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The Hermetica of Elysium, by Annmarie Banks, Knox, 2011

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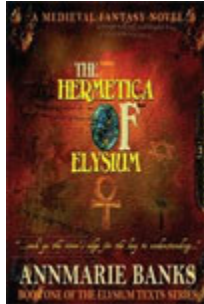
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Recommended Readings



The Hermetica of Elysium

by Annmarie Banks, Knox, 2011

Reviewed by Eloise Sureau-Hale

Some books hold powers not everyone should be allowed to behold. This is particularly true of the Hermetica of Elysium, a forbidden book that has many influential groups, from knights to the Pope and the Holy Inquisition searching for it, fearful it might fall in the wrong hands.

This is how in 1494 in Spain, Nadira, a young Moor servant, gifted with the knowledge of many languages from Spanish to Moorish, to Hebrew and Greek, ends up thrown in a series of adventures. As she is the only one capable of reading the scriptures encrypted in many languages within the pages, her participation is invaluable. Her encounter with Brother Henry, rendered mad by the secrets the book holds, makes it clear to Nadira that her task is most likely going to be a difficult one. With Corti, a scholar and Brother William, a scribe, she will discover how far a book can take you... literally! She cannot however but attract the attention of the Holy Church who would like nothing more than burn her at the stake.

Very-well written, fast paced, The Hermetica of Elysium is a page-turner. It will entice lovers of adventure, of mystery, of historical fiction, even those in search of a good love story. Peopled with Knights, Black Friars, the Holy Inquisition, the Pope and the Knights Templar to name a few, The Hermetica of Elysium is a fascinating novel and a great beginning to a series. The reader is left wanting for more!

- Eloise Sureau-Hale is Associate Professor of French at Butler University.