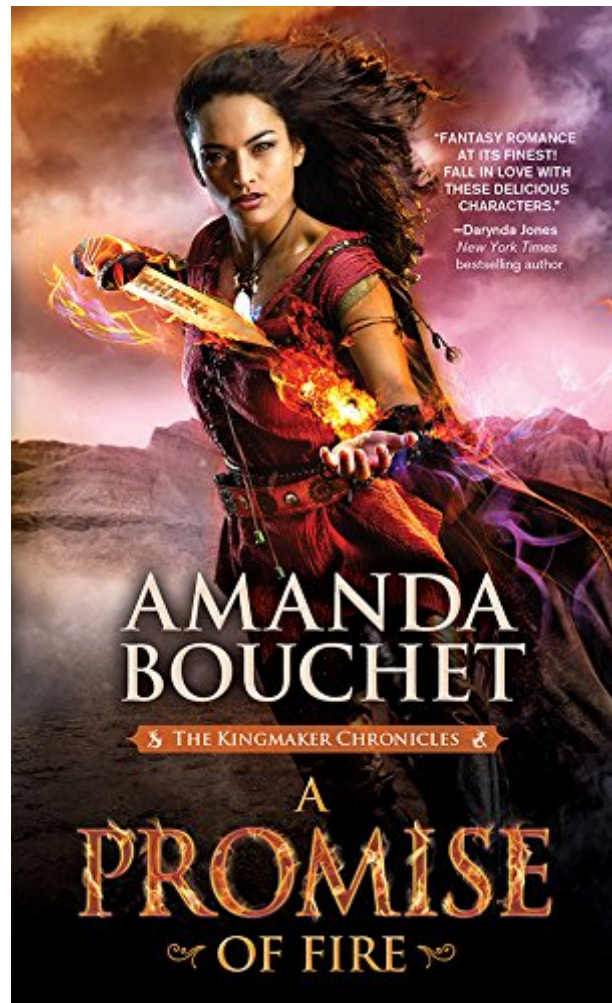


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A Promise Of Fire (The Kingmaker Chronicles Book 1)



Synopsis

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2016! An NPR Best Book of 2016!"I can say, without a doubt, that A Promise of Fire is going on my keeper shelf...I cannot remember the last time I wanted to both savor and devour a book." *Smart Bitches, Trashy Books* KINGDOMS WILL RISE AND FALL FOR HER... BUT NOT IF SHE CAN HELP IT Catalia "Cat" Fisa lives disguised as a soothsayer in a traveling circus. She is perfectly content avoiding the danger and destiny the Gods-and her homicidal mother-have saddled her with. That is, until Griffin, an ambitious warlord from the magic-deprived south, fixes her with his steely gaze and upsets her illusion of safety forever. Griffin knows Cat is the Kingmaker, the woman who divines the truth through lies. He wants her as a powerful weapon for his newly conquered realm-until he realizes he wants her for much more than her magic. Cat fights him at every turn, but Griffin's fairness, loyalty, and smoldering advances make him increasingly hard to resist and leave her wondering if life really does have to be short, and lived alone. The Kingmaker Chronicles: A Promise of Fire (Book 1) Breath of Fire (Book 2, coming January 2017) Heart on Fire (Book 3, coming Fall 2017) Praise for The Kingmaker Chronicles "Breath of Fire is a heart-pounding and joyous romantic adventure that swept me away. Amanda Bouchet's talent is striking." *NALINI SINGH*, New York Times bestselling author on Breath of Fire More Praise for A Promise of Fire: "I cannot remember the last time I wanted to both savor and devour a book." *Smart Bitches, Trashy Books* "An exquisite high-fantasy romance with masterful worldbuilding." *Kirkus STARRED Review* "Fantasy romance at its finest! You will fall in love with these delicious characters." *Darynda Jones*, New York Times bestselling author of the Charley Davidson series "Bouchet skillfully melds the genres while crafting a sexy, emotional romance." *Sarah MacLean*, The Washington Post "A Promise of Fire made me laugh out loud more than once." *Thea Harrison*, New York Times bestselling author of the Elder Races series

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Customer Reviews

4.5 Rating I'm not sure how I selected A Promise of Fire, but I'm certainly glad I did, as it turned out to be a truly awesome Adult Fantasy Romance which engaged me from the very beginning. It's interesting that the world building in this story blends Greek mythology, magic, and elements unique to this story. The main characters, especially my favorite, Cat, a Royal in hiding and Garrett, the Warlord and his loyal band of warriors, are solid, and best of all, I cared about them all. The book's got that indefinable spark that made me connect and invest in what was happening from the start. I know that Urban fantasy readers have met this kind of heroine before. Cat's laying low. She's the daughter of a ruthless tyrant of a Mother who wants Cat back under her thumb. And her childhood was forged in torture and blood so she doesn't believe she can be loved and believes that anyone she could love will meet a horrible end. Cat has her own power, but she has to hide it in order to hide herself, but I loved her as she was very much her own person. Anyway, she's hiding out in a circus when Garrett crosses her path. Somehow, this powerful warlord has figured out one of the secrets she holds close. She is what's called a Kingmaker. Cat can feel the difference between a truth and a lie, and that's only the beginning of her multiple powers. She's also a warrior in every sense of the word. Garrett kidnaps her and forces her to come back with him back to his sister's kingdom. At first, I didn't care for Garrett. However, he had a way of growing on the reader (as well as Cat). His family now rules one of the nearby lands. The whole family are very good people and Cat doesn't know what to make of them, but she comes to love them because they're real and loving people who need Cat, her guidance, and her magic, to hold on to what they've gained. And while at first she fights the idea with everything in her, she grows to love not only the group, but specifically Garrett, the man who has changed her life. I really just loved the contrasts in Cat's character. She

