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Andre Norton , Mercedes Lackey

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Elvenblood (Halfblood Chronicles)

Elvenblood Details

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From Reader Review Elvenblood for online ebook

Renay says

a cute little story about the ever present battle between good and evil, using elves, wizards, gnomes, halfbloods and humans as the fighters, and a world where dragons exist but are a threatened species as the battleground.

the main character is a girl who has been suppressed by her father and kept "in the dark" so to speak for all of her life, till she breaks free and realises she has hidden strengths that can benefit the world and the races. a good and interesting book to pick up, and an enjoyable read with a lovely feel - good ending. The story contains a message of personal strength and believing in oneself to make you feel all nice and pleasant by the time you get to the last page.

Katie says

3.5

I enjoyed this book, possibly because it's different from the other stuff I've been reading. The story, setting, and characters are interesting. Some of the transitions and character growth were less than smooth, and the romances all came at the same time, two somewhat suddenly. Although there was fighting and the beginning (I think) of a war, the violence is kept to a minimum, and there is hardly any gore. While some things may be insinuated, the romances are 100% clean and the book dwells on the emotions of those romances, rather than the physical aspects of them.

I liked that one of the main characters was different from your typical heroine: a woman bound by tradition who chafed under that role, but was too timid and browbeaten to do anything about it.

Sarah says

Warning. Audible don't do the next book in the series. This book ends in a satisfying way for the characters but the overriding plot isn't finished.

Tnkw01 says

The star system has no half stars, so I'll give this a 5-star even though it really is a 4.5. Really, really great read. So many things to love about this book. Love the fact that elves are not the "end all to be all". Love the fact that there is no prominent characters that whine all through the book (which Lackey has a tendency to write) and no really long, drawn out dialogue or descriptions that clutters up some fantasy books. A great plot, also. The only criticisms I have is the ending is just a tad abrupt and I really hate the term "portal" in fantasy books. To me, it fits better in science fiction or horror. I think "gateway" would have been a better term (I know, really silly and picky). But overall a nice book, much better than Elvenbane.

Nataly says

It's as good as the first book.

Leslie Pringle wrldgrll says

The second book in the Half-Blood chronicles begins slowly. It is a year after the revolt and we begin in a new location with new characters getting ready for a fete. If I heard anymore about choosing a dress for a function by an elven lady I may just have whipped that CD in the audio-book out the car window. There were a couple of other places where the book dragged, and if I had of been reading the paper copy I likely would have skimmed quite a few pages here and there. A case in point, the sudden yet insipid pairing up of the main characters. It was as if it was an afterthought to throw in some "romance".

Then, boom, the book did pick up, to the point where the ending was actually rushed.

The best part of this series is its strong female characters. In Elvenblood, we meet Rena, who essentially keeps her brother Lorryn and herself alive by the use of her "small magic". This level of magic has always been poo-pooed by the male elves and underestimated by the female, yet here it is saving the day. It let Rena be a strong female character without aping males.

There were some other cultures introduced, but I would have liked to have known more about the Iron People. Where did they come from? Were they indigenous to the planet? How did they fall off the radar and stay off of it for so long? And why?

I'll carry on with the series but I can't say that it is the most captivating fantasy set that I have read. (less)

Lissibith says

Two things first. A. I liked this one a lot better than the first even though it wasn't technically better. and B. It's SO depressing to me that I can't put this one on my female friendships shelf. But as with so much contemporary fantasy, the only real, meaningful relationships are either familial or romantic, so why would you want to have friendships? They're clearly inferior shadows. *eyeroll*

First, the very good - I loved the addition of Rena, an elven character who's meek and quiet and demure because if she's not, she'll be punished in pretty horrible ways. I found her arc to be an incredibly engaging one - one that focuses on her not only as a person but as a woman, and lets her be feminine without ever belittling that femininity or mistaking it for weakness or foolishness. Other characters do, but they're shown to be wrong. Her strength never becomes a Xena-like fighter sort, and I love her all the more for it. A bit of variety :)

(view spoiler)

I enjoy this book well enough, but I'd have a hard time recommending it unless you're a massive fan of dragons, which I think it does in an exceedingly interesting way.

Sara says

I enjoyed this. I most liked reading about the halfblood Lorryn and his elven sister Sheyrena (more Sheyrena). I thought the chunks of story which told with their thoughts, especially Rena's, were the most interesting. Sheyrena coming into her own and discovering the many uses of her "lesser magics" was captivating. Lorryn was... not quite as interesting, honestly. He may have even been a bit boring. Mero bores me now, though I thought his new-found love was sweet. They're a good couple. Shana was... nnn necessary. Keman was interesting to read this time around. I like his new love, too and she's fascinating. They were so cute when they shifted to dragon form the first time for each other. Diric, the Iron People's priest and his wife, Kala were good characters and fun to read. Myre.... I hate that dirty weasel. I hated reading her parts from the very beginning of the book, but she gets her due. I hope to read more about the lady-elves' revolt and the use of their magic in the next book. *crosses fingers*

Dan says

Elvenblood continues the themes from Elvenbane: character-driven scenes full of description, a long introduction, and a breaking down of fantasy tropes. We have a would-be fairy princess charming unicorns, which in this world are predatory, with sharp fangs and clawed hooves.

Elvenblood, more than a hundred pages shorter than its predecessor, falls into a "middle child" slump, like Two Towers or The Empire Strikes Back. In it, we're introduced to a few new characters, our heroes start falling in love, the world is expanded and the final conflict has now been set up for the next book.

