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Artimus, the head investigator for the elvish kingdom of Erathal, is disturbed when he discovers that the culprit behind a recent string of kidnappings presents the greatest threat the world of Evorath has ever seen. As he develops feelings for Savannah, a beautiful elvish druid hiding a great secret, he struggles to separate his personal feelings from his responsibilities to the crown. Meanwhile, Irontail, a young centaur warrior, endeavors to find his way in a tribe where independent thought is discouraged.

When their paths cross, the entire forest must unite, performing an ancient ritual to combat this new evil. While the world of Evorath deals with this great threat, Artimus and his companions must put their internal conflicts to rest as they work together to combat this harbinger of death. As they work towards this common goal, they find that they each have their own, unique gifts to offer. But, will they be strong enough to survive?

The first of many stories taking place in the world of Evorath, this series gives readers the thrill of an epic fantasy while introducing characters who are struggling to balance the demands of society with their own personal desires. One thing is for sure: at the end of it all, nothing will be the same.

The Birth of Death Details

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From Reader Review The Birth of Death for online ebook

Stuart Aken says

Fantasy for YA readers, this tale of magical creatures failed to grab my attention, though I imagine those interested in the lore of elves, satyrs, centaurs, et al, will find enough here. I found the writing style a little stilted and was unable to engage with the characters, so didn't read past the first quarter of the book. Just not a tale for me, I think.

Regina Macolino says

Truly enjoyed this novel. Fantasy is not my favorite genre but I just really enjoyed the whole story. I loved that there is a romance and other things going on in the book besides the fantasy. However, if you are truly just into fantasy, this will not disappoint. The author does a really good job with his description of the characters. There is an interesting plot and the characters are all very well written and strong. I would highly recommend this book to everyone. Looking forward to the second book coming out to see what the people of Evorath are up to. I got to the point where I felt they were like friends. Pass the word around, "The Birth of Death" is a great read. Will look forward to other Joseph Macolino books.

Kim says

Macolino does a superb job constructing a new fantasy world. The details of the various creatures, or races, is very in depth, and the way their villages are described makes one feel as if they are actually there.

Although this is a story that has been told many times, Macolino puts his own unique spin on it. Even adding some interesting new twists to the idea of political corruption and races standing up for what is right. (Which is really timely with the current elections coming up soon in the United States.)

At times this book goes really in depth into what a particular character is doing. While sometimes this is necessary, and it brings more understanding to a character, I didn't think some of the parts were important enough to include in the book. One instance that comes to mind is when Savannah is making dinner for Artimus. I read it in full thinking that there was importance to it since she had been using leaves from a tree that was thought to be extinct, but I couldn't see any.

I read a lot of Urban Fantasy in which the love relationship is just as important as the mission. But I just didn't get into it in this case. I wouldn't say it was filler, but I think it could have been deeper. I wasn't really rooting for their relationship, I wanted to read more about the battles and political intrigue.

Although Artimus is the main character I really would have loved to have it been Irontail, the Centaur. For me, he was much more interesting, and had the most growth. If Macolino does continue writing about this world, I definitely want a lot more of Irontail.

A great beginning for this new world, and Macolino does a fantastic job setting up this book for future

stories. If you enjoy epic fantasy, I highly recommend this one.

Victoria Brock-jones says

The first book in the Evorath series, I was excited to get a hold of this book by new author Joseph Macolino. By the second chapter, this fast paced adventure kicks off with the introduction of the villain, Yezurkstal. On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most evil, this villain has to be a fifteen. He has the darkest magic I have seen in all of my literary reading thus far, and I am a fan of LOTR, Harry Potter, and Narnia, so I have seen some evil villains.

Overall, the Legacy of Evorath is a great fantasy book that is well worth the read. The book is beautifully written and it addresses deep social issues that often go unnoticed in the genre today. The author skillfully writes from various character's point of view, effectively aiding in character development and allowing for readers to see how much perspective matters. I look forward to more great stories from this up-and-coming fantasy author!

Alex Black says

****I received this as a free ARC in exchange for an unbiased review**

Let me first say that going into this book, my expectations were low mainly due to the scary cover combined with the title about death. I saw the vampire-like assassin wondering if he was supposed to be the main character, and being disappointed that he was not a little more hot than scary...and I was seriously wondering if I would ever get over that. The book looked darker than I might normally prefer reading and it seemed like something that my husband might enjoy a little more than me. However, I was intrigued by the mix of adventure, fantasy, and magic in the land of Evorath and I was looking for something different. (Just a side-note I did get over the cover once I figured out which character it was!)

