



Child of the Sword

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Rat is no ordinary thief. A feral, filthy and malnourished child; he haunts the streets of the medieval city Anistigh and survives on what he can steal. When he tries to steal a purse and bungles it, a mob wants to cut off his hand as punishment, so to save himself he slips into a convenient shadow to hide. Rat thinks it's just another warm and comfortable shadow cast by the sun, but a clan wizard sees him create the shadow with his magic, an instinctive act of which Rat is unaware. Rat's magic is subtle, but potentially quite powerful, so he is adopted into the greatest of the Lesser Clans, adopted into a family, and given the name Morgin.

Morgin quickly grows into manhood and the clan teaches him wizardry and sorcery and swordsmanship. Having survived the streets of Anistigh, Morgin is inclined to avoid conflict, would be content to remain on the sidelines in the ever present clan rivalries. But as a clansman he inherits the enemies of the clan, and his shadowmagic proves to be a potent weapon. And when he comes into possession of a powerful talismanic sword, he's thrust into the forefront of the clan rivalries.

As the ancestral conflict between the Greater and Lesser Clans once again leads to war, not even the clans realize that their petty little war is spawned by the primeval battle between the righteous gods of the Celestial Plane and the fallen gods of the Nether Plane. And Morgin learns that it is upon the Mortal Plane, with mortal lives, and mortal pain and suffering and death; it is upon the Mortal Plane that the gods meet and fight their wars.

Child of the Sword Details

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From Reader Review Child of the Sword for online ebook

Bob Milne says

Unfortunately, nothing about this one gave me enough motivation to continue beyond my initial reading. For starters, I found the storytelling somewhat weak, lacking any kind of stylistic flourishes that would serve to draw a reader in. In many places it reads like a screenplay, merely basic scene and set direction, without detail. Even the dialogue – which might have otherwise helped to redeem the narration – felt thin and emotionless.

The other issue for me is that I genuinely disliked Rat, the main character. Don't get me wrong, cowards and scoundrels can make for fantastic protagonists – just as Mark Lawrence or Lee Battersby – but they need a strong personality and a hook to make the reader care. I just didn't get that here. Rat just sort exists, taking up space on the page, and following along in the wake of others. I was hoping for a bait-and-switch, where Rat would meet up with the real hero and assume the role of sidekick, but it didn't look like that was happening.

As for plot and pacing, I honestly wasn't sure what the story was about or where it was going. It just seemed like a bunch of scenes or vignettes put together, without a clear idea of how they interconnect or what the larger story might be.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins as part of the Great Self-Published Fantasy Blog-off

Rachel says

I really liked this book, there is some good character development especially with the main character, you can't help but feel sorry for Morgin and sympathise with him. I look forward to reading the sequel.

Jessica says

A very gripping novel that I found myself devouring rapidly. You cannot help but love Rat, who becomes Morgin, as you follow him from beggar thief child to grown man, who loves and wants to save the family that doesn't always treat him as an equal.

Alicia says

This book was good until the last twenty percent when it got so bad I had to make myself finish this. It just got so out there in comparison to the rest of the book that it almost didn't make sense. How things changed almost right angles how things were before.

The first part of Child of the Sword was good while I was being introduced to the world and the characters

and things built up to the plot. I liked it, it was a decent introduction as I got used to the world since this was a new series to me. On the fifty percent mark, things picked up. It was good, I enjoyed the turn it took. It was very exciting compared to the first half of the book and was very fast paced. I liked it, it was a good turn that was a good thing for the story. What wasn't a good thing was the supposed conclusion to this.

I was so utterly confused after the climax of the story which the switched between realities essentially. It made the story very confusing and very difficult to follow. I did not enjoy it.

On top of the plot, I was not a fan of the main character. Rat grows at the beginning of the story, yes, but after that first growth when his life changes he stays virtually the same. Rat is a jerk and an idiot. I got annoyed with his character and his sulky, bratty attitude. Several of the supporting characters were far more interesting, particularly French and when we first met him I expected him to take a more active role in the plot than he did. Rat's step brother JohnEngine was the other more interesting character and I would have liked to have seen more of him. The grandmother was nothing short of annoying and I really wished she would have died by the end of the book. She needed to die.

The end of the book by far the worst part. I definitely won't be reading the sequel if it's like the end of this one.

Rosver says

A very tedious book to read. The early parts of the book is quite alright, quite reveting even; but it quickly become tedious and frustrating. I work over a third of the book and then just give up. I just lost my strength and will to continue.

