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The Blade's Memory: Dragon Blood, Book 5



Synopsis

Ridge, Sardelle, and their comrades may have rescued Tolemek's sister and freed the dragon, but trouble awaits at home. The king is missing, a secret organization is hunting sorcerers, and the capital is more vulnerable than ever to enemy attack. Worst of all, at least from Ridge's point of view, someone put that jackass Colonel Therrik in charge of the flier battalion. Ridge and his allies have a lot of problems to fix, but they can't show their faces in the capital without being arrested or shot. This time, it's going to take a lot more than magic to save the country. The Blade's Memory is the fifth installment in the Dragon Blood series.

Book Information

File Size: 3242 KB

Print Length: 333 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: June 14, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XDCOUZS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #16,211 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #30 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #445 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic

Customer Reviews

Ms Buroker has done it again! This book continues the story of Ridge, Sardelle, Jaxi, Cas, Tolemek, Duck, Apex, Kaika and others we've met in prior books of the series. This book is not the best place to begin the series, obviously. The author does a great job of telling the story in such a way that you are reminded of what came before (which is important if you read a whole lot and can forget the major points and minor characters) but not in a way that slows the pace of the story in any way. So you can start Blade's Memory but the reading experience will be much better and richer if you begin

at the beginning of the series with *Balanced on the Blade's Edge* - how Ridge and Sardelle met. From there Deathmaker continues the story with Cas and Tolemek's involvement. *Blood Charged*, *Patterns in the Dark* and *The Blade's Memory* continue the ongoing saga. There are some series that use each book to introduce a character and his/her story. These books incorporate all the characters as they journey together to tell the very large meta-story of their world. Fascinating! Once again our group of intrepid (and somewhat outlawed) heroes finds themselves in danger and trying to figure out how to save the day, their country and themselves. Some mysteries in prior books are solved here. Who is behind the plot to kidnap the King? Why are people trying to kill Sardelle? Whatever happened to the Dragon? And many more questions are asked while some remain unanswered. The story is compelling and moves very fast. I read a lot (I mean....a LOT) and Ms Buroker has become one of my favorite authors. Her characters are fully realized people...they have flaws and emotions and behave in ways real people would behave.

A compliment of the highest order: I think the *Dragon Blood* series has edged to the forefront and is my favorite series still ongoing. That is, it had better be ongoing, or I can't threaten an author I love as much as Ms. Buroker (who also has my email address, Twitter account, and probably knows where I live) but let's just say that my favorite character had a hard run in this book and I would really, really appreciate seeing a happy resolution for that person in a later book, soon. :) (Bonus if the point of view returns to Tolemek and Ahn; I absolutely adore Ridge and Sardelle, but the back and forth is something else I've appreciated about this series!) This book does a fantastic job of continuing to deepen characterization and relationships of the central four characters, while giving secondary parts a chance to shine. It has a strong romantic element without allowing the romance to overshadow the plot; the characters' actions seem logical in the face of the crisis they're in, and doesn't put aside plot for love scenes but also doesn't end up forgetting that the romance was there in the first place - anyone who complained that the characters' romances made them seem unprofessional - at times needs to remember that Ridge Zirkander is not exactly lauded for his professionalism! It's actually nice to see the return of a purely romantic scene (while it involves sex, it's extremely tasteful and not explicit) in a series that was meant to feature them, and a tiny part of me hopes Tolemek and Caslin get one too, though I suppose they're more, well, professional. I believe it was a better installment in the series than *Patterns in the Dark*, though this may be in part due to its length, and that's not to say that I didn't also give PITD a 5 star review.

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