



Blades of Magic

Terah Edun

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It is not a peaceful time in the Algardis Empire. War is raging between the mages and seventeen-year-old Sara Fairchild will be right in the middle of it.

She just doesn't know it yet.

Sara is the daughter of a disgraced imperial commander, executed for desertion. Sara is also the best duelist and hand-to-hand combatant in Sandrin. She lives quietly with her family's shame but when challenged about her family's honor, her opponent inevitably loses.

On the night she finds out her father's true last actions, she takes the Mercenary Guilds' vows to serve in the emperor's army. Using her quick wits and fierce fighting skills, she earns a spot in the first division.

There she discovers secrets the mages on both sides would prefer stay hidden. Dark enemies hunt her and soon it's not just Sara questioning the motivation behind this war.

While fighting mages, blackmailing merchants and discovering new friends, Sara comes across something she's never had before - passion. The question is - can she fight for her empress against a mage who might unwittingly claim her heart?

This is year one of the Initiate Wars. Sara is hoping it doesn't become the year she dies.

Blades of Magic Details

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Author : Terah Edun

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From Reader Review Blades of Magic for online ebook

Jason LaVelle says

Holy cow! This book was a crazy, hot, violent mess of awesomeness! Love it. While I miss my Ciardis stories, this was a great change of pace. If you think you know Algardis, you ain't seen nothin' yet! Sara will totally knock your socks off(then kick your a\$& and take your weapons)!

Bellatrix *The Amazon Star* says

[
- It inverted the bad boy / good girl trope. Here, the strong character that took all the decisions and led the

Terah Edun says

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FictionForesight says

Review Originally Posted At: FictionForesight

Review:

Blades of Magic was a book with so much potential...but ended up being a disappointment. Set in the fantasy world of the Algardis Empire, the daughter of a disgraced military leader tries to find out what happened to her father who was executed on the battlefield for a mysterious act of treason. The more the protagonist, Sara, finds out, the more dangerous and mysterious her life becomes.

The Good:

The best thing about this book was the magic! Each type of magic was well-developed and so diverse that you never knew what to expect from a mage battle, but you knew it would be good. The only other good element of the story is that the main character was relatable and easy to like.

The Bad:

Where to begin? Well first and foremost the story had absolutely no resolution! I have reviewed books before like Cold Burn of Magic, that had some resolution, but this book had none. In fact the story seems to

end at the beginning of the rising action. This book felt like a 244 page teaser trailer that left you wanting so much more. If this book did not already have a sequel for it, as a reader, I would be really pissed! Nope, scratch that, still upset!

The other thing that I did not like about this book was Sara's only friend. This guy drove me up a wall! I wanted to like him so much, but one minute he was a clumsy, ignorant, coward, and the next he was skilled, wise, and brave. Now this would not normally bother me if this change happened over time as a result of personal growth. But this was not the case. He did not learn from his experiences and become better as a result. Instead, he would frequently alternate between these two completely polar opposite personalities.

Oh and one other point. When you are under fire in the middle of the battlefield...YOU DON'T STOP TO HAVE A Q&A SESSION! Once I could forgive, but this was a common occurrence.

Overall:

Honestly if not for the main character and the magic, I would have given *Blades of Magic* one star. This book had the potential to be great...but the elements that I loved so much, just could not carry the bad – i.e. the rest of this book. I wish that I had been reading a first draft, that way I could have sent it back to Terah Edun and had her fix it. I just can't get over what this book could should have been! I don't think I could recommend this book to anyone, except as a demonstration of a literary letdown, and an awesome magic system.

Jennifer says

Blades of Magic was such a fun, light epic fantasy read. Author Terah Edun does a fantastic job of jumping straight into the action while delivering a witty, sassy but vulnerable heroine. The mood and tone of the book begin with a fun blend of Victorian/Steampunk with swashbuckling fantasy. The rules of battle magic and mages, in general, made for some awesome and alternately hilarious moments. And the larger world we soon explore with Sarah is fascinating as much as it is deadly. I couldn't help wanting to read more and devoured this in an afternoon.

