



## Nightblade

*Ryan Kirk*

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## **Nightblade** Ryan Kirk

Ryuu is a boy orphaned by violence at a young age. Found by a wandering warrior, he learns he may have more strength than he ever imagined possible.

A quiet child, Moriko is forced into a monastic system she despises. Torn from her family and the forest she grew up in, she must fight to learn the skills she'll need to survive her tutelage under the realm's most dangerous assassin.

Young, beautiful, and broke, Takako is sold to pay for her father's debts. Thrust into a world she doesn't understand and battles she didn't ask for, she must decide where her loyalties lie.

When their lives crash together in a Kingdom on the brink of war, the decisions they make will change both their lives and their Kingdom forever.

If they can stay alive.

## **Nightblade Details**

Date : Published August 3rd 2015 by Waterstone Media

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Author : Ryan Kirk

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# From Reader Review Nightblade for online ebook

## Montzalee Wittmann says

Nightblade

By: Ryan Kirk

Narrated by: Andrew Tell

I liked this book despite it describing the rough and seedy lifestyle of this world they live in. The bandits raping and killing a woman, although it wasn't overly graphic, it was rough. A father selling his 10 year old daughter to a who're house, she has no idea what the place is, and tells them she is older. Then the vicious beatings from the Abbott at the Monastery to the children but especially one of the girls.

Despite these things, the story is good. These things were meant to show how tough the life is I suppose. The adventure, action, characters, and plot were good. I am knocking it down a star for rape and beatings. I hate that, sorry.

The narrator was pure genius! Excellent voices, emotional fluctuations, and feelings. Perfect!

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## Patricia Crowther says

4.5\*

Not without some minor flaws but it was thoroughly enjoyable regardless. I actually found the simple writing style a refreshing change. It genuinely had me captivated from the very start and maintained my interest throughout.

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## Mike (the Paladin) says

“Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.”

Confucius

I was in a reading slump for a while, nothing I picked up drew me in or held my interest...you can probably get an inkling of this by looking at my "Currently Reading" shelf and the number of unfinished books there. Then I started Free the Darkness and it was pretty good. Therefore I checked out the "people who liked this book also liked" page for it here at Goodreads. On there I found (among others) Six of Crows, A Dance of Blades, and this book Nightblade.

This book drew me in and held my interest...finally. I already have the 2nd.

The book begins by introducing us to our main characters, and our secondary characters...and you may not be able to tell who is who to begin with. There is a storytelling technique (used frequently) where you follow each of the different characters along their own story line. Sometimes this works better than at other times.

Really. Some writers do this better than others.

here I thought it (it being the story-line or plot) started out rather slowly but that rapidly changed and I found

myself almost enthralled at times. The book's core or driving plot-line very much revolves around the Confucius quote above. Layers of revenge bringing about "Hatfields/McCoys" types of situations here carrying along death generation after generation with participants who are seemingly caught in an inescapable pattern or labyrinth.

That said there is also some deeper parts of this one and it begins to take on a multifaceted plot.

I like it.

The book has a very Asian flavor with the characters showing much influence from iconic eastern characters such as "warrior monks" and "Samurai". While there is no dearth of works with this type character this one is done well and doesn't fall into any of the cliché type traps some have.

As noted I like this book and am looking forward to starting the next in the series as soon as I finish a couple of books already "in progress".

5 Stars and recommended. Enjoy.

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### **ke-sha says**

FREE:

<https://www.amazon.com/Nightblade-Rya...>

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### **Raven\_Blake (dreamy addictions) says**

Same Review Also Posted In My Blog: Dreamy Addictions

This book was surprisingly good and I quite enjoyed reading it. I picked this up because the synopsis sounded intriguing and I love reading books with samurai's with blades and stuff like that. Apart from comics, I've never read books with samurai themes before so I thought why don't I give this a shot. It turns out to be a good read. I really liked the plot, the setting, the characters and also the unique concept of dayblades and nightblades. It has a slow start, but it has an engaging plot that'll surprise you at every turn.

