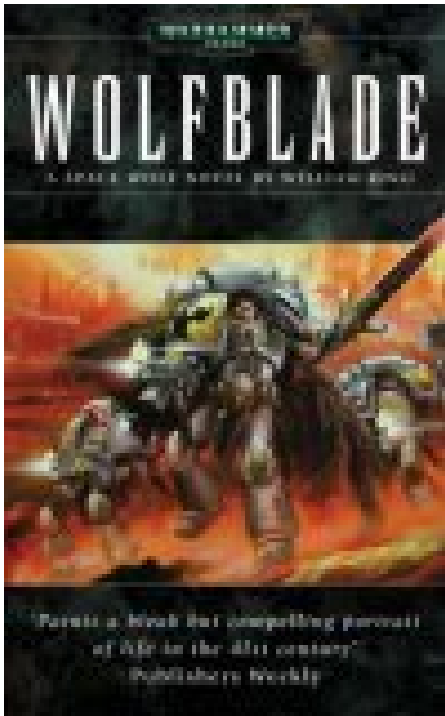




Wolfblade

William King

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The epic saga of Ragnar Blackmane continues with this explosive tale set on the holy planet of Terra. Ragnar has become involved in an assassination plot and must harness the howling fury of the wolves to save the intended victim and regain his honour.

Wolfblade Details

Date : Published November 18th 2003 by Black Library

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Author : William King

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From Reader Review Wolfblade for online ebook

Bartek says

Jak to jest, ?e King pisze w sumie cieniutk? ksi??eczki?, która potrafi wci?gn??, a? do niespania, a wielu innych poci si? na tysi?cstronicowymi tomiszczami, które nie s? interesuj?ce...

David says

Yet another entry in the Space Wolf series. Well written and well-told, definitely in keeping with the quality of the other stories. The story here managed to build on the theme of politics and influence from the last story while still keeping a good chunk of action present. Wolfblade was an easy read, very enjoyable, though I would not venture to say that is a must-read for anyone besides Warhammer 40K fans.

Aaron says

Extremely intense, fast paced, funny and somewhat cheesy, I thought wolfblade was a good quick read.

Crystal says

This book was a pretty nice read. It was a bit slow at the beginning but picked up quickly. The way the author wrote it was easy to read and the descriptions in the book were short and sweet. Overall its a good read if you like scifi.

El-jorro says

Bookworm Speaks!

Wolfblade

by William King

Acquired: Half-Price Books

Series: Warhammer 40,000 Novels

Mass Market Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Black Library

Language: English

The Story: A Space Wolf Novel by William King.

The ancient Navigator House of Belisarius has long been bound to the mighty Space Wolves as allies. In

return for the means to navigate the treacherous warp, the Space Wolves provide an honor guard of elite warriors - The Wolfblade - to protect the House.

When Ragnar takes up his duties on ancient Terra, he soon becomes embroiled in an assassination plot that reaches into the very depths of the Imperium! Unused to the delicate political machinations, Ragnar must resort to the howling fury of the Wolves if he is to save this noble dynasty and regain his honor.

The Review: After losing the Spear of Russ in the last volume, Ragnar Blackmane is banished from the chapter to serve in the Wolfblade on Holy Terra itself. Ostensibly, an honor, the Wolfblade is also a way to get Space Wolves who don't quite fit in (but not enough to execute them) out of the Fang and out of the sight of the leaders of the chapter.

Ragnar is out of his element in this book and it really helps his character. Testing a character by putting them in unfamiliar situations is the best way to facilitate growth and hopefully prove their worth as a character. It works terrifically with Ragnar Blackmane. He knows that while it may have been for a good cause, he has cost the chapter greatly by losing the Spear of Russ and he must pay for it. Already, the character's struggle has begun as the taste of his failure and disgrace lends to his motivation. In many parts of the story he is a like wide-eyed child who has been thrust into a much bigger world and in many respects Ragnar serves as an avatar for the audience of the book itself. The world building in this book is superb and for some the main attraction of the entire text. In the best kind of stories, the setting is as much a character as the people doing the talking. Holy Terra feels alive. That is a common thread in a lot of Warhammer 40k fiction, particularly on Hive Worlds, of which Holy Terra is said to be the ultimate.

(For the uninformed Hive Worlds are planets with massive metropolises home to billions of people, a staple of Warhammer Fiction)

Even the absurdly affluent Navigator quarters, seem to breathe and pulse with their own form of life, and Ragnar is swept away with it all along with the readers.

In other parts he is still the savage native of Fenris and member of one of the most feral chapters of the Adeptus Astartes.

The characters that Ragnar meets on his journey are just as interesting as his surroundings. The people who make their homes on the Hub of the Imperium are quite different from the savage natives of Fenris.

The reader needn't worry though, while the central theme of this book is the atmosphere, there is still plenty of action to satisfy the seasoned Warhammer 40k fans. The straight up bullet storms of other books are rare here, in exchange for subtler forms of combat which is a very interesting turn.

Is it flawless...no.

