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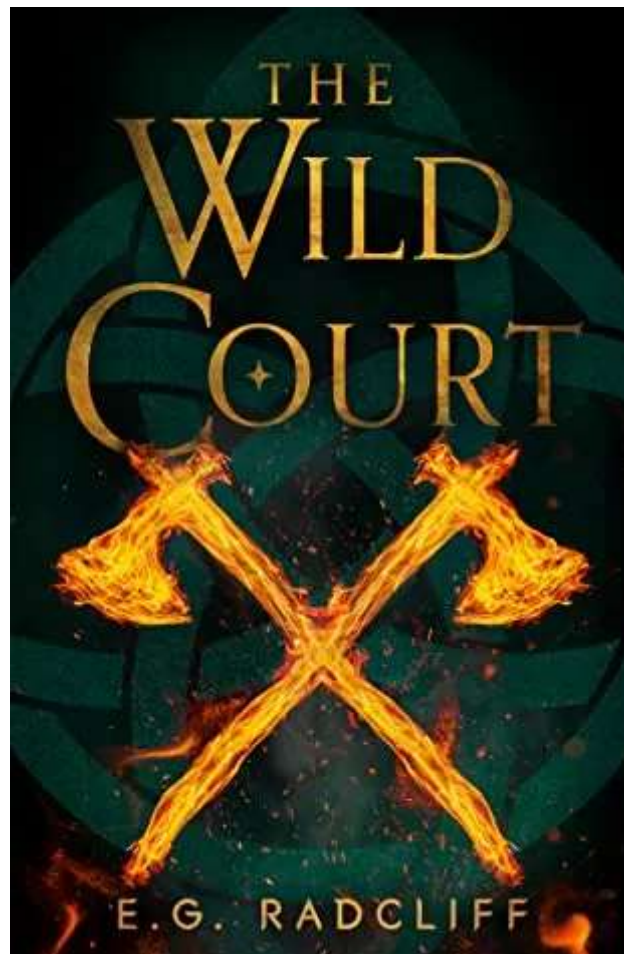
Book-Review

The Wild Court, E.G. Radcliff – Book Review

August 5, 2021 No Comments



[The Wild Court](#)



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[Synopsis](#)

What perils await on the other side of the veil?

In the seventh year of Áed's reign, night descends on the autumn festival. But a time of revelry turns into one of fiery destruction—as fae pour across the veil and the Gut becomes a battlefield in an otherworldly war.

Determined to protect his kingdom and the people he loves, Áed finds himself catapulted into a realm as unfamiliar as it is dangerous, where magic is king and wild courts vie for supremacy.

While the faerie Queen's missing consort holds the key to life and death, tenuous alliances raise questions about Áed's connection to the mysterious Bone court. His survival hinges on cunning as much as illusion.

On a mission like no other, only one thing is certain: no one will survive unscathed.

460 Pages (PB) // Mythic Prairie Books

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[Review](#)

Surprise! Bet you didn't expect to see me here again? I certainly didn't!

The blog is paid for until January '22, and I had no plans to update it, but...

I have just finished *The Wild Court*, the third and final book in, E.G. Radcliff's 'The Coming of Áed' series, and couldn't not give it the send-off that it deserves. It's a series I have loved from book one, and I couldn't forgive myself if I didn't give this firecracker of a book the full review treatment. That being said, I can't remember how WordPress works, and I'm rustier than an old gate when it comes to reviews.

The WILD COURT is the third book so earlier book spoilers are hard to avoid, you have been warned.

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As already mentioned, *The Coming of Áed* is a fantastic series, one of my favourites. If you've read my earlier reviews, you'll already know that the hallmarks of E.G.'s writing are; amazing world-building, beautifully lyrical writing, achingly tender relationships, and sublime characters. All of that is here in *THE WILD COURT* but bigger and bolder, refined through two glorious books, and showcasing E.G.'s ever-burgeoning talent.