The characters are very, very dull and unimaginative:

Olivia, the master of the clan, is so one dimensional, overly so. You really couldn't be surprised by what she do or think. There is nothing much to her really. And she is not someone you would like. Very power hungry and selfish.

Our protagonist Rat, or Morgin as he was later named, is a do-nothing, achieve-nothing, go-nowhere-by-himself guy. He obviously has strong magical abilities and potential, as we are constantly reminded of; as was all this magical "hero" always seems to be; but obviously after years of magic training and study he obviously doesn't progress much or at all. He doesn't improve much in swordsmanship or at all either and he spend his days in town drinking and fucking prostitutes. Anything exciting or life changing events just happen to him or forced to him. His becoming part of the clan, his gaining of an important name, his wedding; everything is just happenstance and not by his own effort or desire. Olivia might be monotonous being one dimensional and all, but she has direction and strong purpose of living; Morgin on the other hand is totally pointless. You would have expect nothing from him if he was real. Who wants to read a story about a man that is just dragged about by people around him?

The minor characters are so terribly minor. Sure there are here and there would be snapshot stories where they would come upfront but those stories appears to be fillers and doesn't bear much to the overall story of the book. Of all the minor characters, AnnaRail and Roland might be the most interesting, even more so than the protagonist Rat/Morgin. They inject some humor, a different view of the story and interesting contrast with other characters but they appear very seldom and not used very well by the author. Other minor

characters like MichaelOff, DaNoel, JohnEngine and the like are more like props than actual characters. They are there to populate the scene but do little of actual substance or influence to the story.

If the author aren't able to create any interesting character, then at least a great exciting plot should be there to catch the slack. But no, the book just go on and on and on from one event to the next. There was this that happened, then this happened, then this and this and this. Individually they make some interesting short stories and anecdotes but as a whole they don't have any focus, purpose or direction. They are all so fragmented. Its like being hauled from one adventure to the next Alice in Wonderland style but without the adventure, the charm, the fun and especially the interesting characters.

There are events in the plot though that would have bring the bang in the story like Morgin's encounter with Valso, his kidnapping and the wedding, but all of them just come and go, the next episode going on like nothing big happened. All the interesting stuff and the author just waste it in the verbous dullness.

Morgins's encounter with Valso is very telling point of author machination. The author really forced everything so that the event occur. Beginning from his estrangement with his adopted grandmother Olivia (which uncharacteristically become lax and failed to make an effort to search for him after such an insult), his encounter with bandits (and why did Morgin suddenly become this stupid idiot, throwing all caution in the wind and abandoning his hardwired habits of wariness?), France coming to the rescue (we have a good Samaritan do we? And he will come to rescue everyone in need out of his good heart?), and of course the fortunate chance of picking the right tavern where the whole scene would happen (the author). There is just a lot of obvious machinations by the author all over the story it just become quite tiring. Obviously, the author has to do them because the characters are all so damn boring.

Then there is also the terrible lack of information about the nature of magic in this world. Many people has magical ability, that is given, their nature however is very confusing. We don't even see them use it that much. Or if they did, it was so unclear of what the nature of the magic is. The author is terribly skimpy in that matter.

From what I could see from what I have read (which is about more than a third of the book) the author is just bad in story making and horrible in storytelling. There is a lack of imagination and creativity in everything. We are presented with a story in serious need of revision. There might be more exciting parts further down but I'm not going to forgive the horrible beginning that I have to go through. The parts that I read will just destroys any respect and enjoyment I may have for those doubtful good things that might be there. The parts I read just killed my motivation to continue.

Not to mention the horrible cover art. Such an affront to the senses. In this case you could judge the book by the cover as both are equally horrible. And have you seen the book art of Book 2. It was even more ugly!

Contrarius says

Shadow magic has very much been done before (see, for example, *Jack of Shadows* by Roger Zelazny and the Sandman Slim series by Richard Kadrey), but I enjoyed Doty's book *A Choice of Treasons* so much that I'm determined to try something else by him. We Shall See!

Fredrick says

The evening of Jan 26, 2015 I had 3 books in front of me and after reading the back cover of two them and the dust jacket of the third I had decided that this book would probably be my second book. But just to be sure I always like to read the first few pages. After checking out the first book I opened Child of the Sword and those first few pages became a chapter and 287 pages later at 4 a.m. I put it down. With only about 20 pages left to read I think it is safe to say this is the first one I will read. I enjoyed enough that when I had a break this morning I went online and ordered books 2 and 3. There are books I read once and give to someone else to read and there are books I sit aside because I know I will enjoy reading them again I think this could be one of those to put aside and reread later.

