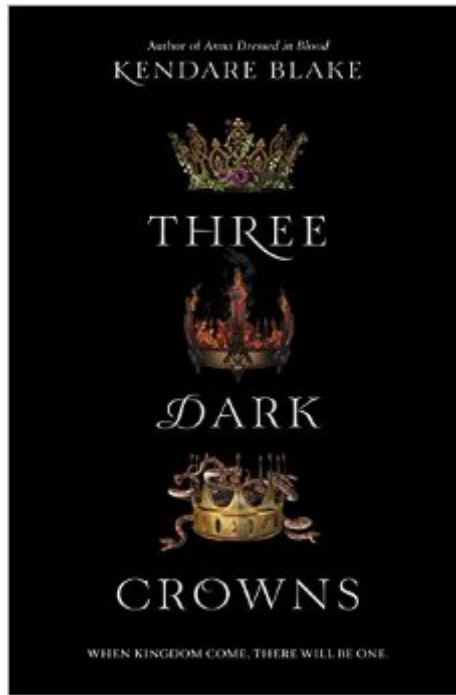


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Three Dark Crowns



Synopsis

Fans of acclaimed author Kendare Blake's Anna Dressed in Blood will devour her latest novel, a dark and inventive fantasy about three sisters who must fight to the death to become queen. In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born: three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. Mirabella is a fierce elemental, able to spark hungry flames or vicious storms at the snap of her fingers. Katharine is a poisoner, one who can ingest the deadliest poisons without so much as a stomachache. Arsinoe, a naturalist, is said to have the ability to bloom the reddest rose and control the fiercest of lions. But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it. And it's not just a game of win or lose...it's life or death. The night the sisters turn sixteen, the battle begins. The last queen standing gets the crown.

Book Information

Series: Three Dark Crowns

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,887 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings #236 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Kendare Blake is one of my favorite authors of all time! I really enjoyed her Antigoddess series and this latest book Three Dark Crowns is another hit for me! It was beyond rich in fantasy lore and everything I could have ever wanted. Definitely left me wanting for more! My favorite thing about this was the writing. Blake has the power to really pull her readers in and I never questioned her tactics. I love when I can immerse myself in a book and not look for faults or try and guess what lies ahead. This is a rarity for me these days, but Blake's story is so good that I just really fall into it and leave my brain somewhere else. This is a great first novel in what I know will be a killer series. It is exciting,

full of twists and turns, and just pure brilliant!

I've been looking forward to reading "Three Dark Crowns" for months and I was so excited to finally read the book. The book is about a world where triplet girls are born and once they turn 16, they have to kill the other two off and whoever is still alive will be queen. The Poisoner Queens have been stronger than the Elemental and Naturalist queens in the past but it may not be so with Katharine-the poisoner queen, Mirabella-the elemental queen, and Arsinoe-the naturalist queen. There is also a lot of people who have motives to try and get their queen to reign so that they have more power. There is a lot going on in this book but it's only book number one in a series, so there will be more to come. Overall, I really liked this book. It is a bit of a slow burner. There is a whole new world to learn and there are a lot of characters to get know, so I was slightly confused the first 100 pages or so. It definitely takes time to remember who is who. I have "Anna Dressed in Blood" in my TBR pile so this is my first Kendare Blake novel. Her writing definitely is different than a lot of other writers but it held my interest and I wanted to see where this story is going. This is great start to a dark new series. Fans of other darker series, like Red Queen and the like, will surely love this new series. Highly recommended!

This will definitely be the unpopular review: I could not finish this book. I made it as far as page 102 (that's almost a quarter of the book) before I finally called it. Other readers loved it so I know it has fans, but I just could not get into this book. Divided into the POVs of royal triplets separated as toddlers, each sister is raised in a separate house and taught a magic for what appears seems to be the sole purpose of killing the other two. The surviving sister, queen of her house, becomes the queen of the country of Fennbirn. One sister is raised by homicidal poisoners, a second learns to command the elements as weapons and the third sister becomes a naturalist, able to use plants and animals to destroy her enemies. From the beginning we learn the matriarch of each house regards their ward as the weakest they have ever raised and those families are pretty sure they're backing the wrong horse. We know there is some matriarchal goddess-type religion that must be appeased by sacrifice. And I'm pretty sure there will be cheating along the way to the death competition to be held on the festival of Beltane. Surely that should be enough to keep my interest but Three Dark Crowns does not. The author has an MA in creative writing which is apparent when it comes to ideas for a story. But her broken up POV execution, sparse world building, and rudimentary dialogue, as well as a phone book of major and minor characters that are difficult to keep track of, makes the novel tough to get into. I kept

confusing the naturalist queen with what I assume is a childhood friend and so I thought her story was actually about the friend (the friend has the cool mountain lion familiar and the queen does not, again the sister is shown to be weak). The poisoner queen is frail and sickly from ingesting poison her entire life and her guardians are just plain evil. The temple secretly backs the elemental, but it's obvious she doesn't want to be queen. I truly wanted to like this book; I even pre-ordered it because it sounded like a good strong story. Although I did not finish the book, not finishing it is in itself a review.

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