



The Bonds of Blood

Travis Simmons

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In the world of Saracin, the Goddess damns the earth that killed her two beloved angels and tears it into six realms. As a reminder of their transgression, each person is branded with a stigmata on their palms as testament of their home realm and their separation from the Goddess.

Thirty years later, in the Holy Realm, Jovian, Angelica, Amber, and Joya, quadruplets whose mother died in childbirth, have just reached their 21st spring and are now adults. When terrible visions depicting the downfall of their family stir within Jovian and Angelica, they struggle to make sense of what they have seen while trying to live a normal life.

After Amber is kidnapped in the night, her three siblings are drawn into a dangerous pursuit across the Great Realms to find her. With every step they uncover more mystery surrounding their families past, and something far worse--an ancient enemy that could threaten their hope of ever seeing Amber alive again.

The Bonds of Blood Details

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Author : Travis Simmons

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From Reader Review The Bonds of Blood for online ebook

Taylor P. Davidson says

The Bonds of Blood, Travis Simmons

The Bonds of Blood is an epic fantasy by Travis Simmons that chronicles the adventures of Jovian, Angelica and Joya Neferis as they embark upon a dangerous quest to save their older sister, Amber, from the clutches of an unknown but prophesied evil.

Before they set out from their plantation home, Dauin Neferis gifts his children with elaborate weapons and powerful artefacts that were once owned by their mother; equipment that he knows will be invaluable if they are to succeed in their quest and bring Amber home safely. Lord Neferis also knows that there is more to his children than he has told them and sends Grace, a mysterious and elderly scholar, to guide and watch over them while they traverse the wilderness.

Frequented by reticent spirits and ancient figures with powers beyond their understanding, the Neferis children are continuously tested in ways that they could have scarcely have imagined and begin to discover what their father had neglected to tell them: that they have many more gifts than financial privilege.

The good

Simmons has set *The Bonds of Blood* in a remarkably vivid world, which has a well developed and unique history that gives the book a fascinating sense of realism. To briefly summarise his world, the Holy Mother became sick of the strife that man caused as they tried to rule and own all that surrounded them and, long before the events of the story, separated the Spirit Realm from those of the physical, leaving their inhabitants with little of the Wyrding Way.

In addition to being set in a magical world that I could actually imagine as existing, Simmons has a remarkable imagination and has filled *The Bonds of Blood* with many different races of creatures (other than humans) that act to help or hinder the Neferis children in their own different ways. This adds a much more interesting depth to the story than if it was simply about good humans fighting bad ones, which in turn adds to its enjoyment to read.

The bad

The main issue I had while reading *The Bonds of Blood* is that Simmons has, sadly, over-described everything and uses too many necessary adverbs in his prose. This slows down the speed of the story and makes much of the text more boring to read than it needed to be.

Furthermore, Simmons tells the events as they unfold from multiple points-of-view, and whereas I don't have a problem with this per se, the extent to which Simmons switches character within each chapter often makes it hard to follow what's going on and who is thinking/doing what.

Final thoughts

Despite having a few problems that may have put me off reading *The Bonds of Blood* before I picked it up, I think, after reading it, that its scope and imagination easily counteracts them and make the book well worth reading. Thus, I would strongly recommend reading *The Bonds of Blood* to any lover of fantasy and even to someone who's unfamiliar with the genre, but wants to experience epic imagination at its best!

Simone says

I received a free copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

"The Bonds of Blood" is an epic fantasy that takes you through the six realms that were separated after the death of the Goddess Atamaiti's two beloved children. We join Jovian, Joya, Angelica, and their teacher Grace on an adventure to rescue their missing sister Amber. What do these visions that Jovian and Angelica have mean? Will Joya come into her sorcery in time to help her twin sister? What are the secrets that Grace is keeping from them?