The pacing in this book is a little uneven. It would have helped if the book had been divided into certain sections like other Warhammer books. Some of the oft mentioned atmosphere is often all we really get in some chapters. All we are really doing is exploring Holy Terra along with Ragnar. Thankfully, what he is seeing is interesting enough to carry the chapter and there isn't that many of that but it can get boring for some readers.

Another positive of this book is also one of its negatives: the characters. Characters such as Haegr and Torin, while memorable in how different they are from standard Space Wolves, are somewhat flat in their characterization. The reader does not really see a lot of their own stories or more facets of their personalities. Again, what we are presented with at hand is enough to keep readers interesting but there is still not much to the rest of the Wolfblade. Granted, this is the first of a series so we have the rest of the series to explore these characters more.

This flaw is averted by the character of Gabriella Belisarius, a navigator of great skill and the object of Ragnar Blackmane protection. She is given a very thorough examination throughout the book, which is to be expected as Ragnar is her bodyguard. She is described as pretty but in a severe, alien manner. She is also kindhearted in a way but she is well-versed in the nastier aspects of her livelihood. Some of Bookworm's favorite moments in Warhammer 40k are when the Space Marines interact with mere mortals, and while Gabriella is not exactly a mere mortal, their interactions are very amusing to read. What makes it even more interesting is the fact that Gabriella is technically Ragnar's superior. That is a rare position for an Adeptus Astartes, even more so for a Space Wolf.

Final Verdict: Wolfblade is a an exciting journey to the most oft mentioned world in all of Warhammer 40k. This book is saturated with life and atmosphere and boasts some very memorable characters.

Four out of Five Stars

I hope William King will write more tales of Space Wolves.

thecultureworm.blogspot.com

Michael Brookes says

I didn't think that Space Wolves and political intrigue would mix, but I was wrong. This book mixes both well. An enjoyable 40K read.

Plaguedoctor says

I loved this book! Ragnar Blackmane is an interesting and easy to like character. I haven't read any of the other novels in the series, but I didn't need too. This book can easily be a stand alone novel as it doesn't necessarily relate to the other novels, but some references are made and fully explained. This is a nice action packed book full of gripping and sometimes suspenseful scenes and full of great characters. I highly recommend this to any one who likes or plays Space Wolves and recommend to any 40k fan in general. I'm not going to lie, this book made me want to play Space Wolves as a second army and buy Ragnar as my HQ.

Joseph Kubelka says

I haven't read the other novels in the series, but this one could stand alone quite well. The characters are great and it is a grand sci-fi/fantasy story with a distinct flavor.

Michael T Bradley says

I have now read every novel King wrote for Black Library pre-2010. This is definitely my favorite, edging out "Farseer." It's frustrating that King FINALLY found his groove with the Space Wolves, then decided to quit (or was fired? Are the details of why he left when he did out there anywhere?). I'll be honest, I was so

unimpressed with most of the later Gotrek & Felix novels, I don't really remember his last one there. Was it Vampireslayer? If so, I guess that one wasn't bad, but still ... after the battle of Praag, the rest just felt incredibly cookie cutter to me (and I miss Max!). In any case ...

"Wolfblade" is the story of Ragnar being assigned to Terra as a semi-promotion, semi-exile after handling the Spear of Russ (a holy relic) at the end of the third novel. For the first time since "Space Wolf," Ragnar's navel-gazing serves a greater purpose than just, 'This is an introduction to the world of Warhammer 40K!' I'm not necessarily AGAINST that sort of writing, it's just ... tiresome after a while. Ragnar thinks a LOT about fairly common things in books 2 & 3. Here it really serves the undercurrent of paranoia that's in place. My one main issue with this, and it seems common in 40K stuff, is that there's a mystery ... and we're not really given any clues, we're just eventually TOLD who the traitor is. I don't necessarily need a parlor room scene, but I find it very ODD that King & McNeill especially like to write mysteries with either incredibly obvious or needlessly unexplained solutions. I could tell you the traitor before reading this book yourself & it would not make one whit of difference.

There's a new supporting cast here, as well, although the 'picking on each other' sort of dialogue is still in place, so you won't feel too sore about missing Sven for long. I really enjoyed the clearing of the decks & exploring something different. I really enjoyed finding out more about Terra. I thought it was fun that the Wolves work with House Belasarius, who play somewhat of a part in Farseer. I'll be very curious to see how Lee Lightner handles things from here on out.

Javir11 says

Agotado mentalmente por algunas lecturas complejas. Me apetecía algo sencillo y disfrutable. Y creo que las novelas de Warhammer siempre cumplen con este objetivo.

Mucha acción y bastante bien narrada, buenos personajes secundarios y otra vez más acción.

El libro es de esos que se lee en tres ratos y se agradece que no use palabras raras.

En su contra, pues que la historia es más simple que el mecanismo de un botijo. Es obvio que esta clase de novelas no destacan por su completa trama, pero algo más si podrían haber sacado.

Lo mismo sucede con el final, simple y muy mejorable.

En definitiva, similar a una de esas pelis ochenteras de acción, cuya calidad sabemos que es regular, pero que nos hace disfrutar.

Os dejo un enlace a mi blog por si queréis leer una reseña más detallada.

<http://fantasiascifiymuchomas.blogspot...>
