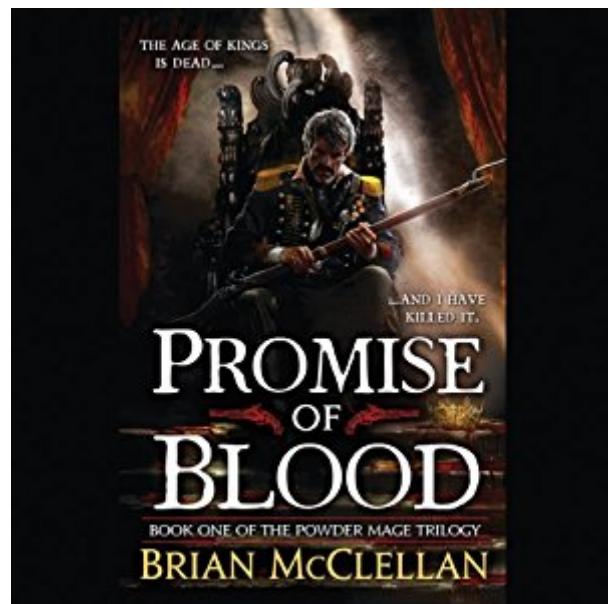


The book was found

Promise Of Blood



Synopsis

The Age of Kings is dead...and I have killed it. It's a bloody business overthrowing a king.... It's up to a few.... Stretched to his limit, Tamas is relying heavily on his few remaining powder mages, including the embittered Taniel, a brilliant marksman who also happens to be his estranged son, and Adamat, a retired police inspector whose loyalty is being tested by blackmail. But when gods are involved.... Now, as attacks batter them from within and without, the credulous are whispering about omens of death and destruction. Just old peasant legends about the gods waking to walk the earth. No modern educated man believes that sort of thing. But they should....The Powder Mage Trilogy, Book 1.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 19 hoursÂ andÂ 1 minute

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 16, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00C2DMZVK

Best Sellers Rank: #77 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Men's Adventure #157 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #165 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic

Customer Reviews

Promise of Blood by Brian McClellan is the first book in his Powder Mage trilogy series. I was quite surprised to learn that the author studied writing under Brandon Sanderson whose no doubt a favorite author for many fantasy readers. The results speak clearly. His writing is crisp, to the point and most importantly, very easy to follow along with. The problem I have with Promise of Blood is not with the author's writing but mainly with how he deals with his characters. This is a very large book and yet after having completed it, I couldn't find myself to care for a majority of the characters save for one or two. Make no mistake about it though. I'm not looking for funny or witty characters to make an impression here because I knew this book is suppose to be dark and gritty. I'm sure the title of the book gave that away. It's just felt to me some element was missing with a majority of the

characters due to them feeling a bit one dimensional. Does that take anything away from the book? Yes, it certainly does. However, I still enjoyed it for the most part. Promise of Blood spares you from the usual long introductions and throws you right into the pit of things. There has been a coup led by Field Marshal Tamas and his military is out to kill the king and nobles due to their lack of leadership and concern for the general public. While Tamas feels he isn't the one to actually lead the people, he knows for sure that there can never be another monarchy if the people are to be set free. The setting here is a little unique but if you've read novels from Brandon Sanderson before, things will seem a bit similar.

It's refreshing to see a new fantasy series take the time to establish a firm foundation for its setting without having to rely on the old conventions of the genre. Promise of Blood, the first in the Powder Mage trilogy, is appropriately epic in its scale and ambition, not just depicting the vast power struggles of huge forces, sorcerers and demons fulfilling some ancient prophesy, but also taking into account the social and economic cost of the upheaval on the ordinary citizen when Field Marshal and Powder Mage Tamas overthrows the corrupt reign of King Manhouch in the kingdom of Adro. That's only just beginning of Tamas's troubles, but if the rest of this series remains as gritty and as thrilling as the set-up alone it will be one of the best new fantasy works for a long time. And there is indeed every sign that the series has a lot more to offer. Having overthrown the King and publicly executed the nobility right at the outset of the first book, the real substance of Promise of Blood then is to be found in the disorder that follows in the wake of the revolution. Tamas has to quell the civil unrest that follows, sweep up pockets of royalist resistance, account for the kingdom's debts and put the economic house into order (not least of which is finding a way to pay his soldiers), but the unrest also places Adro in a dangerous position with its neighbours in Kez only waiting for the opportunity to take advantage of the instability. McClellan does well to cover all these angles though a number of characters who all provide a different perspective on the aftermath.

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