I was completely drawn in from the very beginning. I felt sad for Joya, feeling like she was all alone and not quite understanding what was happening to her. I found it interesting that Jovian and Angelica were having the same visions and quests, yet they are the "normal" one's. This book was exceptionally captivating. The moment you begin reading you're immediately drawn into this richly described world. The descriptions are so vivid that you can picture each realm and character with your mind's eye. Thus far on our journey we've encountered Sprites, Fairies, a Golem, a Goddess, Sorcerers and many more creatures. If you like dark fantasy novels, this is certainly a must read for you!

Ashley E says

The Bonds of Blood has a lot of potential, unfortunately, a lot of it is wasted in confusing writing and obscure plot. It's... interesting. The world building is good and unique, but hard to grasp. I spent a lot of the book just feeling puzzled as I tried to work out who was who and just what was going on. (Oh, the siblings are quads? Why was this not mentioned?!) I feel like I should have enjoyed this much more than I did. The ending had a great cliffhanger, but I doubt that I'm going back for more.

[I received this book for free through First Reads and was not required to write a positive or any other type of review. All opinions stated herein are solely my own.]

ETA (see comment below): As I said, this book has some nice potential going for it. The siblings are well-developed characters, but I found the interactions between them to be confusing. I didn't realize they were almost twenty-one until the birthday party was mentioned... let alone that they were quadruplets (and not quintuplets as was once mentioned... unless I missed a sibling altogether?). I thought Joya in particular was much younger than that, and it threw me off when I discovered their age and relation.

The plot was... a bit confusing. I mean, there was the obvious "save the sister" thread. But then I got deeper with the prophecy (that I had trouble grasping) and dalua and such... and maybe it's just that it's meant to be mysterious, but I didn't quite get it.

The last thing that bothered me (and I did mean to mention this, but it slipped my mind when I was writing my initial review) was the morals of it. Not that the quads and Grace and Maeven were bad people or something dramatic like that, but the lines between good and evil seemed very blurred to me (and this might relate back to me not quite grasping the plot). Maybe this is just being raised in a conservative home, where there are gray areas because life is never that clear cut, but there are certain areas of black and white as well. I don't know. But it left me feeling very unsettled throughout, when I couldn't determine whether the voice Joya was hearing was good or not (although I think it is kind of... neither, but that wasn't very clear either). This seemed especially strange to me when it seems that The Bonds of Blood is following a little bit of the epic good vs. evil trope. (Tropes are not a bad thing. Do not take this negatively.)

So as I said before, I came through this book mainly feeling puzzled.

Adriana says

The Bonds of Blood by Travis Simmons cover is awesome or should I say electrifying. It starts off with children in a classroom. One of them is out gallivanting and Grace, the teacher is asking questions on history. I really felt like it was a good overture to the story as characters were being introduced getting me really curious.

Jovian and Alhamar are hunting but are in the “know-how” with new words like the Holy Realm, Realm of Fire and Shadow Realm – there is more to all this such as the fog’s role. I was completely enthralled.

Jovian and his sisters are more than siblings. There are great scenes before arriving to Baba Yaga which I really liked. The dialogue is fresh quite different from I have read in the past in other books maybe because I really liked Jovian. He is especially cute when says: “Angie? Am I dead?”

Mystery fills the story in such a way that I could not really tell as I kept reading what Jovian was going through. Pain after pain; he should have been a cat was the thought that came to my mind.

I liked how Travis Simmons was so descriptive in his story like when Angelica is sort of possessed with false images, thoughts and ideas that were not her own. There is so much more to read – like nothing I ever read before.

Magic, fortune-telling and good storytelling made The Bonds of Blood a must-read. I truly recommend it.

Adriana LG

Crystal Martin says

I really enjoyed The Bonds Of Blood by Travis Simmons. In fact, I'm enjoying and will be reviewing the entire The Revenant Wyrd Saga series. Being a book about magic and sorcery and different realms there are some words that are hard to pronounce so you'll just have to sort of go with the flow. But Travis Simmons does a wonderful job of describing the scenes and the characters. It was easy for me to envision Jovian and his sisters, their clothes, the beasts and visions they encountered, etc.