Ryuu's parent's were killed by a group of bandits when he was just a little boy. He is rescued by a wandering stranger who is also a nightblade. The stranger discovers a special gift hidden inside the boy and offers him to become his apprentice and train under him. Moriko is forced to leave her parents when a monk finds that she has been gifted and he takes her to a monastery filled with many young people gifted with powers like her who calls themselves whiteblades. Moriko didn't like the way they were living and starts to rebel and soon she was given a death sentence but she was very special so instead of getting killed, she was trained under a dangerous assassin who is a nightblade. Lastly, we have beautiful Takako. When she was only ten years old, her father sold her to a brothel which is run by a woman who calls herself Madame. During her time as a house assistant in the brothel, she captures the attention of a general who wants her to be his son's consort. Her life changes forever when she meets Ryuu who seems to have so many secrets. When these three collides together their lives changes forever.

The characters were the strongest part of this book and I liked all of the characters including the supporting ones. The three MC's Ryuu, Moriko and Takako are strong characters and each of them has their own unique personality. Ryuu is strong headed who wants to help others in need without caring about the consequences. Moriko is stubborn and kickass character who wants to live her life the way she wants. Takako is an innocent girl who wants to lead a normal life without violence. Besides these interesting characters, I really enjoyed Ryuu and his relationship with his mentor Shigeru. I loved the bond between them.

Despite dragging a little bit at some places, the plot was quite interesting and well written. There were so many twists and turns in the plot that made it an unputdownable read. It has great world building. The world the author has build reflects the Japanese culture which is divided into three kingdoms. I liked the writing which was very descriptive especially in the fighting scenes. The characters are all well built and they are developed quite nicely. This book was written in multiple POV's so that we could understand the characters better.

Overall, it was an incredible read and I absolutely loved it. The book finally concluded with a bittersweet ending and a twist, so I'm definitely going to read the next book. It is a great fantasy book filled with action, adventure, violence, light romance and may not be suitable for young adults due to some mature themes. If you like reading books with action and samurai themes, then you'll definitely enjoy this book.

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### **Jody says**

Nightblade was a refreshing change of pace to what I have been reading recently. The authors writing style was a little different, but as I kept reading I noticed it fit the story perfectly. It did take me a while to really get into it, but it was time well spent.

The setting has an ancient Japanese feel to it where warriors live by their sword and their honor. The plot is definitely character driven, and follows three main POV's Ryuu, Moriko, and Takako from childhood to young adults. Their journey is the main focus of the book, but I found the culture and warrior aspects of the book interesting as well.

The story itself is dark and even sad at times. You get your fair share of sword fighting and action, but that is only a fraction of what makes this a good book. I have a strong feeling this series is going to get better with each installment. I highly recommend giving this series a try!

4 stars\*\*\*\*

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### **QuietlyKat says**

Truth is, I'm not sure this is a 4 star book, but I really enjoyed it in spite of its weaknesses. The plot, while nothing really fresh or new, was entertaining and engaging and every time I put it down, I found myself unable to stop thinking about it and anxious to get back to it.

As much as I enjoyed it, there was one aspect that left me disappointed. I loved that the two female main characters were strong, smart women, unfortunately, they both felt a bit flat in comparison to the male

characters. Furthermore, the author choose to force them both into positions where they needed rescuing by male protagonists. I would have preferred for at least one of them to have served as more than a prop to drive Ryuu's character growth. I will continue the series with hope that Moriko continues to grow and develop with the same kind of depth and dimension as the male protagonists.

One last nit-picky thing, I found the choice of character names corny and predictable. The meaning of nearly everyone's name represented their character traits. I suppose that's fitting but, like I said, corny and unoriginal.

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### **zach says**

#### **It gets surprisingly good.**

I was apprehensive of starting this book but it turned out so much better than I thought. I liked all the characters which is unusual for me and I felt the ending was good and sets up for more. The only downside, like what other reviewers have said, is that the fight scenes are over too quickly and with little description. It's apparent the author may just not be good enough at that aspect to try. While it still worked I'll be looking for some improvement in the next book.

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### **Frank says**

I really enjoyed this first book in the Nightblade trilogy.

This is a fantasy with an Asian flair and a cross with GOT, with three kingdoms living harmoniously, but there is a history that lurks and reeks of powers and magic?

