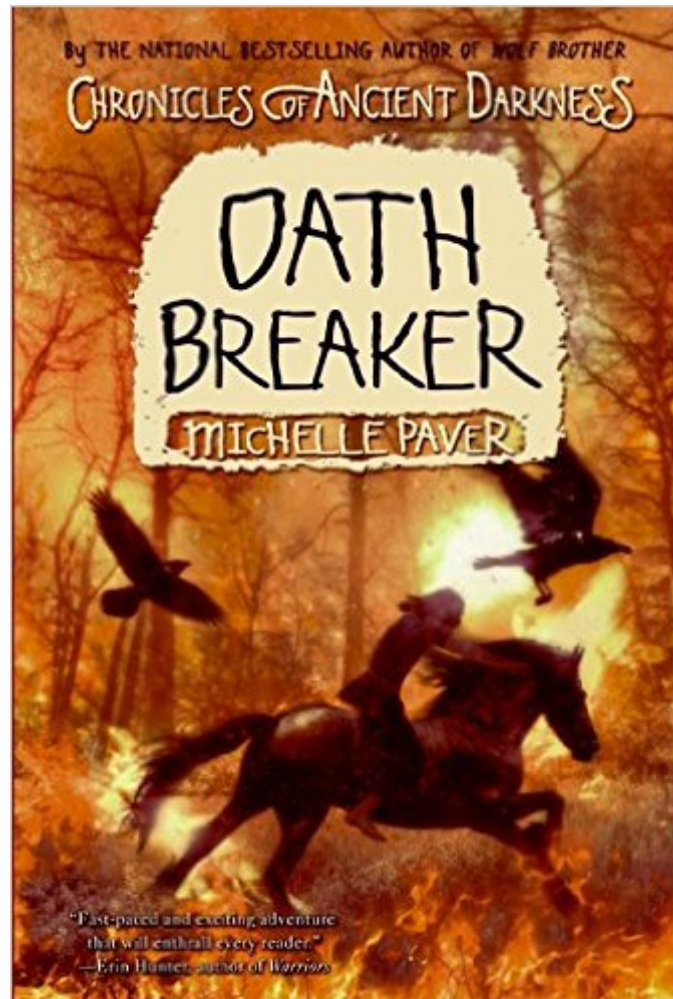


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Chronicles Of Ancient Darkness #5: Oath Breaker



Synopsis

A thrilling story about friendship, loyalty, and revenge. When he was outcast, Torak was the hunted one. Nine moons later he becomes the hunter when he vows to avenge the killing of one of his closest friends. Racked by guilt and grief, he follows the killer into the Deep Forest, where the World Spirit stalks the hidden valleys as a tall man with the antlers of a stag. But there is a rottenness at the heart of the Forest, for its clans have succumbed to the lies of the Soul-Eaters. Here, Torak must face fire, war, and overwhelming evil. Oath Breaker is a story about keeping promises and the true cost of vengeance.

Book Information

Series: Chronicles of Ancient Darkness (Book 5)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

I am a huge fan of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series, and have always relished in Michelle Paver's evident originality, creativity, and research, all of which help to make these books spectacular reads. After reading Oath Breaker, the latest and penultimate addition to Paver's prehistoric saga, I have to say that it, along with Spirit Walker and Soul Eater, the second and third books, is one of the best. The series' characteristic taut suspense, intriguing mysticism, and engrossing and well-crafted characters create a thrilling adventure story that is sure to please

countless fans. Oath Breaker begins nine moons after the end of Outcast, and, like previous books, focuses on Torak, the book's intriguing teenage protagonist, his best friend and skilled archer, Renn, and Wolf, his faithful and loyal "pack-brother." The book delves right into the action within the first chapter, when one of Torak's closest friends is heinously murdered. After a brief investigation, Torak concludes that the killer is Thiazzi, the powerful Oak Clan Mage and one of the only two remaining of a wicked band known as the Soul Eaters. Vowing vengeance, Torak, Renn, and Wolf embark on a quest into the Deep Forest, following Thiazzi through an otherworldly realm of strange clans, budding conflict, and a growing evil which threatens to consume the heart of Torak's world. I found Oath Breaker to be one of the best books in this series for multiple reasons. First of all, as in other books, Paver's setting is expertly crafted. Her detailed descriptions of life in the pre-agricultural era of Torak's world, from simple tasks such as gathering food to complex feats such as bow making, are obviously well-researched and effectively make this prehistoric adventure story palpable and believable.

Bale lay on his back. His face was unmarked. It was the back of his skull that had cracked like an eggshell. Perhaps one of the worst things that can happen to a person is to lose their best friend. When Torak discovers his friend Bale murdered, he is not only devastated but his guilt is overwhelming. If Torak hadn't left their campsite during the night, none of this would have happened. He carries his guilt heavy within and is determined to avenge this brutal death. He will risk anything to give Bale's spirit its proper rest and find the killer. Despite warnings from Saeunn, the old Raven Mage (she cautions that Torak's foster father, Fin-Kedinn, will never see the end of this journey), Torak sets out accompanied by Renn and Fin-Kedinn. Even before they leave camp, they have discovered Bale's probable killer. All signs point to an old enemy, the Oak Mage, known as Thiazzi. In their last encounter the evil Soul-Eater had been attacked by a wolf who took two of his fingers in the process. Thiazzi, probably traveling with the one other remaining Soul-Eater, Eostra, is also bent on revenge. The little Raven Clan is up against some very powerful magic and madness on this journey. For the time being, Torak's long-time companion, Wolf, is on his own journey. Although Wolf and Torak have been separated, Wolf has sensed Thiazzi, who he calls the Bitten One, and is driven to follow this scent. Wolf's language is simple and picturesque. When he sees the "tailless one," his thoughts move like this: The Bitten One was sliding up - Wet on the trunk of an oak. Wolf caught the glint of a great stone claw at his flank. He caught the smell of pine-blood and reindeer hide, and the strange, terrible Bright Beast-that-Bites-Cold.

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