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Taker Of Skulls (Kormak Book Five) (The Kormak Saga 5)



Synopsis

"The King of High Adventure," Starlog. "Immediately convincing, classically brooding," Steve Tompkins, TheCimmerian.com To the world at large, he is a mercenary and assassin, a brutal killer with a deadly blade. In reality Kormak is a Guardian, one of an ancient order sworn to protect humanity from the servants of the gathering darkness. **TAKER OF SKULLS** A secret message from the head of his order commands Kormak to guard the enigmatic sorceress Karnea with his life as she explores the Dwarven city of Khazduroth. What awful secrets is she seeking amid the ruins of an ancient civilisation? And why has the sinister and mighty Old One known as the Taker of Skulls chosen this moment to return to the place where he was once worshipped as a god? Join Kormak as he battles his way through a gigantic underground city in search of one of the most dangerous secrets of the Old Ones. **ABOUT THE SERIES** So far the Kormak Saga consists of the following books: **Stealer of Flesh** **Defiler of Tombs** **Weaver of Shadow** **City of Strife** **Taker of Skulls** **Ocean of Fear** **Born of Darkness** **ABOUT THE AUTHOR** William King lives in Prague, Czech Republic with his lovely wife Radka and his sons Dan and William Karel. He has been a professional author and games developer for over a quarter of a century. He is the creator of Gotrek and Felix for Black Library. He is also the author of the World of Warcraft novel Illidan. Over a million of his books are in print in English. He has been nominated for the David Gemmell Legend Award. His short fiction has appeared in Year's Best SF and Best of Interzone. He has twice won the Origins Awards For Game Design. His hobbies include role-playing games and MMOs as well as travel. You can find out more at www.williamking.me

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Customer Reviews

Mr. King does it again This fifth in the Kormak series is just as great as the preceding four. It is wonderful to see Mr. King write about dwarves since he wrote some of the best fiction about a dwarf when writing for Games Workshop. These dwarves though bare only a passing resemblance to the dwarves written there. These dwarves while still stoic and grim are also less human and uniquely their own race. Our hero though stays true to form and we learn more about him and his background. The echoes of Howard, Lieber and Moorcock run throughout the story making an enjoyable read. If you have not read any of Mr Kings work then you are in for a wonderful ride and I envy you. On the other hand you have read some of his work and this series is new to you I encourage you to read this story the go grab the rest and revel in the world of Kormak. If you have read all his work (as I have) then why are you still reading this review and not just getting the book? You know how good a writer this man is.

Kormak ventures into the underground ruin of a dwarven civilization where he discovers an ancient battleground of "the Old Ones" where the war has yet to truly end. Starting with the festering boom-town that has grown on the outskirts of the recently "discovered" ruin, with all of its attendant plunder, King guides his readers into the haunted, degenerate depths of a dwarf kingdom that would give Gimli nightmares. It's sword & sorcery at its best: a fast-paced adventure through darkness with a glimmer of madness lurking just at the edge of the torchlight.

Having read the past four books, this version of Kormak is uncharacteristic and seems worlds away from the character of the first book. The first one was cautious, wary, and jaded. For example, on stealer of flesh, there is this dialogue between Kormak and Petra (A teen age girl) Kormak: No, I will kill you Petra: You really would, wouldn't you Kormak: I really would Petra: And you're the sort of cold bastard to tell me that as well Does this sound like man who would suddenly make promises to

keep someone safe? Would the first Kormak quietly surrender his sword or just calmly answer that were he to die, more like him will come? And why wasn't he even the least bit suspicious of a sorcerer searching for runes. Surely, he would at least think somethings up. Is it really for the order, or is something more nefarious is going on. The first Kormak would have said something along the lines of what he said to the wife of the lord he killed on book one. 'You got what you wanted. revenge on your husband. His estate for yourself' -So he would probably say - 'so you're searching of the rune and using me to do the dirty work for you'.. or something more insulting..In short - I barely recognize the Kormak in this book. I hope the author brings him back instead of the horribly chivalrous Lancelot that I have had to endure.

Another fun kormak book from William King. As a big fan of the series, it was great getting to see the dwarves of kormak's world after hearing about them for so long. I personally like the fleshing out of the history and unique take on the dwarves, Mr. King brings to the genre.

This story is another worthy addition to the growing Kormac Saga. Very pulp-esque, and again evoking the Conan feel. The bad guys are obviously the bad guys, there is no shortage of neck chopping, and the only work required on the reader's part is to tally the body count. I greatly recommend this installment for a rowdy read.

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