We have our main character Ryuu, with powers discovered at age 5, a Nightblade in training and two others.

This is presented as three separate coming of age story lines, that eventually merge by novel's end.

The coming of age stories give us the backgrounds of other characters, the way of life, the world around, potential enemies, princes, generals, monks etc.

Looking forward to book 2.

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### **Gavin says**

This was a dark YA coming of age fantasy tale. The fantasy setting had a definite Japanese tinge to it. The Nightblades were like Samurai warriors with a bit of extra Jedi-like powers.

This story followed three main POV characters in Ryuu, Moriko, Takako. They were all of a similar age and we followed them from childhood into early adulthood. None of them had easy lives.

Ryuu's whole family was murdered by bandits when he was a child. He was saved from the same fate by the man who went on to become his mentor. That man was a fabled Nightblade. The Nightblades are little more than legends in the Three Kingdoms as they were hunted to extinction after a war that broke a once powerful kingdom into the three parts that make up the Three Kingdoms. Ryuu's mentor teaches him the ways of the

Nightblade but they live a lonely existence in the forest as he also believes that the only way to live in peace is to live apart from others.

Moriko was taken from her family as a child and forced to train with Dayblade monks as soon as her skill with the Sense was discovered. The Dayblades do not use the Sense to kill and fight as do the Nightblades so they are less feared by the populace but the Monastic system is in place to keep them under control. Moriko resents her confinement there.

Takako is just a regular Sense-less human but has no easier a life as she was sold to a brothel at a young age by her father who had lost more than he had at the gambling tables. She ends up at a high class brothel that caters to the elite of the Southern Kingdom nobility and army.

Our three characters encounter each other along the way and end up making choices that have far larger consequences than they could have anticipated.

The story could have been quite good but was hindered by a couple of things. The first was the writing style of Ryan Kirk. It was a bit strange and always created a bit of distance between the reader and the happenings. The second main issue was that both the female characters ended up being little more than romantic interests and object lessons for Ryuu. I was particularly frustrated by what this meant for one of the characters towards the end.

All in all this was an OK story that threatened to be better than it actually was. I'm unsure at this point if I will pick up the second book or not.

Rating: 3 stars.

Audio Note: Andrew Tell did a decent job with the audio.

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## **PH says**

This book is a terrible inconsistent mess.

The world is inspired by feudal Japan and the world building is quite generic. This book's conception of honor is so stereotypical, it'll make a Klingon blush.

The prose is stilted and uninspired. The vocabulary is simplistic. Descriptions are unimaginative and bland. The action is very low on detail. While that's likely due to a stylistic choice, much of it seems to be due to the fact that author doesn't know how to write action because there's no variety. He uses the same words and descriptions over and over again.

The dialogue is banal. The characters talk to each other like they're children. They fail to ask obvious questions or give simple explanations, leading to pointless conflict and confusion.

The book constantly mentions how brilliant and observant the protagonist is but he's indecisive and constantly makes incredibly dumb decisions. At the beginning of the book, he was able to fully control his emotions while watching his mother raped and murdered along with an entire caravan. However, after

receiving years of rigorous training, learning discipline and self control, he becomes an impulsive fool who never considers the consequences of his actions.

There is a character who exists for the sole purpose of being tortured in order to motivate the protagonist.

The book tries to convey a message about the unintended consequences of the protagonist's actions but anyone with half a brain could have seen how idiotic and dangerous his choices are.

This book is just bad. Don't read it.

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### **Cindy says**

This is the type of book I never know how to review and yet I feel must. It's violent. Might just be one of the most violent books I've read. Rape, torture, abuse and one of the main characters is sold into prostitution by her father at the age of 10. Normally these are the types of things that would cause me to abandon it as I did Game Of Thrones. However, unlike GOT, I liked these characters and cared what happened to them.

Will I continue with the series? I honestly don't know. I care about the characters, but the level (and type) of violence makes me uncomfortable.

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### **Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says**

4.5 Stars

Nightblade represents a whole year spent taking chances on books I've never heard of, all with the hopes of finding new authors and hidden gems. Some didn't turn out that way but most turned out to be excellent and fun choices. Nightblade is truly one of those gems.

