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Nightblade



Synopsis

Ryuu is a boy orphaned by violence at a young age. Found by a wandering warrior, he learns he may have more strength than he ever imagined possible. A quiet child, Moriko is forced into a monastic system she despises. Torn from her family and the forest she grew up in, she must fight to learn the skills she'll need to survive her tutelage under the realm's most dangerous assassin. Young, beautiful, and broke, Takako is sold to pay for her father's debts. Thrust into a world she doesn't understand and battles she didn't ask for, she must decide where her loyalties lie. When their lives crash together in a Kingdom on the brink of war, the decisions they make will change both their lives and their Kingdom forever. If they can stay alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've always depended on the reviews from fellow readers, and it's guided me to some great books I'd have otherwise not read. This, unfortunately, is one of those "how-the-hell-did-this-get-5-stars" situations that has driven me to write a review (something I would typically not do). The story is

relatively sound, and in the world of martial fantasy, certainly good enough for a casual read and peaked my interest. The writing, however, is largely terrible. Nightblade reads like a second draft rushed to publishing. The flow is constantly, consistently spoiled by repetitive language, repetitive paragraph structure, and some just downright ****y sentence structure. For example: "The man lived and breathed swordsmanship because from the man's glances Orochi could tell he was about to ask about Orochi's blade" That is a horrible sentence. It's awkward, garbled, and manages to use the name Orochi twice in short order. Likewise, there have been several instances of back-to-back paragraphs stating the same thing in slightly different ways. Use of the word "kingdom" in three consecutive sentences, the staggering amount of times the word "cycles" appears in this book, etc. The potential is there, certainly, and I imagine I may enjoy the second book in the trilogy much more if I can bring myself to read it. I've only made it to about 80% of the way through Nightblade by aggressive skipping of paragraphs and pages when the writing gets under my skin. Perhaps I've just been spoiled by the likes of Will Wight, Jim Butcher, Pierce Brown, Robin Hobb and Scott Lynch (to name a few). If you're not the type of person to be bothered those sorts of grammatical and structural issues, you'll probably really enjoy the book. If you're like me and find the experience easily ruined by clumsy turn of phrase, then skip this one. While I appreciate the enthusiasm of the book's fans, I have a very hard time understanding how this is a 5-star-near-perfect effort.

This was not a bad book. It had a lot of potential with the storyline and characters, and the character development was good as well. The plot was easy to follow, and flowed nicely. Like many of the reviewers I did find the grammar and writing style needed some work, but not to the point that it hindered me from reading the book. The main problems that made this just an okay read were the fight scenes. We had a few battles that were lead up to and staged very well. But when we got to the climatic fights they were over in a sentence or two. There was no detail whatsoever. It was if the characters met, then the fight was over, with everything in between skipped. Keep in mind, this is a book about a fighter with unmatched abilities but we never see him fight, we only see him win. So essentially we had a fantasy adventure about a young warrior, but we are missing all the action. Based on this I am struggling on whether or not to continue with the series.

The story was intriguing despite the abundance of short choppy sentences and repetitions likely due to lack of access to good editorial staff. The story itself seems to be well thought out though events are set up so you can foresee a bit ahead as you read. I like that characters are not "protected" and I find it odd that so many are "reasonable" in high stress emotional situations. I appreciate that while

there are some few dark bits, they are not the soul grinding bleakness so many novels today are fabricated around. Here it is for story building only. As for the magic here, it reminds me strongly of the Force, though clearly distinct. I would bet you agree.

Liked the story, but the writing doesn't flow. The style seems to attempt to sound a bit formal or archaic in a Japanese way, but there are many anachronistic phrases and other stylistic mistakes. There are also cases where the story doesn't flow chronologically very well, where one character's plot line joins up with another character's but then the perspective changes to the other character and the same period of time is revisited from that character's perspective. There are also numerous grammatical errors. The author would benefit from a better editor and some good proof readers to help polish his work so that the writing style doesn't interfere with the story.

4,5 Nightblade is a fantasy story set in a land inspired by the far East, and focuses on three very different characters whose fates intertwine as they approach adulthood. While the main character reaches a level combat prowess I generally find excessive, here it works, and makes sense given the powers of a Nightblade. What makes this story stand out for me is the general lack of absolutes or easy answers. Well-intentioned actions have terrible consequences, and characters seem stuck in a classic cycle of violence due to decisions that make perfect sense, given their outlook and situation. While I like like straightforward heroic fiction, it is nice to have alternatives. Anyway, this is a strong debut and I will definitely pick up the sequel.

I actually found this book enjoyable, despite the fact it felt like reading a first draft. I've thrown books away for fewer grammatical sins than this one contains, but the story and characters kept me going through to the end and looking forward to volume 2. So if you don't mind deciding between rich of two words the author intended to use because both remain in the text, or filling in the blanks when he was writing so fast he left out a word or three, or correcting faulty grammar in your mind as you read, you'll likely find this one worth the time as I did. Alternate feudal Japan-based universe, spiritual motifs permeating the martial arts, and a good solid story line with well-constructed characters.

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