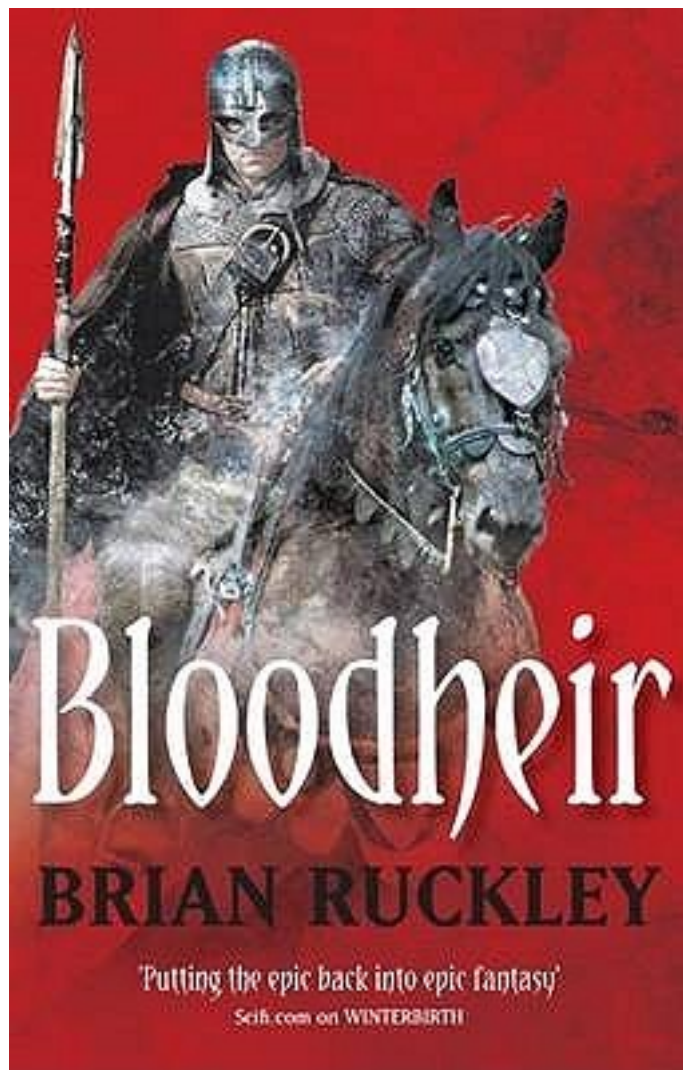

Brian Ruckley

Bloodheir (The Godless World #2)



Title: Bloodheir (The Godless World #2)

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Description

As ever, greater battles are fought between the Black Road and the True Bloods, so each side in the conflict becomes ever more riven by internal dissent and disunity. Meanwhile, the long-dormant Anain are stirring - and when the most potent race the world has ever known returns, the bloodletting may never stop.

Insightful reviews

James Cox: This first book was more entertaining but this was a good read. I enjoyed it. I am definitely going to read the next in the series.

Daniel: Better than the first book, becomes more coherent and begins to move along better. Turns out there is a third book (I was hoping this would wrap this series) and I am committed enough to read book 3 when it comes out, but based on 1 and 2 alone, not sure that I can recommend this series. Also, despite the portrayals on the covers, not really a Nordic or Viking-esque story- more of just straight-up fantasy...

Soho_black: The Godless World is changing; the events of "Winterbirth" have left their scars and the Black Road is growing ever stronger. Many of the True Bloods are in mourning for their lost friends and relatives, but the battle isn't even nearly over. Encouraged by previous successes, the Black Road are pushing for further gains and they are being assisted by the rogue na'kyrim, Aeglyss, who is growing in power since being left to die on the Breaking Stone by the White Owls.

This isn't entirely welcomed, even amongst the Black Road, as many of them see Aeglyss as a half-breed and not a true follower of their creed. Whilst Aeglyss has the power to turn many of them to his way of thinking, others are not so deeply under his power and so there is discord. The same is true of the True Bloods, as whilst Aewult is the commander, as befits his position of the Bloodheir to the Thane of Thaness, the head of the most important of the True Blood families, his position seems to have gone to his head and he is not popular with many of the other Thaness.

Meanwhile, assisted by some of the na'kyrim friendly to their cause, Thane Orisian has taken some of his men in an attempt to capture K'rina, who is very important to Aeglyss, in an attempt to lessen his influence. At the same time, Aeglyss has come to the attention of the Anain, who are amongst the original beings created when the Gods were still in the world and are supposedly the most powerful beings in existence. It seems that there are to be two battles to be had; one physical battle between the two armies and a battle of power and influence between a powerful being and a powerful race.

