



Rebel Fay

Barb Hendee , J.C. Hendee

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The Noble Dead Saga has been hailed as “fabulous entertainment wrought with mystery, adventure, and sharp-toothed wit.” * Now the “action-packed” ** adventures of Magiere and Leesil continue as they journey into the dangerous and mysterious Elven Territories...

Desperate to free his mother from a caste of ruthless elven assassins, Leesil pushes on through the mountains at the height of a harsh winter. Obsession blinds him to reason, and he and his companions — his beloved Magiere, the sage Wynn, and their canine protector, Chap — find their lives at stake under the hardships of the wilderness. Should they survive, they still face the perils of the Elven Territories, a culture of tranquil beauty, savage customs, and deep-rooted hatred and fear of all humankind.

Magiere was created with strange powers by a shadowy, long-forgotten enemy of many names — an enemy whom Leesil was trained from childhood to kill. Unbeknownst to them, Chap brought them together at the command of his kin, the Fay, to forge an alliance that might have the power to stand against the forces of dark magics.

In the place of his birth, Chap must guard his companions from enemies and allies alike, though he is not always certain which is which. And as they uncover the truth, they discover just how close the enemy has always been...

* Mark Anthony, author of *The Last Rune series*

** *Midwest Book Review*

"...a hybrid crossing Tolkienesque fantasy with vampire-infused horror..."
—*Publisher's Weekly*

"A real page-turner for Noble Dead series newcomers and veterans alike."
—Frieda Murray, *Booklist*: American Library Association.

"Fans of the Hendees' Noble Dead series who have been trying to understand the saga's many unexplained mysteries will be absolutely blown away by the bombshell plot twists revealed in *Rebel Fay*... Fantasy fans who like their adventures done very rare — fast and bloody &mdash: should definitely check out this addictively readable saga, which seamlessly blends the vampire mythos with high fantasy."
—Paul Goat Allen, *The Barnes & Noble Review*

Rebel Fay Details

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Tammie says

Rebel Fay is Chap's story. I very much enjoyed this book. The Journey into the elven lands breathed new life into the series for me. I liked seeing more from his perspective. And although Wynn does do some stupid things like going off and getting lost, I still like her. Her character grows on me with each book.

Viridian5 says

I enjoyed Barb & J.C. Hendee's *Rebel Fay* quite a bit, though I had *some* problems with it. A lot happens, our protagonists are often in danger, and there are very few slack sections. We and Chap learn more about his purpose and origins, while Magiere gets a glimpse of her possible, highly unpleasant future. I appreciated the character development our protagonists get.

That said, sometimes I wanted to smack Leesil very hard for how often his obsession with finding and rescuing his mother from captivity in one of the elven territories led to him stupidly putting himself and his friends into danger he knew they didn't need to be in. It's part of the point of it, but it's still frustrating to read. The parts with Chane and Welstiel don't add up to anything for this book and seem to be set-up for something in the next book, so here they feel more like unnecessary distractions. All the accent marks and apostrophes strewn throughout the names and language of the elves--such as Brot'ân'duivé, Cuirin'nên'a, Léshiârelaohk, bóijt'âna, and Grôyt'ashia--really started to get on my nerves now that the book is *full* of elves.

I'll be picking up the next book.

Jenifer1223 says

The fifth book in the series and it finds Magiere, Leesil, Wynn, and Chap in the Elves territory.

Readers gain a fair amount of information about the things going on in this story line, but I do feel like this book never really picks up in the way of action like previous books did.

While I like the character of Sgaile, I do NOT like Osha and I'm not super thrilled that he even exists. However, that is merely a personal preference that I'm sure others will disagree with me on.

This book is one that people should read simply because there is some good information about the characters and history of the world that I think will become necessary to know in the future (I actually know this because I've read all of the books already..hint...hint).

Not every book in a long series can be super action packed and exciting though, so I was torn on how to rate this book. I gave it 3 stars because it's not the MOST memorable book in the series...but it does contribute to the story in the long run and I really think people interested in the series should read it. Definitely do NOT skip it an think you'll know what's going on.

Ruby says

Best Vampire Series to date

I love this series. It is by far the best. Vampires, elves, and spiritual wolves... it's got it all. Wow!

Catherine Fitzsimmons says

I've been following this duo's Noble Dead series since book two – before I realized it was a book 2 – and I was looking forward to this fifth book in the series. I was interested in the idea of a vampire story in a fantasy setting and I found the books I read engaging in a way that regrettably few fantasy books I have read are. The characters are delightfully temperamental and sarcastic, the climax tends to begin directly building starting from about halfway through the book, and in general, they're pretty entertaining reads. The second book in the series, *Thief of Lives*, made a good introduction to the series, as there were enough hints at what had happened in the first book to suggest that something had come before it without making reading the first book necessary to its enjoyment – and you don't have the silly goth mental picture of the first book's cover that has become the norm in the later books. The overall story does span deeper and stretches out as the series progresses, however, so I would recommend reading at least some of the first books before jumping to this fifth novel. It's worth it, though, as I greatly enjoyed all the books that came before it.

