



Blade of Fire: The Icemark Chronicles

By *Stuart Hill*

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Blade of Fire: The Icemark Chronicles By Stuart Hill

Following THE CRY OF THE ICEMARK, a huge success in England and critically acclaimed in the U.S., the second epic adventure in The Icemark Chronicles.

Many years have passed since Queen Thirrin and her allies defended the Icemark against a brutal invasion. But now General Bellorum is back, along with his bloodthirsty spawn, twin sons even more vicious than him. Thirrin and Oskan also have a family: two girls and three boys. But darkness lurks within the House of Lindenshield: Medea, the couple's cold-hearted, fifteen-year-old daughter, who's just coming into her magical powers, may be the downfall of the kingdom. It's up to her brother, Charlemagne, crippled by polio as a child, to return from exile and rescue the land he loves.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—In this story set 20 years after *The Cry of the Icemark* (Scholastic, 2005), Queen Thirrin and Oskan Witchfather now have five grown children who make up the royal House of Lindenshield. The book mainly focuses on Charlemagne, their youngest child. His greatest desire is to be a warrior and to defend his kingdom like all of the other members in his family. Unfortunately, he suffers from a physical ailment as a result of polio, which prevents him from satisfying his dream. To make matters worse, war has been waged between Icemark and its chronic nemesis Scipio Bellorum. Charlemagne is exiled for protection but leaves with the mystical promise that he will save Icemark from ultimate destruction. At the same time, his 15-year-old sister, Medea, begins using her magical powers to side with the enemy. What results is a typical high-fantasy novel complete with epic battles and a fight between good and evil. The characters contain little depth, and their actions are predictable despite situations that lend themselves to vast, creative transformations. Although fans of the first book may find pleasure in learning more about Queen Thirrin, this novel does not stand alone, often succumbing to trite plotlines and slow pacing. Readers of fantasy are more apt to enjoy Cornelia Funke's *Inkheart* (Scholastic, 2003) or one of the other novels from the increasingly abundant genre.—*Marie C. Hansen, New York Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

Icemark's polio-scarred Prince Charlemagne sees himself as the "limping runt in a family of warriors" but comes into his own when his parents send him abroad to accompany refugees fleeing war. Horizons broadened by foreign cultures, Charlemagne forges alliances that echo those made by his redoubtable mother 20 years earlier in *The Cry of the Icemark* (2006). Epic in scope, the high-fantasy action moves right along, and the coming-of-age struggles of Thirrin and Oskan's offspring are sufficiently engaging to allow newcomers to the Icemark Chronicles to step in midstream. *Jennifer Mattson*

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Review

Kirkus

A huge (in every way) disappointment, this bloated sequel to *Cry of the Icemark* (2005) bogs down a tale terrific at its core in a mire of uninspired subplots, unnecessary explanations and predictable set pieces. Twenty years later, crazed general Scipio Bellorum is again massing troops to invade the chilly Icemark. Suspecting that not even her nonhuman allies will be enough to turn the tide this time, Queen Thirrin sends Charlemagne, youngest of her five children, overseas to safety—but “Sharley” has other ideas, and even though hobbled by both polio and adolescent lack of confidence, he embarks on a quest to find new allies. Watching him grow, mature and meet new (if not particularly original) peoples provides the same fascination that his mother's similar journey supplied in the previous episode. Compelled to give nearly every character a point of view, though, Hill keeps putting Sharley's part on hold while cycling tediously through an unwieldy Icemark cast. Eventually the foes all come together, Sharley charges in with dark-skinned armies from “Arifica” mounted on horses and zebras, the cardboard villains are washed away in fountains of blood and Sharley's truly bad-apple witch sister Medea is dispatched to another dimension—doubtless to await the next sequel. Some good parts, but not enough to meet expectations. (Fantasy. 11-13)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Head:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive raise then having chance to stay than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this Blade of Fire: The Icemark Chronicles book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Sharon Self:

This book untitled Blade of Fire: The Icemark Chronicles to be one of several books that best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

Nathaniel Thomas:

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Krystal Sutherland:

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