What sets *THE WILD COURT* apart from previous books is its scope. Whereas *The Hidden King* and *The Last Prince* felt a little more close-focused, *THE WILD COURT* is expansive with levels of scope and ambition that push it very much towards epic fantasy. Despite the action and plot operating on a 'world-level', both Human and Fae, Radcliff still manages to retain the powerful intimacy and depth-less emotion that mark her as one of the best character writers out there.

Seven years have passed since the events of *The Hidden King*, with Áed still ruling as a gentle and compassionate King. It's evident when we first meet him that Áed is still the beautiful soul we know; power has not changed or warped him

in any negative way. While we don't spend a great deal of time in the White City, Áed's benevolence is evident in very subtle ways, such as shopkeepers from the Maze trading openly. In THE WILD COURT, as in the previous books, the

narrative is littered with these ephemeral, incidental snippets, which add so much seasoning to the world and life beyond the immediate story.

Ronan is almost a man grown and just as energetic and as willful as he's ever been. His relationship with Áed is as tender and authentic as it has ever been, if not deeper and richer for their extra years and shared experiences. When Áed ruffles his hair for the first time, as he often did when Ronan was younger, I smiled just as wide as I did when a much smaller Ronan gleefully enjoyed the festival in book one.

Áed and Ronan, I would say, share the main character role to a degree. Both of them enjoy such personal journeys across the book; Áed confronting and embracing his Fae heritage while dealing with love in the shadow of loss, and Ronan experiencing a very empowering and revelatory coming of age story with perhaps a dash of first love.

The characters beyond these two shine just as brightly and bring so much to the experience. Éamon and Erin stand out particularly with their initial 'prickly' banter softening into respect and, dare I say, friendship? It was also very poignant that Ninian still played a part in the story with his emotional presence.

I'd love to talk more about the Queen's Consort, but pretty much anything I'd say would be a spoiler. What I will say is that their character arc is amazing, really eye-opening and exquisitely crafted.

Beyond the realistic characters, there is also the vibrant world of the Fae, which is positively sizzling with rich lore and mysterious locations. The Fae are organised into a ruling 'High Court' and smaller 'Lower Courts'. The rules behind the two courts, the differences in magic, and individualities between the lower courts make for a well-structured and believable society. The scope for spin-offs and future stories thanks to the myriad of courts is mind-blowing. We only really see Moon and Bone, but they are so intrinsically different in terms of behaviours, dress, and desires, I'm desperate to experience all of the others.

While I've touched upon it already, as I near a conclusion, I really need to point out just how good the writing is. It is beautifully smooth and evocative throughout, scenes are sumptuously described with a poetic, lyrical quality.

Éamon swung the bag around to his front to tug loose the drawstring and free the honeyed alcohol. Textured glass glimmered in the dim light. With a smile and unnecessary little bow, he uncorked the bottle and handed it to Áed, who accepted it with both hands. It was spiced and sweet, like autumn sun.

That's not to say it's flowery, the embellishments are dropped when it's time to shed blood, and there's plenty shed in THE WILD COURT. While there have been dark moments in the previous books, this is probably the darkest, both physically and emotionally. Full-scale war, abusive relationships, and more than a few swords sheathed in other people's faces. The action scenes are fast, direct, and an awful lot of fun.

One of my favourite scenes in the book is when the party crosses the frozen lake and encounters the [REDACTED]. The blending of original ideas and mythology is seamless, making E.G. Raddliff to Celtic Mythology what Rick Riordan is to Greek Mythology.

As conclusions go, this one was everything I hoped it would be and a more than fitting end to what has been a spectacular series. While I am sad that the series is over, I'm genuinely excited to see where E.G. goes next.

Whether it is this world or something brand new, the sky is very much the limit.

[About the author](#)



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E.G. Radcliff IS A PART-TIME pooka and native of the Unseelie Court. She collects acorns, glass beads, and pretty rocks, and the crows outside her house know her as She Who Has Bread.

Her Coming of Áed fantasy series is crafted in the dead of night after offering sacrifices of almonds and red wine to

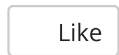
Her coming of age fantasy series is started in the dead of night after offering sacrifices of almonds and red wine to the writing-block deities.

You can reach her by scrying bowl, carrier pigeon, or @egradcliff on social media.

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