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The Dragon Hammer (Wulf's Saga)



Synopsis

WULF'S SAGA BEGINS Evil from the dawn of time is on the verge of domination—but Wulf von Dunstig figured none of that mattered to him. What could he do about it? After all, he was basically nobody—the sixteen-year-old third son of a duke destined for an uneventful life as a ranger. But when destiny comes calling, it turns out there is only Wulf to answer. After a devastating invasion of his native land, Wulf must rally the peaceful valley of Shenandoah. He must free his family and his land from the grip of intruders controlled by vampiric evil. It's time to grow up. It's time to fight for what is right. It's time to wield the Dragon Hammer. About The Dragon Hammer: "A fun and fast-paced adventure of a young man coming of age in a well-realized Tolkienesque world. The emphasis is on wonder and courage though there's plenty of magic also." —David Drake, author of best-selling Lord of the Isles fantasy series "The setting is wonderful and rich, with recognizable geography from Virginia . . . The magic is interesting, with all types of half-human animals who are sentient, a magic tree which talks to Wulf telepathically, and vampire-like telepaths who perform blood rituals. . . . a very rich fantasy setting which is an interesting place to visit! We see Wulf change and grow up quite a bit in this volume and look forward to the next one, where hopefully he can get his love life sorted out." —BullSpec About Tony Daniel: "[D]azzling stuff." —New York Times Book Review "Remember his name, and keep watching for whatever he does." —Roger Zelazny "Daniel proves that the Golden Age of science fiction is right here and now." —Greg Bear About Guardian of Night by Tony Daniel: "[A] large cast of utterly graspable humans . . . Following in the footsteps of Poul Anderson and Greg Bear, Tony Daniel makes a triumphant return." —Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine ". . . an unparalleled success and could easily become a classic in military science fiction. . . Daniel creates . . . believable aliens as well as humans who are all striving for the same goal: capture the Guardian of Night." I was surprised and delighted by the depth of characterization in this book and recommend it to you heartily. —Galaxy's Edge "About Metaplanetary, by Tony Daniel [A] panoramic tale of men and women engaged in a war that spans both virtual and normal realities and that calls into question the nature of human intelligence and the price of freedom." —Library Journal "The best science fiction novel I've read in five years." —Lucius Shepard About Superluminal, by Tony Daniel "Daniel renders his 31st-century battles and human dilemmas utterly fascinating." —Washington Post Book World "[T]eems with vivid characters and surprising action." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Brilliantly realized. . . the story remains gripping throughout." —Booklist

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tony Daniel is the author of nine science fiction books, the latest of which are Guardian of Night and The Dragon Hammer, as well as an award-winning short story collection, The Robot's Twilight Companion. He is the coauthor, with David Drake, of General series entries The Heretic and The Savior. He is also the author of Star Trek Original Series novels Devil's Bargain and Savage Trade. Daniel is a Hugo finalist for his story "Life on the Moon," which also won the Asimov's Reader's Choice Award. Daniel's short fiction has been much anthologized and has been collected in multiple year's best compilations. Daniel has also cowritten screenplays for SyFy Channel and the Chiller Channel. During the early 2000s, he was the writer and director of numerous audio dramas for critically-acclaimed SCIFI.COM's Seeing Ear Theatre. Born in Alabama, Daniel has lived in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Seattle, Prague, and New York City. He now lives in Wake Forest, North Carolina with his wife and two children.

Is it a contradiction to be a Young Adult version of Game of Thrones? Perhaps not. Scale back the sex (a lot... replace it with pining) and the violence (a bit) and you've still got a great tale of nations' conflicts and betrayal. The world is detailed and new, if drawn from recognizable sources. The characters are likeable and hateable in all the right places. The prose is (to my ear) a bit annoyingly modern, but that could be chalked up to differing tastes. The main characters are all (physically or emotionally) teen-agers, and perhaps I missed someone but it seems that ALL of them are pursuing

Forbidden and Doomed love in defiance of their elders' expectations. Really, either their elders have been lying all along about what they really expect, or this is quite a revolutionary generation! For all that (or perhaps because of it) they're appealing people to spend time with, and I look forward to returning to this world.

I don't like fantasy as a genre very much (which accounts for the missing star), but I liked Daniel's science fiction and decided to see what he'd do with fantasy. He won me over. If you really know how to forge a sword, train a hunting bird, put on a suit of armor, plan a battle, know your way around the less glamorous bits of a castle, negotiate a trade deal, and create a credible landscape, the reality of the story will assert itself even in the face of a bunch of magic the reader may not believe in. And Daniel gets the details right. He also understands young adult characters and makes you care for them while you laugh at them. Daniel's mise en scene--sword and sorcery in an alternate-history Shenandoah Valley--is rendered with accuracy: I know the area and he gets it right.

The writing is pedestrian, the plot predictable, the characters stereotypical; Daniel's needed a good editor and a better writing teacher.

nice book

This is an intriguing middle age like romp of a young man coming of age in a peaceful-turned-violent land. Despite the young man's insecurity, he soon learns others are looking to him for decisions, and he is forced to grow up quickly. The characters in this novel are unique, suspenseful, charming and intense. You can't help but love them. Wulf's family and friends depend on him when an unexpected attack renders them hostage. He is not only unsure of his ability to gather the necessary force, he's also concerned if he has the courage to lead. Not only must he wage battle with the invaders, he also learns they are being aided by a dark evil. Tony Daniel takes the reader along on the journey the young man takes from being a teenager, without purpose, to being the leader of men, without equal.

Teenagers only. The world building is good but could be better. Setting it in America makes no difference to the story at all. This is a nice young adult/teenager fantasy novel. I gave it a bump to 4 stars due to two twists, which I did not see coming.

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