



Blood Ties

Sonny Whitelaw, Elizabeth Christensen

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Creatures of the night...

When a series of gruesome murders are uncovered around the world, the trail leads back to the SGC — and far beyond...

Recalled to Stargate Command, Dr. Elizabeth Weir, Colonel John Sheppard, and Dr. Rodney McKay are shown shocking video footage — a Wraith attack, taking place on Earth. While McKay, Teyla, and Ronon investigate the disturbing possibility that humans may harbor Wraith DNA, Colonel Sheppard is teamed with SG-1's Dr. Daniel Jackson. Together, they follow the murderers' trail from Colorado Springs to the war-torn streets of Iraq, and there, uncover a terrifying truth...

As an ancient cult prepares to unleash its deadly plot against humankind, Sheppard's survival depends on his questioning of everything believed about the Wraith...

Blood Ties Details

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From Reader Review Blood Ties for online ebook

Adam says

The first few chapters felt a little disjointed and the pacing was a little off, but as the story progresses the plot really comes into its own. I wasn't too keen on the events that happened in the Pegasus Galaxy, but the story on Earth had me hooked. It all nicely linked everything into the current established mythos, while adding more elements to it. The characters were well written, plenty of tension between them which was fitting with the events of the series during that time in the aftermath of Carson's death. I did feel that there was plenty more to tell with this story, and some of the characters were underused, but overall it was an enjoyable read.

Ida Leter says

It's a pretty stupid book. Well, rather, it is two books, only loosely held together by plot. The plot about telepathic half-ascended dinosaurs is quite stupid, but in a fun way. The plot about the incubi and the succubi, not so fun. It doesn't work, starting with the original character who gets told things she has no business knowing, just magically makes up the rest, and has super-duper special genes of specialness, to the baffling and anticlimactic ending. The infodumping of the things people past the age of 13 should not be surprised about was eye-roll worthy. And many other things.

There were a few moments involving Rodney that I enjoyed, of him mourning Carson and bonding with his teammates. The rest I could have done without.

Angela says

Wraith-like beings are attacking humans on Earth, so the Atlantis team is called to help Daniel Jackson eliminate the threat. Meanwhile a team goes to a planet with dinosaurs. Yes, this has dinosaurs and that is always fun. The main story does seem a bit longwinded, but all the characters act like they should. There's some nice ideas here, only they don't gel enough to give this 4 stars. A good read.

Miss Clark says

Apart from being an awful story, it has practically nothing to do with Stargate and its characters. Rather, the author chooses to focus on her original character, who literally takes over the story. It could have been a novel about anything but Stargate! Eden, Lilith, vampires. Oh, yeah and the wraith thrown in as a tie to the universe of SGA.

Rodney McKay, self-confessed egomaniac-jerk-arrogant-stubborn-genius, is a caricature of himself, doing nothing but complaining and whining and being an absolute idiot throughout. He is reduced to an inanity, whimpering and cowering all over the place. He nearly has a hysterical fit in a public place and Weir acts as if its not an issue really. While McKay is selfish and prone to overreact, especially to profess doom and gloom, he also is essentially a good person and the one, along with his team mates, who ends up saving the

day when the chips are down, the odds are stacked and everything has gone all to heck. This was just a travesty, even taking into account personal license. Also, McKay is a fairly well-liked character on the series and I somehow doubt that many people would like how Whitelaw has chosen to view him. But, really, she was probably so busy making sure that her character, along with Daniel and John, (maybe this is just a personal fantasy being exorcised) was solving the mystery and setting all to rights that she forgot that this was supposed to be about Stargate Atlantis and its characters, all of which she ignored and totally trashed.

An utter waste and I would sincerely recommend that you never read it if you actually like the series. Otherwise, whatever...

Stephanie Jo Hanauer says

One of my favorites so far in the series. This one is essentially a crossover with SG-1 and takes place on Earth. Love delving into the Lt. Col. Sheppard character a little deeper! (Please see extended review of this series under my "read" book, Stargate Atlantis #2, Reliquary.)

