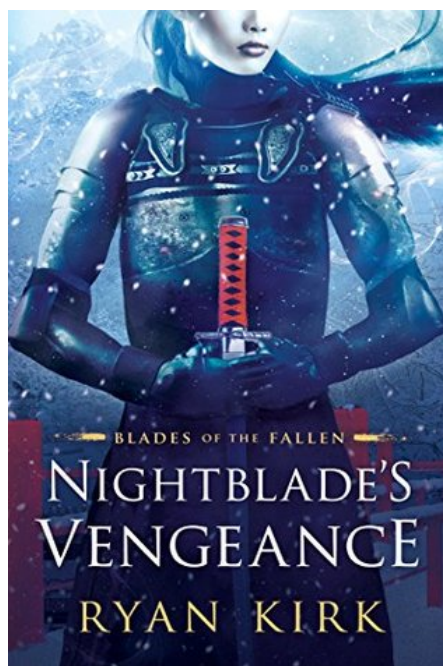




Nightblade's Vengeance

Ryan Kirk

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Nightblade's Vengeance Ryan Kirk

In a thrilling fantasy series from the author of the Nightblade novels, revenge becomes a quest for a young female warrior.

In a feudal land, a Kingdom is at risk. With no heir to the fragile throne, its future rests with the powerful members of the dying king's Council, including Minori, a nightblade warrior, and Kiyoshi, a dayblade healer. The two men are bound by the sword but divided by two opposing principles: rule the land, or serve it. In their challenge for supremacy, a spark has been lit.

Her name is Asa. *Her* creed is revenge.

A fierce nightblade warrior, she's spent a decade in pursuit of the enigmatic general who killed her father in a violent revolt—then mysteriously vanished from all records. Now, her desire for reckoning has led her to the village of Two Falls—and straight into the heart of an impending civil war. Minori and Kiyoshi are vying for her loyalty. And Asa must choose sides.

As fresh betrayals unfold and a new uprising looms, Asa knows that chasing a ghost is no longer just a personal quest for retribution. It's going to alter the fate of the entire Kingdom.

Nightblade's Vengeance Details

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Author : Ryan Kirk

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From Reader Review Nightblade's Vengeance for online ebook

Connie says

I loved the Nightblade trilogy so reading this was a no-brainer. The Nightblade's Vengeance is the first book in the Blades of the Fallen series set before the Nightblade trilogy. The main protagonist is a young Nightblade called Asa, who is obsessed with revenge for the death of her father - a Dayblade - who was murdered when she was a child. As Asa sets off on her mission, she is thrown into a world of political turmoil and she becomes a target of another Nightblade who has his own agenda. A Samurai fantasy full of twists and turns.

🦊 Jessi ♥? H. Vojsk says

“Dayblades and Nightblades. Two sides of the same coin. Some have the power to take lives; others have the power to save lives. It seems as though one is better than the other, but at other times, I wonder if maybe this power is unnatural. Maybe none of us should have these abilities.”

Story ??????

After Asas father got murdered in an attempt on a village, Asa becomes a Nightblade to search for the truth and to seek revenge on the murderer of her father.

The story itself, especially Asas part, was really interesting, even though I thought there was a lot of political drama in there.

It had an Asian touch, which I really liked, it made this whole world and the people so much more interesting.

The problem I had with the book was the pace, there were only small things happening and so much monologue and little dialogue, that it seemed that the story was really slow.

Characters ??????

We get to know Asa, a strong and beautiful Nightblade working for the council of blades, but seeking revenge for her father. Although I liked her character I wasn't really amazed or fond of her. In this whole book she was just the most interesting character.

Minori, also a Nightblade, is a brilliant specialist and strategist.

They both are the main characters and their story intertwine in this book. Although I liked both characters, I think there are a little bit flat.

World ??????

The country is ruled by an old king, after his son got killed. Next to three lords he rules the kingdom and is advised by a Dayblade, send by the council of blades.

The council of blades rules over the Nightblades, that are powerful warriors and the Dayblades, that can heal the wounded. As a special kind of blades there are shadows, that other Nightblades can't sense.

The whole concept sounded so interesting, but I thought there was just little world building in this book. But the (magic) system itself was really cool and fascinating. ??

Relationships ??????

There wasn't any love or friendship in this story, that needs to be mentioned.

It's more based on Asas revenge and general feeling of loyalty.