Damgaard78 says

Really enjoyed the read. Interesting world building, young orphan with potential grows into supreme hero, ok sounds like one in a long line of storied already told, but I must say it works well here.

The story unfolds with a rapid pace and it was hard putting it down, which was also the reason I was kinda sad to realize that it was the first book in a series and the others are not out yet. That said its a very nice long book, often authors would have cheaped out and cut it into two, so I must say I really was impressed.

Bought it as a cheap kindle ebook and must say it was a delight to have a book not filled with bad grammar, and that combined with a cheap price can only make one appreciate it.

Deborah says

I was very pleased with this book. I bought it as a "recommended for you" book on Kindle...one of the ones that are offered for a few dollars.

I read a lot of fantasy books lately and I thought this was one of the better reads.

I loved the main character "rat" and I thought that the story line was very interesting.

I liked the way magic is portrayed.

I am always interested in the various ways that writers portray magic and the creative ways they are able to be "different" than other stories with magic.

There are many conflicts within the main character as he comes to learn his craft...and there are many "outside" conflicts that effect him.

The story moves at a fast pace. There is enough action for those who love action and just the right amount of description for those who like to "see" where they are and imagine the land around them as they read.

This story is about a young boy who comes to manhood in an adoptive family and how he deals with family ties...and how the various family members deal with this "new" person who suddenly appears in their life.

I would classify it as an action fantasy...yet there is a great deal of mystery, which is NOT solved by the ending of the first book.

The writer does give us a small taste of the 2nd book.

As I have stated before, I like to read older series where the 2nd and even 3rd book is already written.

Unfortunately for me, the 2nd book has not been published yet.

I found that when I finished the teaser chapters, I was not ready to put away the book and leave "Rat" behind.

I wanted more. I can think of no higher compliment to any writer....than wanting more.

Joe says

it was good up until the part where his wife got raped

JL Lucaban says

Hmmm... How would I describe this... Confusing, and very easy to understand at the same time. I love the story, it's characters, the scenes it conjures, and everything else. And the words, I'm not sure about the sentence construction and I won't comment on that since I'm not good at reviewing such things, but the words, it's like it was woven intricately, like a spell. I love that too, well for me that is.

Wes Davis says

Cautiously optimistic about the forth coming books. This one hooked me in the beginning, then kind of lost me, then hooked me again. I love the world that was created here, but honestly, there were a lot of cliché or, "I saw that one coming from a mile away!" moments. I'll continue reading though.

Ares says

3.5 Stars

The story began rather mildly and grew in intensity until it reached its peak, this is the kind of story that made frustrated, all along questioning and questing a truth that was hidden by the author who tries to make you feel blind for not seeing something and this something turn up to be nonexistent.

The development of the main character is my main complaint about the story, while the first chapters have drawn a peculiar character with a weak and fearful personality and later chapters still contained those characteristics, after a certain time skip I've found myself with a totally different main that I didn't recognise, and with each time skip longer than 2 years afterward the main continued to change, it left me unsteady and quite annoyed.

Other than that and the boring unoriginal blabbers of angels trying to make mortals sound like fools through the last chapters, it was quite good and the style of the author permit easy reading and enjoyable passing, most noticeable characters are France and the head of the clan both different but with great influence.

Give it a try you may find it to your taste.

Joecrash411 says

Once I got past the 1st chapter I was hooked. I've read the 1st (this one) and 2nd book in the series (The Gods Within) and think they are pretty great. Interesting storyline, good characters. Until I bite the bullet and pay the \$26 for Jordan's last book in the Wheel of Time series this is now my favorite "go to" when I want to re-read something.

NovelBrah says

When I first saw this book, my expectations were zero. Seemed like the author was rather unknown, and there weren't many reviews. However, being a big fantasy fan, I couldn't pass up on a book with "sword" in its title. Very good decision if I might say so myself.

I'm not here to tell you what the book is about... The description is there for a reason. I also believe that tastes vary with each reader, but what I do know, is that I enjoyed this book very much.

Story is mostly told through one character's view point, although there are well-timed jumps here and there. And if you're a fan of action, then you should definitely give this a try. Not only that, but it's actually a well written book. Can't tell you how many indie books I've come across that read like a high school essay. I might not be a sensational writer or possess substantial intellect, but even I have my standards and this book delivers.
