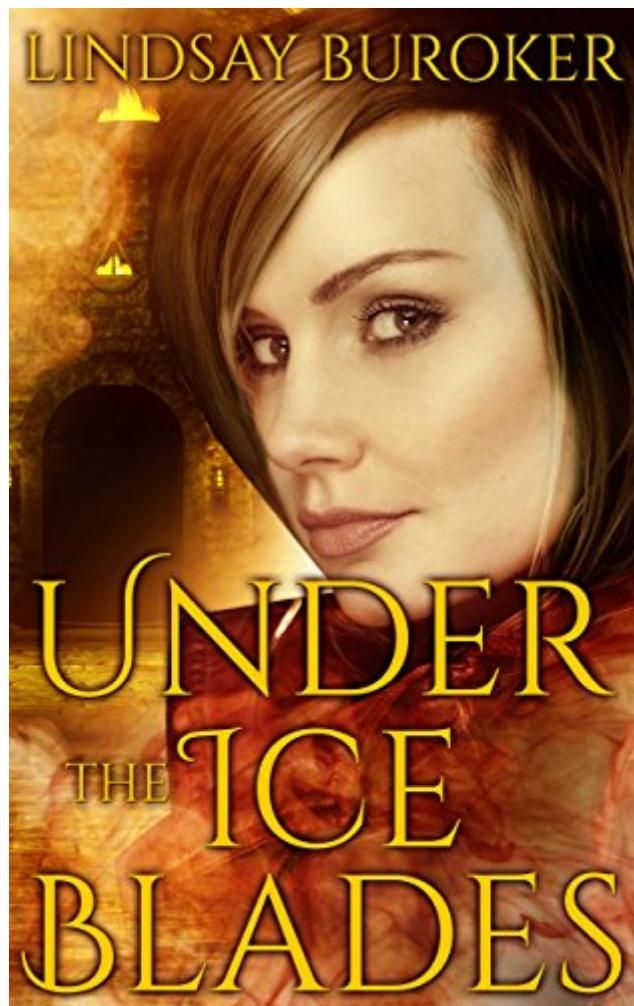


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Under The Ice Blades (Dragon Blood, Book 5.5)



Synopsis

Captain Astuwilda Kaika is an elite forces soldier, a demolitions expert, and a woman who loves secret missions. She most certainly isn't someone with the patience to teach General Zirkander's raw cadets how to survive encounters with the enemy. Certain she's been given this duty as a punishment, she confronts her superiors, only to find out that King Angulus himself gave her the assignment. When she attempts to reasonably and respectfully—and certainly not presumptuously—explain to him that she's not suited for teaching, she gets swept up in a mission to a secret research facility that has been invaded by enemy agents. Soon, she, King Angulus, and General Zirkander are engrossed in an investigation that could change the world—and destroy all that they know.

Book Information

File Size: 2092 KB

Print Length: 124 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1519493762

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: October 1, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0163LU8HO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #37,918 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #54 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #69 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #946 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic

Customer Reviews

I don't recall how I came to read the first book in the series though I'm pretty sure it was through either EarlyBirdBooks or BookBub (if you don't subscribe to these eBook services, you should! Do a

search as I can't link them here.).I'm not a big fan of "fantasy" (read "magic") books so I was most pleasantly surprised with this series. Author Buroker met and exceeded my expectations; The story captured my attention, has characters I could invest in and moved the action through exploits and adventures I could identify with. (My personal Big3 in rating a book, whether for review here or just for myself.) Buroker also meets a 4th criteria; each book in the series is a complete story. I grant that there are details in early books that add to the later ones but, that aside, each book can stand alone as far as the story therein is concerned.Basics: a human with magical powers attended by or, perhaps, attendant to a magical sword awakens from 300 years of unintended hibernation into a world which hates and fears magic. The mid-steam era world none the less uses pieces of magic to power its only slightly advanced technology, primitive aircraft. "SteamPunk" comes to mind as a descriptive term. Said magical human teams with the most famous pilot of that era to protect King and kingdom from powerful enemies both internal and external.Rather hackneyed in my words, in Burokner's words the story is a delight. Try the first one and if you aren't hooked I'll give you back every penny you paid for this review!

