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Golden Son (The Red Rising Series, Book 2)



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Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Ã¢â ¬Â¢Ã Â NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR, BUZZFEED, AND BOOKLIST Ã¢â ¬Â¢Ã Â With shades of The Hunger Games, EnderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Game, and Game of Thrones, debut author Pierce BrownÃ¢â ¬â„¢s genre-defying epic Red Rising hit the ground running and wasted no time becoming a sensation. Golden Son continues the stunning saga of Darrow, a rebel forged by tragedy, battling to lead his oppressed people to freedom.As a Red, Darrow grew up working the mines deep beneath the surface of Mars, enduring backbreaking labor while dreaming of the better future he was building for his descendants. But the Society he faithfully served was built on lies. DarrowÃ¢â ¬â„¢s kind have been betrayed and denied by their elitist masters, the GoldsÃ¢â ¬â •and their only path to liberation is revolution. And so Darrow sacrifices himself in the name of the greater good for which Eo, his true love and inspiration, laid down her own life. He becomes a Gold, infiltrating their privileged realm so that he can destroy it from within. A lamb among wolves in a cruel world, Darrow finds friendship, respect, and even loveÃ¢â ¬â •but also the wrath of powerful rivals. To wage and win the war that will change humankindÃ¢â ¬â„¢s destiny, Darrow must confront the treachery arrayed against him, overcome his all-too-human desire for retributionÃ¢â ¬â •and strive not for violent revolt but a hopeful rebirth. Though the road ahead is fraught with danger and deceit, Darrow must choose to follow EoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s principles of love and justice to free his people. He must live for more.BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Pierce Brown's Morning Star.Praise for Golden SonÃ¢â ¬Å“Gripping . . . Both author and lead character have cranked up the emotional stakes. . . . With Golden Son, Brown avoids the sophomore slump, charging the novel with the kind of dystopia-toppling action youÃ¢â ¬â„¢d expect in a trilogy ender, not a middle volume. On virtually every level, this is a sequel that hates sequelsÃ¢â ¬â •a perfect fit for a hero who already defies the tropes. [Grade:] AÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Entertainment WeeklyÃ¢â ¬Å“Stirring . . . Comparisons to The Hunger Games and Game of Thrones series are inevitable, for this tale has elements of both.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“Brown writes layered, flawed characters . . . but plot is his most breathtaking strength. . . . Every action seems to flow into the next.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •NPRÃ¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a far superior sequel, in fact: one of the rare breed of reads that improves upon its predecessor in every conceivable category. . . . In a word, Golden Son is stunning. Never mind how little weÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve seen of 2015: Among science fiction fans, it should be a shoo-in for book of the year.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Tor.comÃ¢â ¬Å“Brown is a prodigy. As great as the first book of the Red Rising Trilogy is, Golden Son is even better. A wild ride full of suspense, intrigue, and serious ass-kicking bravado, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s expertly written and emotionally

engaging, with top-notch universe-building that begs for further exploration. I want more!Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Christopher Golden, New York Times bestselling author of Snowblind Ã¢â ¬Å“The stakes are even higher than they were in Red Rising, and the twists and turns of the story are every bit as exciting. The jaw-dropper of an ending will leave readers hungry for the conclusion to BrownÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wholly original, completely thrilling saga.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist (starred review) Ã¢â ¬Å“Dramatic . . . the rare middle book that loses almost no momentum as it sets up the final installment.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Golden Son continues the story of Darrow, a deep-undercover agent of the low-caste Reds, who is uniquely positioned among the high-caste Golds, and is trying to sow discord in an effort to restructure the society that keeps his people as slaves. It’s the second book in the Red Rising trilogy, and is as exciting as the first.The series strikes at the fundamental core of our American independence - free will. Many stories have been told of dystopic societies that paint a worrisome future for us if we "continue down the path we’re on." Most of them have oppressive regimes that all