The author has a very concise and meticulous writing style that describes characters and certain situations very thoroughly that helped me to really visualize the characters and what was happening in the plot. I really enjoyed this detail, especially in a new fantasy world where it takes time to learn a new language of characters, magic, and history. It was done very well in a way that I felt like it did not drag on, but was necessary and just enough. The story was in various characters point of view, which helped the reader to gather information from different places which I also liked. I think only once or twice I was confused who was talking, but figured it out pretty quickly. The plot seemed to be very well thought out and had hints of religious undertones, political and societal themes, mixed with a touch of Star Wars. Yes – Star Wars! I liked the movies (but I am definitely not one of those obsessed fans like my brother in law), never read the books, but there was a very clear Yoda reference within. Maybe I am wrong on some of these, but it seemed like there was a ton of themes, hidden messages and other surprises all bundled into one not-too long story. I realize this is just the first book of a series, but there was a lot of information in this first book. I also appreciated the variety of characters, their backgrounds, and the touch of romance story line within. My favorite characters were Tel'Shira, Savannah, and Artimus. The characters were strong, but dynamic and MOST of them were pretty vicious and willing to kick some demon butt! The action was great, and if you enjoy some demon killing with some ruthless bad guys – this book is for you. I do think the action and fighting scenes were some of my favorite in this book.

On to the things I was not so crazy about outside of the scary vampire elf cover! The plot and the characters were very serious in my opinion. Not that humor is always required, but I generally prefer a little bit laced

here and there. There was a very short part of the story which involved the romance which was on the lighter side, but that was a small portion of the entire book. This was seriousness all the time, which made the circumstances seem pretty dire and hopeless at times. That may have been the purpose, but it is just not my preference. This seriousness and focus to get the goal accomplished I think overshadowed some of the characters deeper emotions. I still don't feel connected to any of the characters on a deeper level even by the end of this first book. I am not really invested in any of them – I would be sad and disappointed if they were killed off, but it would not be earth shattering to me at this point.

Overall it was an interesting read, and it was better than my initial expectations. I liked learning about the history of Evorath and its creatures, and the writing itself was excellent. The book was enjoyable, but relative to other books I have read and those that are fantasy – this book was just ok for me. I am not DYING to read the next one, but I might....and I probably will. BUT – I think I am not as intrigued because it is more on the dark-serious side than I normally prefer. At the END of the day, I am glad I read it and I look forward to see what else this author has to offer.

For more reviews see booksbeyondtheend.com

Joseph Macolino says

I wrote it, so should I really be able to review it? I don't know... Anyways, it's the best book ever. Period. And it's just the first of many to come.

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a review).

(This review may contain spoilers).

This was a book that I was really drawn to from the front cover and the blurb.

I liked the use of the articles throughout the book, but especially at the beginning. When I first started reading the book, I knew straight away that this was one I would like.

The characters were interesting and easy to relate to. I liked the relationship that formed between Artimus and Savannah, but I think Tel'shira and Casandra were my favourite characters - though I didn't see a lot of Casandra. I would have liked to know a bit more of her history and abilities.

It was also interesting to see the different kinds of races in the world in this book. A lot of them were quite original - and I especially liked the felite. (But then, cats are my favourite animals).

I did struggle a bit to understand the motivations of the main bad guy. Although some parts of the story were from his POV, I still didn't see him as a well-rounded villain.

I felt the fight scenes in particular were really well-written. I could see a lot of the events happening inside my mind and although the action was a little disjointed at times, I felt that worked for the fighting.

I liked the alliances that had formed between the characters by the end of the book. I'd like to see more of the inter-species friendships in later books.

I did notice quite a few errors in the writing, but they didn't really detract from my enjoyment of the story. I was a bit disappointed not to see more of the dryads, too - I was quite intrigued by their role in the whole thing.

At some point in the future, I'd probably read the next book in this series. I cared about what happened to the characters and the world.

Jo says

If you have read any of my reviews for this book genre, you will know that I am very picky about my High Fantasy. But, it was billed as recommended for fans of LOTR and GOT so I thought that I would give it a go. Sadly, it did not live up to the billing.

I can overlook borrowing of ideas from other authors (mythril; adamantium) as I expect that the intended effect was to try and solidify the authenticity of the world which the author was trying to create. However, for me, it was a step too far when one of the characters spoke with Yoda-style speech syntax.

Even leaving that aside, I'm afraid that the story didn't draw me in at all. The flow of the story was a little jerky and I didn't particularly like the characters. Unfortunately, taking all that into account, this was a book which was shelved without being finished.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

Marjorie says

Given To Me For An Honest Review

This is an excellent book. It is not in my genre but once I began to read it I was hooked. The words flowed and the story comes together very well. This novel have many different moments that kept me reading on until I was finished. If you love fantasy this is a much read. It is well worth more than 5 stars. I highly recommend it to all.