jaded. She believes the worst in people because that is the only life she's known. But in other ways, she's naïf. I loved watching how the simple goodness and kindness of Garrett's people begin to affect her on a fundamental level. I loved how she comes to begrudgingly accept friendship and love into her life, while still being the prickly, argumentative powerhouse that she always was. I love Garrett's stalwartness, his steadiness and strength that he wants to share with Cat from the start. I believed in their growing feelings for one another and I wanted for it to work for the two of them and I certainly came to grow in love for them both. This book is the first in a new series. While it doesn't end on a cliffhanger, it certainly leaves me wanting more. I want more of these characters and more of their story. I would definitely recommend this one for fans of fantasy romance. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series, *Breath of Fire*. Way to go Amanda! Jack Murphy

In case you don't follow me on Goodreads, you might not be aware of my Ilona Andrews obsession. I got addicted to the genre of urban fantasy thanks to them and for a long time kept searching for novels that had an emotionally strong female and did not focus too much on world building (Basically *Game of Thrones* without the lengthy descriptions and family trees). I like intricate worlds but after a point I want to engage with the characters and not the world. *A Promise of Fire* was a nice surprise. It had a strong and sassy heroine with an interesting family tree as well as a lot of political intrigue. According to Goodreads, it is to be a trilogy and the positive effects of this defined end can be seen when the plot progresses quickly and steadily. I think the weakest link of the story is the alpha male in it. Though Griffin is a sweetie, at times he just seems like a caricature when compared to Cat. His family has better character development. The book introduces us to an intriguing mythology. The secondary characters are well developed and certain scenes with them make the story almost unforgettable. Overall, I thoroughly recommend this book, especially if you're an Ilona Andrews fan or in the search for *Percy Jackson* for adults or a replacement for Trudi Canavan.

A Promise of Fire is a book that just seemed to come out of nowhere to me. Suddenly, on August 2nd, I started seeing the name pop up all over Twitter with readers raving about it. I was intrigued and, after reading the summary, I bought it and soon started devouring it. It is rare that a book actually lives up to the hype, but I think Amanda Bouchet's debut definitely deserves all the praise it is getting. This is the first in the *Kingmaker Chronicles* which takes place in a fantasy world that is reminiscent of medieval Europe with some Greek mythology thrown in for good measure. The heroine is Cat, the legendary Kingmaker clairvoyant, who has been hiding as a circus performer for years. Unfortunately, her secret is blown and she is taken captive by Griffin, a warlord whose family

has recently taken control of the Sinta region. The rest of the book focuses on Cat, Griffin, and his loyal soldiers as they travel to the capital city and continue their efforts to establish the new regime. There is so much that I adored about this book. The heroine is intelligent, powerful, sarcastic, and flawed. She is likable from the beginning and, as the author slowly reveals her past and her dreams, she becomes someone I really came to admire. Cat is determined to live life according to her rules after years of torment at the hands of another powerful leader so she doesn't take Griffin's edicts lightly. For his part, despite the kidnapping thing, Griffin is another enjoyable character. He knows that taking Cat captive like he did is not ideal, but he is willing to do anything to insure his family's safety and stability. During the journey, he tries to prove that he is actually a decent person many times and it is easy to see when Cat (and the reader) begins to fall for him. Cat and Griffin's romance is slow to develop, but also easy to understand. They have physical chemistry from the start and their emotional bond grows as they traverse through the countryside. I loved the banter between these two intelligent, alpha-mind people who secretly want to find someone to connect with. They are just so adorable together especially with Cat's bravado paired with Griffin's determination. I also enjoyed all the side characters and how they helped bring the world to life. Griffin's soldiers (Carver, Kato, and Flynn) are loyal, strong, and hilarious. I appreciated how they came to care for Cat as a friend and wanted to protect her while also acknowledging her own strength. Griffin's family was a big surprise to me (and Cat). I enjoyed reading about the way that they weren't afraid to show their love for one another while also arguing like normal siblings do. There is a lot more that I could say about how much I loved this book, but I think it would spoil the fun for any future readers. Just know that, for me, *A Promise of Fire* was worth the hype and was exactly the type of addicting fantasy I had been needing. I definitely cannot wait for the sequel to be released early next year especially with the cliffhanger ending.

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