feel they are doing what is necessary to keep the peace. Look to Star Wars and The Hunger Games, to name just a few. These stories take our fundamental desire for free will and suppress it in a structure that appeals to the reader on a visceral level.Brown does a remarkable job of playing with the reader's emotions, to the point where one takes personal offense at the content of the story. This draws the reader in and attaches themselves to the fate of the characters, willing the characters to make the right choices and make the same decisions the reader would make. You're all but cheering along with the victories, and weeping with the tragedies.The world Brown has built is rich and expansive. Not just the planetary scale of characters, but the depth with which the society has been carefully constructed to serve the story and reflect history. There's enough for everyone to relate to from a historical perspective, and yet it's easy to become lost in the overwhelming "now" of the narrative.Golden Son is as amazing as Red Rising; the story is relentless and engaging, if not a bit predictable. Just a bit, though. There are patterns that must be followed of course, but you'll still enjoy the ride the entire time.

Overview: Begins ~1-2 years following the events in Red Rising. Darrow continues trying to establish his presence in society and gain notoriety/power. But the Son's of Ares and Cassius's brood are stirring in the background... how long can the pressure build before the pot explodes?+ Continues the overarching themes and ideas from the first book. Generally speaking, if you like the first one you should like this one. The book has enough negatives that it should be 3stars... but it reads sooo good that I cant do it.+/- Slightly more political then the first book.- The main issue in the book is the time-lapse. It is handled extremely poorly. It almost seems like I missed a 1.5 novel. Darrow has established relationships with other people, gained new friends, and somehow ended his relationship with Mustang by the time we catch back up with him. Not to mention he has under gone a ton of training and other trials---- some of which are not even brought up until the end of the book.- By the end of the book characters have started become repetitive. We see the same character cycle with at least 3 characters in a row.- This book has missing plot elements- minor plot spoiler (I try to be vague): [There is a point in the book where the protagonists are trying to martial forces because they don't have enough. But it backfires and they lose a bunch instead. But then they are able to carry out the plan with less forces...even though they couldn't before. 3-1=5. Apparently.

While it starts off with an engaging encounter turning everything achieved in ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœRed RisingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ on its head, immediately after, the narrative fell into that long-winded flat

tone I found at the beginning of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœRed Rising.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ The story is interesting but the writing style is not so compelling for me. Pierce can have such a meaningful and succinct turn of phrase that really resonates... and then waffle for pages on mundane happenings. It's really frustrating to sing his praises when I find times I'm so bored I'd rather wait for my dog to fart for entertainment.So, after 131 pages, I had to put the book down and walk away. Reading three other novels before returning for a second wind. And then it is all so interesting and so political... but that went hand in hand with wavering engagement. With many long difficult character names (and there are lots of them) and such macabre machinations I only got another 100 pages before I needed another rest. Slow pacing and a dry narrative are killing me!The story is great. Complex characters. Political chess playing manoeuvres. Power plays. It has all the ingredients I usually love in a novel but it just didn't sell me. I found my interest waning a number of times, bogged down with too much detail, too much padding to the main story line in a barren narrative tone. And then, like a switch had been flipped, I was back into it again. It was as if only half of the book really grabbed me and the other half put me to sleep. Talk about polarising.I took just under a month to read ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœGolden SonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ and managed to read another eleven novels in between. I'm hoping it was just a second-book-syndrome thing. Because I liked ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœRed RisingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ and can imagine the finale to be explosive. Especially after the hype this series has received. I don't think I'm all that emotionally invested in the characters, they are all about war and revenge and playing a long game to end oppression. That leaves little room for softness and building trust and love outside the harsh landscape - I guess that's why I kept putting the book down because it was so hard to digest knowing that they all turn on each other.My favourite scene was that of Darrow with his mother. It was the first emotional connection I'd gotten to the series - even in comparison to the death of Eo.Here's hoping it gets better... I really want to love this series.

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