Jovian, Angelica, Amber, and Joya are wonderful characters. I love how they are written and how they interact as siblings. Their love, concern and connection to each other is refreshing. I also love that even though this is a book about a magical realm, the characters really interact with each other in a traditional way. The brother and sisters joke with each other. They laugh and have fun. It's not just all magic. They eat a lot of breakfast too. bacon, eggs, etc. I was hungry for breakfast food the entire time I was reading it! HA!

One thing that confused me at times was the time period. The story feels medieval and you have that sense while you're reading. The weapons, the language. But the clothing and where they live (on a plantation) reminds me of Cival War era. So I felt like I was being yanked back and forth a bit as I was envisioning the story in my mind. It was confusing, but really cool! I love getting the feel of different era's and the "mystic-ness" of this series. It will certainly draw you in.

In fact, I couldn't put the first book down! I read it in one weekend. And I was ready to move on to the second right away but had to give my eyes a little break. You really have to pay attention. There is a LOT of detail, a LOT of characters and a LOT going on. So don't skip any pages. Read through until the end so you really understand the book. Then continue the series. It's worth it!

Amanda says

To be honest, when I first started reading the book, I wasn't sure I would like it. I just couldn't get into it and was a little confused by it.

After a few chapters though, I was hooked. The story really draws you in as it progresses. I enjoy the interactions of the quadruplets. They have such love for each other. They are each very strong characters with their own individual quirks. I'm not sure who my favorite is quite yet. I'll wait until later in the series to figure it out.

I really liked the complexity of the world they live in. There are many types of dangers they must face and they don't always know what is evil and what is just perceived to be. There are new creatures, myths and legends, friends and foes, around each corner it seems. It really keeps them on their toes.

I look forward to reading the other books in the series. Once I finished reading this one, I was eager to start the next one. I recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a complex, mysterious, magical story with interesting characters and surroundings.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion. I was not required to leave a positive review. All opinions are my own.

Chelsea Haller says

Reviewing books can be a fantastic and trying thing to do at times. Especially when you have a split view on a book. There are books you fall in love with and it is an easy review to write and there are the ones you had to force yourself to finish or gave up on and those are also easy to review. But when it lands in the middle for one reason or another, the lack of an absolute makes it a tad bit more difficult.

I quite enjoyed the storyline of this book. The characters had quite a bit of depth and as the story progressed so did the lay of the land. However, the way the characters spoke and the way the story was told, I had issue with.

I had hoped it was just in the beginning of the book where it was rocky and the author was getting his feet under him, however, as the story continued I only saw a minor improvement. Instead of allowing us to learn about the world the story was taking place in the author used the voice of the story to tell us exactly what was going on. I felt like I was being told too much and not finding it out through the characters. And while a POV of almighty is fine, he also used the POV of the characters and I believe it could have been written a lot smoother if it had been told from their point of view the entire way.

Speaking of the characters, there was quite a bit of jumping between characters in the same passages that it would take me from what was happening. Instead of keeping with one character for a few pages, it seemed there were times that we heard from three or four characters on one page. I found it quite distracting.

As I said in the beginning of the review, I loved the storyline and I do plan on reading the next book of the Saga (the ending of this book definitely leaves you wanting to know what happens next). I just wish the book was written a little bit better to keep me better engaged.

Renee says

I received this book as part of beckvalleybook tours, however all opinions are 100% my own.

Falling under the fantasy genre, this book was something I had hoped to enjoy - and I wasn't disappointed! Travis is an excellent storyteller with an incredible imagination that allowed me to truly experience this new world and epic journey!

Pros: Travis Simmons does an amazing job of developing the history of this new world and I absolutely love how that history is told to the reader. There is a great deal of depth to the story line and, at the end of the day, I had quite a bit of trouble putting this book down! I love stories involving magic - add to that siblings on an epic quest and you have won me over!

