem to be an active participant. While Bellator was, of course, also a protagonist, Ealdred didn't contribute much to resolving his side of the plotline during the main back-and-forth.

### **Worldbuilding/Setting**

One of the best worldbuilding bits was the ‘origin myths/stories’ of how different civilizations and conflicts came to be. These stories flowed very naturally and felt similar to creation/origin stories told by real tribes and peoples today.

I think the setting/descriptions were largely carried by the choice to use present tense. It made the prose clip along, instead of drag during the descriptive parts. This world really felt rich and fully imagined, and the

descriptions used so many strong sensory details.

### **Overall**

My favorite bit of dialogue was:

“That’s settled,” she replies in her usual officious manner. “Now, let’s go kill some raiders, shall we?”

“Right behind you!” Uri cries with new enthusiasm, gripping his trident with both hands.

“Don’t let me spoil the fun,” I say miserably.

I'm excited for the next book to come out + see where my favorite characters end up as they keep chasing their goals <3

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### **Jessica Rachow says**

I was drawn into Broken Arrow immediately, from the first page. The writing is really intriguing, and I just wanted to know what was happening. I read this book in one sitting because I couldn’t put it down. I’m really impressed with Azaria M. J. Durant’s ability to create captivating characters and beautiful descriptions.

There are twists and turns at every corner. It was fast paced, and even with some more complex character names, each character felt real. I never found myself lost or trying to figure out who was who.

I’m a huge fantasy fan when it is done correctly, and Broken Arrow was done correctly. I highly recommend checking this one out!

\* I recieved a copy of this book as part of a blog tour. All opinions are my own.\*

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### **Jessica Crespino says**

I absolutely loved the characterization. The self-reflective male protagonist (Ealdred) was a nice change from the many headstrong or confident male characters out there, but my favorite character by far was Bellator, for the complexities and subtly-hinted-at backstory. Truly a character well woven.

There were times when I was a bit confused as to the current step in the overall plot, but the action, relationships, and plot twists kept the story moving swiftly enough that I never felt lost in what was going on. Definitely looking forward to the next book!

### **Destiny Bridwell says**

I received a copy of this book for a fair and honest review. The pacing of this tale kept me turning the pages from page one until I closed the back cover a couple of hours later. I loved the world building and how the characters pulled you along on their journey. I sometimes have an issue with some fantasy. But I found all the answers I needed and the tale was put together very well. The POVs of the characters are sharp and clear. This makes it very easy to follow the story and who's voice is telling this part of the story. I enjoyed it and can't wait to see what come in the next one.

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### **Rachel says**

“The Broken Arrow” by Azaria M.J. Durant is a high-speed adventure with twists at every turn; this book was a superb read. I could hardly put the book down! When Ealdred is captured by the vile Zeldrek, he meets an unexpected ally and they set off to find the Broken Arrow, an alleged weapon that will be able to vanquish Zeldrek once and for all. I recommend this book to anyone who loves fantasy and adventure. I can hardly wait till I forget the plot so I may read it again! I look forward to a sequel.

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### **Teresa Lavender says**

Won this here on goodreads. I LOVED this book. I struggled with the cruelty to children in this book, but I understand it was part of the story. Well executed characters and story line. It only became predictable when the pieces were pulled together. Can't wait to see how the rest of the series plays out!

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### **Amanda Kern says**

#### **Awesome book**

This is an awesome book. I can't wait till the next one. I read this book as unlimited and ended up following the author and actually buyi n the book. Please try it out.

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### **J Plaza says**

Broken Arrow by Azaria M.J. Durant is one of those books that I am overjoyed to name a forever favorite of mine. From the very first chapter, Azaria weaves together a wonderful fantasy filled with characters that burst with life, a world of magic, and an adventure impossible to put down. Ealdred, a half-breed slave boy, has a rare gift: magic. And Zeldek, a dark sorcerer, will stop at nothing to gain Ealdred's allegiance, and his power. Yanked from life as he's known it and thrust into a world where he is more powerful than he could possibly imagine, Ealdred has to make a choice: bow down to Zeldek or resist. That is, before Bellator, a servant of Zeldek, offers him a different option. If Ealdred helps her find a long-lost, magical broken arrow,

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he won't have to give himself to Zeldek or defy him and risk death.

Azaria's writing style brings the land of Theara, its outlaws and kingdoms and lush history, into brilliant light. All I had to do was close my eyes and I could see Fyra rising up in front of me; the story unfolded like a movie in my head. I would find myself asking questions like, "Will Ealdred's family's identity ever be revealed?" and, "How did Bellator get her scars?" that left me with no other choice but to blaze through the next chapter. And the next. And the next. The plot twists left me gaping with shock and overwhelmed with emotion.

Then there are the characters. Ealdred won my heart easily with his acts of good and his kind heart, but he wasn't the only character that drew my eye. Bellator, Ealdred's unlikely ally, is undoubtedly my favorite character from Broken Arrow. As Ealdred and Bellator set off to find the broken arrow, joined for a while by their friends Annalyn and Uri, they are dogged every step of the way by Zeldek's informants. Azaria takes this time to slowly unmask the outward cold, harsh demeanor of Bellator to reveal a girl who has suffered hardship and betrayal that questions everything Ealdred thinks he knows about her. Bellator kept me on my toes trying to figure out her secrets and puzzle out her plots and past.

Broken Arrow pulled me into a story world that would not let me go. By the end, I was nearly in tears because I knew I only had a few more pages to spend with Ealdred, Bellator, and all the rest of the characters introduced along their quest. I would highly recommend Broken Arrow to readers looking for a book with complex and lifelike characters, avid fantasy readers, and to anyone who wants to read a well-written novel. Broken Arrow stole my heart, and I cannot wait for the sequel!

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