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The Axe And The Throne (Bounds Of Redemption Book 1)

M.D. IREMAN



Synopsis

"This book will offend, frustrate, sadden, and shock you, and then it will reward you. ...An absolute killer that everyone needs in their collection." -Chris of BestEpicFantasy.com It is a fool's errand and Tallos knows it, but against his own better judgment and the pleading of his wife, Tallos has committed himself to a voyage north. His lifelong friend's eldest sons are said to have been taken by Northmen, a raiding people ill-reputed for their savagery. The boys are already dead, Tallos knows, and in that dark place of grim reasoning he wishes only to find their corpses quickly so he can fulfill his promise and return to his wife. Instead, he finds something far worse.

Bounds of Redemption Series
Book 1: The Axe and the Throne
Book 2: Tides of the Realm
Book 3: Title Pending

"I've read this book twice now, and I have to say, the second read was eye opening. It is brilliant. There is so much depth, both in the characters and in the plot, full of hidden gems and woven with mastery, that it begins to get into A Song of Ice and Fire territory. Yet whereas the later books in Martin's series took me weeks to finish, I blitzed through The Axe and the Throne so quickly on my first read that I did not fully appreciate it." -Goodreads Reviewer, Goblindoper | See full review on Goodreads.

"The violence and brutality is vivid. The characters are skillfully developed and each one is flawed in some way that makes them more real and believable. The plot line develops slowly and unpredictably, which I appreciate. I have no idea what lays in store in future chapters. There were instances where I didn't want to continue reading for fear of what may be happening to favored characters...I really enjoyed this book and can't wait for the next one to be published!" - Reviewer, Craig Ramage | See full review below.

"Not only does every character have an amazing amount of depth, but there seems to be a genuine surprise around every corner. I recommend this to anybody who is into fantasy, and can't wait for the second book!" - Reviewer, Thorn | See full review below.

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Customer Reviews

This story is populated with lots of wonderfully rendered characters with strong motivations. While the many points-of-view remind me of The Spoonriver Anthology, they do provide greater depth of understanding and a richer experience of the events as they unfold. The plot lines are braided alongside each other, and then some of the strands merge, making it a challenge for the reader to favor any individual character. I tended to like the character with the POV of the moment. Relationships have deep connections that are strained due to complications, and these life or death complications add to the dramatic tension. There is humor, friendship, a bit of romance, wonderful fight scenes, hints of magic, lots of plot twists and turns, and some characters die while some survive. The various settings and politics/cultures affect the characters' actions. Have a snack handy as the food is described deliciously. There are grim scenes, but they are not gratuitously gory. The descriptions of violence leave off where I would turn away were I to watch this story enacted on a movie screen. I recommend this book to older, more seasoned, fantasy readers as they would appreciate more deeply the relationship nuances and tensions because of their own life experiences. I especially appreciated the nearly error-free writing. While the book ends without definite closure to the plot lines, some on grim notes, it's obvious there's more to come. There's a great deal of groundwork laid for the next book as well as suspenseful momentum. I look forward to reading the next installment in this epic series.

The book starts with a rather bold and somewhat condescending statement from the author. Unfortunately, he falls well short of that statement. I found the book to be a blatant carbon copy of the way George RR Martin introduces and develops characters. Again, unfortunately, that is also a

disappointment due to the incredibly boring themes and subject matter. Overall, I found myself punishing my mind to stay with the plot line. Even when something interesting was about to happen, I found myself bored out of my mind as the lead up was so plodding that you could almost take a pen to paper and write it yourself. The writing also lacked a lot of the usual twists and turns this genre is known for. Sorry, no unbelievable tales here. Just people, you get little chance to start knowing, being nasty to each other - the end. I gave it three stars because the grammar and structure was good. No spelling errors.

I was a bit reluctant to begin this book due to its warned difficulty, but found the tale to be engrossing and no more complicated than other books I have read. I highly suggest this book. I greatly appreciate the grey characters and the progression (or conclusion) of their lives. Looking forward to the sequel!

Well written, complex characters and multiple viewpoints. The author states that the book was professionally edited, and it shows. The language is terse yet elegant and free of cliches. Characters have a distinctive voice and personality. Even those you initially dislike become interesting, even appealing, and you feel for them and the circumstances that made them. I'll be reading the next one as soon as it comes out!

I liked the realism of the book and for someone that doesn't experience much outside of books, it was a nice turn to be shocked by a cruelty that most fantasy I've read are without. I wouldn't recommend it to my family, because I feel it'd be an awkward book to club. 5 stars because of its originality and well written storyline.

The book interweaves back and forth to different characters. At first, they have seemingly no relevance to one another, but as the story progresses, you will be surprised at what is revealed. I can't say I have ever been more angry at a book (and the author) only to also find myself cheering when I least expected it. This is not a children's book, nor even a teenager. It is well written though, and for the price, an excellent read. I will definitely be keeping tabs on this author. I read through this in 2 days, fully not expecting to be so drawn into it. Another review compares it to Games of Thrones, which I can see some correlation to, but it does not detract from it. This is a book in which a hero may turn out to be a villain, or a villain a hero, and the good guys don't always win.

Well-written. Solid prose. An interesting cast of characters. While not action-packed, I was never bored. I will read the next installment when it comes out and would recommend it to a fantasy reader looking for something to read. However, I think the author overstates the originality and complexity of the book. It begins with a "warning" that the book is a challenging read "both in complexity and content." It goes on to say it will have a limited appeal for those reasons and because the characters will make choices that will offend many readers' delicate sensibilities. It also suggests the sheer volume of perspectives will stymie some readers. The book itself does not live up to that warning's billing, which is neither bad nor good. It just made the warning sort of...bewildering. After reading it, I was expecting literary complexity on the scale of Infinite Jest. But it really felt like standard modern fantasy. The volume of perspectives isn't particularly overwhelming. If you've read and managed George RR Martin, this will be quite doable. It's certainly not more dark than Mark Lawrence or Joe Abercrombie. The story isn't any more complex than Miles Cameron's Traitor Son Cycle (another series with loads of perspectives.) In all, it felt like it borrowed heavily from Martin and Abercrombie. But it did it well enough. If you've read those authors and others mentioned in this review, you'll probably enjoy The Axe and the Throne.

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