Cons: At times there is a bit too much on the descriptive end of things and the multiple points of view can be overwhelming. In the last book I read by Travis, there were character details that should have been found out early on not revealed until later. This made the character formation in my mind quite difficult and I found that with this book as well, when I found out the age of the siblings and the fact that they were quadruplets. There were also some issues with the reading format I received that made it difficult to read until I got used to it.

Overall, I highly recommend this book if you love fantasy and quest lines. I am very excited and looking forward to reading the rest of the saga!

Leila says

I have to admit, I struggled a bit with this book. I'm not sure what it was exactly or if it was a few different things. There was a slight format issue that made it difficult to read, but once that was resolved, life got a lot easier!

I think I also struggled because the vocabulary was new to me and it was a long time since I had read a... this type of book. (I have to be honest, I'm not sure what to classify it as. I would say paranormal, maybe fantasy. Amazon seemed to call it a dark fantasy.) Needless to say, it was not a romance that I have been reading much of lately (and I am totally okay with that! I like variety!)

I liked that I was able to piece together bits and pieces of the story line, but that there still were elements of surprise to be had. I didn't know everything – just enough to keep me pushing forward.

Despite my struggles, I kept turning the page – I couldn't turn it fast enough. I really got sucked into the book and can't wait to continue moving through the series.

Ashley says

Travis Simmons' book The Bonds of Blood was one of the best fantasy books I have read in a long time! In the beginning it was a little hard to keep up with what was going on because of the many point of views but as I read I became familiar with Mr. Simmons' style of writing. His descriptions were very vivid and clear.

The story of Jovian and his sisters, Amber, Angelica, and Joya begins with mystery. When their 21st birthday arrives they receive gifts from their deceased mother that they later learn will become more important to them than when they first received them. For years a secret has been hidden from the siblings that may or may not have prevented them from the mission of having to save their sister Amber who was kidnapped from her bedroom.

Spoilers

This first book of the series really helps you to grow with the characters. You're there with them when they lose their virginity and as they figure out their strengths and weaknesses. I really connected with Joya as she struggled with what is right and what is wrong. I can't wait to read the second book to see which direction she levitates toward. I'm also interested in finding out how Jovian will be brought back and if this family will end up with the weight of their entire realm on their shoulders.

I recommend this Series to anyone who loves fantasy or mythical books. There are so many different races and I'm sure there might be even more within the other realms, that will surely spark your imagination!

Brianna Lee says

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed reading this book. Travis Simmons is a very talented and creative writer and I will definitely be reading more of his work. I currently have a few of his titles on my To Be Read list. Without a doubt, I will keep track of his books. I enjoy the author's skills of world building – especially how he creates his characters. My favorite character of this book is Jovian. Jovian is the ideal man and I liked reading about him throughout “The Bonds of Blood.” I also appreciated the supporting characters in this story. The supporting characters were all great and complimented the main characters well.

I rate this book 4 STARS! I think “The Bonds of Blood (The Revenant Wyrd Saga)” is a great first book to a new saga. This is a saga that I will continue to read. I look forward to the next installments so all my unanswered questions can be resolved. I actually enjoy how I didn't really have all my questions answered because it leaves me wanting for more. With all your questions answered you may feel too satisfied and not really need to read the next book. I like feeling like I need more sometimes!

I would recommend this 4 STAR book to people who enjoy Fantasy novels. Check out Travis Simmons now!

Brianna Lee Book Reviews

<http://www.briannaleereviews.blogspot...>

Laura Frost says

The Bonds of Blood by Travis Simmons brings me back to my first love in reading: fantasy. A good fantasy novel makes you suspend all beliefs and allows you to fully let go of everyday struggles. The Bonds of Blood does just that! Nature helped out while I was reading this book by setting the mood... Whipping winds and a blood red moon to help immerse me in my reading, what could've been better?

Jovian was my instant favorite here. He is the "outsider" since the remainder of his siblings are girls. I automatically felt for him since I know how girls can be to the lone male in the group. Angelica, Joya, and Amber are his sisters. They are quadruplets who have just reached their 21st birthday and in for the surprise of their life.

