



God's Last Breath

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Acclaimed author Sam Sykes returns with the exhilarating conclusion to his Bring Down Heaven trilogy.

The great demon Khoth-Kapira has broken free of his prison and taken his first step upon the mortal world. And he owes it all to Lenk. Believing that the demon will heal a broken world that the gods have abandoned, Lenk serves as reluctant champion to Khoth-Kapira's cause. But as the desperate and fearful flock to Khoth-Kapira's banner, begging for salvation, Lenk begins to doubt his patron's great designs.

The city of Cier'Djaal, meanwhile, has become the field for the last great battle of mortals. And as humans, shicts and tulwar prepare to tear each other apart, none are aware of the ancient horror that marches upon their tiny wars.

At the tip of a spear or beneath the heel of demons, the reign of mortals ends.

Bring Down Heaven*The City Stained Red**The Mortal Tally*
God's Last Breath

God's Last Breath Details

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Author : Sam Sykes

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From Reader Review God's Last Breath for online ebook

Ryan Kapsar says

This is the great conclusion of the Bring Down Heaven trilogy. I loved it. At the end of book two, the characters were scattered to the wind and it looked like there was no way for them to ever have closure in a meaningful way with each other. Sam skillfully managed to do this. His characters grew in unexpected way, where one was full of hubris at the beginning of the trilogy and thoughtless to other people's emotions, they became much more empathetic. Another character may have felt helpless, but was able to rally people to their cause in a manner that would have felt absurd if it was told that after starting the first book. Sam made these transitions feel authentic and earned.

This book did a fantastic job closing the series which I loved from beginning to end.

Tessa says

The last in the Bring Down Heaven Series, our adventurers definitely have a superhero complex. Each, working through their separate story line, feels they must be the one to save a race, a city, a person. Their struggles, both physical and deeply emotional, are the back bone of this novel. Sykes does a wonderful job exploring the depth of each of our adventurers and knitting everything back together in a satisfying conclusion to the series.

There is plenty of action ranging from demons to wizards, elf-like archers to sword wielding infantry, and a little bit of stomping. It's refreshing to have broken and real characters, experience their follies and achievements, and have that all wrapped in a well written interesting world. I hate and love them all. The gods are watching you - will you behave as expected?

Leticia says

A fitting end for the series, though one that doesn't picks up every thread... Because the story isn't really over. Regardless, there is a lot of interesting things going on. A war is fought, a god is slain, people get transformed into horrible abominations and a couple of lovers decide to try harder. Also, Lenk gets most of his shit together, but not soon enough.

After much thought I decided that the reason I'm denying this book 5 stars is because it doesn't really ends. It's not like it ends in a cliffhanger, more like the sense of looming doom you'd get from watching an armada approaching from the coast. But it's not a proper end and I've anxieties (which is why I mostly don't deal with ongoing grimdark series: my heart can't take it), so I'll dock it a star in revenge.

Jon says

Honestly, this is at least a 4 star book. But the narrator killed it for me, as he sounded like he was reading a

children's book. So the juxtaposition between his voice and the words he was reading just clashed, like Winnie the Pooh going "I've got one arm broken but that leaves me three good limbs to shove up your ass." Like, wtf. Add to that his "voices" and the fact that he'd read something in a rush that "so-n-so said slowly" and you have a recipe for annoying listening. It's like he didn't even read what he was saying. You might as well have Siri reading it to you.

Narrator aside, when I could tune him out and just listen to the words, it's still Sam Sykes kicking ass and taking names. Funny, heartrending, brutal, and hopeful by turns, Sykes never fails to entertain. But apparently his publisher can't pick a good narrator. O.o

Dylan Clark says

When I first started Sykes's **Bring Down Heaven** trilogy, I had just come off of a bad streak of reading books I wish I had never picked up. I was bummed out and feeling very distant from the fantasy genre--a genre that had inspired so much of my childhood and continues to inspire me to this day. Then one night, I made the (unbeknownst-to-me-then) fateful decision to buy *The City Stained Red*.

After reading TCSR, I compared the experience to the idea of returning home and visiting an old restaurant you loved after tasting so many others that didn't quite work. It was a breath of fresh air. And that idea of rediscovering something you love(d) never left through the experience of reading this trilogy.

By the time I reached *God's Last Breath*, I had found so much love, sadness, anger, and everything inbetween with the characters' journeys. I don't know the last time I read one novel (let alone THREE!!) where every character mattered as much as the characters in this trilogy. Sykes has a way of giving you many reasons to invest in each character his world brings into view. Regardless of whether these characters were protagonists or antagonists, I found myself empathetic to their desires.

Every action taken was true to each character's motives and desires. Sykes's plot is character-driven and emotionally compelling. The Big Reveals were stunning, and nothing felt forced or unneeded. Every word I read reminded me how *new* these concepts were for me.

