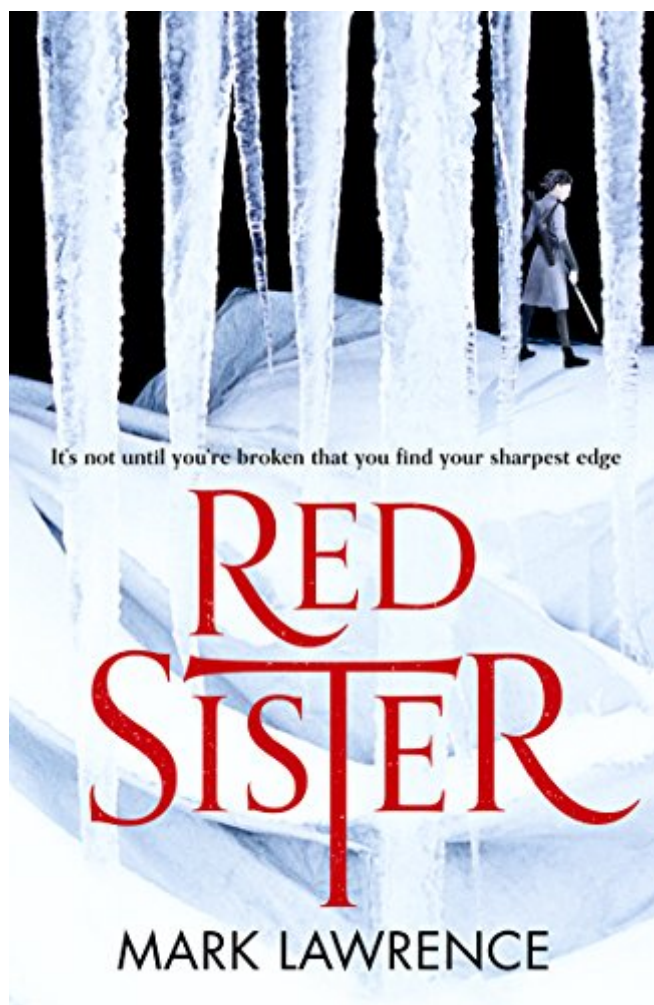


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Red Sister (Book Of The Ancestor, Book 1)



Synopsis

It's not until you're broken that you find your sharpest edge. A brilliant new series from the bestselling author of *PRINCE OF THORNS*. "I was born for killing. The gods made me to ruin." At the Convent of Sweet Mercy, young girls are raised to be killers. In a few, the old bloods show, gifting talents rarely seen since the tribes beached their ships on Abeth. Sweet Mercy hones its novices' skills to deadly effect: it takes ten years to educate a Red Sister in the ways of blade and fist. But even the mistresses of sword and shadow don't truly understand what they have purchased when Nona Grey is brought to their halls as a bloodstained child of eight, falsely accused of murder: guilty of worse.

Book Information

File Size: 1941 KB

Print Length: 512 pages

Publisher: HarperVoyager (April 6, 2017)

Publication Date: April 6, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MDNG9XC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #55,858 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #29

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy >

Historical #108 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire > Dark Humor #114

in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Dark Fantasy

Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the book. Definitely better than average. On the pro side: Mostly from a single character's POV, almost exclusively. The story line doesn't leave you hanging. On the con side: Definitely Young Adult. Nona (main character) fails to be a credible child character - her thinking is either way too mature for her experience/development level and at other times makes zero sense. (She won't

ask adult for help because the adult might not help her - what?!). Finally, it has the all-too-common Harry Potter syndrome. You know, where all adults are either oblivious (or idiotic) or the source of, and never the solution to, problems. I'd have liked to see her character develop a bit more, we're given little feel of how she changed over the several years she lived in the convent. She seems to be pretty much unchanged, although we (older people) know how much kids actually do change, and how fast, at that age. I'd have preferred more action, but Lawrence kept me interested enough so that I read it through in two days. I consider myself a critical reviewer. I'm pretty intolerant with poor plots. This one has a good plot. Fair action. Few really bad plot holes (adult obliviousness to obvious (and existential!) threats is one). For a place where subtlety and misdirection are TAUGHT, the adults sure don't seem to believe either actually exists. But yeah, I recommend this book. It's not apocalyptic sword and sorcery type of fantasy, it's basically a story which describes Nona's school years and the basis for her progress along her path to warrior (Red Sister). (I've tried to avoid any spoilers).

Mark Lawrence is a wonderful author and his command of gritty, detailed fantasy has always been very satisfying even for the most seasoned of Fantasy fans. Red Sister is a wonderful first installment into a world where humanity lives in constant threat of being consumed as a planet undergoes the final phases of a weakening sun. My favorite part of Red Sister is the level of detail that Lawrence uses to create the world. There is a feeling of completeness and authenticity to everything from the training path that novice nuns follow as they develop into the warrior priestesses of the Sisters of the Convent of Sweet Mercy. The main character, Nona, is complex and dark. Her backstory is written, but there are missing pieces that I can only assume will be addressed in later books. The evolution of Nona from starved product of an impoverished region into the talented, thriving member of the Sisterhood is well charted. It's interesting to read a maturing girl being written by a man. Lawrence does a good job from what I can tell. There are plenty of interesting characters to both admire, distrust and loathe. I appreciated Lawrence avoiding some of the truly disgusting aspects of a time/place that the story is set in. I didn't need to read about how horrible abused many of the young children would be in a dying, starving world. This is a series that fans of gritty Fantasy will love. It's harsh, it's a little bit mean and there are plenty of twists and turns to the plot to keep you interested in watching Nona grow up. Can't wait to read the next one.

Just as Game of Thrones season six proved to be worthy of the title appointment television, so too has Mark Lawrence become appointment reading. I know many have written reams about Red

Sister and about the two predecessor trilogies that this author has penned. Let me then be brief: Mark Lawrence is in his prime and this is his best single book. I consumed this book with a fierceness that I didn't think I had within me. The gist is: Red Sister has my strongest possible recommendation. Here's to the fight in all of us; the value of the word 'friend'; to the red sisterhood: Here's to Nona. I can't wait for the next volume!

I absolutely loved reading Red Sister, as much if not more than any of the last 80 books I've read over the past year and a half. I'm not bragging, I'm trying to offer context. Favorites during that time included Sanderson, Rothfuss, Hobb, Atwood, Dickens, Pierce, Peake, LeGuin, Heinlein, and Lawrence himself. I'm listing those names just to add some more context. If you're a fan of those authors and you haven't read Lawrence, go and get this book. If you're already a fan of his work, you're in for a real treat. In this one book, I found the novelty and bite I enjoyed in The Broken Empire married to the nuance and mastery of character I'd found in The Red Queen's War. Add to that mix a near perfect sense of pacing, a tight narrative structure that remains unpredictable enough, and the skillful use of language born of real experience and hard work. Beyond all that, I simply liked it. The characters are worth loving, my head is filled with a dozen memorable scenes, and the world-building itself was good enough to have saved this book even if the writing wasn't quite so good. I am keeping this vague. I usually do, since I like to be surprised as a reader and the details of the plot or world hardly ever matter, not really. I'm giving you what I would want. Who does the reviewer usually read, am I going to eye roll at the writing, and does the reviewer have any reservations to share. So, that's what you have here. No reservations from me, just endorsement.

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