The Reading Bud says

The story follows Artimus who is the head investigator for the Elvish kingdom. Artimus comes across an interesting investigation and falls in love with a beautiful elvish druid named Savannah. Artimus must fight off the dangers all around the kingdoms while balancing his personal life and his love to Savannah. This was a very nice story to read. This book is a great fantasy book and I enjoyed the classic fantasy feel of the book. I fell in love with the world from the beginning till the end and the author shows us many races and gorgeous places. The land of Frovath seems perfect and the story is full of adventures and friendships.

This book has lots of races, wonderful adventure, magic and tons of action. All these make the story a fast pass read and a fun story to follow and I can't wait to read the next book.

You go through everything with the characters and feel their problems. I loved the Dryads, they are so intriguing and they bring a lot to the story. My favorite character is Irontail, but they are all written in a wonderful way, even the bad guys (this was important to me).

I loved the author's writing style. The author has done something unique here, he shows us the character as humans that need to cook or clean, even when their world is in danger. These simple acts show us, just how much we need to feel normal and do normal things, even if the world around us is in chaos.

The story follows different characters, through the different point of views, but the author did a great job following them and describing everything that you knew who the character was, just by how they moved and did things, even before they spoke.

The first 3 chapters were a bit slow to read, but as an avid Fantasy reader, this is a common thing so I was used to it.

The ending of the book left me with wanting more, and more questions were asked. I want to know of this world and about the characters, can't wait to read the next book.

The cover is gorgeous and once you read the book, you'll know who it is on the cover.

The blurb was nice and intriguing and made me want to read the book.

You can also read this review at [The Reading Bud/a](#)>

Hannah Charlesworth says

Macolino is another one of those kind of unknown authors that has also pleasantly surprised me. The writing and overall ideas behind this book are also really great.

The story follows Artimus who is head investigator for the Elvish kingdom known as Evorath. Artimus comes across an interesting investigation involving kidnappings which then sends him, a handful of rangers and a beautiful elvish druid named Savannah. As they come across some dark magic in the caves, Artimus and Savannah cross paths with a centaur named Irontail who is a young warrior. As the threats towards Artimus's own kingdom and those around the forest grows, Savannah takes part in a druid ancient ritual to which they hope will save them all.

What made me say yes to reading this book was the mixture of fantasy and some sort of crime/thriller (I am quite terrible at putting things into specific genres!). I do enjoy reading fantasy but I have to be particularly drawn in to want to read them and end up enjoying them. The writing for this book I would say isn't overallly fast paced but it isn't slow either. I found it had a nice rhythm and flowed just right. I also really enjoyed all the characters too; they definitely all worked together.

The world that Macolino has developed here also works really well. It is definitely something a bit different and I really like the mix of slightly different fantasy characters compared to the usual. The use of centaurs

was a nice touch and I would say my favourites were definitely the use of druids within this storyline. I will certainly be keeping my eye out for reading the next book in the series to see where Macolino takes his series next.

Overall, this book is definitely a really good start to this series and I think a lot of fantasy readers will definitely want to read it due to the different takes on the fantasy characters/world building. Looking forward to the next!

Liz says

I really really wanted to love this book but I didn't. I didn't hate it either. I liked it. So, what, Mrs Moany-pants, wasn't to your liking this time, I hear you ask?

That romance mentioned in the blurb in between Artimus and Savannah not only confused me at times but I found it quite unnecessary to the whole story. Why confused? Because they had built a pretty steady foundation for their relationship and then they let the flame die out because the world is in danger, right? When they rekindled it, it was like they didn't know each other at all, again, and I couldn't wrap my head around it. Also, I didn't really get a sense of Artimus 'struggling trying to separate his personal feelings from his responsibilities to the kingdom'. I could not see a big deal as to those two being involved and really, the 'romance' bit is so light and only scratches the surface and didn't really add a 'painpoint' to the whole story.

As for Irontail, the centaur, I wish he would have been the main character. Not alongside Artimus, not alongside the harbinger of Death but in his own true solitary glory. Irontail was by far the bestest, most intriguing character in my eyes. I loved his development from a follower to a leader, his mindset changing from 'this is what I have been told' to 'I can now see through all the lies'.

I found a couple of 'filler' scenes distracting me- Savannah cooking, for a full paragraph. Opening tubs and pots and pans and grinding a flower into powder to make salad dressing. Yeah, that didn't really keep my attention. Another filler paragraph which made my eyes glaze over was when Artimus was dressing up for the battle. In hindsight, however, these laid back filler scenes were a great contrast to the evil and death.