By the end of the novel, I felt like the journey had come to an understandable close--though I was far from ready to say goodbye. I spent nearly six months and 1,800 pages spending my sleepless nights, work breaks, lunches, and whatever other spare moments I could find by these characters' sides. I hope I never forget these rag-tag adventurers, for they have impacted me in ways I never expected.

Casey Karger says

Phenomenal Ending to a Fantasy Epic

I'm always hesitant to start a new epic fantasy series for fear I'll be disappointed. But like Brian Staveley's Emperor's Blades series, Sam Sykes latest trilogy grabs you from the beginning, teaches you, bashes you about the face and neck, yanks the tears out of your eyes, pats you on the butt, and sends you on your way. Just when you think you've heard every new race, you get the dragonmen. Just when you think you know about gods and magic, you get Asper and Dread. And just when you think you'll get a "hero" or an "anti-

hero", you get Lenk. Katarina and romance top off a dish best served as soon as possible. Do yourself a favor and read this series.

Nikos Elefthérios says

What a great trilogy! An interesting fact is that I didn't realize there was a previous trilogy with the same characters, but it in any way hindered my reading of God's Last Breath. Actually, I kind of liked the way they talked about the past without being too specific, it really made them seem like real people. And Rhega.

I can't understand the low ratings the books in the series have here, they are really good, the characters are some fucked up, interesting and entertaining creatures. I really liked, hated, cheered and really desired them to die horrible, horrible deaths. The story in itself is not something new, but it's well written, I didn't note any big holes in it.

The races of some of the secondary characters are really different, would love a trilogy with the main characters being a tulwar, a vulgore, and a couthi.

The fights are great, really well described, they are that kind that you would love to see in a movie, because you already picture them like a movie scene.

All in all the series deserve more attention and praise, all hail The Prophet!

Antonio says

I'm a big fan of Sam Sykes and his twitter presence. I've enjoyed the first two books in the trilogy and was excited to finally get this book. There are three things I expect from a Sykes book:

1. Sword fights
2. Tender smooches
3. Elf butts

There were a slew of sword fights, on against a giant demon, and all of them were clothed. Sykes has previously tackled naked sword fights, so it was good to see him move in a new direction. But the sword fights weren't even the best part this time, and not just b/c the characters were wearing clothes. He put in an awesome wizard fight. You could practically smell the burnt flesh and ozone as lightning bolts ripped apart combatants. There was also a great battle scene with a phalanx defense that would make Myke Cole jealous.

The smooches in this book were some of the tenderest. Lenk, who has been fairly slow to learn throughout the series, really developed in this book. That's probably why he had pants on during his sword fights. His relationship with Katarina was really fleshed out and believable. They aren't a happy couple but they're working on it between giant demon attacks and I think things look good for those two kids. Even Asper gets a sword fight in this book. Which makes sense b/c she really is a major focus of the plot line.

You may be asking if there were elf butts? There were hell a elf butts.

I like Sykes's focus on characters. There's a decent amount of world building but I think it's kept to the proper limit so you can really focus on the characters and how they fumble throughout the story. The magic system is described enough so you know it's not some fix all deus ex machina device that's going to rear up and save the day, but you get to focus on the wizards and what kind of people they are. BTW, they're awful, awful people. My only real criticism is that the cast was a little too big so some characters didn't get as much

attention as I would like. I mean Dreadaeleon didn't get enough attention. He's a total dick and a real piece of magic spewing garbage but he's my favorite and I worry what this says about me.

Kerry Bernard says

Excellent book. Lots of action, incredible world-building, unique description, and interesting character development. Sykes has become one of my favorite authors.

Matthew says

So with that, our six companions journey finally comes to an end! Actually, it totally doesn't, but that's okay.

The end was a bit anticlimactic, even pointed out by one of the characters. Still, these books are mostly character showcases. Personal demons prioritized over the literal ones.

City Stained Red is still the high point in my opinion, but as long as Sykes keeps writing about these six fucked up individuals, I'll continue to buy his book.

Reggie Kray says

There are very few that executive better characterization and dialogue than Sykes.

Dawn says

No holds barred in this one. Lenk finally gets some answers even though it's not what he would have liked. Khoth Kapira, owner of that annoying voice he's had in his head all this time is finally in the world and revealed in all his glory. Maybe not quite the right description and it's all down to Lenk.

Brutal , nothing going right. The erstwhile comrades are all split up, one of them mostly dead. The other gods are conspicuous by their absence and not helping at all. There is fighting, blood, lots of it in fact and destruction everywhere. Humans, Shicts and Tulwars all fighting each other and Lenk is trying to do the right thing before what looks like the end of everything.

Great characters, flawed though they are. Sam Sykes breathes life into them even as the god breathes his last breath. What next? Can't wait to see what he comes up with next.

Rana says

It took a little bit to get back into the swing of things and remember who is who and what they are and what is going on.

But FYI: I really want to read Gariath's redemption arc. I want him back in the band.