As with most initial fantasy series first offerings, there is quite a bit of background information to help immerse you in a totally fictional world. I felt that there was just the right amount of background and it was interspersed throughout the novel so you got it when you needed it instead of all upfront (which would have made for a slow start).

Check out this amazing new fantasy novel—Just in time for some summer reading!

Amrita says

Epics usually have long-winded and convoluted plots with stories within stories. They are also not supposed to be read at one go. So, attempting to write one is quite a feat!

The Bonds of Blood is rather like a quest where Jovian, Angelica, and Joya go in search of their kidnapped sister Amber. They are provided with invaluable weapons and gifts, that once belonged to their mother, to help them succeed on their quest. But quests are never as straightforward as that so, they also have a mysterious guardian in the form of Grace, an elderly scholar, powerful and ancient spirits who test them at every step. The Neferis children also discover hidden gifts within themselves which they were quite unaware of. Rather a nefarious plot don't you think? (pun intended).

As an epic fantasy the Bonds of Blood is a commendable attempt and Simmons' imagination and creation of this vivid alternate world is remarkable. His detailed descriptions have created an alternate reality with different beings, races and creatures, which further removes the Wyrdsaga from being a simple adventure in a fantastic world.

However, just as Simmons' descriptions are brilliant he has sometimes gone overboard with it. Too many adjectives and adverbs clutter a page and distract the reader from clean lines of prose and plot. Every character in the story has a point of view. Which is quite natural. Different people do have various perspectives! But when all these versions are thrown at the reader, the reader gets confused. I confess, that I did have a hard time continuing with the book at certain points of time. I even skipped a few pages to find out what happened and then went back again to follow the plot. So, I think too many perspectives is not a good thing. A good story should be read and the job of the storyteller is to make it as appealing and as smooth as possible.

As much as I like Dickens I do not like the speed at which his stories move, similarly Travis Simmons needs to find away to speed up his stories. If the people on a quest are slow they might not reach their holy grail in time. Simmons has a lot of potential, he has a good story to tell and he has already created a captivating world. All he needs now is a fast paced fantasy and that is what I would like to see in The Mirror of the

Moon.

Becca says

I had not had the pleasure of reading anything by Travis Simmons before so I was not sure what to expect from this fantasy style novel when I first picked it up. It was honestly a little slow to begin with but some first novels in a series are like that. It takes some time to build the relationships with people and the environment so that there is truly a great grasp on what is going on within the story. You can tell that the author really took his time in getting everything together for this novel and for that I appreciate him. Everything started to pick up once all the background details were out of the way. I enjoyed reading about all the characters in this novel but I have to say that Jovian was by far my favorite. All the other characters around that played support were also just as great. All the characters made me enjoy them in one way or the other. That is something that is hard to come by in some books.

I can not give this book a full FIVE stars because it was a little slow for me in the beginning, but in the end well worth the read so I will rate it FOUR stars and look forward to what else has to come within this series. All my questions that I had about the characters and the plot are still wide open and so it makes the second book even that much more appealing to want to read. I will be following Travis Simmons more closely now to see what other writings that he has that may peak my interest because this one definitely had me intrigued.

I received this book to review through Beck Valley Books Book Tours, all the opinions above are 100% my own.

Brooke Creech says

Reading Bonds of Blood honestly reminded me of when I started reading the Sword of Truth series many years ago. It had a driving story that induced a lot of just. one. more. page syndrome. I also like that the author didn't try to overexplain the concepts or terminology in the book. You heard the word "wyrd" enough to understand what it was from the context of the conversations, rather than feeling like you had to sit down for a lesson along with the students as it's defined. Too many fantasy books seem to lift their world and creatures right from Dungeons and Dragons, so it was refreshing to see that everything in the book was original and thought out very well. Even the golems, who are present in so many fantasy worlds, had unique properties that allowed the author to make them his own.
