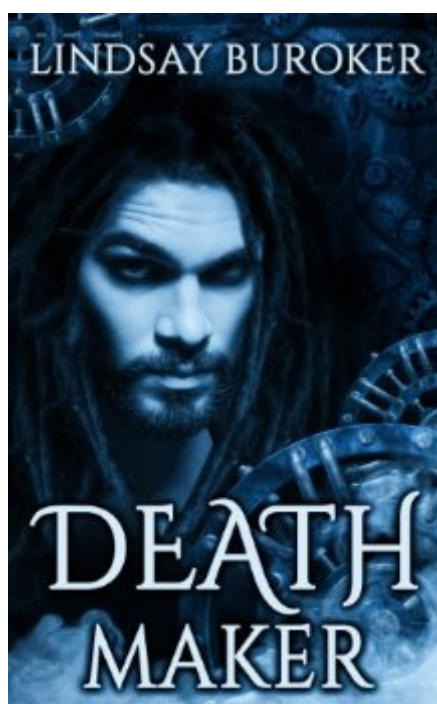


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Deathmaker (Dragon Blood Book 2)



Synopsis

When Lieutenant Caslin Ahn joined Wolf Squadron, she was prepared for the reality that she might one day be killed in the line of duty. She was less prepared for being shot down, assumed dead by her own people, and dragged off to the Cofah Empire as a prisoner of war. As if being thrust into a dungeon and interrogated wasn't bad enough, the sadistic commandant decides to give her a cellmate: the notorious pirate Deathmaker. Given the crimes he's committed against Iskandia, Cas owes it to her people to try and kill him. Part warrior and part scientist, Tolemek "Deathmaker" Targoson has not only slain thousands with his deadly concoctions, but he has a special loathing for Iskandian pilots. It was Ahn's commander, Colonel Zirkander, who ruined his military career, forcing him to leave his country in shame and join a pirate organization. Years later, he uses his dreadful reputation like a shield to keep people away; all he wants is to be left alone to work in his laboratory. But when fate lands him in a cell with Zirkander's protégé, he sees a chance for revenge. Why kill the lieutenant when he can use her to get to his old nemesis? There's just one problem: it's hard to plot against your enemies when you're in prison with them. Cas and Tolemek will have to work together if they hope to escape the Cofah dungeon. In the process, they may find that neither is what the other expects, and that they have far greater problems to worry about than ensnaring each other... Deathmaker is a full-length 85,000-word novel. It is set after the events in *Balanced on the Blade's Edge*, but it can be enjoyed even if you haven't read the first book. The Dragon Blood series reading order: Book 1: *Balanced on the Blade's Edge* Book 2: *Deathmaker* Book 3: *Blood Charged*

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Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion. I loved the first book - featuring Sardelle and Ridge - and was a bit disappointed to learn this book wouldn't 'feature' them. I am beyond elated with this story so shame on me for having any doubts! This book is AMAZING. It touches on pretty much every genre: comedy, romance, thriller, fantasy, etc. Lt. Caslin Ahn, whom we've been introduced to previously by Ridge in book 1, is our heroine. She's smart, witty, loyal...and pretty much an awesome character in general. Does she make mistakes? Totally! But that's what makes her so darn charming and likable. As for Tolemek, he's an enigma that reveals himself as the story progresses. Luckily we don't have to wait too long, as the book pretty much dives right in to the plot and doesn't stop until the end. There are quite a few characters, though only a few really important ones. It had been a while since I read the first book in the series, but there aren't many terms to remember, thankfully. The plot of this book is chaotic (though told in a very non-confusing way) in the amount of action it has. Narrated from a 3rd person POV the author's writing style is entertaining and drew me in right away. There are lots of gems throughout the book and made me actually laugh out loud...and at times made me furrow my brow and frown. And last, but not least, the editing was flawless (as far as I could tell)! Dare I say this is my favorite book from this author?! Cannot wait to see more from Wolf Squad, and hopefully more of the characters we know and love!

Fighter-pilots in bi-planes in a secondary fantasy setting? Yesssss, give me more, give me more. (Okay, maybe not bi-planes necessarily, but still. That level of tech.) Romping fun adventure, had a blast. Buroker does it again! :D So, this is the sequel to *Balanced on the Blade's Edge*, and though it follows two new protagonists and that usually bothers me...it didn't bother me at all. Don't know how Buroker keeps pulling off things I normally don't like to read, but she does. For full disclosure, I suppose I should say I got a review copy, but that doesn't affect how much I enjoyed the story and the characters. Since I've also been dubbed a curator of steamy/sweet romance by my followers, I should say that this book is on the sweet setting rather than steamy like the first one, which I

actually prefer. But preferences aside, I think it suited them. Yes, sweetness suits Deathmaker, irony included. ;) Am hoping for a sequel--more sequels! The more time we spend in the world the more I want to spend in it. Hope we get to learn more about Deathmaker and his sister, Sardelle and Ridge, and Cas and her other pilot buddies. Crash and Ace anyone? Please tell me I'm not the only one hoping they get sequels too. :D (And can't forget Jaxi. She was a definite highlight of the book...can she get her own book? Hmmm. That'd be tricky to pull off, but pretty awesome.)

Very enjoyable, fast-paced thrill-ride - at least in the first half of the book. The story slows down to breathing-pace in the 2nd half, but we get to see our old friends Ridge and Sardelle (with Jaxi in a significant cameo) again, which is really wonderful. The two protagonists Tolemek and Caslin Ahn are great - a dread-locked pirate scientist and an intrepid fighter pilot-sniper. Exotic settings - jungle, pirate hideout, and somewhere very snowy... No love scenes, just good mostly clean fun :)

The first novel's flaws are exaggerated in this novel, specifically the two dimensional characters and the unbelievably quick and shallow romances. This is a big disappointment because everything else in the books - action, storyline and world are all excellent. Tolemek in particular is unbelievable as a person, he seems to be a vehicle for witty conversation. While I like the author's wit it has been taken too far in these novels at expense of any character development, demonstrating any real emotional connection between the leads not to mention making any dangers the characters are experiencing seem trivial. If it wasn't for the fact that Yanko from the Salt & Swords collection was engaging and believable as a person I would start to doubt if the author can write a good male lead. I'm hoping the next book will have more substance or I'll pass on this series which is disappointing as the premise is an interesting one.

Tolemek, known to his Iskander enemies as the Deathmaker, is a prisoner of his own people. Cas, an Iskander pilot and protege of Rider Zirkander, is now stuck in a cell with him. They both want out. Tolemek's pirate pals are more than willing to help especially if they can kill Rider in the bargain. Cas and Tolemek will have to work together, just to save themselves. Great follow-up to book one. Such a smooth addition of the new characters.

I love Lindsay Buroker's books. I usually find her writing fresh, inventive, engaging with complex world building and interesting characters. I wanted to like this book, I really did. And it was ok as stories go. Maybe a good effort by other author's standards. The problem is, Lindsay has set the bar

so high that this was just a disappointment. For some reason, I found the characters flat and simplistic. In paper, they had all the qualities and witty banter to like, but somehow they didn't feel real. They felt more written to a formula than really interesting. It felt like a storyline was outlined and then written in fast, almost like a formula Harlequin romance. It felt like this was pounded out quickly, and on one go. Yes, there are pirates, fighter pilots, escape, cities in trouble, and foiled plans all mixed in with romance and adventure but I wasn't buying it. The first book in the series was excellent but this one was not. A sophomoric effort from a truly great writer.

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