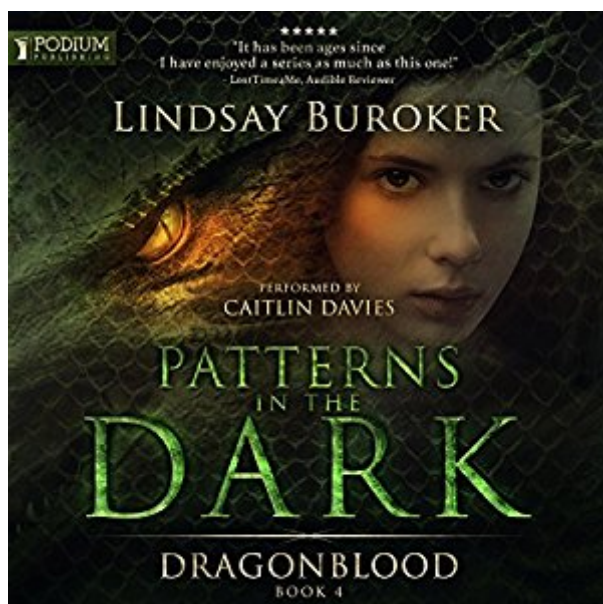


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Patterns In The Dark: Dragon Blood, Book 4



Synopsis

Everyone knows dragons have been extinct for over 1,000 years. Everyone is wrong. At least one dragon remains, and military scientists from the Cofah Empire are experimenting with its blood, using the magical substance to power deadly new weapons that could be used to bring the world to its knees. That's a concern for Zirkander, Cas, and the rest of the Iskandians, but all Tolemek wants is to find his missing sister. The last time he saw her, their father had locked her in an asylum because of a mental illness with no cure. Now the military has taken her. What use the Cofah have for her, Tolemek can only guess, but he is certain she is in danger. He must save her before it's too late. But her fate is inexplicably tied to the dragon's, and he must find it to find her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you haven't read the first 3 books in Lindsay Buroker's Dragon Blood series, I suggest you do so before picking this one up. Patterns picks up immediately after Blood Charged (book 3) ends and books 1 and 2 bring together the 4 main characters. As with the other books, I felt as if I was watching the plot unfold in person. The writing has a smooth flow to it and I was able to read the entire book in a few hours, mostly because I simply could not put it down. This book is an exciting adventure to an island full of secrets and danger. The characters are extremely relatable, and you will be full of empathy as they deal with their emotions, relationships, and the trials of survival and success. Magic, a dragon, action, adventure, and even some smooching! You will love this series! I also highly recommend reading the full Emperor's Edge series by Lindsay Buroker (the EE books,

Salt and Swords, Encrypted books) if you enjoyed the Dragon Blood series.

I received a copy of this book from the author for an honest review. A book written from Tolemek and Cas's point of view is designed to please me. (I just love them as characters and as a couple) So I was delighted when Lindsay Buroker announced they would take the lead in Patterns in The Dark. Overall, I think they both did a fine job in telling an exciting Indiana Jones-type story filled with adventure, brain-eating cannibals, ancient ruins, and, of course, a very bad-tempered dragon with a very loud voice! In this story, Tolemek is looking for his sister (what a fun twist with her and the dragon -- just loved the ending!) while Ridge wants to find and destroy the dragon's blood the Cofah are using to power their weapons. Still at odds with each other, the two heroes set off with Cas, Sardelle, Duck and Jaxi to a jungle island, where they encounter a host of threats waiting to bring them down. One of those threats was totally unexpected and opened the book up to some interesting character development -- especially for Cas. Without giving away spoilers, I loved how she handled the situation. I think she is going to have an interesting time of it in the next book in the series -- I can't wait to read it. I hope it is written from her pov. I also enjoyed meeting Rodge's dad. It explained a lot. And wait until you hear Ridge's middle name! It is worth reading the book just for that laugh. Like all of Lindsay's books, Patterns is riddled with her usual witty banter and sharp dialogue. I never tire of reading it. My only criticisms of this book are that it started a bit slowly for me, but the middle and ending more than made up for that. Also, it felt a bit short -- I wanted more, much more. Especially more of Tolemek's goo. I would love to have seen more of his inventions in action -- more of him in the lab. But these are minor comments. I really enjoyed the book and can't wait to read the next.

I had not read any books by Lindsay Buroker until just a few days ago, when I bought and read the first three books in this series. I loved them and immediately bought this one, which I also loved. This book was very well written. It had a larger ratio of fantasy to romance than the first books, but the love relationships between each couple were evolving and growing stronger. There was some minor sexual bantering but no graphic sex. This was not a 'hot' romance, but had a very satisfying depiction of new loving and caring relationships that were strengthening. I got the feeling that this book was a stepping stone to the further development of the series. I definitely do not mean that in a pejorative way; this was still a strong entry in the series. No new characters were added and the kidnapped sister and dragon still played minor roles, although the scene was set for them to play a greater role. In some paranormal romance series that I like, new protagonists are central in each

book, with previous protagonists having supporting roles. Maybe because this is a fantasy romance, Ms. Buroker has chosen to focus on her core characters from the first two books in the third and fourth ones. This approach works with the series, as it deepens the characterization of the heroes, heroines and supporting characters. The pacing was good. There was a fair bit of travelling and several action scenes in this book, where the elements of action, plot, setting, characterization and dialogue combined perfectly to engage the reader and create a strong story. I especially loved the bits of witty repartee and sarcasm. Ms. Buroker can definitely write great dialogue. This book could be read as a stand alone book but the reader would miss too much. It is better read in order, after the previous books. There was no cliffhanger, but the scene was set for the next adventure, for those who want to continue with the series. That leads to my one complaint. This book appears to have been published in December of 2014, and this is only February of 2015, which means there are no new volumes for me to read. I am having withdrawal symptoms and I want to read more books set in the world created by Ms. Buroker. I highly recommend this series and this book. I think they have broad appeal to various age groups, from teens to seniors who like fantasy combined with romance. I am in my 60s, but I think my daughter and granddaughter would certainly enjoy them.

Book 4 of the Dragons' Blood Chronicles picks up exactly where book 3 left off. We continue to follow Zirkander, Sardelle, Jaxi the soul blade, Tolemec, Cas, and Duke as they pursue information on a new threat from the Cofah Empire. Along on the journey, Tolemec has the opportunity to seek out his sister and attempt to help her. Lots of physical exertion in demanding terrain while battling known and unknown dangers. There is a Happy For Now conclusion but more to come in the next book as the news from Iskandia is not good. I am really enjoying this series, getting back to my love of paranormal fantasy with wonderful world-building, humor between characters, romance and action all with a dragon somewhere out there!

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