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

Blades of Magic is a young adult fantasy. I usually avoid young adult reads, but I picked this one up for free from Amazon and decided to give it a go.

I was soon drawn into a world full of unexpected things, a variety of different magics, and a young character who has a backbone, a sense of honor, and strength. The writing was easy and fluid allowing me to get immersed in the story. The world is vast and we only get a taste. There are hints of a complex political situation which created a civil war and more going on under the scene between different factions. It's exciting, adventurous, and fast paced.

I try to avoid young adults aka teenagers; because there always seems to be a lot of drama with them. They come off selfish and immature. That was not the case here with Sara the daughter of a disgraced imperial commander. She is well developed, approachable, and likable. Her methods may not always be agreeable,

but she was trained to think in a certain way. We see that the world is against her all because of what happened with her father and so she has learned to keep everyone except her mother at a distance, yet Ezekiel kinda sneaks under her defenses. I liked Ezekiel he balances Sara out. They make a nice team. It was nice to see Sara's hard mask crack at times showing that she is a person after all and I admire her willpower.

I will say the book ends quickly and I wish there was more. The ending felt like ending in the middle of a story or chapter. That is my only issue with *Blades of Magic*. Other than that I thoroughly enjoyed the first installment in the *Crown Service* series and plan on continuing, just to find out what happens next.

Blades of Magic is a light, easy read with a young heroine who is tough and strong in a world that is almost entirely against her.

Rated: 3.5 Stars

Sylvia Mercedes says

The Kickbutt Heroine Fantasy Genre is pretty much my favorite. It's a genre with lots of tropes, but they're tropes I can't get enough of -- particularly the trope of a strong young heroine with a secret and unusual power she is only just discovering. There are infinite ways to handle this trope, making it feel fresh, but it's full of universal relevance at the same time. (How many of us women need to realize that WE also have unusual power we haven't yet begun to discover?)

Blades of Magic is a great example of the genre. It started out a little bit rocky for me--Sara, the protagonist, is NOT a likeable person! Her magic is battle-magic, and she is a bloodthirsty, violent character with a huge chip on her shoulder. The kind of personality that is really cool in a thirty-something heroine, but in a seventeen-year-old . . . it's jarring! So for the first chapter or two, I just wasn't certain I would end up liking the book.

But . . . the author was super clever. She realized that her heroine needed a contrast, needed a foil to give her balance. So she introduced the character of Ezekiel -- a bespectacled geek-type who is a curator of unusual oddments in a warehouse which Sara is hired to guard. They are SUCH an odd pairing that at first I didn't even believe Ezekiel would survive more than a chapter or two!

Instead, he went on to become Sara's companion throughout a breathtaking adventure, helping her in her search to discover the secret of what TRULY happened to her father (who was executed for treason, leaving Sara's family disgraced and Sara herself brokenhearted). The story quickly turns into a more and more and more complex mystery, with unpredictable turns in every chapter. And at the heart of it, these two mismatched souls coming to a real and life-changing friendship.

Note--this relationship is a friendship only. It may or may not turn into a romance later (?), but there's no hint of anything like that in this book. You see the two of them learning to truly care for each other and help each other, but without a romantic element. And . . . it's really refreshing and delightful! Usually I like a healthy dose of romance in my kickbutt heroine fantasies (as long as it doesn't overwhelm the rest of the adventure), but I kind of loved that this one side-stepped neatly around that issue and made us see these people simply as two people. (Not EVERY male-female relationship has to be romantic!)

Anyway, this story surprised me and delighted me and thrilled me by turns. For the first few chapters I didn't think I'd like it, but now I think those chapters were necessary to the success of the story--without them, I wouldn't have fully appreciated everything else to come.

I'm super excited to have discovered this amazing author, and I look forward to seeing where Sara and Ezekiel's adventures take them in this ongoing series!

Rachel says

First, the good: There is a sense of a larger world here, with hints at some complexity in the political situation that created the civil war that serves as the story's backdrop. There is an interesting variety of magic (more on this later) and mentions of an unexpected past that informs the culture that main character Sara lives in.