Instead of your run of the mill, European based fantasy we are treated to a world with Japanese/Chinese parallels with a very rich history. The land is split into three main Kingdoms, with other nations surrounding that, and each has a tenuous and fragile peace with the other. But our story takes place on a smaller more personal scale. Ryu is not tasked with changing the world or bringing peace to a set of kingdoms, instead he is simply trying to live a life where he can use his strength to protect those without choice or means of doing so themselves...which is refreshing after reading so many books where the main character sets out to utterly dismantle the status quo. I think that difference really brings the raw emotion of the experiences he goes through to the forefront. The kingdom itself is oddly beautiful despite its issues and the author's skill with building worlds is fairly apparent. I could see the busy streets of the city, and the shadow streets of the red lit road where men go for companionship, I could easily picture the old forest and stone paved courtyard of the monasteries. One can go a long time without experiencing world building on a scale where everything becomes an actual sensory memory, as opposed to just a plot line, and I never realize how starved I am until I find one.

Ryu is definitely a fantastic character to follow, as is Moriko and Takako...who all come together in different ways. Each of them shares the loss of their family and the chance of a normal life but the way they view the world is different. Ryu is headstrong and curious, and he wants to help others no matter what and



most of the story centers around each consequence of his actions and the weight it puts on a single person. While he is skilled and hardened in many ways in some others he is a bit naive, which joins nicely with Takako's loving personality and her knowledge of what the world is really like.

Nightblade is definitely a highlight to this year's books, and I'm glad I took a chance on it when I did.

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### **Mark Halse says**

Definitely an excellent read! Fast paced and interesting the whole way through however the story may have been a little too quick for my tastes.

This book follows three children as tragedy leads them down a collision course for each other once they reach their majority. This book is a very nice departure from the run of the mill Western European fantasy as it is based on Asian cultures. Though the plot moved quickly the story is not light. This book gets dark. Not Jorg Ancrath dark but dark all the same.

I really enjoyed this book despite the fact that I wish that it was a little more deep than it was.

RECOMMENDED.

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### **BookLoversLife says**

This was fan-feaking-tastic!! I didn't just read this, I devoured it. Everything about it was phenomenal, but non more so than the character building. Every character in this was extremely well written and developed.

We have Ryuu, a boy who saw his parents being killed and who was rescued by a mysterious man. This warrior is a Nightbade. Ryuu had heard that the Nightbades were the enemy but the man who rescues him, is anything but. He is kind, honest and wise. He passes on as much as he can to Ryuu and thus changes the boys life.

We have Moriko. She is taken from her family by the monks, whom she despises, and taken to the monastery. There she is trained to use the powers they sense in her, but with her inquisitive nature, she doesn't follow direction good, and she hates the way the monks treat her, and other people. She is sentenced to death, but ends up training with the assassin the monastery use. She soon realises that this assassin, is in fact a Nightblade, and she might just have their powers too.

Lastly, we have Takako. Her father sells her to a Madame at a young age, and she captures the attention of an important man. He wants her for his sons consort but Takako soon realises that the boy isn't a nice person. How can she escape this life that has been forced on her.

3 different people, 3 different lives, but when they all collide, their lives are changed forever.

As I said. The characters in this were amazing. The character growth was practicably amazing. Poor Ryuu

learns that his actions have consequence, sometimes deadly! Moriko learns that what you are told, isn't ways the truth. That you have to trust your instincts and do what's right, even if it hurts. And Takako learns that life is hard. One mistake is all it takes.

Another plus with this is the world building. The lore behind the magic and the Nightblades was amazing. The descriptive way the author writes the world, makes it impossible not to be drawn in. The writing just grabs you and weaves the story around you. It really is amazing!

In all, this was an amazing read and one I can't recommend enough. The authors writing was phenomenal, the characters made you love them and the whole story will devour you. I listened to this over 2 days and had a hard time unplugging from it. I need book 2 to come to audio ASAP.

Andrew Tell was amazing. He gave each character their own voice and really brought the story to life. He brought the heartache and sadness that each one experienced expertly to life and really gave his performance his all.

\*I received a copy of this for review. This in no way affects my thoughts.\*

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