Age of Myth by Michael J. Sullivan

Footnotes

(*1) Looking at my blog archives from 2017, it looks like shortly after I started this book, I got distracted by Ken Burns: The Vietnam War and Star Trek: Discovery. Plus I was still in two separate book clubs back at the time (HERE and HERE) which also ate into my reading time.

(*2) Before you shame me for travelling during Covid-19...In Vietnam, the Coronavirus was under control, and it was considered safe to start travelling again within the country.
...at least, that was the situation at the time we booked our tickets. Unfortunately a second wave broke out right about the time we started our vacation (although none of the provinces we traveled to were affected). But a full discussion of the Coronavirus situation in Vietnam is a different subject for a different post, so I won't get bogged down in discussing the second wave here.

(*3) This is another frustration about reading in Asia--it makes it very difficult to track down all the books in a series when your access to English books is so limited.
And because you can't read a fantasy book these days without committing yourself to a whole series, this consequently means that I just don't pick up a lot of fantasy books.
I suspect that if I had spent the last 15 years living in the U.S., there would have been a lot more fantasy series on my reading list.

(*4) Actually I should qualify that sigh. As a long-time geek myself, I do understand the appeal of having a long-running massive epic multi-part series that allows you to fully immerse yourself in a fantastical world. My main frustration is that given my limited access to books out here in Asia, I know I'm never going to be able to track down all the books in a series. And it's impossible to pick up a fantasy book these days that's not part of a 6 part series, and then the series itself is almost always a prequel to a sequel to another series.

(*5) I've never been very good at analyzing or describing prose, so with apologies I can't really go into much more detail than that. I know when prose is easy to read, and when it's difficult to read, and this prose flowed quite easily.

(*6) Or, I don't know actually, what is standard in the genre? The *Conan the Barbarian* series also took place during a primitive time, right? Is this kind of setting just as standard for fantasy as the medieval world?

(*7) Okay, minor complaint here:
The *Glossary of Names and Terms* isn't actually in the very back. It's before the *Acknowledgments*. And then after the *Acknowledgements* is the *Sneak Peek at Book Two in the series*. So the *Glossary* is actually pages 415 to 426 of 444 pages total.
It would have been easier to find if the *Glossary* had been at the very end. Instead I felt like I had to fumble around to find it each time since I couldn't simply flip to the back of the book, but instead had to locate the *Glossary* somewhere near the back of the book.

(*Spoilers***)**
(*8) For example, I was intrigued by the conflict between Persephone on one hand and Konniger and Tressa on the other. Even though I realized that Tressa was deliberately written as being bratty just for the sake of creating conflict, I still got hooked in on the drama. I was slightly disappointed, though, when the at the end it turned out that Konniger was just evil and scheming for the sake of being evil and scheming, and that it just ends in a physical fight.
As for Grin the Bear--the story had been setting up Grin the Bear to be something, and I was slightly disappointed when the resolution turned out to be that he was just a normal bear all along.

(*9) Actually that's the exact same gag that the *Star Trek* writers use all the time for Spock, isn't it? And I was a huge *Star Trek* fan in my youth. So why do I find it so annoying here?
Maybe because I'm older now, and grumpier.
Or maybe something about the constantly lecturing tone of the character Suri that I found annoying?
I don't know--for whatever reason, it didn't work for me.

(*10) I'm a slow reader and only manage to read a handful of books a year. So I always try to weigh up how much I really want to read a book, and think about what other books I could read instead.

(*11) Of course, I bought *this* book in Vietnam. But, for whatever reason, it doesn't seem to be unusual for the bookstores in Vietnam to only carry one book in a series.

(*12) Okay, in this case, I won't actually be finishing the series--as I stated above. But as a general principle...