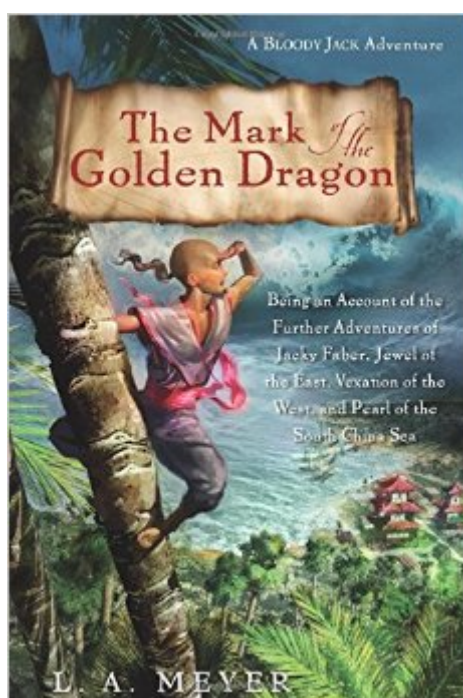


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The Mark Of The Golden Dragon: Being An Account Of The Further Adventures Of Jacky Faber, Jewel Of The East, Vexation Of The West, And Pearl Of The South China Sea (Bloody Jack Adventures)



Synopsis

Jacky Faber embarks on another rousing adventure to delight her ever-growing legion of fans. The irrepressible Jacky Faber, condemned for life to the English penal colony in Australia for crimes against the Crown, has once again wriggled out of the grasp of British authorities. Back on her flagship, the Lorelei Lee, she eagerly heads back to England in the company of friends and her beloved Jaimy Fletcher. But when the voyage is waylaid by pirates, storms, and her own impetuous nature, Jacky is cast into a world of danger that extends from the South China Sea to the equally treacherous waters of London politics. With the help of her loyal friends, Jacky meets her enemies head-on in this tale of love, courage, and redemption.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (71 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I have been following the Bloody Jack series for a long time now. The first book "Bloody Jack" was marvelous. It showed a great deal of historical accuracy and realism, featured a interesting cast of characters and plenty of high adventure, and best of all, introduced a feisty, saucy, adventure-loving girl with a strong voice and a great force of personality that drove the story. "Bloody Jack" was essentially a coming-of-age story for Jacky, and "Curse of the Blue Tattoo" was a solid, character-driven continuation of her story. "Under the Jolly Roger" marked a return to the sea, and also introduced many plot elements that are now very familiar to Jacky fans -- Jacky dabbling in piracy, Jacky "picking up" new vessels, and Jacky constantly finding herself on the wrong side of the law. While weaker and less character-driven than the previous two, it remained solid and added

a wide collection of colorful characters to the story. Then came "In the Belly of the Bloodhound", a new dark note for the series--and one of its best, if not THE best. The story was focused, the characters vividly drawn, and far more rounded than they ever had been... or ever would be again. Yes, just as the series seemed to be finding its footing, it somehow stumbled. Perhaps the author confused the dark, adult tone of "Bloodhound" with sensationalism and sensuality, because that's what found its way into the rest of the series. The last three books in particular have frustrated me because, as Jacky Faber gets older and finds herself in more and more "adult" situations, she hasn't seemed to actually grow up any. In Books 1-4, there was actual character development. It wasn't always positive and it sometimes progressed in fits and starts, but it happened.

First of all, let me clarify that despite my doubts and disappointment with elements of these books from #6 onward, I have continued to read them...but this is the first that made me literally throw the book at the wall in disgust. As for what is positive about the book: 1) I certainly liked the not-so-little literary references that L. A. Meyer affectionately scatters through his books (this includes Sherlock Holmes, "The Highwayman," and Higgin's implausible "association" with a few handsome young literary talents...Lord Byron, to name one). 2) Also, for the first time in a good long stretch of books Jacky gets significantly called out for her often indecent, irrational, and, let's be honest, selfish behavior. 3) Her little stunt (SPOILER HERE) of imitating a mermaid to put the brakes on a passing ship was hilarious and exactly the sort of ridiculous stunt that makes me love her character. 4) Also, if you have not gathered this from other reviews, this book sees Jaimy truly going off the deep end at the news of Jacky's demise...in the most romantic, dangerous, and sexy way possible. I'll admit, Jaimy's suicidal "letters" to his thought-to-demised Miss Faber are exactly the sort of angsty, twisted things that I adore in literature. I thought, 'Fantastic, now he's an anti-hero.' 5) Finally, the concept of Jacky worming her way through London's glittering circles and seedy underbelly seemed a fine prospect for a novel, if disappointing in its delivery. (indeed, this is what the novel is about, not Jacky's professed adventures in the East) Okay, now for the not-so-fun portion of this review.

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