There is an awful lot going on within the novel and it frequently proves difficult to keep everything separate. Many of the people on both sides are human and are descendents from the same ancestors many centuries ago, so there are a lot of similarities between the two sides and I was occasionally unsure of which side of the battle I was following at any given time. In

addition, on either side, many of the family names were quite similar, particularly on the True Blood side and I got a little mixed up between some of the characters on that side as well, especially early on in the story.

Once I started to get a little more into things, however, this became less of an issue. As events progress, Ruckley spends more time following the major characters and switches between them a lot less, meaning you get to fully explore the personalities of each of them and they become a lot more distinct. From this point, I found it a lot easier to become involved in their struggles, as you could follow a personality, rather than a nameless and faceless army.

The beauty of Ruckley's writing is in how well he draws his characters. Unlike in many such novels, there is no clear line between good and bad. There are heroes and villains on both sides and the fact that the leaders on both sides are despised by many in their own armies blurs this line further. No character is without their flaws and even the ones who seem about to be cast as the hero often fail to live up to your expectations.

This is the other aspect of "Bloodheir" I most enjoyed; you can never guess what might happen next. Just when you think you have come to know a character, the focus switches elsewhere and by the time you return to this character, events have caused them to act in a way you might not have expected. The good characters become more hard hearted and world weary and the impulsive and blood thirsty develop caution and restraint. Whilst this meant that there was no one you could really cheer on, the psychology of Ruckley's characters was spot on and this was by far the most realistic drawing of fantasy characters I remember reading in some time.

This, for me, was the saving grace of the novel, as I did find that the story was quite slow paced. As is common with the middle book in a trilogy, the main focus here did seem to be about moving characters into position for future events. Whilst there was a lot of jostling for position on both sides and there were a few battles later on in the story, I did find things a little slowly paced and tough to get involved in for much of the book. Had Ruckley's characters not been as strong as they were, it would have been a real struggle for me to read, but he has managed to keep me interested all the way through and by the end, the intrigue in the plans that the Black Road in particular were hatching made me long to know what was next.

I have often decried books for having a great storyline, but not having believable characters. Ruckley has provided the opposite, with a slow paced story being acted out by characters that had all the flaws of the people you meet every day. Whilst this made for a slower paced and tougher read, in the end I find that I preferred Ruckley's way of doing things and finding out whether or not you prefer it as well is no great risk. This is a story that seems to get better as it goes and, given how captivated I was by the end, events yet to come promise to be incredible.

This review may also appear, in whole or in part, under my name at any or all of www.ciao.co.uk, www.thebookbag.co.uk, www.goodreads.com, www.amazon.co.uk and www.dooyoo.co.uk

Nicholas: the one trilogy i've got learn to this point that has an grand moment booklet is Lord of the Rings. For a few cause latest trilogies have an absence of motion and intensity which occasionally reasons readers to get bored within the series. even supposing I by no means

misplaced interest, this ebook used to be a section boring in comparison to the 1st and final in the series.

Jen: the second one books in trilogies are continuously bleak as the major motion is rolling and the wonderful end needs to be dimly some distance adequate away to justify the 3rd book. I comprehend and settle for this. Ruckley, however, takes it a piece too far, I think. I raced in the course of the final two hundred or so pages of this booklet now not since it was once interesting or captivating, yet simply because I simply desired to end it. one of many book's personal sentences says it best, I think: "Too many folks had died, now, and too many wounds have been inflicted for there to be any sunrise on the finish of this night."It is that! the entire publication is darkness and dying and unhappiness and betrayal. it really is simply too much, I think. Also, have i discussed how stressful it really is that Ruckley constantly KILLS OF MY favourite CHARACTERS? this isn't cool. i'm going to learn the 3rd one simply because i cannot undergo to go away a narrative unfinished and since there are a few certainly solid moments the following which are tremendous tales in and of themselves. Unfortunately, the nice moments don't hide this 500+ web page behemoth of despair. now not one to take to the seashore with you or stick with it your cabinets should you like such things as dwelling or hope.

Dhuaine: moment quantity of Godless international - darkish fantasy, practical series, which used to be rumored to be valuable snack whereas looking forward to subsequent installment of George R.R. Martin's A tune of Ice and Fire.It was once scrumptious as much as web page 2 hundred - a number of characters, a number of threads, a few promising politics, characters really dying, etc.Then it began to cross downhill. Quickly.To say it short: one hazard began to dominate over the entire others. Unfortunately, it driven the life like away and all of it become: 'why magic brings madness' essay. I hated this one personality rather a lot that I took a six month holiday sooner than coming again to this book. I loved a number of pages extra of different characters, after which it began to concentration all threads on that one guy.Bloodheir is a bridging quantity when it comes to energy shift. It is going from practical (first volume) to magical (third volume) setting. Still, there are a few really nice issues in it, yet i do not just like the means it really is going now.

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