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Apprentice (The Black Mage Book 2)



Synopsis

She survived a trial year at the Academy of Magic, but that was the easy part...Now sixteen-year-old Ryiah is an apprentice of Combat, her school's most notorious faction. When she finishes, she will be a war mage, but in order to do so, she has to survive four years traveling across Jerar, training with a master she hates, her old nemesis, Priscilla, and Prince Darren, her sometimes-rival sometimes... more?Ry's new apprenticeship is nothing like what she prepared for. War is on the horizon and her lessons aren't just for practice anymore.It's time to fight.*** The second book inÃ  The Black MageÃ  series by USA Today bestselling author Rachel E. Carter. ***

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Customer Reviews

There's a saying: "It's easy to go on top, but it's much harder to stay there." Many series starts off with an AMAZING first book, that hooked up so many readers and created so many fans. But unfortunately, no matter how perfect the first book is, it is extremely hard for the second book to not suffer from the second-book syndrome.Although the first book is undeniably crucial to a series success, the second book is the supporters of the structure. They are crucial in the development of

the story. If Apprentice suffered from the syndrome, the series itself would've never made into my top list. But it didn't, and it's rare and happily pleasant. How this, a second book, the hardest book to write, was written flawlessly I still amazed me. The relationship between Darren and Ryiah was still intense, with them hating each other but at the same time unable to fight the growing attraction. We see more romance drama, fighting, and some blood. New characters are such as Ian are introduced which create this amazing love triangle. This did not disappoint me in the least. I had been very pleased and really enjoyed it. So I gave it a perfect five stars.

Book 2, the second book in The Black Mage series was another great foray into Jarar. Ryiah and Darren are practically electric. You never can tell exactly which way we will go with those two. In Book 2, we dig deeper in to the politics of the realm and the relationship between Darren and Ryiah that seems destined for failure. After all, he is a Prince that must marry to secure money for the throne. She is a lowborn with nothing to offer but herself. Will that be enough for Darren and Ryiah? In Apprentice, we pretty much fast forward through years 2-5. Where book 1 had a slower flow, book 2 was all of her apprentice years in one. Which I guess was one way to prevent too many novels in the series. We have Priscilla as a rival and Alex and Ella back as strong Allies for Ryiah. We also have the introduction of the dreaded love triangle in Ian, a mage who seems just right for Ella, but will her heart let her move on from Darren? All in all, this was a good book. I would say that the mage trainer was somewhat annoying. Almost like the author had to throw in some sort of adversary during training. Darren and Ryiah's emotions towards one another changed faster than a person channel surfing and with Ian added into the mix, you could get dizzy with the whiplash. I wonder why we always have to have a love triangle in every series? If you liked book 1, you will enjoy book 2. Ryiah is a great heroine whose antics keep you riveted.

Apprentice has more action and suspense, which I personally prefer, than the last one. I love how things changed and 6 apprentices were chosen. Honestly I fell in love with all the characters that it was hard for me to see any of them not make it lol yes even the bratty highborn. She kept it interesting. Apprentice follows all of apprentices from the most recent ceremony to 5 years back. They travel all over Jarar to the various stations that they could possibly work at. There they learn the skills needed to become a combat mage, alchemy mage, or a restoration mage. They take part in patrols and learn first hand what it's like. They have mock battles before they leave each station and here is where we see some action. Some more than others and maybe one that's not so mock. It follows Ry all the way to end of her apprenticeship and leads to a crazy, mind blowing incident. All

of our favorite people are still in this and it introduces a couple of new favorites. I am *swoon*. I'm sure if you enjoyed the first one, then you will love this one

This is a very complicated tale for a YA novel. The royal political intrigue is quite sophisticated. The focus of this is less on war (for Combat apprentices) and more about Riayah, her feelings, and how people react to her. Even though I don't really think a lot of Riayah, this was a book worth reading. It felt like the price of being a prince in a country on the brink of war had stakes that were a lot more real than the typical "of course I will shirk my responsibility to country & family to pursue *love*." I was impressed that a book with so much focus on Riayah's love triangles would end up having a much more complex look at the larger implications of following your heart. It was surprising that four years are quickly covered in this book, when the first book was one year, but ultimately I think it worked because it wasn't so much about "what I am learning this year" or what is going on in the larger world. The focus was on "how all this culminates into the end of the apprenticeship and what it will mean for these particular teens to be responsible for their actions and choices after being students."

I have to agree with another reviewer: MOST second books in a series aren't as good as their predecessors. That is NOT the case with this one. This book is even better than the first book. There was definitely some growth. When reviewing the first book I noted how you were removed enough from the main character, Ry, to be able to figure out what was going on rather than being hyper-focused on her as to be in relative obscurity to the other characters and their lives. That is not the case with this one. But not in a bad way. There is some great character growth and hardships in this book. I still continue to love these characters and I'm thoroughly hooked. Onto the next one!

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