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All That Glitters (Stavin DragonBlessed Book 1)



Synopsis

This is the story of Stavin Kel'Aniston, a boy trained as a warrior, he serves his people as a caravan guard to obtain gold for their community. Stavin earned dragon-scale armor from the dragon on the mountain for his bravery, but the gift of the dragon comes at a price. Thieves, brigands, and ne'er-do-wells of every kind are attracted to Stavin. As the summer passes, Stavin fights for his life and the honor of his name. Book One in the Stavin Kel'Aniston DragonBlessed series. Author's preferred edition. Note: Discounted for a limited time.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed Loren Jones' ALL THAT GLITTERS quite a bit. Stavin goes from a sullen teen insistent on proving himself to a full-fledged warrior, husband, and nascent scholar, while having a goodly amount of adventures as a mercenary guard-for-hire. This is a type of YA military fantasy that is rarely seen, especially not in this particular context. Though it can be a violent story at times (how not, when you're dealing with a man who must kill others for a living if warranted?), it's generally a clean and very fast read. I can't wait to read the sequel! So, for people wondering whether or not

they'll like this if they've read Loren's SF, have no fear; you will love this book. Guaranteed. Five stars, highly recommended. Barb Caffrey

You know that moment when you pick up a book, and you can't just put it down. This is it. The story follows Stavin, a boy who needed to prove to himself that he is more than capable . . . only to discover how capable he is. The pacing is good, action well balanced and yet a little nostalgic for good, honour and manners to win at every turn.

I loved it! Remember that first day when you read about Paksenarrion and her mercenary troop life by Elizabeth Moon? That moment when you found a book that had the right blend of action, blood, honor, adventure, magic and that sense that good things do come to those who fight hard for them? Yeah, I can easily see our Stavin fighting side by side with Paks and her friends. Mr Jones has woven a tale that I hope will grow into a grand tapestry as fine as the Deeds of Paksenarrion. So if you loved Paks, then give this book a try. You'll be extremely surprised and realize that a tale as old as time about a boy, dragons and magic still can be told again. Mr Jones: You write. I'll buy the next one.

The characters were interesting, but didn't develop significantly during the course of the story. The plot was a very linear series of incidents, mostly of attacks on the main character and his fellow mercenaries. Everything came easily to the main character. With all the talk of "honor," the mercenaries were competing for kills, and their rank was determined by body count. Certainly all of the dead needed to be killed, but it is unseemly how joyfully the mercenaries counted their kills. The whole story was one long slash-fest. I finished the book, but waited in vain for something truly interesting to happen.

Very well written coming of age story. Really liked the main characters. Writing was extremely tight, grammar and punctuation all seemed to be perfect. Great editing. I'd just like..more. More description of the characters; looks aren't super important but it helps to put a bit of a face on them. I know the main character was short and slight of build, but hair, eye color, features... I imagine him myself but I'd like to know what the author is thinking he looks like. Same with the women. No description at all. Plenty of descriptive fighting, and the travels, but not the people. I'd also like to know more about their history and why they are called the cat clan. It was a good story and well-written. I'll probably read the next, though I admit to skimming some of the battles. I'm sure

plenty of folks enjoy numerous scenarios like those but it was just a couple too many for me. Still, that being said, it was a very good start to a series.

Can be read by anyone from 12 to 112. The older of this group may especially enjoy it, since it is much more of a classic tale than most of the trash being written recently, and the younger group should read it to show them how a story should be constructed. Reminds me a little of Andre Norton (can't go wrong resembling *The Master*). Still, the military aspects were more realistic, albeit a pre-industrial style military. Reminds that the human aspects of conflict and combat haven't changed even though the tech has. A definite beginning, middle and ending, so a real plot - another item missing so often now. Nothing above should be taken as meaning that this is somehow an "old-fashioned" tale. Criticisms (not too serious): I think there could have been more introspection with the main characters concerning the lives taken in battle, or maybe occasional comments about why young men trained from childhood to be warriors might look at this differently than we do now. I think the author missed a couple of opportunities to add plot twists - maybe in the next book? At any rate, I will look forward to the next installment.

This was a well crafted tale with plenty of action, characters that were engaging, and a pace that kept me turning pages well into the night. I am eagerly awaiting the next installment and will buy it as soon as it comes out. Enjoy

I am well pleased that I bought this book. I put a lot of thought into this 5-star rating. Because on the one hand, is this objectively awesome, beautifully written literary fantasy? No. Is the plot complex of unpredictable? No. So this is not the best book in the world, but did I enjoy the hell out of my reading experience? Yes! Did this book grab me by the eyeballs at 5 p.m. and not let go until I finished it at 4 a.m.? Yes! Did this book connect with me and resonate with me in a way that I never would have expected from a cheap purchase? Again, yes. This is a bildungsroman, a coming-of-age story, and ordinarily those are difficult to follow up, but there are sequel books all over this book and we get a new one in March of next year. I would pre-order right now if I could.

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