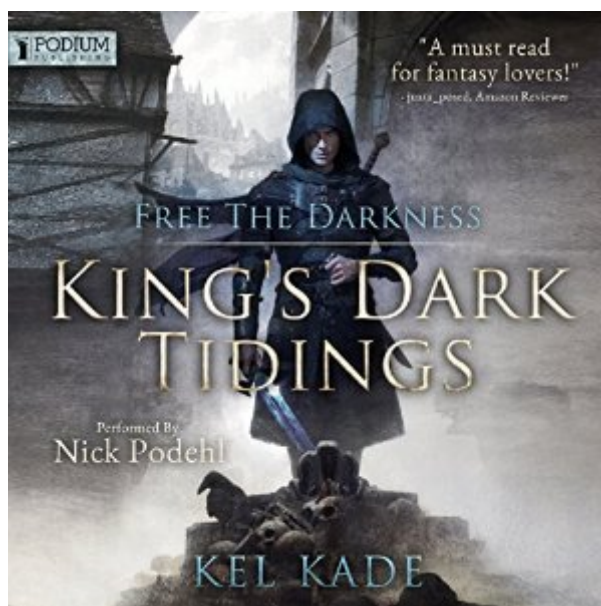


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Free The Darkness: King's Dark Tidings, Book 1



Synopsis

Raised and trained in seclusion at a secret fortress on the edge of the northern wilds of the Kingdom of Ashai, a young warrior called Rezkin is unexpectedly thrust into the outworld when a terrible battle destroys all that he knows. With no understanding of his life's purpose and armed with masterful weapons mysteriously bestowed upon him by a dead king, Rezkin must travel across Ashai to find the one man who may hold the clues to his very existence. Determined to adhere to his last orders, Rezkin extends his protection to an unlikely assortment of individuals he meets along the way, often leading to humorous and poignant incidents. As if pursuing an elite warrior across a kingdom, figuring out who he is and why everyone he knows is dead, and attempting to find these so-called friends and protect them is not enough, strange things are happening in the kingdom. New dangers begin to arise that threaten not only Rezkin and his friends, but possibly everyone in Ashai. This is the first installment of an ongoing series. This book is intended for adult readers. It contains graphic violence, creative language, and sexual innuendo. This book does not contain explicit sexual content.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours and 33 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Podium Publishing

Audible.com Release Date: August 30, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01KIOOUGW

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic #14 in Books >

Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic #15 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Coming of Age

Customer Reviews

Free the Darkness is a solid purchase overall, and I was able to enjoy the book despite some pretty annoying traits. I think the best way to review this book is to highlight the good and bad parts, and leave it at that. I'll get the bad stuff out of the way first. The BAD: 1. Needs a copy editor. There are quite a few homophones in this book. "Steal" when he meant "Steel", "Heal" when he meant "Heel" etc. 2. While the plot is an interesting IDEA, there really isn't much that goes on. Mysterious child

trained since birth to be an expert fighter/spy/healer/something sets off to find out who he is and what he was meant to do. While he gets in a lot of fights and does a few things, most of it seems written to show how awesome he is, and nothing really happens. He travels from one place to another. That's...about it.³ Speaking about how awesome he is...wow, this guy is a real Gary Stu. He is literally the best in the world EVER at EVERYTHING. Fighting, spycraft, history, tactics, blah blah blah. Nobody can injure him, nobody can outsmart him, no lock or door can stop him. He never even gets on anyone's bad side or makes any enemies. While people get mad at him, they admit he did nothing wrong and it's their own fault they don't like him. It gets boring after the first 100 pages. Also, there are at least 50 (not kidding) mentions of how physically perfect he is: his physique, eyes, hair, teeth, you name it. In fact, the women in this book only exist to obsess over him. Every. Single. Female. does nothing but swoon and fight over him. That's it. So if you like strong feminine characters, look elsewhere.⁴ Speaking of the characters, they're all flat. Everyone is simply a foil for the awesomeness that is the MC.

I bought this as part of my usual xmas swag of self-published books and was very pleasantly surprised. This is the best self-published book I have bought to date. Overall the writing is good, with a plain, literate prose style that focuses on the characterisation. As a result the book is dialogue heavy, with limited imagery. The story swaps perspective from character to character, often with little grammatical indication that it has done so. It is a tribute to the characterisation that despite the lack of structural indication of a PoV swap that I was never lost, the individual motivations and style of each major character being enough to keep the PoV clear. Based on just the writing I would probably have given the book only four stars, but the story takes the book to another level. The storyline is nicely unique while still very much being within the mainstream of the fantasy genre. This makes for an easy read as it does not require the author to do loads of exposition in order for you to understand the world around the characters and at no time does the plot lose you in ridiculous complexity. It is the characters that really make this book; the author obviously has a real talent for creating interesting characters. The main character is a classic high fantasy construct, though unique in his own way, but easily the most powerful and capable being in the books and the result is he accomplishes his goals with little challenge. The secondary characters are genre standards, but done really well, given their own feelings and voice, making them anything but cardboard cut-outs and making you care about them.

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