Sara says

Firstly, I will begin by saying that the Bring Down Heaven trilogy has been an anchor to me since I discovered these books around September 2017. Sykes has a gift for spinning unique tales about unexpected characters. His writing is punchy yet gentle, and even in the midst of heated fight scenes, genuinely poignant and striking thoughts can come from his characters.

Sam's work has been a delight to have found and is one of the few book series I've had the pleasure of reading that has left me speechless by the end. In some cases of reading either a series or trilogy, there can be a risk that perhaps some books are not as good as the first or the ending can be a little disappointing, but in Sam Sykes' case that is not true. I hesitated to read God's Last Breath because I simply did not want this world and these characters to end; I knew it was going to be hard for me to say goodbye. Now, having finished it, I hesitated to post this review out of fear I wouldn't do the book justice.

Allow me to try.

Picking up where *The Mortal Tally* left off, *God's Last Breath* takes on and explores the consequences of Lenk's unleashing the captive God-King Khoth-Kapira unto the world. For the other characters – Kataria, Gariath, Dreadaleon, and Asper – they must also face the mistakes and aftermath of difficulties they confronted in both *The City Stained Red*, and *The Mortal Tally*. Finally and completely separated from one another at the start of the book, they reflect upon their actions and further grow as people; adding onto the transitioning instigated from Book One. A particularly delightful aspect about each character in this trilogy is that each has their own distinct voice, manner of speech, and thought. If their name could be omitted or removed from a chapter, it would still be clear who's perspective was being read, so strong are their mannerisms. Love and so much crafting clearly went into these characters and as such, each has left a distinct impression upon me.

What makes Sykes' work such an enjoyable experience is that the characters are not heroes, not in the typical sense. They are not selfless or noble or believe in a greater good. As Chapter Twenty-Five's title so succinctly puts it, "Heroism, but for assholes". These elements of selfishness, self-preservation, and thoughtlessness are what grounds all the characters in a sense of tangibility. They are real because they have faults, their actions are believable and take the plot into interesting places or situations – they do not fool themselves by thinking they are the hero and have been all along. They are heroes of necessity. Not wanted, but needed, however unfortunate that may be for them. A stark parallel drawn to this in Asper's speech in which she states, "Heaven demands champions", just as the story of the books demand heroes to step up, regardless of how reluctant they might be.

God's Last Breath was as much of an emotional ride as I hoped it would be. It's always hard to say goodbye to characters we have come to love but this novel is one of the few that left me feeling an aching sense of loss by the last page. I read this trilogy during a rough patch in my life and it was a lifeline for a time to get lost in the story. These books have brought me joy, new friends, and new tattoos inspired by it. They became such a big part of my life and I know I'll revisit them again and again, over and over, until their spines break.

They deserve such love and recognition in the fantasy literature community as a breath of fresh air into the genre. Sam works so hard on his books and it's clear from both the books themselves and his twitter that he is

passionate about the worlds and stories he creates. He has become an inspiration to me in my own pursuit of fantasy writing and a friend who'll talk to me about dogs, memes, and his books on twitter.

I will honestly miss these characters dearly unless Sam writes about them again and I sincerely hope that one day he does choose to revisit the setting. All I can honestly say is thank you to Sam for the happiness the Bring Down Heaven trilogy brought me this past year and that I'm immensely looking forward to reading An Affinity for Steel whilst waiting for Seven Blades in Black.

Thank you, Sam.

Alexander Sedge says

Tough to rate, because it's wonderfully written, occasionally even inspiring, but there's so much goddamn angst. The thing is that I can't tell if it's just the news lately that makes me sick of that sense of helplessness in the face of disaster/tragedy, or if it's unpleasant on its own... Reviews are hard.

-The story is occasionally epic in scope, and even though I typically prefer character-focused stories, the zoomed-out looks at the hugely varied cultures, the People rather than the Persons, are easily the best parts of the book. You see people from vastly different walks of life, all of whom are convinced that their way is the most correct, and by the end of their section you end up agreeing... until perspective moves to the next culture over and you become convinced of THEIR innate rightness instead. No one is portrayed as wrong, and everyone has a good, believable reason for why they think their culture is best. I've never seen a story that portrayed a conflict with this many sides that had me rooting for each of them to succeed at some point or another.

-The central adventuring group has great banter between themselves, and you can really feel the history they have. There's a very tangible sense of development throughout the trilogy and it's fascinating to look back and see how far they've come.

-...Okay, the angst. I gotta address this. Every character wastes too much time sitting around and going "oh nooo I fucked it all up, I wish I had done things differently, life is unfair." Sometimes there are entire paragraphs of this. Sometimes entire PAGES. There were times where I had to backtrack because I realized I had glossed over an important plot point because it was hidden in the midst of woe-is-me tearwanking.

But despite all this, it's a satisfying end to a satisfying trilogy, and I would easily recommend it.
