



Children of the Blood

Michelle Sagara West

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Continuing the struggle she began in Into the Dark Lands, Erin—newly dubbed Sara—is forcefully put to sleep for 300 years while her Lord finishes overtaking his enemies—and Sara's kinsmen.

After conquering and slaughtering the last of the Bright Heart lines, he awakens an amnesia-ridden Sara and assigns one of his slaves, a fellow "child of the blood," to comfort her. As Sara's memory slowly returns and her rage intensifies, the Servants of the Dark Heart and the Dark Heart itself become increasingly dangerous to both her and her caretaker.

Children of the Blood Details

Date : Published March 11th 2006 by BenBella Books (first published 1992)

ISBN : 9781932100754

Author : Michelle Sagara West

Format : Paperback 307 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Dark Fantasy, Epic Fantasy, Romance, Heroic Fantasy, Sword and Sorcery, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, High Fantasy, Adult Fiction, Magic

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From Reader Review Children of the Blood for online ebook

Mei says

I can see this turning into a historic fantastical tragic romance but I find it harder to care for the characters as I do not somehow find them identifiable (or appealing) notwithstanding their suffering. It is however a worthy book and someone with a longer attention span than my butterfly brain might enjoy it more.

Amanda Kern says

Here is the greatest review. It made me cry and it made me laugh. That is all I can say about this book.

Syd Dickson says

Very dark, but I like that. I was a little disappointed to have the story be told mostly from Darin's perspective rather than Erin's, but given that she's a blithering amnesiac for the majority of the book, it makes sense. The story really picks up at the end of this book, and you can tell the next two books will have a much quicker pace.

Marajean says

So far the book went on about Darin's life, the rules that I learned previously are bent all out. Stefanos isn't that great or evil, and Sara has slept for more pages than I care to count.

And all of this is leading towards my big payoff of her remembering before they even get together and hating him.

Meh.

Sbuchler says

Genre: High Fantasy

If the first book in the series was Erin (a.k.a. Sara and/or Sarilorn) falling in love with the First Servant of the Dark (Stefanos) and having to sacrifice her loyalty to her family in order to do so, this book is Stefanos realizing that he couldn't have both her and the Empire he built, and that he would sacrifice his loyalty to his God to keep her alive (even though he realizes he messed up and wasn't going to keep her love).

In short, if the first book was Sara falling in love with Stefanos, and proving it, this was Stefanos falling in love with Sara and proving it. Just for a twist, this book takes place 400 years after the first book, so all the

supporting characters are different. I find them more engaging then the first set, actually. I expect the next book will be rather difficult to read, as I'm guessing it'll be Sara/Erin trying to topple Stefanos' Empire, which he isn't going to take very well...

Moira says

20.2.2017 - 4*

Na rozdíl od prvního ?tení jsem v?d?la, co ?ekat, a nebyla tak rozzu?ená tím, co se d?lo. Spíše melancholická, i když m? stále, díky mé špatné pam?ti, hodn? prvk? dokázalo p?ekvapit, a užila jsem si drobné detaily, které jsem p?edtím nevid?la. Stále jsem ale smutná proto, co se stalo, a rozzu?ená, kv?li bezmoci, a taky na Stefana. No, tentokrát jsem ale dostate?n? zv?davá, abych p?ekousla i uraženost a pustila se do dalšího dílu. :)

17.9.2015 - 3,5*

- Stefanos. Já ho zbož?ovala. V prvním díle byl favorit mých favorit?. (Možná proto jsem se tak dlouho nedokopala ke ?tení dvojky...). V Children of the Blood jsem m?la chu? jej skopnout ze schod?. A pustit na n?j piáno. Opakov?.
- lehce zmatené, zápletka se mi zdála zbyte?n? roztahaná.
- a jsem smutná. Cht?la jsem pro n? jen trochu št?stí.
- je to lyrický p?íb?h s atmosférou, která si m? vždycky dokáže získat, a i když jsem byla naštvaná a zu?ila, když jsem zjistila, co se ve dvojce d?lo, stejn? se mi to tak n?jak líbilo.

