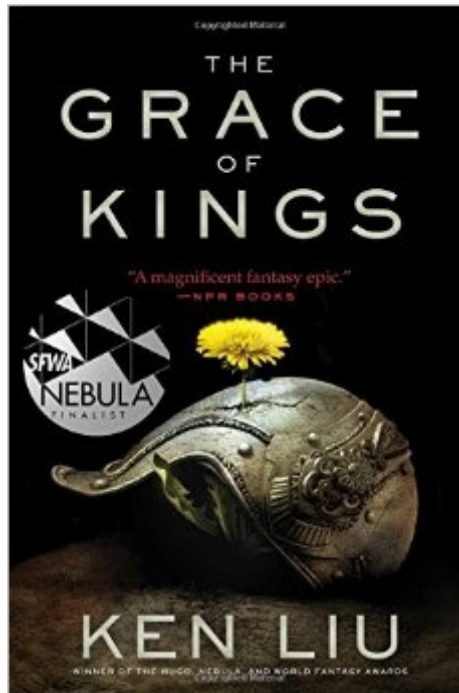




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The Grace Of Kings (The Dandelion Dynasty)



Synopsis

Two men rebel together against tyranny and then become rivals in this first sweeping book of an epic fantasy series from Ken Liu, recipient of Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards. Hailed as one of the best books of 2015 by NPR. Wily, charming Kuni Garu, a bandit, and stern, fearless Mata Zyndu, the son of a deposed duke, seem like polar opposites. Yet, in the uprising against the emperor, the two quickly become the best of friends after a series of adventures fighting against vast conscripted armies, silk-draped airships, and shapeshifting gods. Once the emperor has been overthrown, however, they each find themselves the leader of separate factions—two sides with very different ideas about how the world should be run and the meaning of justice. Fans of intrigue, intimate plots, and action will find a new series to embrace in the Dandelion Dynasty.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Ken Liu's *The Grace of Kings* is a magnificent fantasy epic. Liu is building a dynasty." (Amal El-Mohtar NPR Books) "The Grace of Kings is an ambitious, astonishing, and sublime work, one that both exemplifies and diverges from what one might think of when it comes to epic fantasy. It should rank amongst the genre's best works." (Andrew Liptak io9) "Liu's combination of elements from China, Polynesia and beyond, told in an epic style, is the kind of Silk Road Fantasy that I've always wanted to read, and love all the more now that I have." (Paul Weimer SF Signal) "Told in Liu's graceful, intelligent, and literate prose, the novel is a sumptuous Epic feast." (Rob Bedford

SFF World)"The Grace of Kings is a fantasy, with petty meddling gods, odd mechanized inventions, and a sense that mystical powers lurk around the corner. It is nothing if not epic." (Justin Landon Tor.com)"The epic fantasy genre can only be enriched by more novels drawing from non-Western traditions. Liu's ambitious work expertly blends mythology, history, military tactics, and technological innovation (airships and submarines). " (Kirkus Reviews)"The Grace of Kings is grand, mythic and epic, but Liu's silkpunk world of trickster gods and giant horned whales is also a delight." (Relentless Reading) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ken Liu is one of the most lauded authors in the field of American literature. A winner of the Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, Locus Sidewise, and Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Awards, he has also been nominated for the Sturgeon and Locus Awards. His short story, "The Paper Menagerie," is the first work of fiction to simultaneously win the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy Awards. He also translated the 2015 Hugo Award-winning novel *The Three-Body Problem*, written by Cixin Liu, which is the first novel to ever win the Hugo award in translation. *The Grace of Kings*, his debut novel, is the first volume in a silkpunk epic fantasy series set in a universe he and his wife, artist Lisa Tang Liu, created together. It was a finalist for a Nebula Award and the recipient of the Locus Award for Best First Novel. He lives near Boston with his family.

