



Crimson Oath

Teneae Hunt

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Plagued by visions of the future since his childhood, Ash Baker has lived his life in secrecy. When a mysterious fire consumes his home and his parents are kidnapped, Ash and his younger brother Charlie must venture to Aracnotolo, world of the faeries, to rescue them.

However, they find themselves in the middle of a budding war between Summer and Winter. Living with Adaline and Leo Tarklovishki in Feraudian Plains, the country of the Summer faeries, Ash and Charlie quickly find that evil forces are at play. Accused of two murders they did not commit, Ash, Leo and their friends and family must run for their lives to find a place they can remain safe. Hunted, certain things come to light about Ash's strange powers that brings the fate of the world down upon his shoulders.

Crimson Oath Details

Date : Published July 25th 2014 by Createspace (first published July 6th 2014)

ISBN : 9781500542542

Author : Tenae Hunt

Format : Paperback 412 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Crimson Oath for online ebook

K.M. Montemayor says

Crimson Oath is similar to a lot of fantasy, fairy stories I've read. I know, there's nothing new under the sun. But Ms. Hunt has a unique take on some of the aspects that makes this story a bit different.

What I liked: The world building. Although Aracnotolo is similar in a lot of ways to Earth, it is almost like Earth in a pre-Renaissance time. I like the gods of the different seasons at war with each other. The fairy market and the bridge had a very Neil Gaiman London below feel. I liked how they were able to shrink the luggage and the crossing of the Kuren Bahna, unstable ground, was pretty neat. The legend of the Beaunaratau was one of my favorite parts--how it marks those destined to be together in true love. (view spoiler)

The characters: I loved Leo. I thought he was strong and brave, but had a softer side too. Charlie, the little brother was great as well as the other supporting characters.

Overall, the story had good bones and the plot was interesting.

What could have been better: I didn't dislike Ash, the protagonist, but I wished I liked him better. He seemed younger than seventeen and came across as a whiny baby. I don't mind if a male character cries, but when it's every few pages, it cheapens the truly devastating moments.(view spoiler). I found myself wondering if something pivotal was happening to Ash, or if he was just being overly emotional. (view spoiler) He did grow on me toward the end.

As with many books, the middle gets a bit slow. I liked the writing style overall, and maybe in future works the author's style of plotting will become more streamlined.

If you are looking for a a fantasy/fairy story that's a bit different than the usual lore, this book may be for you.

3.5/5 stars.

Marcina Mae Dubé says

I first want to start this review saying how proud I am of Tenae for finally publishing this book. I remember when we were talking about three years ago and she was so excited about this series. It's great it's finally out there for people to read and recognize what a terrific writer she is.

Now on to my book review:

The book started out a bit slow and I sensed some hesitancy in the writing. Like another reviewer had said, it

seemed like the writer didn't entirely trust her writing and was often trying to explain herself when she felt the meaning of her words weren't clear enough. I was glad to see as the writing continued this grew less and less. The characters themselves were very well-rounded. You found yourself caring a lot about them as the story went on. The story and plot are fascinating and I found myself turning page after page with impatience, wanting to know what happened next. The language itself was interesting and I am curious as to how the writer will pan it out in the future. The conflict is nerve-wracking and the near misses keep you on edge, the characters themselves receive down time which doesn't take away from the plot and instead draws you closer and more sympathetic. The action is well-described and is seen vividly through description.

Overall, this book is well worth the read and this reviewer awaits anxiously for the sequel.

Rating: 4 out of 5

Emma Sea says

I applaud the author for finishing a book and having the courage to put it out there in the world. While perhaps this particular book isn't quite as skilful in approach as I would like, I think there's a sound kernel of plot in there. After some years spent working on her craft I think she might produce some interesting work.

Some specifics:

"It only got worse when Iriki dug further into it and set his mind aflame. Not literally, but it felt as if it had." (p. 242).

Writing needs to trust itself. Readers get that it is a metaphor.

There is no resolution to the book: it ends on a cliffhanger. While this can work for GRR Martin, it's best when starting out for authors to just write one book at a time. If their fans love it so much they demand another, then they can write a second. But let us *finish* a story. Let us put the book down and breathe a happy sigh (or a tearful one, whatever the author's intent).

A character is killed on page 243 and is then punished and pleads for mercy on pages 248-249 = Betareader.

There are a *lot* of extraneous scenes and conversations, specifically around school and home life. Each scene (hell, each line) needs to have a purpose for the story. This probably comes from the age of the author; at this point there's not a lot of life experience to draw on, so she's writing what is familiar - bitching about classes and assignment with friends, and interactions between children and parents. Craft, experience, and ruthless editing will help, here.

I would read another from this author, a little down the road aways.

Serena says

This book is amazing! I love it!

Viper says

Didn't care for this book at all. It seemed like it was written by someone who might possibly have an inner battle going on with themselves? Like bi-polar? But maybe that was done by design, I'm not sure. I only know the book was quite despicable.

David - proud Gleeman in Branwen's adventuring party says

Dave's Quick Judgement -

THE DEFENSE

- Refreshingly original story
- Fantastic world-building
- Main characters are very likeable, yet also flawed enough to be believable
- Romantic subplot is touching and effective

THE PROSECUTION

- Prose occasionally feels clunky and repetitive
- Plot thread involving Ash & Charlie's parents doesn't quite mesh with the rest of the story

THE VERDICT

A great read for fantasy-lovers looking for something new!

FULL REVIEW TO COME

Judy says

Brilliant, riveting, marvelous, Tenae Hunt never stops giving us her all. An incredibly story at you will not be able to put down until you are done .

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

I can't say I enjoyed this one. From the beginning, I just didn't care. I might have cared eventually if there had been better character development. However, the characters just weren't interesting and most of the time they were all way too nice to each other. That's good for real life, but it just makes for boring fiction.

There were several conflicts throughout the story. It seemed like the characters just randomly moved from one situation to another with barely time to rest in between. A few times they moved on to another potentially dangerous situation because they "had no choice." That's just lazy. The human characters, Ash and Charlie, just accepted the whole fairy thing without really questioning it, like they were just on an unexpected and sometimes stressful vacation.

The writing wasn't terrible, but it definitely needed editing and, to my taste, a little flourish. The story felt kind of bland and emotionless. I did recognize a few promising bits here and there, but overall the book fell flat for me.

Noora says

I can't wait to read it !

Sarah says

The writing is not for me.