Writing style ??????

It's a nice writing, even though It's not my favorite. I can't really explain what my issues were, but all in all I thought it was okay.

Michelle Kemp says

Captivating characters and story. It's been a while since a good book got hold of me

Alaina Meserole says

Nightblade's Vengeance was an okay book. A tad bit boring here and there but I chugged through it.

Asa, the main character, is out for revenge. Ever since she was told about her father being murdered she has been plotting. She becomes a Nightblade to search for the truth about what happened that day and about a certain person: Osamu. He's basically public enemy number one for her. His death will bring her family peace.

Asa was a bad ass. She reminded me of Arya, from *Game of Thrones* so many times. She was also pretty interesting and likable. Then there's Minori, who was also likable.. but nothing else really. I liked how their stories grew together and apart but I also have a feeling that I'm not going to really remember them if I don't continue with the series.

Other than the characters, the world was interestingly written. It's ruled by an old king, who is sick, and he also has three lords to help him out. There's also the council of blades that rules over the Nightblades and Dayblades. The Nightblades are powerful warriors and the Dayblades are healers. I also really liked how they could sense things too. For example, sensing people, danger, etc. Then there's the magic aspect too which was amazing.

Overall, I liked the book. I liked how there was no romance shoved into this book and how it was just about Asa and her revenge. Even though I got bored here and there I still enjoyed the book and will gladly dive into the next one.

Minni Mouse says

DNF at 19% because neither the characters nor the plot were engaging enough to continue and judging by other reviews, that doesn't change. The problem with the characters is we have several seemingly important ones, but they blend together too easily. We're not given a chance to get to know them individually through their narratives or inner monologues, and they're not given defining characteristics or character motivations that set them apart. As a result, it's impossible to become personally invested in characters we don't know and we can't root for them to achieve goals with which we can't identify.

Lesson learned. I need to stop requesting random ARCs from NetGalley because the reality is I need to pick up a book already knowing that it's good, that the time spent reading it will pay off. If I pick up a popular book but struggle through the first quarter of it, at least I'll be able to skim reviews to reset proper expectations or know that I should bear through it until I get to the good part. For brand new ARCs, however, if I struggle there's little guarantee it'll improve enough to plow on since there haven't been enough

readers...and I have zero willingness to discover that a brand new book or new author was a forgettable three stars.

THE GOOD

The beginnning was good and it had promise to be a believable East Asian fantasy setting.

THE BAD

By chapter five I had zero investment in the characters, plot, or direction of the book. Chock that up to lack of book chemistry or lackluster writing but either way, this wasn't for me.

THE VERDICT

I won't rate this since I gave up too quickly...but my thanks to NetGalley for providing the early ARC.

Ross Thompson says

*** I received a free advance copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review ***

This summer I read the first Nightblade trilogy: I loved the first one (the world-building, the three different stories running in parallel and occasionally crossing over), enjoyed the second one (character development was the focus plus setting up the conflict in the conclusion) and tolerated the final book (largely a repeat of the same plot as the first two plus a number of loose ends left un-tied).

Given how I fell out of love with the series as it went on, I was a little tentative about reading this, the first in a new trilogy following on from the events of the first. I have to say it was very poor.

Pretty much nothing happens throughout the book, the sole focus is on political manoeuvring and the nightblades have become a shadow of what they were to be at the end of the first series.

The king is dying and has no heir, so one of three lords looks likely to be chosen to take the throne (or decide to take it). There is some unrest within the populace of the Kingdom towards nightblades (ninja-like warriors with a spidey-sense warning them of danger and allowing them to sense each other) - rumours are spreading that nightblades are demanding unreasonable payment for protection and are harming those they are supposed to be serving. And a particularly weak nightblade, the daughter of a dayblade (whose powers are used to heal rather than in combat) killed in service, by a mysterious warrior who subsequently vanished, is looking for vengeance (hence the title).

And that is pretty much it. The plot is very basic, the narrative takes an absolute age to cover what few events are happening and the vocabulary is pretty limited (I think at one point within three paragraphs about 6 things were said to have happened "in a moment" or "for a moment").

Twice in the book the phrase "to cut a long, boring story short" was used and I can't help but think Kirk was referring to what he himself should do.

I wasn't sure after ending the nightblade trilogy whether I would return to the world of the nightblades. Now I am certain I won't.

