



Tiger Burning Bright

Marion Zimmer Bradley, Andre Norton, Mercedes Lackey

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The House of the Tiger has skillfully ruled Merina in times of peace. But now the indomitable armies of the Emperor Balthasar stand poised to crush the vulnerable city/state. And in the enemy's midst is the gray mage Apolon -- foul necromancer who serves the Dreadful Dark . . . and whose mission it is to satisfy his Master's terrible hungers with living souls, the Heart of a Goddess, and the blood of a Princess.

For Adele, aging Dowager Queen; for ruling Queen Lydana; and for Princess Shelyra, lithe, impetuous, ingenious Designated Daughter, the battle seems hopeless -- for they possess no defense, save for their wiles and weapons of the spirit. But the Tiger is a cunning beast, not to be underestimated. And when cornered, she bares her teeth . . . and strikes.

Tiger Burning Bright Details

Date : Published September 1st 1995 by William Morrow & Company

ISBN : 9780688143602

Author : Marion Zimmer Bradley , Andre Norton , Mercedes Lackey

Format : Hardcover 504 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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Sónia Tigol says

WOW... I just love this book is one of my favorites books. This book tells a story of three women. Rather than see their country swallowed up by a war, the three women of the ruling family abdicate their throne and then hide in plain sight within their city. After learning that the conqueror is by no means benign, they start to fight back. This is one of those books that I return to time and again. I was a teenager when I first read this book, and the 3 generations of women, all strong in their own right was very appealing. I love the story which is amazing and very emotional, I love the characters that are so different and exciting. I liked everything in this book. Is one of the best books ever written...

Victor Hugo says

Marion Zimmer Bradley foi a primeira autora que me levou a comprar livros. Foi com ela, juntamente com a Anne Rice, que procurei mais literatura, que estimulei a minha curiosidade (pelo menos numa primeira fase, e neste género literário). As outras duas autoras que cooperaram na escrita deste livro pouco conheço das suas obras, mas sem dúvida que o maior destaque vai para a Marion, ou não fosse ela a autora d'As Brumas de Avalon.

Nesta narrativa encontramos uma história cujos alicerces são de uma simplicidade brutais. E são sobre esses alicerces que as autoras vão tecendo a história da cidade Merina, do seu povo e das três mulheres que governam, por assim dizer, a cidade. Quem conhece a obra da Marion percebe que nas suas narrativas há uma forte presença do género feminino, e mesmo nesta cooperação de autores esse factor não falhou. Nesta cidade quem reina é a mulher; e, como se de um legado de Avalon se tratasse, é à Deusa que prestam culto. O resto está tudo aqui neste livro, bem camuflado numa história de subterfúgios e de esconderijos para o bem e salvação da cidade Merina, e para a preservação do culto à Deusa - no fundo, é a luta contra a invasão do patriarcado.

A narrativa é boa, embora longa. Os capítulos têm o título das personagens, sendo que em cada um é narrada a perspectiva desse personagem, estando o narrador, como se de um observador psicológico se tratasse, a par desse personagem em destaque. No final, a história revela-se tão simples quanto clássica para este género de literatura.

Sam Grace says

I love this book. I should probably give it five stars, except that I just know it's not the best written book. But I love it. I love the three generations of women. I love their massively different interpretations of gender and adventure. Love love love. And I love the religion. Heck. I'm giving it five stars. But don't think that means that you'll love it as much as I did.

J'aime says

The story centers on the rulers of the trade city of Merina: the dowager queen, the ruling queen and the princess. Merina has no military, so when it is attacked the three women must go into hiding to work to save their city and themselves. Since I enjoyed Black Trillium, and this had a similar premise, I decided to try this novel from Bradley and Norton; this time with Mercedes Lackey - whose Valdemar Saga is one of my all-time favorite fantasy series. This wasn't quite as seamless. It was often apparent that each authors took one of the three women as their story-teller. It wasn't exactly disjointed, but it did mean that the novel took quite a while to get going. The characters were very one-dimensional to start with. However, once the plot got going, I really enjoyed the book. The characters grew on me, and the story evolved. Not the best historical fantasy I have read, but still worthwhile.

Jessica says

Three royal women: dowager queen, ruling queen, and crown princess, knowing that they can no longer stave off invasion, disappear instead. They are still fighting to free their country, but doing it now in different ways: as a soldier, priestess, and magician. A fun book, with each of the authors writing one of the characters.

