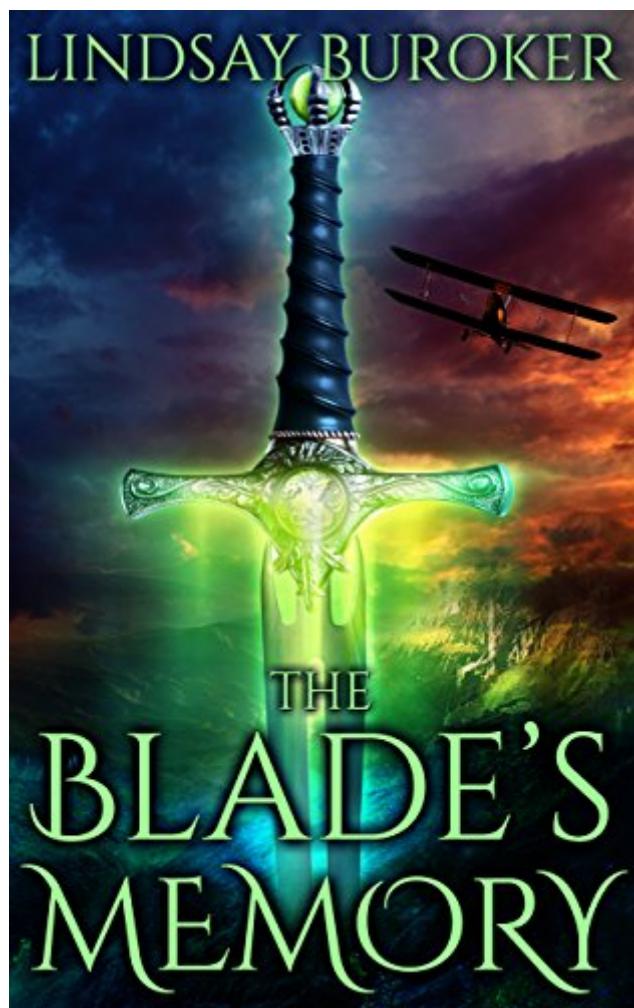


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The Blade's Memory: Dragon Blood, Book 5



Synopsis

Ridge, Sardelle, and their comrades may have rescued Tolemek's sister and freed the dragon, but trouble awaits at home. The king is missing, a secret organization is hunting sorcerers, and the capital is more vulnerable than ever to enemy attack. Worst of all, at least from Ridge's point of view, someone put that jackass Colonel Therrik in charge of the flier battalion. Ridge and his allies have a lot of problems to fix, but they can't show their faces in the capital without being arrested or shot. This time, it's going to take a lot more than magic to save the country. The Blade's Memory is the fifth installment in the Dragon Blood series.

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Customer Reviews

I could've sworn that I did a review for this book and I can't find it so maybe it was an update. Either way I will use the old saying of "it's all that and a bag of chips." This has to be, hands down, my favorite book of the entire series. (I can't remember if I said that

about another book in this series so ÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã Å| shhh.) I apologize for the lack of cohesiveness in this review and admit that it was basically a lot of plain fan girling on my part. This book was action packed with all of the types of action I like to read about. The scene at the end with the floating air base thingee ÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã Å| so awesome. In one part you have Ridge and crew fighting the Koffa fighters and in the other Sardell, Tolemek, and Captain Kaika working to bring it all down. Just one of those would be exciting enough, but both together? I donÅfÂøÃ ¬Ã â„¢t want to spoil anything, but I so loved that scene and everything that each character had to do/deal with to get their stuff done. I love a good dog fight and the magic, steam punk, flyers just made it cooler to me. The ending reminded me of the big fight in a Star Wars movie where the rebels are attacking the death star ÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã Å| all of those individual fights, the sheer numbers, and the vastness of the death star that made you question if it were possible since it seemed unbeatable. Even though this is my second time reading this book I still caught myself holding my breath in anticipation through a lot of the book. It is just that good, at least to me. In regards to the beginning of the book it was exciting, just not at the same level as that whoa ending. The whole hub-bub with the queen, who wouldÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢ve thought that, really, was pretty grrr inducing. IÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢m glad and not glad that it was taken care of in just one book, but somehow I was thinking it wouldÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢ve been spread out ÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã Å| I thought that way till I got near to the end of the book. Once again there are the dual things happening with Ridge wanting to fix things to protect the city and find the king. Then there is Sardell working to figure out the whole issue concerning the people out to kill her and any other magic users. There were a lot of surprises, some I didnÅfÂøÃ ¬Ã â„¢t even vaguely expect. At times I wondered if everything was going to work out or not and I enjoyed reading about if they were going to or not.