Marisa says

Liked the story - stayed up all night to finish Children of the blood and sequel Chains of Darkness - however, I gave it just 3 stars because in my view the story could have been told in much less time. It went on and on - slow start and I skipped over 60% of book to get to main events. So, I just had to know what happened in the end but a good editing job would have made this a great story. Believe me, you have to skip through so much of the story that seems extraneous and...the paragraphs kept changing from one scene to the other and one setting and from one character's situation to another. It was quite annoying to say the least until I got used to it. Once I got used to it I just focused on the settings that I thought were relevant to the core of the story and pretty much skipped the rest. Still wondering - if you only read 30 to 40% of a book, are you due a refund? (lol). Otherwise, I quite enjoyed the main story.

Marilyn says

I had been quite surprised when I did like the first book but this second one made me crazy. Just depressing and redundant thoughts. I had hoped the new character would be able to carry the book but it was not meant to be. Luckily reviewers gave away the endings of the next two books so I got the gist of what happens and that is enough for me. Will not continue this series.

Mykle Law says

Erin of Elliath--now called Sara Laren-- has slept for 300 years, cut from her mortal bonds and her memories by Stefanos's magic, but as Stefanos's power has waned as he has lived by Sara's rules, the power of his rivals has grown, and as Sara awakens to a world in which all of the defenders of Lernan are gone, her life-- and Stefanos's-- may very well be forfeit.

Fel says

Hmmmm...this book is interesting haha

Well, Stefanos love for Sara is shown very clearly in this book and i LOVED it!

Though...i am still waiting for the strong young heroine that we met in the beginning of book one:(i got kinda lost in this book as i find that situations(especially at the ending) were to discribed or explained clearly and i found out that i was lost for the majority of the book....

But overall, i love the awesome relationship and friendship!

Jake Langthorn says

This review applies to the Sundered Series as a whole.

Clearly this is a beginning effort, but already, West shows the imagination that marks her later works. This is terrific stuff. Yes, it is dark, but even with the awkward writing style, it is very powerful.

Cyn Armistead says

Review of entire series posted under Chains of Darkness, Chains of Light.

♠?♥?Amy♦?♣? says

So like the first 30% of this book I was thinking why in God's name am I reading this has nothing to do with the characters I love and then it got to the good part and I understood exactly why the first 30% was required and I cannot believe what happened in this book I just I cannot even talk about it cause it will ruin so much but fuck you gotta feel sorry for Stefanos you have to. I mean to go through all that he went through, only for this to happen. Then that part where he realised exactly what he cost himself by doing it, I nearly cried, not even kidding almost cried. Well on to book number 3 I guess because like hell I'm stopping now, clearly.

Mary says

It was a good follow up to the first book. Satisfies the curiosity on what will become of the Sara and

Stefanos. Of course the end is still open for more, but as with the first the curiosity is there but not particularly burning.

Heather says

There are no words to described how truly wonderful Michelle Sagara West writes.

Mara says

Less intense than the first book and slower. The main problem is that you wait a full book for her to recover her memories and the story ends :D.

Sarah says

Extremely dark and intense ... I'm hooked

Limecello says

a better beginning than book one - by some trick/fault of my app it switched the placement of books one and two and I didn't realize I'd jumped to book 2 - which may or may not have affected a lot of things but it was slow, with so many questions, and a lot of info dumping => thankfully slightly less in the beginning than others

However, I really hated the lack of delineation for internal dialogue - editor failing there, IMO also, I don't know that I care to read book one to bolster the knowledge of the world, or book 3 much less 4 to see how it all pans out :X