There was perhaps too much happening. So, we have the evil to fight, as per usual. But then there's the romance. And then there's the underground operation pushing for a revolution because the Crown is blind and the people suffering. Yes, it did all tie into a full-bodied story but it took the focus off the villain. I understand that this is a series so all the action I want to see around the changes coming for the elvish Kingdom will probably be in the next book.

Having gotten those niggles off my chest I would like to point out that any story is just better when there are elves involved. I guess if you go into an epic fantasy, elves are a given. The other really interesting characters were the Dryads. The only way I could describe them would be 'forest fairies' except with a lot more ammunition and power than your regular Tinkerbell. I would have liked to have met more of them Dryads. Very intriguing and they have so much more to give to the story...

The world building was mega. I really liked the different 'races'. The lizocks, centaurs, lamia, felites, etc... I always enjoy nature-inspired characters and settings. Kind of woodsy. And the villages for each 'race' were described beautifully.

I also liked the controversial underground 'operation'. Can't really go wrong with people taking it upon themselves to fight the powers that be for justice and equality. So, a slight political tone which I always love. Corruption and over fed 'leaders' always add an element of irritation to the story and as a reader, I always want to see their fall.

My rating: 3*** I am rating it higher for the ideas and world-building alone. I truly believe the next book in the series will answer all of the questions that I was looking answers for in the first book, so essentially, book #1 really set a good foundation for the series.

Jamie Marchant says

I greatly enjoyed Macolino's novel. He creates a world full of many of the typical magical creatures--elves, centaurs, trolls, but also throws in some lesser known races and some creations of his own. Overall, he creates a vivid and lively world that the reader can get lost in. The characters are deep and human, even though many of them aren't technically human. They respond with real human emotions and feel like people you'd like to know. He handles the multiple points of view masterfully. To me character development is the most important part of any novel. If I don't care about the characters, I don't care what happens to them, and I definitely cared what happened to Artimus, Savannah, Irontail, and Tel'Shira. The plot is interesting and well developed. It also didn't turn out exactly as I thought it would, which was a nice surprise. When I met Macolino at Necronomicon, he claimed the book was dark, and it isn't exactly sunshine and roses, but the darkness doesn't overpower the narrative and leaves room for hope.

I highly recommend Macolino's first novel, and I eagerly await the sequel.

Michelle Randall says

Reviewed for Readers Favorite

Forget all you know and read with me of a different world, created by the Druids and for them. Deep in nature, the Druids each created species to help them take care of their specific area. Time has passed and the Druids have all long gone and passed on, but the species each thrive and continue to take care of their own areas. The Birth of Death tells of a story that had been told of a great sin being committed but that nature had taken care of that sin, most people thought the story to just be a story and nothing more. As we learn the story is more, there are truths and that sin is more than just a sin, but death. How can the species defend themselves from this new threat? Is there a chance that they might be able to put aside their differences and work together, just this one time, for the good of Evorath? Author Joseph P. Macolino has created another world to set his story of evil, the need for people to set aside differences and work together, and revolution.

The Birth of Death is a wonderful tale of a world that was created in all the splendor of nature to be the home of each of nine Druids. The Druids each then created a species of people to help them take care of that home. Each species was best suited to take care of the nature where they lived and had the specific powers of their Druid. Author Joseph P. Macolino creates a fantasy story, that you can easily read and enjoy. If you take the time to really notice the story being told, you can see conflicts that mirror our own in society. Granted we may not be facing death in the form of a person, but the world needs us to put aside different sides and work

together towards a common goal. If you allow yourself to listen to the deeper meanings and think about it, this is a highly thought provoking book. There are a number of things that occur that should upset you. I recommend this book for most all readers, personally I feel that teens and young adults could handle it, but that would be a parental judgement call.

April Epley says

This was a great start to what looks to be a wonderful series. This is the first book I have read by Joseph Macolino but I guarantee it will not be the last. Thank you for your wonderful world and story. I have very much so enjoyed it. I am giving this book 4 very strong stars.

In the world of Evorath live elves, druids, centaurs and many other magical creatures. Artimus is the main investigator for the elves kingdom of Erathal. When people start coming up missing, it is up to Artimus to find out why. His king and their people depend on him. This is what he thrives on. When Savannah, the lab mage, shows up to assist him, Artimus starts to realize his feelings for her run deeper than he realized. When they find out what is causing the disappearance of the people their views on their kingdom start to be questioned.

Artimus has to lead a strange group to try to save the kingdom and kingdoms all around them. You will want to follow along in this wonderful book to see what adventures happen with this wonderful group. Will they be able to save the kingdom from the worst evil imaginable? You will have to keep reading to find out.

Thank you to Joseph Macolino for your wonderful book. I am looking forward to the next book in this series and cannot wait to see what happens next.