The mediocre: The basic story is of the often-used "special young person sets off on a quest to right family wrongs" variety, with a side of "chosen one who doesn't realize **how** special she is who will save us all!" Nothing wrong with that, but nothing particularly new. The writing is uneven, with large chunks of exposition that break up the flow of the story and a tendency toward redundancy.

The bad: Sara is difficult to like, and worse, difficult to relate to. She is primarily emotionless except when angry. Her sudden friendship with curator/treasure hunter Ezekiel seems unlikely at best, given how deliberately callous she is most of the time. All of that could be overcome, however, if everything weren't so easy for her.

Sure, her life has been tragically ruined by circumstances outside her control, and this spoiled brat is now destitute and shamed for her dead father's sins. Big whoop. There's no tension in this story. Every time someone challenges her to a fight (spoiler: VERY OFTEN) she easily defeats her attacker(s). At no point is there a sense that Sara is actually in any danger. Her plans always work, with minimal obstacles. Worst of all, the one instance where it seems like something may be going wrong turns out to be authorial deception. Even though this is written from Sara's perspective and the reader often shares her thoughts, there is a section where the author writes about Sara's troubles getting along with her comrades as though she were upset and puzzled by their behavior--only to reveal that Sara herself fabricated all of the incidents. This is bad writing. Rather than making the character sympathetic, it jerks me out of the story with the urge to shake a finger at the author for trying to trick me.

Several other reviews mention the fact that this ends on a cliffhanger. This is true, but the problem is deeper than that. The story does not resolve, along any of the plot threads. There is a sort-of climax (again, with very little sense that the protagonist is ever in danger) and then it simply ends, with an exhortation to buy the next book if you want to know what happens next. None of the plot questions are answered and nothing in the world changes significantly. There is no character arc; Sara does not grow or change as a person at all. If this had been presented as the first part of a serialized novel, then the ending would make sense. However it is presented as a novel, and it simply isn't one. This book is incomplete.

I find it baffling that this was written by a bestselling author. I can only conclude that her other series must be better, or perhaps that this book was written in haste.

Jonel Boyko says

Welcome to the beautiful world of Sandrin, a magical place where the most unexpected things happen and where your imagination runs away with you.

Edun's breathes life into this remarkable story. Her easy and fluid writing style allows you to immerse yourself fully in the story at hand. She creates a remarkable world that is larger than life at times. The mix of magic and humanity completes the picture for this unforgettable tale. It's exciting and adventuresome, taking you a fast paced ride. The treasure hunting and mystical artefacts were an added bonus. It added an element of mystery and of history to the entire tale.

I love the main character in this novel. She is exceptionally well developed without being overdone. She remains approachable and likeable, even if you don't always agree with her decisions or methods. Her partner in action is equally loveable. The contrast between these two characters is both revealing and inviting. The dialogue in this novel was also quite well done. It was natural and really added to the story.

Overall, this was a light, easy read with a kick. It is a must read novel for all lovers of fantasy.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

James Davis says

This book couldn't decide what its plot was. There were about seven plots jammed together in a haphazard, Frankensteinian fashion. The characters were jarring and abrasive, with no redeeming qualities. This was an ignoble beginning to 2015's reading list.

Some basics: if you're going to give your main character superpowers that have severe drawbacks to counter them, introduce them in balanced fashion. If your main character had a life of wealth and privilege and is suddenly brought low, for the love of Shakespeare, **SHOW** some of the consequences instead of having the main character think about them in an abstract way. Job hunting and finding a job on the first try doesn't count. Also, if your main character's employer is sinister and running some sort of mysterious operation, it **IS** ok to take the plot elsewhere, but you should either wrap it up or do something to hint that it will be back.

Imagine if Luke Skywalker escaped the Death Star, but then instead of going to Yavin and joining the last desperate fight he went to a bar and hired on as a circus performer. This book has that level of plot dissonance.

Gary Sundell says

I enjoyed this first book in this series. Looking forward to reading more about Sara, the young battlemage and her friend the archivist, Ezekial.