This was an interesting take on the classic tale of rebellion against an evil empire. Full of moral ambiguity and rich characterization, but written in an uncomplicated mythic style. Reminds me of a lighter *Prince of Thorns* by Mark Lawrence or a more accessible *Dune*. The final chapters felt rushed, but overall the pacing was good. Excellent world-building, though his insistence on restricting the use of magic to the Gods results in a need for some improbable technologies to move the plot along, which stretches suspension of disbelief almost to the breaking point. Definitely bears a second reading, and I look forward to reading the sequel.

I loved this book. I don't want to diminish my praise by giving myself qualifiers, but as an Asian American and fan of sweeping epics, science fiction and fantasy, I am so appreciative of this book. The story felt familiar and close to home, but also so imaginative and new. I am so happy to have this in my collection. I bought this after stumbling upon Ken Liu's collection of short stories, *Paper Menagerie*. I saw some elements from those stories here and was delighted. I was a fan after the short stories. After *Grace of Kings*, Ken Liu is nearing the top of my list of favorite authors.

As it slowly gathered its diffuse concerns into a great political epic, I was struck by the great moments Liu managed to create: intimate portraits of vulnerability, quiet loyalty, moral flaws teetering on the edge of redemption. The last half is a heart racing rush, and I'm eager to follow the many twisting paths sure to open before us in the next installment.

When I heard Ken Liu was finally doing a novel, and epic fantasy no less, I could hardly contain myself. Imaginative as he is, and with his feet in two cultures and narrative voices, there was no doubt the celebrated short story writer would find a fresh take on the genre. And he does — and not just in plot or setting. For better or worse, *The Grace of Kings* upends epic fantasy expectations with pacing and tone — the book reads more like a collection of fables, or a (recorded) oral history, than a typical novel. Light-hearted, spanning many years, featuring characters a little too extreme to be believed, one almost feels the tale comes with the mythological veneer of a second- or third-hand telling, something passed down rather than spun fresh from the author's brain. The pacing and scope stand out most in this book. Where we usually expect just one beginning, middle and end, and the deep insight into character that only fiction offers, Liu gives us many characters in light detail, and a story that spans many years and climaxes of action. Economy of words shouldn't be surprising from an author of so many (wonderful) short stories — it's his second nature to such authors (see Mary Robinette Kowal). But Liu declines the opportunity of a longer word count to get deeper into his characters' heads, opting instead for a sort of saga of sketches, an epic of vignettes that together form a broader tale than we expect from a single novel (really, the characters and plots would be fodder for a trilogy from most authors). That's not to say Liu's debut novel is without depth. Though the characters are sketched rather than illustrated in great detail...read the full review (and more!) at topnewfantasy.com

The guy can write. And create a world peopled by real characters. I suppose this genre, which I rarely read, is called "fantasy," but it's very like a historical novel, in a feudal world that never existed. Most of all, it's about values, particularly political values, good governance, and good character. You could call those values Confucian, minus the filial duty. I liked it. I heard about him because he translated the very good, very admired volume one of *The Three Body Problem*.

The Grace of Kings (*The Dandelion Dynasty*, #1) by Ken Liu To be clear about this book, I absolutely loved it! This is not my typical Hard SciFi read, but rather a very deeply involving

Fantasy. Yet the fantasy elements are kept at a minimum, and set against the very realistic history and stories of the many characters. And yes, make no mistake, the characters do indeed drive the plot(s). This decidedly is not a quick, easy read. On my Kindle White Paper, it didn't show me how many pages the story entails, but I imagine the a hardback would be a rather mighty tome. That said, the story that make up this first of three novels, takes it's time to unfold and unfurl. I'm sure that some folks would not care for parts of the dialogue, as it seems to be needlessly wordy. However, I think that those characters are speaking from what they consider to be a position of learning, and erudition. Not that all dialogue is stilted and formal, no sir. But as any epic (and this is an Epic) tale takes it due course, the subplots do come together, and then fall apart, then are weaved back together skillfully. I heartily recommend this novel, and am about to start the second one. I just hope Mr. Liu can hurry up and finish the last one soon!

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