Alice says

Nesta obra Marion Zimmer e os seus parceiros de escrita transportam-nos a Merina, uma próspera cidade governada pela Casa do Tigre, uma família matriarcal ligada à terra que governa e às suas gentes por laços que vão além do dever e da responsabilidade de um soberano. Merina acaba por cair às mãos do Imperador Balthasar que se dispõe a governá-la com tirania e a deixá-la sob a perfídia do necromante Apolon. Com tanto perigo pendendo não apenas sobre a cidade mas também sobre as suas cabeças, as mulheres da Casa do Tigre são obrigadas a entrar na clandestinidade, tornando-se o coração da resistência.

Gostei bastante do modo como são descritos os ambientes envolventes e como conhecemos, através de 3 mulheres muito distintas entre si, três gerações de uma mesma família ficando o leitor com uma noção muito clara daquilo que foi o passado, é o presente e poderá ser o futuro da Casa do Tigre e de Merina. Os personagens estão bem construídos, sendo alguns deles (Shelyra, por exemplo) muito cativantes enquanto que outros nos causam uma enorme repulsa (é o caso de Apolon que odiei mesmo).

A escrita é fluída e rica, sem ser rebuscada e vai-nos envolvendo sem que de tal nos demos conta. Quando nos apercebemos já nos encontramos tão enredados na estória que é impossível deixar de virar uma página atrás de outra. Devo dizer ainda que fiquei bastante surpreendida por, ao longo da narrativa, não conseguir denotar-se que o livro foi escrito a várias mãos. Não há variações de estilo gritantes, nem tão pouco uso de vocabulário mais elaborado por parte de um autor que do outro. A este nível a obra é bastante coesa e o leitor esquece-se que o livro não foi escrito apenas por Marion Zimmer Bradley.

Penso que será uma leitura agradável para os fãs de Anne Bishop e Juliet Marillier.

Marie Winger says

This is a re-read of a fantasy that has been on my shelf for many years. I'm rereading them to see if I can let

them go or not. I can let this one go. These are three of the major writers in the feels and I had a great time speculating about which one wrote which of the main characters story arch. I liked these three major strong woman characters and enjoyed the maid/mother/crone aspect of the plot. Each used her strengths to advantage to save their kingdom. The writing was a bit faux olden times a bit. It was a little heavy on the religious component for me. Enjoyable but not one I need to hold onto anymore.

Mary says

Adele, Lydana, & Shelyra are monarchy in a merchant city. Invasion ends their reign. It is a fight of epic proportions to return the city to peace. Magic, Gypsies, street urchins, thieves, sea men, craftsmen, and clergy are all that lie between a city ruled by necromancy.

I predict David Eddings fans will love this one. Since, he is "love it or hate it" in reader's reviews - I suspect this book will be, too. I loved it. It is clear that the bad guys are reeeaaaalllly BAD... without horrific descriptions that make your skin crawl and divert energy from the plot. The good guys are interesting - charismatic, intelligent, courageous, and flawed. No rooting for the bad guys 'cause they are more interesting than the good guys *grin*.

I enjoyed the writing style. Three author names are on the book. However, it did not feel disjointed. The descriptions were rich, detailed - but not encumbering.

Debbie says

It was a little depressing to realize that two of the three authors had passed away since my last reading of this book. Rather than see their country swallowed up by a war, the three women of the ruling family abdicate their throne and then hide in plain sight within their city. After learning that the conqueror is by no means benign, they start to fight back. I love this book. While it is not the best any of the authors have written, the plot is a little too convenient as is the premise that allows all three of the main characters to escape to safety, I still love it. I do wish that the authors had not divided up the chapters amongst themselves so that each only wrote from certain characters' POVs. The differences in writing style are very apparent and characters' patterns of speech change slightly because of this. The second chapter is always a little jarring since Norton's writing style is a bit more roundabout than Bradley's or Lackey's, but after that, it's easy to overlook. One of my comfort books.

Shilo Quetchenbach says

I read this book in early high school (a number of years ago) and loved it. Recently, I began thinking about it (remembering nothing specific about it) and finally found it in a local bookstore. I didn't know if I would have the same reaction to it the second time - but I did.

This book is *fabulous.* It tells the story of three generations of women, of the ruling family of Merina (a standard medieval-style fantasy city modeled after Venice). The women of the Tiger - as the women of this ruling family are called - are strong, courageous, willful, stubborn, and have hidden wellsprings of talents. The Dowager Queen Adele, head of the temple/spritual side of Merina, her daughter, Queen Lydana, head of

the secular side of the city, and Lydana's neice - Adele's granddaughter - who is headstrong and stubborn and believes her aunt thinks her still a child (but she has many secrets of her own).

