



Conash: Dead Son

T.C. Southwell

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A humble goat herder's son and kin of the wood cat, Conash bonds with his familiar when he is just six years old. The sickly boy teeters on the brink of death, so much so that he is given the Death Rites three times before he is ten years old.

Against all odds, he grows up a happy, laughing child, the apple of his mother's eye and his father's most cherished son. The church will not give him the Life Rites, since the boy will not live to puberty. Conash is beloved of the beasts; able to charm the birds from the trees with his smile, and his parents know he is God Touched.

When the Cotti invade his village during the Rout of Ashtalon, Conash is just twelve years old. After witnessing the slaughter of his family and familiar, he wakes from his death sleep a castrated Cotti slave, and suffers their abuse until the night he slips away into the desert. He crawls from it maddened and haunted by his familiar's ghost, his heart as dead and cold as frozen stone.

Sustained by hatred and rage, he journeys to Jondar, capital of the Kingdom of Jashimari, to become a thief and murderer and live in the gutter, fighting for scraps with stray dogs. Then an elder assassin takes him in and trains him to be a killer...

Conash: Dead Son Details

Date : Published February 8th 2011 by T C Southwell, via Smashwords

ISBN :

Author : T.C. Southwell

Format : Nook 0 pages

Genre : Fantasy

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From Reader Review Conash: Dead Son for online ebook

Mat thewW says

An assassin who ended the Endless war, Who Slew a corrupt king and 9 of his sons, Who lived through the unlivable, but how did he come to be? I read this book because it gave Blade, the main character, the keys to clear the fog on his impracticable story. The book Conash: Dead son is one of my favorite books by T.C. Southwell, It goes into depth on how Blade's cold, impenetrable personality is created.

This book begins with the start of Blade's life as he is "born dead" but brought back by some miracle, and given the name Conash: Dead son. As he and everyone in their era grow up they find familiars, who are wild animals that soul bond with you. He ventures on throughout his childhood being a runt, yet being the only catkin in their family, until they are attacked by an army and his familiar, and parents are killed. Blade finds himself and his youngest siblings slaves to drunken men in the desert, Blade lives this out until he finally has a chance to escape.

Blade is found by Talon in an alleyway after almost being killed by the boy so he could afford food. He has a sudden urge to treat the boy, and brings him to a remote shack in the forest, to make him his newest apprentice. One of my favorite parts is when Talon teaches Blade the Dance of Death, which is required by all assassins in order to receive their mark, which is what makes them an assassin and not a cold blooded killer. This is one of my favorite parts because it shows the initial training on Blade's dance, which is the best of all the assassins. In the books as you read they bring up his dance many many times, and describe it so graceful, and so deft he could be any other assassin who challenged him.

This book really gives a lot of backstory to Blade, I would not recommend reading this before the other books, but after. I feel that how he describes, and shows Blade during the main books, really gives a tight fit to those final puzzle pieces on his character. I would recommend this book to people who like action, and suspense.

Diane says

I think is one of my favorite books in the whole set. Having read this "prequel" after having finished the series, it did a great job of shedding light on Blade's personality. In addition to that, I found it to be one of the most well-written of the series. Given that I liked the character Blade, these two books covering his early years were like a great bonus treat. I might even like these two books better than the series as a whole (but would not have liked them had I not liked the series as a whole, so there's the tricky bit). I highly recommend investing the time to "finish" up the story by reading this book and the one that follows it.

Irene says

Another great insight to Blade's past life, I enjoyed it as I enjoyed all the others.

Edith Shelton says

This book Explained Conash. Great read.

Aditya / says

I enjoyed the series but I did not like this book

Sheila says

First part of the unexplained years from the Queens Blade it shed so much light on how he bacame what and who he was loved it read it in 10 hrs.

Tanya Caycedo says

Easy, light read for a rainy day.
