



Title: *Aelfric - Bloodied Spears*

Author: J.M. Winspear

Publisher: Smashwords

Reviewer: Vanessa Finaughty

Star Rating: 5

Aelfric – Bloodied Spears is a nice light read despite the serious storyline, which will leave you contemplating the reasons for war and how daft they are, amongst other things.

Aelfric is forced into battle on the field of Cremen while his sister, Aelfwen, is left to the mercy of the brutal man who betrayed her brother.

The story follows Aelfric's swift transition from boy to man, and he soon proves he's more man than some twice his age. Take the desperate need to protect his sister, add the fact that he cannot do this until he's fought an idiot king's battles, throw in an evil sorceress with her own agenda, a few monsters, a love-struck queen and a fearsome warrior friend, and you have *Aelfric – Bloodied Spears*.

Winspear's descriptions are particularly colourful and original, which probably played a big part in making this such an easy read that I read it in one sitting. The characters' interactions and dialogue were realistic, enabling me to relate to them easily. My only complaint is that the character who died at the end died far too quickly – he was such a despicable person that I'd liked to have seen him suffer a bit. You will, no doubt, share my sentiments after reading the book.

I recommend this novella to anyone who enjoys a fast-paced fantasy that's easy to follow, entertaining and well written. It's worth the money.