When the evil emperor Balthasar comes to conquer them, having already conquered the rest of the countries and city-states on the continent - they hand over the city, rather than put up a useless fight. Their people are not fighters. But they disappear into their city, assuming roles in vastly different quarters, dropping their old identities for the good of Merina. In many ways, they fit these new roles better than their old.

One of my favorite books of its kind, this is an epic fantasy - over 500 pages of excitement and action - and one dominated not by men, but by women. The three female leads are strong and determined, and the men seem to play a mainly secondary role in the book. (Except for a noted few, such as the Mage Apollon, advisor to Balthasar, and Balthasar's son, Leopold - they get their own chapters in the story, told from their point of view).

The story is told in a standard one character's point of view per chapter way - which is convenient since each spends much of her time separated from the others. It is gripping and engaging from page 1 to page 504... which is really quite an achievement. It is also quite refreshing to have a female-dominated epic fantasy for a change. I can't think of another like it. The men tend to be stereotyped a bit - from Apolon and Cathal's brutality, to Balthasar's hardness, to Leopold's kindness, generosity, and gentleness. My favorite part, I think, is that rather than rescuing the women, or saving them, or controlling them, or dominating them... the men who are 'good' in this novel (Leopold and Saxon, especially) are portrayed as *partners*. They do not take over. They do not 'save' the women - in fact they are more often saved themselves. They listen to what the women have to say, they cook and are gentle to their young pages, they try to protect the women - but not to smother them.

The only negative thing I could possibly say about this novel is that, towards the end, as the pace picks up and so many things happen at once, it gets a bit weaker. Some of the loose ends get tied up too quickly and neatly; some things are glossed over or rushed past, and it ends rather perfunctorily. I think a few hundred more pages, and a more leisurely ending, would have improved the book (but perhaps no one would read it if it were so long). Other than that, it is pretty much perfection. Even the heavy influence of religion - which I normally am not a fan of - does not bother me here. In fact, the way it is done is so subtle and skillful that it feels very right (even the great good vs. evil / heaven vs. hell battle at the end).

Karen says

One of my favorite books. Fantasy, adventure, romance. Three strong women face the greatest challenge of their lives. They learn more about their relationship with each other and with those they are responsible for, about accountability and about faith, hope and the spirit of their people.

Kathleen says

This is overall a really interesting book about a three-pronged fight to take back a city conquered by this universe's somewhat more problematic version of Alexander the Great. The three royal women of Merina first make the decision to surrender the city without a battle, and then go into hiding-- the dowager queen Adele as her alter-ego, a more-or-less nun; the queen Lydana as a previously-established identity, the

beadseller Matild; and Shelyra, the princess/heir, as another previously-established identity as a gypsy girl. All three women then proceed to fight their own wars against the Emperor Balthasar and his dark mage Apolon, until those three separate wars collide in an all-out battle at the temple. It's an intriguing mix of politics, romance, intrigue, and all-out war, and definitely an interesting read.

I do have a few problems, though. It is *really obvious* who wrote which sections. Andre Norton has a very distinct and somewhat idiosyncratic style, as does Mercedes Lackey, and Marion Zimmer Bradley comes off as desperately trying to mediate between the two. Consequently the prose doesn't flow very well, and I find most of the male characters irritating-- especially so because Leopold (very briefly) steals Shelyra's fire. I also find the battle at the end incoherent and Lydana's romance-- leaves a weird taste in my mouth, even though I saw it coming.

Still, it's a good book, and one that focuses almost exclusively on the efforts of women to rule their nations and defeat a conquerer. Well worth a look, particularly if you enjoy the other works of Norton, Bradley, or Lackey.

Elsa says

Apesar de todas as críticas favoráveis e da genialidade da autora, na minha opinião não é uma das suas melhores obras.

Mas pronto, lê-se bem, é um enredo leve e bem construído, onde se encontram muitas aventuras e emoções. Para quem gosta da autora e do género.

Elisabeth Waters says

I generally give five stars to books that I keep and read over and over again. I still have the original hardcover of this, but I bought the Kindle version as well--and that was after going through it twice while preparing it for eBook publication. I've just read this three times in as many months, and I still love it.

Cris says

When I read co-written books, especially when I'm familiar with the authors, I can usually pick out specific scenes, characters, plot points, etc that I find myself attributing to a specific author. Rarely do I read the books where I feel the authors truly blended.

This book is three tightly braided stories with each story being written solely by one author. The end result is a combination rather than a blended work. Overall, I think the end product turned out quite nicely.
