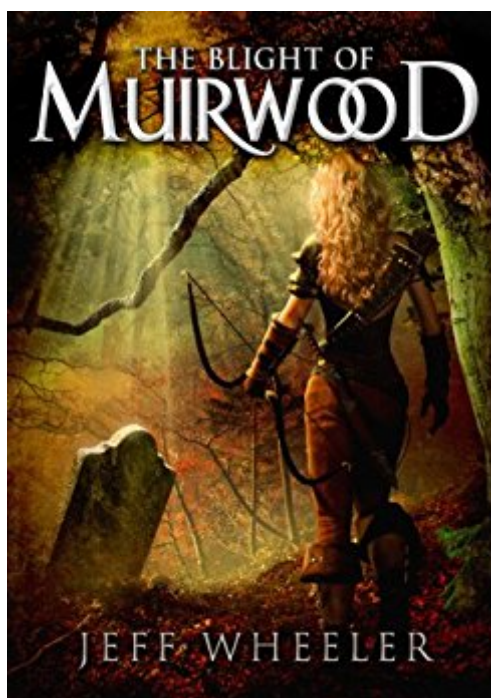


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The Blight Of Muirwood (Legends Of Muirwood Book 2)



Synopsis

In *The Blight of Muirwood*, the second book in the *Muirwood Trilogy*, Lia finds herself filled with inner turmoil after the great battle of Winterrowd that led to the death of the wicked king and her closest ally. Despite her reservations, Lia is called to be an official protector of Muirwood Abbey and is charged to employ her magic to defend Ellowyn Demont, the lost heir of the fallen kingdom of Pry-ree. Her duties are put to the test when the Queen Dowager arrives in Muirwood accusing the Aldermaston, the abbey's overseer, for the king's death. Amidst the turmoil, battle ensues, and Lia learns of a terrible plague that threatens to cover the land in darkness and death. Atop it all, the magic of the world begins to fail. In a quest to undo the devastation, Lia's path brings her to a startling revelation that will change her life forever.

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Customer Reviews

I discovered Jeff Wheeler through his *Kingfountain* series, and I suggest starting there first. If I had read the *Muirwood* series first I don't know if I would have continued. Don't get me wrong, I really

like the first two books of this series (The first being *The Wretched of Muirwood*). But I think Jeff's storytelling has improved over time. The *Kingfountain* series and *Muirwood* are not related in any way other than style, but *Kingfountain* is better written in my opinion. I read *Wretched of Muirwood* and was lukewarm about continuing. But I needed a book to listen to while I am in the kitchen, and the deal with being able to listen to this book for free with Audible when you are a Kindle Unlimited subscriber is just terrific. So I gave it a try and was pleasantly pleased.

PROS: The main characters are very likable. They are noble and just and all the things a hero should be. The main female character is strong and determined. The descriptions are lovely, and taken from various beautiful areas of the USA (Redwood forest in particular). I like the magic and the "learner" concept. The story is easy to listen to both in narration (the narrator in the Audible book is terrific) and in overall feeling and tone. It's a good bedtime read - nothing too awful to give you nightmares or set your heart racing.

CONS: There is a religious subtext that you have to get over or be okay with. I am not religious, but do have an idea of spirituality. The idea of the "medium" is not unlike the Christian "holy spirit" or Chinese "qi (chi)" or *Star Wars'* The Force, for that matter, or other life force/spiritual energy ideas. I enjoy the idea of this, and it actually makes the book more fantasy than religious. But there are some cringe-worthy moments where the LDS (Mormon) teachings come through, like the idea that "the scholars won't be able to concentrate because of the mere presence of a young woman at the abbey in a very low cut dress". [insert eye rolling here]. There are other ideas about how men can be fools for women that are uncomfortably truer than most want to admit. And 15 year old girls talking about marriage with 18-19 year old men is a little uncomfortable in modern times, although truly not unusual in medieval times. The ending for me was so predictable. So predictable that you are like "how can these "scholars" not figure this out?". Although the reason for that may be explained in the 3rd book. All in all I do recommend this series if you like clean fantasy with likable characters.

This series must be read in order. The first book is *The Wretched Of Muirwood*. This is the second book. I can't wait to read *The Scourge Of Muirwood*! Lia misses Jon Hunter and is shocked when asked by the Aldermaston to take his place as Muirwood's Hunter. Sure he taught her and Sowe to shoot a bow and many other things... But she was raised in, and works in, the Aldermaston's private kitchen! How can a Cook become a Hunter? She did kill the corrupt old King at the Medium's urging... But only two people know that! She did not even tell Colvin! Why did Colvin break his promise to her? Why does the Medium want her to be Muirwood's Hunter? Will Martin be able to teach her? Or will she be hopeless? Will she ever be able to learn how to read? Or will she always

be a lowly Wretched? Who is her Family? Or are they all dead?

Jeff Wheeler has made an impressive launch into the self publish world. So many authors aspire to the kind of readership he is now enjoying and I can't help but admire that. More importantly, he's a great writer. I hope to see much more of his work in the future and hope he gets the recognition he so richly deserves. Here's why: He's a great storyteller. Muirwood is a narrow scope story sticking primarily to a single point of view. As he matures, I hope to see breadth and depth in more of his characters as he develops a more complex storyline. Regardless, he is a first rate storyteller! He draws you into the character's emotions. Despite the foreshadowing, I still root for Lia at every turn. I know she will prevail, but I bite my nails in anticipation of her next move every time! He describes things like a girl (and I mean that as the highest possible compliment). There's a reason female authors garner such an amazing following and I believe a great deal of that can be attributed to their ability to describe settings, scenarios and emotions well. Jeff is every bit as good as a female author at this aspect of his writing. Every chapter, every book, leaves you wanting more...desperately! I purchase very few books in a rush, and especially not in the same night as I finish one. Jeff Wheeler has become an exception to that rule. I read all of the Muirwood books in 2 days. While I read in excess of 200 books a year, I seldom go from one to the next in a series without jumping genres or authors in between. I often read several books simultaneously and for Mr. Wheeler's books I set aside other books. What he's done and created is unique in a world filled with copycats. I appreciate the originality in the Muirwood series. While I see potential influences in his writing, I feel like the conceptual magic and style is something fresh and new. Can't wait to see this expanded as I have a feeling he has dozens of other ideas bouncing around in his head! These books deserve a five star rating, but I see a room for growth. When I put these next to others in the genre, I still have a few stand out all time favorites and there is a separation in the storytelling. The intangibles are intangible for a reason, but I feel like Mr. Wheeler is on the cusp of having those intangibles. I give out very few five star ratings for books, but I'm certain the next series I read will have a five star rating. Keep going Mr. Wheeler!

This is the second book in the *Legends of Muirwood* series. This book continues pretty much where the first book leaves off, except for a year long "hunter training" montage that we only get little bits of. Lia becomes an apprentice hunter and is forced to deal with her feelings for Colvin when he shows up with his sister, his friend, and the long lost heir to Pry-Ree who Colvin has sworn to protect. This book has a

very, very different tone than the first book. As much as the first book is happy, joyful and a light read, this one deals with deep, dark (possibly) unrequited love and there is an added tension throughout. Great for me because I love dark and moody books, but the “oh she loves him and he doesn’t love her back” motif might not be for everyone as it does drag on for much longer than it probably should. Anyway, I really enjoyed this book and thought it was a great second book for the series.

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