Nadine says

Thank you for Netgalley and the Publisher 47North for providing me with an eARC of this book!

Sadly, I had to DNF it at 53% and therefore won't give it any star rating. I was really hesitant about DNFin this book (or any book in general), but I decided that my reading time is valuable and I just can't spend it on books I don't really enjoy.

This book is the first book in a new series by Ryan Kirk. There seems to be another trilogy set in the same world, which I didn't know about going into this book and I think you don't have to read the previous trilogy in order to understand everything in this book.

Unfortunately, the story just felt too simple for me and the characters weren't interesting enough to hold my interest. Even after reading half the book, I still felt as if not a lot had happened so far. I skim-read a lot of paragraphs because there was just so much inner monologue that just extended the book unnecessarily. That being said, I really enjoyed the asian setting and portrayal of culture, but it just wasn't enough to keep on reading.

Emily says

Release date: 27 October 2017

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

I loved the world building in this novel; it is the first book of a second trilogy in the Nightblade world as created by Ryan Kirk but I wasn't aware of that and happily absorbed myself so don't let that put you off. It is possible to say that I kind of preferred the world over the actual plot itself but not by much, it has to be said. I don't want to say too much about the plot as this is one of those books that every thing adds up to the end result and I'd rather not give anything away, but it is very much worth it. Very fast moving and descriptive.

The general outline of the book is that we follow three main characters (Asa, Minori and Kiyoshi) in a kingdom that is just... a bit of a mess really. As if often the case, each character thinks that they are following the right path to bring around justice and an all round better place for people to live, however Nightblades Vengeance lets you see the workings of the characters in such a way that you get where they are coming from. You're almost left asking yourself, "wait? Who is the good guy again?", but I adore books that show the human nature in that way. The bad guy is dependent on your matter of perspective after all.

All in all I really enjoyed this book and look forward to both reading future books of Ryan Kirk's as well as the existing books in the Nightblade world. I went into this book knowing nothing about Ryan Kirk other than "wow, the warrior woman that he has on his book is hella pretty" and came out of the other side as a firm fan.

Thank you to the publisher for providing me an eARC in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

eyes.2c says

For some reason I found this novel difficult to identify with and didn't finish it. Others obviously really enjoyed it especially those who had read the Nightblade series. I would say 'give it a go' and don't be swayed by my response. I will probably pick it up again at a later date and see if at a different moment in time I am more receptive.

A NetGalley ARC

Devann says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Really the only thing I liked about this book was Asa, and unfortunately we didn't get nearly enough of her. I thought it was going to be more of a revenge quest thing - something to tide me over until the next Nevernight book comes out really - but this was mostly just random people internal monologuing about politics and if there's one thing that kills a book for me it's too much politics and not enough action.

Also I couldn't tell half the characters apart until halfway through the book because they were all just so bland and interchangeable. Maybe this could have been slightly remedied if Asa wasn't LITERALLY THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ENTIRE BOOK. Sigh. And why create a world where women are allowed to be warriors if they have special powers but then keep them out of the regular military and use the same backwards thinking to apply to civilian women / politics. It's just lazy and considering that this book is set in a fantasy world there isn't actually any 'historical' reason for it. One of my biggest pet peeves.

celeste says

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

That was a wild ride. Honestly, I went into this book not knowing what to expect, since I had never read a book by Ryan Kirk. I know he has a whole trilogy set in the same world in which the Nightblade's Vengeance happens, but I don't think it's necessary to read that before going into this book.

In this book we follow the story of Asa, a young nightblade whose entire existence is driven by her quest to seek revenge on the man who killed her father when she was just a little girl in what is known as the The Massacre of Two Falls. But while she is trying to find proof and information on the man who was responsible for her father's death, she finds herself in the middle of a political intrigue that will define the entire future of the kingdom.

In this world, there are certain people who have been born with the 'sense', a power that can either make you a nightblade or a dayblade. Nightblades are known for their unique fighting skills, and dayblades for their healing skills. While there was a time when blades were revered and admired, after the Massacre of Two Falls, people have started to be scared and wary of them. So much to the point where the king started to take away some of the blades' rights. So basically, the story also focuses on the contempt held between blades and common citizens, and how each side believes should be the ones ruling. Many blades believe that since they were granted this gift that they have, they should be the ones ruling the kingdom, while the lords think that

keeping the blades in check, and deminishing their rights is the only choice they have if they want to live peacefully. So of course conflict ensues when both sides seek the same thing: to be the ones who will succeed the king.

