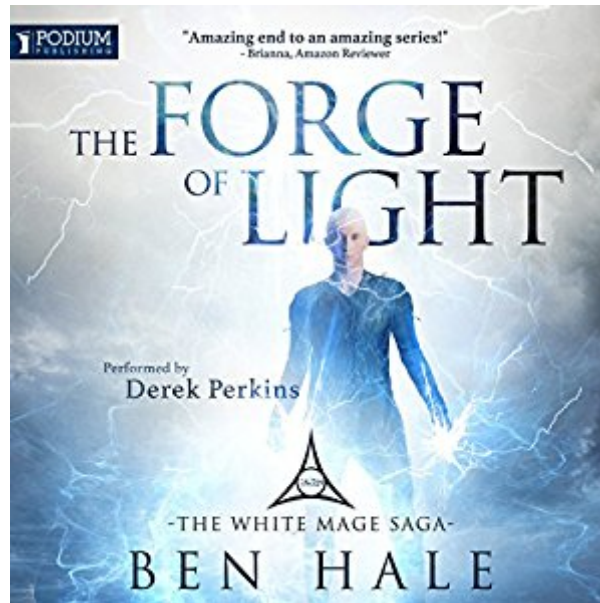


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The Forge Of Light: The White Mage, Book 5



Synopsis

The Dark has nearly consumed the planet. Men and beasts have been stripped of their minds, their bodies twisted to serve the Master's will. Her army now numbers in the trillions and is led by two supreme generals. Even the mages have no power to stop her. Driving the survivors to a last bastion of freedom, she calls for the decimated army to surrender. But mankind stands defiant. From the ashes of nations the people have united, and together they brace for the impending storm. Bereft of retreat or refuge, they hold to a single hope - that the Oracle can destroy the Dark before everyone is slaughtered. Facing the end, the Oracle must rise to her birthright and find that which can cleanse the Earth of darkness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Much as it tries to branch away from the staple, this series fails to escape its extremely strong roots in Harry Potter. It drastically succeeds in its subversion of usual tropes like "wise old mentor." Instead it actually gives purpose to those other characters beyond just stepping stones in the main protagonists plot development. Characters who I'd been certain would be sidelined ended up being drastically important to the finale in ways that were fun and fresh. Sickeningly bad at addressing public opinion. I can't tell you how tired I got of hearing people 'whispering' wherever Tess went but nothing every coming of it. Plot fell a little flat in a few places where it seemed like the only thing needed to stop all this bulls*** was Tess standing up and saying something. Hale excels in writings battles, and the less magical they are, the more riveting. He does a great job blending regular battle

with magical but it loses something when he does. Don't get me wrong, I love me some bitchin' fireballs, but Hale really knew how to sell an afghan assault and the tenseness of a sniper seeking targets before her position was overrun. By contrast, every time Swordsman had a chapter I 'groaned.' Here we go again. Swordsman beats the s*** out of everything and doesn't ever feel emotion while he does. There were a couple completely unexpected and unbelievably awesome surprises in there but the biggest problem is that I didn't care much about any characters beyond Derik and Iris. Everyone felt a little cardboard except the protag (who had character but seemed to spend most of the story piteously calling out for help. Understandable, and realistic, but for some reason not all that much fun to read.) Honestly, this story would've been more awesome from Iris's POV.

There are lots of surprises and really good "bad guys". The story kept me reading and I finished this series in a week which means I couldn't put the book down, so it is good. However, I do feel like the following discrepancies have left me a little ... not sure of the word, unsettled perhaps as I think back on the overall story content. There's a pretty good tie in from the Dark War series that occurred 10,000 years earlier. However, there are a few items that left me scratching my head. One is how the Drakaen Wars series Lumenia earth is so different from our today earth, with no explanation. The geography is definitely different, like this series was an afterthought, as the current earth geography is not explained as why it is different. Another is how the first bad guy introduced in the first book of this series really had no major role in the series after being introduced. And how did the ultimate surprising second bad guy (Master) accomplish in seemingly hours what 1st bad guy had to do in 1000 years with taking on "The Dark"? Why didn't the author put the same effort in a very well developed back story for the second bad guy (Master), as was what done for the first bad guy in the first book of the series? I kept on thinking the 1st bad guy was going to make an ultimate comeback or else why go through all the character development in the first place? Finally, I was hoping to see Tryton in his super powers suit come back to save the world, and was disappointed that it was Hawk since I got to really like Tryton from that series. I mean, Hawk was introduced in the other Draeken Wars series but not really fully developed as Tryton. Again, I spent allot of time getting to know Tryton but not much with Hawk.

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