Jeane says

So this was my first ever StarGate book! (StarGate being my favorite Scifi franchise, not that I don't love StarTrek and StarWars also) So I was a little leery if the authors would get it right, after all I have just read the worst Hellboy novelization of all time this past year as well as a Wolverine: Weapon X novel that was most appalling. So I can definitely say that I was very very very please with this book. First of all the authors got the characters dead on! The dialogue was perfect and uniquely different to match each character! ("If a lemon has been anywhere near that fryer, my resulting anaphylactic reaction will be spectacular and probably worth taking legal action" -Rodney McKay). the story was also incredibly interesting, but a bit long, I love that Daniel Jackson was in it because of course I love him! There were some things that did drag on, and I even wish they could have made the dinosaur part much longer and suspenseful, but over all a good first impression indeed!

Kati says

Before I even started it, I had come across some not so positive reviews for this book - and I'm glad that I didn't listen to them. The book is really good, you get the usually bickering and team-feeling, everybody's reaction to Carson's death and some exciting space exploration - yes, non-human aliens! A major part of this book takes place on Earth though which was kind of unusual in a SGA book.

The reason why I didn't give it five stars? Dr. Larance was just a barely disguised Mary-Sue. I mean, I love outsider's POV, so I didn't mind the addition of an original character, but did she really have to be Miss Perfect?

Other than that, a really, really, really good book! *nods*

Michelle says

This was a solid TV tie in. In any tie in I expect the characters to be accurate. This book did fairly well. Rodney especially seemed spot on and the banter between the team felt right though there wasn't very much of it since the team split up through much of the book. It was fun to have the team back on Earth and have Daniel Jackson involved in the story. The actual plot seemed to veer more into the feel of an SG-1 episode, however. There were lots of ancient Gods and clay tablets mixed into the wraith storyline. At times I got lost in the explanations and the different incarnations of Lilith. It did seem to stall toward the end and it seemed unsure of where it wanted to go. Other than that it was a fun, quick moving story and worth picking up if you enjoy tie in books, and especially if you're missing your favorite Atlantis characters.

SixBeforeLunch says

Pretty good book. I picked it up mainly because it had Daniel as a central character and in that respect it didn't disappoint. His story is really interesting and his characterization is pretty good. The other storyline didn't hold my interest as well, but that might be because I'm not as interested in the Atlantis characters. Still, pretty good book, a lot better than most of the Stargate tie-in novels I've seen.

Ana Gutierrez says

Ah, another wonderful addition to the Stargate Atlantis universe! I think these two co-authors, Whitelaw and Christensen, are awesome together!

Seriously their plot lines are elaborate but chock full of science-y goodness. I think they also do an awesome Rodney McKay! Well they do everyone justice but I think Rodney's the hardest to Ballance between his arrogance and his socially aquard but caring relationship with his team/friends.

They also seem to love weaving their stories into bot SGA and SG1 cannon by mentioning events from both series. In this one they explore the ramifications of Carson's death which didn't get a lot of focus in the series, or at least I don't think it did.

Anastasia says

Even though it had Daniel and John on the cover, thus the focus of the story would've focused on both of them I was very disappointed with the plot. My first impression of the book was it felt like a crossover between Criminal Minds (the profiler woman complete with the "we're on a plane, let's talk business" scene) and something else, with John and Daniel tossed in, and stuff happening in Pegasus Galaxy just so the book can be labeled as a Stargate Atlantis novel.

Usually when i read SG books, I read them in the actors' voices, not this one. Here the characters just didn't seem 'true' to themselves. And what was the point of Dr Rebecca Larance ? Couldn't relate to the character in any way, and didn't even feel for her when she had her little fit; and the way she ties into the story is just ridiculous at best. The story would've been a lot better without her, IMO.

The writing is dodgy, and the proverbial "reset button" is used way too many times. Daniel gets blown up, few pages later "bam, he's fine" ; Sheppard gets injured and shot up TWICE, and BAM, he's perfectly fine on the next page. And what of the Gordi plot line?

Some dodgy sounding sentences:

Page 268: "...His right arm was pinned under the upended seat; his left lay broken & useless next to what was left of the radio." just made it look like the left arm was completely unattached. which *may* have been the case, but still... and there was one instance where Rodney "threw up his arm", you can guess the first image that entered my mind.

