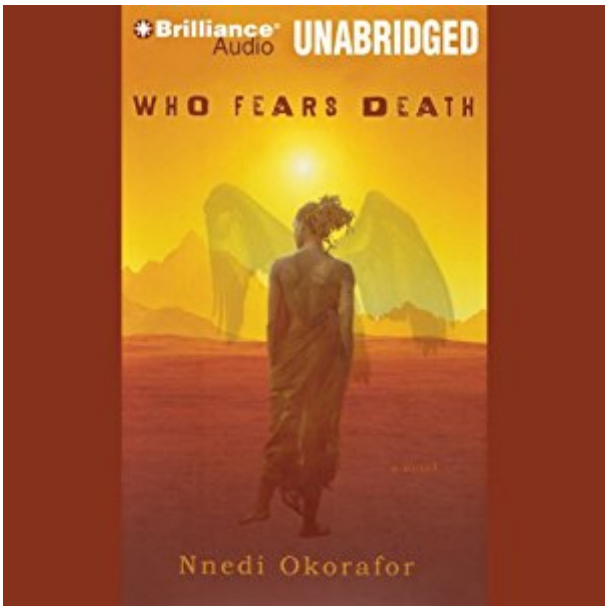
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Who Fears Death



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Synopsis

In a far future, post-nuclear-holocaust Africa, genocide plagues one region. The aggressors, the Nuru, have decided to follow the Great Book and exterminate the Okeke. But when the only surviving member of a slain Okeke village is brutally raped, she manages to escape, wandering farther into the desert. She gives birth to a baby girl with hair and skin the color of sand and instinctively knows that her daughter is different. She names her daughter Onyesonwu, which means "Who Fears Death?" in an ancient African tongue. Reared under the tutelage of a mysterious and traditional shaman, Onyesonwu discovers her magical destiny - to end the genocide of her people. The journey to fulfill her destiny will force her to grapple with nature, tradition, history, true love, the spiritual mysteries of her culture - and eventually death itself.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 15 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 15 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Brilliance Audio
Audible.com Release Date: July 29, 2010
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B003Y58Q3Q
Best Sellers Rank: #95 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Paranormal #122 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Cultural Heritage #388 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction

Customer Reviews

This book became extremely slow about halfway in, I am glad I stuck with it. This is not so much science fiction only a little, it is a lot of fantasy. It is a healing story with strong sexual undertones, but not in a corny way, the sexuality is earthy and real. It can’t be compared to any western writing that I have ever read, it is very similar to other African writing I have read, with superstition as metaphor used heavily.

Am an Octavia Butler fan and found Nnedi Okorafor in a related search. Both authors create fascinating worlds--future dystopian type scenarios where sci-fi and magical realism mix. I plan to

seek out Nnedi’s other work.

I love stories and was excited to learn that Nnedi Okorafor loves both reading and writing them. On the strength of my read of "Binti," I tackled "Who Fears Death" as a leap of faith that I can acknowledge now as worthy of my time. My reluctance to read the jacket matter or the reviews paid off more than I’d imagined, as did my habit of allowing the writer to tell their story; my actions couldn’t have been a better decision. My recommendation: Read the title page and the copyright page. Then start with Chapter 1 and finish the book. Finally, read the afterword. Next!

Top-notch world-building, intriguing magic system. Pacing felt uneven at times, but not enough to disrupt my reading overall. The ending might frustrate some readers, but it’s a neat structural choice.Our main character is strong and flawed, a great combination. Without spoiling some of the later events, I do wish the narrative had interrogated some of her choices a bit more in light of her expressed beliefs and values, particularly regarding rape, consent, and body autonomy.

Probably one of my favorite books I’ve read in quite a while.I won’t recap the premise of the book, but I was a little unsure of it at first. The plot made me think of an African version of Harry Potter, determined to defeat evil with the help of magic and, most of all, by relying on friends. Sounded a bit like the coming-of-age stuff I usually steer clear of.There is a lot of adult content in this book, both violent and sexual. Nothing is so overt that it detracts from the story, though.The characters are captivating.Though this story takes place in an Africa different from today, there were references sprinkled through the story that tied in with different parts of African life.Some of the not-so-great parts were carried over into this Africa -- like brutal violence, rape, and practices such as female circumcision.But there were good parts, too.There were religious references (the most obvious mentions were of Ogun and Eshu), literary head-nods (such as the reference to The Palm-Wine Drinkard at the end of the story), and even regional cuisine (like egusi soup).Not being familiar with any of these things certainly wouldn’t hurt your appreciation of the story. For me at least, I felt like these little things help ad an additional layer of appreciation and drew me in further.It was a beautiful story and I’d definitely recommend it to others.

This is a story for the ages. I’ve read it three times and it reads differently each time. I wonder if Nnedi did that on purpose? Well worth reading and re-reading.

All in all, social norms aside, Who Fears Death was a very new kind of story ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ to me. It was very messy in itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s drama, but very clean in the way that it ended. This story is very much informed by real world happenings, considering that the main character is a child of violent rape. However, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a major sci-fi/fantasy tint to it. The book is 99% over before we find out that the land Onye spent the whole book traveling used to be the Kingdom of Sudan, so we can go ahead and file this one under dystopian future as well. Still, I loved it, and I look forward to reading OkoraforÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s next book, Binti.For the full review, please click here: http://eurydicehowell.com/2015/08/29/review-nnedi-okorafors-who-fears-death/

Incredible book! Well written and engaging. It does speak of genital mutilation, so be advised of that. If you like fantasy or magic, you will enjoy it.

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