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Morning Star (The Red Rising Trilogy, Book 3)



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Red Rising thrilled readers and announced the presence of a talented new author. Golden Son changed the game and took the story of Darrow to the next level. Now comes the exhilarating conclusion to the Red Rising Trilogy: Morning Star. Darrow would have lived in peace, but his enemies brought him war. The Gold overlords demanded his obedience, hanged his wife, and enslaved his people. But Darrow is determined to fight back. Risking everything to transform himself and breach Gold society, Darrow has battled to survive the cutthroat rivalries that breed Society's mightiest warriors, climbed the ranks, and waited patiently to unleash the revolution that will tear the hierarchy apart from within. Finally, the time has come. But devotion to honor and hunger for vengeance run deep on both sides. Darrow and his comrades-in-arms face powerful enemies without scruple or mercy. Among them are some Darrow once considered friends. To win, Darrow will need to inspire those shackled in darkness to break their chains, unmake the world their cruel masters have built, and claim a destiny too long denied and too glorious to surrender.

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Customer Reviews

Pierce Brown blasted onto the scene with his debut novel RED RISING, a captivating book that shattered all expectations and not only lived up to the hype built around it but exceeded it. Fortunately I didn't get around to reading RED RISING until GOLDEN SON released and so I able to read them back-to-back. Somehow GOLDEN SON was even better than RED RISING, Fans will also know that GOLDEN SON left readers broken and bleeding on one of the greatest cliffhangers in the history of genre fiction. We had to wait one brutal year for MORNING STAR, the conclusion to what has become one of the most important series of my lifetime. I'm an avid reader but I haven't held this much anticipation for a release since the final Harry Potter novel came out. Despite conquering the dreaded "sophomore slump" with style, the finale was always going to be the most difficult thing to pull off. I had low expectations going into RED RISING and with GOLDEN SON my expectations were high but not astronomical. Going into MORNING STAR my expectations couldn't have been higher. Unsurprisingly Pierce delivers -- and in a way that was equally refreshing and satisfying. Pierce's imagination is a wonderful, beautiful, bastard of a thing. He started with what could have easily been a typical YA novel premise with society being segregated into a hierarchy of colors with Gold at the top and Red at the bottom. He introduces a rebellion when a Red told to "break the chains" and "live for more." Honestly the reason I was so reticent to begin this series is that it sounded like another cookie cutter YA novel. It's even been hailed as the next HUNGER GAMES. The RED RISING series is so much more than that.

Okay, so, Morning Star isn't actually the best book ever. Catchy title, though, no? Let's get a couple things out of the way up front. Morning Star has a pretty shaky middle portion where things happen, characters wander, pages are turned, and not much else seems to happen. It has an ending that "while perfect in the eyes of this particular reader" will be received by many as "shall we say, enigmatic?" It has a twist that should be harrowing, but somehow is predictable and comes across as tense, but ultimately not entirely threatening. Fortunately, however, even when lumped together these characteristics amount to about 10%, maybe 15% of a 500+ page book. The rest of it, my lovelies, is bloodydamn fantastic. Look. I know you're busy. And if you're not busy, your time is still valuable, so let me say a couple things up front and spare you the bluster. Morning Star? Incredible. 9/10. The Red Rising Trilogy? Yeah. Perfect, even with flaws. 10/10. Book Two: Golden Son was the worst at 8/10, Books 3 and 1 (Morning Star and Red Rising) tie for the best at 9/10 each. Others will disagree, of course. Many think Golden Son was the best. Yet what matters is, we all seem to agree that the Trilogy, considered as a whole, is

the best thing since sliced bread. Better even. So I give the Trilogy a 10/10, because it's great for everybody for different reasons, at different times. This review, to call it that, is less a review of one book and more an explosion of emotion about a trilogy that came into my life and changed it for the better. I won't go into plot details, or spoilers, or any such nonsense. If you want plot details, read the summary on the back of the cover or higher up on the page under the information block.

I absolutely LOVE the Red Rising series and have read the first two books of the trilogy multiple times in anticipation of Morning Star. However, maybe my expectations were too high for this third installment as I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I was going to. The book ends up being a satisfying conclusion but I feel it's ultimately lacking some of the charm and panache that the previous books had. In the acknowledgements, Pierce Brown admits he had trouble writing this book and eventually decided that the third installment of Morning Star was no longer Darrow's story but a story about relationships and hope. This shift is readily apparent as you read the book and you're often left feeling like Darrow is just observing things; along for the ride but rarely contributing anything truly meaningful to the advancement of the plot. The previous books had very interesting character development. Roque, Ragnar, Mustang, etc were very fun to watch over time. However in this installment the new characters appear fairly one-dimensional and are mostly dismissed and forgotten after reaching a resolution. Even most returning characters are quickly whisked away into the background. And I don't know if I've just become used to Brown's writing style, but I found a lot of the "twists" to be pretty obvious with clues sprinkled throughout the book telegraphing the resolution from miles away. Forgivably some of this predictability comes from the fact that you know it's the last book and things need to lead towards a reasonable resolution. Pierce Brown must have realized this too because he deliberately made the narration misleading in this final book in an attempt to throw the reader off the scent, something I don't recall him having done in the past.

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