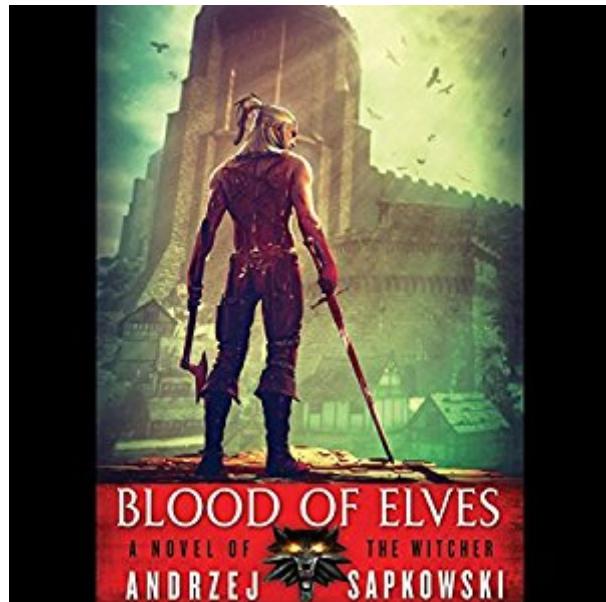


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Blood Of Elves



Synopsis

Watch for the signs! What signs these shall be, I say unto you: first the earth will flow with the blood of Aen Seidhe, the Blood of Elves.... For over a century, humans, dwarves, gnomes, and elves have lived together in relative peace. But times have changed, the uneasy peace is over, and now the races are fighting once again. The only good elf, it seems, is a dead elf. Geralt of Rivia, the cunning assassin known as The Witcher, has been waiting for the birth of a prophesied child. This child has the power to change the world - for good, or for evil. As the threat of war hangs over the land and the child is hunted for her extraordinary powers, it will become Geralt's responsibility to protect them all - and the Witcher never accepts defeat. Following The Last Wish, Blood of Elves is the new novel starring Geralt of Rivia, the inspiration for the critically acclaimed videogame The Witcher.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This story is excellent and if you have played The Witcher videogames then you will appreciate it all the more (and vice versa) I'm really just writing this review so people don't fall into the same trap that I did and skip over Swords of Destiny before reading this one. It has this labelled as Book 2 and has Swords of Destiny labelled as Book 4. That is because Swords of Destiny was published later (the English version at least), but in terms of the story this is the order I would recommend reading them in: Last Wish, Swords of Destiny, Blood of Elves, Time of Contempt, Tower of Swallows, and Lady of the Lake (coming out in 2017). The Last Wish and Swords of Destiny are collections of short stories, but the rest all follow a specific story arc so it is really better to at least read the rest in the order that I mentioned. Hope that helps!

I think I have to preface this review by saying that I love The Witcher games, so I might be a little biased when I say I like the books. Especially since I've already fallen in love with these characters. That being said, I think the developers did a pretty decent job at being loyal to the source material. I'm not 100% sure which order you are supposed to read these books. It's also harder because these books were originally written in Sapkowski's native language of Polish and are translated to English, so sometimes I think it takes a lot longer to be translated. Some Polish speaking fans have even just taken to translating the books themselves! But, I think you are supposed to read the two short story collections The Last Wish and Sword of Destiny before reading this novel. I think it gives you more background before reading this one. What I really like about this novel is that we get to see more of Geralt and Ciri. YAY! I love getting to see this crotchety old man really care for this strange girl that basically gets dropped into his lap. Ciri doesn't have a good relationship with her real parents, but I love the bond that she forms with Geralt. I also love when the Sorceress Triss comes to visit The Witchers at Kaer Morhen she has to explain to them that they have no idea how to raise girls! I like that we get to see Ciri spend a lot time with Yennefer. It gave me more insight in Yenn as a character. In the short story collections she's really cold and unfeeling and she messes with Geralt's feelings a lot. Although, I think she also thinks Geralt has no feelings so she treats him like this as a way to protect herself. When Yenn is teaching Ciri about magic, there's a really strong bond between them. I loved the teasing relationship between them. Although I loved how Sapkowski builds the foundation for this found family, there were a few things about this novel that I just couldn't get into. First of all, I'm not a fan of really long chapters, and this book had very long chapters! Maybe this was just because it's a translation, but I would have liked it to be broken up a little more. Another thing that bothered me was a chapter when all the Kings get together to talk about if Ciri is still alive. Like Geralt, I don't care about politics so I found this chapter SUPER boring!

This book was unexpected. It has all the trappings of high-fantasy - elves, dwarves, dragons, wizards, lost princesses - but it also has depth and intelligence. The characters are surprisingly real, with flaws and hopes that draw the reader in. Sapkowski gives us heroes we can identify with, heroes we want to root for. The villains are fleshed out and believable. The tone is tongue-in-cheek, but direct. I highly recommend Blood of Elves. People who like Michael Swanwick, Andy Remic, and Roger Zelazney will be well satisfied. You should read The Last Wish first, though. The stories in that collection set up this series. Not necessary, but recommended.

I would highly recommend this entire book series. If you're a fan of the game you will not be disappointed. If anything, the game and the characters and their backstories all make a heck of a lot more sense now. That said, I'd read the short stories before the novels so you kind of lead up to this one, but the book is still worth every page. If you're a fan of fantasy in general I think you'll like this book, and all the books that go along with it. I could hardly put it down. Fast paced and clever story lines, an engrossing world, characters are true-to-form and don't disappoint. Absolutely recommend this and all the other Witcher books. Impressive English translation as well.

I love these books. They came way before the video game and are the reason the Witcher 3 game was so good. It's story and source material. If you never played the games these books are awesome on their own. If you have played the game these books are a must read. The detailed back story you get from the books makes the game so much better. The characters in the Witcher books are fresh, different, compelling. If you want to just dip your toes in the water try the collections of short stories first. For gamers there is no danger either way if you play game or read books first you will enjoy both no matter which order you experience them in.

I'm a big fan of the Witcher game series, especially the writing and characterization. This book is good and all (it deals with Ciri and her powers as well as the Scoia Tael) but moves kinda slow; it really makes me appreciating how quickly the story moved in the games. Don't get me wrong, this is a Witcher story through and through, it's just told a little more slowly and in depth than gamers might be used to.

I like this book better than the first one. Written as a book instead of a series of short stories, it takes you even further into the witcher's world. You met another one of Geralt's lovers and a new character, his apprentice. Don't expect to see a lot of Geralt in this one, but you will see Dandylion again and find out more about him.

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