In truth, I found Elvenblood frustrating, because very little actually happens. It's mostly a long introduction, recentering our knowledge of the characters and their situation a year after the events of Elvenbane. It doesn't pick up until about halfway through, and the two major conflicts are each resolved in mere moments. (Regardless, the first one is completely satisfying.) Perhaps worst of all, it doesn't really end, merely stops. Elvenborn will be a necessary read after this.

One last addendum: these books need maps. That's a fantasy trope I'd like to see upheld; it's very hard to get a handle on the size of this world and the relationships of places to each other. Also, I like maps.

Kimmay says

Meh...I didn't like this one that much, I liked parts of it, but it seemed to drag in spots. And all the main characters hooking up with someone seemed to cliché. I mean that could have been dragged out a bit. It is what it is, fantasy, entertaining, but it wasn't thought provoking that is for sure.

Some parts were cool, the iron people were cool, the dragon fight was rewarding. I liked the end result, of the dragon fight, little sister got a harsh punishment, but she deserved it. I don't want to spoil anything.

I will read the third book, but only because I bought it at the same time I bought the second one. I will most likely swap the books, not keepers, but not horrible either, don't get me wrong, it was just mediocre, & I don't usually like to read mediocre.

Ryan says

Carries the torch well for the first book in the series. Enjoyable and workmanlike fantasy that takes the story in new directions while maintaining a consistent tone. Avoids the most common sequel pitfalls, and expands the world while still telling a (mostly) self-contained story. Still suffers from too much exposition, conflicts are perhaps resolved a bit too neatly, and the "exotic" treatment of POC might raise eyebrows today - but hey, they're in there, and this was the 90's, right? Elvenblood isn't likely to blow anybody's mind these days, but it's solid and toothsome entertainment nevertheless.

Chad says

A continuation of the Elvenbane, the elves are recovering from the second Wizard War and the Wizards have moved away to a new home far away from the Elven lands to start anew. However, the war has upset the normal order of the realm and the balance of power has shifted. Although the war is over, peace is still not assured. Now is the time to secure power and new alliances.

My biggest criticism of this book is that the first book ends at the conclusion of a single battle in which the Wizards win by pure luck and the sacrifice by one to kill an Elven lord. This book begins with the treaty signed and the Wizards moving. Very few apocalyptic, world changing wars are won over a single battle, especially the first battle of the war... Other than that, the book flows and feel much like the first book. There are new characters that are developed based on the actions in the first book, which I really liked. If you enjoyed the first book, you will likely enjoy this one, so it is worth reading.

Hannah says

This second installment has the advantage of better pacing than the first, since its moved past the "beginning" stages of the plot. However, where the first had rich descriptions of the world and its people, and the characters were well-developed, "Elvenblood" failed to deliver the same quality. Shana came across as increasingly shallow and her character unbelievable - although the changes are understandable as she moves up the social ladder, I found it hard accept her dramatically developed interpersonal skills.

The plot of Elvenblood, rather than picking up where it left off at the end of Elvenbane, begins rather abruptly and leaves the reader confused. Scenes and events are disjointed, as if the author threw together a bunch of plot devices and action scenes rather than assuring that it both made sense and flowed. The ending felt rushed; a deliberate attempt by the authors to set up the next novel.

The only reason why this book received a 6/10 instead of a 5 was due to the enjoyment factor. I still enjoyed the book reasonably, which is something to say in its favour. It's a shame the glaringly obvious flaws in the writing were impossible to ignore. Let's hope the third in the installment is an improvement.

Matthew says

Enjoyable continuation of the first book. Simple writing with an easy plot line. The main characters were explored a little further in depth which was great. I'm curious to see how the last book will go.

Lindsey says

[The convenient pairing off of everyone in the main party is cringeworthy. It is rather inconvenient that Velnyar a

Barry says

A great follow-up to the original.

Serena says

Elvenblood is a book about blood, and the power struggles between those you do know and those you don't.

Sheyrena and Lorryn find their freedoms threatened, Sheyrena because her elven father arranges a marriage, and Lorryn because his father was human, not elven. So they must flee, and turn to Sheyrena's human slave who is strangely knowledgeable about dragons, Myre.

In the wake of a victory against elves, halfbloods like Shana, human wizards, and dragon shamans like her brother Keman have gathered only to find that they aren't the only people seeking freedom, there are the human nomads and traders, the Iron People.

They must in the end forge themselves anew into a weapon against elves, while becoming a shield for their friends.

Kathy Broyles says

The second book in the trilogy, "Elvenblood" continues the story of half-blood human-elf Shana and Keman, her dragon foster brother. I listened to the first two books in the series back-to-back and wanted to listen to the third as well only to discover that it is not available in audio. This is another listen-to of an old favorite that I read a long time ago. I am most disappointed that the last book is not audio-ed.

Karen says

Loved as a 'tween.

Victoria says

When I decided to re-read The Halfblood Chronicles, I was excited to read the brand new (to me) third novel

in the series. As for this second book, though I only vaguely recalled the events of the previous novel in the series, this one felt a bit more familiar. At first I chalked it up to a familiarity with Mercedes Lackey's writing style. But as more and more of the plot came back to me, I realized that my clearer memory came from originally enjoying this sequel even more than the first book in the series. This sequel is even more fun to read (and to re-read!). It's an adventurous fantasy with a lot of sympathetic characters and a very entertaining plotline. I am anxious to see where it all concludes in the third volume in the series!