A compliment of the highest order: I think the Dragon Blood series has edged to the forefront and is my favorite series still ongoing. That is, it had better be ongoing, or ÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â• I canÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢t threaten an author I love as much as Ms. Buroker (who also has my email address, Twitter account, and probably knows where I live) but letÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢s just say that my favorite character had a hard run in this book and I would really, really appreciate seeing a happy resolution for that person in a later book, soon. :) (Bonus if the point of view returns to Tolemek and Ahn; I absolutely adore Ridge and Sardelle, but the back and forth is something else IÅfÂçÃ ¬Ã â„¢ve appreciated about this series!) This book does a fantastic job of continuing to deepen characterization and relationships of the central four characters, while giving secondary parts a chance to shine. It has a strong romantic element without allowing the romance to

overshadow the plot; the characters' actions seem logical in the face of the crisis they're in, and doesn't put aside plot for love scenes but also doesn't end up forgetting that the romance was there in the first place. It's anyone who complained that the characters' romances made them seem "unprofessional" at times needs to remember that Ridge Zirkander is not exactly lauded for his professionalism! It's actually nice to see the return of a purely romantic scene (while it involves sex, it's extremely tasteful and not explicit) in a series that was meant to feature them, and a tiny part of me hopes Tolemek and Caslin get one too, though I suppose they're more, well, professional. I believe it was a better installment in the series than Patterns in the Dark, though this may be in part due to its length, and that's not to say that I didn't feel like anything in The Blade's Memory was missing, and it certainly didn't end too fast! It starts with a bang (not, for once, a literal one) and just keeps going, without any slow moments, though there are some extremely heartrending ones. Despite the heartbreakingly sad moments which definitely killed what I thought was a romance in the making, I won't lie there are also incredibly funny ones in equal measure, and I'm always shocked and delighted when it's broody Tolemek who brings the laughs. The ending, complete with the series' best final battle yet, was one that provides a conclusion, but still leaves readers hungry for more, with some loose ends (and a lose villain) untied. The futures of Lieutenant Ahn, Tylie & Phelistoth especially hang uncertain in a way that hopefully leads toward a (positive, but intrigue-filled and exciting!) future plotline.

Oh wow. This series gets better and better. The more I read, the more intrigued I am and the more interested I am in these characters' fates. There was quite a lot of action in this instalment with plenty of banter and shocking revelations that should keep every reader entertained throughout. I was most definitely entertained and I may or may not have been very, very close to exclaiming "OMG" out loud. It may or may not have happened once or twice, too ... But what I really love about Buroker's writing style, is the way she manages to combine action and humour into one lovely package. Example of something funny: "What's the plan, sir?" Kaika asked. She may have appeared relaxed, but her eyes were sharp as they regarded Ridge. "I have some explosives in my pack, and I can get

more. "How will blowing things up help us find the king?" Ridge asked. "I don't know, but it would make me feel better." Or: "I heard you were drawing on the wall in here like a three-year-old." Therrik held a lantern up to the bars and stared at the map at the back of the cell. "Now, Colonel, I take exception to that comment. I believe I have at least the artistic skills of a five-year-old." "You're known for being delusional." Ridge looked at the map. "A four-year-old? Also, I LOVE Ridge's mom. Just saying. Her interaction with her son was so funny that my family thought I had gone nuts or something because I was wheezing of laughter. Jaxi is also still quite entertaining, but I believe Ridge's mom totally stole the spot for the character who has managed to make laugh the most.

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