Rebel Fay is a bit slower for the series; there isn't nearly as much action as in the other books and the climax is not as drawn out nor quite as exciting. The ultimate climax, in fact, is not based in action but in diplomacy. It was still an interesting read, and I wouldn't say it's the worse for its difference, but it is different for the series. The authors still had a way of revealing just enough details to leave me with questions I had to keep reading to find answers. It kept my appetite for Noble Dead sated yet has still left me eager to read the next book.

Danielle says

I found this one to be a bit slower, but I loved it just as much. You get to be in the perspective of Chap much more and I really enjoyed reading it. Though I found this one to be slower nothing about its pace bothers me. We found out a lot about why Leesil was born and why Magiere was born. You got to get a look into the Elven Territories. This I found interesting to find out how they run and handle things. As in the other novels I found Wynn to be a bit annoying, but she has grown on me much more. I still wish she would listen to people and not just do something without thinking about the dangers. This annoys me. She gets into so much trouble that could have been avoided. A lot more has been revealed that deals with so much. Leesil, Magiere, the Enemy, the Forgotten History. The story is getting more and more interesting and twisted. I can't wait to see how it will be all wrapped up. I'm upset that we didn't get much time to be with Leesil and Magiere. I love being in either of their perspectives and missed that since we were in mostly Chaps perspective. They didn't get to be alone much either, which is upset as well. But the one thing that happened between Magiere and Leesil made me so happy. Even though we didn't get much of them that scene made up for it. I can't wait to read the next and final book to see how this will all end and what becomes of all the characters.

Oddy says

I've dropped the series. I continued to Rebel Fay because I wanted to know about Lessil and see what kind of society the Elves held. I was very bored and as soon as I got what I wanted out of this novel, I made the decision to drop the series as a whole. I may come back to the side series and see what happens with Wyn but the series takes itself too seriously to be a fun ride anymore.

Kenny Bellew says

A lot of great bits of storytelling in this latter book in this fantasy series. Again, I really recommend this series if you're a fantasy fan.

Ricky says

I really wanted to like this book, but I think I made a big mistake. I read the first few very quickly. Loved them, the characters had such potential. You've got the mysterious Dhampir and the elf assassin, their fay in disguise Chap and the makings of a very epic story.

But then I ran out of books in the series to read, so I read other stories. Sadly a couple of those books were *The Lies of Locke Lamora* and *The Name of the Wind*. Two books which showed me that you can have a good story AND intriguing dialogue. In fact, those books ruined me for all other stories.

Okay so the Noble Dead doesn't have wicked awesome dialogue? I'll get over it, what does it have? Intriguing characters? Well no, I mean, the elf's an outcast elf assassin, we get that. He wants his mommy. Okay. I think in the author's eagerness to portray the characters as conflicted, we strayed too far into whiny bitch territory.

A part-vampire chick and an elf assassin, yet these are possibly the most indecisive, emotional, self-doubting, shells of characters I've read in a long while. As our friend Heath Ledger would ask: "What happened, did your balls fall off?" It's sad when you find yourself halfway through a story about an outcast elf assassin and a vampire returning to the elf's home in search of his mommy with a sentient dog and a scribe who dabbles in the arcane, yet you have the same body count as a movie starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

I'm really getting tired of the characters having to tell me they're conflicted, or that they're indecisive. Kill someone dammit! There's little dialogue in this story and what's there is bits and pieces.

Oh and the scholarly scribe shows as much depth and intelligence as your average bleach blond teenager at the mall. "What's that? The dog ran off somewhere? Well I can't let him go it alone..." Seriously that's the depth of her reasoning.

Fuck that...

Seriously someone find me a book with an assassin, a vampire and a dark god threatening the world. Because that may have been what this book set out to be, but somewhere we got lost and now I suspect the Hende's hired Anne Rice to ghost-write the rest...

Karissa says

This book is the fifth installment of The Noble Dead series by Barb and JC Hendee. This has been a pretty good series.

In this book Leesil, Magiere, Wynn, and Chap make their way into the elvish lands to find and rescue Leesil's mother who is being held captive by the very elves she was working for. As you can imagine upon entering the elvish land things start to get complicated. The party run into a number of elves that they have meet before. They are granted guardianship by Sgaile and Leesil finds that the Most Aged Father of the elves wants to make a deal to bargain for the freedom Leesil's mother Nien'a. Chane and Welstial are seen infrequently in the book and their quest to find the place of Welstial's dream doesn't make much progress.