D+ or C--

Amélie says

Review first published at Fans of Michelle Sagara West

At the end of *Into the Dark Lands*, Stefanos has betrayed Erin trust by making her immortal at the price of her friends' life and has plunged her into sleep. Indeed, he has decided that they cannot be happy together as they are now, because Erin is feeling that she has betrayed her people for her love for Stefanos. *Children of the Blood* starts four centuries later when Stefanos has finally vanquished all the followers of the Light, putting a term to the war; he is happy as it means that he will be able to awake Erin. At the start of the book, Stefanos is surveying the survivors of the last city of his enemies who has just fallen. Among them, he spot a young boy who has the power of the Light and the same green eyes as Erin. He wants to kill him to take no

risk but stops at the last moment, feeling that the war is over and that he can start to change his behavior now. In addition, Erin will need a companion and this one will be perfect for her. However, Stefanos still has to make same preparation before being ready, so he entrusts the boy to the High Priest of the Dark Lord. Unsurprisingly, this High Priest happens to hate Stefanos, because he feels that as the High Priest he has the more privileged relationship with their God, *not* the First of his immortal servants and children who also happen to be their Emperor and the General who has allowed their victory... In *Into the Dark Lands*, the High Priest of the time had the same reaction; one would think that given Stefanos' habit of regularly annihilating most of the Priests, they would be a little more *prudent* in exposing their feelings... So the High Priest is vexed that Stefanos is giving him orders and thus undertakes to break the boy, Darin, by making him serve the Priests responsible for sacrificing people to the Dark God. When Stefanos comes back to take him some years latter, the High Priest has almost achieved his goal.

Darin is surprised when he arrives at Stefanos' estate to see that, there, there are no sacrifices to the Dark God and that slave are well treated. However, he stays prudent and can't bring himself to trust Stefanos despite how kind and good he appears - none on the estate know is true identity as he called himself Lord Stefen. Darin has been assigned to the care of a sleeping lady (Erin); he is only told that she has fallen ill after falling off a boat and almost drowning. After some weeks or months (I don't remember the exact time), Erin awakes but she has no memory. She is lost, afraid and hurt by Darin lack of trust, so Darin can't bring himself to hate her and, little by little, he starts to care for her.

During that time, Stefanos is lying to Erin, telling her that she is one of his neighbours, that she has lost her memory after the boat incident and that he cares for her. He is hoping that now that the war has ended and that she doesn't remember her betrayal, Erin will be able to be happy. He has even changed his way of life and laid out his estate to please her. However, that means that he is neglecting his role of Emperor and that everyone, including the Black God, is plotting against him (the Dark God is jealous of his happiness, servants of the Dark simply *can't* be happy). And of course, Erin's nature is unpredictable and soon events are happening that Stefanos hadn't planned and that oblige him to reevaluate his plans. As the title of the book indicate, they are all children of the Bright Heart or the Dark Heart and they can't escape the call of their blood which urge them to act according to their nature.

I was a bit disappointed with this book as the beginning is slow and focus mostly on Darin. In fact most of the book is from his POV, which is understandable given that Erin is asleep then amnesic, but it still annoys me. Apart from that, not a lot of things happen in this book; Stefanos realizes slowly that he has misjudged several things and that it may cost him a lot. He is still deeply in love with Erin and makes more sacrifices for her, but given his past actions that may not be enough. The High Priest, The Black God and some of his other immortal Servants are plotting against Stefanos, but we don't see them a lot apart in the last chapters. Mostly, I think that this book is the logical continuation of *Into the Dark Lands* with Stefanos starting to get the consequences of his actions. In the first book, it is Erin who has to make sacrifice for their love, in this one it's Stefanos, even when understanding that it might already be too late. Yet, I think that the book is dragging on a bit and that this one and the third one could have been compressed together.

Lela says

It was a great sequel to the first book although some parts of the book had me losing interest. We get to see the First of the Sundered at his most vulnerable and it did get kind of boring at times, with him trying to decide whether or not to give Sara's memory back, and Sara well sleeping or fainting often. Maybe because Book 1 had a lot more action and things going on, although to be fair there was a war then and well now the

war is over, so it isn't fair to compare the two books. I also really liked Darin, so brave and courageous, you'd never guess he was just a young boy. Overall great book and a great ending, will definitely continue this series.
