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Erak's Ransom: Ranger's Apprentice, Book 5



Synopsis

Winner of the Australian Book of the Year Award for Older Children, John Flanagan has sold millions of his popular Ranger's Apprentice series. A fledgling Ranger, Will has walked along many a dangerous path, but none more treacherous than the one before him now. Following Araluen's truce with the Skandians, a desert tribe captures the Skandian leader. The Rangers are sent to free him, but the searing desert has swallowed whole more than one brave adventurer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been reading this series along with my 12 year old grandson. I read a lot of the books that he does to help encourage him to read. He loves this series. I also have enjoyed following the journey of the young ranger apprentice through his life. I think these books are some of the most well written on the market. This author tells a great tale of goodness, kindness, bravery and perseverance. He peppers it with life lessons all wrapped up in a series of adventures that appeal to young and old alike. And he takes you around an ancient world and offers a bit of a history of cultural differences as well. This series should be a must read for young boys. I highly recommend it.

Love these books. The characters are amazing and feel sad that there are no more after the Royal Apprentice. I watched the interview done by the Author John Flanagan and he feels that its time to let the series rest but I disagree. The characters he has created become so endearing and there is so much that can be done with Cassandra and poor Will...my heart breaks for him how about finding

true love for him??? So even though I love his latest brotherband books I feel very lost and sad that I haven't got the apprentice series to read now and feel as though John Flanagan maybe felt he was flogging a dead horse...yep am an aussie...but hey John you are such an amazing storyteller..give us the people who read your stories more of what we crave Please:)

Absolutely delightful series! I have devoured each book eagerly, and on finishing, immediately bought the next. I was sad to come to the end of this last story, especially. On a happier note, this book was a terrific story, with wonderful new characters, and most of our favorites. My recommendation? Get the first book and get ready for a great adventure!

Review by Scott Sammons, Christina's husband using her account. I have enjoyed all of this series and will continue to buy each of Mr. Flanagan's titles. Each book does a nice job of standing alone without the boiler plate that some authors feel required to use in series (Wheel of Time) Each book builds on the last and the whole series is a fun bit of fantasy with out the sex and gore that seem to be requisite for "adult fiction", well developed characters and interesting storylines keep the series going.

I saw one review here that said that this was the weakest book in the series, and I can confess that I utterly and completely disagree with that. Starting off in Toscana, with Will and Halt on a diplomatic mission, and also studying war techniques of the Toscanan militants, it gets off to a good start and also drifts into the land of Nihon-Ja, where Horace is also up to similar things among the Emperor and his own people. I could ramble on about the plot, but I'd rather compare this book to the other ones. Compared to the rest of the books, how is it weak? If I had to go back and count every single man who dies in this book, and then have someone say that this book is weak is a bit ridiculous. True, there are other death in the previous nine books, but I'd have to say that this was the biggest all-out battle, and there was quite the suspense leading up to it. The book moved along nicely, with a fast pace and very good plot. But there really wasn't any character development, except among Alyss and Evanlyn. I liked how they threw in the Skandians for yet another book, and Selethen is one of my favortite characters so I'm glad he was along for the ride as well. After what I first thought was a pointless beginning, that would have no real meaning in the end, turned out to be a very big part of the final battle, I realized that the book was better done than I had first thought. So, basically, don't get halfway through it and start getting discouraged, a lot of things happen for a purpose in this book, and the climax is definitely worth going through the previous 50 chapters.

I have enjoyed this series! This book was not disappointing. The only reason it received a 3-star rating is because of its placement in the series. I feel like this should have been book 6 because its squeezed between two books that are from a later date. It was a little confusing in the beginning because I was trying to figure out exactly when it took place compared to book 6. And now that I'm reading book 8 it really doesn't make sense. It was almost like it was an afterthought. Still worth reading, but I recommend reading it before book 6.

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