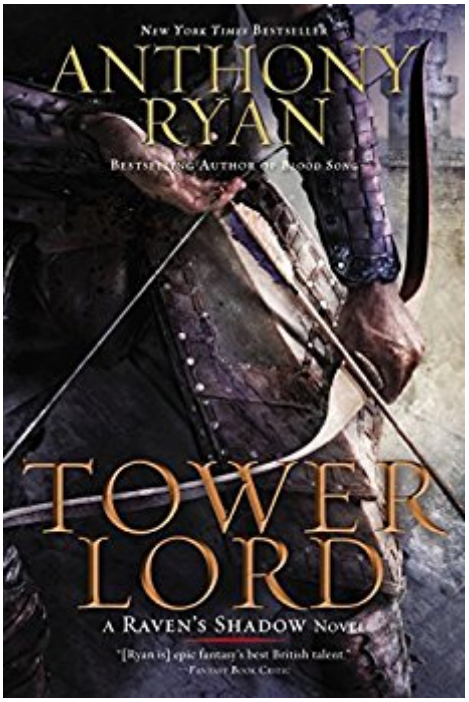
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Tower Lord (A Raven's Shadow Novel, Book 2)



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Synopsis

In Blood Song, Anthony Ryan introduced readers to Ã¢â ¬Å“a fascinating world of conflicting religions and the wars fought in the name of those faithsÃ¢â ¬Â• (Library Journal).Ã Â Now RyanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s epic tale continues as Vaelin Al Sorna discovers that there is no escape from the call of destinyÃ¢â ¬Â¦Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The blood-song rose with an unexpected tune, a warm hum mingling recognition with an impression of safety. He had a sense it was welcoming him home.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Vaelin Al Sorna, warrior of the Sixth Order, called Darkblade, called Hope Killer. The greatest warrior of his day, and witness to the greatest defeat of his nation: King JanusÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vision of a Greater Unified Realm drowned in the blood of brave men fighting for a cause Vaelin alone knows was forged from a lie. Sick at heart, he comes home, determined to kill no more. Named Tower Lord of the Northern Reaches by King JanusÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grateful heir, he can perhaps find peace in a colder, more remote land far from the intrigues of a troubled Realm.Ã Â But those gifted with the blood-song are never destined to live a quiet life. Many died in King JanusÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wars, but many survived, and Vaelin is a target, not just for those seeking revenge but for those who know what he can do. The Faith has been sundered, and many have no doubt who their leader should be. The new King is weak, but his sister is strong. The blood-song is powerful, rich in warning and guidance in times of trouble, but is only a fraction of the power available to others who understand more of its mysteries. Something moves against the Realm, something that commands mighty forces, and Vaelin will find to his great regret that when faced with annihilation, even the most reluctant hand must eventually draw a sword.Ã Â Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book one was better...although this was a good step forward, the writing lacked the intensity and the gravitation of book one....Anthony seems to stray from his use of descriptive writing here..the characters are not granted enough description in order for us to accept and understand their decisions.....it also lacks a clear sequence of events and is riddled with inconsistencies...In book one we learned to understand that Vaelin’s skill and fortitude was attributed to his childhood struggles and his time in the sixth order but in this book he seems to lose much of his defining traits. Also the introduction of a new character (Reva) was well thought of but her sudden rise from a passable knife fighter to a sword and bow fighter skilled enough to match Vaelin makes completely no sense. All in all this book strayed far from the well-roundedness of book one.

I feel a bit let down after the brilliance of Anthony Ryan’s debut novel, Blood Song. Tower Lord follows four POVs (Vaelin, Frentis, Lyrna, and a new character, Reva), and had so many supporting characters, I had trouble keeping them all straight (even with the appendix in the back). The pacing was incredibly slow in the first third, and it was difficult both remembering everyone and staying interested.Once the pacing picked up, it became an easier read. Surprisingly, I think I liked Lyrna best of all. Vaelin was, of course, a consistently admirable character. But overall, Tower Lord was a a disappointing and disjointed follow-up to Blood Song.

It was okay, but Blood Song was definitely better. It didn’t flow as well, and some of the sections felt forced. Some things felt random and disrupted the enjoyment of the story for a bit before things calmed down again. I have to say I didn’t enjoy Lyrna’s pov as much as I thought I would. She was more mysterious in the previous book, but in this one her thoughts seemed too plain I couldn’t get a real flavor for her personality. And of course, not enough Vaelin. It seemed as though the author had an objective he wanted to reach, but the timeline of the objective was short even though the book had so many pages. It created the feeling of not much happening, and made me feel like i had

waited so patiently for this book only to be a bit disappointed. There were some epic moments, especially Vaelin’s, but they were short and far in between. There was quite a bit of info, but not enough of that epicness that I was looking forward to. Also, the whole "evil voice" thing reminds me too much of wheel of time. Not that it’s bad for different series to have similarities but a lot of the plot in this book felt like i’d seen it before somewhere else and i felt like it could have been done better.

I tried, I really did. I persevered to the last page, kept hoping it would grab me- the previous book was great and I had anticipated this so long! I know sometimes a book plays hard to get but this was not the case here....plenty of action, but little clarity on who was who and why- I found the style obfuscated the clarity of the tale with too many new players without sufficient depth to make me care about them. One dimensional characters. Frustrating to read and I have no idea of the significance or motivation of many of them, including the very last attacker on the final page. I am sad to say I will not read further despite my fondness for Lyrna and Vaelin, Frentis and Nortah. There are too many good books waiting to be read to put myself through this torture again. Gratuitous violence coupled with weird plot twists is not enough to involve me. This was hard work. I lived the first book- perhaps the author was under too much pressure to get this out, hence the contrived feel? I love epic fantasy but even this genre has it’s rules. When I call a fantasy ’unrealistic’ it’s those rules that I refer to. Sorry to slam- my first negative review- and I think this writer can do a lot better. I will read him again but not this series. Sadly I let the fate of Lyrna and Vaelin be without the need to know.

Very disappointing effort from Anthony Ryan. He showed such promise in the first book in this series that I was eagerly awaiting the second. The first book was original and inventive with a good story and excellent character development. This second book was bland and unoriginal, it read much like all the other medieval fantasy drivel that is out there on the market. This was still a cut above most of the other drivel so I gave it 3 stars, but my expectations were much higher and thus I feel let down. I purchased the first Tower Lord novel for 99 cents and thought it was an unbelievable bargain; I bought this second book for $13.99 and felt like I was robbed so I guess it evens out.

By converting from an excellent single character narrative to a "Now let’s get in the minds of all those secondary characters you never liked anyway" generic fantasy novel format, the book lost all of the unique charm of the first novel. The main character has lost all that made him unique and the extra characters are also severely lacking in interesting personality.A disappointing sequal to an

excellent book.

Bloodsong is one of the most enjoyable books I've read in the last couple of years. This one was a good book with a good story, even though each of the threads was individually interesting and well written, it got confusing and took away from a good cohesive story focused on the hero. Normally I would give a book like this maximum stars but it contained 3 things that I do not like in my books.1. Multiple story lines that change with each chapter, The princess story line was the least interesting. The one on Frentis was interesting enough to be a stand alone book.2. Superman loses his power - uggh just don't do it. Its tired, frustrating, and creates a predictable outcome.3. Cliffhangars - this one ends on a semi-cliffhangar and as long as it took to come out after the first its going to be a couple years before we hear resolution.

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