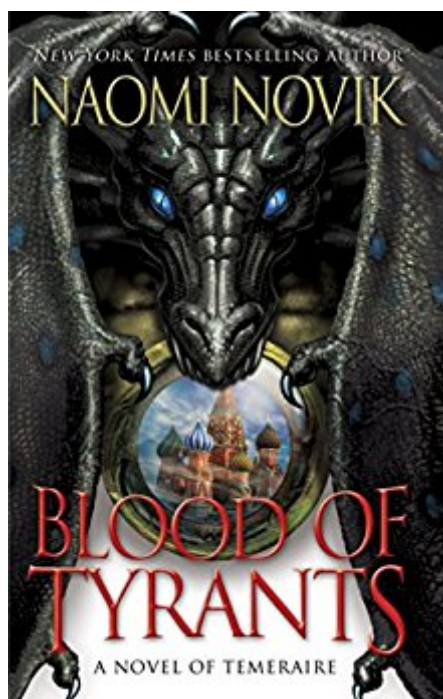


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Blood Of Tyrants: A Novel Of Temeraire



Synopsis

Naomi Novik's beloved Temeraire series, a brilliant combination of fantasy and history that reimagines the Napoleonic wars as fought with the aid of intelligent dragons, is a twenty-first-century classic. From the first volume, *His Majesty's Dragon*, readers have been entranced by the globe-spanning adventures of the resolute Capt. William Laurence and his brave but impulsive dragon, Temeraire. Now, in *Blood of Tyrants*, the penultimate volume of the series, Novik is at the very height of her powers as she brings her story to its widest, most colorful canvas yet. Shipwrecked and cast ashore in Japan with no memory of Temeraire or his own experiences as an English aviator, Laurence finds himself tangled in deadly political intrigues that threaten not only his own life but England's already precarious position in the Far East. Age-old enmities and suspicions have turned the entire region into a powder keg ready to erupt at the slightest spark—a spark that Laurence and Temeraire may unwittingly provide, leaving Britain faced with new enemies just when they most desperately need allies instead. For to the west, another, wider conflagration looms. Napoleon has turned on his former ally, the emperor Alexander of Russia, and is even now leading the largest army the world has ever seen to add that country to his list of conquests. It is there, outside the gates of Moscow, that a reunited Laurence and Temeraire—along with some unexpected allies and old friends—will face their ultimate challenge . . . and learn whether or not there are stronger ties than memory. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from Naomi Novik's *Uprooted*. **Praise for *Blood of Tyrants*** —A first-class entry in a remarkable and appealing series. —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) —Novik's plots and characterizations get more intricate and plausible with each novel. . . . Novik's re-creation of much of world history based on the existence of intelligent dragons has been so well crafted that all eight books in the series are highly recommended. —Booklist (starred review) —Novik combines dragons . . . with period history to achieve a brilliantly realized re-creation of military history laced with the fantastic. . . . Well-crafted. —Library Journal —If you've never read these novels, now is the time to start. —io9 —A fun, action-packed read. —San Antonio Express-News

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Customer Reviews

The Temeraire series should be absolutely ridiculous - the Napoleonic Wars, fought with dragons! But thanks to Ms. Novik's sense of history, of character, and of realism (yes, realism in novels about dragons), her series is one of the most enjoyable entries into epic fantasy one is likely to find. Indeed, if it weren't for George R. R. Martin eating up all the oxygen with "A Song of Ice and Fire" and Peter Jackson's Tolkien films, I suspect that Temeraire would be a defining pop culture juggernaut. (There's still hope - Jackson allegedly has the movie rights to this series as well - fingers crossed!) Novik has announced that "Blood of Tyrants" will be the penultimate novel in the series, and she has not wasted the opportunity. In opening chapters that are strongly reminiscent of James Clavell's "Shogun," Laurence washes ashore by himself in Japan, shipwrecked . . . and suffering from amnesia. Indeed, he's forgotten everything about his relationship with Temeraire and adventures as an aviator - he still imagines that he's a captain in the navy. Temeraire and the crew are marooned on a reef just offshore, and Temeraire is beside himself to find Laurence, as one can imagine. The plot is just too dense to summarize without giving the game away, but suffice it to say that the action sweeps from Japan to China to Moscow, where Laurence and Temeraire go head to head with Napoleon and Murat in a conflict that can safely be described as one of the most pivotal in modern history. Through it all, Novik keeps her bearings by focusing on her characters and having them react completely appropriately to the bizarre and precarious positions they keep finding themselves in.

The year is 1812 and Temeraire and Laurence start out the year on the move from Brazil to China.

This book starts with the aftermath of what must have been a horrendous storm as it ends up with the dragon transport being stranded on some rocky shoals, and Laurence himself having been hit on the head and eventually he ends up washed on shore in Japan with amnesia which erased the last eight years of his memories. So, Laurence does not remember anything about Temeraire or that he is no longer a ship's captain. From there, the story goes rollicking along and involves intrigues in China and even gets into Napoleon's invasion of Russia. For those of us who know and relish history, it is quite fascinating to see how the author manages to interleave the real events and people with the fantastic elements of the Dragon stories. In this case, we get to witness the battle of Borodino followed by the sacking of Moscow etc. We get to meet Napoleon, Murat, Kutuzov, and so on, many people well-known from reading the history of the period. Besides the story line, this is a continuation of the Temeraire stories and carries it through the bulk of the year and Temeraire and Laurence get to visit some parts of the world that they have not been to yet. Besides parts of Japan, we are treated to a portion of southern China and then, of course, Russia. As usual a big part of the story is the relationship between humans and dragons and in this volume the author outdoes herself in showing off how diverse the relationships can be. Some relationships are merely cruel; others are much more compassionate. I will not say more as it will give away too much of some of the main plot points here.

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