This is a novella. If you've read "Balanced on a Blade's Edge", this is a sequel to Book 5, and a sort-of-prequel to 6.The main viewpoint character is Captain Kaika, a commando who showed up earlier in the series as a minor character. This is a fun read, fast moving. It's a bit of a necessary interlude between Book 5 and Book 6 (it helps explain a lot of what you see in 6), and gives some character development that you would otherwise find surprising in 6. The rest of the series is rather necessary to fully enjoy this novel. Books 1 and 2 are relatively standalone, and can be read in either order; but 3/4/5 need to be done in that sequence.I recommend that you try out "Balanced on a Blade's Edge" (free) to see if you like the author and this particular series. If you do, books 1-3 are currently bundled at a very good value. Be warned, 3 is a bit cliff-hanger-ish.The novella in 5.5 ends neatly, but leaves a hugely hanging villain (think Darth Vader spinning off into space at the end of Star Wars: A New Hope, but more so).Highly recommended if you're already a fan of this series. If you don't know the series, start off with the free sample!

DISCLAIMER: The following thoughts were originally posted on my book blog (link in bio).Under the Ice Blades is a glimpse into the heads of our crazy-for-explosions captain Kaika and that of the king of Iskandia.At first I was quite uncertain as to what to expect of the king and the captain and had my doubts about them even fitting together, but I believe this story explained it enough for me to kind of root for that unlikely couple. Although I have to admit that I liked the action bit more than the

romance-y part of the story. Also, I have to say that I expected a bit more of Ridge as his role wasn't that big and Angulus and Kaika had to save the day themselves. After having fallen into some trouble first ... Enjoyable and I'm definitely going to continue as there're so many things left to discover.

I don't know what to say here without giving the story away! Let's just say an unexpected and totally wonderful liaison forms. Two people who really, really need each other and when they figure it out - wow!! All the characters we have come to know and love and cheer for are in it. Trouble is afoot in a secret weapons development site and much to everyone's consternation, the King himself is going to head the team that goes to check out what's going wrong. Mayhem, magic, dragons and sexual tension abound - just what we love about Lindsay's books. I'd give her books 10 stars if I could let me.

I have become addicted to Lindsey Buroker's books. Her characters are really superbly imagined and completely believable! She has invested each one - leading figure or not - with unique and wonderful attributes. I would suggest that you just break down and buy the series, you will want to be a part of the lives of these characters as long as you possibly can! Magic, ethos, pathos, humanity - it's all here in a tale of gripping action.

I ... love ... this ... series. I mean cAfÃ¢Â¢Â Å mon how could you not with dragons, magic, dog fights/fighter pilots, and loveable and funny characters? I was rooting for this pairing to happen while reading the series. Kaika and Angulus, together, are a perfect match. I can't wait until Raptor comes out, though I wonder if it will top the awesomeness that was The Blade's Memory. I have faith that it will be its own brand of awesome despite this. I have yet to meet a Buroker book that I don't like.

I wasn't sure I'd really like a whole story from the perspective of this particular formerly-secondary character (call me romantic, but I'm not accustomed to a utterly uninhibited heroine whose attitude toward intimate activity remains that it's a casual pastime/exercise), but this novella turned out to be plenty of fun. It was our first real look at the king, too, and it was good to see him as very human. They're an interesting combination.

This book (short story) expands on an adventure occurring between the end of book 5 and the

beginning of book 6. You can follow the story easily without reading "Under the Ice Blades", but ohhhh what you'll be missing! Lindsay Buroker's series are filled with humor, action, adventure, fantasy, and great Fun!!! Get the Audible narration too, you won't be sorry.

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