



## The Blood of a Dragon

*Lawrence Watt-Evans*

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## **The Blood of a Dragon** Lawrence Watt-Evans

It was definite — Dumery had no magical talent at all. He could never fulfill his dream to become a wizard's apprentice. Hurt, angry, and mortally disappointed, he despaired of ever choosing a trade.

But then Dumery spied a so-called great wizard humbling himself before a man selling dragon's blood — the precious stuff that made difficult spells work. If Dumery couldn't be a wizard, maybe he could become a dragon-hunter and have all those scornful wizards crawling to him.

So, leaving his family, city, and comfortable home, Dumery began trailing Kensher, the man in brown — even though Kensher said he didn't need a dragon-hunting apprentice. But when Dumery finally caught up with Kensher, he would discover Kensher's great secret of how the precious fluid was obtained — a secret from which only Kensher's kin could profit.

Once again, Dumery would be left without career or future. Unless . . .

## **The Blood of a Dragon Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2001 by Wildside Press (first published October 13th 1991)

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Author : Lawrence Watt-Evans

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## From Reader Review The Blood of a Dragon for online ebook

### Curtiss says

This is one the Magic of Ethshar series of books. I recorded most of them, including this one, in 50-55 minute installments for my local Golden Hours radio service for blind or reading-impaired listeners. I also made CD copies for myself.

This one of the more lighthearted entries in the series, and I'm looking forward to the sequel The Spriggan Mirror; especially as the mischeiveous spriggan's appear in several other books in the series.

My favorite book in the series is The Misenchanted Sword, closely followed by The Blood of a Dragon.

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### Peter says

It's late, so this will be relatively brief (for me, that is - which means it will probably be one of the longer reviews here on GoodReads).

Lawrence Watt-Evans' Ethshar books are the preeminent modern light fantasy series. They're eminently readable, and particularly enjoyable because most of them feature intelligent, reasonable, fundamentally **decent** protagonists who take sensible precautions, make intelligent choices, and cope with the unexpected logically - although not necessarily with superhuman perfection.

That's what makes the Ethshar books so refreshing: they're about people who are about as intelligent as most fantasy readers, I think. Or as intelligent as I am, anyway. :D

Whereas *most* modern genre fiction either features "heroes" who constantly miss the obvious in order to bloat the plot and page count to forest-killing proportions, or else have characters who are so annoyingly perfect and flawless that they have all the excitement of a particularly dull 1950s *Superman* comic.

It's nice to read books about people using their brains to deal with interesting problems that don't necessarily involve Saving the World. And it's a pleasure to read about people who make reasonable moral choices.

But the main protagonist in *The Blood of a Dragon* is something of an exception to that rule (as is Tabaea the Thief from *The Spell of the Black Dagger*). Dumery of Shiphaven is spoiled, paranoid, self-centered, *doesn't* think ahead, and repeatedly demonstrates both bad judgment and a surprisingly questionable morality. He only ends up succeeding because of pure **luck** (and, perhaps, stubbornness), and that's *very* unusual for an Ethshar protagonist.

To make up for that, we also have Teneria of Fishertown, a very sensible witch-apprentice. Her encounter with Adar the warlock is gripping, with fascinating implications for the world of Ethshar - implications which will, I suspect, be addressed in the forthcoming Ethshar novel *The Unwelcome Warlock*.

But Dumery? He's a jerk. Oh, there's a paragraph or two where he has a mild moral crisis over his behavior, and regrets his acts. But it felt to me as if Watt-Evans was almost *forcing* the character in that direction; it didn't ring quite true.

So although this is quite an enjoyable read, it's not the best of the Ethshar series - and it's definitely not a good introduction to Ethshar. I'd strongly suggest starting with The Misenchanted Sword and proceeding in order of publication, if you can.

Oh, and I almost forgot to mention: the book has a spriggan. It's one of the funnier spriggans, too - and they're *all* funny. I don't know what it is about spriggans, but they always make me laugh and tug my heartstrings!

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### **Daryl Nash says**

Dumery is an annoying little brat. Half the book, the narrative seems to be casting about in search of a plot. I was going to give this one star, but the character of Aldagon the dragon changed my mind.

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### **Melanti says**

While the Ethshar series isn't "good" in the literary sense, they're a lot of fun. They're lighthearted adventure stories involving absolutely ordinary people in (usually) ordinary events. There's no horrible disasters to avert, no kingdoms or worlds to save, no grand treasures to find or quests to complete - just ordinary people trying to live their lives. In this one, the young brat Dumery has decided that if he can't be an apprentice wizard, he'll at least be an apprentice dragon hunter so that he'll be able to lord it over the wizards who refused to teach him. I'll let you guess how well that works out.

I really like the Ethshar world – especially the magic system. I like how Watt-Evans has made a distinction between witchcraft, wizardry, warlocks, and demonologists, and how each branch of the craft has its own strengths, weaknesses, and strict limits on what it is capable of. I also like that each of the books can be read independently of each other, yet there's tiny things that crop up every now and again that tie in previous books. There's nothing major of course – none of the books are books where major things (or people) happen – but it's this little comfy feeling of familiarity when I see a spriggan or meet the innkeeper again.

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### **Kevin Driskill says**

Another wonderful addition to what is becoming my favorite series. The different types of magic and the mysteries of this fascinating world continue to unfold in dramatic fashion. Somehow Watt-Evans expands and further explains the parts of each book that I was most interested in from the previous story. Is he a literary genius, were we separated at birth, or doe he write so effortlessly about magic because he himself is a wizard? I must start the next book right away to find out.

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### **Latharia says**

As with other of Watt-Evans' books set in Ethshar, it features an unexpected hero, who has to cope with mundane issues in a magical world. The author does a fabulous job of presenting the every day "what if" issues about having magic, and this book also does not disappoint. I keep hoping I'll find another stray book

by the author, but I don't think he's writing any more!

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### **Michael says**

One of the weaker entries in the Ethshar. Not bad mind you, but merely okay.

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### **Curtiss says**

This is one the Magic of Ethshar series of books. I recorded most of them, including this one, in 50-55 minute installments for my local Golden Hours radio service for blind or reading-impaired listeners. I also made CD copies for myself.

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### **Jessica says**

Entertaining story

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### **Dantegideon says**

Just awful. I spent most of the book praying for the main character to be eaten by a dragon.

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### **Johanna says**

A slow starter, but I read the whole thing on the flight home from Europe And I Really Enjoyed It By The end.

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### **Robert says**

I went to read this book and realized that I had already read it before I starting organizing things here on GoodReads.

I found it was a fun book, simple easy fantasy to devour in large gulps. I enjoy the world and think that there is much to be said for knowing what you are getting when you start off an Ethshar book.

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### **James says**

A light weight fantasy about a very stubborn and spoiled 12 year old who wants to become a wizard. Not the same old plot though, he's not "the chosen one" of the Potter-like fantasies. A fun read for when you've ODed on dark literature.

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### **Ryn says**

The writing was at quite a low level, and the book was pretty boring. I thought the idea had a lot of potential, but it just ended up being the humdrum travelogue of a boy and the people sent to find him and bring him home.

In my opinion, the author could definitely have made this an action-packed adventure, but... it fell short in a big way.

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### **David says**

Prototypical Watt-Evans. A young man decides to set off to make his fortune, as you might expect of a certain sort of fantasy tale, but discovers walking is a slow way to travel and travelers have to worry about eating and sleeping. A charming tale set in Ethshar.

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