There are many plotline advances and surprises in this book. You find out more about the secret group of elves that Nien'a is part of and what their plans are for Leesil. You find out more about Magiere and what her involvement as the Sister of the Dead is. You find out a lot about Chap. In fact much of this book is centered around Chap and he takes a center role in this book which is a bit unusual for a glorified dog :-). You find out more about Chap's mission and his position with the Fey. There are a few new and endearing characters introduced in this book; I especially like the old elf Glenn, Chap's girlfriend Lily, and we learned a lot more about Botun (not sure of this spelling). The Most Aged Father was also an interesting, if unlikeable, character.

All the above being said I was very disappointed with the pacing of this book. There really isn't much that happens in the first 2/3rd's of the book. It took me forever to get through this book because it just wasn't holding my interest. I feel like we spent a lot of time listening to Leesil whine, listening to Magiere listen to Leesil whine, you listen to Wynn whine, and you listen to Chap whine. It was ridiculous. Thankfully the last third of the book had a ton of action, huge amounts of plot development, and really hooked me again. The main quest in the book is resolved but I felt like a lot more questions were created at the end that will, most likely, be answered in the next book of the series.

Maybe this book should get more than 3 stars but I didn't think it really compared to the other books in the series. In general this whole series had been of mediocre writing quality. I think the only thing that draws me to it and keeps me reading is that these are nice basic swords and sorcery books with a vampire twist to them..oh yeah and they have that whole darkness is going to destroy the world going on in the background. I really hope that this series doesn't continue for more than a couple more books. Any longer than that and I think it will be just barely limping along.

Katy says

I am giving this a 3star because it shouldn't have taken me this long to finish this book if I had been more into it. The first half was slow - I kept putting it down and forgetting about it for a year. The second half of the book was better - more action, more revelations, I could get into it enough to finish and want to move onto the next book. This was not a book for distracted reading, better if you can really concentrate on it. Lots of names and elven language to pay attention to. I'm now ready to continue with this series, which I do like overall.

Krazykiwi says

Rebel Fay Book 4 took me three weeks to read, this one I knocked off on the train this afternoon. And not entirely because they were both due back at the library. In fact this is easily the best book of the series. That said, Magiere is still grumpy (but actually making sensible decisions and not just being Miss Stubbornpants), Leesil is sullen and confused but sort of actually has a reason now, Wynn is still annoying but actually gets useful, Welstiel and Chane... meh, who cares about them.

Chap has a major part in this, which is always good. He learns a whole lot more about himself, and finally gets to actually have a life of his own, for at least a while. I love Chap, he's a great character.

And Wynn instead of flouncing about the place getting lost and needing to be rescued, flounces about the place, gets lost, needs to be rescued, but actually makes a useful breakthrough in the plot in the process. Well it had to happen eventually, right?

But the elves. Haughty, arrogant, insular, beautiful and deadly know-it-alls, everything we love about high fantasy since Tolkien elves. Ok, maybe that's just me. In fact they are magnificent bastards nearly to a one, except for maybe Sgäile's grandpa and Sgäile's niece (I'm not even going to attempt to spell their names.) And most especially the Most Aged Father.

The Hende's tendency to over-describe is not so bad when the environment is new to everyone, and everything is alien and fascinating, and they are reacting to that. But still, there's endless pages in the first third or so devoted to some thieving rodent thing, and it just keeps on coming up. I figured after about the fifth time, there had to be a point, it was going to be important later. But no, at some point someone says "oh that thieving rat thing hasn't been around stealing things lately, I guess we left it at the last village... ha-ha-ha, sucks to be them". Seriously, do these guys just not have an editor any more? Does it matter that the unnamed barge captain wears his goatskin vest without a shirt and fur side in? Or that Wynn saw a mushroom and two birds and a tree and another tree and....

Anyway, as I said, although they do go on a bit, it's much more readable here, because we're also seeing Leesil feeling alien in a place that should be his home, Wynn being fascinated by evvvvverything, and Magiere being cranky (because, Magiere), and Chap feeling totally at home, and having a wonderful time. Also, I think I have a small reader-crush on Sgäile. Because I can. I have a thing for blondes, and he seems to be the only character in the whole book series who just says what's going on. (Oh and I'm on to you Hendees, nicking gaelic words and substituting random nordic letters and apostrophes, does not a new language make.)

But now we're all set up for the final book in this particular arc. Which is where I'm stopping, because even useful Wynn still sets my teeth on edge, so I'm just not going to read a whole new series about her and Chane.

Kati says

This 5th installment of the Noble Dead series was definitely better than the previous one but still nothing special. It was interesting to get to know the elves and their society better just like to learn more of the Forgotten History. And to finally see at least a part of the plot resolved.