Sharon Michael says

I liked this well enough to be thinking it would end up being a 'keep to re-read' which doesn't happen too often with me. A lot of things to like, characters, interesting world and storyline although the plot was pretty standard. That was until the last 10 pages or so, as it ended as an absolute cliffhanger, just as the characters were stepping forward into a major battle.

Cliffhanger endings are a personal major issue for me, hate them. Won't be re-reading, won't be reading any more of what is apparently going to be a series.

Volpot says

3.5 stars. OK, but some realism issues

Stacey Brutger says

DESCRIPTION:

It is not a peaceful time in the Algardis Empire. War is raging between the mages and seventeen-year-old Sara Fairchild will be right in the middle of it.

She just doesn't know it yet.

Sara is the daughter of a disgraced imperial commander, executed for desertion. Sara is also the best duelist and hand-to-hand combatant in Sandrin. She lives quietly with her family's shame but when challenged about her family's honor, her opponent inevitably loses.

On the night she finds out her father's true last actions, she takes the Mercenary Guilds' vows to serve in the emperor's army. Using her quick wits and fierce fighting skills, she earns a spot in the first division.

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This is year one of the Initiate Wars. Sara is hoping it doesn't become the year she dies.

REVIEW:

We are introduced to Sara very dramatically, and I absolutely loved the opening fight scene. We're immediately dropped into her life as a daughter of a disgraced soldier. Sara was treated as a pariah, where her survival rested on the sword skills her father had taught her. Despite having everything taken from her, she refused to lose her honor, too.

But when Sara discovered that her father might not be guilty, she can't let go of the need to uncover what really happened. Her decision changed the course of her life. Now she was on the run from people who will do everything in their power to stop her from discovering the truth. It will take all her skill with her sword and magic to survive.

I absolutely enjoyed reading this adventure. Sara's sword fighting ability was amazing, not to mention the fascinating way she controlled her magic - Berserkers anyone? Her sidekick was a hoot! Their introduction just phenomenal. The combination of action and mystery, plus magic and drama kept me hooked. I've enjoyed both the story and the characters. Unfortunately, the ending just stopped in the middle of the action. Very disappointing. I will be reading part two, grudgingly, but only because the book was so enjoyable.

Posted from my site: www.StaceyBrutger.com

Kal ★ Reader Voracious says

3.5 stars, solid first installment to a new fantasy series featuring magic and intrigue.

Blades of Magic follows Sara Fairchild, daughter of disgraced former gladiator and Commander for the Empress Vincent Fairchild. It's been months since her father was labeled a deserter and executed, but Sara and her mother never really were told why. After uncovering the mystery surrounding her father's death extends beyond the military's willingness to disclose the circumstances, she joins the mercenaries and goes to the frontlines of battle in the hopes of answers... but of course finds more than she bargained for.

Sara is the epitome of a strong female character, although her pride certainly gets in the way. (view spoiler)

The reason that I rated the book 3.5 stars instead of four stars is solely due to the structure of the story. This is a fast read, but there are a few points in the book where I lost interest and skimmed for a couple of pages until my interest was regained. But my main issue with the book is that the world-building and exposition was left to the last 20% of the book and it felt rather unbalanced. I wish that there had been more world-building throughout (for example, not waiting until page 260 to finally explain what was going on with the civil war that had been mentioned multiple times throughout the book). I love character driven books, but I am equally interested in an understanding of the world that those characters inhabit - the politics, the war - especially when those things are crucial to the overall plot of the series.

Those that have read Edun's *Courtlight* series will notice a drastic improvement in the writing and editing of this book comparatively. This book is technically well written and edited well and has the air of a professionally written and edited book. Edun has the creativity to weave an interesting tale, and she is starting to come into her own as she continues to develop as a writer.

I'd recommend this book to those interested in strong female characters, battles, magic, and the intrigue of uncovering a family secret. This book is the first in a series but does not end in a cliffhanger. It is currently on sale for free on Amazon kindle.
