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Winter's King (The Wings Of War Book 3)



Synopsis

The Monster of Karth has risen once more. Quin Tern of Azbar has met his fate, and his council has borne the price of crossing Raz i'Syul Arro. Now, as the cruel walls of the city fade into the winter storms at his back, Raz rides north, seeking to take the High Priest Talo Brahnt up on an offer he never should have refused. The path Raz has chosen, though, is a bloody one, and before long he and his new companions find themselves pitted against hardships they can neither anticipate nor ignore. As man and snow and beast alike rise up to block their path, it seems almost as though the North itself has woken to wage war against the Monster. And yet, Raz's greatest challenge still looms ahead. Far to the north, like a plague beneath the trees, GÃ»Iraht Baoill, Kayle of the savage mountain tribes, leads his armies further east with each passing day. He has set his hungry gaze upon the reaches of Cyurgi' Di, the High Citadel, and desires nothing more than to see it razed from the face of the world, offering it and its blasphemous "false-prophets" up as sacrifice to his Stone Gods. Syrah Brahnt, the High Priest's adopted daughter and protÃ©gÃ©, has found him out, discovering his plan to lay siege to her home, cutting her and the rest of the Laorin off from the world. As it is, though, there is little and less that she can do, and when the first of the Kayle's generals reaches the base of the mountain pass, Syrah is left with only one option. In the end, she will have to face the wrath of the tribes herself... Little does she know that the Monster is coming, riding hard to lend her his blades.

Book 3 in the critically acclaimed THE WINGS OF WAR series.
THE WINGS OF WAR: Book 1: Child of the Daystar
Book 2: The Warring Son
Book 3: Winter's King

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Customer Reviews

Oh gee, how I waited for this one, and never once patiently. This book satisfies the little paladin in my soul that craves, thrives on, righteous, bloody comeuppance, as well as that smaller, hungrier part that simply likes action. If you only skim this before you read it, consider this your WARNING that the world is handled with brutal reality despite its fantasy setting. Without spoiling anything, (and if you hadn't realized by now in the series) there's death here, and rape, and torture, and vulgarity, not to excess, but to exactly the extent one might have expected in the the cultures and settings where they exist herein. It's not all savagery, though. The book raises questions about morality and the nature of goodness. Are the Laorin good for their vows? Is it ever right to take a life? Characters struggle to protect the people and things they care about while confronting hard truths or questioning their faith, but rarely their resolve. The book itself is well-paced, the writing still as gripping as in the first two books. The villain seems to have a somewhat lean motivation in both protecting his faith and pursuing a personal vendetta, but it is always believable, and whatever he lacks in motive, he more than makes up for in gusto and sheer force. Some of the reveals and revelations lack punch due to the switching viewpoints, but the feeling is there nonetheless and the events are used instead to explore the characters. The only truly damaging thing I can say now that I've finished the book is I have to wait a dog's age now for the next one.

I just like how Bryce not only continues to create a unique world, but expand on the difference cultures and people that inhabit the world the characters live in. Bryce also knows how to expand upon the characters already introduced in the previous books w me making their characteristics stay consistent, but also making a change in a character's personality believable. Just like in his previous books the action scenes flow, but don't drag on forever, and Raz continues to be the badass predator of evil people that he is, while also continuing to grow in his more compassionate side to the innocents he defends.

The first two books in the series were home runs, and this one is a grand slam. Longer and even

more gripping than its predecessors, this novel is epic. Even so, I flew through it, even reading as I cooked and ate and staying up way too late to finish it. If you liked the first two, you'll love this one. If you loved the first two, you'll be sad to finish this one. If you enjoy fantasy/adventure novels and haven't read the first two, do yourself a giant favor and get "Child of the Daystar", O'Connor's debut novel and the first in this series. You definitely want to read these in order.

I know not if this series has ran its course or not, but what I do know is that Bryce deserves much praise for the work he's done. The characters are well developed and each seems to come off the page well. Raz is our story's hero. He has definitely been shaped by a life of loss and of one lived by the blade. He's a brooding sort who's plagued by the images of those he's lost and sometimes those he's killed. Syrah is a willful young woman who's a strong character and doesn't shy from a situation. Talo and Carro are both filled with fatherly affection and the series makes their relationship is but an afterthought. In so doing their relationship is strengthened for it. I always hate books who have a gay couple whose only distinguishing feature is that they are a gay couple. This series doesn't do that. Talo and Carro are equally well developed fatherly priests with storied pasts, a genuinely unique personality and their relationship is there only to deepen their understanding of one another. They often make comments that those in a long-term committed relationship make to one another. The villain is no less detailed and instead of just being some faceless evil, he has an equally storied past and his reasons and motivations for pursuing the path he pursues. All characters felt real and thought out. The story itself is also well developed and doesn't shy from the gory details of the scenes where gore is necessary and yet doesn't go overboard either. It's well balanced and paced well enough to be entertaining and exciting. It's dark and much of the story is often beleaguered by the hopelessness the characters feel, yet there is hope, and there is light at the end of the tunnel. And it's Raz, the Dragon of the North, the Monster of Karth, the demon of snow and shadow.

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