What I really enjoyed about this book was how politically focused it was, which was something that I wasn't expecting at all. While it is a fantasy book, the plot focuses mainly on the power struggle between the different lord houses that seek to become kings once the true king dies, since his only heir also died at Two Falls. There are a lot of twists and turns that I did not see coming, and it was entertaining to read a fantasy book so heavily focused on politics.

But at the same time, I feel like because it was so heavily focused on the political aspects, I wasn't able to feel or care for the characters, because they were never fully developed to the point where I could care what happened to them. The book ended with a particular surprising reveal, and even though I saw it coming, after that happened, I literally didn't care how the book ended. And I think that if this was a standalone book, it wouldn't matter, because I wasn't able to establish any sort of emotional attachment to the characters that are left alive.

Shelley says

Source NetGalley

Genre Fantasy

Rating 3.5

Thoughts

Nightblade's Vengeance is the first installment in author Ryan Kirk's Blades of the Fallen series. Ryan Kirk is also the author of the Nightblade trilogy which I have not read nor do I think it matters if you do or you don't. Set in a world that I am pretty sure is Japan during the Feudal Era, powerful Nightblade's (who I am calling Samurai), and Lords (who I am calling Daimyo) play a dangerous game to see who will reign supreme and lead the Kingdom. The story is actually told through the eyes of three very distinct characters, but what happens in the beginning of the book, will stay with readers throughout.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2017/09/2...>

Publisher: 47 North

Publishing Date: October 2017

ISBN:9781542047326

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: 4.8/5

Publishers Description: In a feudal land, a Kingdom is at risk. With no heir to the fragile throne, its future rests with the powerful members of the dying king's Council, including Minori, a nightblade warrior, and Kiyoshi, a dayblade healer. The two men are bound by the sword but divided by two opposing principles: rule the land, or serve it. In their challenge for supremacy, a spark has been lit.

Her name is Asa. Her creed is revenge.

Review: This tale follows the lives of three Nightblades' life journey through a kingdom fraught with violence and political intrigue. One is bent on revenge, another on control and the last on redemption. Their lives merge and interact on stage set for destruction.

This is one of the best novels I have read in a long time. The world building was epic and pales in comparison to the story line, movement and character development. To go into detail is to give the novel away. Trust me when I say that when you can't wait to get to the next chapter to follow a certain character, then you have found a gem. I only wish I had discovered this author sooner.

The ending sets up nicely for another installment with perhaps a wandering Nightblade under the shadow of a corrupt regime.

Ashley says

Asa is a nightblade that is trying to figure out what happened at a battle where her father died and goes searching for answers.

Minori was sent to the capital to stop the lords from taking power away from the blades, who usually keep peace in the kingdom. But people are scared of them now so the lords have been putting restrictions on them that the blades don't like, Minori wants them to be free.

Kiyoshi is trying to do what he can to keep peace in the kingdom in case the king dies with no heir named.

It's hard to say too much about the plot without giving too much away, but the plot is clever and the characters are well developed. Everyone thinks they are doing the right thing, but they all see it differently. The magic was interesting and was explained well. The action got started right away and there was always something going on. I couldn't put this down once I started.

I received an arc via netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Jennifer Lanak says

Asa is a nightblade (think super-samurai) and has made it her mission to hunt down the person responsible for killing her father. Her research has led her to the capital of the kingdom, but she still doesn't know the exact identity of the murderer. She is so focused on seeking her revenge that she is oblivious to the political games going on around her, yet she manages to get caught right in the middle of the game board. There are

many players striving for power, including two other "blades", Kiyoshi (who definitely believes that saying "with great power comes great responsibility" and wants only what is best for the kingdom even if it means sacrificing the fate of the blades) and Minori (who wants the blades to have ruling powers in the kingdom as befitting of the powerful gifts they wield).

It took me a while to get into this book. I think listening to it on audio was a drawback as several of the names are similar and I had to really pay attention to who was doing what. I also have to admit that while some of the political maneuverings of the characters were like playing a game of chess - sometimes chess is boring, especially when at the end of the book it isn't clear what is happening with the game. I'm undecided as to if I will continue the series. On the one hand, I liked Asa and the ending made me wonder what will become of her. On the other hand, I am a bit worried that it won't be very exciting.