This book felt like some really bad fan fiction, and it probably would've been if there was a three-some sex scene between Rebbeca, Daniel Jackson and John Sheppard.

I *did* like a few nods to the SGC, Siler and his huge wrench cameo for instance, but those tiny shootouts are nowhere near enough to save the book. It could've been about anything other than Stargate Atlantis. I'm not likely to read this one again.

AnnaM says

Well-written, heavily researched, full of action. I liked the dialogue, and thought the characters sounded like themselves.

I read some reviews on Amazon AFTER reading this that called it horrible, said the OC was a Mary Sue and Rodney a cowardly shadow of himself. Hmm. Maybe I'm just a bit more relaxed or "go with the flow"? I didn't think Larance was a Mary Sue, though she was in the book a lot and had a lot of abilities. They did say she was pretty--but that could be in the eyes of the pov character and not the whole world. She did play an important role near the end and the explanations of who the succubi chose and why, did include her. Rodney? I didn't think he came across badly. Course, he's not my favorite character so maybe I missed the nuances. He seemed fine to me. And Sheppard Kirking throughout? Huh? I saw him trying to be polite to a female shrink who'd dissected his psyche years ago and who freaked him out a little. Actually, I thought he seemed to be uncomfortable around all the women in the story except for Teyla and Weir.

As an SGA book...well, it's very heavily SG1. Despite the SGA characters having more "screen time" I felt like they were guest stars in an SG1 book. Why? Most of the backstory on the plot, bad guys, and "reasons why" everything happened were rooted in SG1 episodes I didn't see.

Did I like it as a mostly SGA fan? Yes. But if you don't like SG1 or are looking for an SGA Team story, you might not like this one. If you like both shows or are more open to not completely understanding the history of what's going on, then you should like it.

There's Shep whump, Rodney snark that sometimes made me laugh out loud, action, mythology, Daniel Jackson, Lorne, Ronon, Weir and a unique use of Teyla near the end.

And I don't remember a single typo in this one.

Denise says

This one was a bit too heavy on the mythology for my taste (gotta admit, I got bored with that part halfway through the book at the latest), but I always love an SGA/SG-1 mash-up and the characterizations were mostly accurate as well. Set late in season 3, the book also takes some time to see the characters deal with Carson's death which was a nice touch that I was missing a bit in the show post-"Sunday".

Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

This book was a little different. Instead of adventuring in the Pegasus galaxy in these novel we get to do half the job on earth with Daniel Jackson and Rebecca Larance and Sheppard helping them out. Unfortunately that spoils the book for me. When I read these novels is for the characters. I don't care about the main series (Stargate). The characters on the Atlantis are way good and the adventures as well, not to mention the Wraith and the ancients.

These novel Rebecca Larance is almost godlike divine being. She is a "real" wonder woman. Not only does she have the ATA gene but another rare gene which explains her own prophecy (bla bla bla).

The plot itself was far fetched even for the stargate universe and we see here the mysticism of Vampires. Yes.. Vampires are a kind of wraiths and even with all historical presentation given by Jackson was weak. The plot in Iraq was nothing special and all the novel on earth is weak. The only good part was the dinosaurs part happening on the pegasus galaxy. Quite good.

Criticism

Dr McKay is heavily portrait as a coward but as you all know, even if his words are of a coward his actions are not. He has saved the main cast dozen times and after complaining he is courageous beyond doubt. I really hope the next novels by Christensen are better.

The plot was weak and rather far-fetched.

Rebecca was annoying and totally unrealistic character

Weir and Sheppard are two-dimensional

Good

The characters: Undoubtedly the characters are the best part of the novels. To read again a novel with Sheppard, Teyla, Ronon and of course my favourite Dr McKay (even if this one was awfully bad portrait, and I mean really awful.. a little brat that Weir (another weak character on the book) had to remove him from a science meeting. Awful!!!

Conclusion

Would I recommend this book to anyone? No. There are so many awful things on it that I can't recommend to anyone unless they are die-hard fans as I am. And even bad canon is worth reading. I really hope the other books are far better.

Craterdweller says

Not the best

Characterizations were all over the place and the ending seemed especially contrived. Considering many of the Atlantis expedition started at the SGC, I've never enjoyed novels that emphasize us vs. them politics.