On the other hand, there are some characters there that simply jar too much for me to truly enjoy this book. I mean the sage Wynn specifically. All she does is cause trouble and she never receives any punishment for

her behavior. The authors are probably trying to "toughen" her up but she just gets more and more annoying as the series continues. What I hate the most is how Leesil and Magiere were "dumb-ified" to accommodate the much more educated Wynn. And another thing is how the authors stress that she's "fragile", "small" etc. on every damn page. It sounds like a bad romance novel.

What also disappointed me is the way the characters behave towards each other. They are "snapping", "yelling", "demanding"... Sorry, but these are not the characters that I liked in the first novel. They are permanently angry and with their dumb behavior, they cause more and more problems and blame them on everybody else but themselves - example: Wynn sneaks away (for no INTELLIGENT reason at all) but it's a) Osha's fault because he didn't guard them properly and b) Chap's fault because he sneaked away first... but he as a majay-hì could go wherever he wanted, she as a human not! And did she get punished? Of course not, because she's perfect after all! *snort*

I'm really disappointed and also glad that the next book is the last one in this series.

Shelley says

I really truly did want to like this book more than I rated it, but, I, for one am sick to death of both Chane and Welsteil, and wish they would just die already! I know, I know, that's just mean and all, but seriously hasn't the storyline gone on long enough? And, I'm tired of the moaning and groaning Chane does about poor defenseless Wynn. Aww shut yer pie hole already!

Leesil is still a killjoy, and will be for as long as I can tell, even after finding his long lost mother Cuirin'nena (Nein'a, and her not actually LEAVING with them. Can you say what's the point of the journey to rescue her if she's only going to stay behind? I mean seriously, he dragged Magiere and Wynn along kicking and screaming and demanding that they do it now, only to have this ending? Really?!?!)

C'mon Hendee's I was so looking forward to this storyline being finished already. First, you killed off Magiere's mother, and later tell us that it's was all so that she could be conceived to either side with the dreamer, or fight him.

Wynn was okay for part of the book, then she goes off running after Chap and once again puts herself and others in danger. Her ability to translate Elvish was interesting, but her constant badgering was incredibly mind numbing.

Magiere even asks Leesil to marry him, which he says no to...then yes...then no..then maybe, but only if they can wait till they get back home to their tavern. ::eyeroll: Sorry, Magiere, you're like the evil incarnate who is expected to bring the world down or something unless Chap can stop you.

Chap meets a nice lady love, and one of his own kind named Lily. The Awwww moment of the book. It's too bad they end up splitting up at the end, but, you know how it goes. Meet the girl of your dreams, and she ditches you. Chap has some serious adventures of his own this time around, and really makes his kin the Fay upset at him. Then again, having this annoying voice in your head constantly telling you what to do, I would probably be a wee bit upset as well!

Hmm, let me see, oh yeah, Magiere vamps out, and gets accused of being an undead by the Most Aged Father, who is a creepazoid to the letter C. Leesil goes on a soul search and gets an actual Elf name in order to prove Magiere's innocence. Probably the only interesting thing that happened to him. Magiere is defended by Brotan, who, if you remember, tried to kill Magiere the last time around. Now, he's all, I need to protect

Leesil, Blah Blah Blah. Magiere gets saved by a bird that somehow has the same blood in both of them. No really, no kidding. In fact, the bird actually left a trail of food for Mageire and team and leads them into Elven Land.

With this being the next to last book in this particular storyline, you do find out more about Chaps history and Magiere's as well. ::sigh:: You KNOW I have to read the last book of this series, otherwise, I will just be kicking myself for months from now.

Snarky commentary brought to you by lack of sleep, and having my brain totally numbed out by the time I got to the end of this book!

Ken says

If you've gotten far enough in the *Noble Dead* series to get to this, the fifth book, then it's likely that you don't need too much convincing to read on. In many ways, this was the best yet. Our vampire friends Welstiel and Chane, while pivotal to the arc of the series, were becoming a bit tiresome and repetitive in their obsessions, so I'm glad that *Rebel Fay* doesn't center on them. Instead, the action moves into new territory, literally and figuratively, as our protagonists journey into the Elven Territories. Humans are not welcome there, nor are the undead, which means that Magiere is risking much to help Leesil find and free his mother from imprisonment.

I enjoyed the new elven characters, and found the pacing a little more brisk than in some of the previous *Noble Dead* books. Well-written action; well-drawn characters.

If I had to come up with a criticism, it would be that a lot of time was spent on Chap (as the book's title implies). Chap discovers much about himself and the Fay, and spends a lot of time with other majay-hì. I found these scenes less compelling than those involving the other characters. Somehow, as Chap becomes more communicative, and as we spend more time in his head, he has lost his some of his "voice" as a distinct personality. Only a minor quibble.

If you've been asking yourself whether you should go on with the *Noble Dead* series, my answer for *Rebel Fay* is a definite "yes."
