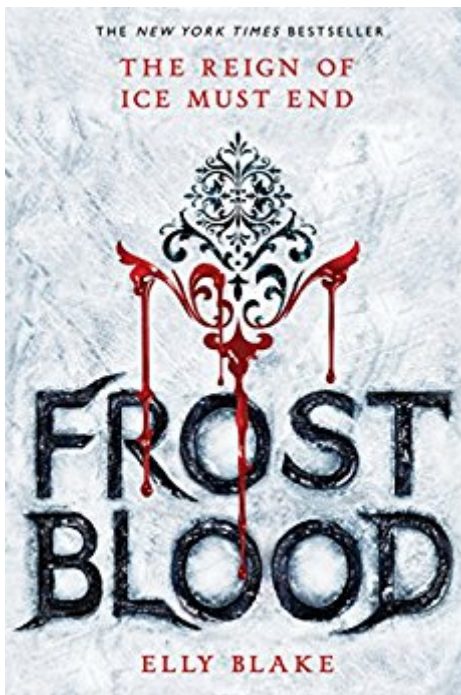


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Frostblood (The Frostblood Saga)



Synopsis

This New York Times bestseller is perfect for fans of Red Queen. Seventeen-year-old Ruby is a Fireblood who has concealed her powers of heat and flame from the cruel Frostblood ruling class her entire life. But when her mother is killed trying to protect her, and rebel Frostbloods demand her help to overthrow their bloodthirsty king, she agrees to come out of hiding, desperate to have her revenge. Despite her unpredictable abilities, Ruby trains with the rebels and the infuriating--yet irresistible--Arcus, who seems to think of her as nothing more than a weapon. But before they can take action, Ruby is captured and forced to compete in the king's tournaments that pit Fireblood prisoners against Frostblood champions. Now she has only one chance to destroy the maniacal ruler who has taken everything from her--and from the icy young man she has come to love. Vivid and compelling, Frostblood is the first in an exhilarating series about a world where flame and ice are mortal enemies...but together create a power that could change everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received this ARC while attending BEA last year in exchange for an honest and voluntary review. I was in no way compensated for this review. I picked up Elly Blake's debut novel, *Frostblood*, by chance at BEA last year. I love a good fantasy and when I saw Morgan Rhodes' praise on the cover, I figured I just might get along swimmingly with Elly and her new world. And I was quite right indeed! Fantasy worlds can be hard to understand at the best of time. Too much detail and you will overwhelm a reader and too little detail might just lead to confusion, but Elly does things just right! In this fantasy world we see two key groups, the frostbloods and the firebloods. And they both basically wield powers of their given element. Frostbloods are the ones who are more in control of things, in fact, firebloods are dying out. Ruby is one of the remaining ones, and is really the only one we meet in this book. Whether there are more out in the world in hiding is not something that is explored just now. Ruby is taken prisoner for being a fireblood and after witnessing her mother murdered, she wants nothing more than to take revenge on the man who killed her. It's a few months after her arrest that she's rescued by a pair of frostbloods, and in this world these two groups do not get along. The frostbloods rescued her with the intent that she be trained and used to help take down the current frostblood king who is getting a bit tyrannical in his ruling. But Ruby barely has any control over her abilities and has until the summer solstice to train. Ruby is taken in by this group of monks, who for the most part, treat her kindly. Well, a few of them anyway, some treat her with disdain and others are just wary. But the one who drives her the most insane is the young man named Arcus who is always wearing a hood that hides his face from her and others. These two have no love or like for one another. There's disdain and pettiness between them. But at the same time, it's almost quite comical. Yes, Arcus comes off as cold and unfeeling, befitting to his frostblood nature, but naturally, the reader can tell there is a reason for that. He has his own story that we will soon learn as Ruby's story continues. I must say, I am quite the fan of the hate/dislike to romance stage of things. It's very rare, when I am actually taken by surprise of a hate to romance situation. For the most part I can totally see when the hate will become love and that doesn't really bother me too much. What I tend to like about this scenario is how long the love takes to build. To me, that speaks of real life romance. I'd like to think it will take time before true feelings and love come about and we totally get that here. Granted it might come somewhat early page count wise, but a book can only be so long, unfortunately! ;) The second half of the book was really quite exciting.

Ruby is taken prisoner (again) by the king, this time! And he has a special hate for firebloods, but instead of an outright execution he's a fan of the good old Roman days of Colosseum battles and fights to the death. Ruby is pitted against enemy after enemy all while the king and his power source are within her reach. The book is divided into two parts, the first part has a nice slow burn of buildup. We're learning about the characters, the world, seeing things slowly begin to develop, while the second part is where a lot of action takes place. We get encounters with our villain and an even greater evil as well! There was so much to this part! So many shocks and surprises! It was amazing! The ending to this one was perfect! We get a nice roundabout conclusion, yet Elly still leaves a few minor threads dangling to keep us hooked and awaiting release of the next book. Because there has to be a next book! And curse my reading this one early! While the cliffhanger rates very low on the agonizing scale of needing the next book now, I still need to have the next book now because I just want to know what will happen to these characters that I have come to love so completely! Frostblood is definitely one incredibly amazing fantasy read that had me turning the pages as fast as I could! It was an exciting and thrilling read filled with impeccable characters and I am already looking forward to the next one! Be sure to add Elly Blake to your list of authors to watch out for! She's already on the fast track to my list of favorite authors!! Overall Rating 4.5/5 stars Frostblood releases January 10, 2017

Frostblood is a riveting fantasy tale about a girl named Ruby who is destined to change her world with her miraculously powerful Fireblood magic. However, her world is ruled by Frostblood, wielders of ice. Ruby's world is compelling and dark. We see gladiator type battles between fire and ice wielders, and Ruby is thrust into this sadistic entertainment because of the Frost King. Ruby's Fireblood kind have been persecuted and executed for many years, and they are near extinctions. Ruby's carelessness and curiosity of trying to hone her power in secret, sets her down a dark path of vengeance after Ruby suffers from a terrible personal loss. Her single-minded determination led her to a mindset where she was ready to accept her fate, and be executed by the King. However, Ruby is given the choice to prove herself in the arena and is given the option to take her revenge into her own hands. She gladly accepts. The added bonus •she also has a chance at taking down the king and his dark Frost throne. On her journey, Ruby meets a man named Arcus, a powerful ice wielder with an ulterior motive. Each question each others' trust and loyalty as their romantic relationship begins to build, and their past ties are revealed to one another. This causes great strife, and we see our characters trying to navigate their way through these new revelations. Elly Blake does a fantastic job at creating a richly dark world, one that challenges Ruby

and Arcus as our protagonists, and forces them to ultimately change their outlook on life and about each other. Elly has penned very real characters on the grounds that they aren't perfect. Elly allows her characters to face their own demons in their own way. She dabbles into mythology and sets up the dichotomy of the opposing sides: Frostbloods & Firebloods. In the mist of this, a rebellion to take down the King and his evil Throne begins to transpire with Ruby at the helm. This sets up the conflict brilliantly and it will be interesting to see how it will play out in the next book

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