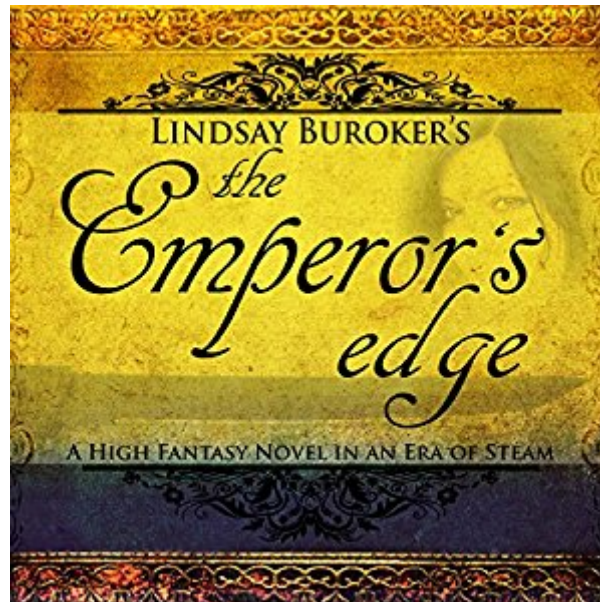




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The Emperor's Edge



Synopsis

Imperial law enforcer Amaranthe Lokdon is good at her job: She can deter thieves and pacify thugs, if not with a blade, then by toppling an eight-foot pile of coffee canisters onto their heads. But when ravaged bodies show up on the waterfront, an arson covers up human sacrifices, and a powerful business coalition plots to kill the emperor, she feels a tad overwhelmed. Worse, Sicarius, the empire's most notorious assassin, is in town. He's tied in with the chaos somehow, but Amaranthe would be a fool to cross his path. Unfortunately, her superiors order her to hunt him down. Either they have an unprecedented belief in her skills...or someone wants her dead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book because it was a free Kindle download. I get a fair amount of my reading material this way, so I've adjusted my expectations downward; there's a lot of mediocre writing and abysmal editing on the freebies list. So when I began reading *The Emperor's Edge*, I was very happily surprised to find a well-written story, with minimal editorial issues and characters I enjoyed getting to know. The heroine is clever and good-natured, the hero, though morally ambiguous in some ways, is intelligent and masterful at his craft, and the secondary characters are either fun, believable, or sympathetic. I found the plot engaging, the pacing rapid but measured (no cycle of zooming and slogging) and I was engaged by the conflict and invested in the outcome. For those of you who are particular about it, there was no bad language; although there are scenes of physical violence, and some of them are gory, there was, in my opinion, no descent into nauseating detail. (I

can't tell you how quickly I delete the books where the author lingers pruriently over every horrific aspect.) Also, there were no sex scenes, though it's clear that a deepening of the relationship lies ahead for the hero and heroine in future books. Personally, I found their chemistry to be far more believable and tantalizing than any amount of instant lust or "fated from the first glance" bosom-heaving. Perhaps one of the things I liked most is that the characters, even the heroine, are fallible, but able to acknowledge their short-comings. One of the reasons I read, instead of watching television, is the mean-spiritedness, immaturity, and shallow criticism becoming so prevalent, not just on gossip-oriented programs, but from supposedly detached network newscasters.

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